

Newell Beach Foreshore



Community Consultation Report

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KEY FINDINGS

- We received 97 responses from 102 people. The majority of respondents resided in Newell Beach.
- 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.
- 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, around 10 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.
- Respondents also 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 services.
- There's strong interest in the foreshore by the community with 65% of respondents registering to receive updates on any foreshore plans.

SECTION ONE - BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

The existing park infrastructure and amenities at Newell Beach foreshore are scattered over a distance of approximately 290m. The BBQ facilities, basketball court and children's playground are separated from the public amenities block with no formal footpath in between.

Other parks throughout the shire have had upgrades however it has been many years since any were done at Newell Beach.

A survey was prepared and released 31 August with a closing date of 11 September 2020. The purpose was to gather feedback from the community as to what, if any, improvements to the foreshore are wanted. The survey may be found in [Attachment One](#).

This document presents the survey findings.

1.2 Engagement Method

The survey was open to everyone in the Shire. To ensure Newell Beach residents were aware of the opportunity to have input into any foreshore improvements. This included:

- A letter was sent to Newell Beach ratepayers containing a hard copy survey as well as a link (QR code to scan) to an online survey.
- The leaflet and survey link were emailed to ratepayers in Newell Beach who had an email address in Council's records.
- 100 survey forms were available for people to pick up at the Newell Beach shop if they missed the letter.

To gather feedback from the broader community, information was published on Council's website with a link to the survey and a post was put on Facebook when the survey was released, and a second post uploaded a few days before the survey closed to remind people to have their say.

1.3 Respondents

Douglas Shire Council received 97 responses from 102 people. The majority resided in Newell Beach, with 21 respondents from elsewhere in the shire.

Location	Number.
Newell Beach	71
Mossman	7
Miallo	5
Bamboo	2
Shannonvale	2
Cassowary	1
Cow Bay	1
Julatten	1
Whyanbeel	1
Cooya Beach	1
Unknown	3
Total	97

SECTION TWO – FACILITIES

2.1 Facilities - Prompted

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.

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

2.1.1 Outdoor Seating

New outdoor seating was ranked highest in the facilities suggested.

A few suggested giving the existing picnic tables a bright and colourful paint job and concrete floors to make them more inviting. Some thought covered seating areas would be fantastic, but others said not all tables needed shelter as many were under trees provided shade. One person suggested trialling designated seating areas and fire pits overlooking the water.

Not all agreed more seating was required saying there were already enough cautioning that it could be noisy for nearby homes and may attract illegal campers:

- Give the existing picnic tables a bright and colourful paint job, concrete floors as well. They are not very inviting as is!!
- Not all tables need shelter. Many already under a tree.
- Covered seating areas would be fantastic.
- Trial designated seating areas and fire pits overlooking the water
- More seating
- More picnic areas for families

Not all agreed more seating was required with one respondent sharing concerns with the creation of more outdoor seating areas:

- There are already many in place.
- People gathering at the table in front of homes. Noise travels from offshore into homes and is noisier than people realise
- Attracts illegal campers

2.1.2 Playground

Respondents were enthusiastic in their support for new playground equipment, asking for it to be well-designed for all ages, not just for young toddlers:

- A new playground for kids would be fantastic.
- A well designed playground for all ages (including stairs to slide on one bit, Port Douglas Rex Smeal park or Muddies in Cairns as examples)
- A young child's playground and one for older kids so all kids can play
- Be aware Phil Lunn park is a dangerous location to have children at play as it is on a junction with limited visibility.
- Have grandchildren who we look after regularly and would like to have a safe environment for them to play in at beach and park, more equipment. Also somewhere for parents and grandparents to sit while watching their kids
- I do not have my own children but I have plenty who come a stay and at the moment the playground is a disappointment.
- I would like to see the playground be a bit bigger and better, especially for older kids.
- Install older kids play equipment not just for toddlers, such as climbing frames, bridge like the old park, larger swings.
- Just general up-date. We were frequent users of park back 5yrs ago now all older.
- Locate new play equipment and swings to closer location to recently renovated amenities block near shop.
- Playground area needs to be functional and cost effective
- Playground needs to be able to be used by children under 4 years old as presently there is no way they can climb to the top of the slides. E.g. Pirate Park in Port Douglas or playgrounds north of Mareeba provide this opportunity.
- Provide safer child equipment.
- Shade for the swing.
- The new swing set is put in direct sun area, with no shade all day. Relocate to a safer shaded area for kids
- Using area under fig tree for nature playground would be excellent for young families

2.1.3 Amenities

A single amenities block near the BBQ was the third highest priority for respondents.

"toilets near BBQ area to help families would be a priority I believe."

"I do like idea of toilet area near play area for older people."

Several people suggested an amenities block at the boat ramp (see Boat Ramp section) and one person suggested one for the northern end of the beach.

One person remarked that the showers had been removed from the existing amenities block and it would be good if they were replaced.

The newly painted amenities block was liked by one respondent – "Like the jazzed up old toilet block to art team ❤️ however another, while acknowledging the work was a credit to the artists, felt it did not fit with the natural beauty of Newell Beach.

2.1.4 Exercise Equipment

This was a low priority for those who responded to the survey. One person requested adult exercise equipment, and another wasn't "satisfied with new existing one, only suitable for athlete's body builders."

2.1.5 BBQ Shelter

Replacement was not a high priority among respondents. "Don't think the shelter needs replacing unless it's unsafe."

2.2 Facilities Suggested - Unprompted

2.2.1 Newell Beach Wharf/Jetty

Several respondents suggesting saving this from demolition and creating a safe fishing spot:

- Amenity block at wharf for people socialising, i.e. fishing tourists, etc.
- Improve the wharf for safer fishing
- Safety around the jetty so the elderly can fish.
- Save the Newell Beach wharf for a safe fishing spot at night.
- Save the Newell Beach wharf from demolition at the expense of new infrastructure; can be used for a safe fishing spot at night.
- Save the wharf at Newell big time safety for children despite noise factor

2.2.2 Stinger Net, Water Playground

Several respondents suggested either a stinger net, water playground or rock pool to be enjoyed by families not just in Newell Beach, but accessible to people living in the surrounding inland suburbs:

- Stinger net for the local community Mossman, Cooya and beaches north of Newell including Miallo and Whyanbeel areas for all to enjoy Newell Beach, especially for the families who don't have a swimming pool.
- Water playground and/or stinger net in ocean
- Rock pool/stinger net BBQ area and fairy lights in Phil Lunn Park [4].
- How about a water park playground like Bowen has for the kids?
- Water feature for young kids as they cannot swim on beach
- Water games and play during wet season.

2.2.3 Disability Access

A few respondents wanted more facilities for people with disabilities and the elderly. One respondent asked for disability access to the water's edge so people in wheelchairs can enjoy the beach as presently wheel chairs can only get access to the tree line:

- Disability access to the water's edge. Wheel chairs can only get access to the tree line and not all path ways through are solid enough for this so if there was a dedicated one to use they could enjoy the beach also.
- More facilities for people with disability and the elderly. Especially for fishing.
- No facilities (or not much) for the elderly and disabled in this shire. We need more.
- Those on mobility scooters don't get to go to the beach as the scooters sink into the sand and are harder to get out than a wheelchair due to the weight. If along with wheelchair access enough room could be made for the scooters please.

2.2.4 Water Stations – People & Dogs

A few people wanted drinking stations for people and dogs:

- Another doggy bag dispenser at northern end of beach
- Cement a pad around the tap that currently is quite muddy / Concrete area under the taps.
- Dog drinking station
- Drink taps / More water taps along beach front

- Drinking fountains for dogs and their owners
- Drinking fountains placed along walk way - to include water bowls for pets.

2.2.5 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
- One respondent suggested a Rage Cage. For those who do not know what a rage cage is, a web search suggests it is an all ages, all-in-one permanent outdoor sport and recreational complex designed to incorporate over ten of the most popular Australian and International sports.
- Mission Beach foreshore improvements are terrific and something safe for families helps get them outdoors safely.

2.3 Layout of Foreshore

Respondents put forward suggestions for the location of playground equipment, amenities and BBQ:

- Have all play facilities located closer to the commercial businesses which would also mean closer to the existing amenities.
- Having a well-designed layout for our Douglas shire lifestyle for birthday parties, BBQs, playgroups, family time and to enjoy most of the year round in almost any weather. BBQ/entertaining/picnic area close to playground and also amenities and suitable and entertaining for all ages
- I just think it would be nice to have things together- planned better.
- Leave as much as possible of the esplanade as open area
- Locate new play equipment and swings to closer location to recently renovated amenities block near shop.
- Locate new play equipment and swings to closer location to recently renovated amenities block near shop.
- Relocate existing BBQ to where amenities is. This may stop people urinating around BBQ area. Relocate existing BBQ nearer to existing toilet block
- Toilets near playground to aid families and group gatherings.
- One of the spots at the beach most visited by the locals and people at the beach is the view from the car park at the boat ramp. It is the only place you can experience this view of Port Douglas unless you drive onto the foreshore which is correctly frowned upon. In recent years the area view has been obstructed by the growth of the vegetation. Some of the vegetation is mangrove which surely could be trimmed as has occurred at a number of other sites in NQ otherwise the view will become completely obstructed. This would be a small concession to allow the public to continue their regular pilgrimage which in many instances is quite regular.

2.4 Other

- Seal earth road at existing toilet area to marine parade roadway.
- Would be great if Tai Chi or free exercise classes could be held here for people who are unable to get to Port.

2.5 Boat Ramp

The Newell Beach Boat Ramp 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.

- Amenities block at boat ramp
- I think the biggest thing that needs attention at Newell Beach is the boat ramp! It is pretty much un-usable, which is such a great pity! We have to drive to Port or the Daintree to launch when potentially there is access just down the road! Please fix the boat ramp and Mossman River outlet!
- New amenities at the boat ramp;
- Newell Beach boat ramp upgrade would be wonderful.
- Small toilet block at boat ramp
- Toilets at boat ramp which I believe has been addressed
- What is happening to the Mossman river boat ramp when is construction starting?

2.6 Maintenance

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.

2.6.1 Playground

- Regularly spray sensitive weed around children play areas. Regularly rake up beach almonds and leaves that make the playground area unsuitable for young children without shoes. Cement a pad around the tap that currently is quite muddy
- The use of play ground around fig tree in Phil Lunn Park is limited partly due to concentration of mosquitoes in the uncleared bush scrub under the tree. Second pruning is not done on undergrowth or the aerial roots of the fig. Pruning of aerial roots on other fig trees in the shire appear to be carried out.
- Heavy pruning of fig tree in Phil Lunn Park would make the area more useable.

2.6.2 General

- Employ a permanent worker for each beach. They will end up looking beautiful as the worker will take great pride in his beach. And residents will have someone to talk to about his work and pride he puts into it. Try starting with Newell Beach as a trial run first.
- Keep park and beach clear of debris
- Maintain and/or clean up the foreshore more regularly.
- Our parks around Newell are not maintained or watered.
- Schedule gardeners, cleaners on a regular basis to tidy up foreshore to encourage and invite people to use the facilities more.
- Tidy up the areas we have before spending more.
- If money is spent on improvements they need to be maintained.

2.6.3 Vegetation

- Bore irrigation for parklands
- Clean rubbish trees near Rankin Street bus stop - clean trees - prune Rankin Street
- Clean up the undergrowth and palm fronds
- Cleaning up all the green waste that's completely stifling the dunes and is a snake hazard and eyesore. Commit to removing green waste such as palm fronds rather than just throwing it on top of existing foreshore vegetation. As previously mentioned, the green waste that's been dumped all along the foreshore needs to be removed to completely tidy up the foreshore.
- Coconuts de-nutted or removed from around seating areas
- Continued monitoring and removal of rotting trees along foreshore
- Keep grass areas well maintained.
- Maintain trees and coconut palms more regularly
- Maintenance of Beech almond trees
- Nice gardens at entry to village near town sign.
- Remove dead fronds etc. instead of leaving them in amongst the cabbage bushes
- Please do a massive clean-up of the vegetation. Leave just the palms and coconut trees and a few of the larger trees. All the undergrowth is nothing but weeds. We didn't buy a beach front property to look at weeds. We would like to see the water with complementing vegetation not mosquito and midgy vegetation.
- Regular de-nutting of coconut trees along Newell beach
- Removal of the Beech almond trees.
- Trim trees along Rankin street as cannot get boat with canopy down here for low overhanging branches
- Can we have a leaf sweeper pick up leaves? Can beach foreshore be mowed more often?

2.6.4 Rubbish Bins

- Need more bins available at the boat ramp and the central and northern foreshore along beach. No Dump signs put up along Saltwater Creek. (Lots of rubbish ends up at this end.)
- Hygiene of the public rubbish bins needs to improve. On most Sundays bins next to BBQ area near walkway in front of the shop are crawling with maggots.
- Provide recycling/general waste rubbish bins & additional doggy-bag dispensers
- More bins that allow for recycling and general waste
- Another bin opposite the store
- More rubbish bins, maybe one by every table to avoid rubbish being left behind.
- More dog poo bag holders along the northern part of the esplanade.
- I would also like to see dog poo cracked down on!

2.6.5 Other

- The bus stop shelter on Andrews Street needs renovating/repainting.
- The bus stop is a disgrace; fix up what we have before wasting money on unnecessary things

SECTION THREE – SAFETY

3.1 Safety Improvements - Prompted

A footpath and/or shared pathway between Rankin Street boat ramp and Phillips Street was rated as the highest priority by most respondents but there was little appetite for formalising parking and fencing off areas.

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

3.1.1 Footpath

Some of the comments about footpaths included:

- A meandering foot path through the park from the northern end of marine parade continuing down to the southern end at the boat ramp. Not running on the footpath when it can be avoided and meandering through the park lands on the foreshore for multi-use (pedestrians and bicycle traffic). Clifton beach is a good example
- A pathway from the barbecue and playground area to the toilet block.
- A shared walking/cycle path along the entire foreshore would be fantastic.
- A walking path from Phillip St to the jetty.
- A walkway along the area under the trees so people can walk when the tide is high. We go for a walk on Newell beach every afternoon. It is good for our health and mental outlook. We check the tides and sometimes we can't walk because the tide is too high. Would be nice to have a waking path to walk on when the beach is not useable.
- Also maybe a good footpath along the esplanade for rollerblading, scootering etc.
- Boardwalk/bike track
- Clear pathways and fencing
- I love the idea of a scooter/skate path
- Path through Jimal Park from Coulthard Close to Andrews Street
- Pathways connecting facilities
- Walk way /cycleway with hedges to stop leaf litter from vegetation on foreshore
- Walkway between boat ramp and north Newell with BBQ spaces and playgrounds and garden similar to Tannin Sands.
- We also have many people in the area now who use mobility scooters and are stuck to using the road to getting around. They don't get to go to the beach as the scooters sink into the sand and are harder to get out than a wheelchair due to the weight. If along with wheelchair access enough room could be made for the scooters please.

3.1.2 Fence off High Use Areas to Prevent Vehicle Entry

This was a low priority for most respondents. "Please do not spoil Newell's natural beauty by car parks, fence, etc." A few did support this with comments being:

- Kerb and guttering, bollards around Phil Lunn Park to stop residents parking trucks and/or cars in park obscuring walkway and driving their quads and vehicles in and out. It's a park, not a car park.
- Clear pathways and fencing
- Be aware Phil Lunn park is a dangerous location to have children at play as it is on a junction with limited visibility.

3.1.3 Formalise Parking at high use areas

These comments indicated some did not support formalising parking.

- This is not Palm Cove - related to formalising parking.
- Please no formal structures like fences/parking spots that would take away from the natural environment look and feel of the foreshore area. It is lovely as is.
- I would like to see Newell Beach remain as natural and relaxing as possible. E.g. no concrete car parks.
- Please do not spoil Newell's natural beauty by car parks, fences

3.2 Safety Improvements – Unprompted

3.1 Bike Lane

Several respondents called for a bike lane/path, to improve safety, and to connect to golf club and Mossman. Comments included:

- Bike lane for safety
- Bike path/Bike track [3]
- Footpath/bike path
- A bike lane to town and bike lane in Newell would be better than a path.
- Would like a bike path from the golf club to Mossman
- Safe Bike path from Newell to Mossman

3.2 Road

3.2.1 Speed of Cars

- 50kph signage for Marine Parade and/or traffic calming devices
- A 50km sign slowing traffic along Marine Parade
- I would like to see 50 kph signs as there are none on Marine Parade (the only sign present is on Newell road as you approach the corner to turn left into Marine Parade). Speeding is a daily problem, some motorists speed up as soon as they have entered Marine Parade and as the foreshore is a shared area with pedestrians including dog walkers and cyclists this creates a safety issue.
- I would like to suggest the installation of speed humps in Newell Beach and the reduction of speed limits to 40km/hr. Vehicle speeds in the area are often excessive to the point where it is dangerous to walk my dog.
- Look at car speed control measures along Marine Parade / Lower enforced speed limit
- More speed restriction signs along Marine Parade- some cars go extremely fast along here and there are a lot of people walking, including young children
- Rankin Street requires 40 km/h sign.
- Speed bump on Marine Parade, Zebra Crossing at Van park and shop [4]
- Traffic control on Marine Parade. (1) Greater police awareness and control necessary. (2) paint speed limit on road surface (3) reduce limit to 40 km/h. Or solar electric speed monitors like at Ellis Beach do work and would be a great option.

3.2.2 Other

- Improve traffic control when "party houses" at Southern end of Marine Parade hold events and caravans try to book into caravan park on Pacific Street. Improve the road systems especially the Pacific St-Marine Parade intersection.
- Safety of corner Marine Parade and Pacific Street - very dangerous when two vehicles pass. 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.

3.3 Lights

- Lights at the toilets so they are not so scary!!
- Fairy lights in Phil Lunn Park
- Lighting so it's safe at night

3.4 Croc Signs

- More croc warning signs. Noted people down at the boat ramp lately, even lady from her motor chair wheel style - dangerous 

SECTION FOUR – KEEP AS IS

4.1 Do Nothing; Keep Natural

Comments reflected a strong desire for many in the community to keep Newell Beach natural:

- As most people who live here we do so for a reason and that is that it is still laidback and untouched by too much so called modernism and is an area that many are just realising is here and delighting in finding this little slice of paradise and they enjoy it because it is what it is Untouched Paradise! Council really needs to be vigilant on protection not always projection on the few natural areas we have left up here like Newell Beach and Wonga area. It might be a surprise to some but many people don't want what Port Douglas offers, they want more of Newell Beach and the Daintree, the untouched natural beauty of the area. My concern is that once this is gone, just like the rest of the east coast of Australia there will be nothing left.
- Do not change a thing. It is natural and beautiful as it is. This is why we live here.
- Don't change Newell too much, I don't want another Port Douglas
- Keep it simple, don't overdo it. Newell beach is great because of natural environment.
- Keep Newell Beach the way it is. Beautiful.
- Leave as much as possible of the esplanade as open area. Whatever is decided, please keep it simple to retain Newell the appealing, unique, family beach it is now.
- Leave it as it is
- Newell beach is beautiful as it is. It needs no improvement. The fact that it is mostly untouched is a large part of its spectacular charm. Please don't fix what isn't broken
- Newell is perfect as is, minor adjustments to play/BBQ area needed.
- Park needs to be kept neat but still natural
- Please do not spoil Newell's natural beauty by car parks, fences and more playground and exercise equipment. It is so natural this is why we live here
- Please keep it as natural as possible
- Please keep it natural for children need to learn
- Prefer to see the area left looking as natural as possible.
- The foreshore is enjoyed by many residents and visitors because they can park at whatever section of the beach they choose and this privilege has not been abused. The charm of Newell is its natural beauty without fences, carparks and concrete walkways.
- We believe if the beach is not developed like Port Douglas it will attract visitors interested in nature.
- We love Newell because it is organic and relaxed with full access to beach the entire way, want to keep it pretty much as is. I love Newell and bar the kids playground I have no complaints. It's a hidden treasure and needs to remain organic and old worldly.

4.2 Foreshore Vegetation

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

4.2.1 Revegetation

- One of the most important issues is the vegetation degradation on the foreshore. This is imperative and tree planting should be implemented as soon as possible.
- Please revegetate the foreshore.
- Maintenance of the area and the vegetation on the foreshore is needed more than further capital investment
- Re-vegetation along all foreshore with monitoring of growth.
- Thicken up the vegetation north of the current toilet block. Remove any chairs and tables placed on the beach and left there.
- Re-instate foreshore re-vegetation areas.
- Revegetation along foreshore where people have illegally cleared and fencing of esplanade to stop these people. This will also help maintain defined beach accesses.
- Council to continue the great work in preserving the beach and foreshore.
- Revegetation to help with erosion and as a wind block for beach front houses
- Trees and more - a revegetation programme is overdue - the beach is eroding-controlled expansion of new tracks. Last year Council instigated the Resilient Coast Program. What has happened to it.? The protection and re-vegetation of the dunal system is the most important issue for Newell Beach. It is eroding. Now, in the area that this survey covers, the sea is clearly visible - this a recent development. There is an earlier report on Newell Beach from 2002. It dealt with the dunal system in detail but little has been done to implement it. Have working bees planting trees - get the families involved in the future - let kids see the trees grow during their lives and so will protect them. Barricades to stop vehicles driving on the beach.
- Please leave the foreshore infrastructure as is. Revegetate the foreshore with native plants.

Not everyone wanted all foreshore vegetation to remain:

- One of the spots at the beach most visited by the locals and people at the beach is the view from the car park at the boat ramp. It is the only place you can experience this view of Port Douglas unless you drive onto the foreshore which is correctly frowned upon. In recent years the area view has been obstructed by the growth of the vegetation. Some of the vegetation is mangrove which surely could be trimmed as has occurred at a number of other sites in NQ otherwise the view will become completely obstructed. This would be a small concession to allow the public to continue their regular pilgrimage which in many instances is quite regular.

4.2.2 Beach Access Paths

- Need to stop uncontrolled creation of new beach access tracks
- Clearly defined beach access points.
- Fence off green areas to prevent people making new paths through vegetation.
- Improve beach access walkways.
- make access paths and fence off all other foreshore vegetation so locals cannot make their own paths
- More paths at beach rather than having to make paths through the foreshore bush

SECTION FIVE – General Comments

5.1 Newell Beach

Respondents had the opportunity to provide feedback on other aspects, either in Newell Beach or elsewhere in the Shire.

- A well-deserved makeover.
- Any measures to enhance Newell Beach will be a positive thing.
- Channel and kerb so in the wet the water can flow to the drain. At the moment the Council has to Grade each wet season. The beach almonds have a problem with huge amount of leaves and branches dropping.
- Council is doing a great job at the present
- Councillors and Council staff are to be congratulated and thanked for work already undertaken on the Shire's Parks and Gardens
- Good initiative - keep it up.
- I would not like to see any changes to the equipment in place in this area, particularly while the uncertainty around the current COVID pandemic exists. I would not like council to undertake capital works projects such as this while proposing to increase fees and rates. Please do not waste capital on any of the projects mentioned in this survey. Consensus among Newell Beach residents from our experience is that none of these projects are wanted and that Council should minimise capital spend to a minimum until the current uncertainty around the pandemic is resolved.
- REPLACEMENT OF WIND BREAK RECENTLY REMOVED BY COUNCIL WITHOUT CONSULTATION NOW CAUSING LEAVES AND DIRT TO BLOW OVER 40,42 AND 44 FROM THE FORSHORE. VERBAL UNDERTAKING HAS BEEN GIVEN TO REPLACING WIND BREAK AS ABOVE AFTER WRITTEN COMPLAINTS BY OWNERS AT 40 AND 44 MARINE PDE
- Stop camping /parking in the open area where the Frangipani trees, often fires have been lit here.
- Storm water catchment from the park onto the beach opposite the shop
- There is no point in Council spending money on improvements if it does not have the commitment and financial ability to maintain them. As it stands council is already unable to maintain its existing assets at Newell. That being said channel and kerb on marine parade, a walkway & formal parking would be our highest priority for 2021.
- We often stop at Newell as a break from the car for our 7 year old and to use the facilities. Please don't assume that others from Douglas Shire don't have an interest in what happens around Newell Beach and other parts of the Shire.

5.2.1 Comments Related to Elsewhere in the Shire

One respondent said don't build the bridge and another said the Mossman Pool should have a ramp access.

SECTION SIX – CONSULTATION PROCESS

Respondents provided feedback about the consultation process. A few appreciated the opportunity to have their say, some were critical of options presented, one critical of the lack of consultation previously and a few felt it was inappropriate to give people the option of dropping off completed surveys at the shop, given it is owned and operated by the Deputy Mayor.

- Firstly great to see some sort of communication with local people who actually live in this area and hopefully those who care actually respond and give feedback.
- Great to see local consultation by the Council.
- It's great that you are consulting and will be great to have Newell Beach looking a bit smarter. I found this information by accident though. And we own a house at Newell. Would have been good if info was posted with rates or emailed to ratepayers. I just received an email with the Daintree ferry report. Great way of engaging residents.
- The new existing exercise equipment is only suitable for athlete body builders. Why weren't locals consulted?
- Why is this consultation supposedly limited to Newell Beach residents? I use the beach regularly. Why is this survey so limited and the only options provided are to build more infrastructure? What parameters were used to design the survey questions? Where are the options for improving the natural environment and protecting the foreshore from vegetation clearing?
- Absolutely inappropriate to use Newell Beach Café and Deputy Mayor as a drop off point for survey.
- There is a flagrant conflict of interest between the owner of the takeaway shop at Newell and all the proposed changes.
- Please advise if council is treating this issue as a conflict of interest for Councillor Scomazon as these suggestions seem to be primarily directed towards improvement of her business interests.

SECTION SEVEN - OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION

7.1 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.

Feedback related to areas outside the purpose of the foreshore improvements survey has been passed on to the relevant teams for consideration and action, for example slowing traffic speed.

In response to the survey results, 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.

7.2 Further Feedback

7.2.1 Drop In Session at Newell Beach

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.

7.2.2 Email

If you have any feedback on the actions proposed, you are welcome to send them through to gaye.scott@douglas.qld.gov.au or call Gaye on 0418 793 009.

7.3 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.

ATTACHMENT ONE

	<h3>Newell Beach Foreshore</h3> <p>Community Consultation</p>
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What would make Newell Beach foreshore better for you?

As part of this year's Parks Renewal Program, we'd like to hear from residents of Newell Beach. Please take two minutes to complete the [Newell Beach Foreshore Improvement Community Survey](#) to tell us what you would like to see done.

To do the survey, you can:

- point your mobile phone camera at the QR code and it will take you to the survey
- Go to Council's website and search for Newell Beach Foreshore Improvement Project to find the online link.



If you don't have access to the online survey, you are welcome to complete the questionnaire on the back of this leaflet and mail it to Douglas Shire Council, 64-66 Front St, Mossman, QLD 4873 or drop it into the Newell Beach Takeaway.

Responses requested by 11 September 2020.

Questions?

Gaye Scott, Community Liaison Officer
gaye.scott@douglas.qld.gov.au or 0418 793 009



Newell Beach Foreshore Improvements Community Survey – Closing Date 11 Sept 2020

1. Please number these **facilities** in order of priority, with **1** being highest priority and **8** lowest priority.

- _____ More outdoor exercise equipment
- _____ New nature playground around the fig tree in Phil Lunn Park
- _____ New outdoor seating areas along foreshore
- _____ New single amenity near BBQ area
- _____ Replace existing BBQ & shelter
- _____ Replace existing playground equipment
- _____ New covered outdoor seating areas next to BBQ
- _____ Build shelters over existing picnic tables

2. Are there any other **facilities** you would like to suggest? _____

3. Please number these **safety improvements** in order of priority, with **1** being highest and **3** your lowest priority

- _____ Fence off high use areas e.g. basketball court playground to prevent vehicle entry
- _____ Formalise parking at high use areas e.g. playground and BBQ area
- _____ Put a footpath between Rankin St boat ramp & Phillips Street

4. Are there any other **safety improvements** you would like to suggest? _____

5. How many people, by age, currently live in your household?

- _____ Up to 4 years _____ 5 to 10 years _____ 11 – 17 years _____ 18 and over

6. What locality do you live in? _____

7. Finally, do you have any other comments you would like to add? _____

Thank you for your time. Please drop your completed survey into Council's administration office in Mossman, or post to Douglas Shire Council, PO Box 723 Mossman Qld 4873.

Updates: If you want to be kept updated with progress on the Newell Beach foreshore improvements, please tell us your name and preferred contact details

Name: _____

Email or Phone or mailing address _____