

Old Bar – 29 October 2019

Discussion summary

Council staff reported on how we plan to deliver the top five priorities from the Community Conversation held at Old Bar earlier in the year. Those present were invited to contribute suggestions on the detail of these projects to assist in our delivery.

Below are the top five priorities that were raised from the first round of community conversations and the commitment from Council.

Top six priorities identified in round one

1. Coastal Management Plan

A draft Coastal Management Plan (CMP) for Old Bar–Manning Point is scheduled for completion in mid-late 2020.

Current work includes: completion of ground penetrating radar and boring to determine the location of bedrock; probabilistic modelling to determine areas of risk from coastal recession; ongoing community engagement; beach monitoring; vegetation mapping and understanding offshore wave data and sediment dynamics so that a robust CMP will be developed.

We have also completed a successful sand scraping trial at Old Bar and are also currently scoping a study on the movement of sand at Old Bar.

2. Improve local roads

A further section of Old Bar Road will be completed this financial year, with another section to come in the following financial year. We currently have a significant program of works on our roads. This level of investment will continue for at least the next four years before reducing to a lower level. Our main priority is to manage the greatest risks on the network. This will mean that funding for the next few years will tend to be concentrated on our regional roads. These are the roads that connect our communities. They tend to have high traffic loads, higher speed limits and therefore are greater risk.

As we fix the worst areas on these high risk roads, we will be able to spread our maintenance resources further into the local road network and fix more of the things that are wrong. Over time our roads program will include more and more of the local roads that affect access to residences. We are working on updating the forward roads program based on the funding levels that we are now projecting as being available into the future.

Once this is complete, it will be presented to the community so that everyone can see what section of road is programmed to be done and when. We are also working on better reporting for our minor road maintenance activities so that the community can see what we have been doing in regards to roads maintenance and where.

3. Stormwater (Racecourse Creek flooding and erosion)

Consultant (Manly Hydraulics) has been engaged. Work is well underway towards developing a flood model for the catchment and assessing the interaction of the creek with

coastal processes. The project is on track for completion within the current financial year. We will be reporting this to Councillors and the community over the coming months.

4. Improve greening/wildlife corridors

Preparation of a Greening Strategy has been included in Strategic Planning work program for 2020 – in conjunction with other strategic land use planning currently being undertaken in draft housing, employment, recreation, infrastructure and rural strategy programs to inform the future MidCoast LEP and DCP. This will also be informed by the Climate Change Policy and Action Plan, Pedestrian and Mobility Access Plan and other corporate programs underway.

A Draft Biodiversity Framework is nearing completion and will be presented to Council for exhibition and adoption during the current financial year. We will also be talking to the community about this framework.

5. Compliance for development

While Council continues to investigate all compliance issues, improvements can be made in the setting of priorities and communicating expectations and findings. In this regard our Compliance team is currently coordinating development of a MidCoast Council Compliance Policy and Guideline.

The policy and guideline will assist in clarifying these responsibilities and expectations for a better delivery of services in relation to compliance.

At the same time Council is developing a central Customer Request System to make it easier for persons to report concerns and be advised of investigation outcomes.

6. Improve cycle ways and footpaths

Many communities have asked for improvements to the footpath network in their area, including cycle ways. A Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan is the first step in addressing this. This plan will provide a framework for developing pedestrian routes and infrastructure to cater for the needs of all pedestrians; including older persons, people with mobility or visual impairments, young children, tourists, cyclists and recreational pedestrians.

There is an emphasis on the development of commuter pathways as well as acknowledging the importance of recreational cycling for a healthy community.

This plan is being developed in conjunction with a Bike Plan which will identify opportunities for developing and enhancing pedestrian and cycle related activities and attractions for community members and visitors. A consultant has been appointed to develop the plan and initial consultation will start with a session in Old Bar on 25 November 6pm.

Further feedback on top six priorities

<p>Coastal Management Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline history →current • Is the development at the end of Lewis Street still going ahead • Keep the pressure on! We need a result
<p>Improve local roads</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The turnoff to Wallabi Point is dangerous and needs to be reassessed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next phase this financial year • A second exit out/in would be good. • Fire safety • Greening/wildlife – specific areas • Timeframe for Old Bar/Saltwater Road intersection and for Forest Lane • Need to improve safety by reducing speeding vehicles in Wallabi Point village
Stormwater (Racecourse Creek flooding and erosion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit development for Old Bar so that erosion “controlled” • Stormwater development within town needs to be controlled to contain erosion along Racecourse Creek and on to beach • Keep moving forward. We need a result. • Regular clean-up of vegetation at Creek/water drainage between Ivy Crescent and Sheppard Street (etc)
Improve greening/wildlife corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction required on Precinct 2B/3 Environmental Lands, do Council want to own that land, this is needed now • Community garden should be a community garden – not a council garden. If community group is not forthcoming – the community should not get it • Mudbishops Reserve needs a plan for improved usage • Rejuvenation of Old Bar Beach Foreshore – start planning now • Our tourism industry depends on having a well-planned foreshore area, modern café and SLSC and more green area, improved parking
Compliance for development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage people to come forward, maybe ads/website/facebook
Improve cycle ways and footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor exercise trail with outdoor equipment, maybe at Badgers Park or surf club area • How do we address Saltwater use instead of Forest Lane as a cycleway between Old Bar and Wallabi Point • Need a footpath on south side of Old Bar Road between Wyden Street and Coles supermarket

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many upcoming drafts of plans have been mentioned, can these documents be available to all? Where can they be found on Council's website? • What about footpaths for Wallabi Point, please we have none • A footpath from Wallabi Point to Saltwater would be wonderful
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Q & A session

Q1: Why doesn't your plan for the redevelopment of the public space at the beach entrance include a community garden or another site if that is not suitable?

A: We are happy to work with community on this to find a suitable area.

Q2: Old Bar Beach is a mess with all the stones spoiling what could be a beautiful beach. Does Council have an agenda where these could be cleared on a (if not daily) then weekly basis? These could be bagged and sold to landscapers etc.

A: Council will not remove natural elements from the beach/ocean to be sold. The only work we do on our beaches is for coastal protection.

Q3: Muddishops could be a great spot if it was redeveloped. Does Council have plans to develop this?

A: There are no plans at this point in time as the land is owned by the Crown. The land is earmarked to be handed to Council for management, however this hasn't happened yet.

Q4: What is planned for Racecourse Creek?

A: Manning Hydraulics have been engaged to provide a report. The report will be completed in November. This will be reviewed and discussion can take place on the information provided and how the results can be implemented.

Q5: Why won't you open Farquhar?

A: We do not have permission from the Crown to do so. To perform works we need a licence from the Crown, which we do not have. We have had an application with the Crown for some time. In the event of a flood emergency we have permission to act.

Q6: The Old Bar Beach toilet facilities are the worst in the area, why isn't something being done to fix them?

A: They are in need of renovation/replacement. We continue to apply for grant funding to be able to address this issue. We can look at Section 94 contributions as a potential option.

Q7: Why was Bohnock boat ramp renovated and not Manning Point?

A: We received grant funding from the NSW Government to undertake the work at Bohnock and this location also meant we could acquire land to extend the carpark. There was not the same State Government funding available for Manning Point and there was not the land available at Manning Point to provide the same sort of facility. We achieved the best outcome we could with the money we had available for the project.

Q8: There is land available at Mudbishops for sale, why is Council not purchasing this land for public space in the future. This is an opportunity to purchase land on the coastline for a small figure.

A: There is no opportunity to drive funding for an acquisition of this type, we do not have the tourism driving this or the infrastructure. Securing land back to the people is generally possible by it being gifted back to the people or through large developments requiring land offsets however they need to be maintained. It is quite involved and includes several factors such as ecological or planned purposes.

Q9: Is the mouth of the Manning at Harrington to be dredged?

A: There is no work planned for the mouth of the Manning. There are currently dredging works underway in Harrington back channel which is pushing sand back up on to the beach near the 4WD access area. More information can be viewed by visiting www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/News-Media/Harrington-Back-Channel-Dredging

Q10: There are significant problems with Saltwater Road and Old Bar Road intersection. The left hand turn in to Saltwater is not a left turn lane but is an overtaking lane and drivers are confused and there is no overtaking lane at this intersection as drivers turn right in to Saltwater Road from Old Bar Road. It is dangerous.

A: We will take a look at this issue. There are planned works in the future for this intersection but we will investigate this concern.