

Tea Gardens – 26 November 2019

Discussion summary

Council staff reported on how we plan to deliver the top seven priorities from the Community Conversation held at Tea Gardens 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 seven priorities that were raised from the first round of community conversations and the commitment from Council.

Top seven priorities identified in round one

1. Investigate option for hydrotherapy pool

A feasibility study, undertaken by consultants RMP and Associates, on the options for a hydrotherapy pool in Tea Gardens will be presented to the 18 December Council meeting for discussion.

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. Community Hall / Centre

Council has received \$300,000 to refurbish the Hawks Nest Community Centre and are in the process of developing plans for the building. An initial round of consultation was held with a range of community groups and individuals during August to gain feedback to inform the designs.

When design options are developed we will be talking to the community again about the best way forward and will then move to deliver the upgrade.

4. Boat ramp upgrades

Our boat ramps are maintained on a quarterly basis. This occurs in the Tea Gardens area on the same schedule as it does across the MidCoast region. There are currently no funds for replacement / upgrading of the ramps. For capital improvement we are reliant upon external funding by way of grants. We are currently carrying out condition assessments of all our facilities. The information will inform our priority maintenance program.

5. Beautification of Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest

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.

Council has 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 while welcoming visitors and enhancing quality of life for residents.

Staff have also 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.

6. Walkways and cycleways

Many communities have asked for improvements to the footpath network in their area, including cycle ways. A Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) 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 Tea Gardens on 5 December at 6pm.

7. Signage

There is a wide spread need to improve and update town entry signage across the MidCoast region. A program is currently being developed to do this in an efficient and coordinated way. It is anticipated this signage program will get underway in the first half of 2020.

Further feedback on top seven priorities

Investigate option for hydrotherapy pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hot showers at existing pool• Get rid of step down concrete near entrance• Access for disabled• Covers put on for a longer time – water is 22 at 7am• Shower improvement at pool, a number of events are held there each year
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet block upgrade for existing pool (hot shower at least) • Toilet at swimming pool • Short term health issue • Need soap and towel / dryer for basin after toilet use • Grab bars for when one enters the dressing sheds to avoid slipping on the tiles • Council to supply paint and volunteers will paint it • Where will the hydro pool be located? • Soap and handrail • We still need our pool, not just a hydrotherapy pool • Rubber mats for door ways and walking area in change rooms at current pool • In February 2020 150 swimmers are coming to the Myall Masters carnival, we need hot showers and improved toilet facilities • Heat 25m pool in situ – do not convert this site to a parking area • Toilets need safety issues addressed immediately • Rubber mats on floor to prevent water pooling and slip hazards • LED lighting to aid visual concerns and safety for aged users
<p>Improve local roads</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DA information re large developments, changes in Myall Coast free paper, also plans for road and footpath, cycle way developments • Need cycleways to provide safe access across the two towns, no bus access • Plan for the future, do traffic counts, forward works programme, no ramps! • Road that leads to Tea Gardens, section by Quarry is in dire dangerous state for motorbikes • Toonang Road and Myall Road intersection left side passing lane (leaving town) when local residents are turning right • Mobility scooter access to bridge • Is Spinifex Ave going to be extended in near future? • Footpath from Peter Sinclair nursing home to shops • Leaving town on left hand bend just after the Pindimar turn off there is a large bump which tends to throw the

	<p>car to right in to the path of oncoming traffic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpaths from Coles to bridge • Drop speed limit at Winda Woppa (Boulevard, Anchorage and cross streets) to 40kph • A child / pedestrian / cyclist will be killed in summer when tourists horde at Jimmys Beach • Highway into Tea Gardens needs repair • When counting traffic take in time coming out of side streets • Footpath from Peter Sinclair to shop area • Corner safety Hawks Nest shopping area. Visitors parking “everywhere”. • Tar dirt road from Bombah Point ferry through to Bulahdelah • Road movements in the area petrol station / hardware shop / entrance to Coles need improvement • Current signs not followed by many, especially holiday visitors, very dangerous • Complete Spinifex Way asap • Improve road surface at Pedestrian Crossing near bus shelter on Myall Way • Upgrade all of Myall Way • Toonang and Myall Street dual lanes turn off and entry speed zones • Bike signs on Singing Bridge. At present they are inconsistent, not clear if it is law or not • Speed over Lions Park Hill – speed limit from Quarry area might help • Pindimar Road I have been informed is too narrow to have centreline markings, if this is so, can the road be widened and centre line marked as it is at present dangerous and in danger of a head on collision
<p>Community Hall/Centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the community centre get a higher priority now that Sheargolds have lodged their DA for their “Parrys Cove” development with 725 lots and 950 new residents • When will council be advertising DA’s in our local paper • We look forward to hearing about our community hall – used every week and concerts

<p>Boat ramp upgrades</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When is council going to remove the leaning poles at the original floating public wharf, that were put in for the ferry? The poles restrict the number of boats that can use the wharf and neither of the other wharves have leaning poles. • Boat ramps in Hawks Nest Moira Parade require bumpers replaced on wharfs, ramps require cleaning and repair due to large gaps in the ramp. There is no lighting, there is four light poles with no lights, cleaning table is needing attention • Future “Myall St” carpark need to have included toilet block • How are they cleaned? What happens to waste / chemicals? • Is sea water used for any high pressure water blasting? • Ferry wharf is owned by council and apparently being made public soon. Then where is the Ferry supposed to pull up at? • Toilets and car parking required at Ferry wharf • Deep hole at end of Hawks Nest boat ramp • Boat ramp safety • River health – dredging • Toilet upgrades to Surf Club, old needing new doors and seats • Talked sometime back about wired swimming enclosure at riverfront TEA Gardens, is this likely? • Repair and clean boat ramps by Christmas • Hawks Nest boat ramp us dangerous, there is a deep drop off at the end of the ramp that causes problems at lower tides. It is likely that someone will get injured there or a vehicle will get in trouble
<p>Beautification of Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilets in Tea Gardens near ferry wharf needed • Require nonslip surface to both mens and womens change rooms • Landscaping required for waterfront at wharves in Tea Gardens. • Grass is either dead or if it is green (when it rains) it is full of weeds, need a landscape plan • Parking off street for boats and

	<p>caravans, developers need to accommodate Yamba Booner development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planter boxes can they be made by Mens Shed? • Please paint the railings on the Singing bridge • Include Worimi culture • State of Singing Bridge very shabby • Agree with murals on water towers • Public toilet near centre of Tea Gardens • Need recycle bins up at the beach as red bins filling up and overflow at peak times. Rubbish blowing to surrounding areas • Toxic firewood being allowed to proliferate through farms and council land (some already covered), what are you doing about it? I emailed council on 9/10/19 and have not had any feedback. It kills animals and in drought they eat it. • Graffiti on the Singing Bridge pilon (southern side) has been painted over in a very shoddy manner • Dolphin pond – first thing you notice coming in to town. Council should take it over rather than Myall Quays residents, change signage from Myall Quays to Tea Gardens confusing for visitors who think they are coming in to Tea Gardens but greeted by a Myall Quay sign. • Picnic table to be replaced in the grounds of the community hall park, please make sure it is a table and seating for elderly • Street sweeper to do the area, hasn't been done in a long time • Remove containers, clean up and mow vacant lot next to the hotel on Marine Drive • Public car park and toilets, when can we get this • Asset protection – rendered MCW reservoir facing VC Road as an eyesore to motorists, silo painters please
<p>Walkways and cycleways</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend cycleway / footpath from Hough St to Budgeriee St and from the Bridge to Hawks Nest shopping centre and Winda Woppa and Bennetts Beach

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add outdoor exercise equipment along river footpath/cycleway at key points • Safe walkway and cycleway to access Winda Woppa from Jimmys Beach Caravan Park. Plenty of traffic on stretch of road with no houses no road markings cause concern to walkers with no footpath • Peter Sinclair Gardens – access for wheelchairs and walkers to the main road to the shops • Continuation of footpath / cycleway Marine Drive opposite Police Station to Bungaree Rd • Footpath damaged by developer on Yamba Street, danger to pedestrians • Yamba and Booner Street need proper cycleway, mobility re development proposal • Fix wooden jetty at Winda Woppa lagoon. Council has been promising to do so for years, is very dangerous • Pedestrian crossings needed on Myall St at Maxwell St and at Settlers Way • Separate pedestrian and motor scooter laneways (one way) on Singing Bridge • Connect pathway from Northern end of Marine Drive along Copeland Rd to Budgerie St Tea Gardens • Mobility scooter friendly crossing on Myall Road at Hough Street Tea Gardens • Connect pathway from Anzac Park to Singing Bridge • Marine Drive cycle / walkway suddenly end. Is it going to be extended even a little? • Speed limit re increasing number of batter assisted bicycles, mobility scooters • Very few lights on the Yamba St (west end) Hawks Nest cycleway / pedestrian path • Dangerous at night in summer with many people missing them (hundreds of metres apart)
<p>Signage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better promotion of Worimi culture • When is the population sign going to be updated. If it is not, it should be removed. • When you come in to Tea Gardens there is a sign, “Welcome to Tea

	<p>Gardens” there is nothing for Hawks Nest, is one planned?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage – Myall Street and Mungo Brush road. Sign says Mungo Brush to the right, Jimmys Beach and shops to the right, no mention of Bennetts Beach. • Along Tuloa Ave there is a sign referring to Ocean Beach but we don't have an Ocean Beach, it's called Bennetts Beach • Is it possible to put signage at top of Kurrawong / Tuloa intersection when National Park or ferry are closed? • Need a big sign on the Pacific Hwy near Myall Way to attract passers in to Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens both North and South bound. • Signage for 'suburbs', Winda Woppa, Shearwater etc • List of all services available for groups, aged, youth etc • How do we get out of Hawks Nest if there is a bush fire? Does council have an emergency plan for the area?
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Q & A session

Below is a summary of the issues raised during a question and answer session held following the above update, it is not intended to represent every question asked or be minutes of the meeting.

Q: What can we do to make the intersection of Settlers Way and Myall Street safer?

A: Myall Street will have traffic counters installed over Christmas which will register speed and number of cars passing each day. We share this information with the police to show them the statistics of the area and this can determine where they deploy resources. This could assist in enforcing 50km limits.

Q: Caravan and campervan, can you park a registered vehicle on the road?

A: Registered vehicles of any type, including caravans and campervans, can legally be parked on the roadside.

Q: When will the Singing Bridge be fixed?

A: Council is aware of the condition of the bridge as it is regularly inspected and we do respond to conditions on that bridge however we understand it could do with a facelift and we will look at the program of works for opportunities to include it.

Q: Proposed car park in Myall Street – how long do we have to wait?

A: We do have a detailed design completed for this car park, but it is not on our works program at this point in time.

Q: We noticed that there was slashing of all trees around the reservoir done for asset protection. We understand that trees would be replaced that were in the screening project 10 years ago, if no trees are going to screen there, can we do some artwork and painting on the reservoirs?

A: Given the recent bushfires, we have been ensuring there are asset protection zones cleared around our sites. We are very much internally interested in telling a story with the artwork and over the recent time we have been very interested in opportunities such as this, we will continue to investigate.

Q: Water best in Australia but it is in an aquifer, we feel comfortable but in times of stress our water may be required for other townships or anywhere where their water supply comes from a river or dam, our water supply has diminished. Any new subdivision will be a stress on the community and using water that is available for the whole of the MidCoast.

A: We have a focus on protecting the quality and quantity of the water supply in the Tea Gardens area. Our future strategies indicate that the supply is capable of delivering to future growth, and there are no plans to augment the system at this point in time. The Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest area is in the best position as far as water supply goes in the MidCoast.

Q: Has anything been done about pathway from Main Road to Sinclair Gardens?

A: No, but it is expected to be one of the priority projects that will come up in PAMP sessions to be held on 5 December 2019.

Q: Can the Winda Woppa pathway begin?

A: Funding for immediate projects to begin in the new financial year will be prioritised from the identified areas raised in the PAMP sessions across the LGA.

Q: Can we have an update on the development proposed for the corner of Booner and Yamba Street Hawks Nest?

A: This application is currently under assessment. It is a large development with many provisions to be considered ie: State Environmental Planning Policy No. 65 - Design Quality of Residential Flat Development, Council's Local Environmental Plan and also Development Control Plan.

The applicant was required to provide extensive additional information to Council to enable assessment of the project. The information has been received, the application was advertised and notified to surrounding landowners for 30 days ending on 25 October. Approximately 43 submissions have been received in response to the submissions. The submissions are being considered in the further assessment of the application. We will advise those who have made a submission on the outcome of the decision or if it is to be submitted to a meeting for discussion.

Q: When did Council stop advertising DAs in the local paper?

A: They are all still advertised in the paper when they relate to the Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest area and are also available on our website at anytime www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/hys

Q: Can we have an update on the development application that relates to Viney Creek Road, Tea Gardens

A: This is the North Shearwater subdivision and is currently under assessment. Consent has previously been granted for subdivision of the land. The current application is also for subdivision, although with a greater number of lots (and smaller in size).

Further information has been requested from and provided by the applicant. This information is currently being assessed with the application. The application will be reported to the Hunter & Central Coast Regional Planning Panel for determination. A date has not yet been set for the meeting, however it won't be until the new year.

13 submissions were received during notification and these submissions are being considered in assessment of the application. Everyone who made a submission will be advised of the meeting date (when set) and given opportunity to attend.

Q: Council receives several million dollars a year in rates from RU2 land. Why doesn't council initiate a land buy back scheme based on current land values using those same multi millions?

A: Council has no plans to initiate a buy back scheme for this land.

Q: My question is in relation to Council's strategy regarding recyclable waste disposal and what happens to those recyclables after collection. There has been much press about recyclables being shipped off-shore to third world countries with dubious outcomes etc.

A: All the recyclables that come through our waste management centres are dealt within Australia. We do not ship any off shore.

Q: Can we get a return and earn station in this region?

A: Unfortunately, that is not our decision – they are a State Government project run through a contract system. Usually businesses in local towns offer collections as a drop location for easier convenience.

Q: The community has been working with Steve Howard and into the new year we are going to start the Community Hall planter boxes. Will Council supply those and the tables and seating required for that Hall upgrade?

A: Yes, we will supply the planter boxes. We will look into the tables and chairs for the Community Hall as part of the \$300,000 grant. We would like to raise and congratulate the work that our Council volunteers do to progress community projects like this one. We have 1,000 staff and 2,000 volunteers who do a lot of work that we couldn't get done especially in a parks space. As an organisation and a community we really do appreciate the volunteers – thank you very much.

Q: New playground at back of Surf Club and my question is, are the sails completed?

A: Yes they are, when we install shade on playgrounds we don't completely shade them, we shade some areas and leave others unshaded to provide choice. This is the approach across the LGA.

Q: Telecommunications remains a major problem in our region. Particularly mobile phone. Is council able to anything to either install more towers or add to the existing towers? The Tea Gardens, Bundabah and Pindimar regions are particularly bad.

A: While this is an issue for the Federal Government, Council is more than happy for people to write to us explaining areas of need. We can collate the information and pass it onto the appropriate body.

Q: When is there going to be a burn off, of the undergrowth in the bushland at the back of Higgins Close over the creek?

A: Council has no control of back burning decisions and / or operations. It is a State Legislated Act as of 5 years ago.

Q: How can we tell Council about problems / safety issues we see each day in the community?

A: SNAP SEND SOLVE is an application that has been used for many years across Councils to identify and report issues to Council from community. Next year a new customer service system will be launched online which will provide an easier interface for the community to contact and communicate with Council. More information will be provided as the project begins.

Q: Hawks Nest has plenty of toilets but Tea Gardens are sparse, it would be good to have it where the carpark is going to come in.

A: We understand the need for toilets at the ferry, we know we need to look at that. However, space required is a current issue.

Q: How will the ferry service be impacted by the changes to the wharves?

A: The ferry will use a private wharf yet to be built. Council will work with the service provider to ensure the service does not stop for the community in the change over period.

Q: There is vacant land next to the club and it is a current eyesore requiring cleaning.

A: Council's powers are only to fix overgrown and or dangerous materials and vermin. We do not have any ability to fix an issue on private property that is purely visual.

Q: Current update of the hydrotherapy pool feasibility study inclusive of future planning for the current pool facilities.

A: We have now received a feasibility study on the idea of a hydrotherapy pool for the area. This study also looks at the current pool and a variety of aspects of its operation. The matter will be discussed by Council at the 18 December meeting. This will provide a direction for the future on this issue. We know there are a number of issues with the current pool, including the toilets, the drainage of the toilet area and requests for things such as disabled access.

All of this requires investment and we need to see what the decision is on 18 December before making any commitments about investing into the current facility.

Currently we run a diverse model of management for the pools across the LGA. Local pools cost Council millions of dollars each year to maintain and run and currently there are 11 in operation. Some are contracted out and managed by the YMCA and others are community run based on an honesty system. The remaining are run by Council with entry fees. Council is currently looking towards a single model for the future for equitable access and consistency.

Q: Can you explain where the dredging project is up to, the Jimmys Beach sand transfer and the Winda Woppa sand stockpile?

A: Council has submitted a grant application to the Crown Lands Rescuing Our Waterways program requesting funding to dredge 120,000m³. The application is focused on dredging the Lower Eastern Channel of the Myall River (between Winda Woppa and Corrie Island).

To date, potential grant announcement dates have not been advised from Crown Lands.

The construction of the Jimmys Beach sand transfer system was completed in August 2019, with 32,000m³ placed on Jimmys Beach in August 2019. There is 28,320m³ of sand left on the Winda Woppa sand stockpile. A specific date has not been set for when the sand transfer system will be turned back on. It was initially proposed to run two campaigns annually placing 10,000m³ each campaign onto Jimmys Beach. Council is currently reviewing this, as alternative amounts delivered to Jimmys Beach may prove to work better with the sand transfer system capabilities, while still maintaining the sand buffer. The system is not designed to be turned on in an emergency or erosion event.