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# Field of green at risk

## Another 'secret' attempt by council to put a depot on 'park' land

**Paul Weston  
Crystal Fox**

Angry southern Gold Coast residents have called on the City to stop plans for a new regional depot near their homes, on land set aside as an environmental park.

Friends of Currumbin say the council's plans for a new depot at Tugun follow a recent pattern – Frank Murray Park at Miami was being considered for a depot but details were kept secret.

They say the 8.1ha parcel of publicly owned land on the old Tugun quarry site was formally declared an environmental park under the Boyd St master plan in 2009.

The quarry was in the heart of the site, and aerial photographs show bushland surrounding it now provides a green buffer behind the backyards of homes in Monash St.

Friends of Currumbin president Kaylee Campradt says council appears to be identifying open space and environmental land as the path of least financial resistance for depot infrastructure.

She said the city was banking on community ignorance until it was too late to mount effective opposition.

"Works depots belong in industrial areas — full stop. The southern Gold Coast already has some of the lowest open space per resident on the Gold Coast," Ms Campradt said.

"Tugun residents are not going to quietly watch an 8ha environmental park get bulldozed for a truck depot while council pretends it consulted them." Friends of Currumbin is calling for:

- AN immediate halt to the Tugun Quarry depot proposal pending a full, independent assessment of alternative sites

- PUBLIC acknowledgment by council that the site is zoned open space and carries environmental park designation



Graeme Geiger with a group of residents determined to fight Council plans for a depot at Tugun, and (left) work going on in the proposed Depot site. Pictures: Glenn Hampson

- A CITYWIDE inquiry into council's practice of identifying public open space and environmental land for depot and infrastructure use without proper community notification or ecological assessment

A city spokesman said the current Tugun depot was on leased land and as result of lease changes the city needed to move the depot from its current location in Boyd St.

The old Tugun quarry site, also in Boyd St, was considered

the most suitable after a thorough assessment, the spokesman said.

"This assessment included comprehensive environmental impacts which was undertaken by an independent agency and which is publicly available on our website," a spokesman said.

Tugun resident Rebecca Ross said she was "confused, felt sick and alarmed" by the council's plans.

"No clear information was provided," she said.

The local of nine years said residents were concerned about the potential for the noise, light and dust pollution which would come with the proposed depot.

"Not just construction noise but the operational noise of a 24/7 roster with hundreds of trucks, fleet cars and a diesel refuelling station," Ms Ross said.

She added it would be compounded with daily air traffic which consist of 100 planes fly-

ing over Tugun from 6am to 11pm every day.

She said the depot would "destroy" their neighbourhood and critical wildlife habitat.

Consultation, which started on February 19, has been extended until April 13.

Earlier this month, a Bulletin report said council was considering "new options" after it was caught trying to sneak through plans to replace the suburban Miami park with a depot.

## Lifeguards close beaches as swell pumps for surfers

**Crystal Fox**

Gold Coast lifeguards closed some of the city's busiest beaches due to hazardous surf conditions, but dedicated surfers camped overnight at Kirra to catch the dangerous waves.

On Wednesday morning, Gold Coast City Council said lifeguards had closed five beaches due to "hazardous surf conditions, including strong rips and currents".

The beaches were Elkhorn Ave, Surfers Paradise; Clifford Ave, Surfers Paradise; Coolangatta; Margaret Ave, Broadbeach and Northcliffe.

Gold Coast community surf reporter Nick Atkins shared a video of surfers at Kirra braving the conditions on Wednesday morning.

"Every pro surfer this side of the cosmos has grabbed their board bag from Cooly airport and is marching towards the

points," he said.

"It's on today."

Mr Atkins said he spotted tents pitched on Kirra hill while surfers waited for the swell to arrive.

"The waves have turned on," Mr Atkins said.

"It's starting to pulse today and it's bigger again tomorrow."

Mr Atkins spotted multiple surfers catching barrels and re-shared one impressive video ti-

pled "works off, schools off today. Anyone know who that was this morning?"

He said there was a "pretty strong south westerly wind and low tide" on Wednesday morning which helped curate the perfect waves.



Surfers flocked to the ideal conditions at Kirra. Picture: Nick Atkins

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