
**APPENDIX H: SURVEY RESPONSES FROM COMMUNITY
DROP-IN SESSION HELD AT CLUB OLD BAR,
THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2013**

Surveyed community responses from drop in centre

1	Comment	Position
2	Seems like a detailed and comprehensive design. Concerns around how long the project would take and costs (+/- \$9M for 450m). Rocks don't promote accretion, so the beach would recede and expose the rocks.	Concern and questions but neither opposition nor support for seawall
3	Cost to ratepayers? What is the impact on beaches both north and south of the proposed wall? How long can one keep back the ocean?	Concern and questions but neither opposition nor support for seawall
4	How many people will benefit from this project? How long between stages? Will we still have a beach to walk along or will we rock hop? Do we change our name from Old Bar Beach to Old Bar Rocks? What is the plan for traffic control during construction? What condition will our roads be in on completion and also during?	Concern and questions but neither opposition nor support for seawall
5	It certainly is a difficult problem. I have just moved from Wingham to Old Bar. It seems that a seawall of rock is the only feasible, economic solution. Access to the beach, or what will be left, will be a problem. It may be better to let nature take its course and for Council (or State) to buy affected properties as the land is eroded and those properties are threatened. I am 81 years of age so it will probably not affect me but I am concerned for future generations.	Concern and questions but neither opposition nor support for seawall
6	Hard to tell if wall would be successful. A lot of money spent on a maybe situation. Benefits of the residents whose homes are at risk more than the general community.	Concern and questions but neither opposition nor support for seawall
7	I found the whole thing enlightening but not convinced this will work. Worried about the damage to our roads bringing in the rocks for the seawall. Also I was told that there is a new estate behind Lewis Street being proposed, which means the flooding water will also be a problem. If we put the wall up we will lose our beach front. That means we will lose our tourism and then we will lose Old Bar.	Concern and questions but neither opposition nor support for seawall
8	Thank you for the opportunity to view the various proposals for saving the properties in Old Bar. I fully appreciate the necessity for this however it does seem a tragedy that our beaches will be lost in the process. Could the reef proposal somehow save the problem? Also feel it is unfair that the proposals were only on display from 2-5pm as this would preclude many people from viewing them. An evening viewing would help people who are at work during the day.	Concern and questions but neither opposition nor support for seawall
9	None	Neither opposition nor support
10	No rock wall. The beach and the surf will be gone. Many residents live here because of the beach/surf culture. Please don't take the surf away. ASR Limited claim they can save the beach and protect the beach and waves. Bring them back to work on offshore reefs. GTCC needs to focus on their best asset (the beach) to get themselves out of debt. Gold Coast Council's prioritise income based on their beaches/surf. GTCC needs to do this. The seawall will destroy the beach & surf culture! ASR Limited web blog commentary attached.	Opposed
11	Apart from the fact that I don't believe a seawall is the solution for Old Bar. I am appalled at the enormity of what I have seen here today. It is a real eyesore and the cost is so huge I can't imagine where the cost is coming from. It will be the end for tourism in Old Bar as people won't be able to access the beach to enjoy its attractions (who wants to walk along a seawall). We need to keep our beach for future generations. I am a firm believer that reefs will be our best protection for the beach and the homes. Reefs would only cost about 1/3 of the cost of seawalls and have less maintenance.	Opposed
12	As proved time and time again coastal protection works such as rockwalls (seawalls) that are built to guard against erosion harden the coast and greatly reduce its ability to adjust naturally, therefore exacerbating further erosion problems - seawalls reflecting and concentrating wave energy and erosion. The beach is for all people - with this seawall, there will be no beach for the people.	Opposed
13	The design consultants here today confirmed that there will be no beach after construction of the wall. I therefore oppose construction of the wall. There are other alternatives to a wall for coastal protection. These alternatives should be further investigated. I am concerned that this is the only opportunity for community consultation before Council adopts this proposal and the legislation is changed for a seawall only future in NSW.	Opposed
14	I think we need to consider the effect a wall will have on the whole community of OB. Oldie is based around the beach and that culture. If you remove the beach how will this affect OB in the sense of community. Attractiveness, economy, land values.	Opposed
15	Wall = loss of beach. Result no tourism no beach	Opposed
16	I am not in favour of a rock wall. If we lost the beach there would be no reason for anyone to come to Old Bar Beach.	Opposed
17	As a resident of Old Bar Beach and particularly living on Old Bar Road I would strongly object to the rocks along this road. Who will repair the road? Ratepayers? I also like walking on the beach and can appreciate something is required to be done. But I don't think this is the answer as it does not cover the whole beach just a small area where some of the permission to build was not given by Council but by the land and environment court. What about our school and surf club?	Opposed
18	I don't want to have a seawall on Old Bar Beach. I signed a petition to protect the beach and this proposal does nothing but destroy the beach. It is disappointing that there was limited opportunity for residents other than those that stood to benefit to understand what is being proposed. Anyone that works and was unable to get time off could not voice their opinion. I have spoken personally to many people that could not attend today that are against a seawall. There are also a lot of people that assumed that they could let Council know within the next few days what their opinion was but we have been told that the three hours this exhibition lasts for is all the time we have to make comment. How in heaven's name did we get to this? Three thousand five hundred people signed a petition to save Old Bar Beach with offshore reefs not lose the beach to a rock wall in order to protect assets only.	Opposed
19	I have huge concerns over the proposed rock wall for Old Bar - particularly the stage 3 proposed wall in front of the school stretching to the surf club. I have many concerns which this brief piece of paper could not accurately represent. In the proposed form I could not support the rock wall & believe it would have a large number of detrimental effects on the Old Bar community.	Opposed

20	The group of local residents (OBBSRG) have been fortunate enough to be introduced to an environmentally and ecologically friendly method of beach protection and sand replenishment - rock walls create too many problems in 'end wall' erosion and beach sediving(?). The beach needs prtcoection - Let Greater Taree City COuncil take advantage of this study for 2 offshore reefs and show the rest of NSW that they are an environmentally friendly Council.	Reef support
21	1. Off shore reef proposal is the way to go. Rock walls we do nothing for Old Bar Beach except keep people away. Too dangerous & not nice to look at with all sand on the beach missing. We want the sand to come back not go away as a result of a seawall. Maybe a separate research into larger offshore reefs should be done. Council's option for a sealwall is not in Old Bar's interest. Try harder.	Reef support
22	Sea wall is ugly for the visual environment. The seawall is only for the impacted residents of the Meridian who purchased property with high potential of erosion effects. Why should the rate payers of G Taree pay for their poor decision. The is 'no' conclusive evidence presented that the artificial reef will not work. When I asked the Council representative his response was Quote "It just won't work".	Reef support
23	Although I can understand the concept of the wall and that it is quite likely to safeguard properties. I have no doubt that it will be a complete eyesore. Gary Blumberg said: if we have a wall, we will have no beach. Having the walkway for pedestrians/cyclists will create its own issues with security and safety - plus cause properties in lower Lewis Street to lose views because of the proposed height. If there is no beach there is no Old Bar. Surely off shore reefs at lesser cost is worth a try. If it leaves the beach it may well save our properties.	Reef support
24	I feel very worried at the possibility of the rockwall going ahead. Our family of 5 (3 young children) just bought in Smith Street. Our whole reason for choosing to invest and grow our family in Old Bar was for the beach. At the same cost as a reef (which would improve surfing, tourism, lifestyle) what we would lose as a community whole because of a rockwall for outweighs the risk of athe reef. Please consdier the reef.	Reef support
25	I am opposed to the construction of a rockwall at Old Bar Beach. In the short term, we will save a strip of properties along the coastline, but in the long term a whole community could be ruined. The whole reason Old Bar exists is our beautiful surf and surfing culture. What sacrifice a whole town to save a handful of properties. Please consider the offshore reef option more carefully and try to save our beloved community.	Reef support
26	Thank you GTCC and OEH for your work. You have committed to the Old Bar Beach erosion situation and problems. My personal views on the proposal is very negative. 1. Reasons being - the loss of amenity and beach to Old Bar which we all enjoy. 2. Seawalls and other such structures have been of no benefit to anywhere on NSW coast including the top beaches in Sydney. Collaroy, Narrabeen, Cronulla the list goes on. Why are we not sourcing information and data like other parts of the world. New technology with offshore reefs are being used more and more. Why is it we cannot pursue this example.	Reef support
27	1. thank you for the opportunity to look at proposals and have discussion. 2. ??? Why only a 3 hour opportunity for the people of Old Bar to avail themselves of this. The hours 2-5pm certainly inadequate & should have bee nextended at least until 8pm this evening. I understand Government requirements embrace a 12 week period only - but 3 hours!!! 3. In accepting that something must be done to protect existing properties I recognise the anguish of losing beach - However there will be compensation in that people will be able to walk a seawall plus the benefit of not losing anymore houses. 4. I would love to see an offshore reef built. 5. Special thanks t oRichard Pamplin GTCC who did a stirling job under difficult circumstance.	Reef support
28	The presentation I believe requires a scaled model/s to better understand the merits of the proposal. Several of the photos (Dee Why Beach & Terrigal Beach) whilst displaying construction & methods are not relevant to Old Bar Beach, given aspects to prevailing sea conditions, headland etc. Should the options prevail they should be built in conjunction to an offshore reef. Looking forwad to the public display of options in the near future.	Reef support
29	The concept of a rock wall is good. As far as the area is concerned the beach does need to be kept in some form or the area will suffer from people not coming into the area either for holidays or to live. Council needs to listen to the people rather than do what benefits the councillors.	Support
30	It is heartening to see that Taree Council are looking at taking some action to protect our homes and school finally. This has taken too long, in the meantime the beach is disappearing too rapidly. At this late stage we can't be too picky in how we protect our beach but a reef offshore would be my ideal solution. I like the idea of a walkway, this is long overdue and could be expanded to Mudbishops.	Support
31	It is imperative that a rock wall as above be installed urgently as it is obvious houses in the stated area will be demolished.	Support
32	Access, visual impact, environmental impact etc must all be of secondary consideration to protection of existing property, this is vital and urgent. A start or at least a commitment to begin work at the earliest possible time is essential to regain and maintain property viability. This would enable Council to rescind its planned retreat response to coastal management.	Support
33	Yes this is a great idea, full steam ahead.	Support
34	To protect the houses from erosion I feel it should work. Access to the shoreline (because it appears there will be no sand) will need to be considered for people of all abilities. I'm not sure of the amenity of the wall but the structure and design should and could control erosion. I don't like it but erosion is an ongoing problem.	Support
35	1. The proposal of a rock wall construction is much better than alternatives, which are all disadvantageous 2. The limiting of beach access (ultimately) along the Lewis Street and Pacific Parade sections is not a hinderance to me and certainly may resolve many of the issues for threatened local areas. 3. The construction of Stage 3 may become unnecessary or delayed for a long time. I am much in favour of the building of a rock wall as proposed for Stage 1 Option 1a and Stage 2 and ultimately Stage 3.	Support
36	The sooner the project starts the better. Stop talking and make some real progress. With the amount of extra trucks using Old Bar Road, what plans will be put in place to maintain the road. The current road surface has problems with the current traffic flow.	Support

37	I am concerned with the possible end wall effect at the northern end of the Stage 2 construction at Racecourse Creek. I would like to see the wall continue with a pipe. I would like to see a reef built in conjunction with the wall to retain the sand. It is sad that the beach will be lost. If the footpath ran the entire length of the wall I feel it would be used more. There were no access points noted in the designs. It would need to be part of the planning as access to the water is vital.	Support
38	In agreement with construction of the wall as protection of assets is critical to all property holders. The aesthetics of the wall will definitely change the look and feel of Old Bar beach area but will be insignificant really. The design has allowed for access but users with mobility issues should be considered. Funding for stages 1 & 2 should be classified as urgent. Beach replenishment after construction should be within maintenance budget. The concrete bridge at the southern end of David Street should be removed and reconstructed with consideration given to waterflow with Stages 1 & 2 installations. Racecourse Creek has become choked with debris and vegetation and impacts of flooding results. Construction of an offshore reef should be implemented as Stage 4 and could be an important commercial benefit to GTCC area as a source of tourism and recreation.	Support
39	We believe the revetment wall proposal is the best option. We have always been of this belief since Worley Parsons first proposed originally proposed their version of it. The changed access is not a problem issue when development and people's futures are secured. People will still have access to the beach via the new walkways and the current road, which is what we use now. I have seen revetment walls around the world and they are in no way offensive. They can provide increased accessibility for the elderly, disabled and prams.	Support
40	Surprised that you have chosen rocks that are not pleasant to look at compared to the blocks that the South African (?) fellow put forward. Provides protection but looks horrible. I am not in opposition just think for the money involved we could have something that looks a lot better.	Support
41	Something has to be done asap. Please build the rock wall. Thank you	Support
42	Need to look at Race Course Creek drainage. Need disabled access onto the beach at Badger Lookout until sand has gone. Need to put reefs in to slow water down and groynes to catch sand and then the seawall. Or rebuy all properties to be affected. What will happen to the bridge to Hall Street as the water level rises.	Supports all measures
43	Tide Live Constructions should be considered. 1. For price. 2. Quicker construction. 3. Can be constructed onsite. 4. 1/2 cost of ugly rocks etc.	Wall but not rock