

### Bulahdelah– 24 October 2019

#### Discussion summary

Council staff reported on how we plan to deliver the top five priorities from the Community Conversation held at Bulahdelah 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 five priorities identified in round one

##### 1. Maintenance of facilities

The cleaning contract is managed by Bulahdelah Depot staff. We will do an assessment and check the frequency and increase if necessary.

##### 2. Improvements to road and drainage

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. CBD beautification

Many communities have asked for CBD beautification and /or locality based beautification strategies. The importance of these strategies to the vibrancy and quality of our urban and commercial areas is recognised by MidCoast Council.

We have recognised the need to develop specific localised beautification plans to increase the aesthetic quality of the natural and built landscapes in our central business districts (CBD) while welcoming visitors and enhancing quality of life for residents. Staff have been working with CBD businesses to participate in the Vibrant Spaces initiative to create more engaging and activated public spaces.

A program has started to gather base information such as traffic levels, parking availability and pedestrian activity. This information will help to inform the concept planning and options assessment in future stages.

#### 4. RV support and camping

Council recognises the importance of providing facilities for RVs in locations such as Bulahdelah. Work has commenced on the development of a model to continue to provide for such facilities on Council owned or controlled land in Bulahdelah in compliance with the required planning provisions. This may require the provision of additional facilities in some cases. The process will take some time to achieve but could provide an excellent model to utilise in other communities.

#### 5. Signage – encouraging highway traffic to visit

Council is working in cooperation with the RMS and Bulahdelah Chamber of Commerce on the development of new town entry signage for Bulahdelah. Council plans to continue to support for a billboard promoting Bulahdelah on the highway.

### Further feedback from the community on top five priorities

<p><b>Maintenance of facilities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mountain Park – toilets need to be cleaned better</li> <li>• Clean up – old truck stop in Wootton, corner Wattley Hill Road/Wootton Way</li> <li>• Bulahdelah drain weeds</li> <li>• Mountain Park toilets improvement to make cleaner/friendly</li> <li>• Showground – lack of sufficient waste disposal units (eg. bins) at skateparks, soccer grounds, tennis club</li> <li>• Tennis courts are in disgusting state</li> <li>• Bulahdelah soccer ground is a quality field maintained by a local council member with pride with NO lights to use it</li> <li>• Dog owners to pick up poo - signs on Jackson Street towards showground</li> <li>• Pathway under the bridge</li> <li>• Crown land on riverfront – Old Marina</li> <li>• Entrance to Lowreys Road needs to be tarred because cars coming over the hill on Boral Road throw stones when you are waiting to enter Boral Road.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improvements to road and drainage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wattley Hill Road needs sealing fully</li> <li>• Bombah Point Road sealing program with time line for works – a date for full completion</li> <li>• Wattley Hill Road needs improvement</li> <li>• Wootton way → tourist drive</li> <li>• Council truck area on Wootton Way Wootton needs to be tidied</li> <li>• Worth Street Wootton drainage and maintenance. Include Wootton Way edges and bridges</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Truck stop at Wootton top of the hill needs a clean up and decision about how to design better</li> <li>• Seal Bombah Point Road</li> <li>• Drains within Bulahdelah need to be upgraded not just sprayed</li> <li>• Improve “swamp” where drains run under Jackson Street to the river</li> <li>• Wootton, bridge on Newmans Road 6km from Wootton Way has one plank in very poor shape. Main beam on west side needs to be looked at for safety</li> <li>• Limit speed through Wootton – now 80kph must be maximum of 60kph with slow down signs</li> <li>• Drainage in Stroud and Jackson Street. Creeks and drains need cleaning</li> <li>• All of Bulahdelah water runs into the middle of town. Please clean out drains of weeds and unblock the drains to the river, we already have brown snakes on the footpath</li> </ul>
<p><b>CBD beautification</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable vegetation</li> <li>• More seating/shade</li> <li>• Why not use community service to help beautify CBD</li> <li>• Well done to Bulahdelah MCC staff in straightening all the signs around town</li> <li>• Trial 2hr parking in Main Street</li> <li>• Stroud Street, restore 2hr parking limits and enforce them, 1/4hr in front of Post Office and RTC</li> <li>• Replace faded signage around town</li> <li>• No timed parking near Anglican Church for workers</li> <li>• Horticultural maintenance of Main Street</li> <li>• Pruning of dead wood</li> <li>• Removal of dead trees</li> <li>• Weeding in street</li> <li>• Painting of three surrounds</li> <li>• RV park</li> <li>• Bigger clear signage</li> <li>• Beautification – would you live here?</li> <li>• Is the park and walkway down to the marina going to be cleaned up and upgraded for tourists (through under bridge)</li> </ul>
<p><b>RV support and camping</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can we see evidence from EPA of caravan park problems</li> <li>• Fix one way entry sign Lion Park</li> </ul>

<p><b>Signage – encouraging highway traffic to visit</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New photography has just been done for new RMS highway signage, needs to be up by Xmas</li> <li>• New flood signs in the middle of where it floods not where flood levels come to.</li> <li>• Large signs stating that these areas are flood areas are needed</li> <li>• Welcome to Bulahdelah signs either end of town and also thank you for visiting Bulahdelah signs</li> <li>• Bulahdelah people talk. We can easily redirect tourists to other areas</li> <li>• 40km signs in CBD area</li> <li>• Worth Street – no through road</li> <li>• Wootton Way, speed zones and signage are old highway speeds and 20 years out of date. 50 or 60 in village, very important.</li> </ul>
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## Q & A session

### **Q1: Where is Council up to with the Rural Strategy and provision of smaller rural lots?**

A: Members of the community can keep up to date with the development of our draft Rural Strategy on the Have Your Say page of Council's website ([www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/hys](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/hys)), and we are planning on talking to the community about it in more detail during 2020. However the community should understand that making rural lot sizes smaller is a very difficult process and is ultimately a decision of the State Government to go below the 40 hectare threshold.

### **Q2: Can the speed signs on Wootton Way be revised? It is still an 80 km zone.**

A: We will refer this to the Traffic Committee for consideration. This committee includes representatives from the RMS, NSW Police and the Local Member and speed zones are a matter for them to determine.

### **Q3: There is a need for a better system to let Council know about issues with Council buildings.**

A: We manage 796 buildings across the region, which is a large number to maintain and manage, and we need to spend our money wisely. However, we acknowledge there should be a better system for reporting issues.