



SUE WALKER: Access to lighthouse not being cut

Lighthouse access to remain open

07.02.2006

By SAMANTHA TURNBULL

CAPE Byron Reserve Trust manager Sue Walker says Lighthouse Road will remain open to vehicles, despite some calls from the community to close it.

The Northern Star last week received several anonymous tip-offs that plans were under way to close vehicular access to the Cape Byron lighthouse, but Ms Walker yesterday denied the rumours.

One of the claims, from a resident who did not wish to be identified, was that six parking attendants had their contracts terminated because Lighthouse Road was being closed.

However, Ms Walker said no parking attendants had lost their jobs and she was dumbfounded about where the allegations had come from.

She said the Cape Byron Reserve Trust's plan of management did identify problems with vehicle access to the iconic landmark, but they hoped to solve the issues without closing Lighthouse Road.

"It does get chaotic in the lighthouse car park with only 25 spaces at holiday time," she said.

"And we do need to deal with not having sufficient parking spaces, but there are no plans to close Lighthouse Road.

"Some people have the view that the area around the lighthouse should be a picnic area instead of a car park and they have approached me about that, but we couldn't just close the car park down without telling anyone."

Ms Walker said traffic congestion problems at the lighthouse would be addressed by creating more parking spaces elsewhere in the reserve and trialling a shuttle bus from Tallow Beach to the cape.

She said the extra parking spaces would be created around the Arakwal Cultural Centre, near Tallow Beach, but this is at least 12 months away.

A shuttle bus will be trialled again this year during a busy holiday period, but Ms Walker said the last attempt was not as successful as she hoped it would be.

"We would like to get a shuttle bus service happening so we will give it another go," she said.

"But last time we did it, about two years ago around Easter, it ended up costing us money and it wasn't really successful."

Ms Walker urged anyone with queries about the plans to call her on 6685 8565.