

CAMERA INSTALLATION BY COASTALWATCH AT BOTH PALM COVE AND FOUR MILE BEACHES

Tanya Rutherford: 1/58/16-02 - #1834090

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Council:

- a) Endorse the installation of two (2) cameras by Coastalwatch at both Palm Cove and Four Mile beaches; and**
- b) Delegate authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to finalise and negotiate on all matters and licence agreements between Coastalwatch and Cairns Regional Council.**

INTRODUCTION:

Coastalwatch is a free service, linking viewers to live coastal images via a network of web cameras and provides a range of information about coastal conditions as well as news about coastal issues and events. Coastalwatch has been working very closely with Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) in delivering a successful surf safety surveillance camera system on the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast, in Queensland and would now like to extend this service to the Cairns region.

BACKGROUND:

Coastalwatch was launched in 1998 and has become Australia's most popular water sports website and is consistently ranked in the top eight sporting websites. The site displays live vision from over 110 prime coastal locations around Australia and overseas. It also provides daily surf reports, swell forecasting, predictive weather information and news; as well as video, photographic and editorial content.

Coastalwatch has also developed the Coastal Conditions Monitoring System (CoastalCOMS), which utilises the camera network to make a significant contribution to safer coastal use and more efficient and cost effective coastal management. To this end, Coastalwatch has partnered with Surf Life Saving Australia and Surfing Australia; and supports Volunteer Rescue organisations, community groups, and charities such as SurfAid International and Surfrider Foundation Australia.

COMMENT:

The Coastalwatch website www.coastalwatch.com links viewers to live coastal images via a network of web cameras, and provides a range of information about coastal conditions as well as news about coastal issues and events. This site is Australia's No.1 Water Sports website and No.1 Web Camera website.

Coastalwatch provides three levels of service, free for Council all from the one camera located on each site.

- **Safety:** Coastalwatch has developed the Coastal Conditions Monitoring System (CoastalCOMS), which utilises the camera network to make a significant contribution to safer coastal use. To this end, Coastalwatch has partnered with Surf Life Saving Australia, the Australian Professional Ocean Lifeguarding Association, and the many Volunteer Rescue organisations and community groups across Australia and overseas.
- **Science:** CoastalCOMS (www.coastalcoms.com) assists with effective coastal management as the system recognises the need to manage the long-term impacts of natural and human activities and to protect coastal resources for future generations. Coastal management authorities require adequate and timely access to information on the health of the beach system in order to effectively manage the distribution of resources and to address community concerns regarding beach amenity and safety. CoastalCOMS offers a range of modules which provide comprehensive real-time and predictive information about beach, surf and harbour entrance conditions. The real-time data includes offshore wave height, near shore wave height, wind direction and strength, beach usage and shoreline position. Combined with data from other sources such as tide predictions and expert observations, the collected data is stored and used to train predictive algorithms. The data produced by these algorithms is then displayed in a user friendly format via CoastalCOMS facilities. CoastalCOMS will soon be able to provide real-time information on beach state, beach risk and surf quality.
- **Recreation:** The website offers free access high quality live, archived and still images and weather condition reports, along with Environmental, News and Editorials. In addition, the 'Local Motion' section provides the opportunity to increase interest and coverage for activities, which will be of great benefit to the Community

Coastalwatch is a community focused commercial organisation, deriving income from the sale of advertising on site and the provision of data and related services, therefore this service will be provided at NO cost to Council. Coastalwatch is currently consolidating its position as the premier provider of these services in Australia, and to this end would like to use both Palm Cove and Four Mile Beach as sites for their cameras and coastal safety monitoring equipment. Refer Attachment 1 – "What is Coastalwatch?"

The cameras will be mounted to the top of the light poles which are used for Uninet operations at both Palm Cove and Four Mile Beaches. Sport and Recreation Officers have discussed the installation of these two (2) cameras with Council Electricians and they have advised it will not pose a problem to the pole or lighting operation.

The hardware drivers for these cameras would be in a rack within the Palm Cove Surf Life Saving Club and Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club. Refer Attachment 2 - Diagram of Camera and transmitter installation.

The service is a free service to Council; however Council would need to enter into a Licence Agreement for each site that sets out the terms of the arrangement between Council and Coastalwatch. Depending on the success of the camera installation, Coastalwatch may in the future extend this service to other beaches within the Cairns Region.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Corporate and Operational Plans:

Key Goal 6.4.1 of *Future Cairns* recognises the need for Council to adopt a more integrated approach to planning within Council (with reference to the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan 2003).

Key Goal 6.4 of the *Corporate Plan* recognises the important regional role that Cairns plays, including the hosting of competitions, events and celebrations.

Under the *Sport & Recreation Operational Plan*, the aim is to provide a wide range of, and facilitate the use of, quality and accessible sporting facilities with a professional level of management service for community use and enjoyment.

Financial:

The installation of these cameras incurs no cost to Council. However, Council would need to absorb the minimal electricity cost associated with running these two (2) cameras.

Sustainability:

The cameras will be installed and maintained by Coastalwatch and would provide an added service to Council, Surf Life Saving Queensland and the Community.

CONSULTATION:

Discussions have been held with Surf Life Saving Queensland, Uninet Enclosure Systems and Council Officers of various units to discuss the logistics and benefits the installation of these cameras would have for Council and the Community as a whole.

OPTIONS:

It is recommended that Council:

1. Endorse the installation of two (2) cameras by Coastalwatch at both Palm Cove and Four Mile beaches; and
2. Delegate authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to finalise and negotiate on all matters and licence agreements between Coastalwatch and Cairns Regional Council.

OR

3. Not endorse the installation of cameras by Coastalwatch.

CONCLUSION:

Coastalwatch provides a free service to Council and the community and would be an invaluable tool to assist with weather predictions and enhance the beach safety at both Palm Cove and Four Mile Beaches.

Tanya Rutherford
Team Leader Sport and Recreation

Jennifer Hunter
Manager Sport, recreation and Community Development

Ian Lowth
General Manager Community and Cultural Services

Attachment 1 – “What is Coastalwatch?”

what is coastalwatch?

The Coastalwatch website www.coastalwatch.com links viewers to live coastal images via a network of web cameras, and provides a range of information about coastal conditions as well as news about coastal issues and events. The site is Australia's No.1 Water Sports website and No.1 Web Camera website.



COASTALWATCH.COM

Coastalwatch provides three cost effective levels of service, all from the one camera located on site.

- **Recreation:** The website offers free access high quality live, archived and still images and weather condition reports, along with Environmental, News and Editorials. In addition, our 'Local Motion' section provides you with the opportunity to increase interest and coverage for your activities, which will be of great benefit to your Community.
- **Safety:** Coastalwatch has developed the Coastal Conditions Monitoring System (CoastalCOMS), which utilises the camera network to make a significant contribution to safer coastal use. To this end, Coastalwatch has partnered with Surf Life Saving Australia, the Australian Professional Ocean Lifeguarding Association, and the many Volunteer Rescue organisations and community groups across Australia and overseas.
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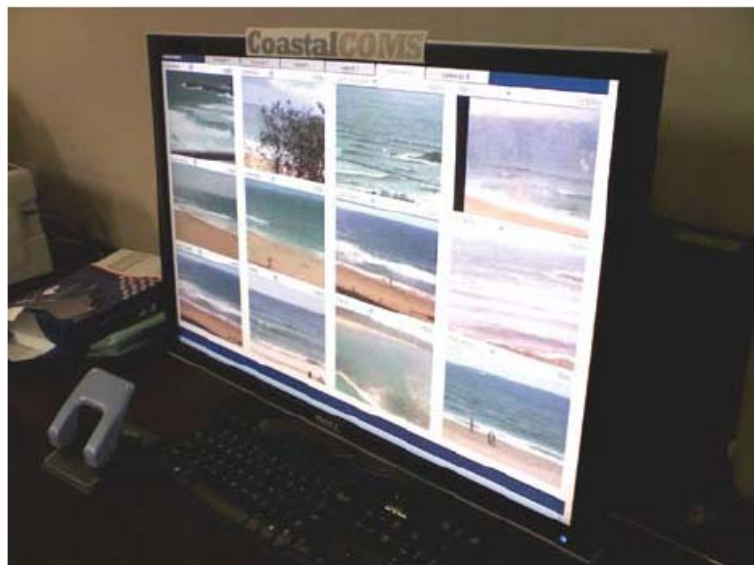
includes offshore wave height, near shore wave height, wind direction and strength, beach usage and shoreline position. Combined with data from other sources such as tide predictions and expert observations, the collected data is stored and used to train predictive algorithms. The data produced by these algorithms is then displayed in a user friendly format via CoastalCOMS facilities. CoastalCOMS will soon be able to provide real-time information on beach state, beach risk and surf quality.

Coastalwatch is a community focused

commercial organisation, deriving income from the sale of advertising on site and the provision of data and related services. We ask that you consider Coastalwatch as a committed provider of timely and accurate services, and for a complete catalogue of modules, services and costings please contact:

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Attachment 2 - Diagram of Camera and transmitter installation (Palm Cove)

