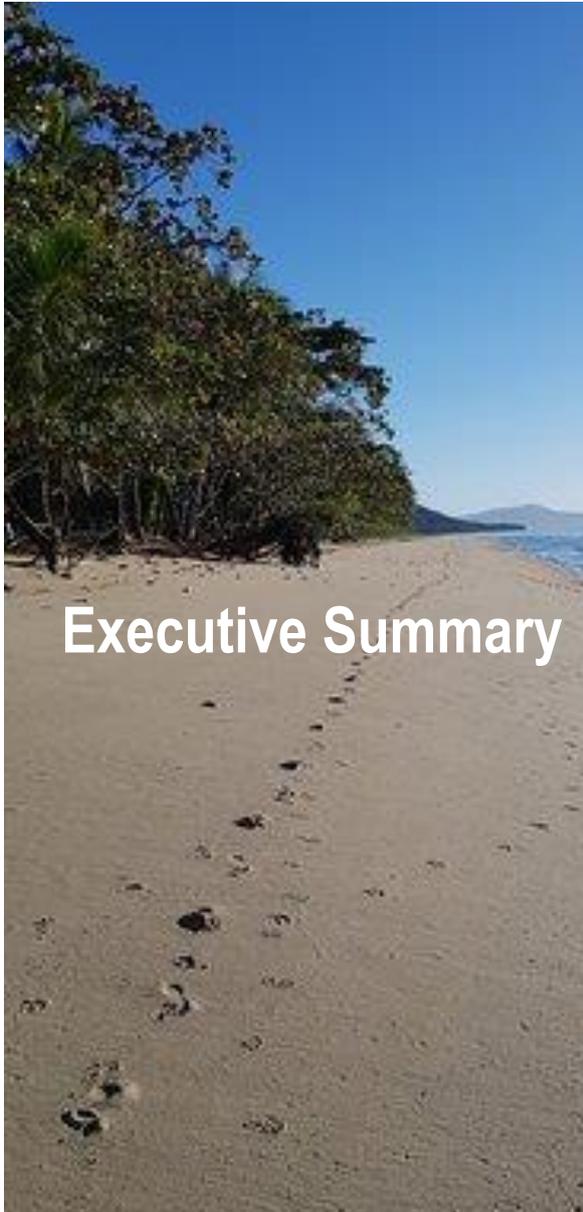


Newell Beach Foreshore

Community Consultation



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23 November 2020

- When asked to rank eight different suggested facilities, new outdoor seating areas and a new nature playground around the fig tree in Phil Lunn Park were ranked as the highest priority.
- Replacing the existing BBQ and shelter and more outdoor exercise equipment were ranked as the lowest priority.
- When asked to rate safety improvements, a footpath and/or shared pathway between Rankin Street boat ramp and Phillips Street was rated as the highest priority.
- While a few respondents wanted areas fenced off to stop vehicles entering parks, on the whole there was very little appetite for formalising parking and/or fencing off areas.
- In terms of safety improvements, around ten respondents mentioned there was a need to slow vehicles driving along Marine Parade.
- There's a very strong sentiment in the community to keep Newell Beach natural.
- People called for better protection of the foreshore vegetation. Two themes emerged from the comments:
 - Foreshore revegetation / protection program needed
 - Clearly defined beach access paths to reduce random paths made through the foreshore vegetation to access the beach.
- Many comments were related to maintenance of the park, foreshore area and vegetation with residents wanting to see an improvement on the current level of service.
- There's strong interest in the foreshore by the community with 65% of respondents registering to receive updates on any foreshore plans.

Background

A community survey was done to gather feedback from the community as to what, if any, improvements to the Newell Beach foreshore are wanted.

This document is a summary of the survey findings. The full report which includes all comments received [de-identified] is also available on Council's website.

The survey was open to everyone in the Shire, however Council did focus on ensuring Newell Beach residents were aware of the opportunity to have input.

A total of 97 responses were received from 102 people. The majority resided in Newell Beach, with 21 respondents from elsewhere in the shire.

Facilities Prompted

SCORE	FACILITY
5.89	New outdoor seating areas along foreshore
5.71	New nature playground around the fig tree in Phil Lunn Park
5.22	New single amenity near BBQ area
4.30	Replace existing playground equipment
4.29	New covered outdoor seating areas next to BBQ
4.17	Build shelters over existing picnic tables
3.85	Replace existing BBQ & shelter
3.16	More outdoor exercise equipment

When asked to rank eight different suggested facilities, new outdoor seating areas and a new nature playground around the fig tree in Phil Lunn Park were ranked as the highest priority. Replacing the existing BBQ & shelter and more outdoor exercise equipment were ranked as the lowest priority.

- Outdoor Seating was the highest priority. Respondents were in favour of having more tables and seating; more shade, but not over all, and that not all needed to be replaced, only those in disrepair.

However, not all everyone agreed more seating was required. A few felt there were enough, one worried about those adjacent to homes which may be noisy when big groups gather and one was concerned it would attract illegal campers
- Playground many respondents expressed enthusiasm for a new playground well designed for all ages – not just young toddlers. Things such as climbing frames, bridge like the old park, larger swings.
- An amenities block near the BBQ was the third highest priority for respondents
- Exercise Equipment and BBQ Shelter were both low priority for respondents.

Facilities Unprompted

There were a range of suggestions made by three or more respondents:

- Save the Newell Beach Wharf/Jetty from demolition, fix and make safer for fishers, have an amenities block nearby.
- Stinger Net, Water Playground
- Disability access to the water's edge; better disability access.
- Bike lane, particularly to connect to golf club, and highway
- Water stations for people and dogs

Other facilities suggested by two or fewer respondents included:

- Basketball hoop
- Skate park
- Photo frame or swing similar to the one on Cow Bay beach for visitors to take cute pics.
- Murals on water tower
- Turn water tower into a look out
- Rage Cage

Layout of Facilities

Several respondents suggested improving the layout by bring facilities together such as having new play equipment and/or moving the BBQ to the amenities block. Having amenities near the playground and BBQ for family gatherings.

Maintenance of Facilities

Many respondents wanted better maintenance of the playground area, of the parks and gardens in Newell Beach, more frequent cleaning and clearing of rubbish bins and better management of trees, suggesting trimming, pruning, de-nutting and clean-up of bush scrub vegetation. Also two respondents said the bus stop shelter on Andrews Street needs renovating/repainting

Boat Ramp

Several respondents gave us suggestions about the boat ramp which is owned by the Department of Transport and Main Roads. The Department announced in February this year that a planned \$3.2 million upgrade of the boat ramp had moved in the community consultation stage of the process. It did public consultation in February this year, requesting comments by 28 February. At the time, the Department advised they expected to go to tender in April 2020 and pending approvals, construction was expected to start in mid-2020. At the time of writing this report, there were no further updates, however Council did receive the following comments which have been passed onto the Department.

Safety Improvements Prompted

A footpath and/or shared pathway between Rankin Street boat ramp and Phillips Street was rated as the highest priority

SCORE	FACILITY
2.18	Footpath between Rankin St boat ramp & Phillips Street
1.96	Formalise parking at high use areas e.g. playground and BBQ area
1.91	Fence high use areas e.g. basketball court, BBQ, playground to prevent vehicle entry

There was little appetite for formalising parking and fencing off areas with respondents believing formal structures like fences/parking spots would take away from, or spoil the natural beauty and natural environment look and feel of the foreshore area.

A few did support formalised parking and fencing as it would prevent people parking trucks and/or cars in the park and/or and driving their quads and vehicles in and out of the park and one person said the park is a dangerous location to have children at play as it is on a junction with limited visibility.

Safety Improvements Unprompted

In terms of safety, around 10 respondents mentioned there was a need to slow vehicles driving along Marine Parade; three people suggested lights at the toilets and fairy lights in Phil Lunn Park and one person said there need to be more croc warning signs.

Safety improvements were needed to the Pacific St-Marine Parade intersection. It is very dangerous when two vehicles pass; when people at the southern end of Marine Parade hold events and when caravans were parked on the road while checking in to the caravan park on Pacific Street it became congested. The drain on the Caravan park side limits the turning circle especially if the vehicle turning out of Pacific Street is not to the far north. Line marking on roads needs to be done.

Do Nothing - Keep It Natural – Protect Foreshore Vegetation

There's a very strong sentiment in the community to keep Newell Beach natural and to not change one thing.

It's laidback; untouched, natural, relaxed, organic and old worldly.

Respondents called for better protection of the foreshore vegetation. Two themes emerged from the comments these being revegetation, saying we needed a revegetation program, and stopping random paths made through the foreshore vegetation to access the beach.

Consultation

Respondents provided feedback about the consultation process. A few appreciated the opportunity to have their say, some were critical of options presented, asking why degradation of foreshore vegetation was not included.

A few residents felt it was inappropriate to give people the option of dropping off completed surveys at the shop as it is owned and operated by the Deputy Mayor.

As a result of perceived conflict of interest, Councillor Scomazzon has excluded herself from any discussions going forward which are related to the Newell Beach foreshore.

Action Plan

The survey findings have provided a good insight into what improvements to the foreshore the community sees as important and also what residents currently value – which for many is to keep it natural.

In response to the findings Council Officers propose the following actions:

1. Although a nature playground in Phil Lunn Park rated highly there were a number of issues raised by the community with this concept including for example, disconnection of Phil Lunn Park from other existing facilities, safety concerns with children and vehicle traffic and possible health issues associated with mosquitos. Council Officers will investigate whether there are other opportunities for Phil Lunn Park.
2. Investigate locations for new covered seating in high use areas for example adjacent the BBQ and playground area and also adjacent the existing amenities block. Do a condition assessment of existing outdoor seating in these areas with the intention to repair, renew or remove dilapidated assets.
3. Investigate opportunities for improved pedestrian access along the foreshore, including a footpath which extends between the amenities block in the south through to the BBQ shelter in the north. In the future this footpath could extend both north along the foreshore and also south to connect with the future Principle Cycle Network.
4. Investigate opportunities for improved all abilities access to the beach.

5. Install new drinking fountains and dog bowls in high use areas.
6. Install new dog bag stand at northern end of the foreshore.
7. Install new concrete slab and improve drainage at public taps.
8. Renew the existing playground and install new rubber soffit to the playground and swing set.
9. Investigate locations for new solar lighting to improve public safety.
10. Investigate the opportunity for a new single amenities building in proximity to the BBQ and playground area.
11. This report will be published on Council's website on the Newell Beach Project Page.
12. A link to this report will be posted on Council's Facebook page.
13. A copy of this report will be sent to the 65 respondents who requested an update.

Further Feedback

Residents are invited to drop in to discuss the above findings and proposed actions with Council officers who will be on site in Newell Beach at the BBQ shelter on the Esplanade near the corner of Ocean Street on **Wednesday 9 December** between 2:30pm and 5:30pm.

This will be an opportunity for residents to discuss the findings with officers and to raise any other points which may have been missed.

Or if you prefer, you can email through any feedback on the actions proposed to gaye.scott@douglas.qld.gov.au or call Gaye on 0418 793 009.

Foreshore Management Plan

Separate to the Parks Renewal Project, Council will be developing a Foreshore Management Plan for Newell Beach. The purpose of the plan will be to develop clear management actions to be led by Council and inform future decisions regarding the protection and management of the foreshore.

Council will use feedback gathered thus far from residents and will do further consultation with the community to develop the Foreshore Management Plan.