

### Harrington – 7 November 2019

#### Discussion summary

Council staff reported on how we plan to deliver the top five priorities from the Community Conversation held at Harrington 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. Advocacy for transport infrastructure and improvements to community spaces and recreation areas**

We take a strategic approach to our grant applications for community spaces and recreational areas and apply for funding when available. Similarly, we work with State and Federal Government to apply for funding opportunities for transport infrastructure. We have recently been successful in concluding a long process with the State Government to get permission to dredge the back channel at Harrington.

##### **2. Improve local roads**

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. Undertake local community planning**

Council has adopted a Local Community Planning Framework to guide the development of local community plans across the MidCoast region.

Several plans have commenced under this process and Harrington's community plan is scheduled to get underway in the first half of 2020.

#### 4. Develop heritage museum

Council staff met with the Harrington Chamber of Commerce on 25 September 2019 and discussed a site for a future museum (potentially the community hall on Beach Street). The Chamber were advised to meet with other museum groups about logistics, volunteer rosters and ongoing costs. We understand a steering group has now been formed to start the investigations into how this may work and look at a range of items including the location of any museum, function and operation of the museum, operating hours, establishment and running costs and succession planning.

#### 5. Improve greening / wildlife corridors to enhance the environment and wildlife

A Draft Biodiversity Framework is nearing completion and will be presented to Council for exhibition and adoption during the current financial year.

### Further feedback on top five priorities

<p><b>Advocacy for transport infrastructure and improvements to community spaces and recreation areas</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need ambulance station if not in Harrington maybe the old Coopernook Police Station</li> <li>• 50m buffer zone along Industrial Road re fires</li> <li>• Lobby for first response ambulance for Harrington, Moorland, Johns River</li> <li>• North breakwall barrier to be provided to prevent cars crossing it to the south</li> <li>• \$83,000 grant for East Oxley Reserve – barbecue shelter</li> <li>• Need overpass at highway</li> <li>• Dam (Harrington water supply) upgrade/ design / funding State / General government</li> <li>• Rangers patrolling for Companion Animals Act breaches</li> <li>• Ranger action on dogs not on leads on riverwalk</li> <li>• Barbecue shelters and seating whether council doing it or community groups. Can there be consistency on colours and materials used. Currently we have green, blue, white etc. It's all real mish mash, other towns have consistency and use modern materials and design and colours. There needs to be a standard.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improve local roads</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manor Road approval?</li> <li>• With dredging of river the boat ramp needs upgrading</li> <li>• Make bike and walking path continuous so don't have to cross roads</li> <li>• Bridges – highway and creek</li> <li>• Widen bridge and resurface the road</li> <li>• Interchange over highway</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambulance and Fire Station</li> <li>• Turn off highway and Harrington roads both sides of the road need cleaning and tidying up – the front door of Harrington</li> <li>• Roadway in to boat ramp needs total work over drainage, water holds up the middle of carpark</li> <li>• Harrington bridge near restaurant “ms” needs to be replaced as it is falling down</li> <li>• Crowdy Head Road, dangerous road, trailers with boats challenge to pass</li> <li>• A 50km speed limit in Harrington</li> <li>• Show some pride in your work from lawn mowing to road repairs</li> <li>• Fix road in boat ramp at Harrington</li> <li>• Pedestrian safety at Wards Creek crossing</li> <li>• Upgrade to road (Beach Street) at turn off to boat ramp</li> <li>• Wards Bridge join the footpath all along the foreshore and not the pedestrian crossover</li> <li>• Regional roads annual funding over and above \$100million minimum program</li> <li>• 3 x 3 road funding as above</li> <li>• Photographic sign of Harrington on the M1</li> <li>• Upgrade of road in to Harrington boat ramp at time of Beach Street upgrade</li> <li>• Crowdy Harrington poorly maintained and too narrow. Needs major work to make safe. Should include provision for cycle traffic</li> <li>• State funding for local roads (per election promise). How much for MCC and likely date works will proceed</li> <li>• Fix roads. No verges? Incorrect widths?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Undertake local community planning</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master plan for Crowdy Head/Surf Club to include carpark, tree planting, playground area, picnic areas</li> <li>• Beautification of pathway along Harrington Road</li> <li>• Developing and promoting dementia friendly communities</li> <li>• Public transport to Port Macquarie</li> <li>• Bins along pathway</li> <li>• Covering from Harrington Waters to Harrington Breakwall</li> <li>• Future planning for population increase/ residential land releases (etc) in Harrington</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambulance out station at Harrington/Cooperbrook</li> <li>• Loop the walkway from the foreshore – wall with bridge over the river – pedestrians / bikes / fishing</li> <li>• Restrict height of development to two storey</li> <li>• Future potential age care facilities in Harrington</li> <li>• Pathway required from Big 4 Caravan Park to the IGA shopping centre</li> <li>• Town evacuation plan</li> <li>• Possible community meeting for proposed program and spending community funds \$900K (\$94 contributions) on community projects in Harrington</li> <li>• We don't need 5 storey buildings in Harrington, maximum should be 2 storey</li> <li>• Link Crowdy Head and Harrington with a safe, quality road and bike path. This will enhance the tourist attraction to the area. Will allow growth beyond housing development.</li> <li>• Vinegar Creek Bridge. Upgrade and build footpath / bridge to connect current footpaths.</li> <li>• Fix condition of High Street either side of bridge in Harrington</li> <li>• Harrington Public School, ETA on building road on dirt road beside school?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Develop heritage museum</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information booth for tourist needs to be around the IGA complex</li> <li>• Steering committee has been formed to commence planning for a museum</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improve greening / wildlife corridors to enhance the environment and wildlife</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bird watching facility could bring in revenue from the birds (terns)</li> <li>• Endangered birds, terns, have made the sand bank along the break wall their home. These birds can have a socio-economic benefit to the town. More needs to be done to protect them.</li> </ul>

## Q & A session

**Q: Are you able to influence changes such that there is public transport between the Council area and Port Macquarie? For those living in the north of the council area the only buses go south to Taree and beyond. Port Macquarie has the main airport link and a large range of businesses not provided in Taree as well as having employment and university opportunities, and yet there is no public transport.**

A: While transport services are something the State Government administers, we are aware that Transport NSW is currently looking at ways to increase public transport in regional areas and has trialled an on demand service. Council will advocate to Transport NSW to set up a trial on the MidCoast and would be recommending Harrington and Tea Gardens as potential trial areas in our region.

**Q: Is there a way Council can provide water to keep the trees in Harbour Boulevard alive in the current dry conditions?**

A: Unfortunately given the dry conditions and current water restriction level we have stopped all outdoor water use on our own parks and have put a stop on all planting.

**Q: Can we have some details on the \$83,000 funding provided for Oxley Reserve?**

A: This project has several elements, the new dog park that is currently being finalised. When it is finalised we will move onto the barbecue shelter replacements and finishing the car park near the boat ramp.

**Q: What is happening with the development application for a five storey building in Harrington Waters?**

A: This is currently under assessment.

**Q: What is the status of the proposed over 55s development?**

A: The determination for this development currently sits with the Regional Planning Panel, which is an independent body that determines a range of development applications and modification applications. The panel is not subject to the direction of the Minister of Planning and Public Spaces.

**Q: Why did beach permits rise from \$60 to \$100? And we are now not allowed to drive on the sandspit?**

A: The cost of beach vehicles has increased to allow us to improve access to our beaches. The funds generated from this will be put into better access and signage to manage our beaches to cater for the needs of both beach users and the environment. Driving on the sandspit has never been allowed, however it is something that has happened over time and we will have signage etc to indicate to the community it is not permitted.

**Q: Why does Council install substandard infrastructure?**

A: We don't believe we do, however we do install infrastructure to the standard we can afford both to construct and to maintain. We generally run with a maintenance budget for our recreational facilities, parks and gardens. That will improve, with some funds just allocated from former section 94 funding to improve community spaces.