

Harrington Community Conversation - 30 April 2019

Q1. When will you be able to link the Colonial Holiday Park to IGA / Harrington facilities? There is no footpath but room for one. When is a footpath being created along Harrington Road?

A. We are working on developing a Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan across the local government area. This plan will look at the known generators of pedestrian activity such as residential areas, shops, schools, etc and the desire lines that exist. We can then compare this with our existing footpaths and see where upgrades/improvements are needed or where new footpaths should go. The plan will also allow us to prioritise this more. The community will have an opportunity to provide input into the plan when it is out for consultation.

In the short term we are not proposing to complete a footpath link between Colonial Holiday Park and IGA, however it could become part of our works program in the future if it is supported and prioritised by the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan in the future when that is finalised.

Q2. What representations is Council making to Government regarding proper grade separated interchanges at Lakes Way Bulahdelah, Failford Road and Harrington Road, Coopernook.

A. Since the merger we have not made separate representations regarding this matter. There would have been significant discussion as part of the planning of the highway upgrade. There is no reason why representations could not be made in relation to these matters.

Q3. What provisions has council made for paid emergency services ie: police, ambulance and fire brigade, as it is over 20 minute response time from when they are called to an emergency during peak holiday time the population of Harrington nearly doubles.

A. Advocacy and lobbying is imperative to bringing these services to the region. If the community feels that these services are imperative to the town, Council is happy to assist the community to advocate for funding for the implementation of the services.

Q4. Updates on when dredging of the backchannel can be expected?

A. The dredging of the Harrington back channel is a continuing priority for MidCoast Council and we are committed to getting this done. We have been working on this since 2015, it is a complex issue and requires approval from Crown Lands for us to undertake the process. This project has a budget of \$650,000, so it is a significant project. We cannot commence any work on that channel until the Crown issues the licence for dredging, so we are unable to provide an expected date of works to begin at this point. What we can provide is the assurance this project will not come off our list of high priority projects. We are committed to undertaking the work as soon as we are able.

Q5. Where is the Harrington dog park project up to?

- A. The site was finalised at the community meeting in February 2018 with Dolphin Park the selected site. We will be undertaking further consultation with immediately impacted neighbours and will then be installing fencing in a similar manner to the Tuncurry dog park.

Q6. Pedestrian safety- zebra crossings where footpaths force you to cross the road either side of the bridge (either side of Jabiru Drive) and at the park at the Harrington Waters end. Where is Council at on this issue?

- A. This section has previously been deferred pending replacement of Wards Creek Bridge in the future. A footpath link between the existing footpaths along the waterfront would be integrated into the bridge replacement. The bridge is not currently listed for replacement in the next five years.

Beach Street from Pacific Place to Wards Bridge is included in next year's capital works program and is currently in design. We will consider how to improve the pedestrian crossing movement on the western side of Jabiru Drive in this project. This is intended to make them safer and easier to use as a short term measure. Marked pedestrian crossings (zebra crossings) must meet pedestrian and vehicle number warrants which are set by Roads and Maritime Services. These warrants are designed so that a marked pedestrian crossing will be sufficiently used to ensure motorists who travel past regularly would expect people using the crossing. It is unlikely that any of the crossing points on either side of Wards Bridge would meet the warrants for pedestrian crossings. A refuge may be more appropriate.

We will revise the situation with the footpath link at the Bowling Club car park and endeavour to have this work completed.

Q7. Does the council have rangers patrolling Harrington on a regular basis to monitor constantly barking dogs, or, do residents have to go through the scenario of keeping a diary of the frequency of barking, times of the day, and, duration of the barking, whether it's day or night?

- A. Council does have rangers patrolling Harrington regularly for a range of matters, however they do not patrol Harrington, or any part of the MidCoast region, to monitor barking dogs. Barking dogs come under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act, and there are certain criteria the barking must meet to enable action to be taken by Council. While we acknowledge barking dogs are an issue across the area, to be dealt with it must be shown the barking is having a significant impact. Filling in the diary is part of the procedure for reporting a barking dog. More detail can be found at www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/Recreation/Pets-Animals/Barking-Dogs

Q8. With all the planned community housing sites currently under review, and the associated increase in road traffic, what road upgrades for Beach Street and Harrington Road will there be? Both roads are crumbling away in places with vehicles zigzagging around potholes and uneven patches.

- A. Beach Street is on our next capital works program and Harrington Road will be prioritised through the standard process for the entire local government area. We will be conducting an audit of those roads through the local traffic committee to address the potential safety concerns that have been raised by the community.

Q9. What is the status of Wards Creek Bridge upgrade?

A. Currently the Wards Creek Bridge is not part of the next capital works program as we do not have the funding available to replace the entire bridge as required. As an interim measure we will be trying to fit into the next capital works program an upgrade to the current pedestrian walkway to improve safety. We will look at the current status of the bridge through the local traffic committee and see if there are any further measures that can be put in place (ie speed humps or shared zoning) in the interim period. We are constantly lobbying and applying for grants for projects like this however at this current stage there is no funding available. We will update the community on the interim changes that will occur in the short term.

Q10. Can the capital works budget for next year that includes the upgrade of Beach Street be increased to include cycle ways and walk ways of Harrington?

A. We will address Beach Street as budgeted. Cycle ways and walk ways will be addressed in line with the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan as explained in the answer to question 1.

Q11. How can we start to generate sporting clubs in the area and can council assist with running these clubs or helping people to get them started?

A. MidCoast Council cannot start clubs in local areas however if a club starts and requires assistance with sourcing or upgrading facilities for the club to function we can become involved. Starting clubs has to come from a demand from the community and be led by the community. We are more than happy to work with the community through our Sport and Recreation Committee. We can aid clubs, once established, in a range of way.

Q12. Can we have better quality equipment to use?

A. MidCoast Council is happy to review any equipment community groups do not feel meets the necessary standard to complete maintenance work conducted by volunteers. Please notify Steve Howard for any specific concerns or review requests.

Q13. The Marine Rescue market day was held however the lawn was not mown by council for the special event. Why was this?

A. There has been a breakdown of communication between the community group and the parks operational team to organise a special event mowing job. Currently there is a mowing cycle that is completed and any special events have to be communicated to the council with a request for the cycle to be changed or extra mowing services to be added to ensure the community need is met for the event.

Q14. Can a community garden be built in the vacant block next to the Harrington Club on the water?

A. Currently that vacant block of land is Crown Land and nothing can be constructed on that block of land unless the Crown allows us the space to be used.

Q15. Can we tar Crowdy Head car park?

A. The carpark is currently Crown Land. As per the changes to the Crown Land Act, it may be that Council will manage this area. Once that is determined we can look at the space and determine the best course of action.

Q16. How can we best promote and work with Council to improve the conditions of the road for the Rattle Trap event this year and increase visitors to the region?

A. There will be bus services provided for the event this year decreasing the access congestion that occurred in previous years. Council 's economic development team will work with event organisers and provide assistance where required. The team is more than happy to work with local communities who wish to hold an event and require further assistance or who would simply like to find out more information on increase the opportunities and activities in your local area.

Q17. How do we find out where the priorities and projects are at in the future?

A. We will return in six months to report back to you on where your top five priorities are at including what has been done and what will be done in the future. We will continue to hold meetings across the region to build relationships with our community and deliver what the community prioritises.

Q18. When can improvements to the eastern end of the John Oxley Reserve be expected?

A. We are currently looking at prioritising this project and will get back to the community when we have some firm details on when the footpath in John Oxley Reserve can be constructed.

Top priorities

1. Advocacy
 - o Cycle way and footpaths
 - o Beautification – foreshore park
 - o Wards Creek Bridge
 - o Highway intersection
 - o Recreation facilities
2. Roads
3. Local Community Planning
4. Heritage
5. Environment and Wildlife

Full list of priorities identified

Group one priorities

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crowdy Head Road <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Connecting towns b. Cycle ways c. Nature boardwalk along the dunes 2. Improve sport facilities 3. Generate activities/interest <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Soccer club b. Netball club 4. Crowdy SLSC – recreation facility <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Swings – BBQ etc. 5. Tar Crowdy car park

Group two priorities

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Environment and Wildlife – Koala audit and habitat – wallabies 2. Manor Road – development? 3. Walkway/cycleway colonial to IGA lighting, seating, wheelchair, Gopher. Trees 4. Museum and information centre in the town centre 5. Footpaths in town (old) area 6. Future use of crowdy school 7. Better signage – entrance to Harrington 8. Harrington foreshore plan 9. Off leash dog park \$50k? 10. Oxley reserve BBQ area \$83k 11. Wards Bridge – pedestrians cross twice to walk to town 12. Gordon Smith reserve – BBQ & tables
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Group three priorities

1. Safety Re road crossings especially youth and disabled
2. Library service is fantastic
3. Ambulance service needed
4. Resident aged care and nursing home facility
5. Swimming pool/Facebook
6. Roads – fix them all
7. Lobbying
8. Noise control (road sweeper @ 6:30am)
9. Volunteer group coordinator for public areas
10. Interchange at the highway road. Council should lobby for this interchange to be fixed plus Failford Road, Tea Gardens and Lakes Road near Bulahdelah
11. Council funding for projects not done, dredging and the dog park
12. Footpaths linking up and pedestrian access
13. Climate change
 - a. Adapt to potential and actual risk areas
 - b. Council carbon neutral (by 2030)
 - c. Strategic plan for Harrington and state park

Group four priorities

1. Housing Zones
 - a. Types of housing
 - b. When is Harrington considered 'full'?
 - c. New DCP when?
 - d. Highway access overpass completion
 - e. More community explanation so more understanding of the process can occur
2. Environment
 - a. 4WD's on beaches
 - b. Bike track to Crowdy Head
 - c. Rules and compliance
3. Dredging the waterways
 - a. When is it happening?
4. Community
 - a. Community garden next to bowling club
 - b. Control the mangroves
 - c. Ambulance station
 - d. History of Harrington – preserving the oral history and creating a museum
 - e. More activities in the old town of Harrington to bring together the community
 - f. Revitalise the community hall
 - g. Unify Harrington Waters and the township of Harrington
5. Beautification
 - a. Verge planting
 - b. Foreshore Park – "weeds" not grass
 - c. Replant shade trees on the foreshore
 - d. Street trees

Group five priorities

1. Redo Beach Street from boat ramp through town
2. Dredging of Harrington back channel
3. Road from town to Crowdy Head
4. Visibility of roundabouts in Harrington Waters estate (safety)
5. Mowing of vacant blocks in Harrington Waters
6. Cycle way over Vinegar Creek
7. Road access to boat ramp and connect to cycle way
8. Bridge near airport over Dawson River
9. Need for a nearby ambulance station
10. Curvature of road near Stones Oysters
11. Better cycleways & pathways to foreshore
12. Beautification of foreshore park
13. Cycle ways and footpaths (get kids off the road)