

ORDINARY COUNCIL

Wednesday 13 October 2021

Ordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday, 13 October 2021

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1 Leadership and Governance

What we are trying to achieve

A community that works together in decision making that is defined as ethically, socially and environmentally responsible.

What the result will be

We will have:

- A community that has the opportunity to be involved in decision making
- Open, easy, meaningful, regular and diverse communication between the community and decision makers
- Partnerships and collaborative projects, that meet the community's expectations, needs and challenges
- Knowledgeable, skilled and connected community leaders
- Strong corporate management that is transparent

How we will get there

- 1.1 Inform and engage with the community about what Council does using varied communication channels
- 1.2 Maintain strong partnerships between all stakeholders - local, state and federal — so that they are effective advocates for the community
- 1.3 Demonstrate leadership
- 1.4 Use innovative, efficient and sustainable practices
- 1.5 Ensure strong corporate and financial management that is transparent and accountable

| POLICY REGISTER COUNCIL ADOPTED (PUBLIC) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| No. of Policies | | 79 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Title | Responsible Division | Responsible Position | Last Council Adoption Date | Last Review Date | Review Outcome | Last Modification Date | Review Period | Review Due Date | Status | Comments | Review Stage | Revised Review Date |
| A Frame Sign | Development & Environment | Group Manager Regulatory and Environment Services | Feb-13 | Feb-13 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Feb-13 | 2 years | Feb-15 | Overdue | Requires further risk review for impact under Council's insurance policy. Possible combining with Activities in public places policy. | Review initiated | Feb-22 |
| Activities in Public Places | Development & Environment | Group Manager Regulatory and Environment Services | Feb-13 | Feb-13 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Feb-13 | As needed | Feb-15 | Overdue | Currently with the Co-ordinator (Compliance). Only minor amendments required and the policy will be submitted to the Executive Group for endorsement. | Review initiated | Feb-22 |
| Airport Leasing of Land and Buildings | Corporate Performance | Group Manager Commercial Business Units | Aug-17 | Sep-20 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Sep-20 | 4 years | Jun-23 | Current | | N/A - Current | Jun-23 |
| Alcohol Use on Public Reserves and Beach | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Community Engagement | Nov-18 | Nov-18 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Nov-18 | 2 years | Oct-22 | Current | | N/A - Current | Oct-22 |
| Asset Disposal | Infrastructure | Group Manager Infrastructure Operations | Feb-13 | Feb-13 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Feb-13 | 2 years | Feb-15 | Overdue | | Review initiated | Mar-22 |
| Asset Management | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Strategy | Apr-17 | Apr-17 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Apr-17 | 4 years | Apr-21 | Overdue | The Property Investment Policy replaces this policy. The Property Investment Policy is currently under review | Not commenced | Feb-22 |
| Beach Driving | Development & Environment | Group Manager Recreation, Property and Buildings | Jul-21 | Jul-21 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Jul-21 | 3 years | Jun-24 | Current | | N/A - Current | Jun-24 |
| Bushfire Risk Mitigation on Public Land | Development & Environment | Group Manager Regulatory and Environment Services | Jun-11 | Jun-11 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Jun-11 | 2 years | Jun-13 | Overdue | Major review underway to determine need for policy given changes to overarching bushfire legislation. Review being coordinated with Parks and Reserves Use policy. | Review initiated | Feb-22 |
| Cattle Grids on Roads in Rural Areas | Infrastructure | Group Manager Infrastructure Planning | Oct-10 | Oct-10 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Oct-10 | 2 years | Oct-12 | Overdue | Review commenced, amendments considered minor in nature. | Review initiated | Feb-22 |
| Cemeteries | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Customer Experience and Communications | Oct-10 | Oct-10 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Oct-10 | 2 years | Oct-12 | Overdue | Needs to be updated to reflect the sale of the Crematorium | Review initiated | Mar-22 |
| Commercial Activities on Council-managed Land | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Economic and Cultural Development | Apr-17 | Jul-19 | No changes required | Apr-17 | 2 years | Jun-21 | Overdue | | Review initiated | Feb-22 |
| Community Engagement | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Community Engagement | Jul-14 | Jul-14 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Jul-14 | 2 years | Jul-16 | Overdue | We have been working through a process with the Communications Portfolio and the Councillors to develop an approach to engagement - "Working Together". The policy will be written when this is finalised if it is required. This is also linked to the work currently being undertaken through the Customer Experience Project | Review initiated | Feb-22 |
| Compliance | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | Oct-10 | May-17 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | May-17 | 2 years | May-19 | Overdue | | Not commenced | Mar-22 |
| Contaminated Land | Development & Environment | Group Manager Regulatory and Environment Services | May-17 | May-17 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Oct-10 | As needed | May-19 | Overdue | Minor amendments required and the policy will be submitted to the Executive Group for endorsement. | Review initiated | Feb-22 |
| Construction of Infrastructure Works on Public Property by Contractors | Infrastructure | Group Manager Infrastructure Planning | Oct-10 | Oct-10 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Oct-10 | 2 years | Oct-12 | Overdue | Review not commenced. | Review initiated | Apr-22 |
| Contributions for Footpath and Kerb and Gutter Construction | Infrastructure | Group Manager Infrastructure Planning | Dec-11 | Dec-11 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Dec-11 | 2 years | Dec-13 | Overdue | Review commenced, amendments considered minor in nature. | Review initiated | Feb-22 |
| Control of Burning | Development & Environment | Group Manager Regulatory and Environment Services | Jun-18 | Jun-18 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Jun-18 | 2 years | Jun-20 | Overdue | Minor amendments required and the policy will be submitted to the Executive Group for endorsement. | Review initiated | Feb-22 |
| Councillor Induction | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | Sep-13 | Sep-13 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Sep-13 | Prior to any scheduled Ordinary Local Government Election and as a minimum, once every four (4) years. | Jun-16 | Overdue | Draft Councillor Induction and Professional Development Policy currently on Public Exhibition to be further considered at the November 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting. Proposed that this policy will be rescinded if the new Councillor Induction and Professional Development Policy is adopted following exhibition. | Public Consultation | Nov-21 |
| Councillor Portfolio Protocol | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | Dec-18 | Dec-18 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Dec-18 | Within 12 months after any scheduled Ordinary Local Government Election and as a minimum, once every four (4) years. | Mar-22 | Within 6 months of review date | | N/A - Current | Apr-22 |
| Councillor Professional Development | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | Jul-12 | Dec-13 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Dec-13 | Prior to any scheduled Ordinary Local Government Election and as a minimum, once every four (4) years. | Apr-16 | Overdue | Draft Councillor Induction and Professional Development Policy currently on Public Exhibition to be further considered at the November 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting. Proposed that this policy will be rescinded if the new Councillor Induction and Professional Development Policy is adopted following exhibition. | Public Consultation | Nov-21 |
| Customer Complaints | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Customer Experience and Communications | Dec-20 | Dec-20 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Dec-20 | 2 years | Dec-22 | Current | | N/A - Current | Dec-22 |
| Customer Experience | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Customer Experience and Communications | Dec-20 | Dec-20 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Dec-20 | 2 years | Dec-22 | Current | | N/A - Current | Dec-22 |
| Debt Recovery | Corporate Performance | Group Manager Financial Services | Jul-21 | Jul-21 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Jul-21 | 2 years | Jul-23 | Current | | N/A - Current | Jul-23 |

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| Development Applications Conflict of Interest | Development & Environment | Group Manager Development Assessment | Jul-18 | Jul-18 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Jul-18 | As needed | Jun-20 | Overdue | This Policy is being incorporated into a broader 'Conflicts of Interest Policy' so ultimately it can be rescinded upon consideration and adoption of the broader policy. | Review initiated | Mar-22 |
| Development Contributions Assessment | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Strategy | Oct-16 | Oct-16 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Oct-16 | As needed | Oct-19 | Overdue | | Deferred | Jun-22 |
| Developments, Public Place & Events - Waste Minimisation and Management | Corporate Performance | Group Manager Commercial Business Units | Jun-20 | Jun-20 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Jun-20 | 2 years | Jun-22 | Current | | N/A - Current | Jun-22 |
| Dogs in Public Spaces | Development & Environment | Group Manager Regulatory and Environment Services | Apr-11 | Apr-11 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Apr-11 | 2 years | Apr-13 | Overdue | Major Review Required. Requires consultation with NPWS for interface issues Dogs and 4WD's on beaches. Start community engagement early 2022. Consider changing review period from annually to as needed. | Review initiated | Mar-22 |
| Footpaving of Roads in Retail and Commercial Areas | Infrastructure | Group Manager Infrastructure Operations | Oct-10 | Oct-10 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Oct-10 | 2 years | Oct-12 | Overdue | Review commenced, amendments considered minor in nature. | Review initiated | Feb-22 |
| Fraud and Corruption Prevention | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | Apr-21 | Apr-21 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Apr-21 | 1 year | Apr-22 | Within 6 months of review date | | N/A - Current | Apr-22 |
| Gifts and Benefits | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | Aug-17 | Aug-17 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Aug-17 | 2 years | Aug-19 | Overdue | | Not commenced | Feb-22 |
| Investment | Corporate Performance | Group Manager Financial Services | Aug-20 | Aug-20 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Aug-20 | Annually | Aug-21 | Overdue | Deferred until 2022 following December 2021 Local Government elections | Submitted to Council | Oct-21 |
| Local Government Elections Caretaker Period | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | May-21 | May-21 | New Policy (Council adopted) | May-21 | 3 years | Apr-24 | Current | | N/A - Current | Apr-24 |
| Local Orders Policy: Restrict Keeping of Dogs in Koala Habitat Areas - Thurmaster | Development & Environment | Group Manager Development Assessment | Dec-17 | Dec-17 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Dec-17 | Within 12 months after any scheduled Ordinary Local Government Election and as a minimum, once every four (4) years. | Sep-21 | Overdue | | Not commenced | Sep-21 |
| Making of Council Policy | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | Sep-15 | Sep-15 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Sep-15 | Within 12 months after any scheduled Ordinary Local Government Election and as a minimum, once every four (4) years. | Sep-17 | Overdue | Policy reviewed, will be going to the Executive with a recommendation to submit to Council to publically exhibit. Proposed for March 2022 Council meeting. | Review initiated | Mar-22 |
| Markets Policy | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Economic and Cultural Development | Feb-21 | Feb-21 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Feb-21 | 2 years | Feb-23 | Current | | N/A - Current | Feb-23 |
| Mayoral Discretionary Fund | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | Jul-12 | Jul-12 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Jul-12 | Prior to any scheduled Ordinary Local Government Election and as a minimum, once every four (4) years. | Dec-21 | Within 3 months of review date | To be reviewed following Council Elections in December 2021 | Deferred | Feb-22 |
| Media Relations | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Customer Experience and Communications | Sep-18 | Sep-18 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Sep-18 | 4 years | Aug-22 | Current | | N/A - Current | Aug-22 |
| Mobile Food Vending Vehicles and Temporary Food Stalls in a Public Place | Development & Environment | Group Manager Regulatory and Environment Services | Sep-18 | Sep-18 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Sep-18 | As needed | Aug-20 | Overdue | Minor amendments required and the policy will be submitted to the Executive Group for endorsement. | Review initiated | Dec-21 |
| Mooring Agreement for Lady Nelson Wharf | Development & Environment | Group Manager Recreation, Property and Buildings | Oct-10 | Oct-10 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Oct-10 | 2 years | Oct-12 | Overdue | Major review required. Policy to be reported to December Council meeting with public exhibition period to follow. | Review initiated | May-22 |
| Naming and Renaming of Reserves | Development & Environment | Group Manager Recreation, Property and Buildings | Dec-17 | Dec-17 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Dec-17 | 4 years | Dec-21 | Within 3 months of review date | | N/A - Current | Dec-21 |
| Naming and Renaming of Roads | Development & Environment | Group Manager Recreation, Property and Buildings | Dec-17 | Dec-17 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Dec-17 | 4 years | Dec-21 | Within 3 months of review date | | N/A - Current | Dec-21 |
| Outdoor Dining | Development & Environment | Group Manager Commercial Business Units | Jul-18 | Jul-18 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Jul-18 | 2 years | Jul-20 | Overdue | | Review initiated | May-22 |
| Parking | Infrastructure | Group Manager Infrastructure Planning | Jul-11 | Jul-11 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Jul-11 | 2 years | Jul-13 | Overdue | Being undertaken as larger parking review project | Review initiated | Sep-22 |
| Parks and Reserves Use | Development & Environment | Group Manager Recreation, Property and Buildings | Oct-10 | Oct-10 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Oct-10 | 2 years | Oct-12 | Overdue | Major review required. Policy to be reported to December Council meeting with public exhibition period to follow. | Review initiated | May-22 |

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| Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | Oct-17 | Oct-17 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Jul-18 | Within 12 months after any scheduled Ordinary Local Government Election and as a minimum, once every four (4) years. | Mar-22 | Within 6 months of review date | To be reviewed following Council Elections in December 2021 | N/A - Current | Mar-22 |
| Payment of Late Rate Instalment Due Death of Ratepayer's Spouse | Corporate Performance | Group Manager Financial Services | Oct-10 | May-21 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | May-21 | 2 years | May-23 | Current | | N/A - Current | May-23 |
| Pensioner Concession Rebates | Corporate Performance | Group Manager Financial Services | Jul-15 | May-21 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | May-21 | 2 years | May-23 | Current | | N/A - Current | May-23 |
| Petitions | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | Nov-20 | Nov-20 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Nov-20 | 2 years | Nov-22 | Current | | N/A - Current | Nov-22 |
| Placement of Recycled Clothing Collection Bins on Council Owned Land | Infrastructure | Group Manager Infrastructure Planning | Dec-11 | Dec-11 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Dec-11 | 2 years | Dec-13 | Overdue | Review not commenced. | Review initiated | Nov-21 |
| Planning Agreements | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Strategy | Oct-10 | Oct-10 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Oct-10 | As needed | Oct-12 | Overdue | Review scope extended to include matters raised in Voluntary Planning Agreement audit. | Deferred | Jun-22 |
| Planning Proposal | Development & Environment | Group Manager Development Assessment | Dec-19 | Dec-19 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Dec-19 | Within 12 months following ordinary election. | Dec-22 | Current | | N/A - Current | Dec-22 |
| Port Macquarie Entertainment Precinct Event Use | Development & Environment | Group Manager Recreation, Property and Buildings | Aug-18 | Aug-18 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Aug-18 | 2 years | Aug-20 | Overdue | | Deferred | May-22 |
| Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Flood | Development & Environment | Group Manager Regulatory and Environment Services | Dec-18 | Dec-18 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Dec-18 | 2 years | Nov-20 | Overdue | Significant work required in this area. Resources now in place to review and submit to Council for endorsement. | Review initiated | Mar-22 |
| Privacy Management Plan | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | Aug-17 | Aug-17 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Aug-17 | 2 years | Aug-19 | Overdue | | Not commenced | Feb-22 |
| Procurement | Corporate Performance | Group Manager Financial Services | Oct-19 | Oct-19 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Oct-19 | Annually | Sep-20 | Overdue | Council's policies and procedures in relation to Procurement are under review and will be subject to significant changes. A briefing will occur with the new Council by March 2022 followed by a Council report. | Review initiated | Mar-22 |
| Project Management | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | Feb-17 | Feb-17 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Feb-17 | 4 years | Feb-21 | Overdue | | Review initiated | Mar-22 |
| Property Investment | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Strategy | Dec-17 | Dec-17 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Dec-17 | 2 years | Dec-19 | Overdue | The review of this policy will take place in the context of a broader discussions about Council as Developer and resolution of the positioning as a principles position. | Deferred | Feb-22 |
| Providing Funding and Support to the Community | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Community Engagement | Jul-13 | Jul-13 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Jul-13 | 2 years | Jul-15 | Overdue | | Review initiated | Mar-22 |
| Provision of Information and Interaction Between Councillors and Staff | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | Oct-17 | Oct-17 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Oct-17 | 2 years | Oct-19 | Overdue | | Review initiated | Nov-21 |
| Public Art | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Economic and Cultural Development | Mar-20 | Mar-20 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Sep-20 | 4 years | Feb-24 | Current | | N/A - Current | Feb-24 |
| Public Interest Disclosure – Internal Reporting | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | Sep-21 | Sep-21 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Sep-21 | 2 years | Sep-23 | Current | | N/A - Current | Sep-23 |
| Rates and Charges Hardship Assistance | Corporate Performance | Group Manager Financial Services | Apr-20 | Apr-20 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Apr-20 | 2 years | Apr-22 | Within 6 months of review date | | N/A - Current | Apr-22 |
| Regulatory Enforcement | Development & Environment | Group Manager Regulatory and Environment Services | Aug-17 | Aug-17 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Aug-17 | 2 years | Aug-19 | Overdue | Reviewed policy to be submitted to Council for endorsement | Review initiated | Feb-22 |
| Risk Management | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | Feb-19 | Feb-19 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Feb-19 | 2 years | Feb-21 | Overdue | An external have been engaged to review Risk Management Framework including the Risk Management Policy | Review initiated | Mar-22 |
| Roadside Vegetation Management | Infrastructure | Group Manager Infrastructure Planning | Mar-21 | Mar-21 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Mar-21 | 2 years | Mar-23 | Current | | N/A - Current | Mar-23 |
| Smoke Free Outdoor Areas | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Economic and Cultural Development | Nov-18 | Nov-18 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Nov-18 | Annually | Nov-22 | Current | This is not suppose to be an annual review but a 4 yr review and will not be done again until 2022. | N/A - Current | Nov-22 |
| Social Impact Assessment | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Economic and Cultural Development | Oct-10 | Oct-10 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Oct-10 | Annually | Oct-11 | Overdue | Currently reviewing the need for this policy as it is legislated through the DA process and we need to develop a mechanism through the PMF. | Review initiated | Mar-22 |
| Sponsorship | Corporate Performance | Group Manager Commercial Business Units | Feb-13 | Feb-13 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Feb-13 | 2 years | Feb-15 | Overdue | Review completed. Draft Sponsorship Policy to be considered for Public Exhibition at September 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting | Public Consultation | Nov-21 |
| Staff and Consultant Access to Private Property | Development & Environment | Group Manager Development Assessment | Oct-10 | May-17 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | May-17 | As needed | May-19 | Overdue | | Not commenced | Mar-22 |
| Statement of Business Ethics | Corporate Performance | Group Manager Financial Services | May-13 | May-21 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | May-21 | 2 years | May-23 | Current | | N/A - Current | May-23 |
| Streetlighting on Public Roads | Infrastructure | Group Manager Infrastructure Planning | Oct-10 | Oct-10 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Oct-10 | 2 years | Oct-12 | Overdue | Review not commenced. | Review initiated | Mar-22 |
| Tendering Local Preference | Corporate Performance | Group Manager Financial Services | Sep-20 | Sep-20 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Sep-20 | As needed | Sep-21 | Overdue | Council's policies and procedures in relation to Procurement are under review and will be subject to significant changes. A briefing will occur with the new Council by March 2022 followed by a Council report. | Review initiated | Mar-22 |
| Tourism Community and Service Signage | Infrastructure | Group Manager Infrastructure Planning | Feb-12 | Feb-12 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Feb-12 | 2 years | Feb-14 | Overdue | Review commenced, amendments considered minor in nature. | Review initiated | Feb-22 |

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| Unsealed Roads | Infrastructure | Group Manager Infrastructure Planning | Nov-18 | Nov-18 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Nov-18 | 2 years | Oct-20 | Overdue | Being undertaken as part of boarder review of unsealed roads | Not commenced | Aug-22 |
| Unreasonable Customer Conduct | CEO's Office | Group Manager Governance | Dec-20 | Dec-20 | New Policy (Council adopted) | Dec-20 | 2 years | Dec-22 | Current | | N/A - Current | Dec-22 |
| Liquid Trade Waste Regulation | Infrastructure | Group Manager Infrastructure Planning | Aug-18 | Aug-18 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Aug-18 | 2 years | Jul-20 | Overdue | | Review initiated | Feb-22 |
| Volunteer | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Community Engagement | Oct-15 | Oct-15 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | Oct-15 | 2 years | Oct-17 | Overdue | Still underway and the current target hasn't changed at this stage. | Review initiated | May-22 |
| Water Supply | Infrastructure | Group Manager Infrastructure Planning | May-21 | May-21 | Major amendments (Council adopted) | May-21 | As needed | May-23 | Current | | N/A - Current | May-23 |
| Works In Kind | Strategy & Growth | Group Manager Strategy | Oct-10 | Oct-10 | Minor amendments (GM/Exec approved) | Oct-10 | As needed | Oct-12 | Overdue | Review scope expended to include matters raised in voluntary planning agreement audit. | Deferred | Mar-22 |



Authorised by: Council
Authorised date: 12/08/2020
Effective date: 13/08/2020
Next review date: 11/08/2021
File Number: D2020/210320

Council Policy INVESTMENT POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Investment Policy establishes the framework within which Council's cash and investment portfolio will be managed, monitored and reported on. This policy has been established in compliance with section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993 and provides guidance for the investment of Council's funds, with consideration given to the following primary objectives:

- Preservation of capital. Preservation of capital is the principal objective of the investment portfolio. Investments are to be placed in a manner that seeks to safeguard Council's cash and investments portfolio. This includes managing credit and interest rate risk within identified thresholds and parameters;
- Maximise investment returns within Council's risk appetite as outlined within this policy. Investments are expected to achieve a market average rate of return in line with Council's risk tolerance;
- Manage Council's cash resources to ensure sufficient liquidity to meet Council's business objectives over the short, medium and long term.

The policy reinforces Council's ongoing commitment to maintain a conservative risk and return portfolio, an important component of its ongoing prudent financial management practices.

2. POLICY STATEMENT AND SCOPE

2.1 Funds for Investment

Investment are maintained to meet specified business needs, including:

- strategic purposes consistent with Council's long term strategic plan;
- holding short-term investments for working capital requirements;
- holding investments that are necessary to carry out Council operations consistent with annual long-term plans.

2.2 Legislative Authority for Investments

All investments are to be made in accordance with:

- Australian Accounting Standards;
- NSW Office of Local Government Investment Circulars;
- NSW Office of Local Government Investment Policy Guidelines;
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 212;
- Local Government Act 1993 (particularly section 625);
- NSW Local Government Code of Accounting Practice & Financial Reporting;
- Minister's Investment Order (gazetted);
- The Trustee Amended (Discretionary Investments) Act 1997 – Sections 14A(2), 14C(1) & (2).

2.3 Investment Governance

The following internal control practices are in place to ensure adequate governance and allow transparent and clear performance measurement for the management of Council's cash and investment portfolio:

- financial planning and cash flow management;
- delegated authorities and investment approval;
- measurement of investment performance;
- performance benchmarks;
- reporting and review;
- audit oversight.

2.4 Delegation of Authority

Authority for the implementation of the Investment Policy is delegated by Council to the General Manager in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The General Manager (GM) has delegated the day-to-day management of Council's investment portfolio, including authority to invest surplus funds as follows:

- Director Corporate Performance (DCP);
- Group Manager Financial Services (GMFS);
- Other senior financial officers who have the requisite skills to undertake investment functions (as per the Delegations Register).

Officers with delegated authority are required to acknowledge they have received a copy of this policy and understand their obligations in this role.

2.5 Prudent Person Standard

The investment portfolio will be managed with the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person would exercise. As trustees of public monies, officers are to manage Council's investment portfolio to safeguard the portfolio in accordance with the spirit of this Investment Policy, and not for speculative purposes.

2.6 Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

Officers shall refrain from personal activities that would conflict with the proper execution and management of Council's investment portfolio. Any potential conflicts of interest should be appropriately disclosed in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct.

Independent advisors are also to declare that they have no actual or perceived conflicts of interest and receive no inducements in relation to Council's investments.

2.7 Approved Investments

Current investment regulations require Councils to invest with either the NSW Treasury Corporation (NSW TCorp) or Approved Deposit-taking Institutions (ADI) such as Australian banks or branches of foreign owned banks, credit unions and/or building societies as it acknowledges the additional assurance that arises from their regulation by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA).

Investments are limited to those allowed by any current Ministerial Investment Order that has been issued by the NSW Minister for Local Government.

2.8 Prohibited Investments

In accordance with any current Ministerial Investment Order, this investment policy prohibits but is not limited to any investment carried out for speculative purposes, including:

- Derivative based instruments;
- Principal only investments or securities that provide potentially nil or negative cash flow; and
- Standalone securities issued that have underlying futures, options, forward contracts and swaps of any kind.

This policy also prohibits the use of leveraging (borrowing to invest) of an investment.

2.9 Investment Advisor

In managing its investments Council may engage the services of an independent investment advisor, licensed by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission for the purpose of achieving the aims of this policy. Independence includes receiving no commissions or other benefits in relation to the investments being recommended or reviewed, except as fully rebated to Council, promptly.

The independent advisor will review and assess the market value of the investment portfolio on a monthly basis.

Council's investment advisor is required to provide written confirmation that they do not have any actual or potential conflicts of interest in relation to the investments they are recommending or reviewing, including that they are not receiving any commissions or other benefits from the product providers in relation to the investments being recommended or reviewed.

2.10 Mandatory Investment Criteria

2.10.1 Scope

Investments must comply with the legislative authorities as described in the **Legislative Authority for Investments** paragraph of this policy.

2.10.2 Currency

Investments must be denominated in Australian Dollars.

2.10.3 Ownership

Investments must be held in Port Macquarie Hastings Council name.

2.10.4 Term / Maturity

The term to maturity of investments may not exceed the periods shown below:

| Investment | Maximum term |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Fixed Rate Term Deposits | 5 years |
| Floating Rate Notes (FRNs) | 5.5 years |
| Other Investments | 10 years |

2.10.5 Risk Management Framework

Council's risk profile in relation to investing surplus funds is to be relatively prudent, conservative and risk averse. The profile will be achieved by effectively managing within the investment portfolio:

- the diversity of the investments;
- the creditworthiness of the investments.

Diversity is achieved by placing limits on the maximum exposure Council may have to individual funds or financial institutions and individual credit rating bands.

Creditworthiness of investments is primarily determined using industry standard credit ratings.

Investments are to comply with three key risk management criteria:

- **Overall Portfolio Credit Framework:** limit overall credit exposure of the portfolio;
- **Institutional Credit Framework:** limit exposure to individual institutions based on their rating;
- **Term to Maturity Framework:** limits based on maturity of securities.

Overall Portfolio Credit Framework

To control the credit quality of the entire portfolio, the following credit framework limits the percentage of the total portfolio exposed to particular credit rating categories.

Credit rating agencies apply short-term ratings to investments with 12 months or less to maturity and long-term ratings to those with greater than 12 months to maturity.

| Short-term credit rating | Long-term credit rating | Overall portfolio exposure (as a % of Total Portfolio) |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| A-1+ | AAA | 100% |

| | | |
|--|---------|------|
| A-1 | AA | 100% |
| A-2 | A | 60% |
| A-3 | BBB | 35% |
| Unrated | Unrated | 5% |
| NSW Treasury Corp Deposits and TCorpIM Funds (allowable under the Ministerial Order) | | 20% |

- Credit ratings apply to both products and institutions. This policy requires the rating applicable to the institution responsible for the product (e.g. guarantor) to be taken as the relevant rating given this represents the underlying risk to Council.
- Credit risk investment parameters are based on credit rating bands as published by the credit rating agencies (e.g. S&P, Moody's, Fitch). If an investment is rated by more than one ratings agency, the credit rating to be used will be based on the order of S&P, Moody's and then Fitch. In the event of disagreement between agencies as to the rating band ("split ratings") Council shall use the higher in assessing compliance with portfolio policy limits, but for conservatism shall apply the lower in assessing new purchases.
- Where the principal amount and accrued interest of any investment with a financial institution are directly guaranteed by the Australian Federal Government for full repayment, the exposure of the total portfolio to credit ratings lower than AAA may be exceeded, provided that the excess amount comprises only guaranteed investments. As a result, investments directly guaranteed by the Australian Federal Government may comprise the total investment portfolio. Management should ensure that any excess of investments over the parameters specified in the table above that is comprised of Australian Federal Government guaranteed investments can be managed back to within the specified parameter levels prior to the expiration of any such guarantee.

Institutional Credit Framework

Council's exposure to an individual institution will be restricted by their credit rating so that single entity exposure is limited.

Where Council has short-term and long-term holdings with the same institution, the limit associated to the institution's short-term rating will be used.

| Short-term credit rating | Long-term credit rating | Individual institution exposure (as a % of Total Portfolio) |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| A-1+ | AAA | 40% |
| A-1 | AA | 30% |
| A-2 | A | 20% |
| A-3 | BBB | 10% |
| Unrated | Unrated | 5% |
| NSW Treasury Corp Deposits and TCorpIM Funds (allowable under the Ministerial Order) | | 20% |

- Credit ratings apply to both products and institutions. This policy requires the rating applicable to the institution responsible for the product (e.g. guarantor) to be taken as the relevant rating given this represents the underlying risk to Council.
- Credit risk investment parameters are based on credit rating bands as published by the credit rating agencies (e.g. S&P, Moody's, Fitch). If an investment is rated by more than one ratings agency, the credit rating to be used will be based on the order of S&P, Moody's and then Fitch. In the event of disagreement between agencies as to the rating band ("split ratings") Council shall use the higher in assessing compliance with portfolio policy limits, but for conservatism shall apply the lower in assessing new purchases.
- Where the principal amount and accrued interest of any investment with a financial institution are directly guaranteed by the Australian Federal Government for full repayment, the exposure to individual institutions may exceed the stated limits provided that the excess amount comprises only guaranteed investments.

Term to Maturity Framework

The term to maturity framework specifies the maximum amounts or percentages of Council's total investment portfolio that can be held within the various investment maturity bands.

Maximum thresholds are set to control the proportion of the total portfolio that can be invested into longer term investments to ensure that Council has adequate access to short and medium term liquidity to satisfy its business objectives. The maximum thresholds reduce as the maturity horizon extends further into the future.

| | < 1 Year | 1 to 3 Years | 3 to 5.5 Years | > 5.5 Years |
|------------------------------|----------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| Maximum % of Total Portfolio | 100% | 70% | 40% | 10% |

Minimum thresholds are set to ensure that there will always be an adequate amount of liquidity available for ongoing working capital purposes. Remaining funds are invested across the various investment horizons, seeking the best relative value at the time of investment.

| | < 1 Year |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Minimum % of Total Portfolio | 40% |

2.10.6 Breaches of Criteria

This policy imposes limits and thresholds in relation to the acquisition and holding of investments. However, situations may occur where inadvertent breaches of these limitations or thresholds arise, other than from the acquisition of investments. For example:

- amendments to regulatory directives or legislation;
- changes in the total value or amount of Council's investment portfolio which consequently changes any of the threshold limits so that they no longer meet the portfolio liquidity parameters.

If the credit ratings of any of Council's investments are downgraded to an extent that they no longer fall within the investment policy limits, they will be divested as soon as practicable having regard to potential losses resulting from early redemption and subject to minimising any loss of capital that may arise from compliance with this provision.

Then limitations or thresholds are breached due to amendments to regulatory directives or legislation, the investment portfolio must be managed in accordance with the respective amendments. Where the amendments enable retention and grandfathering of existing investments, Council may continue to actively manage those investments within the portfolio in accordance with all other regulations and policies applicable to such investments. This includes a strategy of holding or divesting such investments in accordance with regular investment considerations.

Where limitations or thresholds are breached due to a change in the overall size of the total investment portfolio, the following process will apply:

- an immediate freeze is imposed on the acquisition of new investments in the relevant category until the portfolio can be effectively managed back to accord with the requirements of this policy;
- the relevant category of investments must be managed back in accord with the policy limits within a period that takes into account any adversity created by market liquidity, current valuations of these investments and the risks of default.

The immediate forced sale of the investments in breach of the limits or thresholds will not be required.

2.11 Investments in Financial Institutions which Support the Fossil Fuel Industry

Subject to consideration of the Risk Management Guidelines in this policy, preference is to be given to financial institutions that publicly state that they do not invest in or finance the fossil fuel industry if:

- the investment is compliant with Council's Investment Policy; and
- the investment rate of interest is equivalent to or more favourable to Council relative to other similar investments that may be on offer to Council at the time of the investment.

2.12 Measurement of Investment Performance

Investment performance includes both interest returns and any change in the underlying capital value of the investments.

Interim fluctuations of capital value are excluded from the monthly measurement of investment performance on the basis that:

- investments are mainly acquired with the intention of holding them through to maturity, although some liquid assets may be sold prior to maturity should it be to the benefit of Council;
- cash liquidity requirements are structured and managed to ensure that Council is not in a financial position that will require a forced sale of these assets.

Notwithstanding the above, changes in capital value are important and the monthly investment report will therefore provide Council with indicative market valuations of each investment. In the event that the capital value of any investment becomes impaired, or a capital gain or loss is actually realised (through disposal), the gain or loss of value will be recognised within that month's financial accounts.

Investment performance will be measured monthly against the chosen benchmarks in relation to both current month and 12-month rolling returns.

The GMFS will approve the use of independently determined benchmarks. Where Council changes independently determined benchmarks, monthly reports for the month of change and the next five months thereafter shall contain reporting of investment returns against benchmark for both the following:

- the benchmark that is being replaced; and
- the new benchmark, backdated on a twelve-month basis.

Council currently uses two performance benchmarks:

- Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index (formerly known as UBSA Bank Bill Index) – the Bank Bill Index represents the performance of a notional rolling parcel of bills averaging 45 days and is the widely used benchmark for local councils and other institutional cash investments;
- 30-day Bank Bill Rate – provides a fair indicator of the risk free rate of return so that Council can understand the return that has been earned from diversifying its investment portfolio and accepting conservative levels of risk.

2.13 Reporting and Review

Council will maintain a separate record of money it has invested under section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, in accordance with the criteria defined by the *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting*.

All investments are to be appropriately recorded in Council's financial records and reconciled at least on a monthly basis.

Pursuant to the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (clause 212), the GMFS will provide a monthly report to Council on investments. The monthly report to Council will detail the investment portfolio in terms of performance and rate of return on the overall portfolio for the period and will detail the purchase price, face value, current (market) value, credit rating and coupon / yield for each individual investment.

For audit purposes, the GMFS will obtain certificates from the banks or fund managers confirming the amounts of investment held on Council's behalf at 30 June each year.

The Investment Policy will be reviewed at least once a year or as required in the event of legislative changes.

3. REFERENCES

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Laws and standards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Accounting Standards • NSW Office of Local Government – Local Government Code of Accounting Practice & Financial Reporting • NSW Office of Local Government Investment Circulars • Office of Local Government Investment Policy Guidelines • Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 • Local Government Act 1993 • Minister's Investment Order (gazetted) • The Trustee Amended (Discretionary Investments) Act 1997 – Sections 14A(2), 14C(1) & (2) |
| Policies and procedures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Conduct • Disciplinary Policy & Procedures • Fraud & Corruption Internal Reporting Policy • Investment Strategy |

4. DEFINITIONS

| Term | Meaning |
|---------------------------|---|
| Total investments | <p>Total investments comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • call accounts • term deposits • floating rate notes • bonds with an active secondary market with government (including NSW T-Corp) and Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions (ADIs). <p>Investments also include grandfathered structured investments with other institutions as defined.</p> |
| Active investments | <p>Active investments are a part of total investments and comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • call accounts • term deposits • floating rate notes • bonds with an active secondary market |
| Grandfathered investments | <p>Grandfathered investments are a part of total investments and comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investments where new investment activity is prohibited by regulation • other investments over which new investment activity is temporarily prohibited due to unintentional breaches of investment thresholds and limitations that arise due to changes in the level of unrelated investments within the portfolio, (the prohibition only remains as long as the breaches remain in place). |
| Impairment | <p>The impairment of an investment represents the amount of the original cost of the investment that is not expected to be recovered at</p> |

| Term | Meaning |
|---|--|
| | the investment's maturity date due to current adverse economic or investment conditions that impact on the investment's financial performance. |
| Approved Deposit-taking Institution (ADI) | An institution that is authorised under the <i>Banking Act 1959</i> to accept term deposits and conduct banking activities in accordance with that Act and under the prudential supervision of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA). |
| Active secondary market | A market where investors purchase securities or assets from other investors, rather than from issuing companies themselves on an arms length (independent) basis. |
| Benchmark rates | <p>Benchmark rates comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index - The Australian Bloomberg (formally UBSA) Bank Bill index is constructed as a benchmark to represent the performance of a passively managed short-term money market portfolio. It comprises thirteen Bank Bills of equal face value, each with a maturity seven days apart. The average term to maturity is approximately 45 days. A Bank Bill is a non-interest bearing security issued by a bank whereby the bank takes on an obligation to pay an investor a fixed amount (face value) at a fixed future date. It is sold to an investor at a discount to the face value. Bank Bills are short-term money market investments with maturities usually between 30 days and 180 days. • 30 Day Bank Bill Index - The Bank Bill Index is designed to measure the performance of the Australian short-term money market and consists of 13 weekly maturities out to varying dates. Interest rates applied to these maturities are interpolated from cash and Bank Bill Swap (BBSW) rates. BBSW rates are administered by the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX). |
| Call funds | Call funds are closely linked with investments but do not constitute investments. Call funds are used to meet immediate operational cash needs and may be retained in Council cheque accounts and call accounts at an ADI. Call funds must be accessible immediately or up to a maximum of 24 hours notice within normal ADI operating hours. |

5. PROCESS OWNER

Group Manager Financial Services

6. AMENDMENTS

Changes that have been made since the last version (ORD 20/02/2019) include:

- Portfolio exposure: changed BBB rating to 35% (from 30%) and Unrated rating to 5% (from 10%)
- Maturity: changed 1 to 3 years from 60% to 70%
- Maturity: changed >5.5 years from 20% to 10%
- Addition of section on 'Environmentally and Socially Responsible investments'

| BUDGET VARIATIONS - September 2021 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Section | Project | Project Description | Capital/ Operating | Division | Full Year Original Budget | Full Year Current Budget | Actuals to September 2021 | New Yearly Proposed Budget - September 2021 | Movement | Funding Source | EFFECT ON FUNDING POSITION |
| Adjustments which impact Council's Budget Position | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Budget adjustments required to cover salaries within the Communications section. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Communications | 285 | Communications | Operating | Chief Executive Office | 715,383 | 977,383 | 142,994 | 992,383 | -15,000 | Revenue | -15,000 |
| Communications | 10987 | Overheads Income | Operating | | -945,231 | -969,191 | -157,539 | -978,176 | 8,985 | Revenue | 8,985 |
| Customer Service Centre | 290 | Customer Service Centre | Operating | | 1,550,269 | 1,510,269 | 303,787 | 1,495,269 | 15,000 | Revenue | 15,000 |
| Customer Service Centre | 10545 | Overheads Income | Operating | | -2,059,447 | -2,051,063 | -343,241 | -2,047,919 | -3,144 | Revenue | -3,144 |
| Total adjustments which impact Council's Budget Position | | | | | | | | | 5,841 | | 5,841 |
| Grants & Other Funding | | | | | | | | | | | |
| To recognise grant funds received from Transport for NSW for Bril Bril Bridge. This is to be matched by Council's own funds. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Transport and Traffic | 42145 | Bril Bril Bridge Renewal | Capital | Infrastructure | 500,000 | 500,000 | 0 | 860,000 | -360,000 | Grant/Revenue | -80,000 |
| Transport and Traffic | 19342 | Capital Grants | Capital | | -150,000 | -150,000 | 0 | -430,000 | 280,000 | Grant | 0 |
| Transport and Traffic | 662 | Sealed Roads Repairs | Operating | | 2,991,426 | 2,991,426 | 803,710 | 2,911,426 | 80,000 | Revenue | 80,000 |
| Grant received from Environment Protection Authority for the Better Waste Recycling Fund. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Waste Disposal | 50080 | Better Waste & Recycling Fund | Operating | Corporate Performance | 0 | 17,334 | 0 | 129,490 | -112,156 | Grant | 0 |
| Waste Disposal | 11655 | Better Waste & Recycling Income | Operating | | 0 | 0 | -112,156 | -112,156 | 112,156 | Grant | 0 |
| Total Grants & Other Funding | | | | | | | | | 472,156 | | 0 |

| BUDGET VARIATIONS - September 2021 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Section | Project | Project Description | Capital/ Operating | Division | Full Year Original Budget | Full Year Current Budget | Actuals to September 2021 | New Yearly Proposed Budget - September 2021 | Movement | Funding Source | EFFECT ON FUNDING POSITION |
| Reserve Movements | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Funds returned to Reserve as result of not proceeding with the Fluoridisation Poll in 21/22. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Water Supply | 29554 | Fluoridisation Poll for the 2021 LocalGov Election | Operating | Infrastructure | 90,000 | 90,000 | 0 | 0 | 90,000 | Reserve | 0 |
| Water Supply | 19229 | Reserve Funding | Operating | | -6,874,297 | -8,944,162 | 0 | -8,854,162 | -90,000 | Reserve | 0 |
| Total Reserve Movements | | | | | | | | | 90,000 | | 0 |
| Budget Variation Requests - Approved by Executive | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Budget Variance Request for the Bicentennial Walkway Project. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Parks & Recreation | 42184 | PM Bicentennial Walkway Sections | Capital | Infrastructure | 3,100,000 | 3,100,000 | 28,396 | 3,300,000 | -200,000 | Reserve | 0 |
| Parks & Recreation | 19280 | Reserve Funding | Capital | | -1,209,922 | -2,346,535 | 0 | -2,546,535 | 200,000 | Reserve | 0 |
| Budget Variance Request for Cairncross Landfill Expansion Stages 1A and 1C. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Waste Disposal | 50110 | Cairncross Landfill Expansion 1A 1C | Capital | Corporate Performance | 3,165,000 | 4,499,174 | 2,152,589 | 5,149,174 | -650,000 | Reserve | 0 |
| Waste Disposal | 19309 | Reserve Funding | Capital | | -4,460,000 | -5,958,218 | 0 | -6,608,218 | 650,000 | Reserve | 0 |
| Budget Variance Request for Flood Recovery Works. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Transport & Traffic | 42174 | Flood Response March 2021 | Operating | Infrastructure | 0 | 0 | 4,953,032 | 100,000 | -100,000 | Reserve | 0 |
| Transport & Traffic | 19349 | Reserve Funding | Operating | | -3,408,283 | -1,812,564 | 0 | -1,912,564 | 100,000 | Reserve | 0 |
| Total Budget Variations approved by Executive | | | | | | | | | 950,000 | | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

| BUDGET VARIATIONS - September 2021 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Section | Project | Project Description | Capital/ Operating | Division | Full Year Original Budget | Full Year Current Budget | Actuals to September 2021 | New Yearly Proposed Budget - September 2021 | Movement | Funding Source | EFFECT ON FUNDING POSITION |
| ORGANISATIONAL TOTAL - THIS REVIEW | | | | | | | | | 1,512,156 | | 5,841 |
| FORECAST FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Original Budget as at 1 July 2021 | | Balanced | | 0 | | | | | |
| | | <u>Plus: Adjustments</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| | | July Review | | Balanced | | 0 | | | | | |
| | | August Review | | Shortfall | | -427,403 | | | | | |
| | | September Review | | Surplus | | 5,841 | | | | | |
| FORECAST FOR 30 JUNE 2022 | | | | | | Shortfall | | | | | |
| | | | | | | -421,562 | | | | | |
| Notes: | 1 | The result shown above is the general fund result. All surpluses/deficits in the water, sewerage and waste funds are transferred to/from reserves. | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2 | Reserve are internal restrictions that hold funds for a specific purpose, e.g. The airport has its own reserve and all income and expenditure relating to the airport is credited/debited to that reserve. | | | | | | | | | |
| | 3 | Council projects are funded from a variety of funding sources. Below is a definition of the various types of funding that are used to fund projects. | | | | | | | | | |
| | | <i>Revenue - All funds that are generated through rates, annual charges, fees and charges, interest etc. These funds are untied and can be expended on any project that Council considers appropriate.</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| | | <i>Grants - Government grants can either be monetary or otherwise and may be tied or untied. Tied grants are required to be used for a specific purpose such as the construction of a road. Untied grants may be applied for any purpose council considers appropriate.</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| | | <i>Contributions - Contributions are non-reciprocal transfers to Council in the sense that Council is not required to give value in exchange for the contributions directly to the contributor. Examples are contributions given by ratepayers towards capital works in their vicinity.</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| | | <i>Reserves - Reserves are internal restrictions held for a specific purpose, e.g. The airport has its own reserve and all income and expenditure relating to the airport is credited/debited to that reserve.</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| | | <i>S7.11 and S64 Contributions - Section 7.11 of the NSW Environmental and Planning Act (1979) and section 64 of the Local Government Act (1993) provides NSW local government with a formal legal framework for levying developers for the provision of infrastructure, services and amenities - known as developer contributions.</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| | 4 | Some projects are funded by multiple funding sources, e.g. a capital project may be funded by s7.11 funds, grants and revenue. The effect on capital column will only show the revenue funding adjustment as the other types of funding will have an income line budget adjustment shown in the report. | | | | | | | | | |



Monthly Investment Report

September 2021

The logo for Imperium Markets, featuring a stylized yellow and orange triangle pointing right, with the text "IMPERIUM MARKETS" below it.

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Executive Summary

Compliance

| Compliance Measure | Within Policy Limits (Y/N) | Reason if Not Compliant |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Term to Maturity | Yes – Compliant | n/a |
| Counterparty | Yes – Compliant | n/a |
| Credit Quality | Yes – Compliant | n/a |

Performance

| As at 30/09/2021 | 1m (actual) | 1m (% p.a.) | FYTD (actual) | FYTD (% p.a.) |
|--|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| AusBond Bank Bill Index | 0.00% | 0.01% | 0.01% | 0.02% |
| Council's Portfolio[^] | 0.14% | 1.67% | 0.42% | 1.66% |
| Outperformance | 0.14% | 1.66% | 0.41% | 1.64% |

[^]Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings. Overall returns would be lower if cash was included.

Impact of COVID-19 to Council's Portfolio

COVID-19 has adversely impacted financial markets, which in turn, has also affected Council's investment portfolio. We provide a quick summary in this section.

Equity markets experienced a significant correction in March 2020 but have recently surpassed their all-time highs due to the unprecedented global fiscal and monetary policy support. **The RBA cut rates to record lows on 3rd November 2020 to 0.10%, consistent with most global central banks resetting their official rates back to emergency levels.** As vaccination rates accelerate and economies began to reopen, global inflationary pressures have emerged. This has resulted in longer-term bond yields to rise significantly in recent months as a handful of international central banks have started to flag the possibility of increasing official interest rates in coming years, as well as withdrawing some of their other stimulatory policy measures (such as quantitative easing). Shares finally parred back some of their gains in September as investors start to factor in the reduced safety net of government and central bank stimulus.

Domestically, with regards to the medium-longer term outlook for fixed interest markets, of importance is the RBA's outlook and expectations for the Australian economy. They would like to see the following three economic indicators improve before they even consider increasing interest rates:

1. The unemployment rate to drop to around 4¼% (currently it is officially at 4.5% but masked by a significant drop in the participation rate – the real rate is above +6%);
2. "Until actual (underlying) inflation is sustainably within the 2-3% target range" (it has not been within their target band for the past 5 years); and
3. Wage growth to surpass +3% (it has not been above this level for the past 8 years).

The RBA's ongoing base case (forecast) suggests conditions for a rate rise "**will not be met until 2024**".

The biggest impact to Council's investment portfolio is with regards to its largest exposure being assets held in bank term deposits, which accounts for around ~89% of Council's total investment, and cash



(~4½% of the total investment portfolio). **The biggest risk that PMHC faces over the medium-longer term in this environment is not the potential loss of capital (given all the banks are well capitalised and regulated by APRA), but the rapid loss of interest income as interest rates have plummeted.**

Council's term deposit portfolio was yielding 1.60% p.a. at month-end, with a weighted average duration of around 813 days or ~2¼ years. **This average duration will provide some income protection against the low interest rate environment over the next 18 months.** As existing deposits mature however, they will inevitably be reinvested at much lower prevailing rates.

We note the current interest rates in the term deposit market:

- The highest deposit rate from any rated ADI in the market is now ~1.48% p.a. for 5 years;
- The highest deposit rates amongst the "AA-" rated ADIs (major banks) is now yielding between 0.35%-1.30% p.a. (depending on term);
- The highest deposit rates amongst the "A" rated ADIs was yielding between 0.62%-1.48% p.a. (depending on term);
- The highest deposit rates amongst the "BBB" rated ADIs was yielding between 0.43%-1.15% p.a. (depending on term).

Given official rates have fallen to record lows, Council is likely to see a rapid decline in interest income over future financial years. Its budgeted income over the medium-longer term needs to be revised to reflect the low interest rate environment. Returns between 0.40%-0.80% p.a. may potentially be the "norm" over the next few financial years, especially if rolling the majority of surplus funds for terms less than 2-3 years. Yields may in fact be lower if electing to invest for terms under 12 months.

Council is protecting its income from falling more rapidly by investing maturing assets in the 3-5 year term horizon, locking in the majority of 'new' placements above 0.90%-1.00% p.a.



Council's Portfolio

Asset Allocation

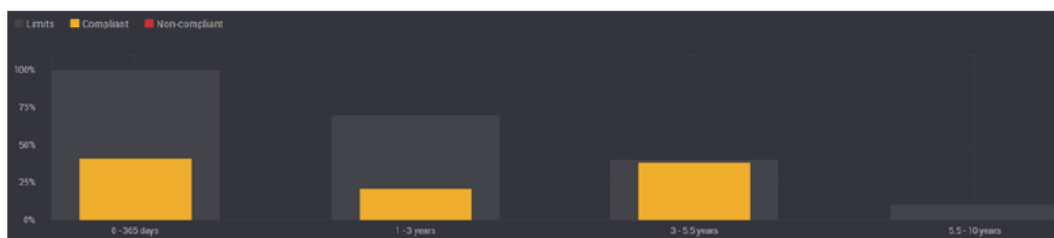
The portfolio is predominately directed to fixed term deposits (88.80%). The remainder of the portfolio is directed to fixed bonds with the Northern Territory Treasury Corporation (5.87%), the overnight cash account with Westpac (4.43%) and the single FRN with Bendigo-Adelaide (0.90%).

With the RBA cutting interest rates in November 2020 to 0.10%, the priority should be to lock in any remaining attractive medium-longer dated fixed deposits or senior fixed bonds that may still be available to address reinvestment risk as margins continue to compress.



Term to Maturity

All maturity limits (minimum and maximum) comply with the Investment Policy. Medium-Term (3-5½ years) assets account for around 38% of the total investment portfolio, with capacity of around \$6m at month-end. Future investments may need to be directed to the 1-3 year horizon given the medium-term horizon is approaching the maximum limits.



Where there is (counterparty) capacity to invest in attractive 3-5½ year investments, we recommend this be allocated to new any remaining attractive fixed term deposits or fixed bonds (refer to respective sections below).



| Compliant | Horizon | Invested (\$) | Invested (%) | Min. Limit (%) | Max. Limit (%) | Available (\$) |
|-----------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| ✓ | 0 - 365 days | \$140,133,567 | 41.13% | 0% | 100% | \$200,551,960 |
| ✓ | 1 - 3 years | \$70,551,960 | 20.71% | 0% | 70% | \$167,927,909 |
| ✓ | 3 – 5½ years | \$130,000,000 | 38.16% | 0% | 40% | \$6,274,211 |
| ✓ | 5½ - 10 years | \$0 | 0.00% | 0% | 10% | \$34,068,553 |
| | | \$340,685,527 | 100.00% | | | |

Counterparty

As at the end of September, Council did not have an overweight position to any single ADI. Overall, the portfolio is diversified across the investment grade credit spectrum (rated BBB- or higher), with no exposure to unrated ADIs.

| Compliant | Issuer | Rating | Invested (\$) | Invested (%) | Max. Limit (%) | Available (\$) |
|-----------|-------------------|--------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| ✓ | NAB | AA- | \$75,000,000 | 22.01% | 30.00% | \$27,205,658 |
| ✓ | NTTC | AA- | \$20,000,000 | 5.87% | 30.00% | \$82,205,658 |
| ✓ | WBC | AA- | \$63,633,567 | 18.68% | 30.00% | \$38,572,091 |
| ✓ | Rabobank | A+ | \$8,000,000 | 2.35% | 20.00% | \$60,137,105 |
| ✓ | ICBC Sydney | A | \$64,000,000 | 18.79% | 20.00% | \$4,137,105 |
| ✓ | ING Bank Aus. | A | \$15,500,000 | 4.55% | 20.00% | \$52,637,105 |
| ✓ | Aus Military Bank | BBB+ | \$10,500,000 | 3.08% | 10.00% | \$23,568,553 |
| ✓ | BOQ | BBB+ | \$29,000,000 | 8.51% | 10.00% | \$5,068,553 |
| ✓ | Bendigo | BBB+ | \$3,051,960 | 0.90% | 10.00% | \$31,016,593 |
| ✓ | AMP | BBB | \$2,000,000 | 0.59% | 10.00% | \$32,068,553 |
| ✓ | Auswide | BBB | \$20,000,000 | 5.87% | 10.00% | \$14,068,553 |
| ✓ | MyState | BBB | \$13,000,000 | 3.82% | 10.00% | \$21,068,553 |
| ✓ | Newcastle PBS | BBB | \$17,000,000 | 4.99% | 10.00% | \$17,068,553 |
| | | | \$340,685,527 | 100.00% | | |

We remain supportive of the regional and unrated ADI sector (and have been even throughout the GFC period). They continue to remain solid, incorporate strong balance sheets, while exhibiting high levels of capital – typically, much higher compared to the higher rated ADIs. Some unrated ADIs have up to 25-40% more capital than the domestic major banks, and well above the Basel III requirements.

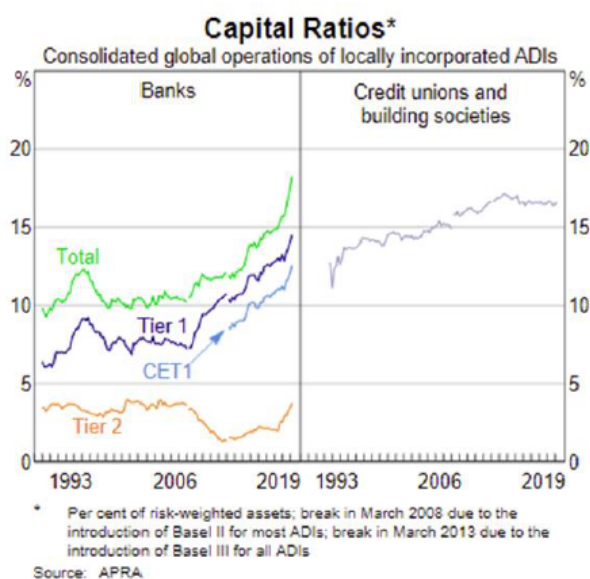
RBA Governor Lowe has commented that they have not seen any signs of stress in the financial system and that unlike during the GFC, the banks (all ADIs) now have cash, are well capitalised and are acting as “shock absorbers” in the current crisis.

Overall, the lower rated ADIs (BBB and unrated) are generally now in a better financial position than they have been historically (see the Capital Ratio figure below). We believe that deposit investments with the lower rated ADIs should be continued going forward, particularly when they offer ‘above market’ specials. Not only would it diversify the investment portfolio and reduce credit risk, it would also improve the portfolio’s overall returns.



In the current environment of high regulation and scrutiny, all domestic (and international) ADIs continue to carry high levels of capital. There is minimal (if any) probability of any ADI defaulting on their deposits going forward – this was stress tested during the GFC. **APRA's mandate is to "protect depositors" and provide "financial stability".**

The biggest single risk that depositors face in the current low interest rate environment is not capital or credit risk, but reinvestment risk. Interest rates are now at their effective lower bound of 0.10%.





Fossil Fuel Investments

What is Council's current exposure to institutions that fund fossil fuels?

Using the following link <http://www.marketforces.org.au/banks/compare>, based on the Council's investment portfolio balance as at 30/09/2021 (\$340.68m), we can roughly estimate that ~60% of the investments have some form of exposure.

How would Council modify its Investment Policy to cater for divestment of fossil fuels?

If the major banks were withdrawn from investments, some members of the community may look at that remaining list of ADIs (banks) and say *"Why the do we have all our money with those no-name institutions? I've never even heard of them. We don't want to take risks with our money after councils lost \$100's of millions speculating in the GFC"*. It will be difficult to please everyone. We suggest starting the discussion with all Councillors asking *"are you comfortable investing all the money with the lower rated regionals and credit unions?"* If not, then a full divestment campaign will be complicated.

Some ways to potentially 'make changes' to the policy, or at least have a discussion, includes:

- *"Where possible within policy and without compromising the risk and return profile, we favour..."*
- *"We have not yet made a decision to divest because it will have implications on credit quality, ratings and income, but we are actively discussing..."*

What would be implications on our portfolio credit rating?

By adopting a free fossil fuel policy or an active divestment strategy, this would eliminate the major banks rated "AA-" as well as some other "A" rated banks (AMP, BoQ and ING). Council would be left with a smaller sub-sector of banks to choose to invest with.

What would be risks and implications on Council's portfolio performance?

Some implications include:

- High concentration risk – limiting Council to a selected number of banks;
- Increased credit/counterparty risk;
- May lead to a reduction in performance (most of the senior FRN issues are with the higher rated ADIs) which could result in a significant loss of income generated – could be in excess of hundreds of thousands of dollars per annum;
- Underperformance compared to other Councils.

It may be contrary to Council's primary objective to preserve capital as the investment portfolio's risk would increase (all things being equal). Council may not be maximising its returns – this is one of the primary objectives written in the Investment Policy.



Council's exposure is summarised as follows:

| Counterparty | Credit Rating | Funding Fossil Fuel |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| NAB | AA- | Yes |
| NTTC | AA- | Yes |
| WBC (St George) | AA- | Yes |
| Rabobank | A+ | No |
| ICBC, Sydney | A | No |
| ING Bank Australia | A | Yes |
| Australian Military | BBB+ | No |
| BoQ | BBB+ | Yes |
| Bendigo-Adelaide | BBB+ | No |
| AMP | BBB | Yes |
| Auswide | BBB | No |
| MyState Bank | BBB | No |
| Newcastle Permanent | BBB | No |

^^The underlying exposure in these managed funds includes the domestic major banks.

Source: <https://www.marketforces.org.au/info/compare-bank-table/>

| Summary | Amount | Invested % |
|---------|----------------------|-------------|
| Yes | \$205,133,567 | 60% |
| No | \$135,551,960 | 40% |
| | \$340,685,527 | 100% |



Credit Quality

The portfolio remains diversified from a credit ratings perspective. The portfolio is entirely directed to the investment grade ADIs (BBB- or higher), with zero allocation to unrated ADIs. There is high capacity to invest in the higher rated ADIs (A or higher), particularly after the downgrades of BoQ and Bendigo-Adelaide Bank in May 2017.

There is currently substantial capacity to invest with the “BBB” rated ADIs (~\$25m remaining at month-end), although most ADIs in this sector are currently full on liquidity due to the combination of low credit growth and the term funding facility (TFF) provided by the RBA (access to cheap funding).

If there are any attractive deposits being offered in the “BBB” rated sector (outside of BoQ, which Council is close to maximum limits), we will inform Council to take advantage and invest accordingly.

All ratings categories are within the current Policy limits:

| Compliant | Credit Rating | Invested (\$) | Invested (%) | Max. Limit (%) | Available (\$) |
|-----------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| ✓ | AA Category | \$158,633,567 | 46.56% | 100% | \$182,051,960 |
| ✓ | A Category | \$87,500,000 | 25.68% | 60% | \$116,911,316 |
| ✓ | BBB Category | \$94,551,960 | 27.75% | 35% | \$24,687,975 |
| ✓ | Unrated ADIs | \$0 | 0.00% | 5% | \$17,034,276 |
| | | \$340,685,527 | 100.00% | | |



Performance

Council's performance for the month ending 30 September 2021 is summarised as follows:

| Performance (Actual) | 1 month | 3 months | 6 months | FYTD | 1 year |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Official Cash Rate | 0.01% | 0.03% | 0.05% | 0.03% | 0.11% |
| AusBond Bank Bill Index | 0.00% | 0.01% | 0.01% | 0.01% | 0.04% |
| Council's T/D Portfolio | 0.14% | 0.42% | 0.89% | 0.42% | 1.90% |
| Council's FRN Portfolio | 0.08% | 0.25% | 0.50% | 0.25% | 1.01% |
| Council's Bond Portfolio | 0.10% | - | - | - | - |
| Council's Portfolio[^] | 0.14% | 0.42% | 0.88% | 0.42% | 1.89% |
| Outperformance | 0.14% | 0.41% | 0.87% | 0.41% | 1.85% |

[^]Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings. Overall returns would be lower if cash was included.

| Performance (Annualised) | 1 month | 3 months | 6 months | FYTD | 1 year |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Official Cash Rate | 0.10% | 0.10% | 0.10% | 0.10% | 0.11% |
| AusBond Bank Bill Index | 0.01% | 0.02% | 0.03% | 0.02% | 0.04% |
| Council's T/D Portfolio | 1.69% | 1.68% | 1.78% | 1.68% | 1.90% |
| Council's FRN Portfolio | 1.02% | 0.99% | 1.00% | 0.99% | 1.01% |
| Council's Bond Portfolio | 1.20% | - | - | - | - |
| Council's Portfolio[^] | 1.67% | 1.66% | 1.77% | 1.66% | 1.89% |
| Outperformance | 1.66% | 1.64% | 1.74% | 1.64% | 1.85% |

[^]Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings. Overall returns would be lower if cash was included.

For the month of September, the total portfolio (excluding cash) provided a solid return of +0.14% (actual) or +1.67% p.a. (annualised), outperforming the benchmark AusBond Bank Bill Index return of +0.00% (actual) or +0.01% p.a. (annualised). Over the past year, the portfolio returned a very strong +1.89% p.a., outperforming bank bills by 1.85% p.a.

The strong performance continues to be driven by the handful of deposits still yielding above 3% p.a. However, some of these individual deposits are approaching maturity and will be reinvested at much lower prevailing rates.

We are pleased that PMHC remains amongst the best performing Councils in the state of NSW where deposits are concerned, earning on average, around \$2,800,000 in additional interest income compared to its peers (refer to our July 2021 rankings). We have been pro-active in our advice about protecting interest income and addressing reinvestment risk for many years and encouraged to maintain a long duration position. This is now reflected by the high performance of the investment portfolio. Of the 78 individual deposits PMHC held, 33 are still yielding higher than 1½% p.a. That is, around 42% of outstanding deposits held is earning an interest rate that is fifteen times the prevailing cash rate of 0.10%.



Council's Term Deposit Portfolio & Recommendation

As at the end of September 2021, Council's deposit portfolio was yielding 1.60% p.a. (down 6bp from the previous month), with an average duration of ~2¼ years. Where possible, we recommend Council at least maintains this average duration. In the low interest rate environment, the biggest collective risk that the local government sector has faced over the post-GFC era has been the dramatic fall in interest rates - from 7¼% to the historical low levels of 0.10%.

As the past decade or so has highlighted (post-GFC era), we have seen too many portfolios' roll a high proportion of their deposits between 3-6 months, resulting in their deposits being reinvested at lower prevailing rates. That is, depositors have overpaid for liquidity and generally not insured themselves against the low interest rate environment by diversify their funding across various tenors (out to 5 years) but rather placed all their 'eggs in one basket' and kept all their deposits short. **Reinvestment risk has collectively been and continues to be the biggest detriment to depositors' interest income over the post-GFC period.**

At the time of writing, we see value in:

| ADI | LT Credit Rating | Term | T/D Rate |
|--------------|------------------|---------|-------------|
| ICBC, Sydney | A | 5 years | 1.48% p.a. |
| Westpac | AA- | 5 years | 1.33% p.a. |
| ICBC, Sydney | A | 4 years | 1.23% p.a. |
| NAB | AA- | 4 years | 1.05% p.a. |
| AMP Bank | BBB | 3 years | 1.00% p.a.^ |
| ICBC, Sydney | A | 3 years | 0.97% p.a. |
| Westpac | AA- | 3 years | 0.84% p.a. |
| NAB | AA- | 3 years | 0.80% p.a. |
| AMP Bank | BBB | 2 years | 0.80% p.a.^ |
| ICBC, Sydney | A | 2 years | 0.62% p.a. |
| NAB | AA- | 2 years | 0.60% p.a. |

[^] AMP T/Ds – contact us to receive an additional 0.20% p.a. rebated commission on top of the rate shown above

The above deposits are suitable for investors looking to provide some income protection and mitigate reinvestment/rollover risk in the low interest rate environment.



For terms under 12 months, we believe the strongest value is currently being offered by the following ADIs (dependent on daily funding requirements):

| ADI | LT Credit Rating | Term | T/D Rate |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|
| AMP Bank | BBB | 11-12 months | 0.80% p.a.^ |
| AMP Bank | BBB | 8-10 months | 0.75% p.a.^ |
| Judo Bank | BBB- | 12 months | 0.65% p.a. |
| Bank of Sydney | Unrated ADI | 12 months | 0.59% p.a. |
| BoQ | BBB+ | 12 months | 0.43% p.a. |
| CBA | AA- | 12 months | 0.36% p.a. |
| NAB | AA- | 12 months | 0.35% p.a. |

[^] AMP T/Ds – contact us to receive an additional 0.20% p.a. rebated commission on top of the rate shown above

Amongst the investment grade sector, short-dated term deposits (maturing less than 12 months) are yielding under 0.50% p.a. (most are under 0.40% p.a.). We believe there is not much value being offered in short-dated deposits.

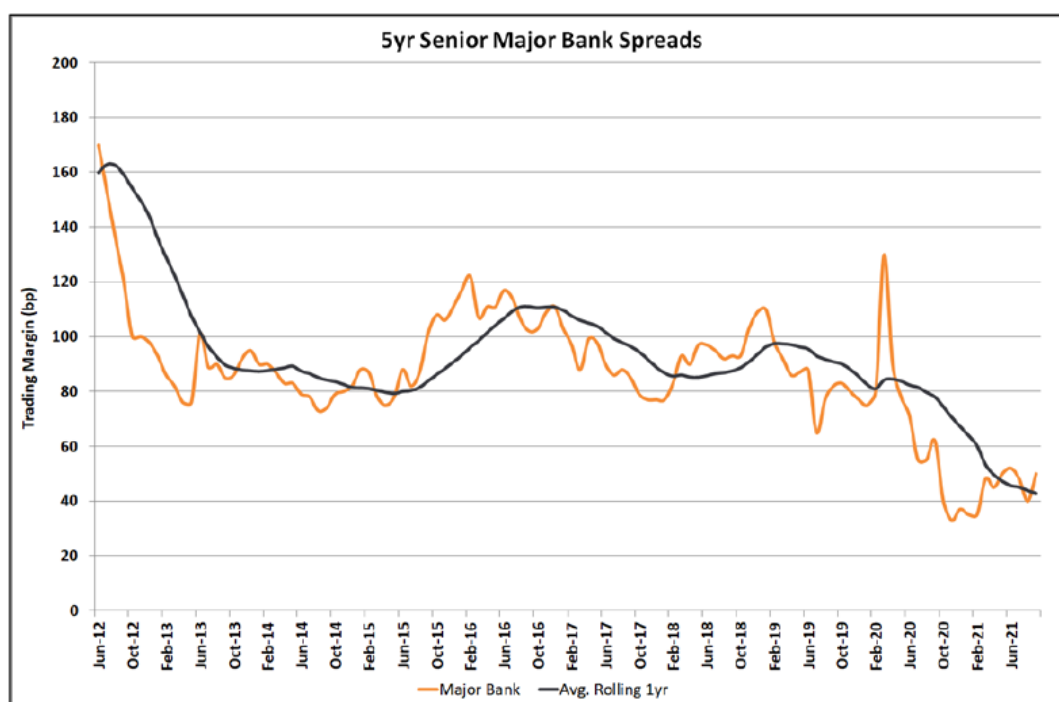
In contrast, there is an upward pick-up in yield for investors that can take advantage of 2-5 year fixed T/Ds whilst official rates are stuck at depressed levels at least for the next two to three years. For those investors that do not require high levels of liquidity and can stagger their investments longer-term, they will be rewarded over coming years if they roll for a minimum term of 2 years (we note some investors tend to roll for 3-5 years), potentially yielding, on average, more than double the return compared to those investors that purely invest in short-dated deposits.



Senior FRNs & Recommendations

APRA announced that it expects locally-incorporated ADIs subject to the liquidity cover ratio (LCR) to reduce their reliance on the committed loan facility (CLF) to zero by the end of 2022 subject to financial market conditions. APRA stated that no ADI should rely on the CLF to meet its minimum 100% LCR requirement from the beginning of 2022, although ADIs may continue to count any remaining CLF as part of their liquidity buffer. The four major Australian banks currently had \$127bn of ALA (alternative liquid assets)/CLF as of 30 June 2021, but also have LCR's well above the 100% minimum regulatory requirement (the current average LCR across all four is 130%).

Over September, amongst the senior major bank FRNs, physical credit securities were marked up to 10bp wider at the long-end of the curve. During the month, CBA (AA-) issued a 5¼ year senior 'Green' FRN at +41bp. After NAB (AA-) issued its 5 year senior FRN at +41bp in August, we anticipate the other major banks may follow suit over coming months looking to refinance their upcoming maturities at these very cheap levels. Both are now trading at a discount to par as spreads widened over the course of the month.



Source: IBS Capital

Separately, CIBC Sydney issued a \$1.5bn 5yr covered bond (AAA) at +37bp. Suncorp (A+) issued a 5yr senior FRN at +48bp, initially tightening from price guidance of +52bp, printing \$750m. We both thought both issues were issued at very tight levels.

Amongst the "A" and "BBB" rated sector, the securities were marked around 3-5bp wider at the long-end of the curve. While turnover in the secondary market is still predominately dominated by commonwealth, semi-government and major bank senior paper, given the lack of supply, we have



started to observe that even a handful of regional bank senior paper has sometimes been trading inside “mid” levels over recent months.

The lack of supply from new (primary) issuances has played a major role with the rally in credit markets over the past 1½ years, now appearing fairly expensive of a historical level. FRNs will continue to play a role in investor’s portfolios mainly on the basis of their liquidity and the ability to roll down the curve and gross up returns over ensuing years (in a relatively stable credit environment).

| Senior FRNs (ADIs) | 30/09/2021 | 31/08/2021 |
|--------------------|------------|------------|
| “AA” rated – 5yrs | +50bp | +40bp |
| “AA” rated – 3yrs | +28bp | +18bp |
| “A” rated – 5yrs | +57bp | +55bp |
| “A” rated – 3yrs | +40bp | +35bp |
| “BBB” rated – 3yrs | +48bp | +45bp |

Source: IBS Capital

We now generally **recommend switches** (‘benchmark’ issues only) into new attractive primary issues (or longer-dated alternatives), out of the following senior FRNs that are maturing:

- **On or before mid-late 2024 for the “AA” rated ADIs (domestic major banks);**
- On or before mid-late 2022 for the “A” rated ADIs; and
- Within 12 months for the “BBB” rated ADIs (consider case by case).

Investors holding onto the above senior FRNs (‘benchmark’ issues only) in their last 1-2 years are now generally holding sub-optimal investments and are not maximising returns by foregoing realised capital gains. In the current low interest rate environment, any boost in overall returns should be locked in when it is advantageous to do so.

In late August 2019, Council placed a bid of \$3m into the new Bendigo (BBB+) 5 year FRN at +97bp maturing 06/09/2024 (ISIN: AU3FN0050019). This FRN should be viewed as a 3½-4 year holding period, with the ability to ‘roll down the curve’, realise capital gains which would boost the overall return of the investment portfolio. The security was marked around +37bp (from +32bp the previous month) or a capital price ~\$101.73 or unrealised capital gain of ~\$52k at month-end. We recommend Council holds this FRN at this stage.



Council's Senior Fixed Bond

During September 2021, Council placed parcels in NTTC (AA-) fixed bonds as follows:

| Investment Date | Maturity Date | Principal | Rate % p.a. [^] | Remaining Term (Yrs) | Interest Paid |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 7/09/2021 | 15/12/2024 | \$5,000,000 | 0.90% | 3.21 yrs | Annually |
| 14/09/2021 | 15/12/2025 | \$5,000,000 | 1.10% | 4.21 yrs | Annually |
| 2/09/2021 | 15/12/2026 | \$5,000,000 | 1.40% | 5.21 yrs | Annually |
| 7/09/2021 | 15/12/2026 | \$5,000,000 | 1.40% | 5.21 yrs | Annually |
| Totals / Wgt. Avg. | | \$20,000,000 | 1.20% | 4.46 yrs | |

[^]Council will receive the full rebated commission of 0.25% (plus GST) on the face value of investment on all these parcels (currently totalling \$55,000).

We believe these investments were prudent given the low rate environment and especially after the rate cut delivered in early November 2020 and its ongoing forward guidance on official interest rates.

The NTTC bonds are a 'retail' offering and not 'wholesale' issuances. Given the lack of liquidity and high penalty costs if they were to be sold/redeemed prior to the maturity date, they are considered to be a hold-to-maturity investment and will be marked at par value (\$100.00) throughout the term of investment.

We recommend additional parcels with NTTC (AA-), available effective 1st July 2021 (see next section).



Senior Bonds - Northern Territory Treasury Corporation (NTTC)

We are aware of the following senior retail bond offering from Northern Territory Treasury Corporation (NTTC) effective 30th August 2021:

| Maturity Date | Rate % p.a. [^] | Interest Paid |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 15/12/2022 | 0.40% | Annually |
| 15/12/2023 | 0.60% | Annually |
| 15/12/2024 | 0.90% | Semi-Annually |
| 15/12/2025 | 1.10% | Semi-Annually |
| 15/12/2026 | 1.40% | Semi-Annually |

^{^^}The rates offered in the above table can be reviewed and changed at any time from Treasury. The rate for broker sponsored applications will be dropped by 0.20% p.a. effective 1 October 2020.

Any investor interested in this product should avoid placing through the broker channel and contact Imperium Markets to receive the full commission of 0.25% (plus GST) on the face value of the investment, in the form of an additional rebate. If placed through the brokers, they are likely to keep the 0.25% commission (on the face value of the investment).

| Overview | Description |
|-----------------------|--|
| Issuer | Northern Territory Government |
| Credit Rating | Aa3 (Moody's), which is AA- equivalent (S&P) |
| Type | Fixed senior (retail) bonds |
| Program | Territory Bonds Issue 111 |
| Date for applications | 01/07/2021 – 30/11/2021 |
| Liquidity | Weekly redemptions available, subject to the prevailing market rate and administration costs ^{^^} |

^{^^} Note given this is a retail bond offering (min. parcel size of \$5,000), for wholesale investors, we would not consider this to be a liquid investment (the largest redemptions to date have only been \$200-\$300k).

The product should be viewed as a hold-to-maturity product, noting there are significant penalty costs including admin fees, the prevailing market interest rate, and factors in any associate commissions that were previously paid. Given the longer-term outlook for official interest rates, **any investor with capacity should consider placing a small parcel (up to \$5m) in the 15/12/2024, 15/12/2025 and 15/12/2026 maturities through Imperium Markets** to receive an effectively higher rate, once factoring in the rebated commission.



Economic Commentary

International Market

The Delta variant's ongoing global impact, China's slowing economy, along with fading fiscal and monetary policy support resulted in the 'risk-off' environment over September.

Global equity markets finally retraced some of their gains. Across the US, the S&P 500 Index fell -4.76%, while the tech-heavy NASDAQ Index lost 5.31%. Equities also fell across Europe's main indices, with losses led by Germany's DAX (-3.63%), France's CAC (-2.40%) and UK's FTSE (-0.47%).

US Fed Chair Powell flagged a November taper announcement, suggesting *"the economy has made progress toward these goals. If progress continues broadly as expected, the Committee judges that a moderation in the pace of asset purchases may soon be warranted"*. **The Fed dot plots now sees half of the 18 FOMC participants forecasting a first rate hike(s) in 2022.**

The US unemployment rate fell to a 17-month low of 5.2% in August (from 5.4% in July), while the participation rate was unchanged at 61.7%.

August headline CPI rose +0.3% in the US, while the core reading rose +0.1% (below expectations for a +0.3% outcome) and +4.0% on an annual basis.

The ECB confirmed its intentions to moderate the PEPP bond buying pace in Q4, albeit still at a hefty €60b-€70b per month pace.

Hawkish rhetoric from the Bank of England flagged the possibility of hikes even before the end of its QE program. UK markets priced in 15bp of hikes by February, with 50bp of hikes priced for 2022.

Canada's Q2 GDP figures came in much weaker than expected at -1.1% on an annualised basis, or approximately -0.25% q/q, against +2.5% (annualised) expected.

The PBoC announced it will provide ¥300 billion yuan (US\$46.bn) of low-cost funding to banks to help them offer more support to small and medium-sized companies.

The MSCI World ex-Aus Index fell -4.29% for the month of September:

| Index | 1m | 3m | 1yr | 3yr | 5yr | 10yr |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| S&P 500 Index | -4.76% | +0.23% | +28.09% | +13.92% | +14.72% | +14.30% |
| MSCI World ex-AUS | -4.29% | -0.26% | +27.01% | +11.39% | +11.93% | +10.77% |
| S&P ASX 200 Accum. Index | -1.85% | +1.71% | +30.56% | +9.65% | +10.42% | +10.80% |

Source: S&P, MSCI



Domestic Market

In its meeting in September, the RBA kept to its scheduled tapering of asset purchases to \$4bn a week from \$5bn a week starting from early September, though given the delay in the recovery caused by the Delta outbreak, this reduced pace will continue until at least February 2022 rather than being reviewed in November.

RBA Governor Lowe pushed back on current market pricing with regards to official rate hikes prior to 2024, commenting *"I find it difficult to understand why rate rises are being priced in next year or early 2023. While policy rates might be increased in other countries over this timeframe, our wage and inflation experience is quite different"*.

Q2 GDP rose by a larger than expected at +0.7% or +9.6% y/y, ahead of the extended lockdowns in NSW and VIC. This outcome sees GDP +1.6% above its pre-COVID level, with GDP expecting to fall by around -3½% in Q3 and begin to rebound in Q4 as restrictions ease. Retail sales fell -1.7% m/m in August against -2.5% expected.

Headline employment fell sharply -146.3k (consensus -80k) in August, driven by a -172.8k decline in NSW employment. The unemployment rate fell (rather than rose) 0.1% to 4.5%, driven by the sharp fall in the participation rate by 0.8% to 65.2%. **A measure of the 'effective' unemployment rate that accounts for participation changes puts the effective unemployment rate at around 5.7%-6.7%, instead of the 4.5% official number.**

Residential building approvals fell -8.6% m/m in July, which is the fourth consecutive month of decline, following -5.5% in June, -8.4% in May, and -5.0% in April.

The current account surplus rose \$1.5bn to a record \$20.5bn in the June quarter. That was due to a +10.7% q/q increase in export prices driven by iron ore. Iron ore futures traded below US\$90/tonne for the first time since July last year, on the back of weakening demand from China.

APRA announced that it expects locally-incorporated ADIs subject to the liquidity cover ratio (LCR) to reduce their reliance on the committed liquidity facility (CLF) to zero by the end of 2022, which is likely to result in some widening of major bank credit spreads over the coming year.

The Australian dollar fell -1.76%, finishing the month at US72.06 cents (from US73.35 cents the previous month).

Credit Market

The main global credit indices widened over September in the risk-off environment. The indices now trade back to their levels experienced in late 2020:

| Index | September 2021 | August 2021 |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| CDX North American 5yr CDS | 53bp | 46bp |
| iTraxx Europe 5yr CDS | 50bp | 45bp |
| iTraxx Australia 5yr CDS | 67bp | 58bp |

Source: Markit



Fixed Interest Review

Benchmark Index Returns

| Index | September 2021 | August 2021 |
|--|----------------|-------------|
| Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index (0+YR) | +0.00% | +0.00% |
| Bloomberg AusBond Composite Bond Index (0+YR) | -1.51% | +0.09% |
| Bloomberg AusBond Credit FRN Index (0+YR) | -0.06% | +0.05% |
| Bloomberg AusBond Credit Index (0+YR) | -0.79% | +0.06% |
| Bloomberg AusBond Treasury Index (0+YR) | -1.80% | +0.20% |
| Bloomberg AusBond Inflation Gov't Index (0+YR) | -2.67% | -0.43% |

Source: Bloomberg

Other Key Rates

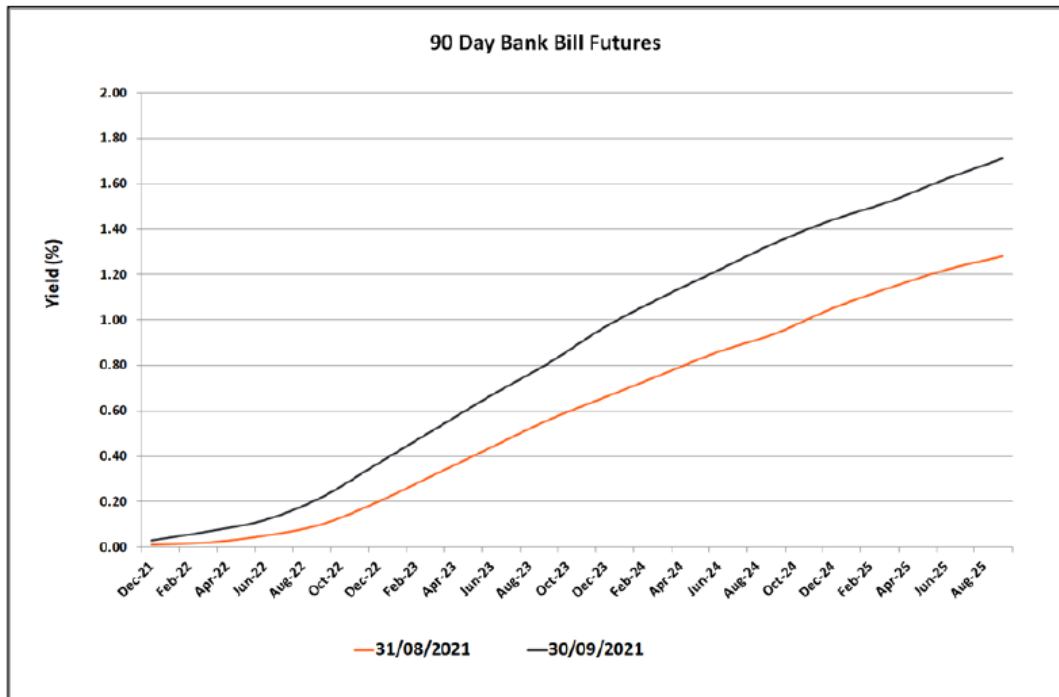
| Index | September 2021 | August 2021 |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| RBA Official Cash Rate | 0.10% | 0.10% |
| 90 Day (3 month) BBSW Rate | 0.02% | 0.01% |
| 3yr Australian Government Bonds | 0.25% | 0.15% |
| 10yr Australian Government Bonds | 1.45% | 1.12% |
| US Fed Funds Rate | 0.00%-0.25% | 0.00%-0.25% |
| 10yr US Treasury Bonds | 1.52% | 1.30% |

Source: RBA, AFMA, US Department of Treasury



90 Day Bill Futures

Over September, bill futures rose significantly across the board as global central banks (the RBA being an exception) began to flag the possibility of withdrawing their QE programs or start lifting official rates in coming years. Overall, bill futures continue to depict a low rate environment over the long-run, despite the steeping curve in recent months:



Source: ASX



Fixed Interest Outlook

US Federal Reserve Chairman Powell indicated that *“the US economy has made progress toward these goals. If progress continues broadly as expected, the Committee judges that a moderation in the pace of asset purchases may soon be warranted”*, suggesting a November tapering announcement.

On their latest forecast, the 2022 ‘dot plot’ now sees 9 of the 18 FOMC participants with a first rate hike(s) in 2022. Nine other participants therefore still do not forecast rates lift-off before 2023. For 2023, the median dot is 1.0% (meaning 3 ½ hikes between now and end 2023).

In Australia, Governor Lowe has remained relatively dovish with his comments and commented that he “finds it difficult to understand why rate rises are being priced in next year or early 2023. While policy rates might be increased in other countries over this timeframe, our wage and inflation experience is quite different”.

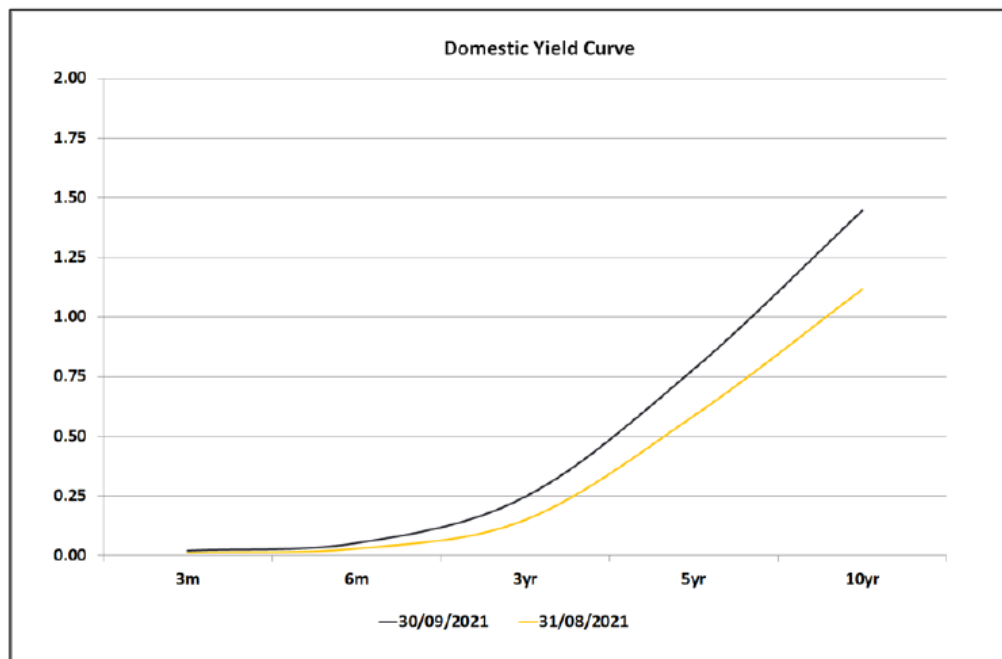
The RBA has factored in these snap lockdowns as part of their economic projections. Conceivably, the RBA’s central scenario does not see rate hikes until 2024 (conditions for an official rate rise **“will not be met until 2024”**), while their upside scenario is consistent with rate hikes in 2023, dependent on the flow of ongoing economic data.

They would like to see the following three economic indicators improve before they even consider increasing interest rates:

1. The unemployment rate to drop to around 4¼% (currently it is officially at 4.5% but masked by a significant drop in the participation rate – the real rate is above +6%);
2. *“Until actual (underlying) inflation is sustainably within the 2-3% target range”* (it has not been within their target band for the past 5 years); and
3. Wage growth to surpass +3% (it has not been above this level for the past 8 years).

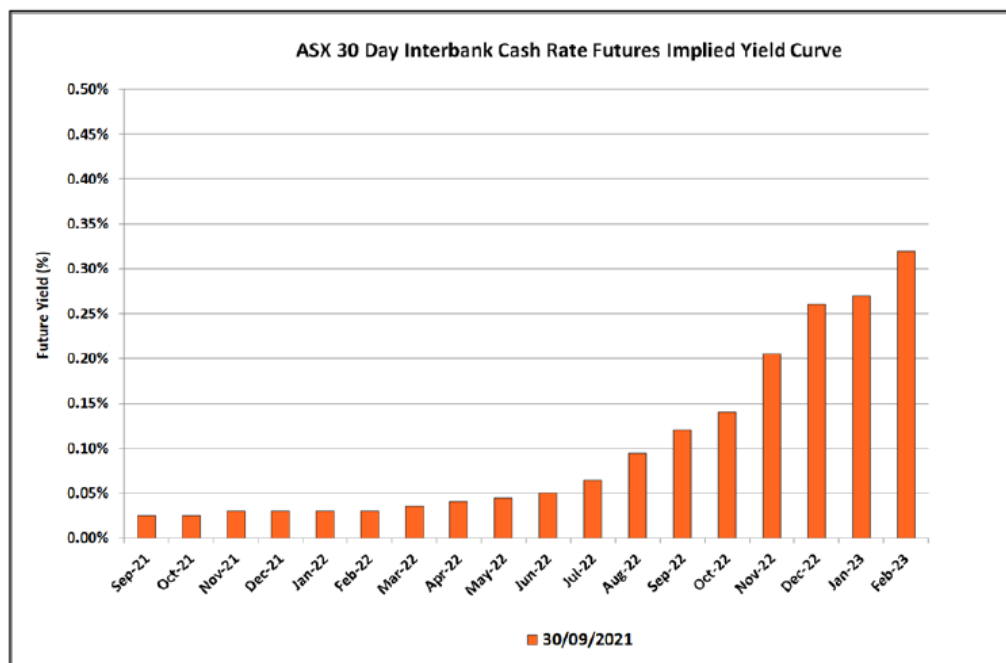
Governor Lowe has commented on the path of future rate hikes: *“it will not be enough for inflation to just sneak across the 2% line for a quarter or two. We want to see inflation well within the target band and be confident that it will stay there”*.

The domestic bond market continues to suggest a prolonged low period of interest rates. Over the month, yields rose around 33bp at the long-end of the curve:



Source: AFMA, ASX, RBA

The market continues to factor in the possibility of a rate hike up to 25bp by early 2023, dependent on the speed of the recovery once restrictions are eased:



Source: ASX

**Disclaimer**

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Investment Report

01/09/2021 to 30/09/2021



Portfolio Valuation as at 30/09/2021

| Issuer | Rating | Type | Alloc | Interest | Purchase | Maturity | Rate | Capital Value | Accrued | Accrued MTD |
|---------------------------|--------|------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| Westpac | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Quarterly | 13/09/2018 | 12/10/2021 | 2.8900 | 5,000,000.00 | 7,126.03 | 7,126.03 |
| Auswide Bank | BBB | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 23/10/2019 | 25/10/2021 | 1.6500 | 5,000,000.00 | 77,527.40 | 6,780.82 |
| Auswide Bank | BBB | TD | GENERAL | At Maturity | 25/11/2019 | 25/11/2021 | 1.7000 | 5,000,000.00 | 157,424.66 | 6,986.30 |
| ICBC Sydney Branch | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 05/12/2018 | 07/12/2021 | 3.0100 | 4,000,000.00 | 98,299.18 | 9,895.89 |
| ICBC Sydney Branch | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 16/12/2019 | 16/12/2021 | 1.5700 | 4,000,000.00 | 49,723.84 | 5,161.64 |
| ING Direct | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 30/01/2020 | 31/01/2022 | 1.6500 | 5,000,000.00 | 55,376.71 | 6,780.82 |
| Newcastle Permanent | BBB | TD | GENERAL | Quarterly | 07/02/2019 | 08/02/2022 | 3.0500 | 4,000,000.00 | 17,715.07 | 10,027.40 |
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 21/02/2017 | 21/02/2022 | 3.4600 | 5,000,000.00 | 104,747.95 | 14,219.18 |
| Westpac | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 21/02/2017 | 21/02/2022 | 3.6100 | 2,000,000.00 | 43,715.62 | 5,934.25 |
| ING Direct | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 02/03/2020 | 02/03/2022 | 1.5000 | 5,000,000.00 | 43,767.12 | 6,164.38 |
| BOQ | BBB+ | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 15/03/2017 | 15/03/2022 | 3.8000 | 2,000,000.00 | 41,643.84 | 6,246.58 |
| Newcastle Permanent | BBB | TD | GENERAL | Quarterly | 12/03/2019 | 22/03/2022 | 2.9000 | 4,000,000.00 | 5,720.55 | 5,720.55 |
| Newcastle Permanent | BBB | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 27/03/2019 | 29/03/2022 | 2.8000 | 5,000,000.00 | 71,342.47 | 11,506.85 |
| Newcastle Permanent | BBB | TD | GENERAL | Quarterly | 18/04/2019 | 19/04/2022 | 2.7000 | 4,000,000.00 | 21,895.89 | 8,876.71 |
| Westpac | AA- | TD | LOCAL BRANCH | At Maturity | 21/05/2021 | 23/05/2022 | 0.2500 | 10,000.00 | 9.11 | 2.05 |
| BOQ | BBB+ | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 28/05/2019 | 30/05/2022 | 2.4000 | 4,000,000.00 | 33,139.73 | 7,890.41 |
| BOQ | BBB+ | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 02/06/2021 | 02/06/2022 | 0.4000 | 5,000,000.00 | 6,630.14 | 1,643.84 |
| Rabobank Australia Branch | A+ | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 08/06/2017 | 07/06/2022 | 3.2200 | 5,000,000.00 | 50,726.03 | 13,232.88 |



| Issuer | Rating | Type | Alloc | Interest | Purchase | Maturity | Rate | Capital Value | Accrued | Accrued MTD |
|---------------------------|--------|------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| Australian Military Bank | BBB+ | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 19/06/2020 | 20/06/2022 | 1.1500 | 2,000,000.00 | 6,427.40 | 1,890.41 |
| Australian Military Bank | BBB+ | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 19/06/2020 | 20/06/2022 | 1.1500 | 2,000,000.00 | 6,427.40 | 1,890.41 |
| Australian Military Bank | BBB+ | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 23/06/2020 | 23/06/2022 | 1.0500 | 3,500,000.00 | 10,068.49 | 3,020.55 |
| Westpac | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Quarterly | 23/06/2020 | 23/06/2022 | 1.0100 | 3,500,000.00 | 774.79 | 774.79 |
| Westpac | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Quarterly | 24/06/2020 | 24/06/2022 | 1.0200 | 5,000,000.00 | 978.08 | 978.08 |
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 02/08/2018 | 02/08/2022 | 3.2200 | 4,000,000.00 | 20,819.73 | 10,586.30 |
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 16/08/2018 | 16/08/2022 | 3.0500 | 4,000,000.00 | 15,375.34 | 10,027.40 |
| Westpac | AA- | TD | LOCAL BRANCH | Annual | 23/08/2021 | 23/08/2022 | 0.2500 | 20,000.00 | 5.34 | 4.11 |
| ICBC Sydney Branch | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 28/08/2019 | 29/08/2022 | 1.6400 | 5,000,000.00 | 7,189.04 | 6,739.73 |
| Auswide Bank | BBB | TD | GENERAL | At Maturity | 06/09/2019 | 06/09/2022 | 1.8000 | 3,000,000.00 | 111,846.58 | 4,438.36 |
| Rabobank Australia Branch | A+ | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 13/09/2017 | 13/09/2022 | 3.3800 | 3,000,000.00 | 5,000.55 | 5,000.55 |
| Westpac | AA- | TD | LOCAL BRANCH | Annual | 13/09/2017 | 13/09/2022 | 3.4100 | 3,000,000.00 | 5,044.93 | 5,044.93 |
| MyState Bank | BBB | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 29/09/2020 | 29/09/2022 | 0.8500 | 5,000,000.00 | 232.88 | 232.88 |
| Westpac | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Quarterly | 29/09/2020 | 29/09/2022 | 0.7200 | 5,000,000.00 | 197.26 | 197.26 |
| Auswide Bank | BBB | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 30/09/2019 | 30/09/2022 | 1.7500 | 4,000,000.00 | 191.78 | 191.78 |
| ICBC Sydney Branch | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 23/10/2019 | 24/10/2022 | 1.7000 | 3,000,000.00 | 47,926.03 | 4,191.78 |
| ICBC Sydney Branch | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 31/10/2019 | 31/10/2022 | 1.7300 | 5,000,000.00 | 79,627.40 | 7,109.59 |
| ING Direct | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 27/02/2020 | 27/02/2023 | 1.6000 | 2,500,000.00 | 23,780.82 | 3,287.67 |
| BOQ | BBB+ | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 28/05/2019 | 29/05/2023 | 2.5500 | 4,000,000.00 | 35,210.96 | 8,383.56 |
| BOQ | BBB+ | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 19/06/2020 | 19/06/2023 | 1.3500 | 2,000,000.00 | 7,545.21 | 2,219.18 |



| Issuer | Rating | Type | Alloc | Interest | Purchase | Maturity | Rate | Capital Value | Accrued | Accrued MTD |
|-----------------------------|--------|------|---------|-------------|------------|------------|--------|---------------|-----------|-------------|
| BOQ | BBB+ | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 27/06/2019 | 27/06/2023 | 2.2000 | 5,000,000.00 | 28,630.14 | 9,041.10 |
| AMP Bank | BBB | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 28/07/2021 | 28/07/2023 | 0.7500 | 2,000,000.00 | 2,671.23 | 1,232.88 |
| Westpac | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Quarterly | 11/08/2021 | 11/08/2023 | 0.5600 | 5,000,000.00 | 3,912.33 | 2,301.37 |
| MyState Bank | BBB | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 14/09/2020 | 14/09/2023 | 0.9000 | 4,000,000.00 | 1,676.71 | 1,676.71 |
| MyState Bank | BBB | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 14/09/2020 | 14/09/2023 | 0.9000 | 4,000,000.00 | 1,676.71 | 1,676.71 |
| ICBC Sydney Branch | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 27/11/2019 | 27/11/2023 | 1.7600 | 6,000,000.00 | 89,109.04 | 8,679.45 |
| ICBC Sydney Branch | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 16/12/2019 | 18/12/2023 | 1.8100 | 4,000,000.00 | 57,324.93 | 5,950.68 |
| Auswide Bank | BBB | TD | GENERAL | At Maturity | 02/03/2020 | 04/03/2024 | 1.7500 | 3,000,000.00 | 83,136.99 | 4,315.07 |
| BOQ | BBB+ | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 18/06/2020 | 18/06/2024 | 1.4500 | 3,000,000.00 | 12,513.70 | 3,575.34 |
| ING Direct | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 23/06/2020 | 24/06/2024 | 1.2500 | 3,000,000.00 | 10,273.97 | 3,082.19 |
| BOQ | BBB+ | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 11/08/2021 | 12/08/2024 | 0.7900 | 2,000,000.00 | 2,207.67 | 1,298.63 |
| Westpac | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Quarterly | 11/08/2021 | 12/08/2024 | 0.7700 | 3,000,000.00 | 3,227.67 | 1,898.63 |
| Westpac | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Quarterly | 17/08/2021 | 19/08/2024 | 0.7200 | 2,000,000.00 | 1,775.34 | 1,183.56 |
| Australian Military Bank | BBB+ | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 19/08/2021 | 19/08/2024 | 0.7200 | 3,000,000.00 | 2,544.66 | 1,775.34 |
| Bendigo and Adelaide | BBB+ | FRN | GENERAL | Quarterly | 06/09/2019 | 06/09/2024 | 0.9820 | 3,051,960.00 | 2,017.81 | 2,017.81 |
| BOQ | BBB+ | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 27/09/2019 | 27/09/2024 | 2.0000 | 2,000,000.00 | 438.36 | 438.36 |
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 16/10/2020 | 16/10/2024 | 0.8000 | 5,000,000.00 | 38,356.16 | 3,287.67 |
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 18/11/2020 | 18/11/2024 | 0.7000 | 5,000,000.00 | 30,397.26 | 2,876.71 |
| Northern Territory Treasury | AA- | BOND | GENERAL | Semi-Annual | 07/09/2021 | 16/12/2024 | 0.9000 | 5,000,000.00 | 2,958.90 | 2,958.90 |
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 29/01/2021 | 29/01/2025 | 0.7200 | 4,000,000.00 | 19,331.51 | 2,367.12 |



| Issuer | Rating | Type | Alloc | Interest | Purchase | Maturity | Rate | Capital Value | Accrued | Accrued MTD |
|-----------------------------|--------|------|---------|-------------|------------|------------|--------|---------------|-----------|-------------|
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 02/03/2021 | 03/03/2025 | 0.9500 | 4,000,000.00 | 22,175.34 | 3,123.29 |
| ICBC Sydney Branch | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 18/06/2020 | 18/06/2025 | 1.7500 | 2,000,000.00 | 10,068.49 | 2,876.71 |
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 26/07/2021 | 28/07/2025 | 1.0000 | 5,000,000.00 | 9,178.08 | 4,109.59 |
| ICBC Sydney Branch | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 02/09/2021 | 02/09/2025 | 1.2000 | 5,000,000.00 | 4,767.12 | 4,767.12 |
| ICBC Sydney Branch | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 16/10/2020 | 16/10/2025 | 1.2000 | 5,000,000.00 | 57,534.25 | 4,931.51 |
| ICBC Sydney Branch | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 17/11/2020 | 17/11/2025 | 1.3000 | 6,500,000.00 | 73,619.18 | 6,945.21 |
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 17/11/2020 | 17/11/2025 | 0.8500 | 3,500,000.00 | 25,919.18 | 2,445.21 |
| ICBC Sydney Branch | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 03/12/2020 | 03/12/2025 | 1.2000 | 5,000,000.00 | 49,643.84 | 4,931.51 |
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 07/12/2020 | 08/12/2025 | 0.9000 | 5,000,000.00 | 36,739.73 | 3,698.63 |
| ICBC Sydney Branch | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 07/12/2020 | 08/12/2025 | 1.2000 | 5,000,000.00 | 48,986.30 | 4,931.51 |
| Northern Territory Treasury | AA- | BOND | GENERAL | Semi-Annual | 14/09/2021 | 15/12/2025 | 1.1000 | 5,000,000.00 | 2,561.64 | 2,561.64 |
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 29/01/2021 | 29/01/2026 | 0.9100 | 4,000,000.00 | 24,432.88 | 2,991.78 |
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 02/03/2021 | 02/03/2026 | 1.2100 | 4,000,000.00 | 28,244.38 | 3,978.08 |
| Westpac | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Quarterly | 09/03/2021 | 09/03/2026 | 1.2500 | 5,000,000.00 | 3,767.12 | 3,767.12 |
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 16/03/2021 | 16/03/2026 | 1.2500 | 5,000,000.00 | 34,075.34 | 5,136.99 |
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 26/05/2021 | 26/05/2026 | 1.2500 | 5,000,000.00 | 21,917.81 | 5,136.99 |
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 02/06/2021 | 02/06/2026 | 1.3000 | 2,500,000.00 | 10,773.97 | 2,671.23 |
| ICBC Sydney Branch | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 02/06/2021 | 02/06/2026 | 1.4000 | 2,500,000.00 | 11,602.74 | 2,876.71 |
| Westpac | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Quarterly | 23/06/2021 | 23/06/2026 | 1.3200 | 5,000,000.00 | 1,446.58 | 1,446.58 |
| Westpac | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Quarterly | 23/06/2021 | 23/06/2026 | 1.3200 | 5,000,000.00 | 1,446.58 | 1,446.58 |



| Issuer | Rating | Type | Alloc | Interest | Purchase | Maturity | Rate | Capital Value | Accrued | Accrued MTD |
|-----------------------------|--------|------|---------|-------------|------------|------------|--------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 26/07/2021 | 27/07/2026 | 1.2000 | 5,000,000.00 | 11,013.70 | 4,931.51 |
| ICBC Sydney Branch | A | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 28/07/2021 | 28/07/2026 | 1.3200 | 2,000,000.00 | 4,701.37 | 2,169.86 |
| NAB | AA- | TD | GENERAL | Annual | 23/09/2021 | 23/09/2026 | 1.2000 | 5,000,000.00 | 1,315.07 | 1,315.07 |
| Northern Territory Treasury | AA- | BOND | GENERAL | Semi-Annual | 07/09/2021 | 15/12/2026 | 1.4000 | 5,000,000.00 | 4,602.74 | 4,602.74 |
| Northern Territory Treasury | AA- | BOND | GENERAL | Semi-Annual | 02/09/2021 | 15/12/2026 | 1.4000 | 5,000,000.00 | 5,561.64 | 5,561.64 |
| Westpac | AA- | CASH | GENERAL | Monthly | 30/09/2021 | 30/09/2021 | 0.3500 | 15,103,567.17 | 6,951.11 | 6,951.11 |
| TOTALS | | | | | | | | 340,685,527.17 | 2,178,428.57 | 372,346.04 |

ATTACHMENT 1 - DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY



Authorised by: <authority>
Authorised date: DD/MM/YYYY
Effective date: DD/MM/YYYY
Next review date: DD/MM/YYYY
File Number: #####

Draft Sustainability Policy

1. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Policy is to clarify and re-affirm Council's commitment to sustainability and provide a basis for demonstrating Council's commitment to action by:

- Embedding sustainability practice in its day-to-day operations;
- Considering sustainability in all decision-making processes;
- Supporting and promoting action towards sustainability in the wider community.

The Sustainability Policy also aims to establish a common understanding of sustainability within Council and the community.

2. SUSTAINABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainability and sustainable development are often used interchangeably. Both speak to the danger of consuming resources faster than they can be replenished.

Sustainability is a broad term that describes managing resources without depleting them for future generations. It is a commitment to live within the carrying capacity and resource limits of the planet. This concept goes beyond environmental sustainability, which concerns earth's natural resources, to include economic and social sustainability, which relate to meeting people's current social and economic needs without compromising future generations.

Sustainable development describes the processes for improving quality of life and long-term economic well-being without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs.

Integrating sustainability and sustainable development is fundamental to designing effective short- and long-term strategies and this Policy reflects this integrated approach. This requires a continual way of thinking and action that focuses on balancing the best outcomes for our environment, our community and the economy, both now and in the future, all within the framework of fiscally responsible, transparent and accountable leadership and decision-making.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Sustainability is a process of ensuring the wise use and management of all resources whereby an acceptable balance is achieved across environmental, social and economic well-being considerations for current and future generations. Sustainability is a shared responsibility between government, business and the community with each party playing a critical role.

The *Local Government Act 1993* states ecologically sustainable development requires the effective integration of economic and environmental considerations in decision-making processes. The Integrated Planning and Reporting framework also requires councils to address social, environmental, economic and civic leadership (the quadruple bottom line) issues in an integrated way.

Taking our lead from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and our obligations under the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council in partnership with the community will strive for sustainable outcomes across the following four (4) **Sustainability Pillars**:

- Environmental Sustainability
- Social Sustainability

- Economic Sustainability
- Civic Leadership & Governance

| | |
|--|---|
| Environmental Sustainability | Environmental sustainability refers to practices which protect, conserve, regenerate and enhance our natural, cultural and built heritage environment through active environmental stewardship and responsible natural resource management. |
| Social Sustainability | Social sustainability refers to practices to support the capacity of current and future generations to create healthy and liveable communities. Socially sustainable communities are equitable, inclusive, diverse, connected and provide a good quality of life. |
| Economic Sustainability | Economic sustainability refers to practices that support long-term economic opportunity and a healthy and thriving local economy. |
| Civic Leadership & Governance (including financial sustainability) | Civic leadership and governance refer to practices that support transparency, accountability, probity, management of effective services, equitable access to services, a commitment to working in partnership with our community, and capacity building within Council and the community. This also means that Council ensures it has the financial resources required to deliver services required by the community now and into the future. |

Council will demonstrate its commitment to sustainability by following the following nine (9) **Sustainability Principles**:

1. Intergenerational Equity

We acknowledge our responsibility to both current and future generations of our community and will ensure that our policies and practices endeavour to meet the needs of our current community without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

2. Social equity, wellbeing and inclusion

In our decision-making and delivery of services to our community we strive to achieve social equity, access and inclusion so that all members of our community can improve their wellbeing.

3. Conservation of Biological Diversity and Ecological Integrity

We acknowledge that our unique biodiversity and ecological systems have intrinsic worth beyond their value as a community amenity or economic resource and play an essential role in the cultural, mental and physical health of our community. We therefore seek to conserve, protect and restore our natural environment and manage our resources responsibly in order to maintain or enhance the health, diversity and productivity of our environment for future generations.

4. Commitment to sustainable economic development, including adequate economic valuation

We will promote adequate valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms for environmental protection; encourage environmentally sustainable business and community activities and reduce business and community activities that result in damage to our environment.

Environmental factors will be included in the valuation of assets and services, such that:

- a) the 'polluter pays' principle, where those who generate pollution and waste or other environmental costs should bear the financial costs of containment, avoidance, abatement or remediation;

- b) the user of goods and services should pay prices based on the full life cycle of the costs of providing goods and services, including the use of natural resources and assets and the ultimate disposal of any waste, as well as environmental regeneration or improvements that are required over the lifecycle of the good/service;
- c) environmental goals that are established, should be pursued, reviewed, measured and reported on within all Council business.

We will use our economic development mechanisms (facilitation, investigation, service provision, advocacy and planning) to foster the growth of a sustainable economy and where possible incentivise sustainable operators, so that those who create environmental benefits through their business activities, obtain financial benefits from doing so.

5. Quadruple-bottom Line Decision-Making

Good governance demands we take a whole-of-Council approach to sustainability in the services we provide, the way we operate as an organisation and the way we work with our community. We will make decisions by assessing short and long-term financial and non-financial impacts. Decisions will recognise the interdependence of the four (4) Sustainability Pillars.

6. Risk mitigation, evidence-based governance and observing the precautionary principle

We acknowledge that not addressing sustainability considerations in decision-making, project planning and practice may present risks to Council and /or to our (future) community. We integrate sustainability risk management into decision-making; assessing potential legal, compliance, financial and reputational risks against social, environmental and economic objectives. We apply the precautionary principle to mitigate threats of serious or permanent harm to the environment or our community. Council will do this by taking account of all available evidence to reduce risk to Council and the community and avoid using uncertainty as a justification for not addressing risks adequately or in a timely manner.

7. Leadership & Collaboration

We lead by example in pursuing sustainable practices governed by our policies, strategies, procedures and processes. We educate and empower our employees and our community to take a shared leadership approach to sustainability challenges and opportunities by building our own and our community's knowledge and capacity in sustainable practices. We seek broad community involvement on issues that affect them and foster collective responsibility, advocacy and action.

8. Innovation and Continual Improvement

We apply systems thinking, agility and continual learning to respond to rapid innovation in sustainable technology and practices. We stay abreast of global trends and we model innovation in our policies and activities as we challenge each other to strive for continual improvement in our performance across the four (4) Sustainability Pillars.

9. Think Global, Act Local

As a community, we play our part in taking action at a local level to support sustainability efforts and outcomes globally. We will use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to guide our actions to achieve these outcomes.

This Policy forms part of a Sustainability Framework that Council will develop and implement as a means of embedding sustainability within the organisation. The globally-agreed United Nations Sustainable Development Goals will serve as the platform to promote and integrate sustainable outcomes and objectives into council strategies, plans, policies and operations (including decision-making and reporting). Over time, Council will review its existing internal policies, processes and practices to support the delivery of improved sustainability outcomes in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and this Policy.

4. SCOPE

This is a whole-of-Council Policy. It applies to all Councillors, Council staff, contractors and others that act on Council's behalf to ensure they work in accordance with the Policy principles. We will share responsibility for our performance with all who work with us and for us and will regularly report on our sustainability performance.

The Policy guides decision-making and the development of future policy, strategy and plans across all areas of our organisation in relation to sustainable practices for Council's operations and community capacity building. This includes (but is not limited to) the following activities:

- Delivery of Council's core services
- Capital investment and infrastructure projects
- Development of short and long term projects, actions and indicators
- Urban form and land-use planning and development
- Use of resources including electricity, water, fuel and construction materials
- Procurement practices
- Events and community programs including grant funding and
- Encouraging, educating and supporting staff, businesses and the whole community in adopting sustainable principles and practices to achieve sustainable behaviour change in the workplace and the broader Port Macquarie-Hastings community.

Progress against relevant sustainability actions and targets will be delivered via the Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES

| Position | Responsibility |
|--|--|
| Councillors | Responsible for understanding the Sustainability Framework and applying the Sustainability Policy in setting strategy and decision-making. |
| CEO & Senior Leadership Team | The CEO, Directors and Group Managers are responsible for advocating, supporting and embedding the Sustainability Policy and Sustainability Framework as the new business as usual practice. |
| Group Manager, Strategy | Responsible for the development and review of the Sustainability Policy and Sustainability Framework. |
| Group Manager, Environment & Regulatory Services | Responsible for the implementation of this Policy across Council. |
| Group Manager, Customer Experience & Communications & Group Manager, Community | Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing the community with clear and consistent messaging about sustainability and Council's approach to achieving sustainable outcomes for the community • Providing education programs and materials to support the community to take action that will result in sustainable outcomes for the community |
| Sustainability Coordinator | Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing technical support and expertise to assist in the implementation of this Policy. • Providing regular reporting and analysis to Council and the community. • Educating and liaising with key areas of Council's operations e.g. procurement, maintenance operations and infrastructure, to lead the inclusion of sustainable practices. |
| All Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Employees | Responsible for applying this Policy and the Sustainability Framework in planning, decision-making activities and reporting. |

6. POLICY CONTEXT & REFERENCES

There are significant policy drivers for sustainability in Australia and beyond. Some key references are as follows:

- **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**
The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were agreed and adopted by Australia with all member nations in 2015 as a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. The SDGs apply to all countries and promote climate action, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production and other sustainable development goals.
- **The Brundtland Commission, formerly the World Commission on Environment and Development**
The Brundtland Commission was a sub-organisation of the United Nations that aimed to unite countries in pursuit of sustainable development. The Commission officially dissolved in 1987 after releasing *Our Common Future*, also known as the Brundtland Report which was intended to respond to the conflict between globalised economic growth and accelerating ecological degradation. This was to be achieved by redefining "economic development" in the terms of "sustainable development" The Report is credited with presenting the most prevalent definition of sustainability:
"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."
- **The Local Government Act 1993**
The Local Government Act 1993 mandates a requirement for council decision-making to consider sound financial management, investment in responsible and sustainable infrastructure, principles of ecologically sustainable development and social justice principles.
- **National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development**
This Strategy was prepared by the Ecologically Sustainable Development Steering Committee and endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments in December 1992. The Strategy defines ecologically sustainable development as:
"using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased".
- **Vision for Port Macquarie-Hastings as defined in the Towards 2030 Community Strategic Plan**
"A sustainable high-quality of life for all"
- **Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement "Shaping Our Future 2040"**
This document guides land use planning for the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA to 2040. The five themes of "Our environment, Our places, Our economy, Our connections and Enabled by Infrastructure" all support sustainable outcomes for Port Macquarie-Hastings.
- This Policy aligns with the **Local Government of NSW's Sustainability Position Statement** (April 2020) which states that "The Integrated Planning and Reporting framework also requires councils to address social, environmental, economic and civic leadership (the quadruple bottom line) issues in an integrated way".

7. DEFINITIONS

| TERM | DEFINITION |
|--|---|
| Access and Inclusion | All people have fair access to services, resources and opportunities to improve their quality of life |
| Biodiversity | The sum of the variety of all living things on Earth; the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genetic information they contain and the ecosystems they form |
| Council | Means Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, being the organisation responsible for the administration of Council affairs and operations and the implementation of Council policy and strategies. |
| Ecological integrity | Refers to ecosystems that can naturally maintain their species, communities, and other important characteristics |
| Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) Framework | The IP&R Framework describes the suite of integrated plans that set out a vision and goals and strategic actions to achieve them. It involves a reporting structure to communicate progress to Council and the community as well as a structured timeline for review to ensure the goals and actions are still relevant. |
| Precautionary Principle | The commitment to ensuring that when investigation has found a plausible risk, uncertainty or lack of extensive scientific knowledge is not used as a justification for inaction or delay in addressing the risk |
| Social equity | There is fairness in decision making, and the prioritising and allocation of resources, particularly for those in need. |
| Sustainable development | Sustainable development describes the processes for improving quality of life and long-term economic well-being without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs. |
| Sustainability | Sustainability describes managing resources without depleting them for future generations. It is a commitment to live within the carrying capacity and resource limits of the planet. This concept goes beyond environmental sustainability, which concerns earth's natural resources, to include economic and social sustainability, which relate to meeting people's current social and economic needs without compromising future generations. |
| Systems thinking | A holistic approach to analysis and decision-making that focuses on the way that a system's constituent parts interrelate, and how systems work within the context of larger systems |

8. PROCESS OWNER

Group Manager, Strategy

9. AMENDMENTS

This is a new policy.

ATTACHMENT 2 - DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE POLICY

DRAFT



Authorised by: <authority>
 Authorised date: DD/MM/YYYY
 Effective date: DD/MM/YYYY
 Next review date: DD/MM/YYYY
 File Number: #####

Draft Climate Change Response Policy

1. OBJECTIVE

The key objective of this Policy is to articulate Council's position and response to climate change. It demonstrates Council's commitment to respond to climate change through meaningful actions that reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions; facilitate and support an LGA-wide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the projected impacts of climate change both for Council and the community.

In implementing this policy, Council's objectives are to:

- Provide timely, up-to-date, scientifically-sound information to Council and the community on climate change in order to create a holistic and well-informed response to climate change.
- Develop and implement appropriate mitigation actions in response to climate change to achieve organisational greenhouse gas emissions reduction (net zero) targets set in consultation with the community.
- Work with the community to develop and implement appropriate mitigation actions in response to climate change that reduce the community's greenhouse gas emissions in line with agreed net zero targets.
- Identify, assess, prioritise and manage the organisation's risks from climate change and support adaptation and resilience strategies for the Port Macquarie-Hastings community.
- Ensure that climate change adaptation is a core component of planning for a resilient and thriving Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA and is embedded across Council's functions and activities including (but not limited to) biodiversity conservation, long-term financial planning, asset management, infrastructure delivery, land use planning, economic development, disaster management and support of our communities as a result of changes brought about by climate change.
- Comply with applicable legal requirements and implement State and Federal government policies, guidelines and/or directives related to climate change where required or relevant.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

Local government has a significant role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change. The effects of climate change have the potential to impact our natural environment, damage Council assets, cause serious disruptions to the delivery of Council services, generate unbudgeted financial impacts and affect the wellbeing of our local community and others further afield.

Council:

- Acknowledges the evidence-based science for climate change and the serious threat that climate change poses to our current and future way of life and the Earth's ecosystems, including impacts on health, safety, economic security and quality of life.
- Has recognised and declared that we are now in a state of global climate emergency.
- Acknowledges that declaring a climate emergency needs to be supported with strong policy and the supporting commitment and actions to implement it with substance.
- Acknowledges that a successful response to climate change requires immediate and ongoing collaborative action and shared responsibility by all levels of government, industry, business, communities and individuals.
- Acknowledges that it is part of Council's role to:
 - a. reduce its organisational contributions to climate change by reducing its operational greenhouse gas emissions;
 - b. identify, plan for and adapt to the risks and impacts of climate change to its operations;

- c. support and facilitate the advancement of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience for our community;
 - d. advocate for strong leadership, action and resourcing from all levels of government to ensure an effective response to climate change
- Confirms that Council's response to climate change is an essential element of Council's overall approach and commitment to sustainability.
- Acknowledges Council's response to climate change and sustainability needs to be locally focussed and holistic, requiring a structured and co-ordinated approach across all Council functions.
- Will apply resources to implement the Policy through the preparation and implementation of relevant strategies and plans. Progress towards targets will be delivered through the Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework.

Council will adopt the following principles in its response to climate change:

1. Precautionary Principle

Council will apply the precautionary principle to climate change adaptation and greenhouse gas emissions reduction in order to mitigate threats of serious or permanent harm to the environment or our community. Council will do this by taking account of all available evidence to reduce risk to Council and the community and avoid using uncertainty as a justification for not addressing risks adequately or in a timely manner. We will develop and implement short and long term actions that seek to achieve resilience and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions while also delivering other social, economic and environmental benefits.

2. Evidence-based Decision-making

Council will base its decision making regarding climate change responses on internationally recognised scientific data and continually review its understanding of the risks and impacts of climate change to Council operations and the community. Where reliably available, Council will also seek to utilise climate change projections specific to the Port Macquarie-Hastings region. Where possible, Council will use climate change projections that are consistent with those used or referenced by the NSW Government for use in Council's hazard or risk determinations. In the absence of these, Council will seek to apply factors contained in projections provided by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

3. Adaptive and Integrated Management Response

The implementation of this Policy will primarily be through the Climate Change Response Strategy and associated Action Plans. Additionally, Council will regularly review its policies, strategies, plans and other relevant systems, where their content may be affected by climate change, to ensure that climate change response is integrated across the organisation. Council will ensure that its actions, decisions and policy response to climate change remain current as the science of climate change develops, and that they reflect Council's financial and operational capacity.

4. Collaborative and Capacity-building Approach

Council will work collaboratively with community, agencies, industry, businesses, and all levels of government to build knowledge, develop partnerships, seek and advocate for local, regional, state, and national climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions that are informed by the current knowledge and best available science. Council will build the adaptive capacity and the resilience of Council and its community through active engagement, transparent and proactive communication and education regarding emissions reduction measures and the identification and management of climate-related risks

5. Risk Mitigation & Management

Council will take account of all available evidence to understand and prepare for climate change related risk to Council and the community. We will ensure that climate change factors are integrated into our risk assessment framework.

3. SCOPE

This is a whole-of-Council Policy. It applies to all Councillors, Council staff, contractors and others that act on Council's behalf to ensure they work in accordance with the Policy principles.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES

| Position | Responsibility |
|--|--|
| Councillors | Responsible for understanding and applying the Climate Change Response Policy in setting strategy and decision-making. |
| CEO & Senior Leadership Team | The CEO, Directors and Group Managers are responsible for advocating, supporting and embedding the implementation of the Climate Change Response Policy. |
| Group Manager, Strategy | Responsible for the development and review of the Climate Change Response Policy. |
| Group Manager, Environment & Regulatory Services | Responsible for the implementation of this Policy across Council. |
| Group Manager, Customer Experience & Communications & Group Manager, Community | Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing the community with clear and consistent messaging about climate change and Council's response to climate change Providing education programs and materials to support the community to take action in response to climate change |
| Sustainability Coordinator | Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing technical support and expertise to assist in the implementation of this Policy. Providing regular reporting and analysis to Council and the community. Educating and liaising with key areas of Council's operations e.g. procurement, maintenance operations and infrastructure, and community engagement to lead the inclusion of appropriate climate change response actions in their area of responsibility |
| All Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Employees | Responsible for applying this Policy in planning, decision-making activities and reporting where required. |

5. POLICY CONTEXT & REFERENCES

Council Strategic Alignment:

Council's activities and operations are guided and directed by State and Federal Government policy. The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework provides the broader strategic direction for Council to develop the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS). These Plans translate the community's future goals, aspirations, and strategic land use planning priorities into the key outcomes that the Council, other agencies, and the community will be working to achieve. A strong and recurring theme in these strategic documents is the health and preservation of our natural environment.

This Policy aligns with:

- the Community's Vision for Port Macquarie-Hastings as defined in the **Towards 2030 Community Strategic Plan** - *"A sustainable high-quality of life for all"*
- Council's **Local Strategic Planning Statement "Shaping Our Future 2040"** which guides land use planning for the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA to 2040, identifies Planning Priority 3 - *"Increase our community's resilience by identifying, mitigating and adapting to the impacts and risks of natural hazards, social and environmental change."*

This Policy is also consistent with Council's overarching commitment to a quadruple-bottom line (QBL) approach to sustainability, as outlined in Council's Sustainability Framework. This Framework commits Council to the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals with Goal 13 being Climate Action (see below).

International & National Context

- In 2015, at the twenty first Convention of Parties (COP21) 195 countries agreed on the United Nations **Paris Agreement** on climate change. The key objective was to limit the increase in global temperatures to well below 2 degrees and pursue efforts to limit the rise to 1.5 degrees. The commitment was to achieve net-zero emissions globally by 2050.
- The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** (IPCC) is the leading world body for assessing the science related to climate change, its impacts and potential future risks, and possible response options. As part of the decision to adopt the Paris Agreement the IPCC produced a Special Report in 2018 on global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways. The IPCC reported that the current global commitments may not be enough to reach the 1.5°C goal. The report indicates that prospects of succeeding will require emissions to reduce rapidly in the short term, and adaptation measures at all levels including resilience through technology, as well as changing behaviour and policy.
- **The UNESCO Declaration on Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change (2017)**
This Declaration expresses the concern of UNESCO Member States that climate change could create morally unacceptable damage and injustice. The Declaration sets out a shortlist of the globally-agreed ethical principles that should guide decision-making and policy-making at all levels and help mobilise people to address climate change. The six principles are as follows:
 - Prevention of harm
 - Precautionary approach
 - Equity and justice
 - Sustainable development
 - Solidarity
 - Scientific knowledge and integrity in decision-making
- In 2015 all United Nations (UN) Member States including Australia, adopted The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). The SDG's are an urgent call for action for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. The SDG's are a globally accepted framework for sustainable development that recognise the co-dependence of society, the economy and the environment. The goals include strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and promote economic growth while developing ways to manage climate change. The link between sustainable development and limiting global warming to the 1.5°C goal by 2050 is recognised by the goal 13 for climate action (SDG 13).
- In 2015, Australia pledged to the Paris Agreement and adopted the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Australian government has committed to a staged emissions reduction approach with a target of 26–28% reduction of emissions below 2005 levels by 2030. This target will be reviewed within the first period of the policy. Australia has yet to set a 2050 target.
- In 2016, the NSW Government endorsed the Paris Agreement and took action consistent with the level of effort to achieve Australia's commitment to the Paris Agreement through implementation of the **NSW Climate Change Policy Framework**. The current aspirational objectives of NSW are to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. The NSW Stage 1 Plan sets out a staged approach of a 35% reduction in emissions compared to 2005 levels by 2030.

- In 2016, the NSW Government's **North Coast Regional Plan 2036** set a goal for the region to be "The most stunning environment in NSW". Direction 3 of the Regional Plan requires "*management of natural hazards and climate change*".
- In 2020 the **Local Government of NSW's Climate Change Position Statement** detailed how local government had a significant role in reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change. Reasoning that "the effects of climate change have the potential to damage council assets, cause serious disruptions to the delivery of council services, generate unbudgeted financial impacts and affect the wellbeing of the community".
- The **Sharma v Minister for the Environment [2021]** judgement in which it was held that the Federal Minister is required to consider recognised principles of environmental law, such as Ecologically Sustainable Development and the Precautionary Principle when making decisions under the EPBC Act. The judgement included the consideration that the Minister has responsibility for the environment and the interests of Australians, and must ensure a healthy environment for the benefit of future generations. The decision in Sharma is the first time in the world that a government executive in their decision making has been held to owe a duty of care to young people to prevent them from harms associated with climate change.
- The **Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action Incorporated vs NSW Environment Protection Authority [2021]** judgement in which the Land and Environment Court of NSW ordered the NSW Environment Protection Authority to develop environmental quality objectives, guidelines and policies to ensure environment protection from climate change.

6. DEFINITIONS

| TERM | DEFINITION |
|--|---|
| Climate Adaptation | The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines climate adaptation as the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate change and its effects. |
| Climate Change | In the context of this Policy refers to anthropogenic climate change which means a change of climate over an extended period, typically decades or longer, which is caused by human activity and has direct and indirect impacts on the environment, community and Council business. |
| Climate Mitigation | The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines climate mitigation as human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. |
| Climate Resilience | Means building capacity to cope with climate change, to recover from the impacts of these climatic changes and to adapt using a combination of sustainable adaptation and mitigation measures. |
| Council | Means Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, being the organisation responsible for the administration of Council affairs and operations, and the implementation of Council policy and strategies. |
| Hazard | Means the potential occurrence of a natural or human-induced event, trend or impact that may cause damage, including loss to property, infrastructure, livelihoods, service provision, and ecosystems. |
| Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) Framework | The IP&R Framework describes the suite of integrated plans that set out a vision, goals and strategic actions to achieve them. It involves a reporting structure to communicate progress to Council and the community as well as a structured timeline for review to ensure the goals and actions are still relevant. |
| Net Zero Emissions | Net zero emissions refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere |
| Precautionary Approach | Where that where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage to the environment or the community, we do not postpone measures to prevent environmental degradation due to a lack of full scientific certainty. |

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Resilience | Means the capacity of social, economic, and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event, trend, or disturbance, responding or reorganising in ways that maintain their essential function, identity, and structure, while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning, and transformation. |
| Risk | Means the potential for consequences where something of value is at stake and where the outcome is uncertain, recognising the diversity of values. Risk is often represented as probability of occurrence of hazardous events (likelihood) or trends multiplied by the impacts (or consequences) if these events or trends occur. |
| Sustainability | Sustainability describes managing resources future generations. It is a commitment to live within the carrying capacity and resource limits of the planet. This concept goes beyond environmental sustainability, which concerns earth's natural resources, to include economic and social sustainability, which relate to meeting people's current social and economic needs without compromising future generations. |

7. PROCESS OWNER

Group Manager - Environment & Regulatory Services

8. AMENDMENTS

This is a new policy.



PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS
COUNCIL

Attachment 3
Draft Sustainability Policy and
Draft Climate Change Response Policy

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Public Exhibition 4 August to 1 September 2021

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Council is currently developing a Sustainability Framework which is designed to create a culture of sustainable practice in our organisation that will help us address significant future challenges, such as climate change and ensure accountability for sustainable outcomes.

The Sustainability Framework sits at the highest level in Council's Strategic Planning to ensure that sustainability is considered in all Council strategies and action plans.

Council takes a quadruple-bottom line approach to sustainability and recognises that a balance must be achieved between the four areas of Sustainability to include economic, social, governance and environment.

Draft Sustainability Policy

A key element of the Sustainability Framework is Council's commitment to Sustainability which is described in Council's Sustainability Policy which has now been drafted in collaboration with Council's Sustainability Advisory Sub-Committee.

The draft Sustainability Policy:

- Includes a proposed definition of sustainability;
- Identifies the role of the Sustainability Framework in Council's operations and the roles and responsibilities of Councillors and Council staff;
- Defines the four Sustainability Pillars which address the Quadruple Bottom Line elements of sustainability;
- Outlines the Principles Council will follow in its planning and day-to-day operations

Draft Climate Change Response Policy

At the March 17 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved to declare a Climate Emergency.

The Climate Change Response Policy, which has been drafted in collaboration with Council's Sustainability Advisory Sub-Committee, is the first in a range of actions that Council will take to develop a comprehensive and integrated response to climate change.

The draft Climate Change Response Policy articulates Council's commitment to respond to climate change through meaningful actions that:

- Reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions;
- Facilitate and support an LGA-wide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and;
- Help Council and the community adapt to the projected impacts of climate change.

1.2. Engagement

This report outlines the approach and findings for the community and stakeholder engagement conducted as part of the public exhibition of the draft policies.

The draft policies were on public exhibition from 5 August - 1 September 2021. As a result of the exhibition there were 105 people aware of the project and Council received 26 survey submissions across both policies which largely indicated that there was majority support for both the draft policies.

The key themes raised in survey comments were as follows:

- Support for these policies being created;
- Suggested options to strengthen the policies and wording;
- The need for Council to provide education on its roles to meet the sustainability/climate change policies;
- Incorporate performance indicators for implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Suggested inclusion of First Nations perspectives; and
- Inclusion of a principle regarding targets around achieving net zero carbon emissions in both policies

2. ENGAGEMENT APPROACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

2.1. Consultation focus

Following Council endorsement, the draft Plan was publicly exhibited for 28 days to provide opportunities for feedback on the principles, objectives and overall policies.

The objectives of the engagement activities were to:

- Inform and engage with community and key stakeholders, seeking their response to shape the final version of Climate Change Response and Sustainability Policy.
- Gain an understanding of how community and stakeholders relate to principles and objectives and if they had any further thoughts.
- Publicly exhibit and make accessible the draft policies for a period of 28 days supported by PMHC's dedicated 'Have Your Say' engagement webpage

2.2. Engagement and Communications

| Channel | Engagement and Communications | Reach |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Have Your Say webpage | A dedicated project webpage was created on CN's Have Your Say landing page. A link to this page was also added to CN's Public Exhibitions page. The page aimed to provide information and raise awareness about the draft policies, and to encourage people to provide feedback. | 106 visits 64 docs downloaded |
| Online survey and submissions | A short survey was created and asked participants to provide feedback on the principles and objectives and policies. Alternatively, participants could make a written submission. | 23 surveys 3 submissions |
| Social media | The public exhibition was promoted via a post on CN's Facebook page, Have Your Say Facebook Group. The posts intended to raise awareness and encourage people to have their say. | |
| Newsletters | An e-newsletter was distributed to a number of PMHC subscriptions and community groups. | 4000+ |
| Media | Media article by Port News | |

3. SURVEY RESULTS

3.1. Overview

PMHC carried out a survey to better understand the community's thoughts on the objectives and principles on the policies to understand further key issues, community needs and priorities regarding climate change and sustainability.

The online survey was available from 5 August to 1 September 2021. A copy of the survey questions is presented in Appendix.

In total, 25 people participated in the survey.

When "n=XX" is referenced in the report this refers to number of counts.

3.2. Survey findings

A total of 25 people completed the survey.

The following qualitative questions were, asked in the survey.

PART 1 - DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

1. Do you have any comments on the **definition of sustainability** in the draft Sustainability Policy?
2. Do you have any comments on the **objectives** for the draft Sustainability Policy?
3. Do you have any comments about these **principles**? If your comment is specific to a principle, please reference which principle.
4. Do you think anything is missing from the draft Sustainability Policy?
5. Do you have any further thoughts or comments about the draft Sustainability Policy?

PART 2 - DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE POLICY

1. Do you have any comments on the **objectives** for the draft Climate Change Response Policy?
2. Do you have any comments about these **principles**? If your comment is specific to a principle, please reference which principle.
3. Do you think anything is missing from the draft Climate Change Response Policy?
4. Do you have any further thoughts or comments about the draft Climate Change Response Policy?

Respondents had the opportunity to provide further comments in the survey, via the open ended questions.

A total of 190 comments were received, across the nine questions (around 20 responses per question) from 26 participants (counting survey and submissions received) and these comments were coded to capture the sentiment of feedback.

While the questions were different, the responses were not always specific to those particular questions.

As many of the topics/opinions were common across the nine questions, there verbatim comments were categorised and themed under one code frame.

3.3. Climate Change Response Policy and Sustainability Policy

Below is a summary of the verbatim comments in the survey and submissions.

All responses were supportive of the policies, including the objectives and principles to deliver the policies.



| Themes | Main comments/topic of discussion |
|--|--|
| Policy to be adaptable/accountable/measurable/reportable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The policy needs to be adaptable to respond to changing impacts of climate change - Continue to align with peer-reviewed climate science - Climate change adaptation to be the basis for all planning decisions - How will reduction of greenhouse gas reduction targets be achieved - Needs a vision statement or align to CSP - Resilient and long term approach that is both flexible and dynamic - Tracking climate temperatures - Policies to be the baseline for all decision making across Council - Policies to be part of the IP&R framework - provides clarity on where sustainability would sit - A scoring or scale system for reporting the impact of Council projects with reporting measures to be accountable - Commitment to sustainable economic development, including adequate economic valuation - Goals need to be more specific, how will these be achieved - How will the policy and principles be implemented? - The nine sustainability principles should be used for all Council decision making - How will the policy apply to contractors, suppliers, grant recipients or other external parties - Council to adopt a no growth strategy and address sustainability and climate issues |
| Supportive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General support for the policy and no further comments. - Great that Council is taking these steps - Shows that Council is committed to making a difference |
| Respond to Climate Change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to adapt to climate change and mitigate risk (increased natural disaster) - Increase drought - Need to take action before it is too late - Regenerate, restore, repair, reuse, refurbish and recycle - Need a strong focus on greenhouse gas emissions - It's great that council see Climate Change as an emergency and have the foresight to act before it's too late |
| Partnerships and community involvement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn from best practice/what are other Council's and states doing - International leading examples - Partnerships with state government - Local businesses need to be part of the change. - Council needs to take the lead - Collaborate with schools, community, business, industry. - Provide support to the communities affected by climate change and natural disasters |
| Protect natural environment/loss of habitat and wildlife | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The policy does not focus much on protecting natural environment - Protect the environment for future generations - Regeneration of degraded landscape |



| | |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to have objectives for the environment e.g. no clearing of land, habitat destruction - Council needs to take a strong stand and protect what is left of the environment - It is not only the environment that suffers, but people's quality of life |
| Education awareness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education is vital - Council need to employ climate change educators for Council staff and the community. Can't rely on schools and community groups. - transparent, proactive communication - Organisation wide approach and understanding of sustainability, and collaboration and communication with the wider community |
| Policies - change wording/language | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Language is conservative - Climate change urgency - Use simple words - The terms sustainability and sustainable development are being used interchangeably. Question whether they are the same. - Include words such as biodiversity, circular economy - Include carbon sequestering activities as a mitigation activity - Clarification around some of the wordings and terms used - Net Zero definition - Be more practical and not as academic - Growth appears in the sustainability policy many times "sustainable growth" is an oxymoron - growth is unsustainable by definition |
| Social sustainability before economic sustainability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A climate change response that reduces the cost of living, Council rates and projects - Environment to be at the forefront of decision making and before economic gain - Growth and sustainability are not compatible - Grow social, environment and economic resources within our LGA - Build environmental and social connection - Social sustainability to be first, economic sustainability second - Growth is not everything, people value the simpler lifestyle |
| Sustainable development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No more land clearing and estates - Sustainable development measures - Manage population growth |
| Bureaucracy/UN SDG/IPCC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Don't let these policies be watered down - Provide long term advice e.g. insurance companies too expensive or do not insure houses on certain land due to risk of flood or bushfire. Provide alternative advice and options e.g. instead of paying insurance build defences against flood and fire - Need strong governance - Exclude the UN SDG - take a local approach not bureaucracy - IPCC good to align with - Reduce methane from animal agriculture, need to think of impact on local farmers. |
| Aboriginal culture and knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnerships and collaboration with local Biripi people - Learn and listen to local knowledge - Include them in the process - Understand the importance of their cultural practices |



| | |
|---|--|
| Climate change emergency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council need to take a strong stand - Policies to the basis of all decision making - Be proactive for our future generations |
| Increased natural disasters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased natural disasters and impact on local residents/communities/live stock - Increased droughts - Water security |
| Support local economy - regional farming | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support local regional farming and regenerative agriculture - sequestering carbon as a potential business innovation |
| Impact on health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bushfire season, poor air quality - Loss of natural environment - impact on mental health and wellbeing - Growth - creates more stress on people's lives |
| No response provided | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some survey questions had a no given to provide a response |

3.4. Quotes from the open ended questions

PART 1 - DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Survey Question - Quotes

Do you have any comments on the definition of sustainability in the draft Sustainability Policy?

"The outcomes for people, environment and economy". I think economy should be given lesser attention than people and the environment".

"Sustainability should involve making decisions to ensure our community and future generations can experience and live a life as fortunate and with the environmental beauty and longevity that this generation has been lucky enough to have".

Do you have any comments on the objectives for the draft Sustainability Policy?

"..the power of the policy will be in its capacity to promote action and produce results"

"I believe it's important to also include specific mention of biodiversity, circular economy, urban ecology etc".

"I think that a Regenerative focus might envisage not just living within the Planetary limits but also growing social, environment and economic resources within our LGA".

Do you have any comments about these principles? If your comment is specific to a principle, please reference which principle.

"Principle 7 Knowledge and capacity is not merely built. You need explicitly education - of Council staff and the community".

"Principle 4. Improved economic valuation and sustainable economic development. I prefer the term "sustainable economic management", instead of "sustainable economic development" because the latter implies increasing GDP and continual growth of the economy - which is unsustainable because resources are limited".

"The responsibilities and authorities does not mention how the policy will apply to contractors, suppliers, grant recipient or other external parties to council".

Do you think anything is missing from the draft Sustainability Policy?

"More explicit, measurable and data driven goals for environmental protection"



"...include the cost of NOT caring for the environment. Long term valuation essential"

Do you have any further thoughts or comments about the draft Sustainability Policy?

"Social Sustainability should be first, economic sustainability second".

"Sustainable growth" is an oxymoron - growth is unsustainable by definition. You have a forest and put up a Sovereign Hills, and that forest isn't coming back".

"I worry that the policy won't hold much weight unless it is integrated into the IP&R framework".

PART 2 - DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE POLICY

Survey Questions - Quotes

Do you have any comments on the objectives for the draft Climate Change Response Policy?

"It is dangerous to commit to implementing "ANY" government policies and guidelines. We should word the policy to leave some room for adaptation of those policies to our local circumstances.

"There are many reasons. A simple example could be latest push by the IPCC to reduce Methane from animal agriculture. Our region has many farmers and cattle farming is important."

"It is vital that climate change adaptation is a core component of planning decisions - it makes financial and environmental sense. and is morally the right thing to do".

"I agree with most of it but I didn't read anything about keeping what is already here, e.g. trees and land. Stop clearing land."

"Not sure how Council can "achieve" community GHG reduction targets? Doesn't feel like a realistic statement to be included in this policy. Suggest removing "community" from that particular sentence."

Do you have any comments about these principles? If your comment is specific to a principle, please reference which principle.

"Good governance will be aided by following these 5 prudent principles and again, i think all government agencies in all levels of government should be encouraged to adopt them too."

"Precautionary Approach concerns me; we need to act now. Don't let bureaucracy get in the way for our future generations and the environments sake".

"Need to ensure that the principles portray the need for a resilient and long term approach that is both flexible and dynamic".

Do you think anything is missing from the draft Climate Change Response Policy?

"Protection of what is already here. Uncleared land, farmlands and habitats. Stop the new estates. To truly keep the area sustainable, you need to put a halt to the growing population".

"No mention of Net Zero either in the policy text (outside international precedents) or as aspirations for Council's operations or any commitment to carbon neutrality in the short term. A net-zero definition would also be welcome".

"Community, national and global collaboration? There is a lot of information being collated and available."

"Yes. Fiscal responsibility and strive to formulate the Climate Change Response actions in such a way which would reduce the cost of living, council rates and doing business for the community".

**Do you have any further thoughts or comments about the draft Climate Change Response Policy?**

"I hope that this powerful document will be endorsed by Council without being watered down. Our descendants and our environment depend on us to make responsible decisions today".

"sequestering carbon is an area for potential business innovation, and is also a business activity that is already well-underway locally (e.g. sustainable agriculture)"

"As with sustainability, I feel it is too academic an approach. More practical ways of responding to climate change are needed, I feel".

"We need to be moving forward with our First Nations brothers and sisters in this venture....their people and culture is owed much, and they also hold many understandings which have the potential to assist and support the process, not least in relation to their understanding that we are all a part of the natural world....and that what happens to our world and our planet, also happens to us and the rest of life!"

4. RESULTS/CONCLUSION

The feedback was overall supportive of both the policies and respondents are happy to see Council implementing objectives and principles with the aim to address sustainability and climate change.

Respondents made some suggestions for minor changes to the wording of the principles and objectives and indicated that they felt the policies needed to be more practical and that more definitions would be helpful. Also, the policies should incorporate performance indicators for implementation, monitoring and evaluation. It was suggested that Council needs to take a transparent proactive approach to educate Council staff and the community. They feel it is critical to make sure local businesses are included in the discussion and have access to resources. There is an opportunity to include First Nation perspectives, knowledge and practices to achieve the policies. In addition, would like to see Council taking actions to learn from best practice national and international sustainability practices and collaborate with other Councils.

There is a view from some respondents that growth and sustainability cannot work together, and are concerned that the existing environment and habitat will not be protected. Feedback indicated they would like to see these policies used as the baseline for any Council decisions and planning.

Respondents indicated they value the environment before economic and regional growth, there was doubt from the respondents around how we be able to meet our objectives if growth is still the main focus. People would like to see Council taking a stronger stance to stop unsustainable development such as land clearing and estates, as they believe from the recent development not many measures have been taken to protect or restore the natural environment, including trees, habitat and wildlife.

Overall all feedback was supportive of the policies, and felt the objectives and principles set a great direction for Council and our Local Government Area. Collaboration and partnerships - support from the community and local businesses to work together to achieve better outcomes for the Port Macquarie-Hastings Region - were identified as being key to the success of these policies.

5. NEXT STEPS

Further consultation input will be gathered from the Sustainability Sub-Committee on the issues raised from the survey feedback to assist with the preparation of the final policies for Council's consideration. A report with recommendations will be put forward to Council on 13 October 2021.



6. APPENDIX 1 - ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK

6.1. Have Your Say - Public Exhibition Survey

PART 1 - DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

3. Do you have any comments on the **definition of sustainability** in the draft Sustainability Policy?

Please add your comment here...

4. Do you have any comments on the **objectives** for the draft Sustainability Policy?

Please add your comment here...

Sustainability Principles

The draft Policy outlines the following 9 sustainability principles:

1. Intergenerational Equity
2. Social equity, wellbeing and inclusion
3. Conservation of Biological Diversity and Ecological Integrity
4. Improved economic valuation and sustainable economic development
5. Integrated and Responsible Decision-Making
6. Risk mitigation, evidence-based governance and observing the precautionary principle
7. Leadership and Collaboration
8. Innovation and Continual Improvement
9. Think Global, Act Local

5. Do you have any comments about these **principles**? If your comment is specific to a principle, please reference which principle.

Please add your comment here...

6. Do you think anything is missing from the draft Sustainability Policy?

Please add your comment here...

7. Do you have any further thoughts or comments about the draft Sustainability Policy?

Please add your comment here...

**PART 2 - DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE POLICY**

8. Do you have any comments on the **objectives** for the draft Climate Change Response Policy?

Please add your comment here...

Policy Principles

The draft Policy outlines the following 5 principles in its response to climate change:

1. Precautionary Approach
2. Evidence-based Decision-making
3. Adaptive and Integrated Management Approach
4. Collaborative and Capacity-building Approach
5. Risk Mitigation and Management

9. Do you have any comments about these **principles**? If your comment is specific to a principle, please reference which principle.

Please add your comment here...

10. Do you think anything is missing from the draft Climate Change Response Policy?

Please add your comment here...

11. Do you have any further thoughts or comments about the draft Climate Change Response Policy?

Please add your comment here...

**6.2. Survey feedback****6.3. All Data**

Please see the attached PDF for all open ended responses.

6.4. Draft Climate Change Response Policy

Code frame for the Climate Change Response policy.

When "n=XX" is referenced in the report this refers to number of counts.

| Draft Climate Change Response Policy Code frame open ended responses | | |
|---|---|-------|
| Themes | Main comments/topic of discussion | Count |
| Supportive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General support for the policy and no further comments. - Great that Council is taking these steps - Shows that Council is committed to making a difference | 39 |
| Policy to be adaptable/ accountable/ measurable/ reportable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The policy needs to be adaptable to respond to changing impacts of climate change - Continue to align with peer-reviewed climate science - Climate change adaptation planning decisions - How will the policy and principles be implemented? Need more detail - How will GHG reduction targets be achieved - Needs a vision statement or align to CSP - Resilient and long term approach that is both flexible and dynamic - A scoring or scale system for reporting the impact of Council projects - No mention of Net Zero either in the policy text (outside international precedents) or as aspirations for Council's operations or any commitment to carbon neutrality in the short term - Have reference to climate temperatures - Make as the baseline for all decision making across Council - It is critical that Council bases its decisions on accurate, peer-reviewed climate science and is guided by the advice of international experts in the climate field. The inclusion of the community in the Council's climate mitigation journey via the development of a target for greenhouse gas emissions reduction is appreciated and it is a fantastic opportunity for broader community education on this issue. It is vital that climate change adaptation is a core component of planning decisions - it makes financial and environmental sense. Morally the right thing to do. | 36 |



| | | |
|---|---|----|
| Respond to Climate Change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to adapt to climate change and mitigate risk (increased natural disaster) - Increase drought - Need to take action before it is too late - Regenerate, restore, repair, reuse, refurbish and recycle - It's great that council see Climate Change as an emergency and have the foresight to act before it's too late | 19 |
| Policies - change wording/language | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Language is conservative - Climate change urgency - Use simple words | 17 |
| Partnerships and community involvement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn from best practice/what are other Council's and states doing - International leading examples - Partnerships with state government - Local businesses need to be part of the change - Council needs to take the lead - Collaborate with schools | 13 |
| Protect natural environment/loss of habitat and wildlife | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The policy does not focus much on protecting natural environment - Protect what is already here | 12 |
| Education awareness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education is vital - Council need to employ climate change educators for Council staff and the community. Can't rely on schools and community groups. - Proactive approach | 12 |
| Sustainable development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No more land clearing and estates - Sustainable development measures - Manage population growth | 4 |
| Bureaucracy/UN SDG/IPCC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Don't let these policies be watered down - Provide long term advice e.g. insurance companies too expensive or do not insure houses on certain land due to risk of flood or bushfire. Provide alternative advice and options e.g. instead of paying insurance build defences against flood and fire - Need strong governance - IPCC good to align with - Reduce methane from animal agriculture, need to think of impact on local farmers. | 5 |
| Aboriginal culture and knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnerships and collaboration with local Biripi people - Learn and listen to local knowledge - Include them in the process - Understand the importance of their cultural practices | 3 |
| Climate change emergency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council need to take a strong stand - Policies to the basis of all decision making | 8 |



| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| | - Be proactive for our future generations | |
| Increased natural disasters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased natural disasters and impact on local residents/communities/live stock - Increased droughts - Water security | 2 |
| Impact on health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bushfire season, poor air quality - Loss of natural environment - impact on mental health and wellbeing - Growth - creates more stress on people's lives | 1 |

6.5. Draft Sustainability Policy

Code frame for the Draft Sustainability policy.

When "n=XX" is referenced in the report this refers to number of counts.

| | Draft Sustainability Policy – Code frame | |
|--|---|-------|
| Themes | Main comments/topics raised | Count |
| Supportive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General support for the policy and no further comments. | 49 |
| Policy to be adaptable/accountability/ measures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policies to be part of the IP&R framework - provides clarity on where sustainability would sit - Goals need to be more specific, how will these be achieved - The nine sustainability principles should be used for all Council decision making - How will the policy apply to contractors, suppliers, grant recipients or other external parties - Reporting measures to be accountable - Council to adopt a no growth strategy and address sustainability and climate issues | 38 |
| Policies - change wording/language | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The terms sustainability and sustainable development are being used interchangeably. Question whether they are the same. - Include words such as biodiversity, circular economy, urban economy - Clarification around some of the wordings and terms used - Net Zero definition - Be more practical and not as academic - Growth appears in the sustainability policy many times "sustainable growth" is an oxymoron - growth is unsustainable by definition | 17 |
| Protect natural environment/loss of habitat and wildlife | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect the environment for future generations - Regeneration of degraded landscape - Need to have objectives for the environment e.g. no clearing of land, habitat destruction - Council needs to take a strong stand and protect what is left of the environment - It is not only the environment that suffers, but | 18 |



| | | |
|---|--|----|
| | peoples quality of life | |
| Social sustainability before economic sustainability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environment to be at the forefront of decision making and before economic gain - Growth and sustainability are not compatible - Grow social, environment and economic resources within our LGA - Build environmental and social connection - Social sustainability to be first, economic sustainability second - Growth is not everything, people value the simpler lifestyle | 19 |
| Respond to Climate Change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need a strong focus on greenhouse gas emissions - Council need to take a strong stand - Policies to the basis of all decision making - Be proactive for our future generations - Net Zero definition - Commitment to carbon neutrality in the short term | 18 |
| Education awareness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation wide approach and understanding of sustainability, and collaboration and communication with the wider community - Council has a vital role to play in the education of all Council staff and the wider community | 10 |
| Sustainable development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no issue with this as a definition, it is very similar to the internationally recognised definition for sustainable development in Brundtland Report | 12 |
| Partnerships and community involvement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide support to the communities affected by climate change and natural disasters - If Council truly intends for the community to enact behaviour change to reduce climate change, there must be education taking place | 9 |
| Aboriginal culture and knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council needs to work with local Biripi people - Need to listen and learn from local Biripi people | 5 |
| United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exclude the UN SDG - take a local approach not bureaucracy - It's a very comprehensive list of principles. I like the way it draws on the UN SDGs. | 4 |
| Support local economy - regional farming | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support local farming practices - sequestering carbon for potential business innovation that is already well-underway locally (e.g. sustainable agriculture) | 5 |
| Impact on health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bushfire season, poor air quality - Loss of natural environment - impact on mental health and wellbeing - Growth - creates more stress on people's lives | 1 |
| Increased natural disasters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased natural disasters and impact on local residents/communities/live stock | 1 |

**7. APPENDIX 2 - DEMOGRAPHICS****7.1. Age**

| Age | |
|---------|---|
| 26-35 | 2 |
| 36-45 | 7 |
| 46-55 | 6 |
| 56-65 | 2 |
| Over 65 | 3 |

7.2. Gender

| Gender | |
|--------|----|
| male | 9 |
| female | 11 |

7.3. Suburb

| Suburb | |
|-----------------------|----|
| PORT MACQUARIE NSW | 10 |
| PORT MACQUARIE BC NSW | 2 |
| BEECHWOOD NSW | 2 |
| LAKE CATHIE NSW | 2 |
| LIGHTHOUSE BEACH NSW | 2 |
| The Hatch | 1 |
| PIPECLAY NSW | 1 |



8. APPENDIX 3 - COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

8.1. Have Your Say - project webpage

Draft Sustainability Policy and Draft Climate Change Response Policy

Consultation has concluded

Council's Sustainability Framework

Council is currently developing a Sustainability Framework which is designed to create a culture of sustainable practice in our organisation that will help us address significant future challenges, such as climate change and ensure accountability for sustainable outcomes.

The Sustainability Framework sits at the highest level in Council's Strategic Planning to ensure that sustainability is considered in all Council strategies and action plans.

Council takes a quadruple-bottom line approach to sustainability and recognises that a balance must be achieved between the four areas of Sustainability as shown in the diagram below:



Sustainability refers to a continual way of thinking that focuses on the best outcomes for people, environment and the economy both now and in the future all within the framework of transparent and accountable leadership and decision-making.

Draft Sustainability Policy

A key element of the Sustainability Framework is Council's commitment to Sustainability which is described in Council's Sustainability Policy which has now been drafted in collaboration with Council's Sustainability Advisory Sub-Committee.

The draft Sustainability Policy:

- Includes a proposed definition of sustainability;
- Identifies the role of the Sustainability Framework in Council's operations and the roles and responsibilities of Councillors and Council staff;
- Defines the four Sustainability Pillars which address the Quadruple Bottom Line elements of sustainability;
- Outlines the Principles Council will follow in its planning and day-to-day operations

REGISTER to get involved!**Who's listening**

Sandra Wallace

strategic projects manager



Phone 0581 8111

Email sandra.wallace@pmhc.nsw.gov.au**Document Library**

- [Draft PMHC Sustainability Policy \(288 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Draft PMHC Climate Change Policy \(172 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Council Report 04 August 2021 - Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Response Policies \(178 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)

Lifecycle

- **Report to Council - 8th August 2021**
- **Public Exhibition Open - 26th August 2021**
- **Under Review**
Public submissions and results of the survey are considered and reflected in the final Policies as appropriate.
- **Final Report to Council**
The finalised Policies will be presented to Council for adoption.



Draft Climate Change Response Policy

At the March 17 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved to declare a Climate Emergency. The Climate Change Response Policy, which has been drafted in collaboration with Council's Sustainability Advisory Sub-Committee, is the first in a range of actions that Council will take to develop a comprehensive and integrated response to climate change.

The draft Climate Change Response Policy articulates Council's commitment to respond to climate change through meaningful actions that:

- Reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions;
- Facilitate and support an LGA-wide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and;
- Help Council and the community adapt to the projected impacts of climate change.

We are looking for your feedback on the draft Policies

You are invited to review the draft Sustainability Policy and draft Climate Change Response Policy and provide your feedback. There are a number of ways you can have your say:

- **Take our survey** to provide any feedback you may have relating to the draft Policies
- Make a submission by:
 - Emailing council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au
 - Writing to The Chief Executive Officer, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, PO Box 84, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

The draft Policies are on public exhibition for 28 days from **Thursday 5 August to Wednesday 1 September**.

Next Steps

Following the public exhibition period, we will review and consider community feedback before finalising the Policies. A summary of the survey responses and all submissions received will be reported to a Council meeting for consideration prior to the draft Policies being finalised and reported to Council.

8.2. Social Media





8.3. Media Article - Port News

<https://www.portnews.com.au/story/7384282/council-committed-to-sustainability-and-climate-change-response/>

2 Your Community Life

What we are trying to achieve

A healthy, inclusive and vibrant community.

What the result will be

We will have:

- Community hubs that provide access to services and social connections
- A safe, caring and connected community
- A healthy and active community that is supported by recreational infrastructure
- A strong community that is able to identify and address social issues
- Community participation in events, programs, festivals and activities

How we will get there

- 2.1 Create a community that feels safe
- 2.2 Advocate for social inclusion and fairness
- 2.3 Provide quality programs, community facilities and public spaces, for example, community halls, parks and vibrant town centres
- 2.4 Empower the community through encouraging active involvement in projects, volunteering and events
- 2.5 Promote a creative and culturally rich community

Wauchope and surrounds community in collaboration with



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL

Wauchope & surrounds



C O M M U N I T Y P L A N

September 2021

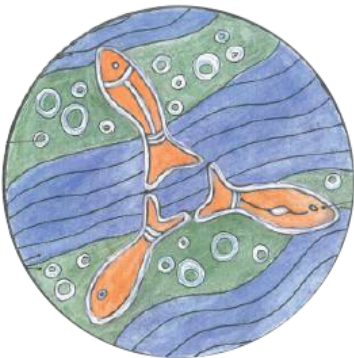


FOREWORD

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The Wauchope community acknowledges the Birpai people as the traditional custodians of the land. We pay our respects to Elders both past and present and extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Bunyah Local Aboriginal Land Council is the custodian of the land and waterways in the Wauchope area.



FROM THE MAYOR, PETA PINSON

I am delighted to present the Wauchope Community Plan, which sets out the vision, goals and priorities for improving the quality of life for the residents of the Wauchope area for the next five to ten years. This Community Plan reflects the community's aspirations to create a vibrant and positive community who values and enjoys a peaceful rural lifestyle, while offering visitors an opportunity to experience the beauty of the natural environment and local village life. The safety and connectedness of the community is key for residents, as is increased facilities for the wider community to be able to enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle.



FROM THE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE COMMUNITY-COUNCIL ACTION TEAM

The Wauchope community enjoys a rural village lifestyle, while being close enough to access facilities and services in nearby Port Macquarie. The community appreciates the opportunity to be involved in developing their very own unique Community Plan that has enabled us to identify what we love about our place and how we can make our region even better.

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PROJECTS..... 40

O U R

The Vision for Wauchope was created in September - December 2019 through community input via surveys, meetings and consultations. The community of Wauchope values the unique history and heritage of their town, they strive to live sustainably in a changing climate and to protect and preserve the surrounding natural environment.

The continued development of Wauchope as a unique, vibrant, activated, safe and connected destination is essential to ensure continued future growth of the region.

WAUCHOPE IS THE HEART OF THE HASTINGS WITH A PROUD LOCAL COMMUNITY WHO PRESERVES AND CELEBRATES ITS LONG HISTORY WHILE EMBRACING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM, EVENTS AND INITIATIVES THAT ATTRACT VISITORS AND GROW OUR INCLUSIVE, CONNECTED COMMUNITY.



WHAT IS COMMUNITY PLANNING?

The Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area is home to a number of vibrant towns, villages and communities, each with its own unique history, character, urban amenity, community and vision for their future. These communities also have common threads in their past and present and the opportunities and challenges that each will face in their future.

At the heart of Community Planning is a dynamic and participatory process that allows communities to have their voice heard and enables them to identify priorities and actions to achieve their vision - the responsibility of which will be shared between the community and Council.

A Community Plan is developed through a partnership between Council and the community producing a 5 to 10 year plan for future investments.

This Plan is a community-led blueprint and highlights what is special or unique about the area and reflects the aspirations, strengths and vision that the community has for its future. It also identifies key priorities and actions to achieve the community's vision.

Ongoing Community Planning is seen as the key to developing a strong partnership between Council and the community to:

- Understand what our communities value;
- Understand the issues and priorities for each community;
- Better incorporate these priorities into Council's planning framework;
- Work together to deliver the identified priorities.

The Wauchope Community Plan evolved from:

- An online and postcard survey in July 2019
- Two Council-coordinated Think Tank workshops at which community members identified and prioritised values, issues and opportunities for Wauchope now and in the future.



In September 2019, a Community-Council Action Team (CCAT) was formed to further develop the Community Plan and to prioritise and ensure delivery of the identified actions. The CCAT was made up of representatives from Motorcycle Friendly Wauchope, Wauchope Community Arts, Wauchope Chamber of Commerce and the broader community.

With thanks to: Wendy Hee, Stephen Healy, Thomas Dowding, Lisa McPherson, Jenny Pursehouse, Deb Murrell and Catherine Picton.



COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

Postcard Survey

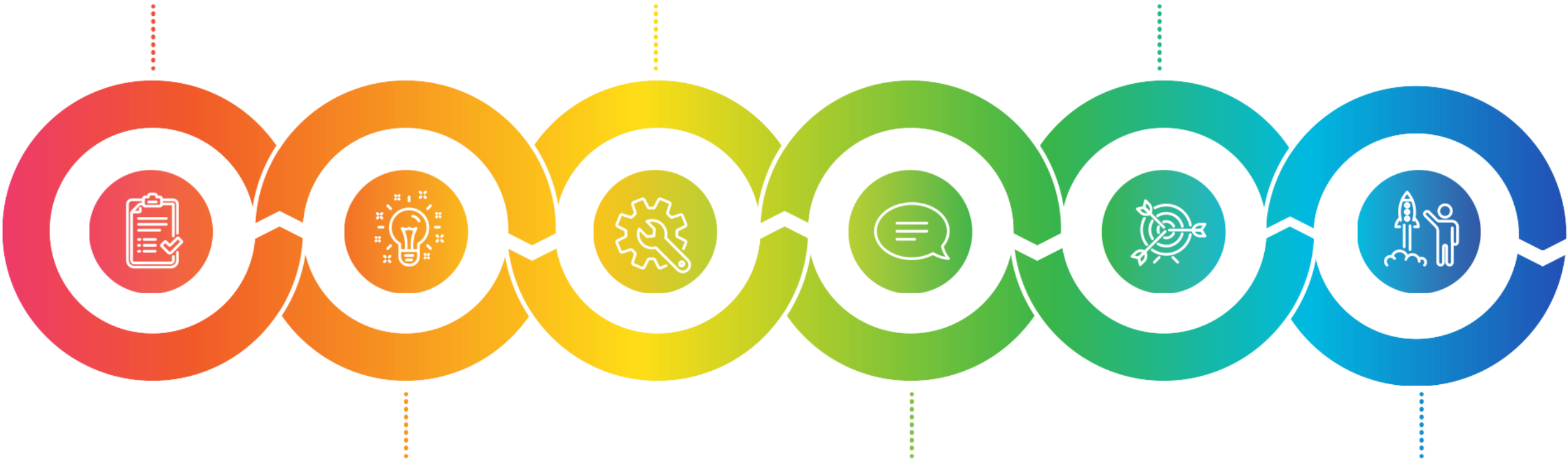
Postcards delivered to every household in the community.
This is your chance to Have Your Say on what is important for the future of your area. Complete the survey to send us your big ideas.

Community-Council Action Team and Development of Draft Community Plan and Action Plan

If you are passionate about your community and would like to be a part of the Community Planning process, join the Community-Council Action Team (CCAT) to develop a Community Plan specific to your area and prioritise and scope the actions identified at the Community Think Tanks.

Community Plan and Action Plan Endorsement by Council

This is the final step in making your Community Plan official by having it reported through to Council.



Community Think Tank

Council holds a series of Community Think Tanks and Pop-Up sessions.
Come along and join us to develop a vision for your community and identify key actions you would like to see delivered.

Community Consultation

This is the opportunity for the broader community to provide feedback on the draft Community and Action Plans developed by the Community-Council Action Team.

Delivery of the Action Plan

The Community Council Action Team continues to work on the delivery on the actions identified and prioritised by the community.



WELCOME TO WAUCHOPE

Wauchope is a town perched on the picturesque banks of the beautiful Hastings River in the Port Macquarie-Hastings region, it is located 4 hours' drive north of Sydney on the NSW Mid North Coast.

Wauchope is a friendly rural town attracting visitors with everything from its delightful rural charm and laid-back locals to its intriguing heritage and surrounding wilderness. Wauchope is a short drive west of stunning beaches and surrounded by rolling farmland. It's an ideal starting point for scenic drives to the UNESCO World Heritage listed Gondwana Rainforests of Australia; or take in the scenery from the Wilson River picnic area then make your way through to temperate rainforest on the Waterfall Walk in the Willi Willi National Park.

Wauchope is proud to be acknowledged as the first Motorcycle Friendly Town in NSW - it is a gateway to some of the state's best riding roads and attracts two-wheeled enthusiasts who ride along the Oxley Highway between Wauchope and Walcha through Cottan-Bimbang National Park. Why not map out a route to the ancient Red Bloodwood tree 'Old Bottlebutt', or to Rawson Falls walk and Ellenborough Falls, one of the highest single-drop falls in the Southern Hemisphere?

Explore Timbertown, a hands-on heritage theme park that opened in 1976. Experience what it was like to live as a pioneer, ride a steam train, watch blacksmiths and timber craftsmen at work, and pan for gold at Cedar Creek, a replica goldfield.

Make a beeline for Bago Vineyards and Maze for locally produced wine, cheese, handmade chocolates and family fun. The cellar door is a 15 minute drive southwest of Wauchope and close to Bago Bluff National Park.

The local community is made up of a number of active organisations and groups including Wauchope Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Wauchope Community Arts, Lions Club, Apex, Creative Wauchope, Riding for the Disabled, Rotary Club, Country Women's Association (CWA), Men's Shed, Patchwork Quilters, Swimming, Rugby, District Historical Society, Show Ground Society, Girl Guides, Scouts, Rural Fire Service (RFS) and many more.



HISTORIC MILESTONES OF WAUCHOPE

For tens of thousands of years, before the arrival of Europeans, the Birpai Aborigines claim this heavily-timbered land as their home.

1818 - John Oxley passed through the area of what was later know as Wauchope in September/October and named the river and Rawdon Island for Lord Francis Rawdon Hastings, Governor General of India, Commander-in-Chief and Colonial Administrator from 1813 to 1823.

1820 - Cedar was being exploited by timber cutters in the district.

1822 - Rawdon Island established as a convict cultivated sugar plantation on a government farm.

1830 - William, son of Reverend John Cross (Rector of St Thomas' Church) was granted 1920 acres west of Yeppin Yeppin, he called his property 'Crosslands'.

1836 - Captain Robert Andrew Wauch (whose father dropped the 'ope' from the end of his name as a result of a family dispute) paid a deposit on 760 acres (3.1 km²) on King Creek. He called this property 'Wauchope' and it was on this property that the town first came into existence.

1842 - Official opening of the Wool Road (now known as Oxley Highway)

1860 - Richard Meares planted fifty of his acres with sugar cane, built a sophisticated sugar mill and installed the latest sugar

processing machinery on the southern bank of the Hastings River, the largest in New South Wales. The Colonial Refining Sugar Co, founded in 1855, recognises Richard Meares as founding the commercial sugar industry in New South Wales.

1865 - The first raft of Red Cedar timber was floated down from Llanthony by Thomas Browning.

1868 - Wauchope Provisional School opened in a slab building built by the parents just south of the southwest corner of High and Cameron Street.

1868 - Rawdon Island Roman Catholic Church, erected by residents on the Rawdon Villa sugar plantation, was dedicated in 1869 by Father Coghlan as the St James Church. This was the first Roman Catholic Church built in the Port Macquarie-Hastings Region. Closed in December 1976 and donated to the Wauchope Historical Society by the Port Macquarie Parish, it now belongs to the Wauchope District Historical Society (WDHS) and stands beside Timbertown, the oldest building in the Port Macquarie-Hastings District.



Remains of
Cameron Street Wharf



Pavillion in Bain Park

First swimming baths built at Rocks Ferry in 1910. Photo Circa 1949



1870 - Queen's Wharf, named for Queen Victoria, was built by Thomas Wallace, a local store owner at the bottom of Cameron Street. It was used to ship timber and agricultural products from Wauchope to Port Macquarie and then shipped onto Sydney.

1880 - Wallace built another wharf, doubled the size of his riverside shop (which later became Wauchope's first official Post Receiving Office) and built a butcher's shop, saddlery, cobbler shop and blacksmith forge. By this time 600 bullock teams were operating hauling timber in the area.

1881 - Henry Kendall is appointed as the first Inspector of Forests in NSW.

1885 - Only four years after opening the first telephone exchange in Sydney, a public phone was installed in Wauchope and then extended to Beechwood two years later.

1887 - The first Wauchope Post Office was opened. Due to an error it was recorded as 'Wanchope' then changed to 'Wanghope' after community complaint. On February 21, 1892, it was officially changed to Wauchope.

1889 - Wauchope Park was proclaimed a Recreational Area and later became known as Bain Park.

1890 - George Johnson established the town's first timber mill in what is now Bain Street. When the mill was being built they dug up the bones of an elder of the King Creek Tribe, who had his nose shorn off by a boomerang during a fight at a Corroboree at Beechwood in 1841. This mill was later moved to Sancrox.

1892 - The first Wauchope butter factory was built on the Hastings on Rocks Ferry Road. The factory was destroyed by fire in 1904, and the butter processing moved to the Wauchope owned Port Macquarie factory until the new factory was erected. The present heritage listed Dairy Factory came into production in 1917.

1895 - Wauchope School of Arts opened.

1896 - The first ferry punt on the Hastings was from Queen's Wharf for the mail run between the Manning and the Macleay; it was also used by travellers until it washed away in a flood in 1900.



1906 - The Provisional Hastings Shire Council was appointed, the first meeting of which took place in Grant's Hall Wauchope. Amongst its first actions were to ask sulkies not to drive on the footpath, that bullockies not leave chains and yokes in the streets and a motion to lay girders as kerb and guttering.

1907 - Bain Bridge, the first bridge over the Hastings River was opened.

1910 - First Wauchope Show held at the showground.

1910 - Wauchope's first swimming baths with shark-proof netting in the Hastings River at Rocks Ferry. After it was washed away in a flood, another was built below today's Jack Dwyer Reserve in 1930. The present Olympic Memorial Pool was opened on 1 February 1958 with the entrance facing Bain Street.

1912 - Bain Park Memorial Gates unveiled at the entrance of Bain Park in memory of Duncan Bain for his services as a public benefactor and patriot.

1915 - Arrival of the North Coast railway and opening of the Wauchope Railway Station. It was the terminus of the line until it was extended to Kempsey in 1917.

1923 - The first Wauchope Surf Lifesavers Club established at Nobby's Beach in Port Macquarie.

1928 - The Oxley Highway commenced construction (completed in 1935). In the past it has been referred to as the New England and followed part of the old Wool Road, so named because the teamsters brought the wool down this road from the New England.

1938 - The palm trees were planted in Wallace Street, funded by donations from the public to honour soldiers from the First World War.

1947 - Wauchope-Bonny Hills Surf Lifesaving Club established.

1959/73 - Sydney Opera House timber and ply supplied from the Wauchope and Yarras Mills.

1973 - Work began on the creation of Timbertown, a heritage based re-creation of a colonial era working timber settlement.

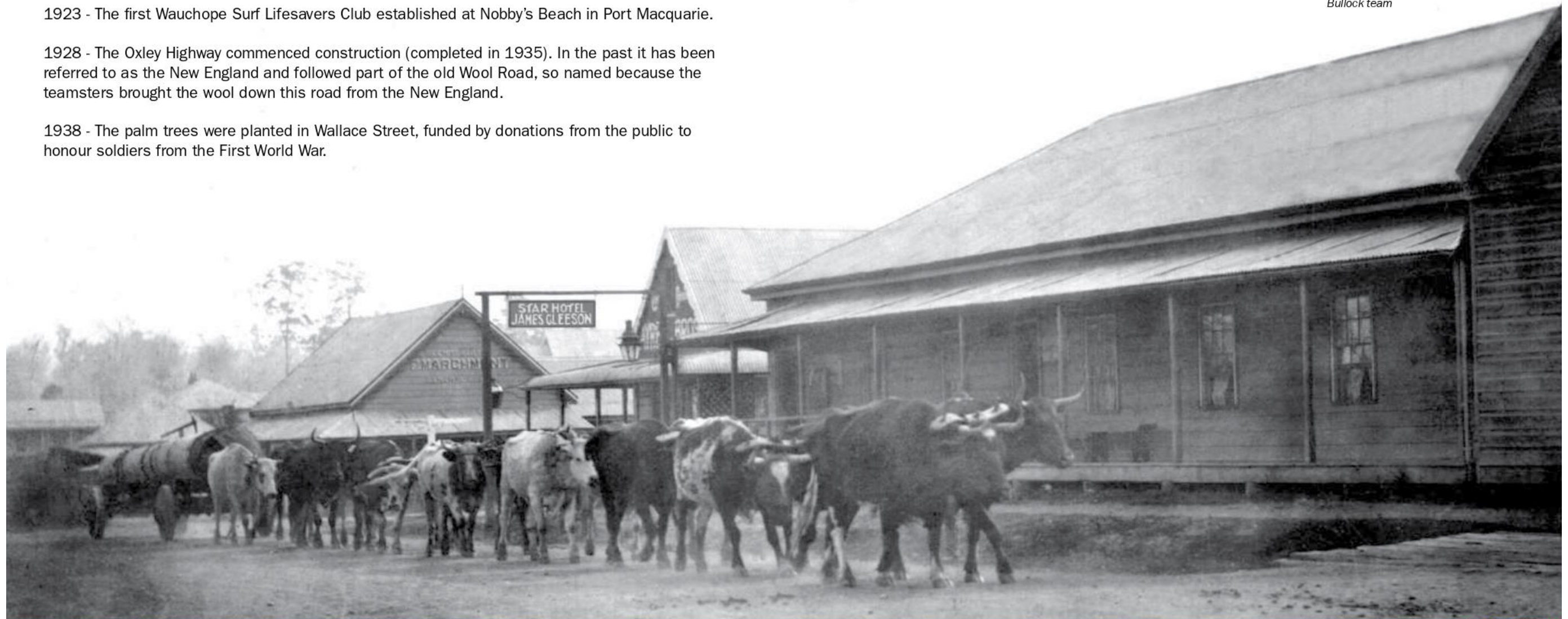
1977 - Sir Roden Cutler officially opens Timbertown.

1985 - Rocks Ferry Bridge opens.

1989 - Billabong Zoo: Koala & Wildlife Park opened to the public. Featuring a wide variety of Australian and exotic animals, it is now most widely known as a successful breeding centre for koalas.

2016 - Wauchope launched an initiative to become "A Motorcycle Friendly Town" embracing the many riders that make the trek between Wauchope and Walcha, a well known route for motorcycle enthusiasts.

Bullock team



COMMUNITY PROFILE

PLACE

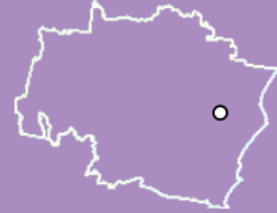
CONNECTION



Home to the Birpai
people for over

40,000
years

LOCATION



Wauchope is inland on the Hastings River
and the Oxley Highway 19km west of
Port Macquarie and 406km
north of Sydney.

EVENTS

Farmers markets



Lasiandra Festival



Moto Fest



Wauchope Show



FACILITIES



Community halls



Parks and playgrounds



Showground



PEOPLE

POPULATION

9,003

people live in Wauchope and
surrounding communities*



FAMILIES

2,423

families live in Wauchope and
surrounding communities*

Wauchope

King Creek

Crosslands

Rosewood

Yippin Creek

Huntingdon

Bago

ABORIGINAL

6.6%

Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islanders*

POPULATION GROWTH
IN WAUCHOPE

6,700 in 2020
8,895 in 2036

An increase of **15.5%**

DEMOGRAPHICS

The median age of people in
Wauchope is

43
years

13%
are aged between 10 & 19 years

24%
are aged over 65



EMPLOYMENT

People who reported being in the
labour force, aged 15 years and
over

Away from work 6.2%

Unemployed 9.4%



Worked part-time
32.6%

Worked full-time
51.9%

* Wauchope and surrounding communities including King Creek, Crosslands, Yippin Creek, Huntingdon, Bago and Rosewood

Information used has been sourced from 2016 Census of Population and Housing:
Australian Bureau of Statistics and Forecast ID



FUTURE FOCUS

- Strive to become an active exemplar of how a community can thrive in a changing climate.
- Actively support our young people by advocating for youth facilities, programs and support services in our community.
- Continued activation of Wauchope to attract new business operators and new events.
- The creation of a series of resources (including information/tourist boards and a Wauchope ‘app’) to increase visitation, promote local events and attractions and formally acknowledge local Aboriginal history and culture.
- The creation of a connected and safe community with increased footpaths, cycle ways, maintained roads and a good public transport service.



COMMUNITY VIEWS

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT LIVING WHERE YOU DO?

Scenic bush and mountains.

Peaceful, rural, close to two highways, conveniently close to sea, mountains and forest.

The bird varieties and quiet streets.

Small, friendly, welcoming community with a great history and vibrant shopping.

Caring community. Personal service, place to call home - peace.

Small town "feel", proximity to coast.

It's home. Has everything I need or want.

Friendly community, low housing cost, low High Street rent.

The friendliness - helpful folk. Easy to get around. Great shopping.

Easy access to shops and facilities.

WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE YOU BELONG TO YOUR COMMUNITY?

People waving as they walk past.

Meeting people down the street (at the shops) and having a chat. Being a part of community groups.

My extended family is here, plus many of my friends.

Being recognised around town. Local businesses treat customers like old friends.

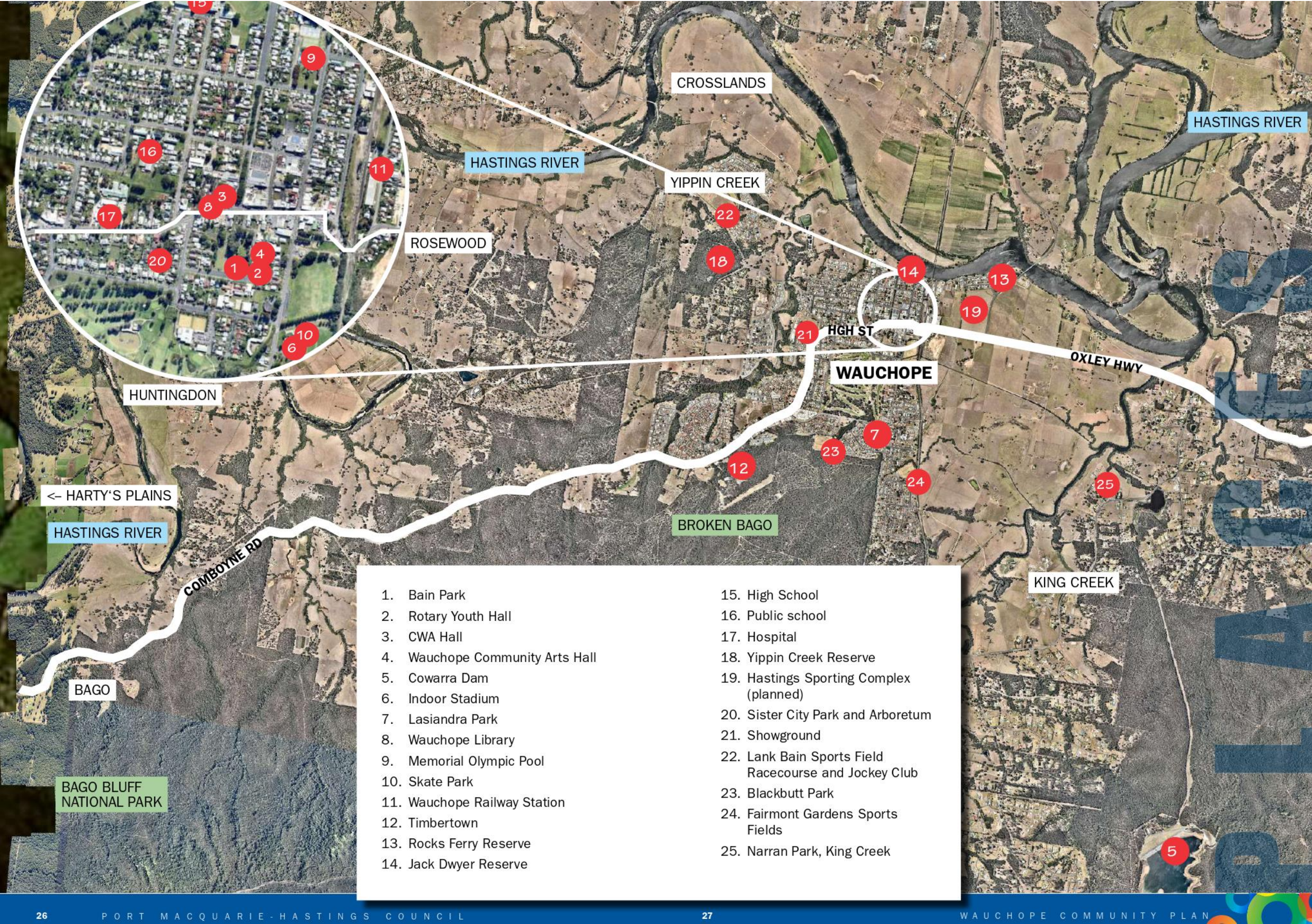
Plenty of generous community participation. Community spirit. Classless society.

Long-term residency in area. Knowing lots of people.

Wauchope Arts Council, shade trees. Free community spaces.

The friendliness in businesses - the street. Knowing all the services are here. Great supportive people.

24 PORT MACQUARIE - HASTINGS COUNCIL 25 WAUCHOPE COMMUNITY PLAN

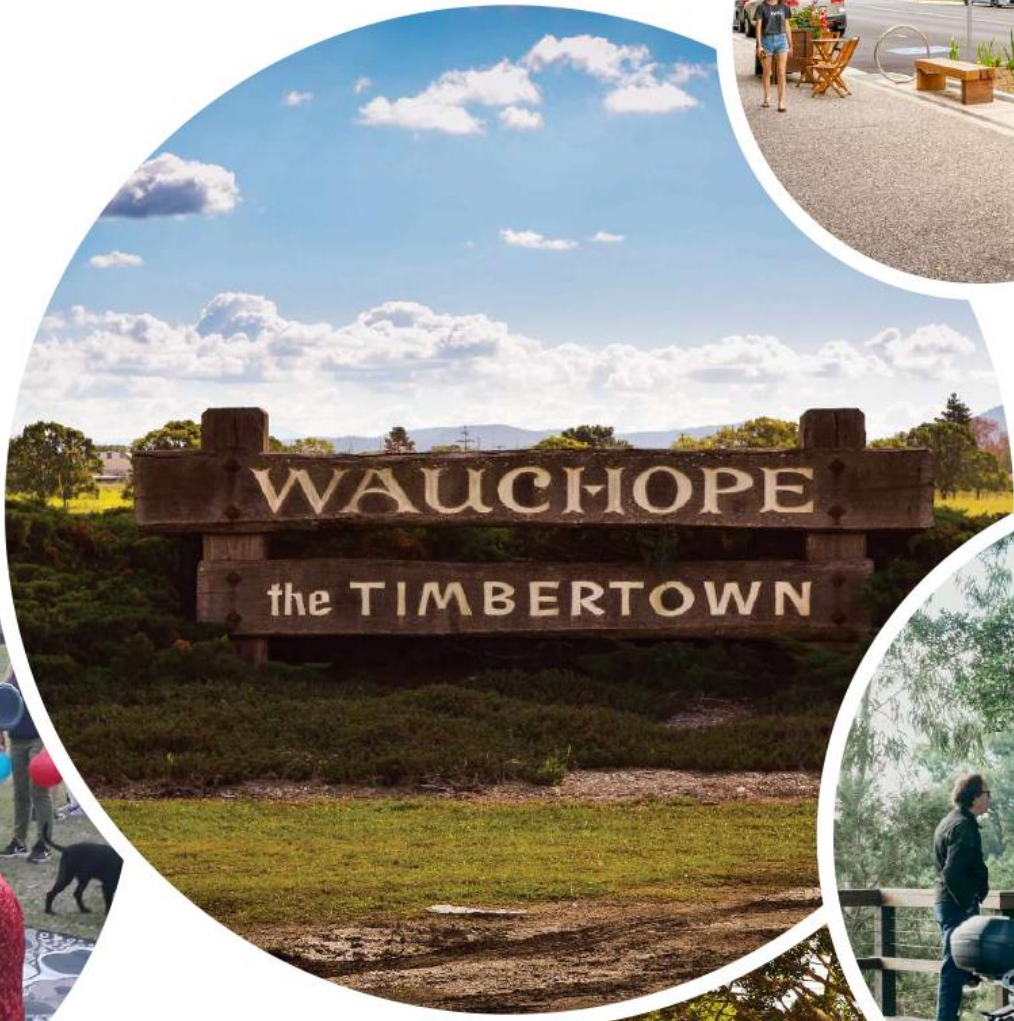


GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

The vision for the Wauchope region indicates that residents enjoy their rural country lifestyle, which is located close to amenities and not far from stunning natural environments including National Parks, reserves, rivers and beaches. The community values its long history while looking to the future to grow tourism and events and attract visitors in a mindful and sustainable way.

The goals encompassed in this vision are:

- 1. Friendly Wauchope/We live in a safe and connected community
- 2. Activate Wauchope
- 3. Vibrant tourism and culture/Visit Wauchope
- 4. Sustaining Wauchope in a changing climate
- 5. Moving around
- 6. Sound planning and infrastructure



The following Action Plan summarises the priorities identified for the community and were derived from community requests and subsequent considerations by the CCAT.





OBJECTIVE 1.1: TO ENSURE WE LIVE, MOVE AROUND AND CONNECT IN A SAFE COMMUNITY

ACTION 1.1.1: Conduct a footpath and street lighting audit identifying locations for upgrade and new infrastructure (noting a requirement for continuous, shared footpath to Timbertown from the CBD and connectivity from existing and planned sporting fields to residential areas and main roads).

ACTION 1.1.2: Establish a steering group to attract youth mental health services (in a permanent or outreach capacity), create a youth council and youth volunteer organization, and secure a location for a youth hub to increase activities and support for young people.

ACTION 1.1.3: Identify additional formal car parking options and opportunities to convert or increase length of stay for informal parking in the CBD.

ACTION 1.1.4: Investigate the inclusion of youth mental health services such as 'Headspace,' in Wauchope.

ACTION 1.1.5: Investigate the establishment of a youth volunteer organisation and local youth council.

ACTION 1.1.6: Work with Council, schools and service providers to ensure an increase in activities and facilities for young people, such as a youth drop-in centre with staff and programming.

ACTION 1.1.7: Investigate a safe location for the installation of a netted swimming area in the Hastings River near Jack Dwyer Reserve or Rocks Ferry Reserve.

ACTION 1.1.8: Advocate for permanent community-access facilities for community groups to meet and connect including disadvantaged groups.

ACTION 1.1.9: Meet with library staff to discuss extending opening hours and increasing diversity of library events and technology offerings (such as author talks, courses, tech rooms and 3D printing).

ACTION 1.1.10: Raise funds for, or seek partnerships to provide a free community bus service to connect people to key locations (such as medical precincts, youth services, activities and recreational spaces) within and outside of Wauchope.

ACTION 1.1.11: Advocate for upgraded hospital facilities and services in Wauchope that complement existing services.

ACTION 1.1.12: Meet with local Police command to discuss increasing police presence after hours and to address residents' concerns over safety.





OBJECTIVE 2.1: TO ENSURE OUR REGION IS A VIBRANT DESTINATION FOR VISITORS AND HAS ACTIVATED PLACES AND SPACES FOR RESIDENTS.

ACTION 2.1.1: Continue to build on the Motorcycle and RV Friendly Town initiative by providing motorcycle parking in the CBD, and an RV park to attract visitors to town.

ACTION 2.1.2: Trial an annual River Festival to highlight and promote the river.

ACTION 2.1.3: Talk to Council about supporting and promoting the Wauchope Farmers Market event to remain sustainable; i.e. showground hall hire costs prohibit future growth.

ACTION 2.1.4: Organise a quotation and seek funding for the installation of air-conditioning at the Indoor Sports Stadium.

ACTION 2.1.5: Develop strategies to promote and support the river as a destination – a café near the river, continue tree plantings to the river from Hastings Street, wayfinding signage to the river from the CBD.

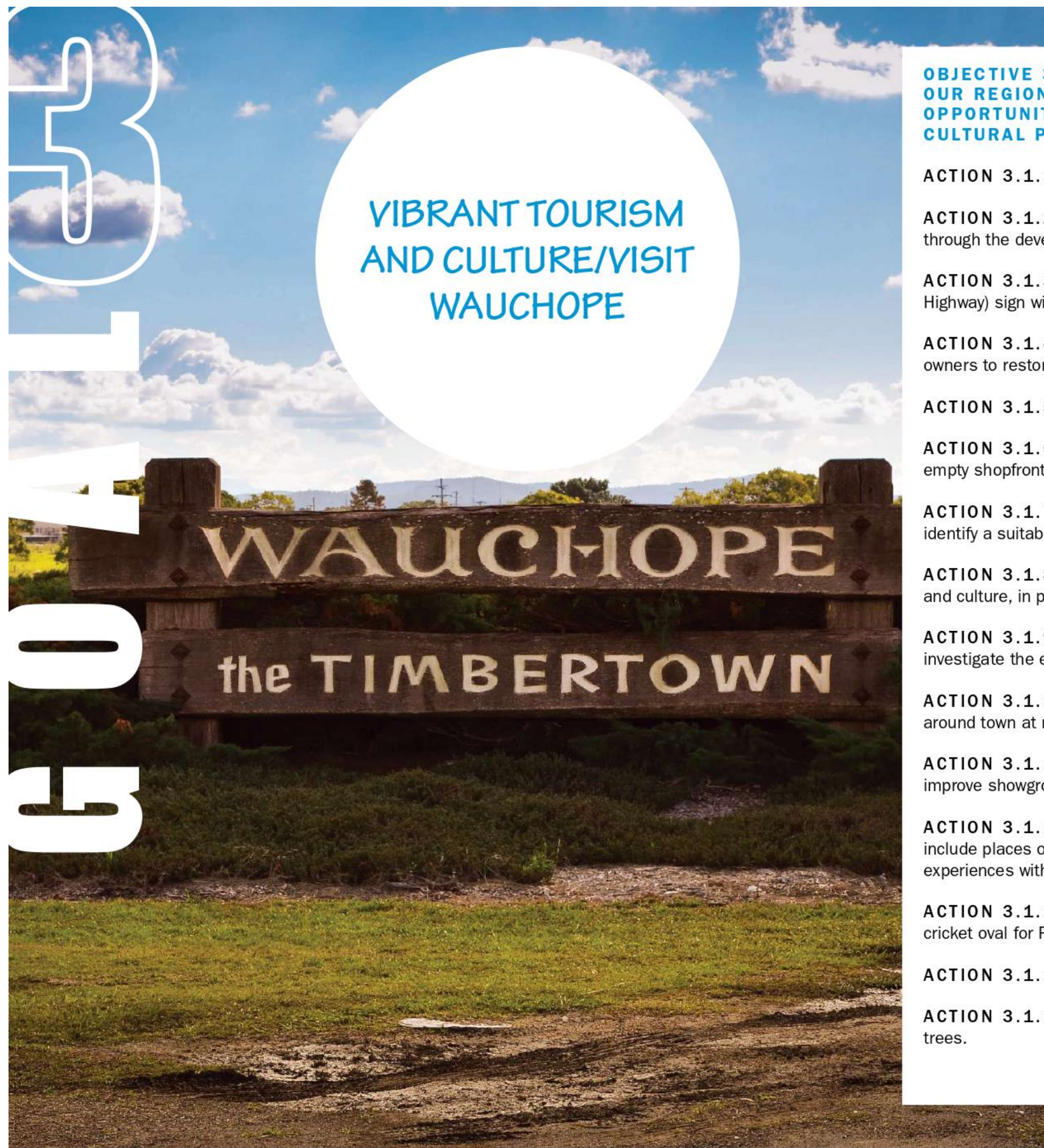
ACTION 2.1.6: Approach NSW Trains to discuss how to improve appearance and maintenance of Wauchope Railway Station and surrounding grounds.

ACTION 2.1.7: Approach stakeholders regarding cleaning up the warehouse area near the railway bridge

ACTION 2.1.8: Develop a plan for increased lighting/power and other infrastructure in public spaces for events/festivals/community use.

ACTION 2.1.9: Review Council's 355 committee structure and advocate for the return of community halls management to community-run committees.





OBJECTIVE 3.1: TO ENSURE THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF OUR REGION IS PROTECTED, WHILST ACTIVELY IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES TO PRODUCE AND PROMOTE NEW TOURISM AND CULTURAL PRODUCTS.

ACTION 3.1.1: Investigate the installation of an electric car charging station in Wauchope.

ACTION 3.1.2: Continue to develop and promote the 'Timbertown' brand of Wauchope through the development of timber signage and other elements.

ACTION 3.1.3: Liaise with Council to retain and reposition the large 'Timbertown' (Oxley Highway) sign within Wauchope.

ACTION 3.1.4: Source funding to update the local heritage study and to help support owners to restore/preserve/maintain heritage listed items.

ACTION 3.1.5: Advocate for public artworks around town.

ACTION 3.1.6: Work with local property owners and the Chamber of Commerce to utilise empty shopfronts as 'pop-ups' run by artists/volunteers.

ACTION 3.1.7: Work with and advocate for the Wauchope District Historical Society to identify a suitable permanent location for a local historical museum.

ACTION 3.1.8: Develop a project plan to respectfully acknowledge local Aboriginal history and culture, in partnership with Birpai Elders and the Bunyah Land Council.

ACTION 3.1.9: Consult with the local Aboriginal community and Bunyah Land Council to investigate the establishment of an art gallery.

ACTION 3.1.10: Identify suitable and prominent locations for information/tourist boards around town at railway station, Bain Park, etc.

ACTION 3.1.11: Work with the Wauchope Show Society and stakeholders to increase and improve showground facilities for camping and caravans.

ACTION 3.1.12: Work with the Chamber of Commerce to create a Wauchope mobile app to include places of interest, history, events and river walk information. Develop hinterland tourism experiences with local business, Chamber of Commerce and Destination NSW.

ACTION 3.1.13: Investigate the current parking area between the Hastings Hotel and the cricket oval for RV parking, including an upgrade of on-site amenities.

ACTION 3.1.14: Investigate the cost and feasibility for Wi-Fi within the CBD.

ACTION 3.1.15: Build on the 'Timbertown' history by establishing an arboretum of native trees.





SUSTAINING WAUCHOPE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

OBJECTIVE 4.1: WE RESPECT AND PROTECT OUR PRECIOUS NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

ACTION 4.1.1: Advocate for the installation of water refill stations at the Cameron Street skate park, and in King Creek, Wauchope, Yippen Creek and Sancrox.

ACTION 4.1.2: Protect and retain local historical and endemic vegetation including the Fig Trees in Hastings Street and in the adjacent river boardwalk; the Canary Palms in Wallace Street and along the railway.

ACTION 4.1.3: Increase the shade at the Cameron Street skate park to improve the comfort and sun safety of users and visitors.

ACTION 4.1.4: Advocate for a recycling and reuse centre that offers workshops for repair, reuse, upcycling and skills-share.

ACTION 4.1.5: Advocate for Council to declare a climate emergency now!

ACTION 4.1.6: The installation of outdoor fitness equipment in other parks, similar to that near the river.

ACTION 4.1.7: Investigate community owned energy hubs (like Uralla Solar Farm) and encourage locals to increase the use of rooftop solar and domestic batteries and local mini-grids. Investigate the use of solar lights in Blackbutt, Main Street, Cameron Street and High Street.

ACTION 4.1.8: Remodel/update the aquatic facility and investigate a 12 month opening season.

ACTION 4.1.9: Advocate for local and state government to prioritise regional sports field development in the region.





MOVING AROUND

OBJECTIVE 5.1: TO ENSURE BOTH LOCALS AND VISITORS MOVE AROUND THE REGION IN EASE AND SAFETY.

ACTION 5.1.1: CCAT to conduct a footpath audit identifying locations requiring upgrades and present a priority list to Council for consideration.

ACTION 5.1.2: Investigate solutions for additional parking in the Wauchope CBD.

ACTION 5.1.3: Talk with Council, RMS, and local and state stakeholders to plan for a heavy vehicle bypass of the Wauchope CBD.

ACTION 5.1.4: Investigate planning for future link roads – Bago Road to Oxley Highway, Oxley Highway to Beechwood Road, Beechwood Road to Bain Street to Rocks Ferry Road Stoney Creek, King Creek roundabout to Weismantle Street over Railway Bridge to Cameron Street.

ACTION 5.1.5: Investigate the possibility of a pedestrian crossing on Cameron Street to allow safe access to skate park and Indoor Sports Stadium.

ACTION 5.1.6: Advocate for footpaths from High Street to Timbertown incorporating bus stops.

ACTION 5.1.7: Improve safety of the King Creek Road - Oxley Highway intersection through investigation of a merger lane, roundabout or other.

ACTION 5.1.8: Talk with NSW Trains regarding railway-crossing traffic congestion during peak hours, and what alternate options may be available.

ACTION 5.1.9: Approach Busways to increase timetable information available at bus stops and shelters.

ACTION 5.1.10: CCAT to examine current public transport options and invite the community to make submissions regarding ideas for increased or altered timetables, i.e. school holiday, after hours and weekend timetables.

ACTION 5.1.11: Talk to Busways regarding community concerns of school children being dropped off on King Creek Road after school to walk home to Ridgeview Estate.

ACTION 5.1.12: Advocate for a cycleway/pathway (preferably off-road, potentially along the Hastings River) to trace the Oxley Highway 'Donut,' Riverbreeze, Beechwood, and King Creek Road, to Port Macquarie routes.





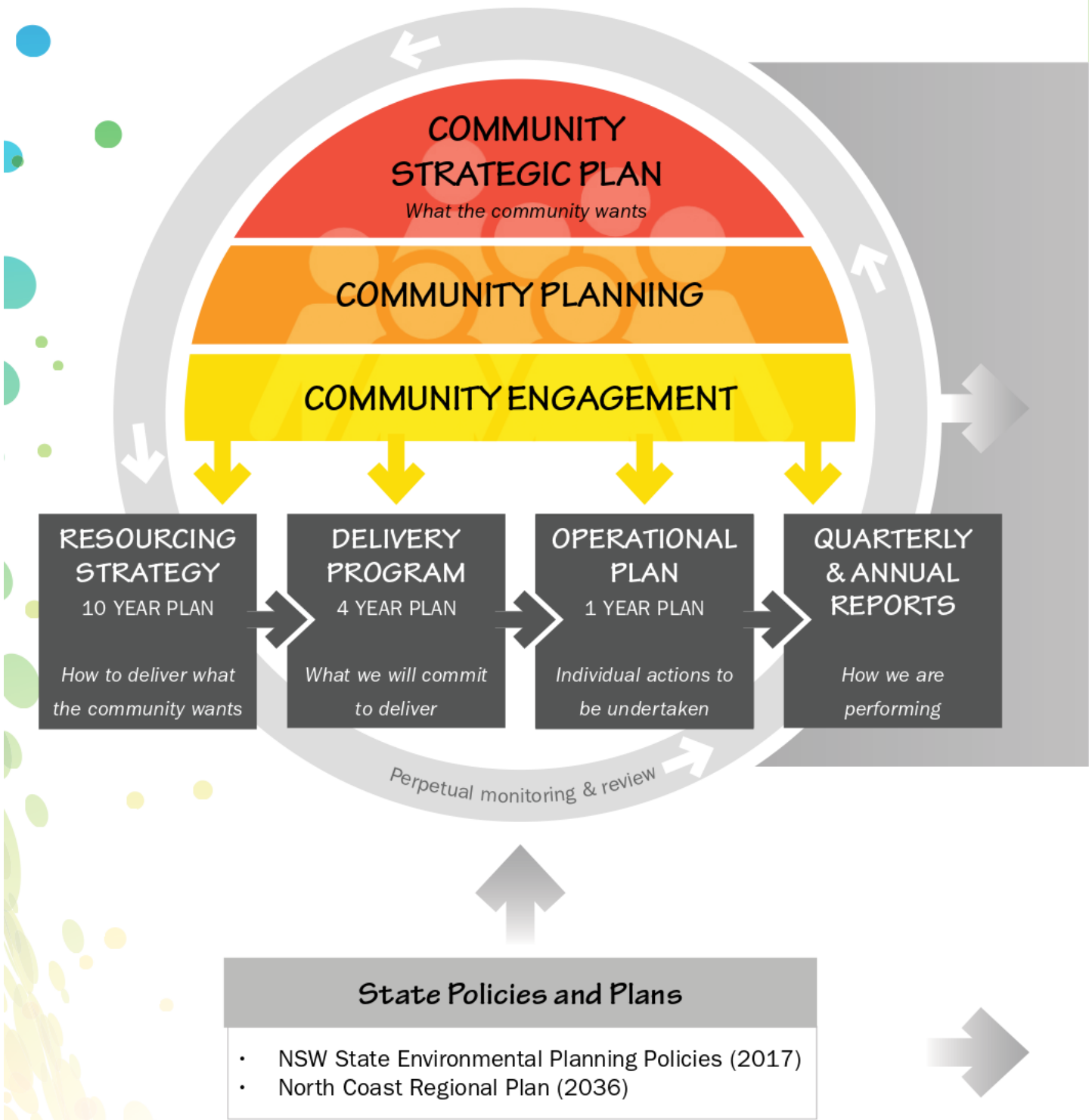
OBJECTIVE 6.1: OUR REGION IS MINDFULLY PLANNED FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE GROWTH.

- ACTION 6.1.1:** Work with Local and State Government to plan for future water and sewer requirements as the region's population increases.
- ACTION 6.1.2:** Work with the Chamber of Commerce, Council and other stakeholders to encourage business owners/industry to consider Wauchope as an alternative to Port Macquarie.
- ACTION 6.1.3:** Investigate and advocate for a warehouse distribution centre or an Australia Post parcel distribution centre to operate in the Wauchope region.
- ACTION 6.1.4:** Advocate for increased TAFE/education opportunities for residents and investigate the possibility of a satellite university campus with accommodation for primary industries and eco and regional tourism.
- ACTION 6.1.5:** Advocate for the protection of agricultural land from future housing development.
- ACTION 6.1.6:** Advocate and source funding to implement the Bain Park Master Plan (developed with community in 2019/2020).



APPENDIX A: COUNCIL'S STRATEGIES,
POLICIES AND PROJECTS

ENGAGEMENT & PLANNING CYCLE



A number of Council's strategic and planning documents are intrinsically linked to the development of Community Planning in the region. Some of these key documents are shown below.

PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

| Natural & Built Environment | Community Life | Leadership & Governance | Business & Industry |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pedestrian Access and Mobility Management Plan (2015 & 2017)• Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy (2020)²• Urban Growth Management Strategy (2017 - 2036)• Recreation Action Plan (2017 - 2025)• Local Environmental Plan (2011)• Biodiversity Strategy (2017-2030)• Development Control Plan (2013)• Draft Coastal Koala Plan of Management (2018)• Koala Recovery Strategy (2018)• Bike Plan (2015) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultural Plan (2018 - 2021)• Art in Public Places Policy (2002)¹• Community Inclusion Plan (2020 - 2021)²• Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2017 - 2021) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Engagement Policy and Strategy¹• Commercial Business Units Plans• Local Strategic Planning Statement² | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic Development Strategy (2017-2021)• Greater Port Macquarie Destination Management Plan |

1 - Updated Plan under development

2 - Under development

pmhc.nsw.gov.au

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LAURIETON OFFICE
9 Laurie Street,
Laurieton NSW 2443
Telephone (02) 6559 9958



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL

Community Engagement and Internal Consultation

| Submission | | Issue |
|------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1. | Stuart Goodfellow | I recall during the community engagement process that there was a consensus to embrace Bago lookout as a destination. It was identified that the key stakeholders are National Parks, State Forestry, local indigenous elders, PMHC and the chamber of commerce. This was written on the sheets but is not found on the plan. Please insert it. |
| | Response/Comment: | Following discussion with NPSW by PMHC it was ascertained that, due to the engineering complexities and access, there are no plans to create a viewing platform at Bago Bluff. A C T I O N 3 . 1 . 1 2: Work with the Chamber of Commerce to create a Wauchope mobile app to include places of interest, history, events and river walk information. Develop hinterland tourism experiences with local business, Chamber of Commerce and Destination NSW. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 2. | Jimmy Arscott | We discuss historical Milestones associated with Rawdon Island yet do not include as part of surrounds? What community plan is Rawdon Island/Sancrox deemed apart of? |
| | Response/Comment: | Noted. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 3. | Jimmy Arscott | I am happy to see comments prioritising pathway to Timbertown. |
| | Response/Comment: | Noted. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 4. | Jimmy Arscott | Referring to the map on pages 26-27 number 21 is marked as showground but is located at country club in pic. |
| | Response/Comment: | Noted. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 5. | Jimmy Arscott | No mention of our existing sports fields (only proposed). Could add Lank Bain, also historical milestone donated by the Bain's and rugby league game vs |

| | | international touring side. Could add Andrews Park, Blackburn and Fairmont. Racetrack and Greyhound track. |
|------------|-------------------------------|--|
| | Response/ Comment: | Noted. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 6. | Jimmy Arscott | Action 5.1.4 - I am not familiar with King Creek roundabout so difficult to understand where proposed link road is describing. |
| | Response/ Comment: | Noted. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 7. | Jimmy Arscott | Why do we need to describe Wauchope as being 20 min from Port and their magnificent beaches? Wauchope has ocean views from Bago Bluff Lookout just a 6km Walk from town. We are 7min west of the highway and surrounded by National Parks. I don't see the need to reference Port Macquarie. |
| | Response/ Comment: | Noted. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 8. | Jimmy Arscott | Children train sport after school and may be dark on conclusion of training. Those training at Lank Bain, there is no pathway beyond river breeze and in adequate lighting along the way from town. Likewise for a family in Glenview, great path in estate but it is pitch black between Intersection of Beechwood road and Bain street so again, not likely to walk home from after school activities. |
| | Response/ Comment: | Action 1.1.1 updated to incorporate feedback |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 9. | Jimmy Arscott | Blackbutt road - new Hubbards home site . Pitch black on Blackbutt rd even though erected 2 light poles right next to each other close to high street. Families from Timbertown therefore will not expect children to walk home from Fairmont, blackbutt, scouts etc. |
| | Response/ Comment: | Action 1.1.1 updated to incorporate feedback |

| | | <i>Comment:</i> | |
|------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| Submission | | Issue | |
| 10. | Jimmy Arscott | Connectivity - our local villages. Both Wauchope and Beechwood public schools have been open 150 yrs and only 6km away yet we still cannot connect without a car. Laurieton has a pathway of greater distance to Kew. There is no pedestrian access on Bain Bridge and council have narrowed the road between racecourse and rosewood turn. In short, it is unsafe to commute on bike or walk to or from Wauchope. I would love to do this with my family whether to Sancroix or Beechwood from Wauchope but cannot. | |
| | <i>Response/Comment:</i> | <p>Noted. The following actions address connectivity.</p> <p>AC T I O N 5 . 1 . 1 : CCAT to conduct a footpath audit identifying locations requiring upgrades and present a priority list to Council for consideration.</p> <p>AC T I O N 5 . 1 . 1 2 : Advocate for a cycleway/pathway (preferably off-road, potentially along the Hastings River) to trace the Oxley Highway 'Donut,' Riverbreeze, Beechwood, and King Creek Road, to Port Macquarie routes.</p> | |
| Submission | | Issue | |
| 11. | Jimmy Arscott | River - Queens wharf has so much historical relevance to our town, likewise the wharf once at Bain's bridge a location for supplies and timber - would love to see a wharf project even a quarter of what has been done at Port - would open up Wauchope to day trippers from Port by river particularly if more focus on our river walks. | |
| | <i>Response/Comment:</i> | Noted. To be considered in updated plan following endorsement. | |
| Submission | | Issue | |
| 12. | Jimmy Arscott | Maintaining the vegetation height so river views are available (as per height shown in the plan brochure) would further encourage people to utilise this great resource. | |
| | <i>Response/Comment:</i> | Noted. | |
| Submission | | Issue | |
| 13. | Jimmy Arscott | Safety - As a frequent user of our river paths, I see each week people of all ages, | |

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| | | including prams jogging between high school and Rocks Ferry reserve however the path under train bridge is too narrow for a person with a pram to pass. Further, the path merges with the road with no barricade - would love to see an elevated walkway away from rd here which would be a highlight over water - think 1/20 of the beach to beach elevated walkway happening at Laurieton. This would provide not only a safe path but magic view up river towards The refurbished Queens Wharf and beyond. |
| | Response/ Comment: | Noted. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 14. | Jimmy Arscott | Implementing the proposed cycle ways (2015) is a must before the Stoney Creek Road sports precinct to allow children to safely move between venue and home. |
| | Response/ Comment: | Noted. AC T I O N 5 . 1 . 1 2 : Advocate for a cycleway/pathway (preferably off-road, potentially along the Hastings River) to trace the Oxley Highway 'Donut,' Riverbreeze, Beechwood, and King Creek Road, to Port Macquarie routes. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 15. | Jimmy Arscott | A set of stairs from Rocks Ferry reserve to Rocks Ferry bridge would be a good project as there is currently a pedestrian section on this bridge with no safe path to get to it. |
| | Response/ Comment: | Noted. To be considered in updated plan following endorsement and flood recovery in this area. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 16. | Leisa Ferguson | Enjoyed the history of Wauchope in a snapshot but would like to see more about the history prior to 1818. There is a really brief mention of an elder from the King Creek tribe. |
| | Response/ Comment: | Noted. To be considered in updated plan following endorsement. |
| Submission | | Issue |

| | | |
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| 17. | Leisa Ferguson | Farmers Markets – an opportunity to make them more vibrant and more frequent and a regular ‘food shopping’ opportunity. |
| | Response/Comment: | Noted. Included in the following action. A C T I O N 2 . 1 . 3 : Talk to Council about supporting and promoting the Wauchope Farmers Market event to remain sustainable; i.e. showground hall hire costs prohibit future growth. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 18. | Leisa Ferguson | Promote the River more – for its beauty but also for safe/well-lit exercise options. |
| | Response/Comment: | Noted. Included in the following action. A C T I O N 2 . 1 . 2 : Trial an annual River Festival to highlight and promote the river. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 19. | Leisa Ferguson | Aircon in Stadium – links back to Goal 1 and increasing inviting youth facilities. |
| | Response/Comment: | Noted. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 20. | Leisa Ferguson | Ensure car charging is generic and not a Tesla only – keep it central to CBD so users can access shops and amenities whilst waiting. |
| | Response/Comment: | Noted. Noted. Included in the following action. A C T I O N 3 . 1 . 1 : Investigate the installation of an electric car charging station in Wauchope. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 21. | Leisa Ferguson | Improve Bain Park Toilets and or Andrews Park – both are uninviting to Tourists and locals. |
| | Response/Comment: | Noted. Bain Park amenities upgrade included in the Bain Park Master Plan and referenced in action below. No current plans for Andrews Park amenities upgrade. A C T I O N 6 . 1 . 6 : Advocate and source funding to implement the Bain Park Master Plan (developed with community in 2019/2020). |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 22. | Leisa Ferguson | Promote indigenous culture along with more recent historical events. Give the |

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| | | Tourists something to see. Highlight the beauty of the Hastings Hinterland – Wauchope being the stepping off point to Wild Rivers NP. |
| | Response/ Comment: | <p>Noted. Indigenous culture to be incorporated in Bain Park Master Plan through artwork and other storytelling (following consultation with Bunyah Local Aboriginal Land Council. Also captured in other parts of the Plan</p> <p>Future focus: The creation of a series of resources (including information/tourist boards and a Wauchope 'app') to increase visitation, promote local events and attractions and formally acknowledge local Aboriginal history and culture.</p> <p>AC T I O N 6 . 1 . 6 : Advocate and source funding to implement the Bain Park Master Plan (developed with community in 2019/2020).</p> <p>AC T I O N 3 . 1 . 1 0 : Identify suitable and prominent locations for information/tourist boards around town at railway station, Bain Park, etc.</p> <p>AC T I O N 3 . 1 . 1 2 : Work with the Chamber of Commerce to create a Wauchope mobile app to include places of interest, history, events and river walk information. Develop hinterland tourism experiences with local business, Chamber of Commerce and Destination NSW.</p> |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 23. | Leisa Ferguson | <p>Pedestrian link from CBD carpark off Cameron Street [near High St roundabout] – very tricky to cross as a pedestrian. Promote caravan parking in this area so Tourist can stop and enjoy the CBD.</p> |
| | Response/ Comment: | <p>Noted. Future planned upgrade of this car park may consider pedestrian access.</p> <p>Caravan parking included in the following action.</p> <p>AC T I O N 3 . 1 . 1 3 : Investigate the current parking area between the Hastings Hotel and the cricket oval for RV parking, including an upgrade of on-site amenities.</p> |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 24. | Leisa Ferguson | <p>Target CBD for revitalisation – as shops and business spread out throughout town the main CBD looks empty and sad. New footpaths and plantings are great – ensure they keep being maintained.</p> |
| | Response/ Comment: | <p>Noted. Included in the following action.</p> <p>AC T I O N 6 . 1 . 2 : Work with the Chamber of Commerce, Council and other stakeholders to encourage business owners/industry to consider Wauchope as an alternative to Port Macquarie.</p> <p>AC T I O N 3 . 1 . 6 : Work with local property owners and the Chamber of Commerce to utilise empty shopfronts as 'pop-ups' run by artists/volunteers.</p> |
| Submission | | Issue |

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| | | |
| 25. | Leisa Ferguson | Investigate a cycle link from Wauchope to Port Macquarie that is adjacent to the road, not sharing the road. King Creek to Wauchope CBD – it's currently not safe for the average bike rider to commute to work. If the road had a 2m wide strip tacked onto the existing road – for bikes/pedestrians the benefits to the community would be huge. |
| | Response/Comment: | Noted. Included in the following action. A C T I O N 5 . 1 . 1 2 : Advocate for a cycleway/pathway (preferably off-road, potentially along the Hastings River) to trace the Oxley Highway 'Donut,' Riverbreeze, Beechwood, and King Creek Road, to Port Macquarie routes. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 26. | Leisa Ferguson | It's also a great activity for visitors to both Port Macquarie and Wauchope. |
| | Response/Comment: | Noted. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 27. | Leisa Ferguson | Affordable accommodation for University students and young professionals coupled with excellent public transport would be a great option for Wauchope. |
| | Response/Comment: | Noted. Housing typology is covered more broadly by our Draft Housing Strategy and Urban Growth Management Strategy. Public transport identified in the following actions. A C T I O N 5 . 1 . 9 : Approach Busways to increase timetable information available at bus stops and shelters. A C T I O N 5 . 1 . 1 0 : CCAT to examine current public transport options and invite the community to make submissions regarding ideas for increased or altered timetables, i.e. school holiday, after hours and weekend timetables. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 28. | Leisa Ferguson | Encourage businesses to set up Offices in Wauchope – CBD locations, easy parking, ample cafes etc |
| | Response/Comment: | Noted. Included in the following actions. A C T I O N 1 . 1 . 3 : Identify additional formal car parking options and opportunities to convert or increase length of stay for informal parking in the CBD. A C T I O N 5 . 1 . 2 : Investigate solutions for additional parking in the Wauchope CBD. |

| | | AC T I O N 6 . 1 . 2 : Work with the Chamber of Commerce, Council and other stakeholders to encourage business owners/industry to consider Wauchope as an alternative to Port Macquarie. |
|------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Submission | | Issue |
| 29. | Leisa Ferguson | Provision of a meeting room/centre – somewhere that business now working remotely can come together for meetings/video conferencing/admin support etc. Perhaps with car charging facility. |
| | Response/ Comment: | Noted. AC T I O N 3 . 1 . 1 4 : Investigate the cost and feasibility for Wi-Fi within the CBD |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 30. | Stuart Goodfellow | Bago Lookout working committee |
| | Response/ Comment: | Noted. Following discussion with NPSW by PMHC it was ascertained that, due to the engineering complexities and access, that are no plans to create a viewing platform at Bago Bluff. As such, promoting this as a destination is not considered in the Plan. |
| Submission | | Issue |
| 31. | Jimmy Arscott | I am happy to help where I can - my background is finance related, I am presently involved in local sports club and have a keen interest in disability inclusion. Happy to volunteer time re connectivity related projects mentioned above. |
| | Response/ Comment: | Noted. |

PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY grants



Guidelines 2021-2022

pmhc.nsw.gov.au/community-grants

GRANT INFORMATION

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's Community Grants Program aims to provide financial support to local non-profit community-based organisations/groups to provide initiatives that meet community needs and benefit residents in our community.

The Community Grants Program fosters community partnerships which provide benefits to the wider community. Council acknowledges and values the significant contribution made by community groups and organisations in assisting to achieve outcomes that align with Port Macquarie-Hastings Council plans, such as the Community Strategic Plan.

Proposed projects must fall within one of the following categories:



COMMUNITY BUILDERS

For community organisations to establish, strengthen or implement projects that can demonstrate a benefit to the wider community.



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

For projects that provide opportunities for residents to participate in a broad range of arts and cultural activities that enhance quality of life



COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

To establish projects that engage the whole community, encourage celebration and strengthen community spirit & connectedness.



YOUTH PROJECTS

For projects and activities that benefit young people (25yrs and younger) and will have an ongoing benefit to youth in the community.



MICRO GRANTS

To support unexpected opportunities for our community organisations to enhance people, places and spaces.

TIMELINE

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 30 August 2021 | Community Grants Funding Round 1 Opens |
| 19 September 2021 | Community Grants Funding Round 1 Closes |
| October 2021 | Panel Assessment and Funding Approvals |
| 28 February 2022 | Community Grants Funding Round 2 Opens |
| 20 March 2022 | Community Grants Funding Round 2 Closes |
| April 2022 | Panel Assessment and Funding Approvals |

For further information or assistance, please contact the Community Inclusion Team:

P 6581 8111
E community.inclusion@pmhc.nsw.gov.au
W pmhc.nsw.gov.au/community-grants

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Once the grant round has closed, all applications will be checked for eligibility by a Council officer and submitted to the Community Grants Panel comprising of Council staff across the organisation. The panel will review eligible applications on merit against the assessment criteria. It will be determined which applications will be funded and to what amount before recommendations are presented to Council in a report for adoption and thereafter applicants will be notified of funding allocations.

Panel members are required to declare a conflict of interest (pecuniary or non-pecuniary) in any of the applications. If a declaration is made, the panel member will not assess the relevant application and an average score is provided by the remaining members of the committee.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed against their responses to the following criteria:

1. How well demonstrated the benefits of the project are to the wider community
2. How the project meets the vision of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Community Strategic Plan (Liveable - Sustainable - Innovative)
3. How the organisation has demonstrated the community need for the project
4. How comprehensive and realistic the budget is, and the organisations capacity to undertake the project
5. Demonstrated community consultation in the planning of the project



GUIDELINES

LEVEL OF SUPPORT

Applicants can apply for a Community Grant up to \$5,000 and Micro Grants up to \$1,000.

Applications for funding must be for a specific purpose, and must not be considered as a recurrent/permanent source of future funding.

Groups are not guaranteed the full amount of funding requested in their application.

Please note: 65% of the funds are granted prior to the event or project commencement with the remaining 35% released once the event or project is acquitted and reviewed.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must be an incorporated 'not for profit' organisation, community or voluntary group based in the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA providing a demonstrated service to the Port Macquarie-Hastings community.

Organisations must provide:

- A copy of the groups/ organisations certificate of incorporation
- A copy of the groups/ organisations Certificate of Currency for Public liability insurance; (minimum of \$20million)
- An Australian Business Number (ABN) - Where the group / organisation or individual does not have an ABN, a letter from the auspice body
- A copy of the groups / organisations most recent annual report and /or audited financial statement

Unincorporated groups or individuals are eligible to apply, provided applications are made through an incorporated auspicing organisation that supports the project and is willing to accept responsibility for the funding. A letter from the incorporated body must be attached to the application. The funding Agreement will be between Council and the auspicing organisation.

The same group, organisation or individual who has received funding for projects for more than three consecutive years will only be considered for repeat rounds if there are sufficient funds available in the pool of grant funding and/or they can clearly demonstrate a sustainable funding source(s) that will part fund the project.

The proposed project must:

- Start within the funding financial year.
- Declare if part funding has been received from state or federal funding grants.
- Comply with recognised Australian Standards and observe all relevant Government regulations, guidelines and seek necessary Council approvals. Projects that include building or minor capital works, and some events, may require a DA.

The application/applicant must:

- Demonstrate that the purchase of equipment/ materials directly relates to the project.
- Include a budget for the project, which should be realistic and cost effective. The budget should indicate the amount of grant funding being sought and a breakdown of expected expenditure and income, including any in-kind contribution.
- Supply two (2) written quotes for all expenses and/or service over \$2,000. And provide receipts on acquittal.
- Be responsible for obtaining and funding any other approvals related to the project.

Successful applicants must comply with the following requirements:

- Funds must be used for the purpose for which they were granted. Any changes to a project must be approved in advance by Council (in writing). Funds must not be used towards paying Council fees such as applications or registrations.
- Successful applicants must start their project within the funding year.
- An Acquittal Form must be returned no longer than 60 days after the project is completed. Failure to do so may jeopardise future applications for funding. Acquittal forms are available on PMHC website or can be collected from Council Customer Service offices.
- The Port Macquarie-Hastings Council logo must be used on any printed material, social media or news articles related to the project to acknowledge Council's financial contribution.

The Community Grant Program DOES NOT fund projects that:

- Do not meet the grant program criteria.
- Have already commenced or are complete.
- Are for, or include, ongoing operating costs. (For example; rent, electricity, public liability insurance, stationary or cleaning).
- Are for works on private property.
- Are of a commercial nature, or for personal profit.
- Reflect or replicate core business of Council
- Have received other funding from Council (for the same project).
- Are direct requests for donations/ fundraising.

Note: All assets created on Council owned land become a Council asset. Movable assets purchased with grant funds become Council property if the group dissolves.





DOGS IN PUBLIC OPEN SPACES POLICY

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Responsible Officer | Manager Development & Environmental Compliance. |
| Contact Officer | Ian Chetcuti - Team Leader Ranger Services. Phone – 65818687 E-Mail – ian.chetcuti@pmhc.nsw.gov.au |
| Authorisation | Council 20/04/11 |
| Effective Date | 20/04/11 |
| Modifications | Nil |
| Superseded Documents | Policy - Beach areas permitting dogs in the Local Government Area |
| Review | Team Leader Ranger Services – As Required. |
| File Number | N/A |
| Associated Documents | Nil. |

1. INTRODUCTION

This Policy sets out Port Macquarie Hastings Council's policy relating to dogs in Public Open Spaces, where dogs are permitted and specifies conditions under which dogs are permitted in public areas.

This policy considers current information relating to dogs in public places from "Public Open Space and Dogs – A design and management guide for open space professionals and Local Government by Harlock Jackson Pty Ltd, August 1995" This publication is accepted as the guide for Local Government in planning for dogs in public open space.

Jackson 1995 indicates that there are four principles that need to be established and considered when Council is considering access by dogs to public places and provide a sound basis for assessing the options for dogs access to public open space. They are:

- Provide formal recognition of the legitimacy of dog owners as being a deserving significant group of customers.
- Understand more clearly the needs of both dogs and their owners.
- Aim for integration of dogs with other public space users while recognising that separation is warranted in some instances.
- Councils should apply a strategic approach that considers access on a comprehensive Council wide bases rather than on a piecemeal park by park basis.

The basic premise of the policy and resulting needs to create the specific facilities is driven by the fact that 50% of the Hastings population has at least one dog and therefore should have facilities consistent with their significance. The purpose of establishing off-leash areas and other forms of access for dogs is to provide a location for owners where their dogs can be exercised and socialised with other dogs and therefore reduce problems such as barking and other nuisance behaviour.

The Companion Animals Act 1998 requires all dogs to be under effective control by cord or leash while in a public place. Signage is not required to enforce this effective control provision as it is NSW State legislation. Therefore, unless otherwise stated all public road reserves and park areas allow access for dogs but they must be under effective control.

Signage is used to determine alternatives to on-leash areas including prohibition. With the exception of the existing identified off-leash areas other specific parks, reserves and sporting fields have been determined to prohibit dogs. These areas will be identified by having a "No Dog Allowed" sign erected. The signage has been determined as appropriate in the past and will be enforced by Council under the Local Government Act 1993.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

To have Policy for the exercising of dogs that:

- Meets accepted planning guidelines
- Is balanced and generally meets the dog owning and non dog owning community's needs
- Is valued by the community
- Defines areas for varying levels of dog access
- Supports the need for continued education and enforcement

3. POLICY SCOPE

This policy applies to all public land within the Port Macquarie-Hastings local government area.

4. DEFINITIONS

None applicable

5. LEGAL & POLICY FRAMEWORK

- The Companion Animals Act 1998 requires Council to provide at least one off-leash area within the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA. The form of the off-lease area can be as broad as is indicated in section 13(6) which states:

"A local authority can by order declare a public place to be an off-leash area. Such a declaration can be limited so as to apply during a particular period or periods of the day or to different periods of different days. However, there must at all times be at least one public place in the area of a local authority that is an off-leash area."

- The Local Government Act 1993 allows councils to condition the use of any public area by way of a sign or notice. With the above in mind Council has erected signage at all leash-free areas which clearly state the conditions of use within that area. Acting contrary to signage is dealt with under Section 632(1) of the Act which states:

"A person who, in a public place within the area of a council, fails to comply with the terms of a notice erected by the council is guilty of an offence"

6. POLICY STATEMENT

- To set aside specific beach and reserve areas where dogs are permitted.
- To specify conditions under which dogs are permitted on those specified areas.

7. IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The primary responsibility for the implementation of this policy lies with the Team Leader Ranger Services. This would take place in consultation with the Manager Parks and Recreation as the responsible officer for the management of parks, reserves and beaches.

7.2 Support and Advice

Team Leader Ranger Services and Council's Rangers.

7.3 Communication

The community have been consulted during the development of this policy.

In addition, when establishing a Leash-free area, adequate signage is essential to inform members of the community about the conditions of use for that area. The NSW Local Government Act 1993, section 632 permits Council to erect a notice on public land to advise users of the restrictions that apply to that land. Council signage can either be a stand alone sign or as part of a larger sign restricting or informing the public about a range of factors. Where possible a distinct sign is the preferred model. Signage is developed in line with current standards and will include both pictogram and text.

Council will also advise the community of the establishment of leash-free areas through its normal communication methods involving advertising on the Council News section of the local newspapers and via Community Connect Newsletters.

Council's web site will also be updated to include information relevant to the exercising of dogs in public places.

7.4 Procedures and Forms

N/A

7.5 Guidelines

There are no guidelines associated with the Policy.

8. REVIEW

Team Leader Ranger Services will be responsible for reviewing this Policy two (2) years after the commencement date of the Policy.

POLICY

BEACHES:

1. **Prohibited Areas:** (These areas are highlighted in red on attached maps, annexures A to C).

Dogs are prohibited on the following beach areas:

- North Shore Beach (adjacent to Corrilla Estate residences).
- Pelican Island, Port Macquarie.
- Town Beach, Port Macquarie.
- Flynn's Beach, Port Macquarie.

- Shelley Beach, Port Macquarie.
- Little Bay, Port Macquarie (directly north of Tacking Point Lighthouse).
- Lighthouse Beach, Port Macquarie (from Tacking Point to Watonga Rocks).
- Cathie Beach, Lake Cathie (from 4WD Beach Access point South to Kywong Street).
- Rainbow Beach, Bonny Hills (from access point for leash-free area South).
- Bartletts Beach, Bonny Hills.
- Grants Beach, North Haven (from northern end of Surf Club carpark to breakwall).
- Pilot Beach, Dunbogan.
- Wash-House Beach, south of the Kattang Nature Reserve Boundary.
- Dunbogan Beach, south of Beach Street Access Point.
- Dunbogan Beach, from Camden Head to the southern boundary of Kattang Nature Reserve.

2. Permitted Areas – Leashed: (These areas are highlighted in on attached maps, annexures A to C).

Dogs are permitted on the following beach areas whilst under effective control of a competent person by way of a leash, cord or chain:

- Oxley Beach, Port Macquarie.
- Cathie Beach, Lake Cathie (from Kywong Street to Middle Rock)
- Rainbow Beach, Bonny Hills from Leash-Free access point north to Duchess Creek (for access to leash-free area only).
- Dunbogan Beach, Dunbogan (from the southern boundary of Kattang Nature Reserve to the Seaview Avenue beach access point).

3. Permitted Areas – Unleashed: (These areas are highlighted in green on attached maps, annexures A to C).

- North Shore Beach from Northern end on Corrilla Estate North to Queens Head 4WD access point.
- North Shore Beach from Southern end of Corrilla Estate South to the breakwall.
- Rocky Beach, Port Macquarie.
- Nobby's Beach, Port Macquarie.
- Lighthouse Beach Port Macquarie from Watonga Rocks south to the 4 WD beach access point Lake Cathie.
- Rainbow Beach, Bonny Hills from Duchess Creek north to Middle Rock.
- Spooney's Bay, Bonny Hills.
- Grants Beach, North Haven from the northern end of the surf club car park, north to Grants Head.
- Washhouse Beach, Dunbogan from the breakwall to the boundary of the Katang Nature Reserve.
- Dunbogan Beach, Dunbogan from the Seaview Ave beach access point south to the Beach St access point.

4. Exemption for Guide Dogs:

Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, guide dogs may be exercised unleashed on any dog permitted beach area.

PARKS & RESERVES:**1. Prohibited Areas:**

Parks and Reserves that are classified as Prohibited areas for dogs within our Local Government Area will be signposted appropriately. Signage can be in one of three different forms, words only, Pictorial only or a combination of both. These areas are policed by Councils Rangers and on the spot fines apply for failing to comply with the signage.

2. Permitted Areas – Leashed:

Unless otherwise signposted as described in (1) above all Council Parks and Reserves are permitted areas so long as the dog is under effective control as per section 13(1) of the Companion Animals Act 1998 which states:

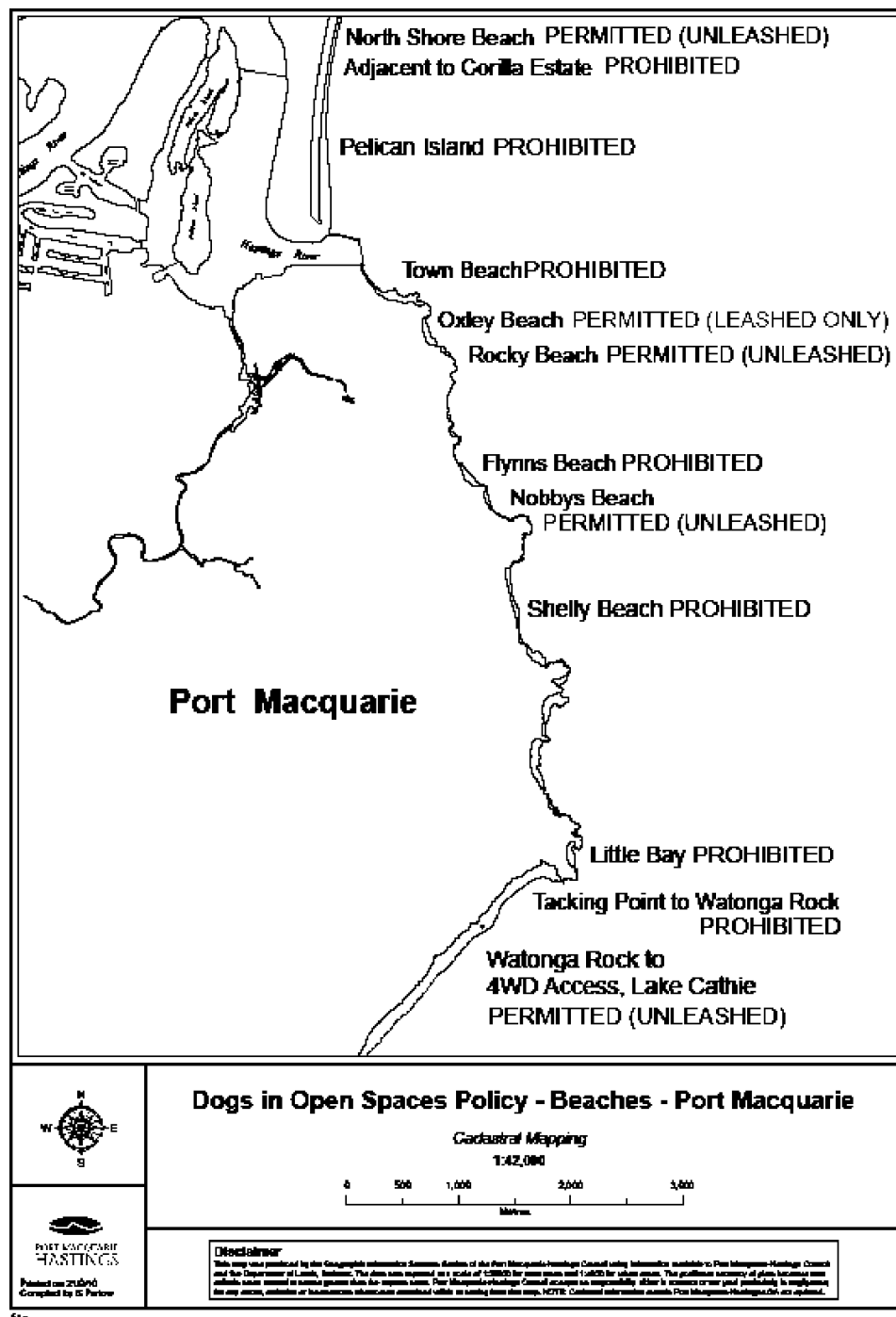
“A dog that is in a public place must be under the effective control of some competent person by means of an adequate chain, cord or leash that is attached to the dog and that is being held by (or secured to) the person.”

It is an offence under this section of the Act which attracts an on the spot penalty should you not comply with the above condition.

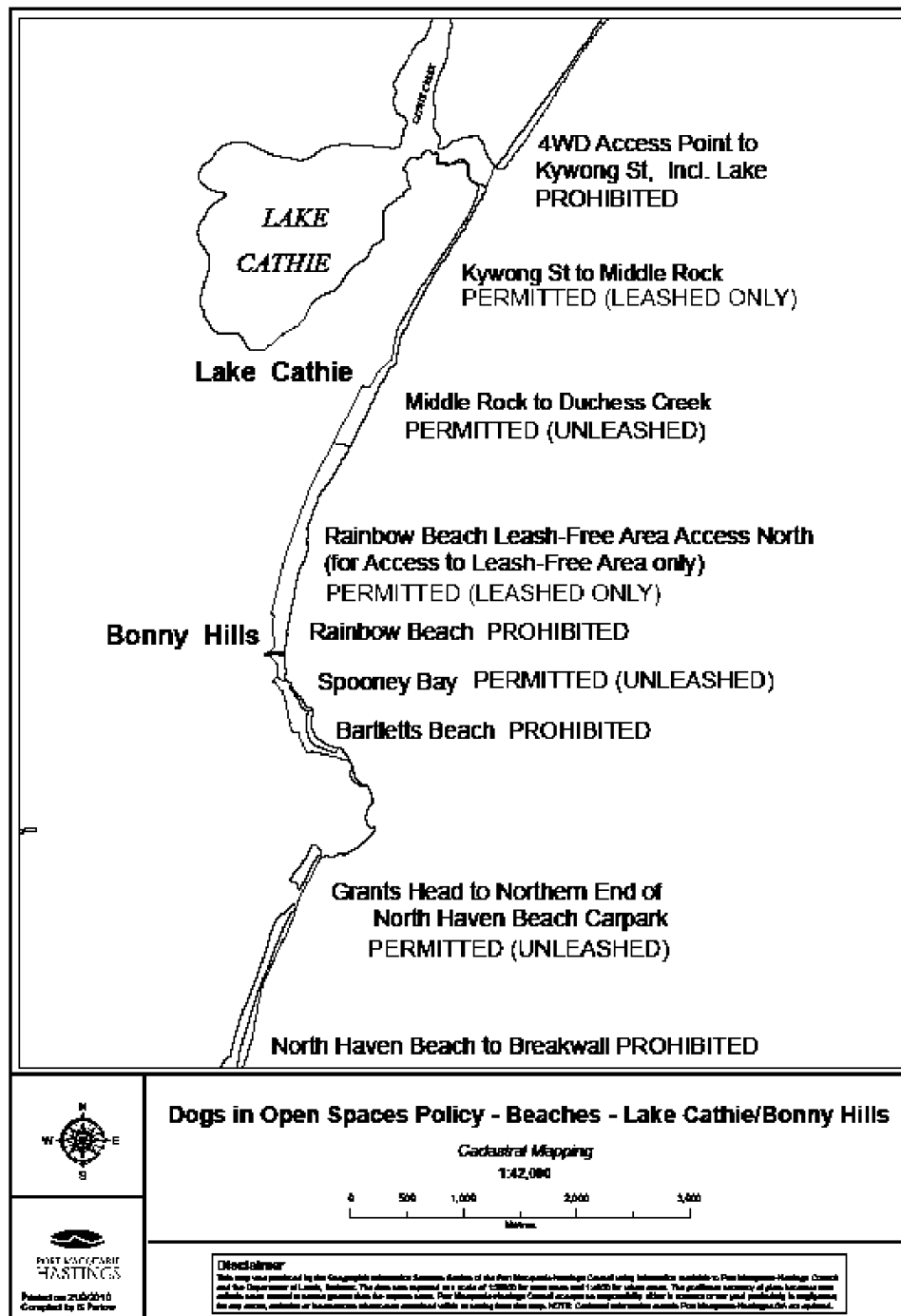
3. Permitted Areas – Unleashed:

To be determined upon completion of a site selection and community consultation process.

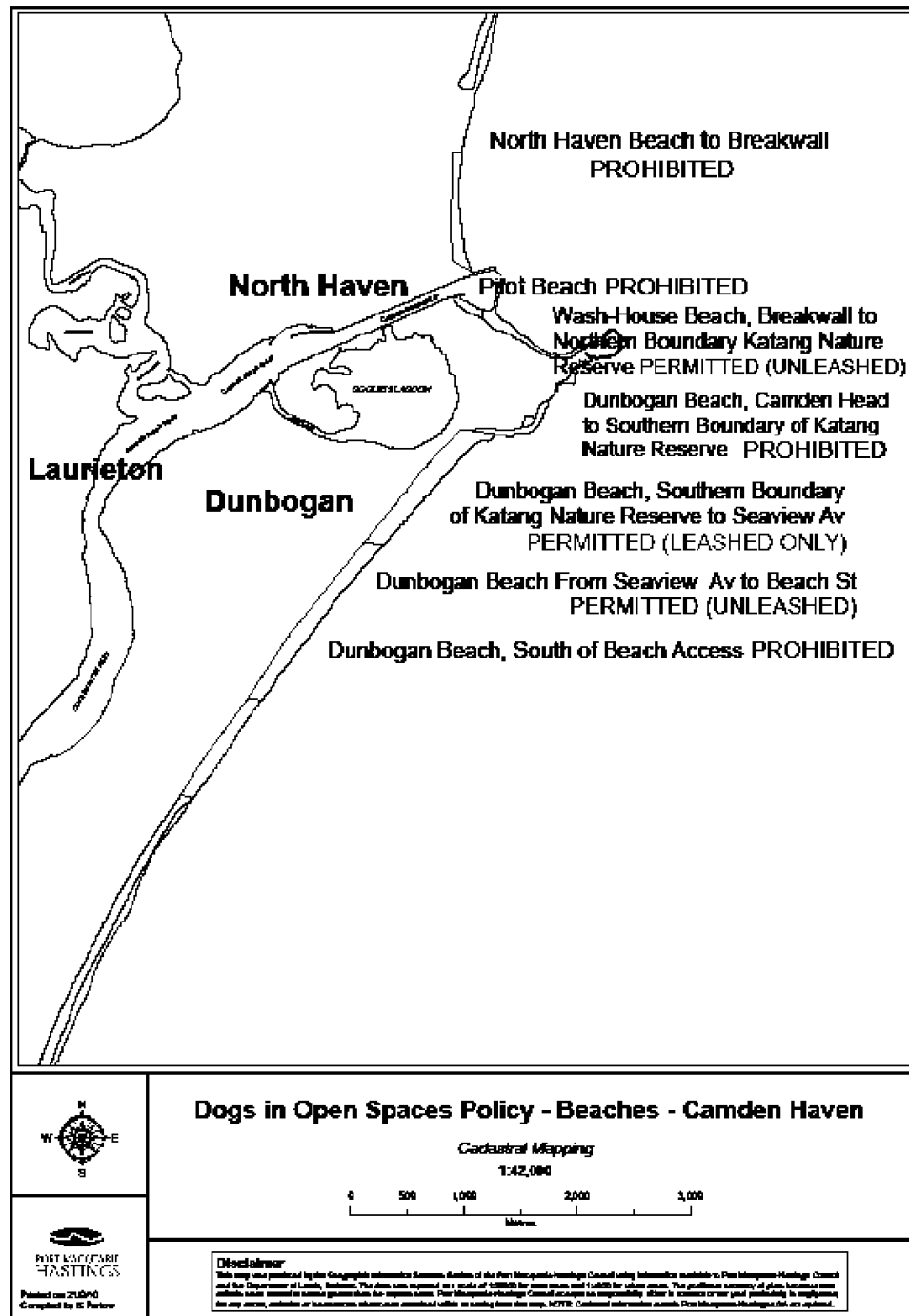
Annexure "A"



Annexure "B"



Annexure "C"





Authorised by: <authority>
Authorised date: DD/MM/YYYY
Effective date: DD/MM/YYYY
Next review date: DD/MM/YYYY
File Number: #####

Council Policy DOGS IN PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

1. INTRODUCTION

The intention of this policy is to guide the management and control of dogs in open space areas within the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area. An important component of the management of dogs in open spaces is the suitable provision of accessible Off Leash dog exercise areas balanced by appropriately identified and managed dog exclusion areas to support the whole community and to protect the natural environment.

The purpose of establishing dog friendly areas is to provide appropriate locations to facilitate opportunities for socialisation and exercise.

2. POLICY STATEMENT AND SCOPE

This Policy applies to all public land within the Port Macquarie-Hastings local government area. This Policy sets out where dogs are permitted and specifies conditions for dogs in public areas.

The objectives of this policy are as follows:

- To declare and regulate clearly identified dog Off Leash exercise areas across the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Local Government Area
- To support and promote the social value of responsible dog ownership and adherence to the requirements of the relevant legislation
- To manage risk and minimise nuisance caused by dogs to the public
- To ensure the public recreational and environmental values of open space areas are retained

3. COMPANION ANIMALS ACT

The Companion Animals Act 1998 (the CAA) is NSW Legislation that provides for the effective and responsible care and management of companion animals. The CAA legislates requirements for both dog owners and local Councils in managing the presence of dogs in public places.

Section 13 of the CAA states *"a dog that is in a public place must be under the effective control of some competent person by means of an adequate chain, cord or leash that is attached to the dog and that is being held by (or secured to) the person"*. A dog is not considered to be under the effective control of a person if the person has more than four dogs under his or her control.

Dogs are permitted On Leash in all public areas, including streets and associated footpaths, unless otherwise specified by Council or the CAA. Signage is not required to enforce this effective control provision as it is NSW State legislation. Council is able to declare and signpost areas as dog exclusion/prohibited areas.

4. COUNCIL POLICY

In accordance with the CAA, Council has a legislative responsibility to provide Off Leash areas and to provide effective and responsible care and management of dogs within the local government area.

Dog owners have a responsibility and obligation to comply with the CAA, and should be considerate of other users in any public area, this includes immediately cleaning up and disposing of dog droppings. As a courtesy, Council currently provides dog waste bag dispensers and bins within dog parks and other designated Off Leash areas.

If a dog is not sufficiently trained, or shows signs of anti-social behaviour and aggression, the dog should be removed immediately from any public area.

4.1. Parks, Reserves and Beaches

An interactive online map of the Dog Friendly Areas is available on Council's website to see detailed maps containing more information about a particular area's location and classification.

Off Leash Areas:

Dogs should be under constant supervision to ensure safety of other dogs and people in designated Off Leash areas.

- North Shore Beach from Northern end on Corrilla Estate North to Queens Head 4WD access point.
- North Shore Beach from Southern end of Corrilla Estate South to the breakwall.
- Rocky Beach, Port Macquarie.
- Nobby's Beach, Port Macquarie.
- Lighthouse Beach Port Macquarie from Watonga Rocks south to the 4WD beach access point Lake Cathie.
- Rainbow Beach, Bonny Hills from Duchess Creek north to Middle Rock.
- Spooney's Bay, Bonny Hills.
- Grants Beach, North Haven from the northern end of the surf club car park, north to Grants Head.
- Dunbogan Beach, Dunbogan from the Seaview Ave beach access point south to the Beach St access point.

Leashed Areas:

Dogs are permitted on the following beach areas whilst under effective control of a competent person by way of a leash, cord or chain.

- Oxley Beach, Port Macquarie
- Cathie Beach, Lake Cathie (from Kywong Street to Middle Rock)
- Rainbow Beach, Bonny Hills from Leash-Free access point north to Duchess Creek (for access to leash-free area only)
- Dunbogan Beach, Dunbogan (from the southern boundary of Kattang Nature Reserve to the Seaview Avenue beach access point)
- Sancro Reserve
- Kooloonbung Creek Nature Park

Prohibited Areas:

Due to the popularity of some beaches and the presence of migratory and shorebirds, dogs are not allowed on the following beaches:

- North Shore Beach (adjacent to Corrilla Estate residences)
- Pelican Island, Port Macquarie
- Town Beach, Port Macquarie
- Flynns Beach, Port Macquarie
- Shelly Beach, Port Macquarie
- Little Bay, Port Macquarie (directly north of Tacking Point Lighthouse)
- Lighthouse Beach, Port Macquarie (from Tacking Point to Watonga Rocks)
- Cathie Beach, Lake Cathie (from 4WD Beach Access point South to Kywong Street)
- Rainbow Beach, Bonny Hills (from access point for leash-free area South)
- Bartletts Beach, Bonny Hills
- Grants Beach, North Haven (from northern end of Surf Club carpark to breakwall)
- Pilot Beach, Dunbogan
- Washhouse Beach, Dunbogan
- Dunbogan Beach, south of Beach Street Access Point
- Dunbogan Beach, from Camden Head to the southern boundary of Kattang Nature Reserve.

Under the CAA dogs are Prohibited in the following places, unless sign posted by Council (whether or not they are leashed or otherwise controlled):

- Children's play area (prohibited within 10 metres of any playground)
- Food preparation/consumption areas (exclusive of outdoor eating areas as approved by vendor)
- School grounds and child care centres
- Shopping areas where dogs are Prohibited
- Sports Fields (unless authorised by Council)
- Patrolled beaches - Within 10m of the flagged areas on patrolled beaches
- Wildlife protection areas as designated and signposted by Council

- All NSW National Parks and Nature Reserves

4.2. Dedicated Dog Parks - Off Leash

These fully fenced Leash free zones allow dogs to exercise off the lead so they can burn off excess energy in a safe environment and provide an important socialisation experience with other dogs. By providing these opportunities, dogs are less likely to exhibit nuisance behaviour due to boredom and frustration when confined to their yard.

The list below shows the Dog Parks in the Port Macquarie-Hastings region:

- Stuart Park - Wood Street, Port Macquarie (separate areas for large and small dogs)
- Blackbutt Park - Corner of Blackbutt Drive and Peppermint Crescent, Wauchope (separate areas for large and small dogs)
- Henry Kendall Reserve - Henry Kendall Drive, Laurieton (One large fenced area)

5. ENFORCEMENT

The Local Government Act 1993 allows councils to condition the use of any public area by way of a sign or notice. Based on this Council has erected signage at all leash-free areas which clearly state the conditions of use within that area. Acting contrary to signage is dealt with under Section 632(1) of the Act which states:

"A person who, in a public place within the area of a council, fails to comply with the terms of a notice erected by the council is guilty of an offence"

To comply with the CAA dog owners are also responsible for ensuring their dog in on a leash in public places unless signposted otherwise by Council.

It is an offence not to pick up after your dog. On-the-spot fines may be issued for failure to comply with the CAA.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES

The Regulatory Services team are responsible and accountable for:

- Monitoring and enforcing this policy
- Advise of any Legislation changes

The Group Manager Recreation, Property & Buildings is the responsible officer for:

- The management of parks, reserves and beaches
- Policy review
- Signage

7. REFERENCES

The Companion Animals Act 1998
Local Government Act 1993

8. DEFINITIONS

Council: refers to Port Macquarie-Hastings Council or PMHC

Dog Friendly Area: A designated open space area that permits dogs. These can be fenced or unfenced.

Open Space: Community land owned, or Crown Land manage by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Public Space: Any pathway, road, bridge, jetty, wharf, road-ferry, reserve, park, beach or garden or any other place the public are entitled to use.

9. PROCESS OWNER

The Group Manager Recreation, Property & Buildings is responsible for reviewing this Policy three (3) years after the commencement date of the Policy, in conjunction with other key stakeholders.



PILOT BEACH / WASHHOUSE BEACH SIGNAGE



DOC21/120739

Olivia Lawler
Community Engagement Officer
Port Macquarie Hastings Council
Olivia.Lawler@pmhc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Lawler

Subject: Have Your Say Review in Policy: Dogs in Public Open Spaces

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the Have your say Review in Policy: Dogs in Public Open Spaces. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) manage land adjacent to dog friendly areas and are committed to working with Port Macquarie Hastings Council (PMHC) to achieve a sensible outcome that balances biodiversity conservation responsibilities with community expectations.

Background

1. NPWS has a statutory responsibility to manage its estate in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act)*, *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 (NPW Regulation)* and approved plans of management.
2. The *NPW Act* identifies differing management principles for reserve categories managed by NPWS. Within the PMHC area, NPWS manage national parks, nature reserves, state conservation areas and historic sites:
 - **National parks** are areas of public land that play an important role in conservation. They protect a wide variety of native plants and animals and their habitats, as well as our historic and cultural heritage. National parks represent a wide variety of environments and provide places where people can share cultural and recreational activities.
 - **Nature reserves** are areas of land with significant conservation value because they are in a mostly untouched natural condition with high biodiversity. They differ from national parks in that recreation is not provided for. We carefully manage these reserves to minimise disturbance and protect the ecosystems, native plant and animal communities, and other natural and cultural features they contain.
 - **State conservation areas** are reserved to protect significant or representative ecosystems, landforms or places of cultural significance and provide opportunities for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment. The carrying out of certain development activities is permitted under certain provisions.
 - **Historic sites** are, in effect, national parks with significant historic heritage.
3. Dogs are not permitted in NSW national parks and reserves for the following reasons:

22 Blackbutt Rd Port Macquarie 2444
Tel: 02 6588 5555
ABN 20 770 707 468
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

- The sights, sounds and smells of dogs and other domestic pets cause native animals great stress, even causing them to leave their homes and their young unprotected.
 - Poisonous baits are often laid to control foxes and these can be fatal to dogs
 - Your dog is at risk of snake bites and tick bites in NSW national parks
 - If threatened, kangaroos and goannas may defend themselves and cause injury to your dog.
4. NPWS welcomes the clear information provided by the PMHC recently released dog friendly areas digital map and appreciates all intertidal zones adjacent to NPWS estate being listed as dog prohibited areas.

Issues

1. Beaches are important habitat

Much of the land adjacent to the Hastings coast is protected for biodiversity under the *NPW Act*. This protected land provides important habitat for native species given its relatively natural, undisturbed state.

The PMHC coastline supports a high abundance and diversity of shorebirds and provides valuable habitat for a range of threatened species. Species listed as threatened under the *NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2019* that are known to occur on beaches within and adjacent to NPWS estate include:

- Little tern – endangered
- Pied oystercatcher – endangered
- Loggerhead turtle – endangered
- Green turtle – vulnerable
- Sooty oystercatcher – vulnerable
- Sanderling - vulnerable
- Eastern osprey – vulnerable
- White-bellied sea eagle – vulnerable

The PMHC coastline also provides habitat for 30 regular East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) migratory shorebird species. The Australian Government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) protects migratory species under section 209 of the Act. These migratory species are also listed under international agreements, including the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (the Bonn Convention) and bilateral agreements with China (CAMBA), Japan (JAMBA) and the Republic of Korea (ROKAMPA).

2. Domestic dogs are a key threat to coastline biodiversity values

Domestic dogs are widely recognised as a key threat to all the threatened species known to occur on PMHC beaches. Unleashed domestic dogs can disturb or predate on birds, chicks and eggs and simply the presence, sound or scent of a dog can cause a nesting pair of threatened shorebirds to abandon their nest and/or young.

Data from neighbouring LGAs ranks the threat of unleashed domestic dogs to shorebird species as the highest level of threat:

- *Macleay River Estuary Migratory and Threatened Shorebird Species Management Strategy: Follow up shorebird survey 2019/19*
- *Manning River Shorebird Saving Our Species program*

PMHC have a statutory and moral obligation to reduce threats to threatened and migratory species on PMHC beaches and should zone dog friendly areas appropriately.

3. Ineffective signage

Some PMHC signage is conflicting and/or confusing. The PMHC sign on the beach at the Kattang Nature Reserve, Tuckeroo carpark pedestrian access track provides incorrect information regarding where the on leash dog area and prohibited dog area boundary is. The sign at the Scarborough Way, Dunbogan 4WD access trail conveys a lot of information on one sign, with the dog zoning areas section small and confusing.

4. Washhouse Beach

Despite regular education and compliance by NPWS Authorised Officers, the prohibited dog area adjacent to Kattang NR regularly sees many off leash dogs. Due to the presence of dogs, NPWS are unable to undertake vertebrate pest management programs on Washhouse beach. If dogs were prohibited from the entire beach NPWS would implement a control program to protect threatened shorebird and turtle species.

Recommendations

1. The entirety of Washhouse Beach be zoned a prohibited dog area. This will reduce signage requirements, reduce confusion regarding the off leash dog area and prohibited dog area boundary and enable NPWS to implement a vertebrate pest management program. NPWS will support PMHC in an education campaign and directing dog walkers to a dog friendly area.
2. PMHC undertake a sign audit and update signage where required. NPWS recommends simple maps and coloured symbols as less confusing sign elements.
3. PMHC further the good initiative of their digital dog friendly areas map with a campaign to increase awareness of the map, and consider making it available as an app for mobile devices and linked to signs via a QR code.
4. NPWS would welcome the opportunity to partner with PMHC to promote a [Share the Shore](#) campaign to increase awareness of natural values on our beaches and encourage visitors to help protect threatened species. This model has been successfully implemented in other LGAs, including [MidCoast Council](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment to this important Dogs in Public Open Spaces review. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact Ben Stevenson, Team Leader Rangers, via Benjamin.Stevenson@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



SHANE ROBINSON
Manager, Hastings Macleay Area
National Parks and Wildlife Service

20/02/2021



DOC21/469471

Dr Clare Allen
Chief Executive Officer
Port Macquarie Hastings Council
17 Burrawan St
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444

Dear Dr Allen

RE: PMHC Draft Dogs in Open Public Places Policy

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (PMHC) Draft Dogs in Open Public Places policy. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) manage land adjacent to dog friendly areas and seek to ensure the policy balances biodiversity conservation responsibilities with community expectations.

NPWS provided a detailed submission (DOC21/120739) to PMHC on 24th February 2021 to offer input to the development of the draft policy. We are pleased that many of the recommendations from this submission have been adopted and in addition we provide the following comments for consideration in the final version.

North Shore Beach

The draft policy declares North Shore Beach from the northern end of Corilla Estate to the Queens Head 4WD access as an off-leash area. The northern half of this beach is Limeburners Creek National Park (gazetted to low water). Dogs are not permitted in Limeburners Creek National Park. The policy needs to be amended to reflect that dogs are not permitted on North Shore Beach north of the Limeburners Creek National Park boundary.

Washhouse Beach

Washhouse Beach is located adjacent to Kattang Nature Reserve and provides habitat for several threatened species. The following threatened species have been recorded at Washhouse Beach:

- Endangered
 - pied oystercatcher
 - bush-stone curlew
 - little tern
 - loggerhead turtle
- Vulnerable
 - sooty oystercatcher,
 - sanderling
 - eastern osprey
 - white-bellied sea eagle.

22 Blackbutt Rd Port Macquarie 2444
Tel: 02 6588 5555
ABN 20 770 707 468
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

The beach also provides important habitat for East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) migratory shorebird species that are protected under international agreements. In addition, the rock platform area has been described as one of the most diverse rock platforms in NSW and is frequented by visitors and locals to explore the incredible species diversity contained in the rock pools. The area is a significant biodiversity and tourism asset for the region worthy of protection.

Domestic dogs are widely recognised as a key threat to all the threatened species known to occur on Washhouse Beach. Unleashed domestic dogs can disturb or predate on birds, chicks and eggs and simply the presence, sound or scent of a dog can cause a nesting pair of threatened shorebirds to abandon their nest and/or young.

Data from the following neighbouring LGAs reports ranks the threat of unleashed domestic dogs to shorebird species as the highest level of threat:

- *Macleay River Estuary Migratory and Threatened Shorebird Species Management Strategy: Follow up shorebird survey 2019/19 (p.25)*
- *Manning River Shorebird Saving Our Species program*

In 2010, PMHC changed the zoning for dogs at Washhouse Beach to allow dogs off-leash on the beach to the north of the Kattang Nature Reserve boundary. This decision was noted as a compromise position to cater for dog walkers in the area and address the conservation requirements of the nature reserve and adjacent sensitive habitats (rock platform). Since this policy change, Washhouse Beach has become a significant challenge for NPWS to manage dog walking compliance to protect biodiversity values. Dogs are regularly being walked along Washhouse Beach beyond the Kattang Nature Reserve boundary where dogs are prohibited. This boundary is very clearly signposted by a combination of PMHC and NPWS signage, however many people within the community are disregarding the regulatory signage. NPWS Ranger staff who regularly patrol this area have issued many infringements and Official Cautions over the last few years to non-compliant dog walkers, and advise that a majority of the compliance actions have been issued to local residents

NPWS have consulted with PMHC over this issue for many years and NPWS are often advised that PMHC do not have adequate resources to monitor dog walking compliance at Washhouse Beach, therefore compliance of dog walking on Washhouse Beach is largely undertaken by NPWS.

NPWS are aware that fox and feral cat populations are impacting on shorebird breeding success on all beaches adjacent to NPWS Estate in the area, however there are limitations to undertaking a comprehensive baiting program due to the presence of dogs on many of these beaches.

NPWS support the continuation of dog walking at nearby Dunbogan Beach between Seaview Avenue and Beach St to ensure that residents still have access to a beach to walk their dog. This policy position provides approximately 2.36km available for off-leash dog walking (Figure 2 below). The current off-leash area at Washhouse Beach north of the Kattang Nature Reserve boundary is just 120m (Figure 1 below).

NPWS commends PMHC for the inclusion of Washhouse Beach as a prohibited area in the draft policy and would welcome the opportunity to partner with PMHC to raise awareness and educate the community on the values of Washhouse Beach and Kattang Nature Reserve.

Shorebird monitoring program

NPWS encourages PMHC to consider commencing a shorebird monitoring program to monitor threatened and vulnerable shorebird populations and impacts associated with threats from domestic dogs, human disturbance (beach driving.), vertebrate pests and coastal inundation. Neighbouring Councils at Kempsey and Mid Coast have established such a monitoring program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment to this important Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy review. If you have any questions about the matters raised please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Jude, Acting Team Leader Rangers, via elizabeth.jude@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



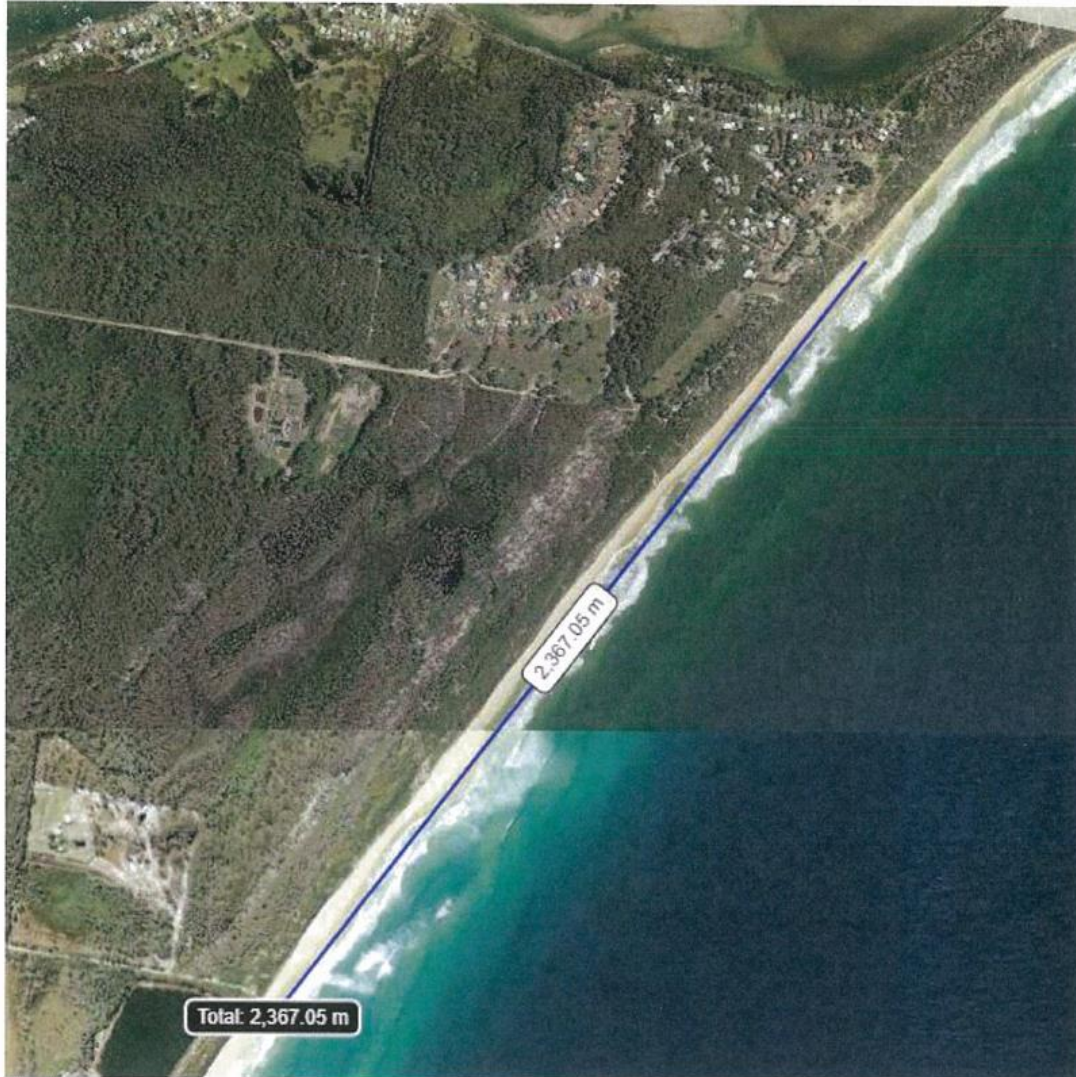
BEN STEVENSON
A/Area Manager, Hastings Macleay Area
National Parks and Wildlife Service

Date: 18/6/21

Figure 1: Distance of Washhouse Beach north of Kattang NR – 125m



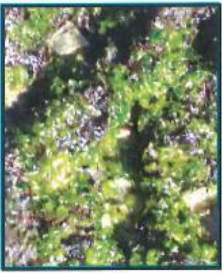
Figure 2: Distance of Dunbogan Beach available to off-leash dog walking - 2.36km



**SOME OF THE COMMON ALGAE
PRESENT**

There are 3 different types of algae in the marine environment (green, brown and red).
Algae are normally found in rock pools or at the low tide level as they cannot withstand long periods out of the water.

GREEN ALGAE



Sea Lettuce
(*Ulva* sp.)



Green Sea Velvet
(*Codium fragile*)



Green Bait Weed
(*Enteromorpha intestinalis*)



Genticulate Coralline Algae
(*Amphiroa anceps*)



Encrusting Corallines
(*Corallinaceae*)

RED ALGAE

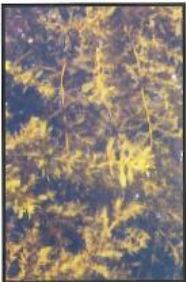
BROWN ALGAE



Neptune's Necklace
(*Hormosira banksii*)



Padina
(*Padina pavonea*)



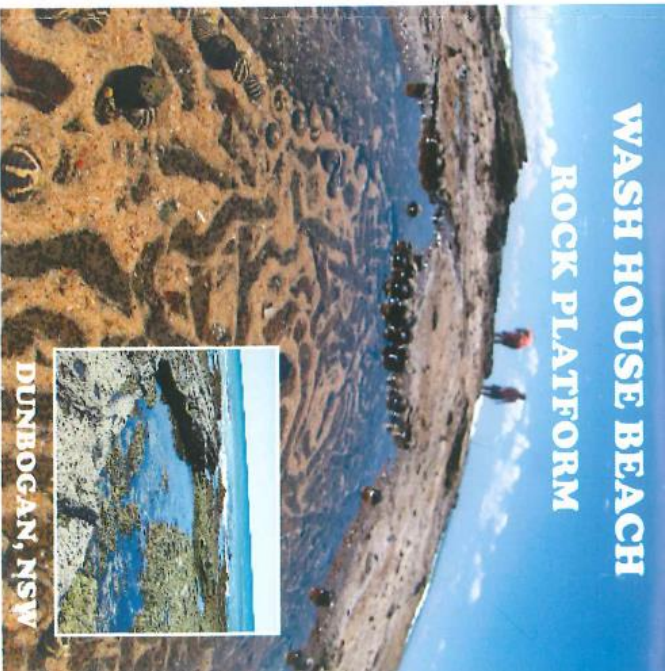
Sargassum
(*Sargassum* sp.)

Produced by
Dr. Debbie Geronimi for the
NSW Environment Trust

in conjunction with
Camden Haven Community College
Laurieton, NSW, 2443.

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Peter Geronimi and Adam Powell.

NSW Environmental TRUST

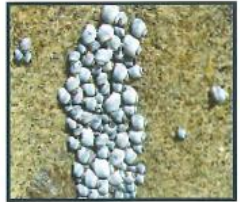


DUNBOGAN, NSW

Wash House Beach situated in Dunbogan, 8 km east of Laurieton on the New South Wales mid-North coast is of huge environmental importance. It contains one of the most diverse rock platforms in NSW, a jewel well worth protecting. The rock platform owes its diversity to the many different habitats present (boulder areas, cobble areas, platform, rock pools, crevices) providing a home to well over 100 species.

This spectacular platform needs to be conserved and protected from human pressures, such as removal of organisms for human consumption, bait collection and ornamentation, trampling and overturning of boulders which results in habitat disturbance and decreases in species numbers and diversity. The removal of just one species breaks the link in many food chains leading to catastrophic species loss. Please enjoy this area of nature's delights, but also take care in conserving it.

SOME OF THE COMMON ANIMALS PRESENT



Blue Australwink (*Modiolitorina unifasciata*). This tiny blue snail is normally found high up on the shore at the high tide mark, but here its distribution is found closer to the low tide areas where parts of the platform are elevated. This species grazes on microscopic algae on the rocks.



Ribbed Top Shells (*Austrocochlea constricta*). These are found mainly in the mid tide areas of the platform and boulders. They graze on algae from the rocks.



Common Warrener (*Turbo undulata*). Found in crevices and pools on the platform. This species grazes on macroalgae.



Variegated limpet (*Cellana tramoserica*). This species is found in the mid to low tide areas of the platform. It grazes on algae on the rocks. It always returns to the exact spot on the rocks when the tide goes out.



Chitons such as this *Plaxiphora Chiton* (*Plaxiphora albida*) are present in the low tide areas where there is strong wave surge. These creatures graze on algae on the rocks.



Elephant snail (*Scutus antipodes*). This creature is found in rock pools where it grazes on algae.



Spengler's Rock Whelk (*Caebastana spengleri*). Found at low tide to submerged levels on the edge of the platform where it feeds on *Cunjevoi*.



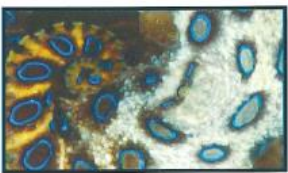
Mulberry Whelk (*Morula marginalba*). Present at mid tide levels on the platform in close proximity to the Honeycomb barnacle and Variegated limpet on which it feeds. This species drills a hole in the shell of its prey and chops it up with its sharp radula before consuming it.



Honeycomb barnacle (*Chamaesipho tasmanica*). This barnacle is common on the platform at mid to low tide levels and it looks like its name suggests—honeycomb encrusting the rock.



Rose barnacle (*Tessieropora rosea*). This barnacle is common on the higher areas of the platform at the lower tide level subjected to splash. Barnacles are actually related to the crabs. They filter feed on tiny plankton.



Blue Ringed Octopus (*Hapalochlaena lunulata*). Watch out for the flash of electric blue in rock pools. This highly venomous creature can cause human fatalities with its bite. However they are generally non-aggressive and will warn you of their presence by flashing their blue rings. When undisturbed they are grey / brown in colour and adults are only 12 cm from top of the head to the end of the tentacles and can hide in shells and small crevices.



Eight-armed Seastar (*Patiriella calcar*). Found in crevices and pools. This species comes in a huge array of colours (blues, greens, orange, reds and multicoloured). It feeds on algae and other marine organisms by extruding its gut and externally digesting its food.



Crabs. The many species present are difficult to spot because they often hide in pools and crevices. They are scavengers feeding on dead marine organisms.



Sea Anemones. There are 4 types present (Waratah (*Actinia tenebrosa*), Green (*Cnidopus verater*), Sand (*Oulactis muscosa*) and *Phylactenanthus australis*). Found in crevices and rock pools. They have stinging cells in their tentacles used to capture prey such as small fish and crustaceans.



Cunjevoi (*Pyura stolonifera*). Found at the low tide to submerged areas often seen squirting water. These creatures are actually in the same Phylum as humans because they possess a notochord during its larval stage. They are filter feeders and filter out tiny plankton from the sea water using its internal sieve like structure.



Galeolaria (*Galeolaria caespitosa*). This worm lives in a hard calcareous tube. It filter feeds on plankton. Often form huge colonies coating the rock surface at low tide areas. Isolated tubes may be found at any level.

There are many other animals present too. Look out for sponges, worms, shrimp, sea slugs, brittle stars, sea urchins, other marine gastropod snails and bivalves such as oysters.

PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS
COUNCIL

Review of Policy: Dogs in Public Open Spaces

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

23/02/2021



| | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------|-----------|
| Project name | Review in Policy: Dogs in Public Open Spaces | | |
| Project manager | Rosane Gossner | | |
| Consultant | | | |
| Engagement Officer | Olivia Lawler | | |
| Operation Plan # | | CM Reference | SF20/4558 |

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

The aim of this project is to review and update the current Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy with amended legislations or change of use, taking into account stakeholder feedback and community demand for updated information. The current Policy was adopted in April 2011 and defines where dogs are permitted and specifies conditions under which dogs are permitted in public areas throughout our region.

1.2. Engagement approach

Initial engagement was undertaken to **consult** with the community and key stakeholders from Thursday 11 February to Friday 19 February 2021. The intent of this consultation was to encourage stakeholders to share their opinions and experiences with us regarding dogs in public spaces in order to inform the development of a Draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy. The engagement also identified where there is misinformation and knowledge gaps in relations to dog permitted areas and the conditions under which dogs are allowed in public areas.

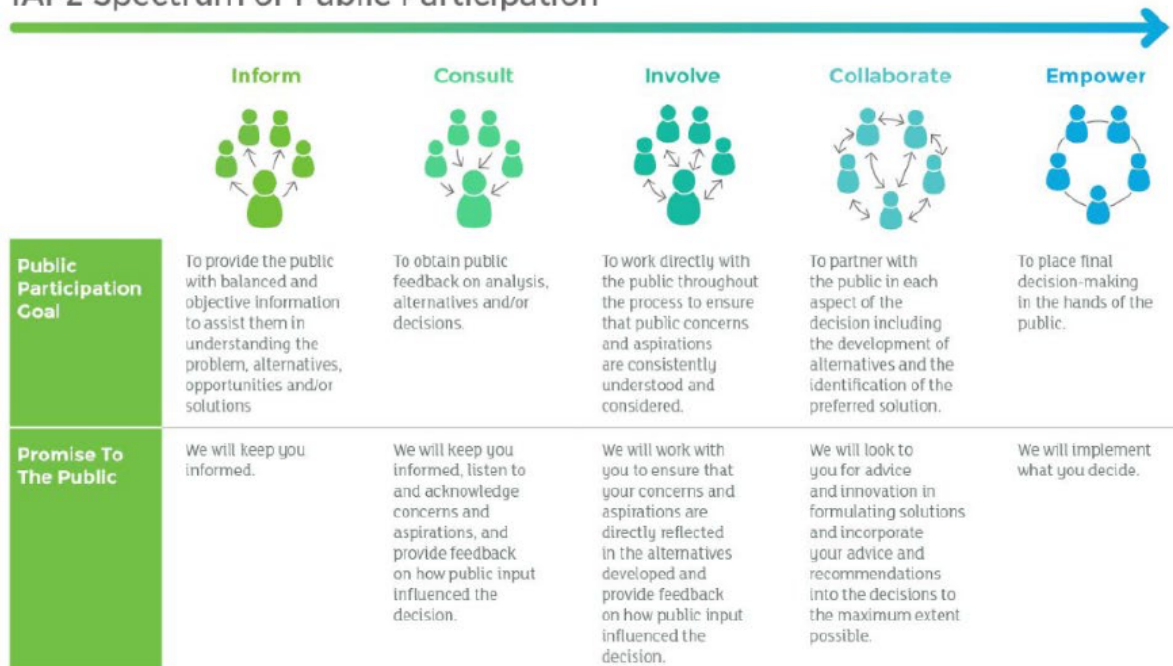
Internal Stakeholders:

- Group Manager, Recreation Property and Buildings - Liam Bulley
- Group Manager, Regulatory Services - Debbie Archer
- Group Manager, Community - Lucilla Marshall
- Project Manager - Rosane Gossner
- Rangers

External Stakeholders:

- General Community
- Dog Clubs
- Dog training programs

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation





1.3. Consultation focus

The community was asked to share their thoughts and experiences with us in relation to Dogs in Public Open Spaces within our LGA. Survey questions included:

- What is your suburb?
- Which best describes you? (Dog Owner, User of spaces also used by dogs, Resident living near an off-leash dog area).
- How many dogs are in your household?
- Have you used the interactive dog map on our website to find dog friendly areas in our region?
- Which dog off-leash areas do you mainly use?
- On average, how often do you use a dog off-leash area?
- Have you let your dog/s off leash in a non-designated area? Why?
- Do you have any concerns about dogs in specific areas, leashed or unleashed? (E.g. playgrounds, sporting fields, dining areas).
- Do you have any other feedback or suggestions regarding dogs in public open spaces in our region?

2. ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES, TIMELINES & RESULTS

2.1. Facebook Survey

A Facebook survey was created and distributed for community feedback via Council's EngagePMH Facebook Group and ConnectPMH Instagram. The aim was to capture the active and passionate audience of Facebook instantly and, by providing a survey on the same platform, make it more appealing and efficient to participate in the survey. The survey featured the same questions as the 'Have Your Say' survey. A total of 13 responses were received. (See appendix 1).

2.2. Email to interest groups

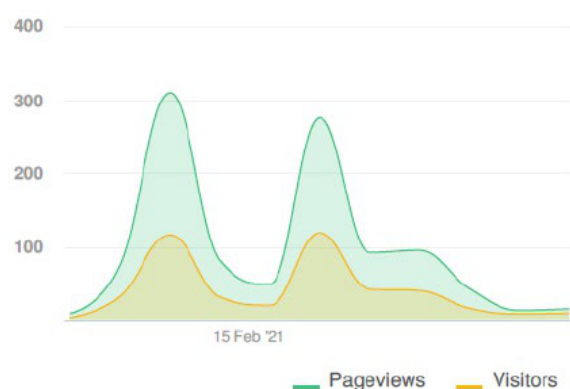
A total of 13 interest groups were contacted via email to encourage them to provide feedback and share the information with their networks. (See appendix 2). Groups included:

- Port Macquarie Dog Club
- Port Macquarie Animal Welfare Service
- The Pack Leader
- Tate Animal Training Enterprises
- K9 Specialist Dog Training
- Eastport Vet
- Port Macquarie Veterinary Hospital
- Greencross Vet
- Oxley Highway Vet
- Bonny Hills Vet
- Wauchope Vet
- Timbertown Vet
- Camvet

2.3. Have Your Say

A total of 211 responses were received through the Have Your Say (HYS) survey with 43 downloads of the current Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy. The survey was available from Thursday 11 February to Friday 19 February 2021. (See appendix 3).

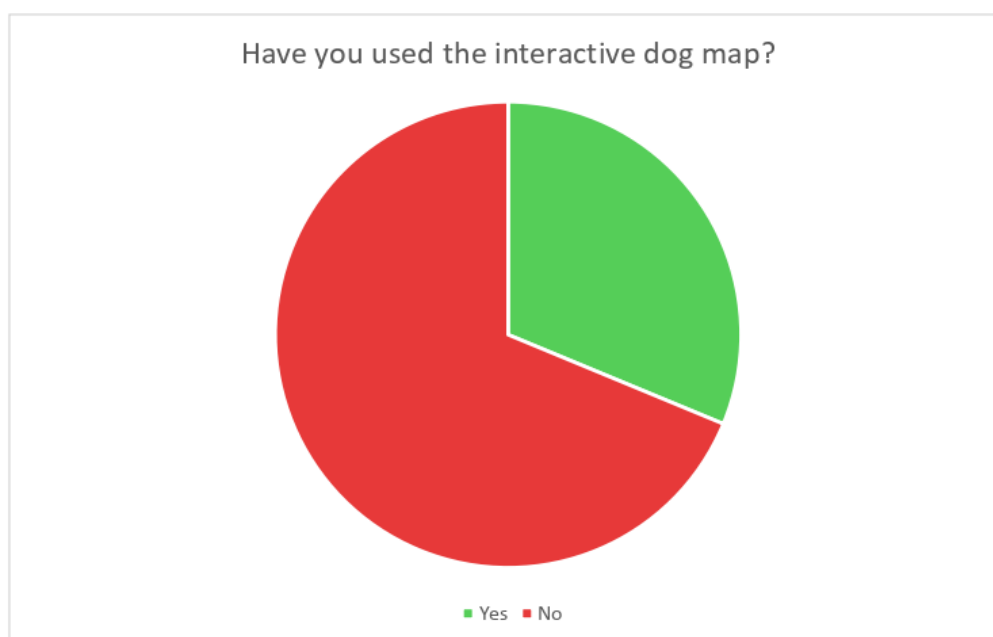
Visitors Summary



Highlights

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| TOTAL VISITS | MAX VISITORS PER DAY | |
| 457 | 118 | |
| NEW REGISTRATIONS | | |
| 0 | | |
| ENGAGED VISITORS | INFORMED VISITORS | AWARE VISITORS |
| 211 | 291 | 398 |

Feedback from both HYS and Facebook has been collated to provide a more detailed analysis of data. The feedback received was significant and provided insight as to how our community uses our dog permitted areas and their experiences in these spaces. The majority of respondents (69%) have not used the interactive dog map to find dog friendly places in our LGA.



Full details of the HYS and Facebook responses can be viewed at the following links.



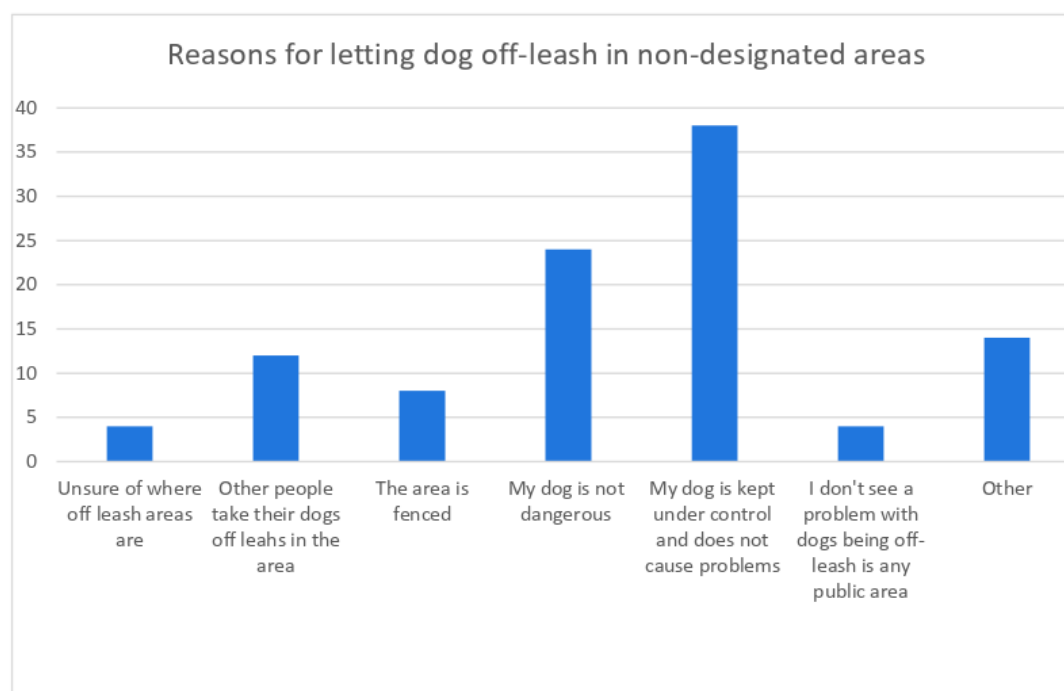
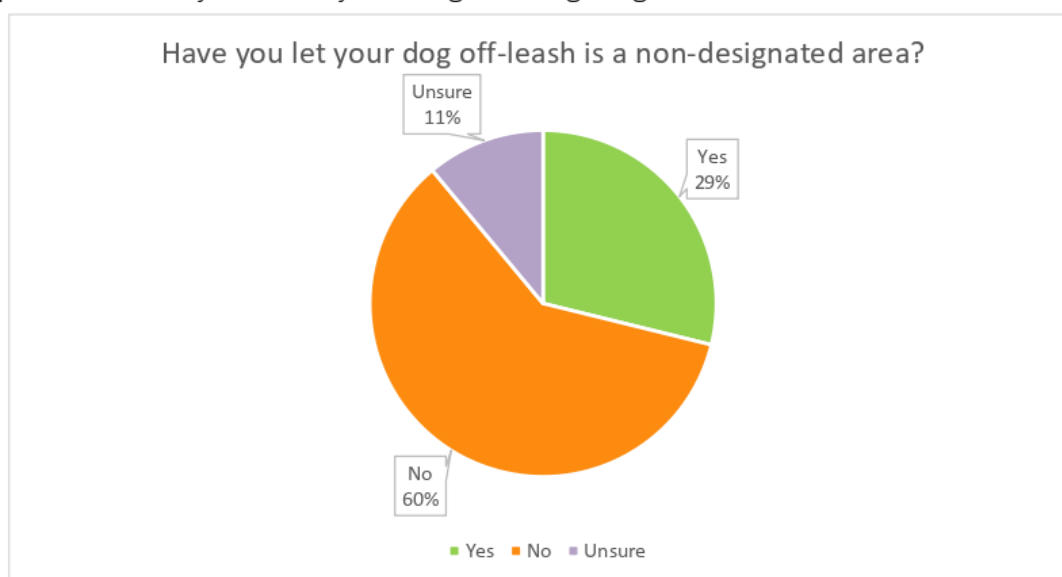
Document - Review
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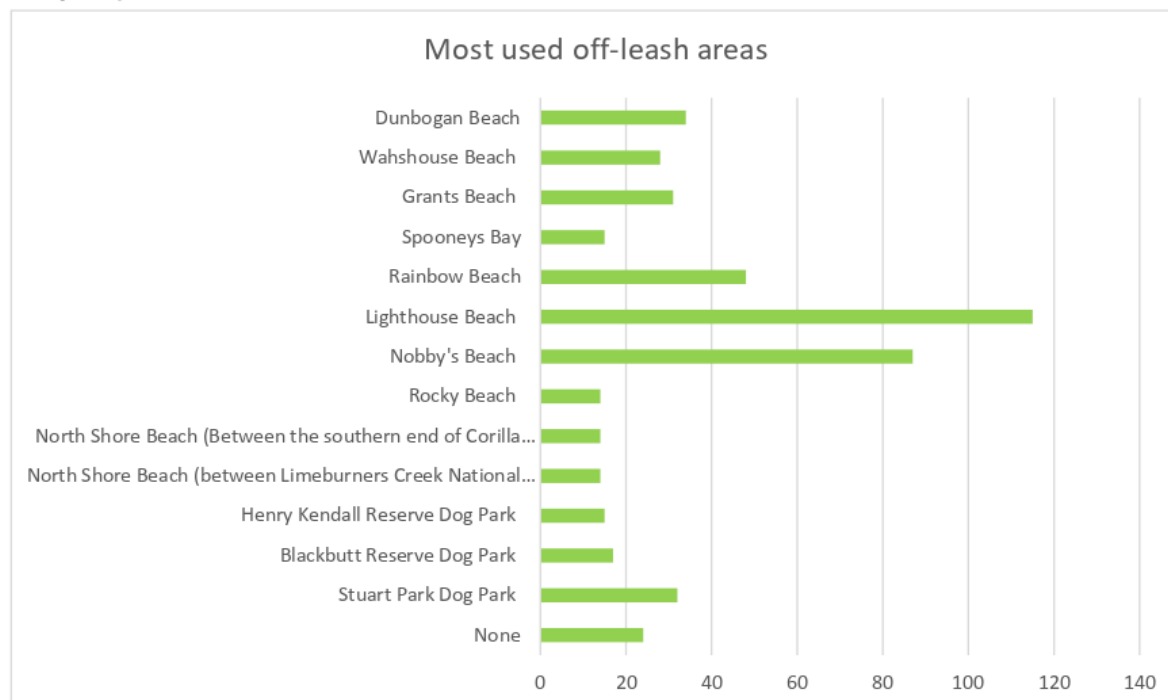
Document - Review
of Policy Dogs in Pu

(Links attached at side when view in PDF).

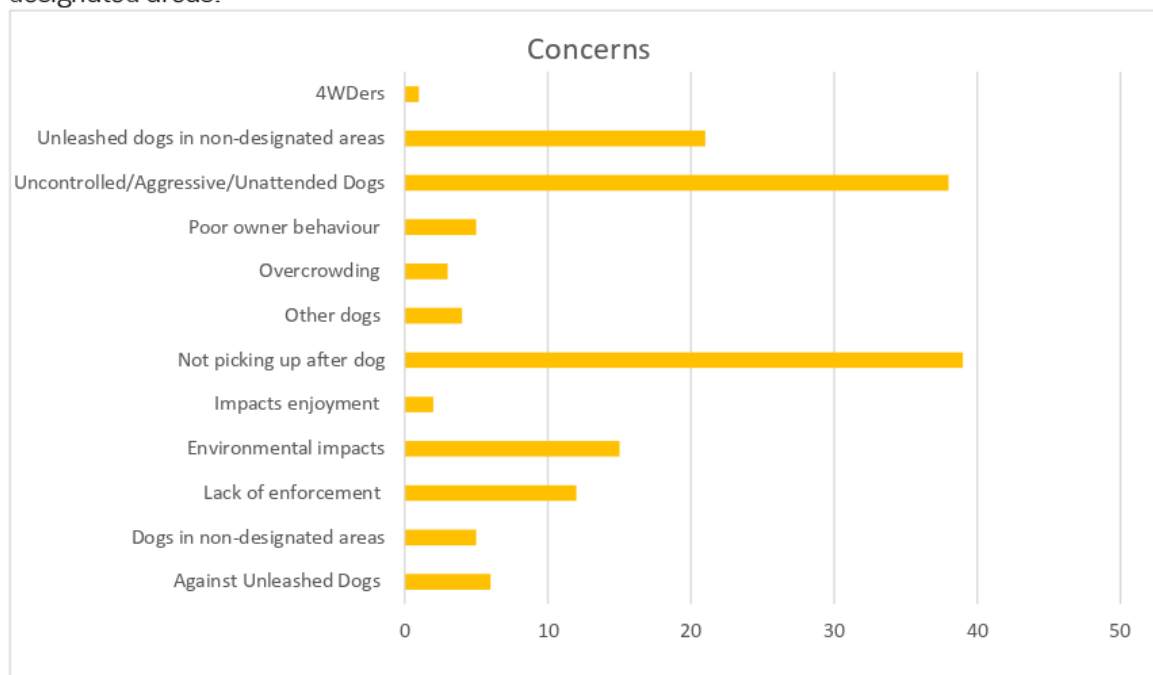
The majority of respondents (60%) had also let their dog off-leash in non-designated areas with the most prevalent reason for this being that their dog is 'kept under control and does not cause problems', closely followed by their dog not being dangerous.



The respondents favoured three off-leash areas including Lighthouse Beach, Nobby's Beach and Rainbow Beach.



However, many concerns around dogs in public spaces featured issues on these popular beaches as well as Washhouse Beach and Stuart Park Dog Park. The main issues included owners not picking up after their dogs, uncontrolled/unattended/aggressive dogs and unleashed dogs in non-designated areas.





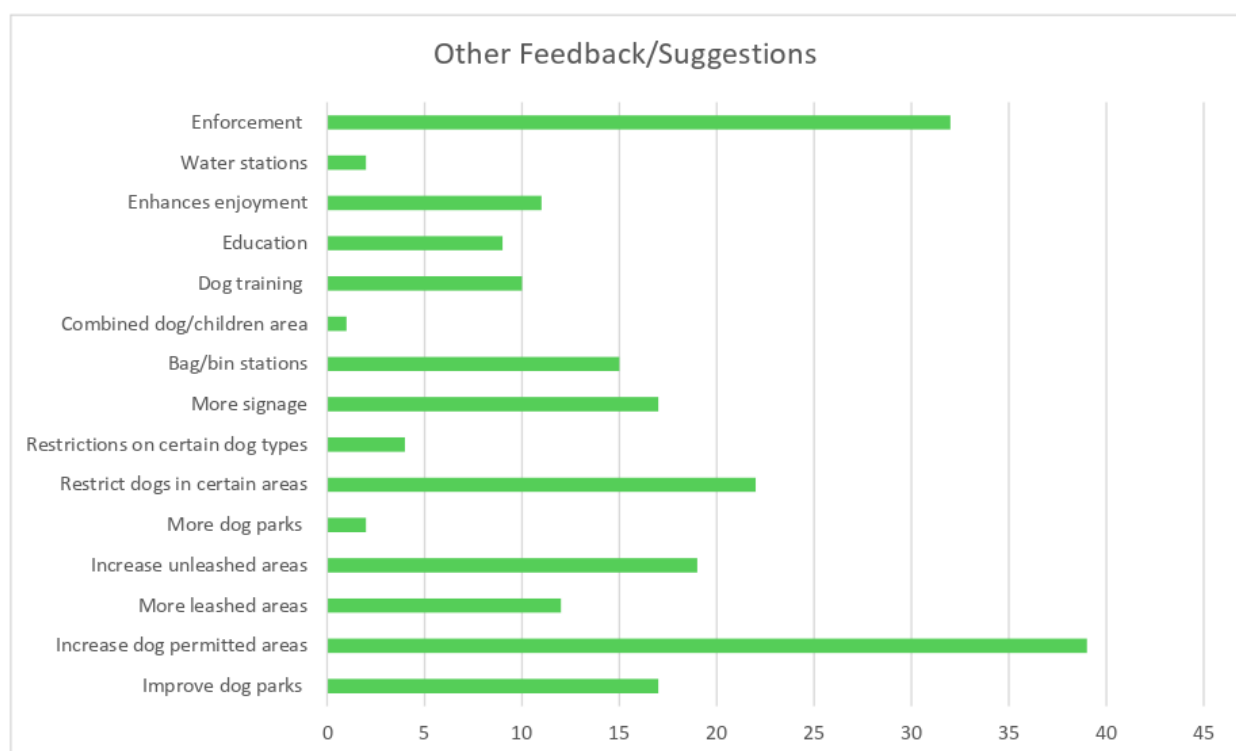
Responses show a significant desire for more dog permitted areas which included both general dog off-leash/leashed spaces as well as in more public areas such as cafes, shopping centres, restaurants etc. On the other hand, respondents also favoured restrictions on dogs in certain public areas such as dining areas, playground, sporting fields and markets in the interest of public safety.

Another significant response is the perceived lack of enforcement of the policy and rules across all dog permitted areas and public spaces in our region with many comments being that this would address concerns outlined in the previous question.

There is desire for more of both off-leash and leashed dog areas which incorporates more signage to identify these areas and inform users. Bag and bin stations are a considered a necessity for all dog permitted areas to encourage owners to pick up after their dogs which is a major concern for many users.

In response to the issues with uncontrolled, aggressive and unattended dogs, suggestions were made as to encouraging dog training programs prior to using public dog friendly facilities or to developing an educational campaign surrounding dogs in public areas and the responsibility of owners in these areas, especially when they are shared with other users and those who use the area with a dog.

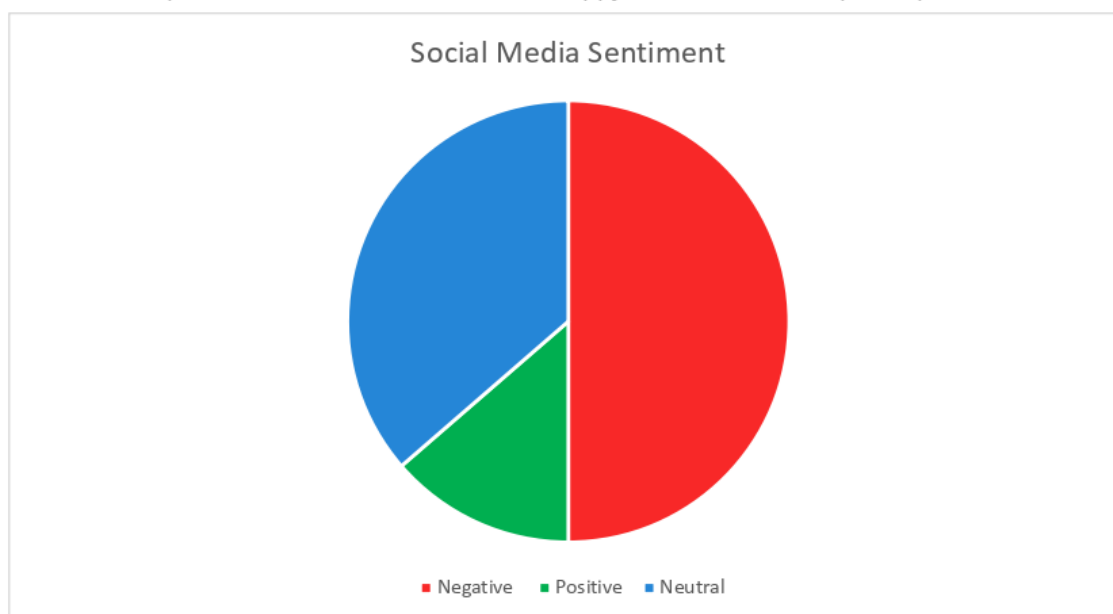
Improving the current dog permitted spaces in our region is also a key response in the survey with specific interest in Stuart Park Dog Park, Port Macquarie which is not considered a sufficient space for dogs and their owners in relation to size, lack of grass covering, and not having a combined dog space.



2.4. Communications

Communication activities for this consultation included promoting the HYS and Facebook survey on social media through Council's corporate Facebook Page, EngagePMH Facebook Group and Instagram. Commentary from these posts were collated to assist in understanding the sentiment of the community towards Dogs in Public Open Spaces. (See appendix 4).

The commentary on the social media posts was not significant, however the sentiment of comments was primarily negative in regards to individual experiences relating to poor owner behaviour, unleashed dogs in non-designated areas, uncontrolled/aggressive dogs, and poor condition of both current permitted beaches and parks. Neutral comments included suggestions for Council whilst positive consisted of individuals happy with the current spaces provided.



3. RESULTS SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

Overall, our community enjoys the ability to take their dogs in to our public designated spaces and is a key part of their lifestyle in our region. The major concerns the community has which is impacting this enjoyment includes owners not picking up after their dogs and the presence of uncontrolled, aggressive or unattended dogs in these spaces. In order to rectify these issues, respondents suggested the installation of more bag/bin stations in all dog permitted areas. There is a desire for more enforcement to take place to ensure that dogs who are aggressive and not under control by their owners are removed from public areas to ensure the safety of the community and other dogs.

There is a widely held belief that enforcement of the rules and Policy is not undertaken by Council resulting in many respondents requesting enforcement regarding unleashed dogs in non-designated areas which impacts the enjoyment of other users and their dogs. Alongside this, an educational piece on the duties of rangers in enforcing the policy could be considered.

Feedback shows that a balance between dog permitted areas and restrictions in public areas is needed with many respondents feeling dogs should be allowed in more public areas including dining areas and shopping centres whereas others feel there should be more restrictions on these areas, specifically dining areas, sporting fields and playgrounds. Increasing the number of off-leash and leashed areas as well as the construction of more dog parks was also a key area of interest for respondents.



4. NEXT STEPS

From this feedback, a Draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy will be developed to go on Public Exhibition in March 2021. A Public Exhibition Report will be developed and provided to the project team for further development of the Policy which will then be put to Council in July 2021 for approval.

5. APPENDIX

Review in Policy: Dogs in Public Open Spaces

We are currently reviewing our Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy, which outlines where dogs are permitted and specifies conditions for dogs in public areas. Your feedback will assist us in future planning for the growing canine population in our region and the enjoyment of the broader community in our open spaces.

For more information on Dog Friendly Areas in our region or to view the current Policy visit, <https://www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/Facilities-Recreation/Outdoor-Spaces/Dog-exercise-areas>

* Email

What is your suburb?

Which best describes you?

- ☐ Dog owner
- ☐ User of spaces also used by dogs
- ☐ Resident living near an off-leash area
- ☐ Other: _____

How many dogs are in your household?

- ☐ None
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4+

Have you used the interactive Dog Map on our website to find dog friendly areas in our region?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Which dog off-leash area/s do you mainly use?

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stuart Park Dog Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackbutt Reserve Dog Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Henry Kendall Reserve Dog Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Shore Beach (between Limeburners Creek National Park and the northern end of Corilla Estate) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Shore Beach (from the southern end of Corilla Estate to the breakwall) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rocky Beach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nobby's Beach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lighthouse Beach (between Watonga Rocks and Lake Cathie 4WD access point) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rainbow Beach (between Middle Rock 4WD access and 200m north of Duchess Creek) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spooney's Bay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grants Beach (between Grants Head and 200m north of surf club) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Washhouse Beach (between breakwall and Kattang Nature Reserve) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dunbogan Beach (between Seaview Ave beach access point south to the Beach St access point) |

On average, how often do you use a dog off-leash area?

- | |
|---|
| <input type="radio"/> More than once a week |
| <input type="radio"/> Weekly |
| <input type="radio"/> Monthly |
| <input type="radio"/> Every 6 months |
| <input type="radio"/> Every 12+ months |
| <input type="radio"/> Never |

Do you have any concerns about dogs in specific areas, leashed or unleashed? (E.g. Playgrounds, sporting fields, dining areas, beaches etc.)

☐ Yes

☐ No

If so, what are your concerns?

Have you let your dog/s off leash in a non-designated area?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

If so, what are your main reasons for letting your dog/s off leash in non-designated areas?

☐ Not sure where off leash areas are

☐ Other people take their dogs off leash in the area

☐ The area is fenced (E.g. sporting field, fenced park)

☐ Your dog is not dangerous

☐ Your dog is kept under control and does not cause problems

☐ You do not see a problem with dogs being off leash in any public area

☐ Other: _____

Do you have any other feedback or suggestions regarding dogs in public open spaces in our region?

Send

Good morning,

We're currently reviewing our dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy and we would love to hear your thoughts!

The Policy sets out where dogs are permitted and specifies conditions for dogs in public areas. As you are an organisation which may be interested in this, we encourage you to provide us your thoughts and experiences of dogs in public spaces and share this information with your network. Your feedback will assist us in future planning for the growing canine population in our region and the enjoyment of our whole community in our open spaces.

You can see our current Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy and take our short survey at, <https://haveyoursay.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/dogs-in-public-open-spaces>.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you.

Review in Policy: Dogs in Public Open Spaces



We are currently reviewing our Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy, which outlines where dogs are permitted and specific conditions for dogs in public areas and we would love to know your thoughts! Your feedback will assist us in future planning for the growing canine population in our region and the enjoyment of the broader community in our open spaces.

You can view the current **Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy** in the document library to the right (or below if viewing this page on a mobile device).

Please provide your feedback by completing our short survey below by **Friday 19 Feb 2021**.

DOGS IN PUBLIC OPEN SPACES SURVEY

Dogs in Public Open Spaces survey

Whether you own a dog or not, we would love for you to provide your feedback through our short survey below which will assist us in future planning for the growing canine population in our region and the enjoyment of the broader community in our open spaces.

Survey closes **19 February 2021**.

Writing a submission is one way of sharing your views and opinions with Council. All submissions are considered before making a decision and your submission may be included in a report to Council.

Note: Submissions and petitions are public information and may be made public. If you wish to have information in your submission suppressed, you will need to request this in writing.

CLOSED: This survey has concluded.

Who's listening

Olivia Lawler

Engagement Officer

Phone 8581 8111

Email Olivia.Lawler@pmhc.nsw.gov.au



Rosane Gossner

Recreation Property and Buildings

Phone 8581 8111





Email rosane.gossner@pmhc.nsw.gov.au



Document Library

Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy (adopted 20 April 2011) (201 KB) (pdf)

| Content | | T 1 Filters | | | |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| POSTS ↓ | ENGAGEMENTS | REACH | LINK CLICKS | IMPRESSIONS | |
| 2 | 68 | 7.06K | 123 | 7.08K | |


| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|----|-------|------|-------------|-----|-------------|------|--|-------------|----|-------|-----|-------------|---|-------------|-----|
|  Port Macquarie-Hastings ... 13 Feb, 9:38 AM · Public · +4 more... We're reviewing our Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy. We want to hear...  <table> <tr><td>Engagements</td><td>45</td></tr> <tr><td>Reach</td><td>6.7K</td></tr> <tr><td>Link clicks</td><td>123</td></tr> <tr><td>Impressions</td><td>6.7K</td></tr> </table> | Engagements | 45 | Reach | 6.7K | Link clicks | 123 | Impressions | 6.7K |  Port Macquarie Council 12 Feb, 7:08 PM · Dogs · +4 more... Darcie's favourite place to go is Nobby's Beach, where does your dog...  <table> <tr><td>Engagements</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>Reach</td><td>357</td></tr> <tr><td>Link clicks</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>Impressions</td><td>372</td></tr> </table> | Engagements | 23 | Reach | 357 | Link clicks | - | Impressions | 372 |
| Engagements | 45 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reach | 6.7K | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Link clicks | 123 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Impressions | 6.7K | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Engagements | 23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reach | 357 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Link clicks | - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Impressions | 372 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Admin · February 12 at 7:21 PM · 🌐

Love taking your dog out and about? 🐕

Good news! We're currently reviewing our Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy and we would love to hear your thoughts!

The Policy outlines where dogs are permitted and specifies conditions for dogs in public areas. Your feedback will help us in future planning for the growing canine population in our region and our community's enjoyment of our open spaces!... See More



SURVEY.APP.DO


SURVEY: REVIEW IN POLICY: DOGS IN PUBLIC OPEN SPACES


We are currently reviewing our Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy, which outlines where dogs ...


👍 3 2 Comments 2 Shares


👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share


All Comments ▼


Mike Andy Daley
Catherine Power
 Like · Reply · Share · 1w


Graeme Roberts
 Not a very comprehensive survey
 Like · Reply · Share · 1w


 Write a public comment...

connectpmh



connectpmh Darcie's favourite place to go is Nobby's Beach, where does your dog like to take you? 🐶

We're currently reviewing our Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy and we would love to hear what you (and your dog) think!

The Policy outlines where dogs are permitted and specifies conditions for dogs in public spaces. Your feedback will help us in future planning for our region's growing canine population and the community's enjoyment of our open spaces.

Visit, <https://survey.app.do/review-in-policy-dog...> [More](#)

Feb 12, 2021

Post Performance

👍 22 💬 1 📌 0

Interactions

9

Actions taken from this post

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Profile Visits | 8 |
| Website Clicks | 1 |

Discovery

361

Accounts reached

24% weren't following you


| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Follows | 2 |
| Reach | 361 |
| Impressions | 377 |
| From Home | 281 |
| From Hashtags | 85 |
| From Profile | 7 |
| From Other | 4 |

 **Port Macquarie-Hastings Council**
February 13 at 9:38 AM · 🌐

We're reviewing our Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy. We want to hear what you (and your dog 🐾) want to see in the new one.

The policy sets out where the dog-friendly spaces are in our community and the conditions for your best-mate when out and about 🐕


Get involved and #haveyoursay 🙌 <http://bit.ly/DogsInPublicSpaces>
Survey closes Fri 19 Feb.





👍❤️ 17 48 Comments 11 Shares


👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share 🧑🏻▼

Oldest ▼

 **Roslyn Horsfield**
I want to see doggos everywhere! 🐾
Like · Reply · 1w 5

 **Erin Wise**
Roslyn Horsfield me toooo please 🐕❤️
Like · Reply · 1w 1

 **Ted Jobson**
Roslyn Horsfield yes on a lead
Like · Reply · 1w 1

 Write a reply... 😊 GIF 🗨️



Ollie Saz

I think Port Macquarie has a large number of residents who own dogs. With that said, I think there's a lack of fenced dog parks in which residents can let their dogs play off leash.

Suggest that a few are created around the suburbs of PMQ

Like · Reply · 1w

11



Author

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
This is great feedback Ollie Saz!

Like · Reply · 1w



Naomi Wyndham

Ollie Saz, preferably not a dust bowl like the new fenced dog park.

Like · Reply · 1w

1



Ollie Saz

Where's this new fenced park you're referring to Naomi Wyndham?

Like · Reply · 6d



Naomi Wyndham

Ollie Saz wood st

Like · Reply · 6d

1



Write a reply...

😊 GIF 🗨️



Debby Scarr

There should be more walks allowing people to walk there dogs on leash please.

Like · Reply · 1w

4



Author

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
Debby Scarr, can you elaborate on this comment a bit more? What do you mean by more on leash walks?

Like · Reply · 1w



Debby Scarr

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council eg would be the coast walk town beach to lighthouse. Love to do this for exercise for me and our dog on leash and not allowed to take dog.

Like · Reply · 1w

1



Author

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
Debby Scarr you can take your dog on a leash all the way from the settlement city marina to Flynns Beach. That's quite a good walk for you and your pooch



Like · Reply · 6d



Tamara Miller

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council yes I agree, we should be able to take our dog on the lead doing the coast walk

Like · Reply · 5d



Write a reply...



Barb Rock

I would like to see the Council enforce the rules where dogs should be on lead. The overall PMQ area does have a number of beaches, dog parks for off leash activity & plenty of places on lead. Of course there can always be more, however dog owners also need to be responsible for their dogs & have them "under control" wherever they may be. Off leash areas are not the remedy for your "out of control" dog to expend some energy. I am tired asking people to put their dogs on lead, when they already should be, in situations where there may be other anxious dogs, people or children also in the same space (all legitimately). We need to share the space responsibly (no not a bleeding heart)

Like · Reply · 1w



Karen Boswell

Barb Rock I agree with you 100%. If you have control of your dog while it's off lead then fine but if you've got a dog that refuses to come when called then they need to be on a lead. One of my biggest problems with leash free is that I put my dog on a lead if I see another dog approaching but the other people let their dogs run up to mine it's not acceptable.

Like · Reply · 1w



Helga Collins

Barb Rock, I often get I abused for asking someone to put their dog on leash when they should be, like I'm the bad guy. If it's not a leash free area, please keep your dogs on leash at all times.

Like · Reply · 1w



Karen Boswell

Helga Collins me too and so does a friend of mine. It's especially bad at Nth haven beach

Like · Reply · 1w



Shannon Maree

Barb Rock agreed. So sick of off lead dogs running around and owners having no ability to call them back. While we are on the subject, the amount of dog poo around port macquarie is disgraceful. Dog owners need to take more responsibility of their animals.


Like · Reply · 1w





Karen Bird


I walk my dog on a lead all the time, week mornings 6am-ish round The Point Drive, while 90% of other dog owners have their dogs off the lead 😞


Like · Reply · 1w


 **Karen Bird**
I walk my dog on a lead all the time, week mornings 6am-ish round The Point Drive, while 90% of other dog owners have their dogs off the lead 😞
Like · Reply · 1w


 **Author**
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
Thanks for the insights! Sorry to hear you've all had these bad experiences. We encourage you to fill in our feedback form, it'll help us to ensure we deliver the right policy that suits you and your furry friend.
Like · Reply · 1w


 **Barb Rock**
Done already 🍎 1
Like · Reply · 1w


 Write a reply... 🗨️ 📎 🗑️

 **Helga Collins**
Done 🍎 1
Like · Reply · 1w

 Write a reply... 🗨️ 📎 🗑️

 **David Bax**
Clive Bax Brea Bax
Like · Reply · 1w

 **Min Cotter**
Where can you take your dog leash free besides the dog beaches???? And not the tiny "playground" at wood street, but somewhere you can throw a ball. I have trouble walking on the beach due to a leg injury, but still want my dog to be able to run ????? And if you want to be a muppet with your answer , scroll on 🍎 2
Like · Reply · 1w

 **Shannon Kay**
Min Cotter dog parks?
Like · Reply · 1w



Taisha Steep
Min Cotter



Like · Reply · 1w



Fay Stephenson
Min Cotter Wauchope dog park. Plenty of room to run and throw a ball.

Like · Reply · 1w



Jay Beazley
Min Cotter Kermit or miss piggy
More dogs then people in lighthouse.. Try Bunnings or a coffee shop that's the new fad

Like · Reply · 1w



Author
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
Hi Min Cotter! You can see all our dog friendly areas on our website 🙌
<https://www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/Services/Pets/Dog-friendly-areas>



PMHC.NSW.GOV.AU

Dog friendly areas - Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Like · Reply · 1w




Naomi Wyndham
Min Cotter right! We were at the Thompsons Rd dog park in Coffs on the weekend and were commenting it would be great to have similar in Port: lots of room to run, a creek for those dogs (like mine) who want to swim, lush grass, trees, picnic table and seating areas


Like · Reply · 1w





Write a reply...




 Ruby Macarthur
Town green needs to be on lead only.
I saw a stuffy X have a go at a young girl and then very quickly after another dog while the owner continued to walk off with a very poor attempt to call the dog back only on friday. Accidents waiting to happen

Like · Reply · 1w  2

 Shannon Maree
Ruby Macarthur town green is on lead only. Lately there has just been a lot of 'my dog is more important' attitudes and dogs running all over the place


Like · Reply · 1w  1


 Lydia Wills
This happens a lot in Koolongbung nature reserve too. It's clearly signed as dogs on lead only, but hardly anyone does.

Like · Reply · 1w  2


 Russell Wills
Maybe council could have some rangers patrolling town green and fining people with off-leash dogs? Signs don't stop people.





Like · Reply · 1w  1


 Author
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
Shame to hear people aren't doing the right thing! Our rangers try their best to get around the LGA, but we've taken note and let our rangers know 🙌

Like · Reply · 1w  2


 Shannon Maree
Russell Wills I reported this to council and was told rangers have been giving warnings. Warnings don't seem to be a deterrent.

Like · Reply · 1w  1


 Write a reply...   

 Melanie Wass
Fay Stephenson  1

Like · Reply · 1w

 Ash Oliver
I'd love to see more poop bag stations around. I know we should have our own, and I do. But sometimes my boy decides he wants to poop every time I tie the bag, I must use like 5-6 per walk 🤔🐕

Like · Reply · 1w · Edited

 Author
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
Thanks for the feedback Ash Oliver! In the mean time whilst we're reviewing the policy we suggest taking a few extra bags out with you 😊

Like · Reply · 1w



Sandra James
And pick up their poo 🐾

Like · Reply · 1w



Carol Green
Beth Holland

Like · Reply · 1w



Alexei Watson
Kate Watson

Like · Reply · 1w



Darryl Toohey
Yes agree - dog owners need to be responsible as it gives us all a bad name. But I'd like to see some doggie friendly beaches that are not surf beaches where the dogs have to stay ON lead all the time. My dog loves the water but not the waves. 😊

Like · Reply · 5d



1



Renee Bullock
I would like to see a bigger enclosed park for off leash. I have a working dog and it's not always appropriate or possible to get them to the beach. And whilst the dog park is good it's not really big enough for chasing the ball especially with other dogs and obstacles in the space.

Like · Reply · 5d



Anette de Visser
A fenced 'off leash area' on the bottom of crestwood drive would be nice.

Like · Reply · 4d



Write a comment...





PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS
COUNCIL

Draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy

PUBLIC EXHIBITION REPORT

30 June 2021





| | | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------|-----------|
| Project name | Draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy | | |
| Project manager | Rosane Gossner/Gary Hill | | |
| Consultant | | | |
| Engagement Officer | Olivia Lawler | | |
| Operation Plan # | | CM Reference | SF20/4558 |

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

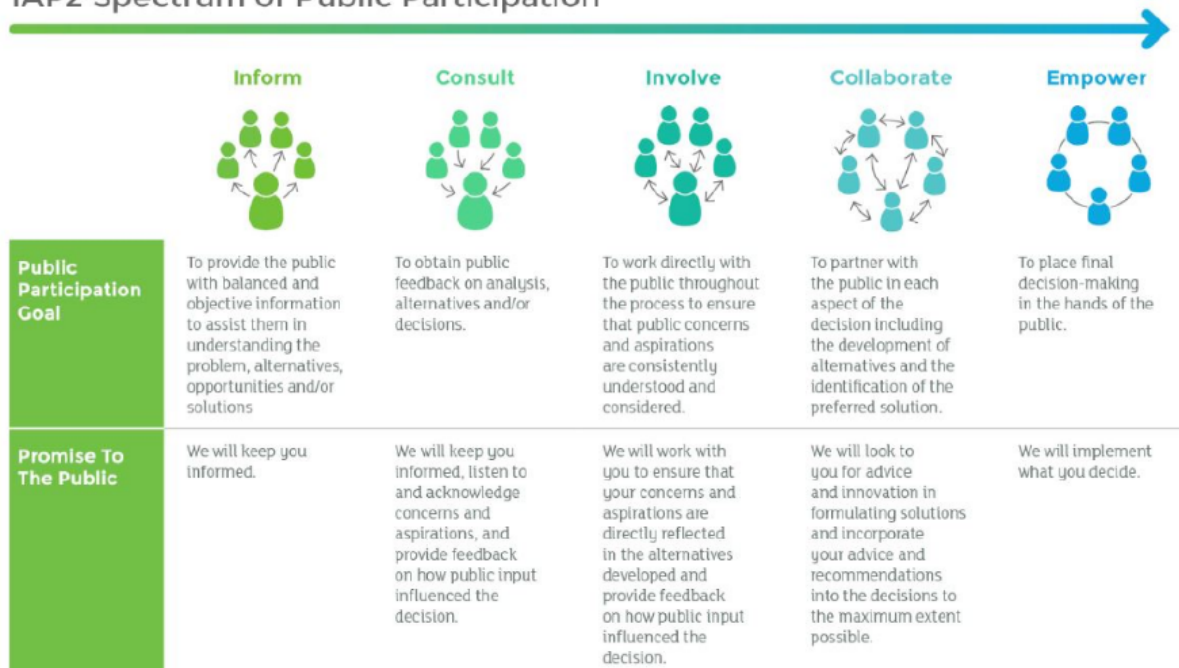
Our Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy assists us in managing the presence of dogs in our open spaces. The Policy outlines where dogs are permitted and the conditions under which they are allowed in public areas. The current policy was last updated in 2011 and is a part of Council's broader review of beach management. Earlier this year, we asked our community about their experiences with dogs in open spaces throughout our region to assist us in our policy review. From this feedback, a Draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy was developed and shared with our community. The proposed changes to the policy are:

- Document updated to current policy format
- Due to complaints received by Council and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) regarding the off-leash section of Washhouse Beach, to reduce confusion, and to allow NPWS management programs to be implemented, Washhouse Beach is proposed to be reclassified from Off-Leash to Prohibited.

1.2. Engagement approach

The Draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy was on Public Exhibition from Monday 24 May to Monday 21 June 2021. Engagement activities were undertaken during this period to **consult** with both key stakeholders and the community to understand their experiences and opinions of both the proposed changes and the presence of dogs in our open spaces. Key stakeholders included dog clubs, dog training programs, National Parks and Wildlife Service, and local veterinary clinics.

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation



1.3. Consultation focus

The intent of the consultation was to gather community feedback regarding the proposed changes within the Draft Policy and to inform stakeholders and the community of how the results from the initial engagement contributed to the policy review. The intent was to also understand whether the proposed changes addressed the issues and concerns previously identified.

The questions asked in the survey were:

- Age
- Which best describes you? (Dog owner, User of spaces also used by dogs, Resident living near a designated dog area, Other – provide comment).
- Please provide your feedback on the Draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy.

2. ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES, TIMELINES & RESULTS

2.1. Email to Stakeholders

Emails detailing the summary of engagement results from the initial consultation and the Draft Policy with proposed changes were sent to key stakeholders and previous survey respondents to encourage their involvement and feedback. Emails were sent on Tuesday 25 May 2021. (See appendix 1).

2.2. Pop-up stands

Two pop-up stands were hosted to create awareness and provide an opportunity for the community to have their questions answered and share their feedback directly with Council's Engagement Team. The pop-ups involved both the Draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy and the Draft Beach Driving Policy.

The first pop-up was held at Lighthouse Beach in Port Macquarie at the vehicle access point end on Saturday 5 June from 11am-1pm. Twenty community members attended to find out more information and fill out a feedback form.

The second pop-up was at Washhouse Beach in Dunbogan on Tuesday 15 June from 1:30pm-3:30pm with approximately sixty community members attending. Many concerns were raised by the community about the proposed closure of Washhouse Beach and in-depth discussions were had with many community members.

2.3. Online Community Meeting

An online community meeting hosted via Zoom was held on Tuesday 15 June from 5pm-7pm with eighteen community members attending. A presentation was given detailing both the Draft Policies followed by a Q&A/discussion of the proposed changes.

2.4. Communications

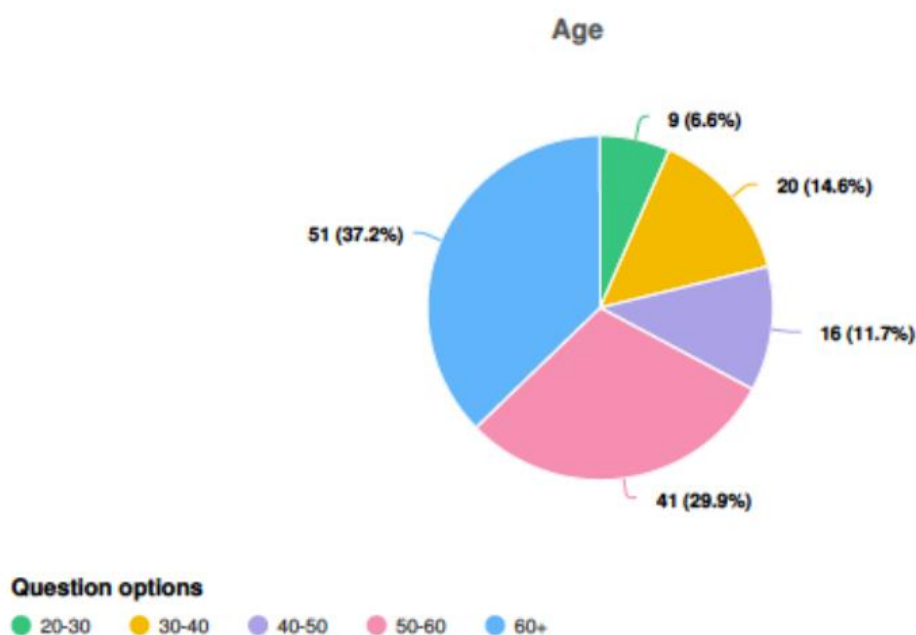
Communication activities undertaken for this consultation included the promotion of the Public Exhibition through both social media channels, including the corporate Facebook page and Instagram and through traditional media. Corflute signs detailing the Draft Policy were installed at the majority of locations where dogs are permitted. (See appendix 2).

Social media commentary displayed a significant negative sentiment towards the proposed reclassification of Washhouse Beach, and a petition was created against the proposed change which has received over 600 signatures. (See appendix 3).

2.5. Submissions

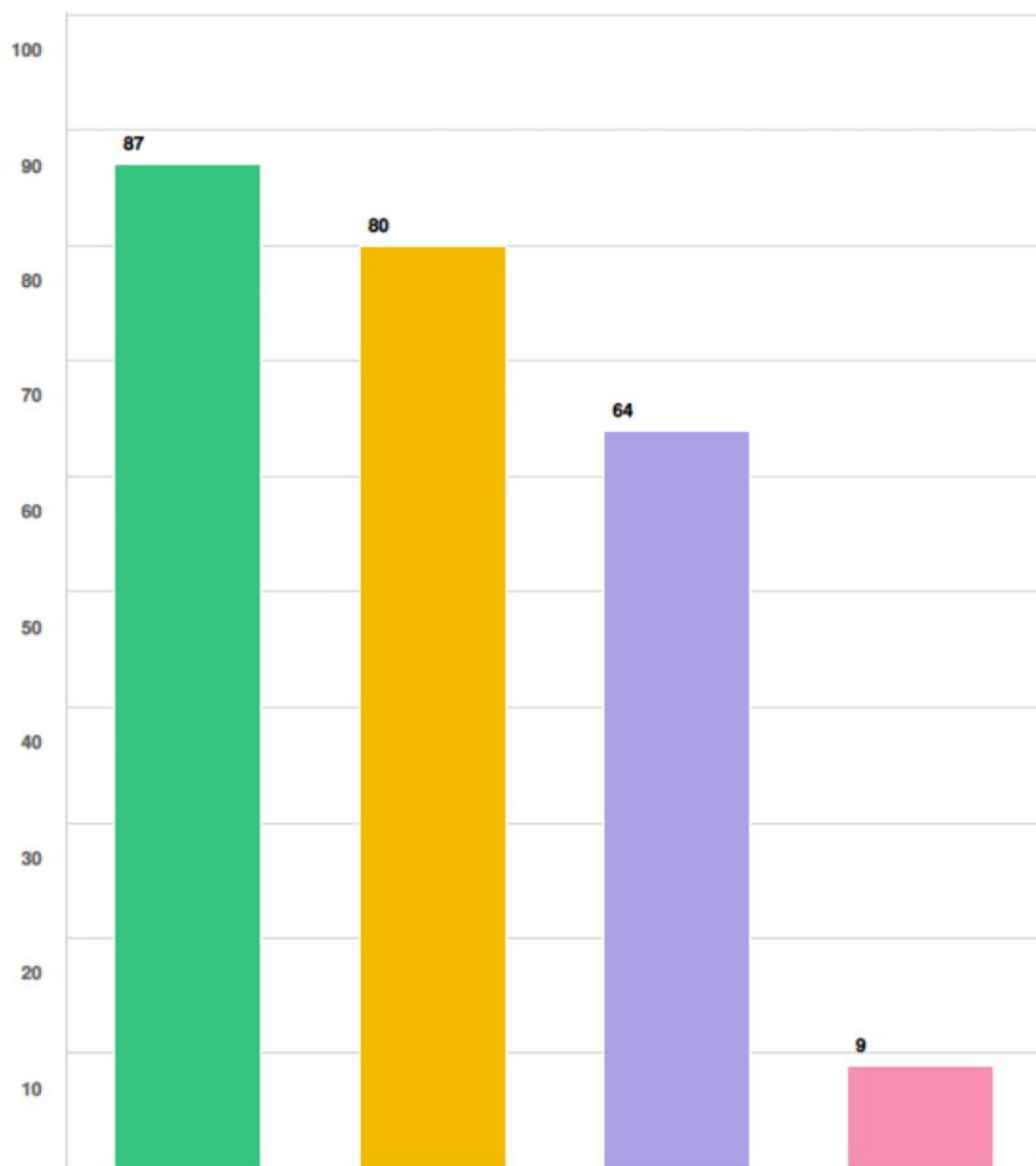
A total of 137 submissions were received for the Draft Policy from the Have Your Say (HYS) survey. The Draft Policy was viewed/download 189 times and the Engagement Summary Infographic from the previous engagement was viewed 48 times. A total of 56 submissions were received via email and hard copy feedback forms. (See appendix 4).

From the HYS Survey the majority of respondents were in the 60+ age group. Most respondents also identified themselves as being dog owners or users of spaces also used by dogs.





Which best describes you?



Question options

- Dog Owner ● Users of spaces also used by dogs ● Resident living near a designated dog area
● Other (please specify)

Each submission has been broken down into their key comments with each comment being given a label as per Table 1. The data from both the HYS survey and written submissions were collated with results shown in Table 2.

| Label | Description |
|----------------------|--|
| Against Draft Policy | Comments which do not support the proposed changes of the Draft Policy. |
| For Draft Policy | Comments which do support the proposed changes of the Draft Policy. |
| Access/Safety | Concerns regarding accessibility and safety with regards to dog friendly beaches. |
| Education/Signage | Comments regarding the need for further education and improved signage. |
| Enforcement | Comments regarding the perceived lack of enforcement of the current policies and the need for more active enforcement. |
| Environment | Comments regarding any impacts to the environment. |
| Policy Infringements | Comments detailing specific policy infringements and concerns that this will not improve. |
| Dog permitted areas | General comments regarding the provision of dog permitted areas. |
| Dog prohibited areas | General comments regarding dog prohibited areas. |
| Wellbeing | Health and wellbeing of the community in reference to dog friendly areas. |
| Restrictions/Limit | Suggestions of alternative restrictions or limitations on dog ownership. |
| Economy and Tourism | Comments relating the economic and tourism impacts of dog friendly areas. |

Table 1 Data labels and descriptions.

| Label | # of Comments | Percentage |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Against Draft Policy | 131 | 38.2% |
| Access/Safety | 35 | 10.2% |
| For Draft Policy | 32 | 9.3% |
| Enforcement | 29 | 8.5% |
| Education/Signage | 25 | 7.3% |
| Environment | 20 | 5.8% |
| Wellbeing | 18 | 5.2% |
| Policy Infringements | 15 | 4.4% |
| Dog permitted areas | 15 | 4.4% |
| Dog prohibited areas | 12 | 3.5% |
| Restrictions/Limit | 7 | 2% |
| Economy/Tourism | 4 | 1.2% |
| Total | 343 | 100% |

Table 2 Submissions data

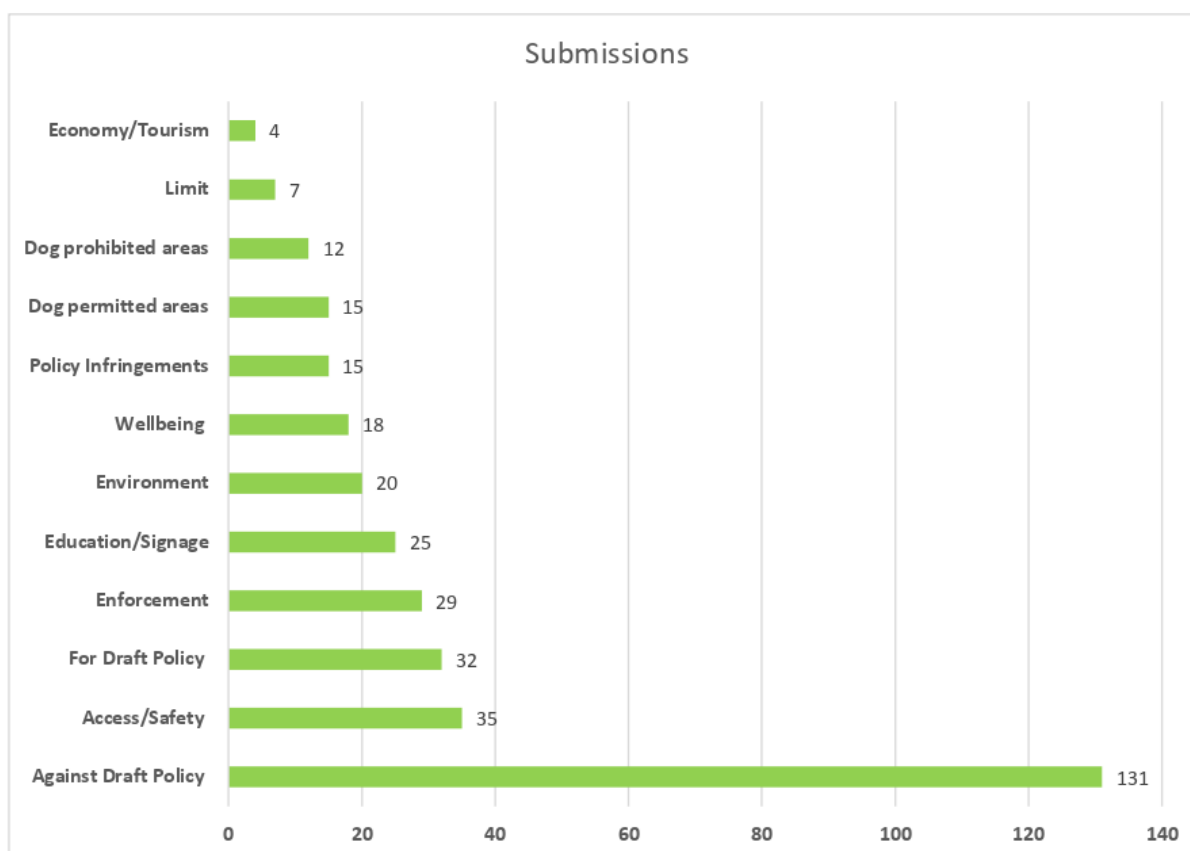


Table 3 Submissions data graph

Detailed Feedback Summary

The majority of respondents were strongly opposed to the proposal to reclassify Washhouse Beach to prohibited for a variety of reasons. The most prevalent reason was that Washhouse Beach provides easy access for the elderly and people with disabilities whilst also being a safer beach for individuals and families with their dogs. For this reason, South Beach is not considered an acceptable alternative due to the inaccessible track, lack of amenities and parking and safety concerns. There were many concerns of the impact on the mental and social wellbeing of the Dunbogan community if the proposed changes were to move forward as Washhouse Beach is considered a valuable asset in promoting positive mental health and providing the opportunity for individuals to interact with like-minded people. Some respondents believed that the reclassification of Washhouse Beach would have a detrimental impact on the economy and tourism of the area as visitors are drawn to the area as a result of these dog friendly areas located close to holiday accommodation.

Majority of responses against the Draft Policy believed that most users of this space abide by the policy and have never been made aware of problems with dogs in this area in relation to both other users and the environment. Some responses that acknowledge environmental damage believe that more harm is being caused by foxes and feral cats, noxious weeds and fisherman and individuals climbing on the rock platforms.

Respondents in support of the Draft Policy believed that the environmental impacts of dogs in this area are significant with regards to threatened and vulnerable bird and turtle species as well as other wildlife including goannas and wallabies. Most responses recall individuals with their dogs continuing past the sign into the prohibited section of Washhouse Beach and into Kattang Nature

Reserve. Respondents also shared concerns about the disturbance of other beach users caused by uncontrolled dogs and the continuation of conflict between general beach users and dog owners. National Parks and Wildlife Service have advised that it is a significant challenge to manage dog walking on Washhouse Beach to protect the biodiversity of the area due to continued policy infringements. NPWS comment that dogs are a key threat to all threatened species occurring at Washhouse Beach and that the sound, scent or presence of a dog is enough to disturb wildlife, particularly nesting birds.

Both responses for and against the Draft Policy express concern for the perceived lack of enforcement and the need for further education of both the local community and visitors as well as installing more effective and clear signage. Many respondents feel that the compliance to the policy would improve significantly should more ranger presence and enforcement take place, partnered with effective education campaigns.

Some concerns were shared around the state of local dog parks, in particular, Henry Kendall Reserve in Laurieton. This area is not considered an appealing dog friendly space due to the lack of separated large and small dog areas and is not sufficiently maintained.

There were further calls for increased dog permitted areas, including on the current prohibited beaches/sections and suggestions of 'hours of access' rules be implemented during off-seasons and before and after business hours.

3. RESULTS SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

Overall, the majority of respondents were against the Draft Policy, in particular, the proposal to reclassify Washhouse Beach from off-leash to prohibited. Factors contributing to this include the mental and social wellbeing of the community, accessibility and safety, economy and tourism and the lack of enforcement and need for further education of the policy.

Environmental impacts were the most significant reason in support of the proposed policy changes with specific focus on the threatened and vulnerable species in this area. Responses advised of continued infringements of the policy, specifically dogs being walked beyond the permitted section and into Kattang Nature Reserve.

The perceived lack of enforcement and need for further policy education and improved signage was a key factor for both for and against the proposed changes.

4. NEXT STEPS

- Draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy will be reviewed with consideration of stakeholder and community feedback.
- Draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy put to Council at the 21 July Ordinary Council Meeting.

5. APPENDIX

From: **Community Engagement Education** CommunityEngagement.Education@pmhc.nsw.gov.au
Subject: PMHC Draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy - Public Exhibition
Date: 25 May 2021 at 3:36 pm
To:

CE

Good afternoon,

Recently, we asked our community about their experiences with dogs in public areas to assist us in reviewing our current Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy. From community feedback, we've developed an updated Policy and we invite you to share your thoughts!

All feedback received has been considered and will assist us with future education programs to ensure our guidelines for dogs in public areas are understood and everyone can enjoy our open spaces safely.

Changes to the Draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy include:

- Document updated to **new policy format**
- Due to the complaints received by Council and National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) regarding the off-leash section of Washhouse Beach, to reduce confusion, and allow NPWS management programs to be implemented, **Washhouse Beach will be reclassified from Off-Leash to Prohibited.**

The Draft Policy will be on public exhibition until midnight **Monday 21 June 2021** and there are a number of ways you can find out more and have your say.

- View the current Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy, Draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy and summary of results from previous engagements on our webpage.
- Complete our online survey
- Visit us at our pop-up on **Saturday 5 June, 11am-1pm at Lighthouse Beach** (vehicle access point end)
- Register for our online community meeting on **Tuesday 15 June, 5pm-7pm via Zoom**. This meeting will also include the Draft Beach Driving Policy.

Visit, <https://haveyoursay.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/draft-dogs-in-public-open-spaces-policy>

Kind regards,

Olivia Lawler
Community Engagement Officer
Strategy and Growth



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL

p (02) 6581 8111





Dogs in Public Open Spaces

Survey Summary Report



Most used off-leash dog areas



Promotional channels

- Council's Facebook pages
- ConnectPMH Instagram account
- 'Have Your Say' on Council's website
- Emails to interest groups including dog clubs, animal training centres and vet practices in the region

The survey had



457
Visits



224
Responses

What you told us

Dog owners need to take more responsibility for their dogs and have them 'under control'

Frustration with some owners not picking up after their dogs

Need more effective consequences when dogs are off lead in a "leashed" area

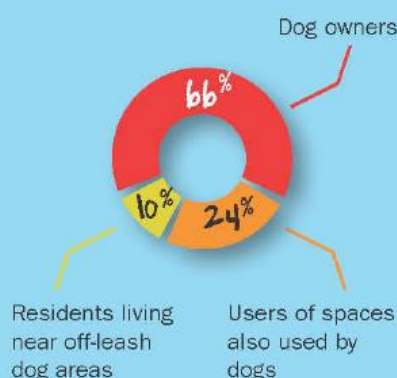
We need more bins and waste bags

Better education and encouragement of dog training

Be aware when kids or other anxious dogs are around, we need to share the space responsibly

More fenced off leash areas to run and throw a ball

Who took our survey?



What's needed?



Major Concerns

- Owners not picking up poo
- Misuse of designated areas
- Uncontrolled dogs
- Environmental impacts



Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy

The Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy outlines where dogs are permitted and the conditions under which they are allowed in public areas. Recently, we asked you about your experiences to assist us in reviewing our current Policy. From your feedback, we've developed a Draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy and invite you to share your feedback!

Understanding how these spaces are used will also assist in future planning for our region's growing canine population and the enjoyment of our whole community in our open spaces.

Proposed changes to the Draft Policy include:

- Document updated to new Policy format
- Due to the complaints received by Council and National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) regarding the off-leash section of Washhouse Beach, to reduce confusion and allow the NPWS management program to be implemented, Washhouse Beach will be reclassified from Off-Leash to Prohibited

your say


The Policy reviews are the first step of Council's broader review of Beach Management, including signage and community education.

For more information, to view both the draft and current Policy and to have your say visit our website or use the QR Code below for a direct link.



pmhc.nsw.gov.au/dogs-in-open-spaces





**Port Macquarie Hastings Council**June 4 at 12:30 PM · 🌐...

If you'd like to Have Your Say on the draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy, and the draft Beach Driving Policy - join us at our pop-up tomorrow morning 🌞

We'll be at Lighthouse Beach, at the vehicle access point end from 11am - 1pm - check out the event below [for](#) more info!


If you want to find out what's changed or take short survey visit,
🐕 - <https://bit.ly/3fP6YpS>
🚗 - <https://bit.ly/3uMWaMX>








Have your say
Draft Policies: Dogs in Public Open Spaces
& Beach Driving
Pop-up session
When: Saturday 5 June, 11am-1pm
Where: Lighthouse Beach, Port Macquarie

SAT, JUN 5
Draft Policies: Beach Driving and Dogs in Public Open Spaces Pop-up
Port Macquarie
Shared to HEADS UP IN THE CAMDEN HAVEN



☆ Interested

 Vanessa Lista and 2 others


 Like  Comment  Share 




**Port Macquarie Hastings Council**
Published by Falcon.io · June 14 at 12:30 PM · 🌐

Join us at Washhouse beach in Dunbogan, tomorrow at 1.30 – 3.30pm to Have Your Say on the draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy, and the draft Beach Driving Policy!
This is your chance to ask us questions, and provide your feedback, and discuss the change... [See More](#)





[See Insights](#)[Boost Post](#)

 6 1 Comment 2 Shares

 Like  Comment  Share

Most Relevant ▾



**Lulu Arjava**
How much more beautiful those vehicles look on a beach than dogs playing!
NOT..
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2w

Make Wash House beach dog friendly.



Samantha Jane (Lockey) started this petition to Olivia Lawler & Rosane Gossner (Port Macquarie Hastings Council)

Port Macquarie Hastings Council is trying to take our only dog friendly beach in this area away from us and our dogs. Wash House beach is a very well looked after by everyone including the local dog owners with lots of space for both dogs and people to spend some quality time together, whilst being respectful and mindful of the surroundings.

638 have signed. Let's get to 1,000!



At 1,000 signatures, this petition is more likely to be **featured in recommendations!**

Sydney, 2000
Australia



☒ Display my name and comment on this petition

Sign this petition

By signing, you accept Change.org's [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), and agree to receive occasional emails about campaigns on Change.org. You can unsubscribe at any time.

I am disappointed that the changes made were to provide fewer dog friendly areas in the region. While I understand the restrictions and am happy with the number of off-leash areas, I do wish there were more areas where leashed dogs were allowed in public spaces.

Congratulations on the decision ... "Washhouse Beach will be reclassified from Off-Leash to PROHIBITED."
Please ensure that the new signs are clear in that message and placed in appropriate positions, also that rangers patrol the area. Thank you.

Can't comment as policy is not readily available.

I disagree with decision to reclassify Washhouse Beach a dog prohibited zone. As a resident of Camden Head and a frequent user of Washhouse Beach I have not experienced any problems with dog owners on the beach. It is the only access suitable dog friendly beach for people on the South side of the river who may be physically challenged. Elderly people struggle with the access points at Seaview Avenue and Beach St. To prohibit dog access on Washhouse Beach will deprive a simple life pleasure to a lot of our aging residents who are responsible dog owners.

I am a constant user of Washhouse Beach for walking, swimming and exercising my dog. I would guess that because I live only a few minutes walk from the beach I am there more often and for longer periods than anyone else and consequently have a better idea of what goes on down there.

I was extremely surprised and disappointed to find out that it is intended to ban dogs from this beach. To say that dogs are a problem on this beach is a gross exaggeration. For the best part of the year only the local residents, (many of them elderly) use Washhouse to walk their dogs and it is very seldom I see any more than a couple of dogs at a time, they are generally spread out throughout the day. This changes slightly during holiday periods when there are a few extra dogs about and it is these times when people occasionally break rules, However having said that during these holiday periods any policing of this area is conspicuous by its absence.

It is likely from what I have heard that the National Parks seem to object to dogs in this area. I am a volunteer for the Friends of Katang and have probably spent many more hours in the reserve adjacent to Washhouse than any of their Rangers. And frankly have not seen anything to the detriment of Katang that could be attributable to dogs. I have heard that they are concerned that dogs scare the birds from sitting on the rocks at washhouse.

If it is suggested that the current rules are being broken, then the logical conclusion for that is to police the current rules, NOT just create a new set of rules to be broken!!!

As a long term user of one of the attractions which drew me to this area please review this new policy which will clearly have no benefits to Katang but will disappoint hundreds of residents of Camden Head, Dunbogan and Laurieton.

You recently put out a survey for "Dogs in Open Spaces" , open to everyone to comment on. Of the people interested enough to respond to this survey by far the highest number (18 percent of all respondents) wanted "MORE DOG PERMITTED AREAS" What exactly was the point of the survey if the opposite is the result.

I use Wash House Beach on a daily basis to walk my Dachhound dog and have never had a problem. If NPWS are so concerned about the beach, why haven't they cleaned it up after the recent flooding. Leave the access alone.

I am very disappointed that our local beach, Washhouse, is closed to off-leash dogs. When we purchased our house on Camden Head, one of the main reasons for purchasing in this area, was that we would have an area closeby, where our dog could 'run free'. The off-leash area of Washhouse works really well for owners and dogs - the dogs get unfettered exercise, and, therefore, do not bark all day in their backyards. Please reconsider this decision.

Wash house beach is a perfect place to exercise dogs,, this should be left as is..

Please don't do this. If you are elderly or have an ailment restricting you from accessing South Beach, North Haven beach is the only one in the Camden Haven. Put up clearer, unambiguous signs. Are Dunbogan or Camden Head councillors looking at the submissions, will it affect any of them?

I do not agree with the changes you are drafting. Wash house beach should stay as is.

Why target wash house again ? Dunbogan has many older resident dog walkers who cause no trouble
National parks have allowed this stretch to become over grown with weeds etc , no dog ever ventures into weeds with a beach in view
Dogs are not causing problems around wash house
Maybe a quick check of the regulate trashing of picnic sites , the burning of rubbish bins and fence poles and garbage left especially over long weekends would contrast with any alleged harm that dog walking does around wash house and pilot
I walk there weekly and I will start collecting evidence of this , maybe national parks need to know they are scapegoating dog walkers and missing the real culprits

I see no reason to limit the already restricted areas dogs are able to access in particular Washhouse beach.

We STRONGLY object to your proposal to prohibit dogs on Washhouse Beach Dunbogan!!!

Having lived & been a ratepayer in this area for 45 years we use Washhouse Beach on a daily basis to swim & exercise our dog (this is our 4th dog).

There are heaps of elderly people who use the beach because of its accessibility & safety aspect!!

You will be forcing people to use Dunbogan beach for off leach exercise, where the access is woeful & the surf can be & normally is extremely dangerous!!!

As for NPWS, the only thing I have ever seen them do is issue fines to people, mainly tourists who are unaware of the invisible line on the Sand on the approach to Katang!!! Just look at the disgraceful condition of the car park at Lewis's Rock.

It will be a great loss to our community & a great loss of revenue to the area as loads of young families holiday (with their dogs) in the area.

We URGE you NOT to do this!

I disagree with the change in policy!! The dog friendly section of wash house beach is a gift to locals and tourists alike. It is a much loved and well used beach. The area that allows dogs is very small which already makes people want to walk further on such a beautiful beach. I don't believe that restricting the beach will solve the issue as the beach is easily accessible for all age groups and is family friendly which includes the furry family members. Our area is already lacking in family friendly places and activities. Please do not take away this one!!

Excellent decision to restrict dogs from the fragile environment of Washhouse Beach , currently dog walkers do not obey the signage which needs to be much larger and more "in your face" , thank you for this thoughtful outcome .

As a resident of Camden Head I disagree with the removal of the dog are on washhouse beach, especially without a compensatory area. We use washhouse and pilot beach weekly if not daily in summer and never have had an issue with dog owners or dogs here. Washhouse can be protected from big surf so it can be a great place for a family with a dog to spend the day especially as you can't have a dog at Pilot Beach. South beach is too dangerous for kids to swim and is not patrolled. South beach as well has not enough dog of leash area to take a dog for a long walk and south beach has very bad access and parking for elderly dog owners to get onto. This is why the majority of dog owners that use wash house beach with their dogs are the elderly and the very young. My honest opinion is that dogs should be allowed on the whole of washhouse beach but heavy fines be incurred if the dogs are not restrained from going into the bush of KATANG. Statistically the area has young families and a huge ageing /retirement population that need easy access to dog walking beaches, removal of this space by making it dog prohibited will only compound many other problems. If Dogs were allowed on the whole of washhouse beach but not in the bush then you would find complaints to council and National parks would cease. Making it a prohibited area will only increase complaints,,don't you think? Council needs to be proactive with stakeholders on this to find a outcome that is suitable to all and not reactionary to a small number of complainants. I bet under FOI we would find it is just a handful of regular complainants.

In Short dog prohibited will make

1. more complaints
2. less access for elderly dog owner
3. force families with dogs into other areas that may not be safe
4. cost council more money in complaints, enforcement and new option and infrastructure.

Opening up the whole beach to dog use except the Bush land will make

1. no more complaints
2. provide a easy to access and negate dog beach for the elderly (healthy) and families
3. Reduce complaints, enforcement and costs to council
4. Make it clearer to all uses and stakeholders , what is acceptable and what is offensive (what they should complain about).
5. Reduce complaints and costs to National parks

I truly think council are making a bad decision on this matter on behalf of our greater community. It shows little understanding of the majority of users of Washhouse Beach. Due to stupid half beach usage in the past you have given complainers opportunity to waste council time and resources. Rectify this and make the whole beach dog friendly and advertise huge fines for dogs in the bush adjacent. Otherwise provide much safer access, space and swimming at South beach,, or allow dogs onto pilot beach (something I don't think we want).

As a dog walker and very frequent user of Washhouse beach for swimming and snorkelling at this magic spot, I would like to oppose this proposal as a very narrow attempt to be seen to be taking positive measures to protect our ever diminishing wildlife habitat here on the MNC and more widely. Consider the following:

Locals who walk their dogs on WashHouse Beach (WB) generally do exactly that - walk their dogs up the beach, back down the beach and go home. If there are disturbances to birds and wild life who feed on the shores and on rocky platforms then the interruption to them is short and usually limited.

Contrast this to the disruption caused by:

* Fishermen who stand and fish from the beach and rock platforms for hours. It is not only dogs that interfere with wild life - any human presence does as well. Generally animals will not feed or go about their lives with human presence nearby.

* Beach goers (particularly tourists) with children and (in many cases) dogs who use the beach, its foreshores, its rocky platforms for extended periods of recreation. They are free to dig on the beach, explore the surrounding bush and gather shells etc. from the rock platforms. I struggle to see how walking a dog up and back down the beach is more disruptive than this.

* Shell fish collectors who arrive at the rock platforms at low tide with long thin knives and leave hours later with industrial size plastic bags packed to the gunnels. These people not only remove vast amounts of shellfish for their own use or profit, they interfere with the food source of other wildlife until such time as the shellfish reestablish themselves (supposing they get the chance).

* Feral cats and dogs, wild foxes , noxious weeds - the list goes on.

2. I oppose this proposal on a broader level as well. The number of ways in which our environment is being degraded and decimated is extremely frightening. Governments at all levels are driven by growth (which is currently their easiest path to increased revenue generation). The number of areas in the PMHC region being flattened by developers - with the approval of council - to establish more sprawling medium density housing estates, with not a tree in sight, is reprehensible in the extreme. It makes council's frequent public initiatives, pronouncements and signage about preserving Koalas, Kangaroos etc. and their habitat, laughable if it wasn't so frightening.

We need to tackle issues in a serious and committed way - not by simply honing in on soft targets. People on the headland who walk their dogs on the beach came up here for a lifestyle that offers these sorts of activities. In the scheme of things, locals walking their dogs on WB is not even a drop in the ocean - and targeting them is a window dressing of the most petty kind.

I would note in passing that the "wild life warriors" here on the head land are getting ever more aggressive in their vigilante approach to policing WB. Adult , physically robust men have been shocked at the way they have been verbally attacked .

Thank you for the opportunity.

This drastic change at Wash House Beach is unacceptable.

All Dunbogan locals use Wash House beach with their families and fur babies.

Our French bull dogs thoroughly enjoy running on the beach with our 8 year old twins after school. Dunbogan is our local community. We permanently reside on the Boulevard in Dunbogan and after our property was inundated with over 1m flood waters we have been accessing Wash House beach as a form of stress relief.

We are very disappointed with this proposal.

Relating to the area between Watonga Rock and “the camel entry” on Lighthouse Beach. I STRONGLY FEEL THAT THE LEASH-FREE AREA SHOULD REVERT TO SOUTH OF THE “CAMEL ENTRY” AS IT HAD BEEN UNTIL RECENT YEARS.

Ever since the dogs have been allowed off-leash in this area, it has become very unpleasant for pedestrians trying to enjoy their daily walks. When the dogs were allowed on-leash in this area, it was a perfect compromise. The dogs were under better control and people who did not have dogs felt more at ease. There are many kilometres of area south of the “camel entry” for dogs to run off leash, but limited distance for people to enjoy walking without off-leash dogs.

My understanding was that the off-leash area was extended to allow more parking facilities for people taking dogs to the beach. They are still able to park at the Watonga Rock area, but I believe the dogs should be on-leash until they reach the “camel entry”.

The other issue is that when the dogs are off leash and walk ahead of their owners in a northerly direction, they often encroach on the area north of Watonga rock.

That is nonsense: the bigotry of a minority of cynophobes — those with an irrational fear of dogs — has been placed above the liberty of Dunbogan locals to take their dogs for a harmonious walk along the beach.

Completely prohibiting our dogs from our local wash house beach is heartbreaking ❤️

Obviously the more trees the council continues to approve for removal for these unnecessary housing estates is attracting people that are destroying our little country town.

How many more estates is the council going to approve. Dunbogan has absolutely no infrastructure to support all of these people!

The only tiny run down shop was inundated with flood waters and the Dunbogan boat shed is now closed.

I am actually shocked that there are people that have spare time to complain about local dogs using Wash house beach and don't have the time to help the Dunbogan locals rebuild after the floods!

Completely banning locals from the enjoyment of having a picnic or exercising with their dogs on Wash house is completely unfair.

Why can't everyone enjoy the beach?

Dogs can run around on leash at Wash House before 10am and after 4pm every day. The beach is very well looked after by the local dog owners with lots of space for both dogs and their owners to spend some quality time. Not once in the years of growing up in this town have I seen a dog or it's owner disrespecting Wash House beach. 🙄

Many local dog owners removed flood rubbish from Wash house beach and as a dog owner that has children that are 4th generation locals to the area we are requesting to compromise on times we can share the beach.

Further restrictions whilst continuing to not provide alternative options helps no one apart from the busy bodies. In doing so it removes weight in the validity of the rules changes given there is no benefit to the key stakeholders that this concerns only further detraction to enjoyment of pet ownership and further general ostracization. At least give something in return for the take - do I have a valid counter offer, probably not but more and larger dog parks wouldn't go amiss.

Wishing to express my objection to not being able to walk exercise or swim my dogs on Wash house beach at Dunbogan
I chose to use this area away from Pilot Beach as to keep my dogs away from families and children using that area
It is the only safe secure place from the open waves to use in the area of Dunbogan
I have well trained dogs and they do not chase wildlife of any nature
I willingly clean up after them as well and feel discriminated against if this ridiculous decision is put into force
Am I to use other beaches and annoy family children and others by swimming and running with them

Please do not change the off leash area at washhouse beach. Or if you need to change it in some way, consider changing it to on lead. My dog and many other dogs visit this beach on a weekly basis and we do the right thing and remain in the dog area and pick up after the dog if required. Please do not change this to a no dog policy, we spend great family time on this beach and it will be devastating to have this changed. Kind regards

The draft policy seems to have only reduced spaces for dogs rather than expanding any areas or changing restrictions. In a council area with an aging population that mostly live alone with animals, I'm surprised this council isn't more progressive especially given the volume of dog owners vs non dog owners that responded. I still believe you can't have an iconic walk like the coast walk that forces people onto beaches where you can't take dogs even on a lead or to brave traffic without sufficient paths. Equally having a beach like Nobbys next to Flynn beach where one end of the beach access comes from parking at Flynn's, seems ineffective.

This will be heartbreaking to so many if it goes through. Dogs need to go for long walks, dogs also need to be exposed to the beach and waves. Not just limited to a small dog park, that is a perfect breeding ground for parvo for starters.. keeping me from taking my dogs there.
Wash house beach is absolutely perfect for dogs and general public, I have never heard of anyone having an issue when I take my dog there, as it's such a large space that if someone doesn't want to be near a dog they don't have to be. Everyone who I have seen there always picks there dog poop up as well.
They are not ruining the environment and majority of dog owners to the right thing I have never had an issue there. It's our favourite spot... and as far as I'm concerned it's really the only place us dog owners can take out fur babies besides the Henry Kendal dog park as mention above, witch I'm not a fan of. I'd much rather the beach. Dogs need to swim and be able to enjoy the outdoors just as much as us. There is pilot beach where dogs are prohibited on so why try to take away the freedom to have dogs on the one beach that so many locals and visitors love to take them. .
You can't take away the one thing that so much of us love just because a few people make complaints about the dogs. They have a lot of other places they can go where as people with dogs are so limited...
Please rethink your decision on this as it's going to upset so many people.

Please reconsider banning dogs on washhouse beach. I believe that dogs do not interfere with the ecology of the beach, people do clean up after their dogs. I have only seen dog excrement once on that beach, compared with every time I visit grants beach with my dog. I think people realise how special washhouse is and don't want to risk losing it! I believe if you truly care about the ecology of beaches, stop people from driving on them! But honestly, I think a little bit more freedom, and a little less restrictions make everyone happier. You won't please everyone all the time, but I will be so disappointed in the council if they impose further restrictions on what is already lacking (decent dog friendly areas). The dog park is often too overgrown to visit, and besides grants beach there are no other off leash places. Please do us a favour and keep this area the lovely place it is. The freedom is one of the things we love about living here!

I am confused as to why kywong street to lake Cathie 4wd track is totally banned!!!I understand leash only area but total ban doesn't make any sense It makes it near impossible to walk from lake Cathie village to light house beach safely!! There is not suitable foot paths along Illaroo road or bundella The lake is shut the majority of the time so it would be safe to walk along the closed lakes entrance

What is it hurting - this is one of the only area we can go and it is always left clean. It's the worst swimming beach. Let us have a beach to enjoy with our dogs and kids why restrict this area?

It was an important factor for me, when buying my house on Camden Head, that there was an off leash beach close by that is easily accessible.

Dogs are not allowed on the path down to Dunbogan beach to the South of the headland. Dog owners are expected to climb over the sand dunes the next parking down. Many of the elderly dog owners that I know would be unable to make it to the beach via the dune and would be forced to use their car and drive to Seaview Ave. This is neither helpful for the environment, nor does it support the benefit of getting exercise when walking your dog. Even if people take their car and drive to the beach entrance at Seaview, the long sandy path down to the beach is difficult to navigate and there is often not enough beach left to safely walk on during high tide whilst Washouse always provides this space and is easily accessible for old and young. I myself don't want to depend on using my car to get to an area where my dogs can play off leash. I often come home from work after dark and walking on the road from the headland down to Dunbogan Beach entrance at Seaview (no footpath and overhanging trees) would be too dangerous and time consuming. I would have to turn around once I get to the beach and the dogs would have never gotten off the leash. Maybe more often than not I would just not walk the dogs then and we would all miss out on exercise. My dogs might start being barkers cause they lack exercise and stimulation. I might get unfit and develop diabetes. How does that help the wider community??

Besides, the current status quo on the headland strikes a good balance and has something to offer for everyone on Camden Head: dog free beach: Pilot. Go there if you don't like dogs. Dog beach: North end of Washouse (don't go there if you don't like dogs, go to Pilot or further down Washouse where dogs aren't allowed...) and protected area for wildlife: the vast rest of Washouse towards the South. Everyone has a choice *and* a place to go.

Why would council want to upset this balance, discriminate against local dog owners and kick dogs off the only off leash area on the headland? Dog owners would have nowhere to go anymore (for off leash) on the headland.

All this because the beach gained in popularity??? I am paying rates, and let me tell you, they increase every year to a point where it is not funny anymore because of the popularity of Camden Head - should I as a rate paying local to Camden Head not have the right to walk my dogs on a tiny bit of my local beach?

What was the other argument: reduce confusion??? I as a local* am not confused about where I can walk my dogs. What about educating and fining the ones who are 'confused' rather than punishing local dog owners for the confusion of visitors, tourists or unwillingness of a tiny minority to obey the rules and shut the beach for *all* dog owners? Fine the ones who do the wrong thing and leave the rest in peace.

And how does it make sense that a dog beach gets closed to manage the growing canine population in the area? Would it not make sense to open up MORE spaces rather than closing down the only one we have??? Using this argument, maybe we should close the two beaches to humans because of the growing population in the area? Council (over-)develops the beautiful area here and is surprised that more dogs are around? Really?

How would local dog owners be compensated in this plan if we lost Washouse? If Washouse needs to be closed because it is adjacent to the NP, then open up Pilot for dogs. That's not a NP. People who don't like to be near dogs can then go over on the other side of the breakwall and share the dog free beach with NP and nature there. But don't ban dogs from *both* headland beaches.

People not picking up after their dogs or having out of control dogs? I haven't seen a single incident of either at Washhouse since I moved here in 2011.

It is irrational and unfair to close the only easily accessible off leash area on Camden Head to dogs.

Manage/police it better *if* it is a problem. I hardly ever see anyone doing the wrong thing. And if they do: fine those few people and the problem will be solved in no time!! The fact that people get fined rather than warned would get around like wildfire.

Don't once again punish everyone else who does the right thing rather than eradicating the real problem.

Dear Policy makers,

I have been a resident of Camden Head for over 20 years. I walk my dog on Washhouse beach most days and am extremely disappointed to hear that dogs will soon be prohibited. Having an off leash area close to home where dogs can run and play with other dogs is a highlight of the area for dog owners of which there are many. Many elderly people walk their dogs here because the access is easier than the other beaches on this side of the river. I know occasionally people do take their dogs south of the signage but is this any reason to punish all the dog owners who have done the right thing for so many years?

Port Macquarie Council is allowing thousands of new homes to be built, encouraging people to move to our area, many of these people have dogs. Dogs are now more than ever family members who bring happiness to lonely people who may have lost a spouse in our increasingly aging population. The council should be opening up new areas not decreasing the number of off-leash areas. There will be so many unhappy dogs and their owners who will have to drive quite some distance to find a place with easy access where their dogs can run off leash. Tourists specifically book holiday homes in the local area because they can bring their dogs to Washhouse beach and enjoy the off-leash option.

Over the years my family have been taking our dog to Washhouse beach and have enjoyed so many happy memories. In 20 years I have seen only one or two grumpy people who do not like seeing the dogs run on the beach. Do we want our beautiful area filled with these unhappy people who walk along with their grumpy faces or would we rather the laughter of families with their children and dogs playing happily together? I have met so many lonely people walking on the beach who love to pat my dog and smile when she eagerly awaits their pats.

It will be a sad day for not only the residents of Camden Head but the entire Camden Haven and visitors to the area when they can no longer walk to Wash house beach with their best friends.

More signage and enforcement is needed. On Lighthouse Beach dogs are regularly taken north of Watonga Rocks. At Settlement Point there are almost always dogs off leash in the park and often seen on Pelican Island too. Additional/larger signage and spot checks by rangers would be helpful.

The first place to start is by looking at how many dogs are in Port Macquarie, as this will have the most significant impact upon the issue of dogs in open public spaces.

Dog numbers in this LGA have increased dramatically, especially since the pandemic, as many city people have moved to regional locations such as ours.

Many city LGA's have limits on numbers of dogs per property (eg 1), whereas PMHC does not.

The result of this policy is that many people with multiple dogs have and are moving to our community. I have spoken to many such people and have observed others walking up to 4 dogs at a time (including on narrow pathways such as the coastal walk).

This is placing undue pressure on open public spaces and causing stress for non-dog owning ratepayers.

Since the rapid rise in dog numbers in our LGA, I have observed the consequences, including numerous fights between dogs in public spaces, unleashed dogs on both non-dog and leashed dog beaches, dog faeces on paths and beaches etc, and incessant barking in residential areas.

The first policy change Council must implement is to introduce a sensible restriction on the number of dogs individual ratepayers can keep.

As a resident of Camden Head with school age children I find it upsetting that our children do not have safe footpaths to go and return from Laurieton. Having just started to let my youngest child to happily walk the dog with friends her own age to Washhouse Beach. We don't have a safe footpath for the children to walk the dog to Seaview Avenue. Typical of the same people who go against the Beach to Beach Pathway, now wants no dogs on Washhouse Beach. Seaview Avenue doesn't have a safe beach access. We pay a lot for council rates. Let's face it. Footpath will not be completed. Washhouse Beach will be closed for dogs. Our children will miss out.

Council should leave well enough alone

Closing Washhouse beach to all dog users is unfair and detrimental to the elderly. Accessing South Beach for dog walking is very difficult for those with access and mobility issues and there is nowhere with clean running water to provide water for dogs at the end of the walkway so this is not a safe or positive alternative. A much better method would be enforcement of the rules in relation to people using the Washhouse area incorrectly. Encourage other users to report those who do the wrong thing instead of banning something because of a very small minority. Isn't this what the Snap Send Solve App is for in the first place.

I am strongly opposed to the re-classification of Washhouse Beach to Prohibited. As a nearby resident and former dog owner, I feel that many of the Camden Head locals rely on being able to give their dogs a run on Washhouse Beach. Dogs are already prohibited on Pilot Beach, which is well observed. If local dog owners are not able to take their dog onto Washhouse Beach, where will they be able to walk their dogs? There is not a lot of space on the headland and the road towards the dog walking section of Dunbogan Beach is narrow, overgrown and dangerous, particularly for some of the more elderly residents of the headland. I have never seen anybody concerned by the presence of dogs on Washhouse Beach, and believe it will seriously impact on the amenity of the area for residents and tourists should they be prohibited. Please reconsider this proposal.

There seems to be a lot of confusion in the Cathie area in relation to this issue, especially in the areas of dogs off leash. The owners use the beach as an off leash toilet, there are more off leash dogs around and in the lake over the summertime especially. This has become very concerning over time. We would normally swim most days but now due to the number of dogs, which is increasing at a rapid rate due to the expansion of the area. We have had our clothing urinated, dogs running off with our property and I have actually had a dog jump onto my back pushing me under water while I was swimming, if that had been a child it could have had quite serious consequences. When the owners are spoken to as we have very small granddaughters who love the beach, it can become quite horrendous as they usually swear at you. We now don't take our babies to the beach we go to Laurieton pool. No dogs or aggressive owners who think that the beach belongs to them. I understand that the rangers are busy but I have never seen anyone pulled up or spoken to by the ranger. I have spoken to the lifeguards about it as most dog owners walk down the steps next to the lifeguards hut and their response is it's not their responsibility. I am sure if when dogs are registered or rate notices sent out a reminder of dog owners responsibility's wouldn't go astray. Hopefully you can do something about this issue before the summer period starts again and families, without dogs in tow can enjoy the beach and lake areas safely with young children.
Thanks

I'm appalled by this heavy handed approach! I have taken my dog to this beach many times, and NEVER saw any problems with anyone. So, rather than punishing everyone for the (alleged) misdemeanours of some people, watch the beach and punish (fine) the culprits. Furthermore, whose accusations and complaints is this change based on? Are they anonymous? That should not be allowed! Finally, if there is "confusion" about the existing regulations, I can understand that, because the one and only sign indicating the "border" between off-leash and no-dogs on the beach is almost invisibly placed away from the waterline (where most dog owners go with their dogs) in the grassland behind the beach.

Great to have a policy. I feel that the protection of dog-free areas needs to be monitored and perhaps enforced - I commonly encounter dogs on Lighthouse Beach north end (dog-free zone), and Little Beach and Miners Beach (dogs prohibited). Some of these dog-owners claim to be unaware, others clearly do not care.

I was shocked to see that the draft plan proposes to ban dogs altogether from Washhouse Beach. Especially as I have just purchased a house in Dunbogan, after having had a house for 16 years in North Haven. We often walk our dog on Grants beach, but we also use Washhouse Beach. The reason being that we are getting older and if we want to swim, we go to Pilot Beach. We set ourselves up on Washhouse and take turns at having a swim while the other person looks after the dog. Access to this beach is easy for an older person, compared to access to nearby Dunbogan Beach. If some people ignore the restrictions and take their dog further along the beach than permitted, then it should not be a matter of punishing all the law abiding people who do not. A happy, exercised dog is not going to be a nuisance to neighbours. Please consider blitzing the people who ignore the signs and leave us others alone. Or at least have a trial of this approach. Obviously, we purchased a new home in Dunbogan thinking we could continue to use Washhouse. if this changes, we will be adding to the ever increasing traffic in the area to travel to North Haven, where there is easy access to the beach for us oldies.

In the last 18mths we have seen a massive increase in dogs off leash in old Westport Park football field area, and dog poo everywhere. been walking dogs in Port for 20yrs, never this bad.

I think it's a good idea but should include better and clearer signage at all prohibited spaces, especially the beaches. Adding lists of dog friendly beaches to prohibited beaches may help visitors and locals alike.

I disagree with council closing Washhouse Beach to dogs. It is the only local beach with easy access for elderly and other less mobile people to walk their dogs. Dunbogan beach has more difficult access and many dunes that make it harder for less mobile people to take their dogs. There are sufficient beaches that do not allow dogs that it is unnecessary to make another. If anything, council could make more spaces accessible to dogs as there are many residents who are dog owners and the vast majority are very responsible with their dogs.

I am a responsible dog owner, but also believe that we all have a role to play in protecting biodiversity. I regularly frequent Washhouse Beach with my young kids to explore the rock shelf. It is a truly amazing place for kids to explore and appreciate nature. I'm often disgusted by the irresponsible dog owners on the beach, particularly given it is right next to a nature reserve - a place supposed to be protected for biodiversity. I commend PMHC and National Parks for changing the status of Washhouse Beach so that this special place can be free from impacts from dogs and can be retained for children to explore in years to come. I also note the amount of negative feedback on FB regarding this change. There are plenty of us in the community that support this change but are unlikely to publicly announce this on FB out of fear of retribution. I'd encourage PMHC to not respond to this social media negativity as it's only the trolls that will voice their opinion through this medium.

I totally support making Washhouse Beach a prohibited dog area. A large part of the beach is within a nature reserve and dogs are already prohibited there, however virtually 100% of people who walk their dogs on the beach totally disregard the signage, disrespect the area and have no consideration for people enjoying the beach. The dogs run completely unrestrained off leash along the whole beach which is almost NEVER patrolled by council or parks rangers. If you approach anyone to advise them that dogs are not permitted in the reserve section they are usually rude and aggressive and have the attitude 'I'll take my dogs wherever I want'. There are no dogs allowed on Pilots Beach - it should be the same for Washhouse especially as it is a nature reserve and dog walkers have no respect for that

I fully support the banning of dogs on Washhouse Beach Dunbogan. When Council last tried to ban dogs on this beach (and I make this comment as a dog lover and walker of neighbour's dogs) there was a huge outcry from dog owners. Due to that a compromise was made to allow dogs only on the non Kattang NR section. Dog owners have had many years now to abide by that rule but it is ignored on a frequent basis and therefore proves that the relevant dog owners aren't prepared to abide by the compromise. To continue to allow dogs on Washhouse will only result in the same situation. Therefore – no second chances.

The current laws pertaining to dog use on Wash house beach are fair and balanced. Changing the law to complete prohibition of any dog use will have devastating social effects to many local dog owners and cause negativecommunitybacklash. I understand also how absolutely frustrating it is to be at Wash house and have dog owners let their dogs run anywhere on the beach, ignoring the sign that clearly states where dogs are not allowed, then seeing the dogs defecate on the beach and the owners not clean it up. I've also had large, unleashed dogs run up to our grandchildren, in the prohibited area, causing concern. If rangers and pmhc were able to increase monitoring of responsible use of Wash House then I believe the current laws would be sufficient. Fine the law breakers, reward the people who do the right thing.

The policy is generally fair and reasonable. I walk my dog regularly on the designated strip of lighthouse beach and I believe that the majority of dog owners are responsible users of this shared public space. I would like to see consideration of seasonal usage though. There are few users of Oxley beach, for example, during winter who are not dog walkers. I use it most Wednesdays to take my dog across whilst my kids train on the oval, and it is a shame I cannot exercise my dog there (leash walking is insufficient exercise for a Border Collie). I would estimate 80-90% of users during that time are people walking their dogs, many of whom also express dissatisfaction with the current on-leash policy.

Council needs to do more than issue new policies, where the walking/exercising of dogs is concerned. I can not believe the increase in dog feces not being picked up by owners at parks, beaches etc. I realise council rangers have a lot on their plate, but policing of this matter is needed immediately. Maybe a Government grant could be obtained to hire additional staff on contract basis, to carry out daily checking of public areas. Owners of dogs should be asked to show that they carry bags to pick up their dog's poo and if not given a bag and a warning that next time will incur a fine. Clearer signage at entrance point to beaches and in native grassed areas is needed as this is where most offences occur. Investigation into bags made from an alternative to plastic would also help.

I disagree with the policy changes from off leash to prohibited. It is not fair for the owners and dogs who do the right thing. I believe other solutions in relation to direct complaints should be considered or looked into before making a decision to prohibit. It is a great beach and there's not a lot of off leash friendly beaches for dogs to explore. Where resources are possible, it could be instead be put on notice to the public and irresponsible dog owners that patrols will be put in place and fines handed out in accordance with the laws surround off leash dogs.

This proposal that has already been decided upon is another underhanded move to eliminate dogs and animals from peoples lives and discourage the community from enjoying their family and social lives with their 'fur' family members. In the climate of Covid this is just another revenue raising event via the council to outwit animal families and catch them off guard to claim fines.

I would like all dogs to be on leashes on all beaches and i would like more beaches that dogs cannot go on please.

Dogs should to be allowed in open public spaces as they need just as much activity and fresh air as we do, it is unfair to take the only dog friendly beach on the headland away from us. It's has easy access for all and a large open area so no one is cramped up.
This beach and the fact it's dog friendly is one of the biggest reasons why we wanted to move here.
We have never had an issue there and the majority of dog owners are very responsible and mindful of the are.
It would be such a disappointment to see this beautiful beach not allow dogs.
After everything this small town has been through this is honestly the last thing we need. Between covid and the floods, we don't deserve anymore heart break and inconvenience of having our favourite dog friendly beach taken away from us purely because a few people disagree with dogs being on a beach.

Limit the number of dogs off leash to a maximum of two per person, and perhaps even max. of one for larger breeds, or breeds such as red/blue cattle dogs for example that often become aggressive in a pack.

I think it is important for peoples mental and physical health to be able to take their dogs with them wherever they go. Unfortunately some individuals only have a companion animal and no family or friends to enjoy our beautiful location with.

Dogs are ok on the beach, but everywhere else except identified dogs friendly areas should be on a leash. Dog mess must be collected and disposed of by owners at all places.

I have lived here my whole life and am an avid beach goer for my family and my dog he need his exercise and a cool swim as well to take Washhouse away would be just totally unfair. To be honest I am totally confused as to why this is even been considered not just exercise for young and old but also therapeutic for both animal and owner . I also work in the disability field and to take this away from them would also be totally unjustified and actually quite discriminating as it is the only beach they are able to access with it either be a guide dog or companion dog there is also running water for dog after exercise and disabled access toilets you don't have anything of that in Seaview street where south beach access is which is only a tiny strip for the dogs to exercise but is also a treacherous track to scale to even enter the beach plus no water no lights no toilet no safety as it is a wild beach in surf conditions so once again why are you even thinking of taking this away from our community

Please keep current Washhouse Beach off leash area available to locals and their much loved pets. The parking and pathway make this more easily accessible to the elderly and provides close beach access for Camden Head and Dunbogan residents.
The majority of pet owners are responsible and respectful of others and the environment. We don't ban people from littering along the Flowerbowl walk, or police the fishermen scrambling through the undergrowth to get to their favourite spot.
Everyone should have access to this beautiful area, including people and their dogs.

Prohibiting dogs at Wash house beach is outrageous. I go there almost everyday to take my dog for a walk. The beach is quiet and not many people use it. Where am I suppose to go now? I have osteoarthritis in my feet and wash house beach is easiest to access at low tide. Beaches should be accessible for all to enjoy our beautiful town with our furry friends. I totally oppose the new proposal.

I totally disagree with the draft proposal to reclassify Washhouse Beach to a prohibited dog area. I have lived at Camden Head for over 30 years and visit that beach on most days as part of my exercise routine. Not once have I encountered a problem with dogs being there during that time. Yes, on occasions, I have come across examples of owners not picking up after their dogs but this happens anywhere not just on beaches. Washhouse Beach is by no means an overcrowded beach at anytime of the year and, as such, I would think it is ideally suited as a dog friendly beach. I am not a dog owner but I do see local residents, most of them elderly, enjoying walks with their dogs along Washhouse Beach and think it would be very unfair to take this pleasure away from them.

Some dog owners do not act responsibly, but the majority do. A dog owner should be able to take their dog for a swim. I am disappointed that the response to some complaints from visitors to the area have resulted in the wash house beach access to dogs being stopped.
As a person who cannot walk to the south beach off leash area, due to the incline in the sand, a flat walk is appreciated by those who are older and have trouble walking.
This decision goes against inclusion policy, and it feels like discrimination against disabled people. The only level walking path to a dog swimming beach is at wash house. Dunbogan residents continue to be forgotten.
Our recent floods showed a need to seal the road past the refuse station as many of us were landlocked due to not having a 4wd.
Our population continues to increase with no increase or upgrades to our infrastructure. Still no pathways and you have disabled people riding their motor wheelchairs on the road.
We are inundated during holiday periods by people who speed up and down our roads, putting everyone at risk, and now you want to take the ability for us to be able to take our dogs swimming away from us.
Think about other options to make washhouse beach safe. Maybe a camera in situ to ensure that the ranger can monitor the very few (usually holiday makers) who do the wrong thing.
Do not penalize the residents or the disabled from access to a beach where they can swim their dog.

I think there should be more spaces made available, more specific parks and more beaches that allow them to run free.

I'm happy with the suggested changes. I feel there are plenty of pooch-friendly beaches and areas to choose from. I would prefer they spend their time at these available places than avoiding foot traffic at markets or drooling over the person at the other table's lunch.

Please keep Wash House Beach open for dogs and their responsible owners. It is the only easy access beach for those of us who are becoming less mobile to take our furry friends to.

As former resident of Dunbogan I strongly agree with the new plan to prohibit dogs on washhouse beach. Owners never stuck to the designated area which are confusing and poorly signposted. Not to mention how could you keep your off leash dogs in such a small area. I think this is a great move by council.

I would go further to say Spooney's bay is not a great location for a dog off leash beach. This beach would be a haven for water birds and wildlife if it weren't for all the dogs around. There's also not a lot of room for them to run around there and it would be a nice spot to hang out if not for all the wet dogs bounding up to greet you - and with the layout of that beach and access they're impossible to avoid!

Nobby's beach is another that I don't understand why that's been designated a dog beach. Lighthouse is great for that as it's so long and there's plenty of room for everyone. Nobby's would actually be one of the nicest and most scenic beaches in PMQ if not for the dogs. Why not make Oxley beach the dog beach instead - literally no one uses it and it's no good for swimming.

I like the idea of more off leash dog parks. That way the dogs can have space to exercise in a controlled way without chasing away all the wildlife like I used to see constantly at Washhouse beach.

Laurieton would benefit from a leash-free area within walking distance of main shopping area. Henry Kendall Leash-free area is only available to most people by car.

I don't want dogs to be prohibited on wash house beach at Dunbogan. My family and I enjoy a safe swimming beach and our family includes 2 trained, friendly dogs.

I think there are other more important issues for council to be worrying about and I would also love to read the data and statistics from council regarding the number of a dog incidence that may have occurred over the last 10 years at wash house beach Dunbogan.

I can see no reason to ban dogs from washhouse beach on the pretext of them disturbing nesting birds when the sand on the beach can be washed away by as much as 1/2 to 1 metre over night.

I've only been in Port for 2 years and in that time I have been attacked 4 times by out-of-control dogs at Nobbys Beach.

This beach forms part of the Coast Walk which is very popular for, and should be safe for, visitors, walkers and joggers. All our beaches should be safe for visitors, walkers and joggers.

Any off-leash dog exercise area should be enclosed by fencing, with just 1 or 2 gated entrances. At the entrances clear large signage should be erected warning of the dangers within from off-lease dogs being allowed to run out of control.

Our beautiful beaches are not the place for this dangerous activity.

I want to know what's going to happen with the information you collected.

You know people are unhappy about dog poo not being picked up and dogs off leash where they shouldn't be, but what are the consequences?

The solution isn't to put more dog poo bags for people to use because as dog owners it's their responsibility to ensure they have bags with them, not councils. In Brisbane if people are walking their dogs they must have a minimum of 3 bags with them or they can be fined, in Coffs Harbour the rangers are very proactive in giving fines.

I ruined a brand new pair of runners on the breakwall last week treading in dog poo that I didn't see early in the morning, it was mushed into the side and I couldn't get them clean, I'm so fed up with the laziness, it's disgusting, unhygienic and an absolute eyesore for this town.

Stop mucking around and Start handing out the fines, I'm certain people will get the idea very quickly. Every time I've reported this concern I've been told 'the rangers are giving warnings and the rangers are talking to people doing the wrong thing'. Warnings and talking isn't working, let's clean up our town.

As a Camden Head resident of 20 years plus, a regular (3-4 x pw) user of Pilot and Wash House Beaches, a member of Friends of Kattang Nature Reserve and coordinator of Camden Head Environment Network I express total support of Council's draft Dogs in Open Space policy prohibiting dogs from Wash House Beach (WHB) for the following reasons:

- The current policy is not adhered to, nor is it enforceable. PMHC's current policy of dogs off leash in the first section of WHB, isn't working because it is neither adequately enforced by PMHC, nor is it practically enforceable within current resources. Despite PMHC and NPWS efforts over many years to clearly sign the boundaries, the majority of dog walkers don't heed the signs and allow their dogs to roam uncontrolled across the entire beach, intertidal zone including rock platforms and into the adjoining nature reserve. It is the notable exception to see dog owners stick to the limits. Once they are legitimately on their area of beach it appears to be 'open slather' to the rest.
- There has been increase in dogs out of their area. It is rare to walk on WHB without seeing dogs outside their area. Since the current policy's introduction, rather than a decline in dogs off leash on prohibited sections of the beach, there has been an increase in dogs across WHB and incidences of dogs straying onto prohibited Pilot Beach in holiday periods. "Give them an inch and they'll take a mile" applies on WHB, observable at most times of day.
- The current policy has negative impacts on wildlife in Kattang NR. When we first moved to the Camden Haven, PMHC prohibited dogs on WHB. The policy was changed, due to lobbying by a small group of early morning WHB dog walkers, led by a former Camden Head resident who ran a commercial dog minding business from her home. The section of dog area which resulted appeared to be a compromise by PMHC, a 'two bob each way' approach which has not been respected by most dog walkers and has resulted in mixed messages about use of the beach.
- While previously, we frequently saw wildlife on WHB such as Goannas and Wallabies, after the policy changed these sightings declined and wildlife, apart from birds is now not seen on or near the beach and hasn't been seen for some years. We have a photo of a Wallaby killed by dog attack. The extent of this impact is incalculable. I have also seen dogs running into the reserve where dogs are prohibited. Sections of beach abutting nature reserves should not permit dogs.
- Disturbance of passive recreation and conflict between users. The increased presence of dogs across all areas of WHB interferes with the rights of beach-walkers like myself, to undisturbed passive recreational use and creates conflict between users of the area. I can't count the instances in which off leash dogs run up to walkers on WHB. When told by their owners "oh but he or she is friendly" I have stopped trying to advise dog walkers about the prohibited area, as I'm upset by their commonly aggressive response and as I'm not responsible for policing this regulation each time I go for a walk I would greatly appreciate the change in policy.
- The current PMHC policy unintentionally imposes an impost on another land management agency- NPWS and creates public confusion about which agency is responsible. In the 20 years plus that I've walked WHB I have never seen a PMHC Ranger on the beach. I have, however seen NPWS Rangers frequently fielding questions from the public re the dog policy and issuing cautions or fines to owners when they see off leash dogs within the area that relates to Kattang NR. Further confusion ensues which results in the public blaming NPWS for the dog policy.

• There are other areas nearby where dogs are permitted for example along the southern breakwall to Trevor's Corner and Gogley's Lagoon foreshore and also on South Beach accessed off Seaview Avenue and Camden Head Rd. The drawback for WHB is its easy access and facilities, but with the growing population and increased pressure on recreational areas of all kinds it is PMHC's responsibility to add to provide better public access to South Beach and at the very least in, install clear signage to South Beach to ensure that all users are adequately catered for. There also appears to be confusion amongst some dog-walkers about which is South / Dunbogan Beach, some calling WH Beach Dunbogan Beach as Camden Head is incorrectly called Dunbogan.

I hope that PMHC does not again make an unworkable concession to a single group of users and recognises WHB's importance for nature conservation and the opportunity for peaceful recreation.

Please leave Wash House Beach dog friendly. I walk my dachshund every day on this beach. He is always leashed. We walk up to the NPWS sign and back.
If people want a dog free beach, they can use Pilot Beach.
This is unfair.

Making Wash house beach in prohibited is incredibly unfair to the people of Camden Haven who do not have a great selection of places to take their dogs close to home. North Haven beach is too crowded during holiday periods and the dog park in Laurieton is not separated into "Big" and "Little" dog breeds meaning smaller breeds like my mini-foxie are not safe and too intimidated to play in an enclosed space.

I applaud the council's decision to change the designation of part of Washhouse Beach at Dunbogan from off-leash to prohibited. I live at Camden Head and do voluntary bush regeneration work at Kattang Nature Reserve. I see first hand how often dog owners ignore the signs showing which area of the beach they can use. Most dog owners I see let their dogs roam over the whole beach, which borders the nature reserve. I see the dogs running all over the rock platform where they are not supposed to be, disturbing the Sooty Oystercatchers and Reef Egrets. The former are classified as Vulnerable in NSW. When I point out to the dog owners that this part of the beach is prohibited, I sometimes get verbally abused. For the sake of the wildlife on the reserve and on the rock platform, I hope the council stands firm on this decision. I know that parts of South Beach are designated off leash. Perhaps parking and signage needs to be improved there, so that dog owners can avail themselves of this area instead of at Washhouse Beach.

I am terrified of dogs. I do not want to share Washhouse Beach with dogs that are off leash when I go for a walk.

Do not want dogs off-leash on Washhouse Beach.

Some dog owners ignore signs and uncontrollable dogs are let off-leash. i have frequently seen big dogs jumping up on small kids and people who are frightened of dogs. it's just a matter of time before someone gets bitten. to try and argue with dog owners is a dangerous and futile undertaking! unfortunately with numbers of people who use the space it also means more dogs to put up with. holiday times are obviously worse. What describes a dog owner best: my dog comes before people! And they obviously like barking noise!

As a Camden Head resident, Washhouse Beach and the area around it and Pilot Beach mean a daily encounter with these these beloved pets and their lovely owners.

It's disappointing that no additional off-leash dog beaches were identified during this process. Can 'hours of access' be considered as a trial on additional beaches? For example, in Summer Oxley Beach or the Northern end of Lighthouse beach could be offleash up until 9am and then again from 6pm, and then during Winter offleash is until 10am and again at 3pm. I have seen this work well in Auckland, and as long as there are sufficient poo bag dispensers and rubbish bins, then shared beach use is very possible.

I agree with a formal policy being in place. Signage needs to be improved to make it clear what areas are dog friendly and where dogs can be let off a leash not only in the open space areas, but also in the Settlement Point canal area. Rangers should also patrol the open space and canal areas and enforce the policy

I believe the people of dunbogan are very responsible and respectful of the environment and should be able to use the area as off leash for there loved ones

Whatever you write in a policy and whatever signs you put up is not enough to ensure the safety of recreational walkers having to walk through areas of so-called dog-friendly areas that dogs have taken over and think like their owners do that they both rule the beach and that anyone who encroaches on their so-called "territory" better keep their distance or watch out. This mentality is what spoils dog-friendly areas like this and the wording of these areas is far from dog-friendly. It is more like walkers beware as if you don't have a dog and you only have a secondary right to be here or as most dog-owners think you have no right to be here and think as they rule the roost that you should go and walk somewhere else if you don't like our dogs harassing you and spoiling your day. In other words, they let you know quite clearly that they would rather you PO from what they call their beach. Sadly, for other non-dog users of this beach, their mentality is we are a group of non-friendly dog users of these areas, and anyone else without a dog that goes here better watch out because in their opinion recreational walkers don't belong here and they don't mind letting you know it too by letting their so-called friendly-dogs remind you who actually owns the beach or according to them has more right to be there. Dog areas should not be given prime real estate and should be away from the majority of people who are wanting to enjoy the use these beaches as a main form of recreation but can't because now they are too horrible to go to and dangerous with so many out of control dogs and owners that go there and the dogs that poo all over them and owners leave it there and the whole beach just stinks of dog poo. So, unfortunately, these areas are now much less popular with recreational walkers as a result. Where is the policy for recreational walkers to be able to use the entire coastal track in safety without the rude offensiveness of unsafe dogs-beware areas that they have to go through, stench and watch where you tread because doggydunit and the owner just left it there?

I have lived in Camden Head for 11 years and visit Wash House beach several times a week. It's definitely time to PROHIBIT DOGS ON THE NORTH END OF WASH HOUSE BEACH.

Almost every visit I see DOGS IN THE NATIONAL PARK area. Often they are off the leash and most owners seem to make no attempt to call the dogs back from peeing on towels, leaping on little kids and other undesirable behaviours.

Once we would see goannas and other animals on the beach but the increased numbers of dogs has stopped the native animals from coming down from Kattang.

I have never seen a PMHC employer on the beach to enforce the current dog usage policy, but occasionally the National Parks DO PATROL on weekends.

The TINY SIGN on the beach is useless as it's almost invisible from the waterline. If I explain politely to dog owners that their dog(s) are in the wrong area I'm either rudely responded to or asked "What sign?"

I should say that I am a dog lover and realise that a beach is a great place to run your dog. But there are alternatives - the lagoon at TREVOR'S CORNER and SOUTH BEACH are both easy walking distance from Camden Head and have parking available for those who drive to Pilot Beach.

I spend a lot of time at Washhouse Beach and dog owners have no regard for the signage or the people on the beach. I sit in the National Park area and every single time I have been there, without fail, I've seen dogs in that area. Dogs come up to me, and I ask the owner to not allow their dog near me, and I have been threatened with death (this is not a joke), ignored, or looked at and they call their dog but just keep walking. I've had dogs pee on my bag, run over me on the towel and jump up at me. It's got to the point where I don't want to go there and it's my favorite beach. I feel harassed by the owners. They simply disregard the sign and they feel that they should be able to take their dog the full length of the beach. The only solution is to ban the dogs all together.

Washhouse Beach is ideal for elderly people walking small dogs. Dunbogan Beach is often very windy, rough seas and no shelter. The parking on Seaview Avenue is inadequate and has no toilet facilities. Concentrating ALL dog walking to this beach will only create more problems than the continued use of Washhouse. Please do not close Washhouse.

Dogs need an opportunity to run. There are few places where this is possible. Please don't ban them from the beach.

I object to the proposal to designate Washhouse Beach as a dog prohibited beach.
Confusion regarding the leash-free designation or boundaries of the National Park is not important enough to warrant such restrictions on our coastal lifestyle and community values.
Furthermore, National Park management such as pest baiting can be undertaken using beach closures or away from the beach.

Definitely no dogs at Washhouse beach. Used to see goannas and other wildlife there and now that the area generally goes unpatrolled there are dogs off lead in the Reserve area all the time. Irresponsible owners.

Sorry to see dog owners lose Washhouse beach.

I'm a dog owner who regularly takes my dog to wash house beach and loves it don't make it a no dog zone please

I think it's important that dogs are exercised off the lead and are able to run freely and allowed to socialise. This makes for a healthy, happy animal. However, I do appreciate that there are some irresponsible owners. This will always be a fact but it is important not to penalise the responsible ones.

It is imperative that dog owners have plenty of options to enable them to avoid people who do not have control over their aggressive dogs. This means lots of space and plenty of choice where to go. At the moment there is a good balance of leash-free areas and I would be sad to see that diminish.

I also think that it is important for the area as a tourist destination to be dog friendly. Many people take their dog on holiday with them. They are part of the family and should be welcomed as such.

Sadly I cannot attend the pop-up on Camden Head since I am still of working age and the timeframes limits attendance to retired people. Needless to say that this will introduce bias since you exclude all people who still work full time during normal working hours. If I could go there, I would make the following points:

- * local dog owners are not confused about where dogs can and cannot go. Don't punish locals who use the beach on a daily basis for the confusion of visitors.

- * it seems the new proposal only came about because a few dog owners break the rules and enter the national park area. Consistently fine those people instead of letting them get off on a warning. This will spread like wildfire and the rule breakers will think twice risking it again.. Don't punish the vast majority who does the right thing because of a minority who does not - and gets away with it!

- * there is a balance at the moment at the two Camden Head beaches. Everyone has a place to go - dog owners have the small piece on Washhouse, people who don't want to be near dogs have the choice between Pilot and Washhouse South of the dog allowed zone and wildlife has the whole rest of Washhouse.

- * what right and pressing reason has the council to ban Camden Head locals from both Camden Head beaches? If council and NP want to close Washhouse for dogs because of the proximity to the NP, then open up Pilot for dogs instead.

- * I am a Camden Head local and bought a house and two dogs here because I knew I could take them on a walk and let them off on the beach to run and burn off energy when I come home late from work in an area where I feel safe as a woman.

- * my family are my dogs. They have never caused a problem for anyone at the beach. They are properly socialized and would not hurt a fly. I live on Camden Head and would like to remain able to take my dogs with me to at least a tiny section of one of the two beaches on my headland.

- * Where is the logic in closing down more areas for dogs when due to ongoing (over-)development of the council the dog population is increasing in the area?? Problems might come about when too many dogs are crowded into too few spaces where they are allowed off leash

- * in summary: the problem seems to be that some dog owners don't stick to the rules. Fine them instead of taking BOTH beaches away from local dog owners who do the right thing.

I don't understand why there is a need for the policy change in the first place. If it is about breaking the rules, FINE the ones who do so and it will stop.

If the problem should be that some people have complained about dogs being around on the top bit of Washhouse beach, interfering with their enjoyment of the beach, then I would say, imagine the following situation: A group of local mums like to take their little kids who are full of energy and need to get out of the confinement of house and garden to the playground in the reserve behind Pilot Beach. A person, who doesn't like children decides to go out and enjoy nature. But instead of sitting literally anywhere else in the park or at the river bench or the beach (all areas open to that person) the person sits in the middle of the only playground on Camden Head. Then they go to council because their enjoyment was disturbed by the children and lobbies the council to shut down this ONE playground, so that that person can sit exactly there without having children around.

And the council listens and puts this as the new rules in place.

How ridiculous is that?

Well, same thing here. People are spoiled for choices to go to places where dogs can't be taken to or have to be on leads. Why do they need to sit smack bang in the middle of the ONLY playground we have for our dogs???

Plus, apart from in the holidays there are only a few people if any at all resting/laying on the top bit of Washhouse beach. The vast majority is on Pilot or is just going for a walk on Washhouse and would not care less if dogs are on the top bit of it.

Council wants to understand how the open spaces are used. The top bit of Washhouse IS USED by all of us local dog owners and we don't want it be taken away from us!

I do not agree with this policy. It is unfair that we ratepayers are funding ideas that will satisfy the minority. I love walking the beach in the afternoons with my pet, and whilst I prefer to keep him on a lead, I cannot see any issue. If people don't like dogs on beaches, then use the beach before our gorgeous pets are allowed to! We abide by the current time rules, people without dogs have all day to use the beach dog free.

I have read the Draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces policy and must congratulate PMHC on this proposal. In particular I support the change proposed for Washhouse Beach at Camden Head, from off leash at the western end of the beach to prohibited on the entire beach. I am aware that there is considerable back lash from others in the community to this change. I point out that this is an environmentally sensitive area and the previous policy recognised this by making the eastern end prohibited. The dual usage split east and west has never worked, most dog owners have never adhered to it and most dogs have been off leash over the entire beach since that policy was instigated.

I would also comment that there is a large off leash area designated for South Beach via Seaview Ave. For those driving to the beach to exercise their dogs from Dunbogan / Laurieton, South Beach is a shorter drive, and there is parking. True the parking is informal and a more formal parking area might be worth considering. I would also suggest that some signage to this beach may be worthwhile to assist dog owners looking to exercise their dogs.

For residents of Camden Head it is certainly a longer walk however since they are out to exercise their dog surely a longer walk should not be prohibitive.

I would ask that Council maintain their decision to make all of Washhouse Beach a prohibited area for dogs.

Regarding the decision to prohibit dogs on Wash House Beach (The Beach) I submit the following :

The Beach is the only easily accessible dog walking beach within Dunbogan/Camden Head.

Access to South Beach is difficult for the elderly and those with mobility problems.

Camden Head residents can only access South Beach with their dogs on foot by walking a significant distance on the road which is particularly dangerous after dark as there is no street lighting.

It is environmentally irresponsible to force dog owners to use their cars when there is a perfect accessible beach within walking distance.

I have walked my dogs on the beach for over 20 years without incident.

If anything, confusion is created due to the inappropriate placement of the signage. This is easily rectifiable.

The Beach is the only easily accessible location with toilets for families picnicking with their dogs.

I have previously raised with council the issue of people defacing in the dunes on South Beach. Forcing more residents to use South Beach where there are no toilets would exacerbate this problem particularly if they have to walk 20 minutes from Camden Head.

Walking dogs along Camden Head road is already fraught with danger increasing foot traffic by forcing Camden Head residents to walk along this narrow road with no footpaths and no street lighting would be irresponsible.

Prohibiting dogs on The Beach appears an extreme response to what I have observed to be no issue with dogs on the beach. Can I suggest that a more measured response if there are issues I'm unaware of would be a time share arrangement as was previously been the arrangement on The Beach.

:

I do not agree that Washhouse should prohibit dogs. It is a great tourist attraction for the area and I use this space to walk my dogs regularly. I have never seen birds being attacked. Owners are respectful and always pick up the dog poo. If dogs are prohibited on washhouse then local residents and tourists will need to drive to take their dogs to the beach. We choose to holiday in the area because of the dog beach and would be disappointed to have to find somewhere else to holiday.

I am not a dog owner, but live close to Wash House Beach. I am concerned the proposal to prohibit dogs from the whole of Wash House Beach will have a detrimental effect on residents, some with small children and some people, now elderly, who have chosen proximity to the beach as their place of residence and amenity. The proposal would deny them access to the area to exercise their companion dogs. The alternatives, Trevor's Corner, Gogley's Lagoon and parts of South Beach, that some have suggested, are not only difficult to reach for some people, but are also very difficult to access. This is particularly the case with South Beach, from either Seaview Street or Beach Street.

I am concerned that there is an over emphasis on signage being the panacea for the problem of dogs entering prohibited areas such as the southern end of Wash House and the adjoining nature reserve. Before a decision is made I call for an examination of the issue of infringement notices to those who have breached the rules over say, the last three years by Council officers of NPWS officers. I would also like to see what memoranda of understanding may have been agreed upon by Council, and NPWS to work in unison to address those who breach the current prohibitions. If such an agreement has not been undertaken, it needs to be before any move is made to prohibit residents from the beach in toto. If enforcement has been weak or negligible, it removes a plank from those who argue for total prohibition.

In short, signs don't work, they only advise. Enforcement and the threat of penalty does work and I suspect it has not been undertaken in a serious or positive manner in the past. I suggest a study should be made to verify this before full prohibition is considered. Enforcement is a stage that should be undertaken before prohibition is effected. It should also be kept in mind that laws that are not generally accepted by the people, will not be effectively enforced by authorities.

I call on Council to hold a moratorium for say, six months to:

1. Examine what has been done over the past three years to enforce the current regulations,
2. to hold the current prohibition to the southern part of Wash House Beach,
3. conduct a combined enforcement campaign between Council and NPWS and,
4. conduct a thorough assessment of the trial period.

All of this should have Council better equipped to make their final decision. I suggest that to make a decision that adversely affects so many local resident's without that proper assessment, would be both negligent and challengeable.

It would be unsafe to walk from Camden Head to south beach. It's convenient for when we holiday here frequently. Brings the community together talking about our dogs. Good exercise for the elderly.

Fair

I believe that there's no real reason why Washhouse beach should become prohibited to dogs. If anything, the policy should allow dogs off leash on the entire beach, as there's no harm off leash dogs could do to that particular environment. If the council decides to prohibit dogs there, they should consider another option in the vicinity where dogs can be off leash on beach. For example, Pilot beach which is right next to it and it's a smaller enclosed beach.

Our dogs are our family. It's not fair that irresponsible dog owners should ruin it for the rest of us. Instead of this drastic measures, maybe actually fine people that do the wrong thing.

I make the following comments whilst having no information as to why the Council feels it is necessary to prohibit dogs on Wash House Beach. I have walked my dog on Wash House Beach for the last nine years without incident. I have never been approached by any person unhappy with me walking my dog on the limited section of Wash House Beach. If the decision to prohibit dogs relates to environmental concerns I submit the Council should focus attention on South Beach, Dunbogan. I have not observed any damage to the environment or wildlife (though I have not seen any wildlife on the dog walking section of the beach). On the contrary I observe environmental damage by 4WDs on South Beach on a daily basis. Dogs and wildlife co-exist on South Beach without incident. Wash House Beach is the only accessible beach for old people and dogs and people and dogs with limited mobility. There is already limited dog friendly spaces in Dunbogan and over the course of the pandemic and over the course of recent years I have observed more dogs using both Wash House and South Beach. This is largely due to the increased population in Dunbogan and Camden Head. If environmental issues are the concern then open Pilot Beach to dogs, the only wildlife I've ever seen on Pilot Beach are Brown Snakes'.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. As a female in my late 50s I walk my dog on Wash House Beach as I feel safe due to there being swimmers and homes close to the small section of beach in which I walk. I have walked on South Beach previously but felt unsafe due to the isolation of the beach and the number of men in 4wds. I have never had an incident on Wash House beach with people or wildlife and dogs. The availability of a toilet and the calm waters of Wash House Beach is also another factor in my choice. My late father a resident of Dunbogan for 20 plus years loved to accompany me and my dog to Wash House beach where he could sit in the sun with the dog and look at the water. This was his greatest enjoyment in the last years of his life whilst he battled cancer. It was an easy walk for a very sick man but provided him the opportunity to enjoy the beach with my old dog that he loved.

I wholeheartedly agree with Council's proposed prohibition of dogs from Wash House beach for the following reasons:

- The current dogs off leash policy on a section of WHB has destroyed the natural, peaceful, protected, amenity of WHB and its unique position adjacent a Nature Reserve. Wildlife sightings, once frequent have become rare due to the presence of dogs on all sections of the beach and straying from beach into the Nature Reserve.
- The vast majority of dog walkers don't use the current designated area correctly and are commonly found on the rest of the beach and straying into Kattang Nature Reserve. Dog owners generally disrespect the use of their designated section of beach and also the right of other users to the peaceful enjoyment of nature. As dog owners clearly can't self-police and disrespect other users rights, the area should be a totally no-dog beach.
- People wanting to access the supposedly "dog free" area of WHB, must first walk through the off-leash area, which sends a mixed message- the beach is either dog free or it isn't.
- On WHB it is very common for dogs to approach walkers...they are either uncontrolled or reluctantly controlled by their owners. This is unacceptable.
- Despite the provision of bags, there is an ongoing issues of dog faeces on the beach or bagged faeces thrown into the Nature Reserve and Wash House Wetland (found by volunteer bushcare groups).
- Serious dog fights between off-leash, uncontrolled dogs have occurred, putting walkers at risk.

- In accessing the off-leash area of WHB, dogs are frequently unleashed as soon as the owners are out of their cars, from the car-park onwards, flouting the regulations and creating conflict with users of Pilot beach from which dogs are banned.
- A lot of energy and resources (NPWS patrolling, PMHC signage and beach user communication) have been spent trying to keep dog walkers in their designated area to no avail. Signage is now appropriate and accurate but it is still being ignored and the privilege is being abused. Please do not reward the majority of dog walkers who wilfully ignore the signage and regulations, by going back the current proposal.
- My personal experience is that I have only ever seen NPWS Rangers patrol the beach and caution dog walkers. I have never seen a PMHC Ranger outside their car. If Council does not have the resources to enforce its own regulations then the regulations for this beach should be changed to reflect this.
- Several neighbours on the headland are very frightened of dogs and have the right to be able to enjoy the beach without anxiety about being approached by dogs out of their area.
- Other areas are available for dog walkers in the immediate vicinity –the southern breakwall, Pilot Beach reserve, and Trevor's Corner/ Gogley's Lagoon and if Council improved the signage, access and parking in Seaview Avenue there is a whole beach that could be made available.

We strongly believe Council is relegating MAN'S BEST FRIEND to a poor relation. Many residents in the area, from young to old, rely on the availability of Washhouse Beach for a little freedom and exercise. We, as well as dogs, benefit greatly from exercise, mental health, social contact and well-being. The reasons for the proposed change, as reported in the Courier, sounded lame to say the least, e.g. the reduction in the number of signs, and unspecified needs of the Reserve.

I take my dog with a friend and her dog to Washhouse beach every weekend for their weekly swim and play together. I have never seen any dogs causing damage or killing wildlife. We encounter other dogs on each visit and our dogs enjoy the interaction momentarily before going back to enjoying their sticks and swimming in the water, which is very Therapeutic for my poor old girl. I have never found another dog poop left on the beach and find most dog owners to be responsible.

I do think there could be better signage on the beach itself for where you're not allowed to go past but I also think the whole beach should be made to go back to being dog friendly anyway. Swimmers have Pilot beach on the other side of the wall and the 4wds have South Beach so that only leaves Washhouse beach for our beloved family pets.

I am a University academic and ecologist who has spent my career trying to understand nature and to fight for nature conservation, including the Dunbogan Canal Estates proposal of the 1980s. Our extended family have lived in the Camden Haven (Dunbogan, Camden head) for over 30 years, and we have had a house at Camden Head for 16 years. We respect and enjoy the wonderful local environment and the work of local volunteers, NPWS and Council staff who steward the area. We have also had dogs for the past 17 years and spend quality time with them on Washhouse Beach. The dogs are always on leash, and like many others (rate payers like us and holiday makers that bring funds to the local area) we follow the rules including picking up waste. We are deeply disappointed at the draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy that would ban all dogs from the northern Washhouse Beach area. First, there is little/no actual public/scientific evidence that dogs are a significant menace to the adjacent Kattang reserve or similar beaches elsewhere. As a scientist, I know only too well how uninformed opinion (as opposed to hard evidence) can drive environmental policy. It seems that such is the case here. Also, we and the vast majority of people gain enjoyment by responsibly controlling our dogs on this beach. To ban dogs would be a real step back for the quality of life in the area. We interact with many, many old folk who walk their small dogs there and gain untold mental health benefits. In the spirit of reasonable compromise, if restrictions must be put in place, changing from off-leash to on-leash for Washhouse north could well be considered. To ban dog walking for this area would be a retrograde step that I feel would punish the responsible many on behalf of the very few.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy. I did attend the zoom meeting on 15/06/21, but found it difficult to ask questions and so was unable to gain all the information I need to make a fully informed submission. I was not aware of the initial consultation for this policy review and was not one of those 224 responses. I would suggest that if 50% of the local population own dogs (As stated in the previous dog policy), then 224 out of around 39,000 people is a very small survey sample, and unlikely to be representative of rate payers whether dog owners or not. My concerns are about prohibiting dogs from Washhouse beach and are listed below.

1. Jackson (1995) recommends that Council do not make piecemeal park by park basis policy decisions on access with dogs. The current proposed policy change is an example of exactly that, with no strategic suggestions of how the implementation of the current policy could be improved, or examination of alternative dog leash-free areas, and so represents a failure in strategic planning.
2. The change in policy to prohibition of dogs on Washhouse beach fails to take into account the important social benefits accrued to the community for both mental and physical health. Dog exercise on Washhouse beach appears to provide a significant opportunity for health related activities both in the relatively safe waters and in walking on the beach and for mental health through the benefits of social networking that frequently occurs amongst dog owners (particularly elderly) exercising on the beach. Social benefits of outside activity with companion animals has become particularly important during the covid period, and will remain important. A cost-benefit analysis of socio-environmental matters should be undertaken before prohibiting dogs.
3. Good policy includes a variety of policy tools and instruments including regulation (and associated enforcement), education and incentives. I frequently walk my dog on Washhouse Beach (averaging >3 times/week)

but have never seen the Council Ranger there. Regulation without enforcement is bound to fail - and a better enforcement campaign may actually alleviate the perceived problem. Education can be a very effective policy tool, but at Washhouse, signage is limited, as is any other less passive, education activity. In fact, regulatory signage at Washhouse beach is very difficult to discern, and the actual demarcation line between off-leash and prohibited is unclear to visitors who walk along the shoreline.

4. I understand that the proposed prohibition is being proposed in part due to complaints to Council and National parks. Management that reacts solely to complaints is inadequate management - it responds to a limited representation of users. As far as I am aware, there is no opportunity for dog walkers to express to Council or National Parks their daily and frequent delight in the facility and the benefits that it provides them. Perhaps delight could outweigh complaints?

5. I understand that the proposed prohibition is being proposed in part due to impediments to management activities by Council and parks to the area. The documents supplied do not provide any detail of what these management impediments are and I am finding it difficult to imagine what they could be. Weed and fire management would potentially close the beach to all users, not just dogs. Could Council please elaborate.

6. I am a strong and educated advocate for the environment. I heard on the zoom meeting last night that those opposed to dogs on the beach were concerned that goanna numbers had been reduced as a result of the dog use of the beach. I found this assertion difficult to understand. While it has been shown in some cases that Australian native animals exhibit scent aversion to some prey animals, it is extremely unlikely that dog presence has reduced foraging or breeding opportunities for goannas in the adjacent nature reserve. This is more likely due to development pressures or a management activity in the reserve than dog use of the beach. While I understand that committed and active environmental activists support the prohibition of dogs on the beach adjacent to the Nature Reserve, I feel that unfounded assertions such as this will only inflame an already contentious issue in a deeply divided community. Benefits or disadvantages to the neighbouring reserve should be established using verifiable evidence, rather than anecdotal observations.

7. My access to the cadastre for this area is limited, however I understand that the intertidal area of the beach that dogs use is not part of the Nature Reserve and comes under Council management. I strongly believe that you should clarify this management situation for all concerned. Dog entrance into the neighbouring nature reserve is effectively limited by the actual topography of the site, with a steep sloping rise to the reserve. The statements of some that the dog use of the beach is negatively affecting the environmental values of the Nature Reserve seem unsubstantiated.

8. Prohibition is a harsh regulation that may only be necessary after public education and enforcement has been implemented unsuccessfully. There is no evidence that this is the case at this point in time. My observations at this point are that some dog owners do take their dogs onto the wrong part of the beach which is unfortunate, but possibly not damaging, and that most dog owners pick up their dog's poo at the beach - an effective result of policy change with the provision of bags and bin. Building further changes in behaviour is possible at this site.

8. Washhouse Beach is a beautiful protected beach in a wonderful natural situation. It has values for many different parts of the community. Part of the job of council is to respond to the needs of dog owners as a legitimate part of society, and to integrate dog use with other use where possible. I (and many others) love walking my dog on Washhouse Beach and meeting up with other community members there - it is a unique and valuable experience. Please do not prohibit dogs from Washhouse Beach.

As a member of the Camden Haven CCAT from inception I will clearly state the full closure of washhouse beach to dog walking elderly and families is in complete opposition to the outcomes of the Camden Haven Community Plan. If councillors wish to adhere to the outcomes from the community plan this amendment MUST not be accepted.

I note the 4th objective of the plan " grow the community spirit by promoting opportunities for participation in sport and recreation, quality lifestyle, health and social well-being and good family lifestyle choices"

I would like to see the previous arrangement when dogs were allowed unleashed on Washhouse beach before 8am and after 4pm. There are a lot of elderly people who cannot walk to South Beach or don't have a car to drive to North Haven beach. It is beneficial to the dog owners as well as the dogs for socialisation. Dogs love to explore and sniff things and I have never seen a dog go into the bush on the beach. They are there to run and swim in the water.

Washhouse beach is a fab community spot with families including dogs, we love the beach as it is

please keep washhouse beach open to dogs off leash, dogs have a minimal impact on the area and our communities well being and happiness is fragile at the moment at best. Taking your dog for a walk on washhouse improves individual wellbeing and quality of life this is very important. there is nominal impact on the environment. if it's an environment issue then ALL domestic animals need to be considered including cats. Domestic cats impact wildlife far more than domestic dogs this negates any argument around environmental impact. Please keep the beach an off leash area as it is currently designated

I support dogs being allowed on Washhouse Beach. It's not a patrolled beach and not really safe for swimming so there's no reason dogs can't be there. Please don't take away one of the only spaces in the area that dogs can truly get some freedom! There's no need to try to control everything. Just let people (and their furry friends) be!

I am writing in to strongly oppose the change in status of Washhouse beach Dunbogan from a dog permitted beach to a prohibited area. I would like to know what evidence was used to make this rash decision to prohibit dogs from Washhouse beach.

We are dog owners who have been coming to Dunbogan and Camden Head for 30years and have been holiday rental home owners on Camden Head for the past 16 years.

As marine ecologists, we recognise the fragility of beach and dune habitats and their importance for wildlife, however, with good management, people and dogs should be able to use and coexist in the area without undue negative impact. We have found that the vast majority of dog owners who use Washhouse (especially the local headland residents) are very conscientious of the existing rules prohibiting dogs down past the signage and take great care to keep their dogs under control when in the off-leash areas. We keep our dogs on leash when we visit and along with other 'locals' actively educate other dog owners unfamiliar with the rules of their responsibility to keep dogs under control and the fragility of the area we are also keen to protect. We do realize that there are people who ignore signage and rules either through sheer wilfulness or ignorance. The area and this beach in particular is frequented daily by locals (a big number of which are pet owners) and visitors from all over NSW and Australia (especially due to Covid). Many of those visitors also choose the area because it is child and pet friendly (I might add that visitors contribute greatly to the local economy). It is a huge leap to change the status from a pet allowed off leash area on a section of the beach to prohibiting any dogs from the entire beach. No evidence of harm has been provided on the Council page regarding the decision to make this drastic change (only a slight reference to reducing confusion (whose we don't know) by changing the rule and alluding to NPWS management programs being implemented). It would be helpful to have provided clarification on these decision points on the website. Perhaps Council should be considering changing the rules to allowing dogs on leash only to a restricted area of the beach (the existing dog allowed area or even change the extent to make it a smaller area) that is clearly outlined on the information panel at the entrance to the beach and marked clearly on the beach signage. This could be run as a trial for a year or two before any further drastic steps might be taken. At the same time Council Rangers and Park Service staff could enforce any violations. Violation to existing rules we have witnessed tend to happen during peak holiday periods and specific days yet we have never seen any enforcement agent on the beach in the 30years we have frequented this beach. Another option is closure of beach access during particularly sensitive times of year (nesting sea birds?).

I would like to add a caveat. I/we find it interesting that Council and NPWS is targeting pet owners (the vast majority are responsible and rule abiding) while just over the headland on Dunbogan/South beach 4WD owners are allowed to hoon down the beach just to play with their expensive toys. These sandy beaches are very important to the overall ecology of coastal terrestrial and subtidal/intertidal habitats and are home to important biological communities (out of sight and out of mind to beach drivers). We know that sea turtles have nested on this beach occasionally over the years yet drivers are still allowed on the beach. That is just stupefying! In addition, many vehicles we have encountered over the years pay little regard for beach goers on foot. Many years ago our young nephews were almost hit by one of these joy riders. I would suggest you start to target these groups as they cause much more damage and are much more of a nuisance than pets on leash under control of their owners!

In over 40 years of spending hours on Washhouse with and without a dog I have only ever seen goannas and a snake and dead mutton birds washed up on the beach. This place is part of the attraction of living here and and respected and loved by all who use it. I have never seen an incident on that beach. There are a rabid few who have become very proprietorial about that beach and headland and spend a lot of energy pushing their agenda. Disgraceful. Let us enjoy our area as we always have. Any part of South Beach is too dangerous for humans and canines to swim at. Dogs at Washie just want to swim and play....they don't want to go up to the sand dunes where there could be baits. We just want a strip of sand and the water to enjoy!

I am totally disappointed that the spectacular outlook at the top of Camden Head has now been allowed to be blocked off with the planting of scrubby bushes...tic bush. Shame on Council for allowing that and shame on Council if they let the Gestapo NP rule and mis-manage like they do.

Not all changes are for the betterment of the area and its people!

If it's too difficult to police the silly line in the sand do the majority a favour and open up the whole beach!

I like that an extra onleash dog area has been added, but believe we need more offleash areas in the region these could be beaches or fenced play areas. Wash house beach shouldn't be removed as an offleash dog area due to a couple of complaints. Instead it should be up to the majority of the public to vote on it remaining a dog area or provide an alternative.

The full closure of washhouse beach to dog walking elderly and families is in complete opposition to the outcomes of the Camden Haven Community Plan produced by the Camden Haven CCAT.

If councillors wish to adhere to the outcomes from the community plan this amendment MUST NOT be accepted. I note the 4th objective of the plan " grow the community spirit by promoting opportunities for participation in sport and recreation, quality lifestyle, health and social well-being and good family lifestyle choices"

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In the light the recent discussions ie. the meeting at Wash house beach & the zoom meeting, I would like to stress that the locals do NOT WANT the south end of Washie returned to them!! We just want things to stay as they are, a leash free area for dogs!
Locals are NOT confused as to where they can have their dogs!!!
Maybe NPWS need to put better signage on the beach to warn people (mainly visitors) they are entering the National Park, as most Australians believe the people own to the High tide mark on all Australian beaches, so are unaware they are even doing the wrong thing!!
So are NPWS CLAIMING that they also own to the Low tide mark & beyond???
Last time I looked NPWS is a PUBLIC SERVICE! We as taxpayers fund them, do they listen to the public!
Surely you must listen to the local RATE PAYERS & TAXPAYERS.
I work in the AirB&B area , since COVID-19 hit we have been at 95% capacity , have never seen it so busy most houses we have are "dog friendly" the main attraction to Dunbogan is the relatively safe dog beach that we advertise!
Please listen to the people!
Thankyou

As a resident of this area for 37 years I regularly walk Washhouse Beach at any given time daily. I wish to make it known that not once have I ever witnessed any dogs disturbing, killing or acting in any manner in relation to any wildlife. As for nesting birds or migratory birds I have not seen any dogs venturing into that area. I have however seen many goannas, snakes, eagles, rats, foxes and wild dog/dingoes which I would suggest would be more of a threat to wildlife than a dog with it's owner.

I acknowledge that there are some very Irresponsible dog owners out there in the community not cleaning up after their pets on the beach and public footpaths etc....including my own front lawn.

On many of my beach walks I have approached people to inform them that their dog is presently not allowed past the sign in the sand dunes. People respond that they were not aware of the sign or the ruling. A majority of those are holiday makers or visitors for the day on the beach. I owned a dog over 23 years ago and he together with my children had many wonderful times on the entire beach and feel that this current draft proposal is very unfair..

This is a repeat of a similar proposal put forward 10-11 years ago by the same people as this time. It disturbs me that one person who resides on the Headland and is very vocal against dogs on the beach has been employed in both the council and Sea Acres and with her influence will make any opposition fruitless.

A question I would like to know the answer to is where the border of the council controlled beach is and where the Nature Park starts....it was at the high tide mark....has this changed?

As for maintenance plans for the Nature Reserve via Washhouse, I would think actual maintenance of the Nature Reserve itself would be a priority . The Park has fallen into a dreadful mess of weeds, fallen trees and gullies replacing the walking tracks.

This proposal is also very unfair to many elderly folk who love their daily walks and meeting other dog minded people. It is the social event of their day for many are living alone.

In addition many local people dog walkers or ones like myself often cleanup the area after late night parties, picnics and fishermen.

I completely disagree with your proposal to stop dog access to Washhouse Beach. We have responsibly exercised our dogs on this beach for many years with never any issues or complaints.

Dogs are a very important part of our society and bring many proven health and social benefits to people and society. It is important that people who own dogs are able to enjoy them and exercise them.

Washhouse Beach is the area at Camden Head where people can safely exercise with their dogs. There are no footpaths and access to Dunbogan/South Beach is very difficult.

I believe that the complaints are exaggerated and insignificant in comparison to the pleasure and benefits of dog access to Washhouse Beach.

National parks have extremely large areas at their disposal for their projects and it completely unnecessary for them to need to take over Council land as well.

You must provide proper facilities for the dog owners who in general responsibly enjoy and share the benefits of dog ownership. Washhouse Beach is an import asset for the community and should not be given over to the vague wishes of National Parks and a few complaints.

All dogs need freedom in more than one place.

The full closure of washhouse beach to dog walking for elderly and families is in complete opposition to the outcomes of the Camden Haven Community Plan produced by the Camden Haven CCAT.

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I believe that council is considering prohibiting dogs on washhouse beach because of complaints made. While I respect the complainants passion for their cause, it is misguided and it would be unjust to ruin the majority of beach uses enjoyment due to the complaints of the minority. After having attended the council 'pop up' and speaking with local residents it is apparent that the vast majority do not want this to happen. This will have a detrimental impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of both dog owners and their furry companions by further restricting access to already limited dog friendly areas. Many of the long term residents of the area have never witnessed any damage to wildlife by dogs . These complaints are unfounded and we should not rob so many of the harmless and joyful experience just to silence the minority. I take issue with council saying it is for enjoyment of all, as it is not for the enjoyment of all, it is only for the enjoyment of those who do not want dogs in public spaces.

Perhaps a better suggestion would be to make the entire beach a LEASHED ONLY area.

The full closure of washhouse beach to dog walking for elderly and families is in complete opposition to the outcomes of the Camden Haven Community Plan produced by the Camden Haven CCAT.

If Councillors wish to adhere to the outcomes from the community plan this amendment MUST NOT be accepted. I note the 4th objective of the plan " grow the community spirit by promoting opportunities for participation in sport and recreation, quality lifestyle, health and social well-being and good family lifestyle choices"

I regularly visit Washhouse Beach with my two small children (2 years and 8 years) and my friends' and family's dogs. The kids throw balls into the waves for the dogs, and we really enjoy the time spent there. It's a great seaside activity space for our family. We use the dog area and pick up any poo. This area is ideal for me as the mother of 2 young children, as the water is relatively safe and shallow and I can easily watch the kids and dogs as they play together. Our dogs have good recall, so we are able to keep them in check. There are no other beaches nearby to us that are safe and sheltered and where I can take both the kids and the dogs. Washhouse Beach is the only one.

I realise that not all dog owners follow the rules at Washhouse Beach, but I think better education and enforcement could help to improve this. I've never seen the Council ranger down there. Please reconsider your proposal to prohibit dogs from Washhouse Beach and leave it as an unleashed area. This is an important area for our community to have their dogs.

My submission is to object strongly to the proposed policy on no dogs allowed off leash on Washhouse Beach. As stated in your policy you have received complaints and as has National Parks and Wildlife, I attended your pop up on Tuesday 15th June and the girls there were not aware or able to explain such complaints? My feeling is that the majority of people using washhouse beach are there to spend time exercising their dogs and enjoying the company of not only their dogs but also other dog owners, this is particular importance to the elderly who can access Washhouse, nice flat walk, and also for their mental health and physical health. With the current Covid a lot of their activities have been cancelled or reduced. It is also important to note that the nearest off leash area is in Seaview Avenue, I am sure that there would be complaints by those living there as all those persons using Washhouse would be parked in their street. Also note that Camden Head has several holiday accommodation houses and a plus for our tourism is a off lease area close by. National Parks only have to the grass area and no dogs go there as it more "fun" in the water and sand with the other dogs. I find with a lot of council policy it is history repeating itself, could you please go back to your 2011 policy and look at the reasons the policy was changed. In saying that, a solution to the problem (if complaints are legit) would be to go back to the older regulations with set times e.g. Before 10 a.m. and after 3 p.m. An hour either way than what it was, taking into consideration increased population and dog owners. Please consider giving us the whole beach back should this solution be accepted. Thanking you for taking the time to read my submission.

The full closure of washhouse beach to dog walking for elderly and families is in complete opposition to the outcomes of the Camden Haven Community Plan produced by the Camden Haven CCAT.

If councillors wish to adhere to the outcomes from the community plan this amendment MUST NOT be accepted. I note the 4th objective of the plan "grow the community spirit by promoting opportunities for participation in sport and recreation, quality lifestyle, health and social well-being and good family lifestyle choices"

I support the proposed dogs in public open spaces policy provided that it prohibits dogs on all beaches frequented by shorebirds as recommended by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. I also strongly support the prohibition of dogs on Washhouse Beach adjacent to Kattang Nature Reserve. I think the policy provides a reasonable balance for the provision of leash free, leashed and prohibited dog activities within the LGA.

My Wife & I have been residents of the Camden Haven for 45 years & have been ratepayers for 47 years. We have always owned a dog.

We used to swim & spend hours with our daughters & dog at Lewis's Rock(northern end of Dunbogan beach), where we could safely swim & shelter from the wind. NPWS took that end of the beach from us!

We then had only Wash House, where we would walk the girls & the dog to the southern end & swim in the safe water behind the rocks. NPWS took that as well!

Now you want to take the only safe unleashed dog area from us that we have in the Dunbogan area.

What's left for us? Dunbogan Beach south of Seaview St., where we have POOR PARKING, NO AMENITIES, A ROUGH TRACK, BROWN SNAKES, DANGEROUS SURF & 4WD VEHICLES!!

Many of the people who walk their dogs on Wash House are elderly, the access & flat surface of the beach is perfect, we see one elderly couple on a very regular basis, the woman is in a custom built wheelchair, they have a dog, they walk in the permitted area, he even pushes the chair into the water(as far as he can) so she can get her feet in the salt water & the dog has a swim..... it's beautiful to watch!

The NPWS & Council do not own the land, the people of Australia do!

In the 45 years of being on the Dunbogan beaches we have NEVER seen any incidents of dogs harming any wildlife & 90% of people do the right thing.

Please leave the beach to the people & their dogs!

Thanking You,

I understand the issue is the possible prohibition of dogs, unleashed, on the northern end of Wash House beach.

I am strongly against any change to the present regulations, (except to again allow dogs on the southern end as it once was before 8am and after 4pm.

The meeting at Pilot Beach was attended by approximately 55 people , 52 in favour of allowing dogs on the beach and 3 wanting the beach closed to dogs completely. When asked the reason for the beach to be closed their only argument was that birds are disappearing, (eaten by dogs ???) and a dead wallaby was found at the southern end, (killed by dogs???)

I would like to know why the beach, both north and south ends, should be closed at all to accompanied dogs so that we, the community, can assess whether the reasons are valid or not.

The following should also be taken into account that dogs are of great benefit to the wellbeing of people ranging from children to, in particular, the elderly. Dogs are intelligent and need to be exercised and to be able to do things they enjoy. Dog parks are certainly not the answer.

Dog accessible areas need to be reasonably close to their owners houses particularly if they are somewhat infirm. I believe most of the people using the beach are from the local area. North Haven is too far away and South Beach is inaccessible unless you are quite fit to walk the sandy track to and from the beach.

Unless some specific evidence of the harm caused by dogs can be given for consideration no action should be taken.

I am a Wildlife Photographer & regularly visit this beach, I've witnessed 2 unrestrained collared dogs harassing a terrified Koala at one the Trees by Washhouse whilst owners picnicked (2019). I see dogs on a regular basis unrestrained around rockpools & often witness them chasing birds including the local endangered Oystercatcher Birds. One occasion I thought I was to be bowled over by a large dog running along the beach towards me, the owner came to say 'I thought you were about to be flattened', I left the beach shaken. I love Dogs but I have to admit they are impacting the wildlife & the safety of the community on this beach. I also regularly pick up the filled dog waste green bags owners accidentally leave behind so they don't end up in the ocean. This is a small beach with a unique ecosystem that cannot cope with the amount of dogs that are regularly seen to be running loose.

I think it's wonderful that there are so many places dogs are able to be off leash and on leash. I believe that these areas and the areas where dogs are not permitted should be clearly signposted as there are some people doing the wrong thing and in leashed areas.

Not sure that prohibiting dogs on Washhouse Beach is the right move. As a ratepayer and regular walking on that beach I have no issue with sharing it with dogs. Am sure there are some irresponsible dog owners out there but the majority that I see do the right thing. The only thing that annoys me is dog shit not being picked up. If we had DNA testing like they do in France then you could probably be able to find and fine those irresponsible people. I don't have a dog so I have no biased towards dogs. That side of the beach is fairly quiet as I can go most days and not see anyone so it really is ideal for the dogs. Probably an on leash policy would work the best if there is an issue with wildlife. I haven't seen any impacts on wildlife from dogs. Cats are more of an issue with wildlife.

Dogs should not be allowed into Restaurants /Cafes/Clubs

Banning all dogs from Wash House Beach, whether on lead or not, is an issue for all dog owners.
Dogs are already banned from Pilot Beach and this basically extends the banned area, effectively making it illegal to bring your dog within this vicinity.

As a minimum, dogs should be allowed on Wash House beach when on a lead. This will protect any wildlife at the beach or in the national park.

Washhouse Beach should remain available to dog walkers.

My main objection to preventing dogs on the local beaches is that it is my belief that land below the high tide is not owned by anybody and should be available for dogs, people etc. I empathetically say I'd like local beaches to be available for pets to enjoy with their owners.

In my 16 years of going to Washhouse Beach I have not encountered nor witnessed any badly behaved dogs so therefore I am in favour of dogs being allowed on Washhouse Beach. I think it is a great facility for dog owners particularly for residents of Camden Head. I am sure there has been the odd incident over time, however that occurs in life no matter what activity or location people are in.

Dear Council, I do not wish to have dogs on any part of Washhouse Beach.

- 1- Signage on beach not visible enough
 - 2- Each day dogs walking off lead on all of Washhouse Beach.
 - 3- Plenty of places - Lagoon, South Beach for dogs to be walked off lead.
 - 4- Dog owners allow dogs to pee on towels, leap on kids, go into NP reserve.
 - 5- Council does not come to beach to get dogs off the park area - only NP ranger comes occasionally.
- Why have the current policy if not enforced?

Open Watonga Rocks up to stairway near lighthouse for dogs on a leash from April to September when there are less swimmers.

Issue with dogs off leash between beach and road - aggression and road safety.

1) Please make Washhouse Beach dog-free. The problem is that already 2/3 of the beach is nature reserve, hence no dogs, but of course, dog owners ignore it allowing their dogs off the leash. Respect for our Australian nature always comes second to private interests, experience shows. Council must act, it has committed to sustainability = environmental protection. There are activities for dog exercise areas.

A compromise needs to be agreed upon to satisfy everyone's right to enjoy Washhouse Beach. To ban dogs to surcomb to a very small minority of complainers who have the loudest voice is not adding to the enjoyment of all it is only allowing those who complai to have what they want. It is very important that the vast majority of beach users are listened to not just those that have the loudest voice. Unfortunately the majority of beach users and their dogs do the right thing and just go about their day without incident until these issues are brought to light given a small minority have the loudest voice. Everyone needs to be heard and a decision made for the majority. Longterm residents of the area are the greatest holders of information regarding the area and no incidence of wildlife destruction has ever been witnessed or access into the nature reserve. Those of us who to the absolute right things should not be penalised because of the very very few who do the wrong thing. You can never get everyone to do it no matter what you implement.

We strongly oppose this draft policy to reclassify Washhouse Beach from off leash to "dogs prohibited". This seems a complete overreaction to a limited number of complaints and we feel Council needs to take a balanced view of the majority of its citizens on the matter, many of whom are dog loving responsible dog owners. Dogs form important parts of our families and communities and have a right to enjoy the local beaches with their owners. If a minority of citizens are fearful of dogs they could enjoy the many other beaches that are prohibited to dogs. We would recommend Council consider either the majority of citizens expressing outrage at this draft policy and continuing to offer Washhouse Beach as dog friendly, or consider some adjustments such as dogs allowed at certain times or on leashes. Please consider your 4 legged citizens and their families!

My concerns are that the stakeholders are one sided. If dogs are attacking shore birds and turtles, as proported by NPA, I wish to see the evidence. How many complaints have there been and what extent are the complaints? As a local swimmer and recreational walker of Washhouse and studies of Nature (not a dog owner) iam in favour of shared spces and wish to see dogs using this space. Are humans causing more damage taking too many foods, shells, interfering with star fish and sungie etc, from the rocks? Are dogs and owners who alk up and back on Washhouse really a problem? mostly elderly and families exercising and being involved in healthy options in a safe environent.

Ban Beach Driving!!

Who actually is complaining? please share their information. thankyou for the opportunity to provide feedback.

From the popup at Pilot Beach on 16/6/2021 it is clearly evident tha the elderly are greatly concerned to lose Washhouse Beach as a dog walking area. It would appear that again, a minority of residents make regular complaints to the detriment of the physical and mental health of elderly in our area. Having talked to a number of people in the greater area over the last month about this matter, we have all stated to each other that never have there been a problem in the space. However, the same number of people have been avused by what appears to be the same gentleman who takes it on himself to verbally assult dog owners. The best outcome for Council is to make the whole beach off leash and completely prohibited within the forrested area.

Would like to see the beach open to dogs. Have lived here 35 years never seen any incident.

To me, it is all about co-existance. I am definitely for the protection of wildlife but as a regular walker on Washhouse Beach, I have found the majority of dog owners to be responsible for picking up after their dogs and controlling them. This is a beautiful beach and it is one of our greatest pleasures to enjoy this beach with our little dog and best friend. We have never seen evidence of injured or killed wildlife. This beach is easily accessible for seniors including us. South Beach is not an alternative due to accessibility and use by 4WD vehicles who speed along it. Washhouse Beach is preferable to us rather than North Haven as in the summer we can safely swim and have access to the picnic facilities. At North Haven you cannot take dogs between the flags as a result you cannot swim there. We believe this campaign is drien by a selfish minority without thought of the wellbeing of the rest of the community.

I am one of the people who walk my dogs along the whole beach. My dogs never go into the bushes they stick with me. I always pick up after them. There is no excuse not to as doggy bags are provided. The law says nobody owns the beach below the high water mark. Man yof us have been walking our dogs on Washhouse Beach from about 1971 with no complaints or any trouble. We have had as many as 20 dogs together and never a fight among them. Dogs need to socialise. I am 87 years od and cannot manage the track to South Beach and can't drive to North Haven.

I visit Washhouse Beach on a regular basis and have always found the dog walking community friendly and responsible. Often different dog walkers have been seen by me collecting rubbish left on the beach from holiday makers, this is a free service for Council. The beach provides an outlet for lonely people living alone that often have no other community connection. The dogs to my knowledge and experience, never go into the bushland area. This area is recognised as being a no go zone and I have never witnessed any dogs disobeying this regulation. The area is one of a very limited areas that actually allows for dogs to have access to swim. Dog walkers are part of this community and truly don't deerve the discrimination from parks and wildlife, particularly when the toxicity of the poisons they use do a tremendous damage to nature animals.

If Council go ahead with this policy of prohibiting dogs being exercised on Washhouse Beach, making the only area for dog access to a beach being the end of Seaview St, will the access be upgraded? For at present it is a very difficult walk way, particularly for the more elderly, or is it no concern then for Council in considering the more elderly and their exercise which they get from walking their dogs!

Washhouse Beach has disability carpark, toilets, why ignore problem with dogs on Washhouse Beach and move to other beaches with no parking. Work with existing problems, not move it to somewhere else. Crazy!

I feel this is totally wrong. Some of us walkers have been walking the beach since 1971 and not ever had a problem. The public has exclusive use of Pilot beach couldn't we at least walk our dogs on Washhouse? Maybe we could compromise and, as way back when, let dogs walk from 4pm - 8am. The track to South Beach is very hard on older people and is such up and down - the same thing with North Haven. Our dogs never leave the sand and water edge. Like everything there are good and bad people who use the beach - some fisherman have yards of line and hooks on the beach which are a hazard to dogs and wildlife. Please don't close this beach to us. Our dogs never venture above the high water mark!

Why is a very small minority able to dictate policy that the vasy majority don't want i.e. dogs allowed on Washhouse Beach/
This should be only a Council decision with no influence from National Parks.
National Parks have their own policy! Should not influence Councils policies.

I stayed for 15min at the Council meeting for the beach, before the verbal slinging match began! What is the point?! One vocal lady shouting other people down, correcting and interrupting other speakers! I have lived in diamond Waters CP for 5 1/2 years and have always restricted my 14 1/2 year old dog to the designated area - we stop at the invisible line and often do that walk 4 times, to properly exercise. Sasha loves to paddle and run, but never runs up into the sandhills (note: I've just seen a man run, jump up that sandhill and walk 3 metres in - for a pee maybe??).
Going to Dumbogan Beach is difficult for us oldies as the sandhills at the end of Beach Street are very hard to negotiate. Walking along, is it North Beach or Camden BEach, is hard because of the cut up beach (car damage!!)
The only birds I have seen on Washhouse Beach are Seagulls and they easily avoid any dog chasing them. In fact I love to watch the Brahminy Kites circling above and Sasha is overawed too.
What of NPWS baiting? Killing just pests? Rubbish - native animals too eat them baits!
Man is the problem, not dogs! Put a sign in middle of the beach or a net sence (stop here dogs) - use net concerning open weave fences to keep man out of sandhills!
In Diamond Waters CP there are 109 permanent residences and half of them own dogs, probably half of these exercise their dogs here.

Survey at meeting was taken, at least 65 people were for dogs on beach at Washhouse. At best 10 people were against it. An example was put forward that a wallaby had been killed at the end of Washhouse and deliberately buried. They however did not see the attack just assumed it was a dog attack. Been coming to North Haven for 71 years always able to walk dogs on beach never seen any dog attacks. No evidence that dogs are killing wildlife just assumptions.

15/6 - A representative of National Parks should have been here at Pilot Beach park to address the people. We all have questions for them which need to be addressed. It was very poor form to have 3 young Council representatives who were unable to answer our questions.

I attended Councils pop-up session to hear from PMHC about the proposed change to dogs on WHB. The event was clearly dominated by an aggressive angry 'mob' of dog walkers who were immediately argumentative. I overheard or was directly involved in exchanges during which I and my partner heard "go home", "you have xxx over the headland" and "we are fighting for our dogs". There was no acknowledgment of the fact that dogs are seen outside their designated area every single day. It became very clear to me that dog walkers want the whole of WHB, that they do not realise that NPWS have carriage of management of any part of the beach. It was an oversight that NPWS was not invited to the pop-up meeting as they could have clearly explained their legislative responsibilities.

Dogs should not be on Washhouse beach at all, but having them on a part of the beach is not working. Nearly everyone just walks everywhere anyways. The residents who walk there on the beach are sick of being abused by dog owners who are walking on the part of the beach they are not supposed to be on. We have seen a decline of birds, such as Pied Yatchers and Reef xxx which are instantly being chased by dogs, in an area they are not supposed to be on. The signage is not being read and needs to change. South Beach should be the dog beach, better signage and parking is needed. NPWS has stopped baiting because of the dogs. This has issues for xxx management on the reserve. Please keep your decision intact. Dogs should not be on Washhouse Beach at all.

I agree with current policy - only off leash to National Park sign.

Only beach that has disability parking and easier access to people. South beach has neither parking nor easy access. Turtles breeding at South Beach, not have 4WDs and dogs.

There seems little or no reason to ban dogs from council area of Washhouse Beach. This is the only place in this area where dogs can run free on the beach or anywhere else. Please don't let the opinions of a loud minority drown out the silent majority. People and dogs need this area.

Support less beach driving South of Watonga Rocks. More please dog bag stations. More enforcement RE on leash area. Extra xxx off leash area South control use. Swimming, exercising walking 100%

If I had known that by participating in your survey that wash house would be changed to no dogs I would not have bothered
Very disappointed
Maybe your council should check how Coffs and Wollongong approach the issue of off leash
Far better than this council

Congratulations on the decision ... "Washhouse Beach will be reclassified from Off-Leash to PROHIBITED."

Please ensure that the new signs are clear in that message and placed in appropriate positions, also that rangers patrol the area. My concerns regard the failed protection of wildlife habitat at Kattang, whether Council or National Parks or both, somebody must be held responsible.

My husband and I went to Wash House Beach on Saturday afternoon 12.6.21. at 2pm.

As we walked past Pilot Beach, a man was swimming in the water with his dog swimming nearby also. The sign at Pilot Beach is very clear.

At Washhouse Beach, a Staffie dog running the whole length of the beach raced up and jumped at two young children who were clearly upset.

Also a couple of people with two Maltese Terriers walked right past the signage and all along the beach.

Every time we visit, the number of people with uncontrolled dogs at the National Park end clearly shows no respect.

There are no longer goannas to be seen foraging along the beach, nor any tracks. Also, no more kangaroo tracks in the sand, only hundreds of dog prints from dogs running off leash.

Please find a solution urgently,

i am writing to you today to inform you that i do not want dogs to be off leash allowed to run on any beach.

I am a walker and walk for kilometres and need the big beaches to do my walking with out anyone else's dog getting in my way.

Should i be able to sue if it bit me???

There like kids, if i let my kid run up to any adult and pee on their stuff and mess it up and trip you over id expect to be labeled a bad parent so why should dogs be allowed to do this.

Its not that i hate dogs at all i just dont think it should be legal for other peoples dogs to invade my peace and enjoyment of my life.

I do not agree that wash house beach should be prohibited to dogs because for us it's a wonderful beach for dogs and owners to enjoy!

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to register my objection to the proposed prohibition of dogs on Washhouse Beach. For many elderly dog owners, or for people with mobility issues, this is the only accessible beach where dogs can enjoy a run off leash, or a swim in the surf, in the Dunbogan/ Camden Head area. South Beach is too difficult to access. It is impractical to suggest that these residents should drive to North Haven so their dog can get its daily exercise. The availability of such a place is important for not only the dogs, but for the health and well being of their owners.

Hello

We would like to object to any further restrictions to dogs walking with owners on Washhouse beach at Dunbogan.

This small section of Washhouse before the national park and rock platforms is very valuable for dog owners and families.

This section of beach has level access.

Older residents can walk there.

Dogs have no other off leash areas on this side of the river, apart from part way down Dunbogan (South) beach where access is quite tricky for older residents.

Dogs need somewhere to run.

We have not seen stray dogs who are out of control - dogs on that beach are with caring owners who clean up after their pets.

There are no footpaths to walk dogs along Camden Head Road and along the narrow curved road access to the beach - it is very unsafe. Walking dogs on the road will become the only dangerous option for dog owners to exercise their animals.

Walking a dog is a healthy pastime for owners as well as dogs, and is an important social outlet for many older residents.

Dog owners on the headland and the beach, and visitors with dogs, respect and love the national park, which is not compromised by the current access to the northern end of Washhouse Beach.

We live on the headland and are not dog owners but feel that dog owners should not have these rights taken away.

We sincerely hope that these proposals do not go ahead.

I'm currently caring for aged parents away from our home at Camden Head. I can't recall my login details, sorry.. I am hoping I may 'submit' my response (through yourself please) to council's excellent and appropriate proposal to Prohibit Dogs from WashHouse Beach.

As a very active and long term Camden Head resident and Washhouse beach-goer I have been horrified by the brazen actions and non-compliant attitudes of so many 'locals' who drive straight past Dunbogan, South Beach, dog exercise area and then, without many exceptions, encourage/walk with their unleashed dogs straight passed the limit sign and up into the rock platforms and beach inside the nature reserve. Even when their dogs chase the oyster catchers, black cockatoos etc.. and my wife and/or myself very kindly ask that they please respect the dog exercise area limits they are often aggressive and very rude in their reply. Some of these Dunbogan, Kendall and Laurieton residents have even tried walking their dogs out in the Camden Head walking trails.. Will this limit be respected we now worry..?

If PMHC are serious about protecting this very special portion of the environment within Council's care, then a majority of selfish, unreasonable people must not be allowed to cause anymore or this completely avoidable environmental damage/impact when these persons have another dog beach right nearby!? Keeping in mind that the larger percentage of these people try to justify their actions by saying "who can tell me how far I can take my dog", will council protect our very limited natural areas or give way to those who do not really respect what, in fact makes Camden Head so very special? The area is under threat - if PMHC don't help protect it, could this really be acting in the best interests for future residents and visitors??

I trust PMHC will take into consideration my previous, eye witness submission/comments regarding wildlife destruction. As a previous dog owner we enjoyed taking our 65kg bull mastiff down to the limited area of Washhouse beach, however, we found that the dog exercise area located on the south side of the Headland was much bigger and therefore more relaxing for us and as a result, more fun for our animal! We chose not to have another dog because when he died in 2007, we had Koalas and wallabies coming into our rear yard and walking down the street... Yes dog owners should not be allowed to let their dogs adversely impact and dominate the environment. It has already done enough to damage what little habitat is left for all the native, vulnerable species - Please?

Disagree with this banning of dogs at Washhouse Beach proposal. Have been using this beach for over 20 years with our furry friends. Never any incidents I can recall and definitely no harm to wildlife from dogs. On the contrary, we see pet cats roaming the Kattang Reserve without check. Ourselves and other dog walkers actually look after the beach and clean the rubbish, report vandalism, plant trees, pull weeds, etc.. Collectively we dog walkers do much more in this regard than both PMHC and NPWS.

There are many less-able members of the community who rely on this beach to walk their dog because of it's accessibility. Additionally it is imperative for mental health.

There have been many friendships developed from interaction between dog walkers.

In response to dogs wash house beach. Agree important small children/elderly /disabled.

May I inquire why lack of signage dogs on lead i.e. break wall Nth Haven along with other locations, dogs whilst in public places should be on leads, twice daily I view large dogs not on leads followed by men right outside my house address above. have a ninety six year old neighbour whom like myself does not need injuries. As a rate payer may I suggest dogs not on leads use fenced off areas council

General:

We have prepared this submission in our position as property owners, ratepayers, investors, part time residents and eventual permanent residents of Camden Head. We submit that the proposed amendments are not supported by the vast majority of the residents of Camden Head and The Camden Haven; will have a negative impact on the amenity and well being of those residents and a negative financial impact on the region.

We submit that the report submitted to Council meeting 17/02/2010 on the above policy amendment contained significant errors, omissions and contradictions.

We also submit that the recommendations in that report were in contradiction to Council's policy on pet ownership as presented on Council's website:

"Hastings Council recognises the need and benefits of dog owners and their animals to be able to access and utilise public open space areas such as parks, reserves, foreshores and beaches".

And: "With this in mind, Council endeavours to provide a range of use opportunities for dog owners and their animals".

Background:

We purchased No. 21 Idant St, Camden Head more than ten years ago after spending many years as holiday visitors to the region with our family. At first we rented out the property on a permanent basis, but changed this to 'Holiday Letting' some four years ago for several reasons:

- We saw the potential of the region as a growing holiday destination, with tourism becoming one of the area's most sustainable industries.
- We wanted to spend more time in a region that would eventually become our permanent place of residence.
- Camden Head provided a unique locality for residents and family holidaymakers alike, bringing together beaches, lake, river and coastal National Park all within walking distance.
- Camden Head enjoys a strong community spirit and pride ensuring that the community looks after, and ensures others look after, our unique location and surroundings.
- Camden Head has historically been a haven for 'responsible' dog owners, where sociable, sustainable dog ownership and behavior is encouraged and insisted on, not by outside authorities, but by the community itself.
- We know our property is secure in our absence because so many of the

residents pass by our place on daily walks with their dogs.

- There is a common bond of dog ownership, tolerance and responsibility on Camden Head that attracts responsible, tolerant holidaymakers to our and other properties on the headland. Knowing that you can exercise your dogs responsibly on a beach within safe walking distance is a great benefit to holiday makers and residents alike, especially older members of our community and those with limited access to cars.
- The existence of Wash House beach as a dog friendly area provides a marketable advantage to Camden Head as a holiday destination, therefore providing a positive contribution to the local economy. There are people who holiday in our and other properties specifically because it is an environmentally sustainable dog-friendly area.

Report to Council:

This submission is directed principally at Council Resolution 1. (a) of Item 26, Minutes of Meeting Date: 17/02/2010 – Environment.

In relation to the report prepared for Council for Meeting dated: 17/02/2010 – We make the following points:

1. The report states "The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) has requested the Council to amend its Dogs on Beaches Policy with respect to dog permitted areas which abut National Park Reserves and key wildlife habitats."

However, this statement is not referenced. No evidence is presented in the report of this request being recently made. In fact discussions between residents and local DECCW representatives have suggested that the request came from Council and that DECCW wanted peaceful co-existence with residents.

2. The report states: "The proposed changes to Little Bay beach and Pelican Island are as a result of DECCW concern regarding dogs being exercised in close proximity to nature reserves and endangered species habitats (in the case of Pelican Island)" But it makes no mention of any such DECCW concern for Wash House Beach.

3. The report states: "fox bating programs using the poison 1080" are being carried out in Katang nature reserve, suggesting that this could be a danger to dogs... However, dog owners have agreed unanimously that dogs are not taken into Katang Nature reserve including the grassed beach area above high water mark.

4. The report states that "alternative beach areas are available for dog exercising" ie Dunbogan Beach. However the report omits to say that the area of Dunbogan

3 beach is;

- Well to the south of Camden Head
- Still contains restrictions on dog exercising in some parts
- Much of Dunbogan Beach is also accessed by 4-wheel drive vehicles making it dangerous for exercising dogs.
- Off leash areas of Dunbogan Beach can only be accessed by residents of

Camden Head by car or by walking along the road (no footpaths) a distance of some two kilometres. This presents considerable safety issues especially for our aged dog owners who don't drive.

5. The report states that Henry Kendall Reserve should be developed as a leash-free area.

- This is even further away (about seven kilometres) and completely inaccessible for the older Camden Head residents.
- This area would put unleashed dogs in direct contact with native fauna such as Kangaroos, Koalas and Possums.
- Whereas on Wash House beach, dogs are separated from native flora and fauna by the grassed dune area (an area dog owners avoid due to the presence of ticks and snakes).
- Additionally this proposal was put to Council in 2000 and has not been acted upon.

6. The report claims it: "Aligns with the Council's strategies on community consultation and providing a sustainable environmental for all residents."

Under the heading of 'Consultation' the report states that: "Consultation has taken place with Council's Acting Parks & Gardens Manager, DECCW Management and staff, Council's Team Leader Ranger Services and Council's Manager Development and Environmental Compliance."

But there is no mention of community consultation - a direct contradiction of Council's strategies on community consultation.

7. The report has erred in that under the heading 'Financial & Economic Implications'

- It makes no mention of the loss of financial benefit to local property owners in being able to promote Camden Head as a 'dog-friendly' and 'dog-responsible environmentally sustainable area' for prospective home buyers, long-term renters and holiday makers.
- It makes no mention of the loss of financial benefit to the Camden Haven and greater Port Macquarie area when Camden Haven no longer has the attraction to pet owning holiday makers and permanent residents of a dog friendly beach.

8. The report also makes no mention of the loss of social amenity and general wellbeing of the residents and visitors if dogs were prohibited from Wash House Beach.

- Many of the residents of Camden Head are seniors and the companionship and well being gained by walking their dogs responsibly on Wash House beach cannot be measured on monetary terms, cannot be replaced by a dangerous two-kilometre walk along a sometimes busy road with no footpaths.

4

- Dog socialization mornings are held on Wash House Beach in accordance with the times stated on Council signs in the reserve behind Pilot Beach. These mornings provide valuable community interaction and encourage responsible dog ownership.
- Many of the older residents feel safe and secure walking their dogs on Wash

House beach, but would not feel safe walking or driving to the southern extreme of Dunbogan Beach.

CONCLUSION:

Responsible dog-owning residents and visitors should not be denied the simple, historic rite to exercise their dogs on Wash House beach.

- The total prohibition of dogs on Wash House beach is contrary to Council's own policy on pet ownership.
- The prohibition of dogs on Wash House Beach will be detrimental to the well being of the majority of Camden Head residents and visitors.
- The prohibition of dogs on Wash House Beach will be detrimental to the attraction of both permanent residents and holiday makers to Camden Head.
- The prohibition of dogs on Wash House beach will result in a financial disbenefit to Camden Haven region
- The prohibition of dogs on Wash House Beach is opposed by the vast majority of Camden Head and Camden Haven residents.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENT:

1. The beach area of Wash House Beach bounded by the Northern breakwall, the grassed dune area above high water mark and the Katang Nature Reserve sign some 200-metres along Wash House beach remain off-leash area before 8.00am and after 4.00pm.
2. The beach area to the high water mark, to the south of the Katang Nature sign 200-metres along Wash House beach be declared an on-leash area (to stop dogs interacting with fauna and flora in the Reserve) before 8.00am and after 4.00pm.
3. Consideration be given to declaring the area described in Pt 1 above a on-leash area at other times.

We live on Camden Head. We do not have a dog, nor do we ever intend to get one. We are also active members of Friends of Kattang & Dunbogan Landcare.

We both object to the proposed closing off of Washhouse beach to dogs. For people who own dogs on the headland it is easy for them to walk down to the beach. It is not easy for anyone here to walk to any other dog friendly beach. (It is not just distance but also dangerous to walk on Camden Head road.) The aim of those headland people is to walk not drive. Other people who bring their dog/s on Washhouse are doing exercise too. It is lovely to see them walking, playing, etc on the beach. Almost everyone stops to talk or at the least give a cheery wave. We have had conversations with many people "from out of town" who come to the area because of the access. This must be a boost to tourism.

Another benefit of allowing dogs on Washhouse is that it is easy for older people (or those with walking difficulties) to access. The beach is not very far from the car park. South /Dunbogan beach usually requires walking over sand unless you have a beach driving pass. Not easy.

We are aware that sometimes people take their dog beyond the sign. The sign could be made bigger & probably needs to be down closer to the beach. At the moment we think people assume the dogs cannot go into the vegetation up from the beach. There are foxes in Kattang which come down onto the beach. we are sure they do a lot more damage than a dog under control. We have seen fox tracks which are different to dog tracks. There are possibly wild cats in Kattang too. NPWS could patrol their section of the beach occasionally to deter the few who do go beyond the sign. Talking to people would be better than fining them; fines get people angry about the area.

We are very unhappy and worried about the proposed closing of Washhouse Beach to walking dogs off leash.

We have a small dog and often take her to Washhouse so she can have a run. There are not many places to take small dogs for a run as the dog park at Laurieton nearly always has large dogs and they rush up and terrify her. We have to pick her up and she now hates going in there. We tried the beach at North Haven but the same thing happens as there are too many large dogs running around and they just chase her if we let her off.

We always pick up after our dog, as do most people exercising their dogs. Washhouse Beach is good because mostly the dogs there are the smaller ones, and if we see other dogs we put her back on the lead. We do not let her go up into the dunes and she stays on the beach with us. Most of the dogs walking there stay with their owners who are responsible and keep their dogs under control, so we can't understand why you want to close that part of the beach to dogs. We can't go on Pilot Beach, so where can we go?

We need a small dog park area in Laurieton so these little dogs can have a run around and play with each other and not get harassed by the bigger ones. The area near the river just left of the car park opposite LUSC would be good as only used when the club has an open day. Our little dog really loves having a run on the beach and she causes no trouble to anyone and we think it's a bit unfair, so please consider this when making your decision. Please consider some sort of small dog park in Laurieton, as it is really needed.

I'm a local who every day takes my dog to wash house beach, I think if you changed the rules to no dogs you would upset a lot of locals who are already down due to losing their houses/possession in the floods and just want to relax while taking their dog for a walk down the beach as there are not many other places around to take your dog.
Thank you for your time and consideration

Wash house beach is the only place that is accessible for the elderly and people with mobility issues. This restriction will reduce visitors to this beautiful part of the PHMC.

I will not visit Dunbogan beach if it is closed for my furry friend.

Restricting pets in this area will also reduce income into this area.

I am also concerned about the local inhabitants of Dunbogan. They will not be able to take their pets for a walk on the beach. Where are they to go now?

I understand there are issues with wildlife however then open another area for the locals that is accessible for all ages. The back beach has an approx 100 m walk on soft sand which is not accessible for me at all due to arthritis in my feet.

I also understand there are issues with people taking their pets after the restricted area but in 3 years have not seen any officers patrolling the area to enforce restrictions anyway. Please don't punish people that follow the rules.

I hope this issue can be resolved amicably for all.

I refer to the above policy draft available for comment on the Council website. I strongly object to the removal of this beach as a dog off leash area. In addition,

I would make the following points:

1: Washhouse beach is easily accessible for older residents with dogs, whereas Dunbogan beach or south beach is very difficult for older residents with disabilities to access and manage their dogs

2: the council dog park constantly has grass at least two feet high in summer and is totally inappropriate for exercising dogs due to the grass length and the risk of ticks. It's also a lonely unattractive location down a dirt road, it doesn't seem safe for a woman to go there alone.

3: consideration should be given to creating a fenced off dog park on the foreshore near the United services club or further along near the back of the markets area. Other areas that could be used are the area behind the play equipment and covered eating area behind pilot beach. Also suitable would be part of the reserve at the corner of Camden head rd and the boulevard.

Compared to other councils the provision of beaches only (with other grassed areas completely unsuitable in the Laurieton area) for off leash dog parks is not adequate for a substantial portion of the population and the comparison to say Ku Ring Gai council will back this statement up.

My family has lived in the Camden Haven for over 30 years.

Family visitors have much loved family dogs that have loved their time on the beach while family members enjoy the surf, walks and exploring the beach. The dogs are walked on lead, tethered on a long corkscrew spike in the sand by the rocks where they snooze away then walked away from the beach on leash. Faeces is bagged and taken away to the car park bin. Never a problem or incident in all those years of sun filled pleasure.

To take this away from our family would be a dark blight on our three decades of holiday fun.

Please do not allow prohibiting of dogs on this beach.

There needs to be an understanding and a commitment to the protection of the natural environment as a priority for our region. That means that access to certain areas for human recreation needs to be more clearly defined and limitations specified, and penalties for abuse clearly promulgated and enforced. This is also a health and safety matter, with increased ownership and dog presence in many areas the potential for indiscriminate waste and spread of disease is heightened.

The revelation that the council has no details available of penalties for breaches of current regulations and dog attacks on local fauna, although there appears to be plenty of anecdotal history, suggests that there have been no penalties applied, or the staff responsible for monitoring and enforcement are not doing their job, or are restricted from being able to do their job. Whether it is council or NPWS staff, it appears from last night's discussion that both areas are under-resourced for the enforcement of regulations in their areas, let alone for dogs and vehicles on beaches issues. I reiterate that protection of the natural environment needs to be a commitment by authorities responsible for ensuring protection does happen.

As well as a clear and inclusive (of residents and visitors) education program, better signage and targeted printed material that is clear and concise and not wordy, should be a key part of getting the message across. While there appear to be significant problems at beaches around Camden Haven as referenced last night, the fact is that people ignore signs at Town, Flynn's and Oxley beaches, and the signage re dogs is lost amongst other information. The sign located near the Tacking Point Lighthouse leading to the beach is much more prominent and should be considered for these other beaches.

As far as enforcement is concerned, and this is also a key element in dealing with this matter:

As well as ad hoc surveillance by council staff, a periodic blitz at all beaches with no prior warning and immediate fines should happen, not a first time warning

In any revised policy, the details of fines for breaches should be spelt out, and this should include the amount of fines and that they will be issued "on-the-spot", and that repeat offences will lead to increased amounts and ultimately impounding of the animal.

When owners register their dogs with the council, as well as upfront education of the local regulations, with signature acknowledgement by the owner that they have read and understood them, perhaps a photograph ID of the dog and owner could be kept on record so if a breach occurs and a ratepayer takes a photo of the dog with their owner, they can be identified and action taken by council staff. I realise this is perhaps a departure from current protocol, however we are supposed to be coming up with ways and means to deal with this.

Thanks again for the opportunity to contribute.

I have recently become aware that the PMHC plan to ban dogs from all of Washhouse Beach at Dunbogan. I would like to better understand the reason for this plan and express my strong disappointment, should this plan go ahead.

Although I now live at Dorrigo, my family have owned our house on Camden Head Road since the late 1950's. My family and I regularly visit Camden Head and as a child I spent every school holiday at Camden Head and Washhouse Beach. As a teenager I grew up at Camden Head, with much of my time spent surfing & swimming on Washhouse Beach. As such, over the last 60+ years I have developed a strong affinity with Washhouse Beach and the Katanga Nature Reserve.

Over the years we have owned dogs which have been part of the "community" who regularly visit Washhouse Beach. We currently own a small dog and we always ensure it stays within the designated off leash area of the beach.

One of the reasons stated for this planned ban of dogs on Washhouse Beach is to "allow NPWS management programs to be implemented".

Can you please explain what these management programs are.

As I understand, the NPWS do not manage the "off leash" area of Washhouse Beach, so I fail to understand why this planned decision involves the NPWS.

Dogs under supervision of their owner should be allowed on the entire beach at Washhouse Beach. My dog loves to swim so south beach with it's dangerous XXXX and rips is not an option for either dogs or humans. Where is the tangible evidence of dogs killing wildlife? In forty years of using this beach i have never witness an incident with a dog. WHY must our lifestyle be controlled by the Green minority? the vote was overwhleming leave it as it is! It is not up to the Friends of Kattand to police the beach and it is not up to them to be so proprietorial about the entirl area and pusht their minority agenda with no consideration for othe r peoples knowledge of the area. WOuld you consider their opinion that goannas and snakes should be protected more reasonable than the health benefits to both humans and canines? If there are too many people using washhouse beach perhaps council should be so keen to over-develop the area. Leave Wahshouse Beach alone!

believe that council is considering prohibiting dogs on washhouse beach because of complaints made. While I respect the complainants passion for their cause, it is misguided and it would be unjust to ruin the majority of beach users enjoyment due to the complaints of the minority. After having attended the council 'pop up' and speaking with local residents it is apparent that the vast majority do not want this to happen. If implemented, it will have a detrimental impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of both dog owners and their furry companions by further restricting access to already limited dog friendly areas. None of the residents that I have spoken to have ever witnessed any damage to wildlife by dogs. These complaints are unfounded and we should not rob so many of the harmless and joyful experience just to silence the minority. I take issue with council stating that it is for the enjoyment of all as it is not for the enjoyment of all is it, it is only for the enjoyment of those who have complained, the rest of us are penalised. It is also stated that NPWS needs to do some maintenance and baiting but surely the area would only need to be closed on a few specific days for that like they do in other areas. Council needs to work for all residents, not just those that have the loudest voice and a personal agenda. Perhaps a better solution would be a compromise. Make the entire area an ON LEASH AREA. That would satisfy the fears of dogs loose in the nature reserve. There are people who will do the wrong thing, yes, but it doesnt matter what you implement people will do the wrong thing, that will never stop.

in my 16 years of going to washhouse beach I have not encountered nor witness any badly behaved dogs so therefore I am in favour of dogs being allowed on washhouse beach. I think it is a great facility for dog owners particularly for residents of camden head. I am sure there has been the odd incident over time however that occurs in life no matter what activity or location people are in.

I have lived in this area for 7 years. I walk and swim in both pilot and washhouse at least 5 days a week and have never seen dogs attack wildlife or birds in that time. I have made many friends in that area with swimming and dog walking and enjoy the area and friendship of both.

washhouse beach is one of the few areas locally that allows off leash for dogs (in that small section of course). The park or area that is supplied by council near primary school is often overgrown, too hot or wet to use. I live in a dog friendly park but we must keep dogs on leash at all times. this beach is close by and gets used often by many residents here. not let a few incidents that have happened usually by holiday makers close this section of the beach for the local who do do the right thing.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft. I think it is quite fair and reasonable. My main concern is still that people do not obey the signs on the pathways to the beach where it very clearly shows that dogs are not permitted. If the council is serious, I feel it needs to be more firm in its wording as it says in the draft policy " people may be fined" are there going to be rangers around to do this?

I understand this may not be in your brief, but I would really appreciate it if you passed this information on to the appropriate officers.
Thankyou very much

strongly object to the proposal to remove Washhouse Beach as an off leash dog area.
As someone who has been holidaying on the headland for over thirty years I have enjoyed taking my dog to Washhouse Beach when we are there.
Over this time more regulations have reduced our enjoyment of attending Washie.
These regulations have also restricted the use of the beach for the many locals who live on the headland with their dogs.
Washie is far more accessible for the elderly (which I am becoming a member) than South Beach and it's loss will impact them greatly.
Pilot beach is available for people (the minority) who do not like dogs.

I'm 80 years old. And I have a little "teenage" poodle cross. He gives me a reason to get out and about each day enjoy the pleasures of a walk along Wash House Beach. I live in Dunbogan, and both "Gus" and I delight in driving to the car park at Pilot Beach, lock the car and head for a nice little walk along Wash House Beach. It provides easy access without having to traverse long sand tracks to return to the car park.

These outings are important for the two of us! It has been well documented that these activities are so beneficial to maintain gentle exercise for the elderly, and adds to their general well-being.

With the recent controversy of banning dog walking in this area leaves me with a dilemma. What will I do now if this please is extracted?

I speak for so many who do the same thing on a regular basis.

The alternatives offered by the Port Macquarie Hastings Council are of small comfort if this area ceases to allow me to enjoy this routine.

I understand and appreciate the concern is for wild life in the area. And no doubt there are some pet owners who are not as responsible as myself. For that I apologise. However, I urge council to consider the majority of the older population who regard Wash House Beach as a haven for their regular enjoyment of this unique area, and who are responsible for picking up the "doggie boggies" that result in the walk.

Please dear councillors, consider this aspect. The alternatives present huge barriers for those who are not young.

Hi,

I object to the proposed dog "prohibited" for this beach.

"Dogs on leads" is a reasonable, environmentally sensitive and safe approach.

I have a preference for dogs on leashes basically everywhere.

Try that first THEN if that fails I would support prohibition.

Thanks



DOC21/469471

Dr Clare Allen
Chief Executive Officer
Port Macquarie Hastings Council
17 Burrawan St
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444

Dear Dr Allen

RE: PMHC Draft Dogs in Open Public Places Policy

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (PMHC) [Draft Dogs in Open Public Places policy](#). The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) manage land adjacent to dog friendly areas and seek to ensure the policy balances biodiversity conservation responsibilities with community expectations.

NPWS provided a detailed submission (DOC21/120739) to PMHC on 24th February 2021 to offer input to the development of the draft policy. We are pleased that many of the recommendations from this submission have been adopted and in addition we provide the following comments for consideration in the final version.

North Shore Beach

The draft policy declares North Shore Beach from the northern end of Corilla Estate to the Queens Head 4WD access as an off-leash area. The northern half of this beach is Limeburners Creek National Park (gazetted to low water). Dogs are not permitted in Limeburners Creek National Park. The policy needs to be amended to reflect that dogs are not permitted on North Shore Beach north of the Limeburners Creek National Park boundary.

Washhouse Beach

Washhouse Beach is located adjacent to Kattang Nature Reserve and provides habitat for several threatened species. The following threatened species have been recorded at Washhouse Beach:

- Endangered
 - pied oystercatcher
 - bush-stone curlew
 - little tern
 - loggerhead turtle
- Vulnerable
 - sooty oystercatcher,
 - sanderling
 - eastern osprey
 - white-bellied sea eagle.

22 Blackbutt Rd Port Macquarie 2444
Tel: 02 6588 5555
ABN 20 770 707 468
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

The beach also provides important habitat for East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) migratory shorebird species that are protected under international agreements. In addition, the rock platform area has been described as one of the most diverse rock platforms in NSW and is frequented by visitors and locals to explore the incredible species diversity contained in the rock pools. The area is a significant biodiversity and tourism asset for the region worthy of protection.

Domestic dogs are widely recognised as a key threat to all the threatened species known to occur on Washhouse Beach. Unleashed domestic dogs can disturb or predate on birds, chicks and eggs and simply the presence, sound or scent of a dog can cause a nesting pair of threatened shorebirds to abandon their nest and/or young.

Data from the following neighbouring LGAs reports ranks the threat of unleashed domestic dogs to shorebird species as the highest level of threat:

- *Macleay River Estuary Migratory and Threatened Shorebird Species Management Strategy: Follow up shorebird survey 2019/19 (p.25)*
- *Manning River Shorebird Saving Our Species program*

In 2010, PMHC changed the zoning for dogs at Washhouse Beach to allow dogs off-leash on the beach to the north of the Kattang Nature Reserve boundary. This decision was noted as a compromise position to cater for dog walkers in the area and address the conservation requirements of the nature reserve and adjacent sensitive habitats (rock platform). Since this policy change, Washhouse Beach has become a significant challenge for NPWS to manage dog walking compliance to protect biodiversity values. Dogs are regularly being walked along Washhouse Beach beyond the Kattang Nature Reserve boundary where dogs are prohibited. This boundary is very clearly signposted by a combination of PMHC and NPWS signage, however many people within the community are disregarding the regulatory signage. NPWS Ranger staff who regularly patrol this area have issued many infringements and Official Cautions over the last few years to non-compliant dog walkers, and advise that a majority of the compliance actions have been issued to local residents

NPWS have consulted with PMHC over this issue for many years and NPWS are often advised that PMHC do not have adequate resources to monitor dog walking compliance at Washhouse Beach, therefore compliance of dog walking on Washhouse Beach is largely undertaken by NPWS.

NPWS are aware that fox and feral cat populations are impacting on shorebird breeding success on all beaches adjacent to NPWS Estate in the area, however there are limitations to undertaking a comprehensive baiting program due to the presence of dogs on many of these beaches.

NPWS support the continuation of dog walking at nearby Dunbogan Beach between Seaview Avenue and Beach St to ensure that residents still have access to a beach to walk their dog. This policy position provides approximately 2.36km available for off-leash dog walking (Figure 2 below). The current off-leash area at Washhouse Beach north of the Kattang Nature Reserve boundary is just 120m (Figure 1 below).

NPWS commends PMHC for the inclusion of Washhouse Beach as a prohibited area in the draft policy and would welcome the opportunity to partner with PMHC to raise awareness and educate the community on the values of Washhouse Beach and Kattang Nature Reserve.

Shorebird monitoring program

NPWS encourages PMHC to consider commencing a shorebird monitoring program to monitor threatened and vulnerable shorebird populations and impacts associated with threats from domestic dogs, human disturbance (beach driving,), vertebrate pests and coastal inundation. Neighbouring Councils at Kempsey and Mid Coast have established such a monitoring program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment to this important Dogs in Public Open Spaces Policy review. If you have any questions about the matters raised please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Jude, Acting Team Leader Rangers, via elizabeth.jude@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



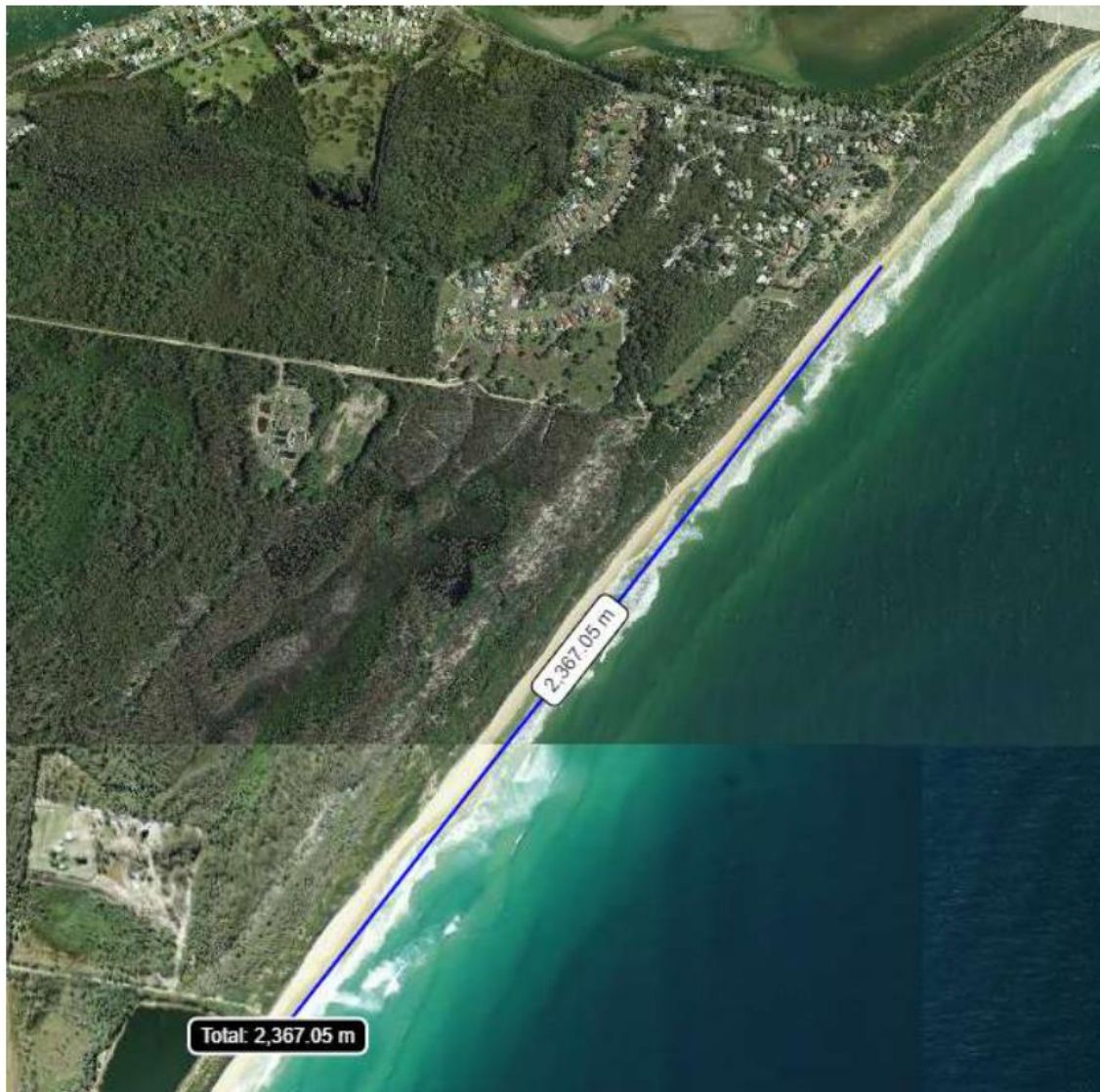
BEN STEVENSON
A/Area Manager, Hastings Macleay Area
National Parks and Wildlife Service

Date: 18/6/21

Figure 1: Distance of Washhouse Beach north of Kattang NR – 125m



Figure 2: Distance of Dunbogan Beach available to off-leash dog walking - 2.36km



0410 938 691
susan@mysolscape.com.auwww.mysolscape.com.au

SOLscape Pty Ltd trading as mySOLscape

ABN 86611125690

Bonny Hills, 19 June 2021

Attn. PORT MACQUARIE COUNCIL**Subject: Dogs in Open Spaces / Washhouse Beach proposed restriction to dogs**

Dear council members,

I am the business owner of mySOLscape Holiday Rentals and we manage 50 properties along the Camden Haven coastline.

We are proud to offer pet friendly accommodation as we understand that many families like to travel with their companion animal as they are considered part of the family, in fact 40% of Australians own a pet, in rural areas this number is even higher. Our properties that are pet friendly have an occupancy rate of over 70% per annum vs 40% for non-pet friendly accommodation. 65% of our properties allow pets.

We have been instrumental in promoting the Camden Haven and greater Port Macquarie area with 7348 visitors staying between July 2020 and June 2021. On average visitors spend \$245 per night on accommodation. Their stay in the local area has an obvious positive knock on effect onto the local cafes, restaurants and tourism attractions from not only Camden Haven but through to Port Macquarie.

A major factor for people visiting this area is the ability to walk their dogs on our beaches and for families to enjoy quality outdoor time. Many of our properties are in close proximity to Washhouse beach and the surrounding areas. The impact of the closure of Washhouse Beach to dogs could be detrimental to not only our business, but the tourism and hospitality sectors as well and will also effect many local small businesses that we utilised on a daily bases e.g. cleaners, tradesman etc.

FINANCIAL LOSS TO LOCAL ECONOMY – \$1.25M TO \$3.75M

If Washhouse Beach would be closed to dogs, half of our guests would decide to holiday elsewhere, most likely in Northern NSW or Queensland. The estimated loss of income to our area, based on the number of dog friendly properties we have in the area and visitors coming through, would be \$1.25 Million – this does not factor in loss of jobs. This estimate is for mySOLscape properties alone, our market share is 33%, hence the total effect incorporating other accommodation operators could be as high as \$3.75 Million.

0410 938 691
susan@mysolscape.com.auwww.mysolscape.com.au

SOLscape Pty Ltd trading as mySOLscape

ABN 86611125690

MENTAL HEALTH

Apart from the obvious economic impact, it is important to understand the mental health benefits animals provide to their owners. Dogs play a vital role in our lives, especially the elderly who often have their animals as companions. Many local people and holiday makers alike walk Washhouse beach daily, the closure would impact on their way of life and potentially their mental health. Washhouse beach and its flat terrain and amenities make it very accessible in particular for the elderly.

If Washhouse Beach were to be closed to dogs, then people would need to go to South Beach which has a difficult entry path and no facilities and would be extremely inconvenient to the elderly in particular. It would increase car traffic. The local community and visitors could run the risk of social isolation, injury and harm.

There needs to be dog friendly areas to facilitate opportunities for socialisation and exercise of dogs and people alike. I would propose keeping Washhouse beach open to being dog friendly with a review of better signage to outline areas that are for dogs only.

I would appreciate it if you could review our submission as the local tourism industry already had to deal with the negative effects of bush fires, Corona Virus and the March 2021 floods. The closure of Washhouse Beach to dogs will be highly detrimental to the local community, businesses and economy.

I am happy to provide more information where needed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards

Susan

Susan de Jonge
Owner / Director
mySOLscape holiday rentals
greater Port Macquarie coastline

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
PO Box 84
Port Macquarie
NSW Australia 2444
DX 7415
e council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au

ABN 11 235 901 601



15 March 2020

Microchip: 900164000667268
Your Reference: CRM 7498/2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Declaration of a Dog as Being Menacing Under the Provisions of Part Five of the Companion Animals Act, 1998

Pursuant to Section 34 of the Companion Animals Act, 1998 Port Macquarie - Hastings Council has declared the dog described as a Male, Black and White, Mastiff/German Shorthaired Pointer cross, "Sid" (900164000667268), and generally housed at 29 Coreen Place BONNY HILLS NSW 2445, to be menacing within the meaning of Section 33A of the Companion Animals Act, 1998.

You are advised that pursuant to Section 51 of the Companion Animals Act, 1998 you are required, as the owner of the subject dog, to comply with the conditions on the attached schedule of conditions within the times specified for each condition. Inspections of the above premises will be conducted to ensure compliance with the attached requirements.

Failure to comply with any of the conditions contained on the attached schedule is an offence and subject to a penalty of up to \$16,500.00.

You are also advised that should you not comply with the specified conditions then Council may seize the dog and hold it until Council is satisfied that all conditions of the declaration can be reasonably complied with at the property where the dog is ordinarily kept. Should it not be possible to demonstrate a capability to comply with all conditions of the declaration then Council may, after holding the dog for fourteen (14) days, destroy same.

You are advised that under Section 41(1) of the Act no appeal lies to the Local Court against a declaration by an Authorised Officer of a Council that a dog is a menacing dog.

You are further advised that after twelve (12) months from the declaration you can apply to the Council of the area where the dog is ordinarily kept (whether or not it is the Council whose authorised Officer made this declaration) to have this declaration revoked.

The Council must consider your application and advise you of its decision as soon as practicable. However, under Section 41(1) of the Act, unlike a dangerous dog, no appeal lies to the local Court against a refusal by Council to revoke a declaration that the dog is a menacing dog.

Should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact Council's Customer Service Team on telephone number 6581 8111 or by e-mail on council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au and you will need to quote your CRM reference number CRM 7498/2020.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Saley".

Lisa Saley
RANGER

pmhc.nsw.gov.au

Page 1 of 3

PORT MACQUARIE OFFICE
17 Burrawan Street, Port Macquarie NSW 2444
t 02 6581 8111 f 02 6581 8123

WAUCHOPE OFFICE
49 High Street, Wauchope NSW 2446
t 02 6589 6500

LAURIETON OFFICE
9 Laurie Street, Laurieton NSW 2443
t 02 6559 9958



Control Conditions - Menacing Dogs Declaration

The following conditions require immediate compliance:

1. The dog must not at any time be in sole charge of a person under the age of eighteen (18) years.
2. The display of Two (2) signs on the property showing the words "Warning Dangerous Dog". Warning signs must comply with the following requirements:
 - a) The sign must be no smaller than 40cm x 40cm.
 - b) The sign must be made of durable material.
 - c) The sign must show the words "Warning Dangerous Dog" in letters:
 - i) that are of sufficient size as to be clearly visible from the boundaries of the property. and
 - ii) that are, in any case, at least 50mm high and 10mm wide.

3. During any period that the menacing dog:
 - a) is on property on which the dog is ordinarily kept, and
 - b) is not under the effective control of a person of or above the age of 18 years,

The dog must be enclosed in a manner that is sufficient to restrain the dog and prevent a child from having access to the dog.

4. Whenever the dog is outside its enclosure, the dog:
 - a) Must be under the effective control of some competent person by means of an adequate chain, cord or leash that is attached to the dog and that is being held by (or secured to) the person, and
 - b) Must be muzzled in a manner that is sufficient to prevent it from biting any person or animal.

For the purposes of this paragraph, a dog is not considered to be under the effective control of a person if the person has more than two dogs (one of which is the menacing dog) under his or her control at the one time.

5. The dog must at all times wear a collar of the kind prescribed by the Companion Animal Regulation 1999.

A collar is of the prescribed kind if;

- a) It consists of red stripes alternatively spaced with yellow stripes each being a width of 25mm and set diagonal to the rim of the collar at an angle of 45 degrees, and
- b) At least one of the 2 colours reflects light in the dark, and
- c) It is made of durable materials, and
- d) It is able to be securely fastened, and
- e) It has a device or other facility that enables it to be attached to a leash, and
- f) It has a minimum width of;



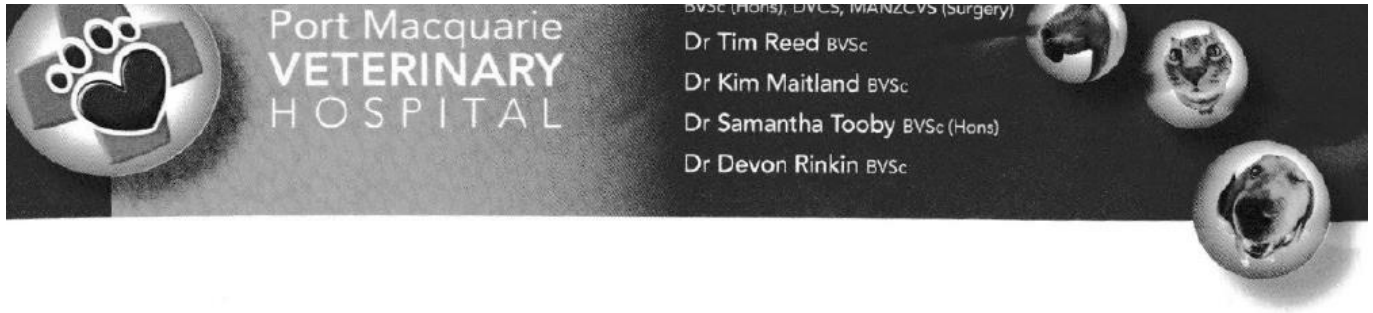
- i) 25mm for a dog weighing less than 20 kg, or
 - ii) 40mm for a dog weighing between 20kg and 40kg, or
 - iii) 50mm for a dog weighing more than 40kg.
- 6. The dog must not be sold to any person. (The term 'sold' extends to the transfer of owner by any means, including by gift).
- 7. Council must be notified by the owner of the dog of the following matters within the time specified;
 - a. that the dog (with or without provocation) has attacked or injured a person or an animal (other than vermin) - notice to be given within twenty four (24) hours after the attack or injury.
 - b. that the dog cannot be found - notice to be given within twenty four (24) hours after the dog's absence is first noticed.
 - c. that the dog has died - notice to be given as soon as practicable after the death,
 - d. that the dog is no longer being ordinarily kept in the area of Port Macquarie - Hastings Council - notice to be given as soon as practicable after the change of location,
 - e. that the dog is being ordinarily kept at a different location in the area of Port Macquarie - Hastings Council - notice to be given as soon as practicable after the change of location.
- 8. If it is intended to keep a dog which has been declared as menacing in another Local Government Area (other than the Port Macquarie Hastings local government area) then the dog owner must notify the Council of the area in which the dog is intended to be ordinarily kept of his or her intention to do so.

The following conditions require compliance within 28 days from the date of the declaration;

The dog must be desexed (if it is not already desexed) within twenty eight (28) days after the date that the owner is given notice by Port Macquarie - Hastings Council that it has made the declaration.

N.B. Unlike a dangerous dog declaration, under Section 41 (1) of the Act no appeal lies to the Local court against a declaration by an authorised officer of a Council that a dog is a menacing dog.

Note: Failure to comply with any condition is an offence – Maximum penalty of \$16,500.00



29/6/2021

To whom it may concern:

I have examined the 6.3 year old male desexed Bullmastiff cross canine named "Sid" [REDACTED], who resides at 29 Coreen Place, Bonny Hills, New South Wales, and is owned by [REDACTED] residing at that address.

The physical exam entails oral, ocular, and auricular exams, auscultation, complete joint assessments, abdominal palpation, and temperature.

The patient "Sid" has an excellent temperament, tolerated all aspects of the exam perfectly, and did not show any signs of aggression at any time towards me, my staff, or any animals or other persons in the clinic.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dr. Devon Rinkin', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Devon Rinkin, BVSc NSW V11775

3 Your Business and Industry

What we are trying to achieve

A region that is a successful place that has vibrant, diversified and resilient regional economy that provides opportunities for people to live, learn, work, play and invest.

What the result will be

We will have:

- A strong economy that fosters a culture supportive of business and ensures economic development of the region
- Townships, villages and business precincts that are vibrant commercial, cultural, tourism, recreational and/or community hubs
- A region that attracts investment to create jobs
- Partnerships that maximise economic return and create an efficient and effective business environment

How we will get there

- 3.1 Embrace business and a stronger economy
- 3.2 Create vibrant and desirable places
- 3.3 Embrace opportunity and attract investment to support the wealth and growth of the community
- 3.4 Partner for success with key stakeholders in business, industry, government, education and the community

DRAFT FOR REVIEW

Port Macquarie-Hastings Economic Development Strategy 2022 - 32



Acknowledgment of Country

Yii Birrbay Barray

This is Birpai Country

Nyura yii-gu mara-la barray-gu, nyaa-gi, ngarra-gi

You have come here, to the country to see, listen and remember

Gathay Nyiirun Wakulda

Let's all go together as one

We acknowledge that we are on Birpai country and pay respects to all elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the ongoing connection to the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters of the Port Macquarie Hastings Region.

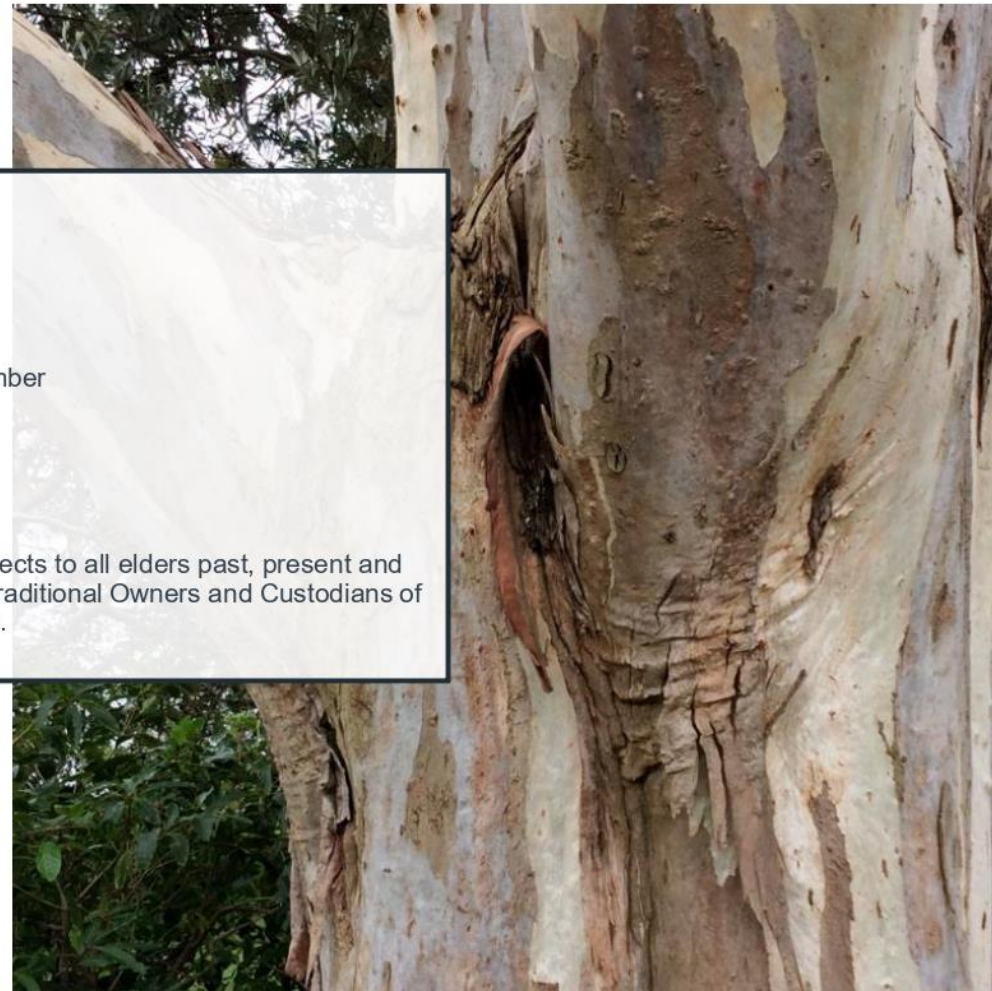


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Port Macquarie-Hastings Economic Development Strategy

A Vision of 2032: An Ambitious Economic Future

Strong sustainability principles, connection to our natural values and a resolve to protect our way of life have underpinned the success of our region, Port Macquarie-Hastings and its collective townships and rural areas.

Challenging the status quo to recognise that economic development can mean more than just growth, we now celebrate our network of smaller townships and the hinterland that all leverage the transformation of Port Macquarie and its CBD.

The Port Macquarie CBD has shifted to become an 18-hour place activated through civic participation and events, connections to education and libraries, and a nationally recognized safe, laid back night-time economy. Our amazing climate, local food and wine and a burgeoning small bar scene operate sustainably, supported by a strong central resident population.

The development of diverse, compact forms of housing within the Port Macquarie CBD now support both retired residents and a vibrant student population. Concurrently, settlement planning has reinforced established towns and villages and improved the level of services and activity in main streets. As a result, new businesses have established in Wauchope, Laurieton and Kendall and rekindling local economies that were once reliant on Port Macquarie. Smaller centres such as Kew, Bonny Hills and Lake Cathie have also an improved the number of services available to residents.

As the national population responded to the uncertainty of COVID-19 our local culture of resilience has placed wellbeing and community at the centre of economic recovery. The very reasons that visitors love to holiday in Port Macquarie-Hastings has attracted new working age residents that have supported sustained economic growth for existing local businesses. The liveability of the region allows the community and visitors to connect with nature, reset and surf, sail, paddle, hike or cycle throughout our region.

The capital investment in the Health and Education Precinct has now unlocked strong links between the University, Hospital and industry. Innovation, research and development have now emerged as key activities for the precinct in addition to nationally recognised health services and tertiary education offering.

The wisdom of experienced business professionals and leaders has been leveraged to support a transformative culture of mentoring. The benefit of linking the latent experienced human capital of our region's retired population with energized young business owners and professionals has unlocked local employment and significant productivity improvements. As a result, Small and Medium Enterprise growth is now unmatched across regional Australia.

Community led initiatives with a focus on a sustainable and carbon neutral way of life have resulted in new forms of economic activity. Local approaches and investment in active transport infrastructure has also seen a transport mode shift across PMH. While we do rely on our vehicles and the improved arterial network, significant investment in electric car charging, a safe and accessible vehicle separated cycling network and more efficient high frequency inter regional bus services have all assisted in shifting many residents and workers to different modes of transport.

Pilot programs that support housing affordability have been important strategies to support increased workforce participation for communities at risk. The provision of safe and affordable housing is now increasing access to work for lower skilled workers, while fostering an inclusive education environment. Lifelong learning is commonplace and ingrained in our culture, extending across early years through the larger aged population.

Activating place through events and business led initiatives throughout Port Macquarie-Hastings has been critical in differentiating the unique locations and highlighting visitor experiences, main street economies and the liveability of our collection of towns and villages.

When we look back on the last 10 years of investment and economic activity it is the link between community and our enviable lifestyle that we are most proud. We have changed and expanded local opportunities for meaningful work. But we still love the way we can live.

Introduction

Port Macquarie-Hastings is the dominant municipality in the broader Mid North Coast region.

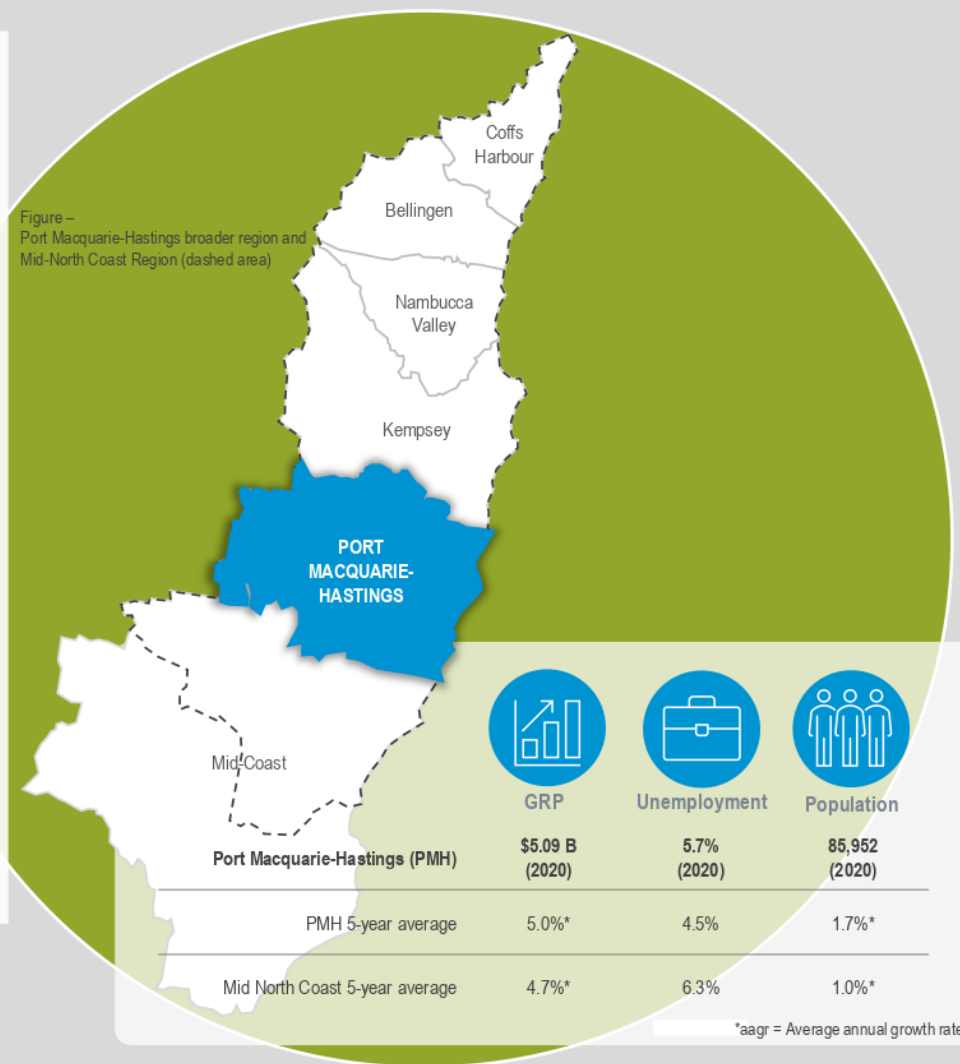
The local government area (LGA) contains significant landscapes that support environmental services for catchments, diverse ecosystems and iconic landscape features. The LGA is made up of a collection of villages and townships that occupy the hinterland, straddle the coast and the significant rivers within the region.

Home to 85,952 people, Port Macquarie-Hastings supports 29,368 jobs and has an annual economic output of \$9.604 billion. Port Macquarie-Hastings is a magnet for both visitors and a resident population as both cohorts are attracted by the highly liveable regional setting.

The following strategy outlines an approach to local economic development which aims to increase the economic capacity of a local area and, in turn, improves the well-being of local communities. In this way, economic development is ultimately about progressing outcomes that benefit the local community.

Economic development is a co-responsibility between individuals, businesses, organisations and tiers of government. The Australian Government and New South Wales Government play significant roles in progressing economic development initiatives at broader regional and national scales. Local government plays an equally important role at the local level, undertaking a range of activities and initiatives in collaboration with local partners to promote the interests of the region.

However, businesses and non-government organisations are ultimately the ones that drive and deliver economic development through investment, service delivery, business growth, and local employment.





Economic Development Framework

Sustainability in Port Macquarie - Hastings

Sustainability is a process of ensuring the wise use and management of all resources whereby an acceptable balance is achieved across environmental, social and economic well-being considerations for current and future generations. Sustainability is a shared responsibility between government, business and the community with each party playing a critical role.

Port Macquarie - Hastings Council is currently developing a Sustainability Framework which sits at the highest level in Council's strategic planning to ensure that sustainability is considered in all Council strategies and plans.

Council in partnership with the community will strive for sustainable outcomes across the following four (4) Sustainability Pillars:

- **Environmentally sustainability:** practices which protect, conserve, regenerate and enhance our natural, cultural and built heritage environment through active environmental stewardship and responsible natural resource management.
- **Social sustainability:** practices to support the capacity of current and future generations to create healthy and liveable communities. Socially sustainable communities are equitable, diverse, connected and provide a good quality of life.
- **Economic sustainability:** practices that support long-term economic opportunity and a healthy and thriving local economy.
- **Civic leadership and governance:** practices that support transparency, accountability, probity, management of effective services, equitable access to services, a commitment to working in partnership with our community, and capacity building within Council and the community. This also means that Council has the financial resources required to deliver services required by the community now and into the future.

Sustainability is a key theme that emerged through development of the economic development strategy (EDS) and is relevant to all areas of Council's strategies and policies.

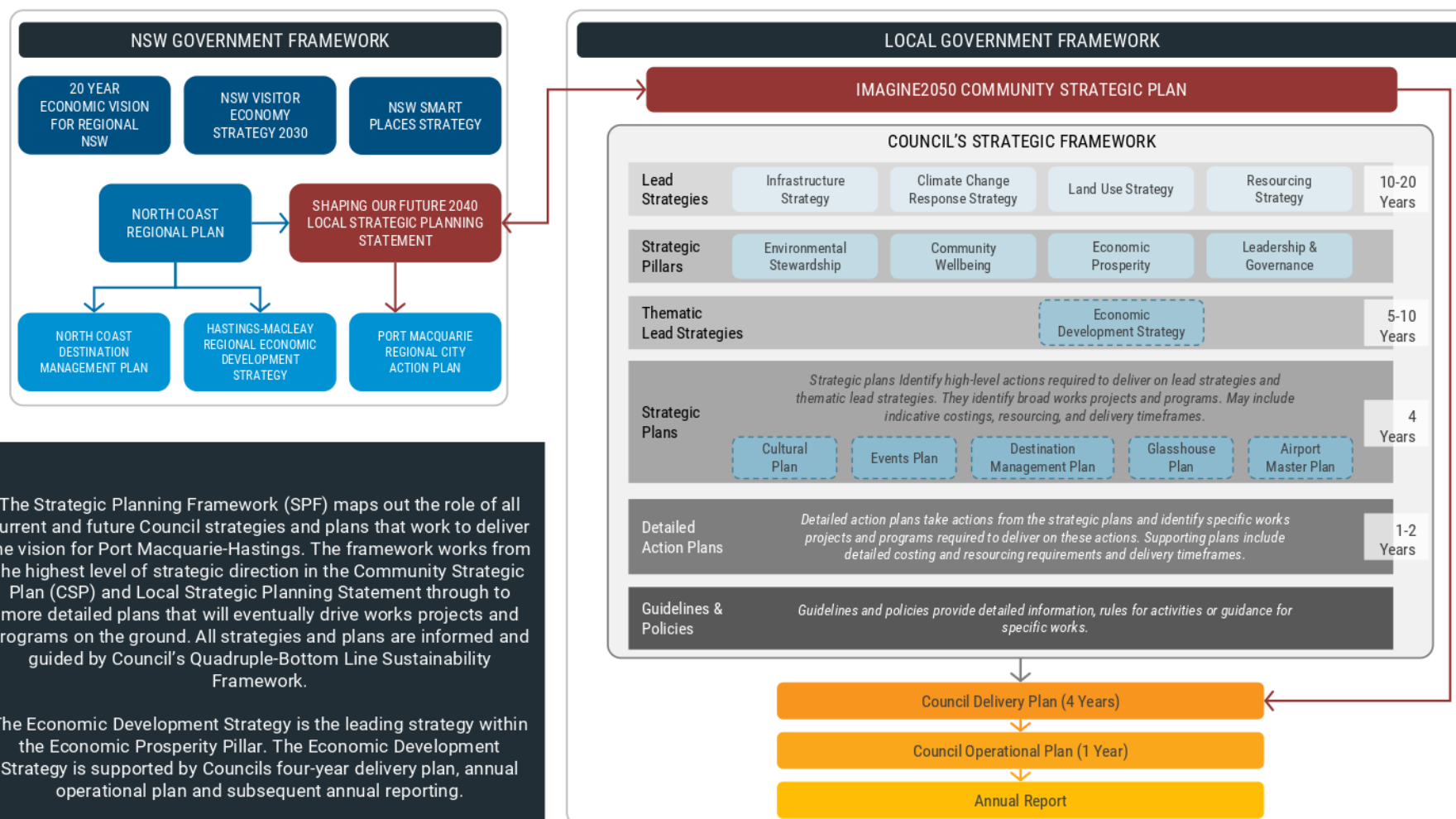
In addition to Council's Sustainability Framework, the draft EDS aligns with the United Nations General Assembly's Sustainable Development Goals which are a global strategy and form a blueprint to create a sustainable future for everyone.

Goals 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16 and 17 are particularly relevant to this Strategy.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework



The Strategic Planning Framework (SPF) maps out the role of all current and future Council strategies and plans that work to deliver the vision for Port Macquarie-Hastings. The framework works from the highest level of strategic direction in the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and Local Strategic Planning Statement through to more detailed plans that will eventually drive works projects and programs on the ground. All strategies and plans are informed and guided by Council's Quadruple-Bottom Line Sustainability Framework.

The Economic Development Strategy is the leading strategy within the Economic Prosperity Pillar. The Economic Development Strategy is supported by Council's four-year delivery plan, annual operational plan and subsequent annual reporting.

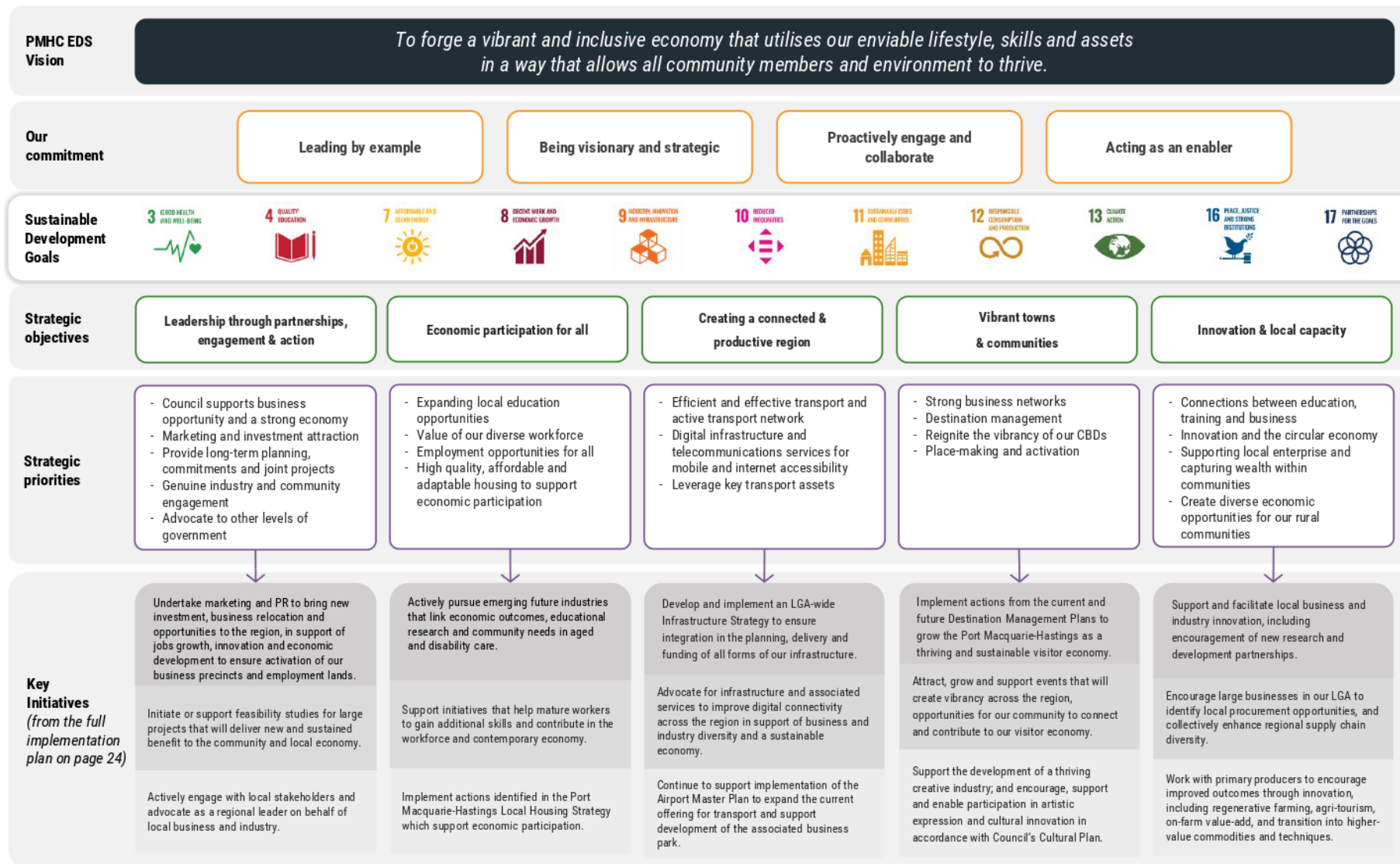
Global forces & regional influences

Economic development in Port Macquarie-Hastings is influenced by a broad range of global and regional factors. Global megatrends are experienced at a local level through an evolving lens of policy and strategy that is developed at the national, state and regional levels.





The Strategy



Vision

The development of an economic vision that encapsulates the values, objectives and aspirations of the people of Port Macquarie-Hastings is critical to the preparation of a strategy. Engagement across multiple business representatives, government agencies and organisations, and community members has identified core themes that have informed the development of a vision.

The following vision presents a balanced yet aspirational outlook for economic development in the council area. The vision seeks to maintain and protect core values while recognising that change is inevitable. Ultimately, it aims to acknowledge that development which achieves sustainable goals, and is proactive and innovative is consistent with the values and aspirations of Port Macquarie-Hastings.

The economic vision for the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council is:

*To forge a vibrant and inclusive economy that utilises our enviable lifestyle, skills and assets
in a way that allows all community members and our environment to thrive.*

Council's commitment

Throughout the development of this strategy, business and community stakeholders identified critical obligations of Council. These obligations are described here as values which will guide the development, delivery and implementation of the Economic Development Strategy.

In stating these values, Council recognises its role as a leader in the community, but also encourages and requires ongoing input from, and collaboration with, the business community.

1

Leading by example –

Council will leverage our own organisation for employment, training initiatives, investment in local business to business (B2B) procurement.

2

Being visionary and strategic –

Council recognises the need to set a long-term vision that is achieved through evidenced-based decision-making and providing consistent practical outcomes that support local community economic development. Council will articulate a clearly defined direction and make hard decisions to hold the course for the broader public good.

3

Proactively engage and collaborate –

Council will undertake meaningful engagement throughout project lifecycles and collaborate with stakeholders to enable optimal outcomes.

4

Acting as an enabler–

Council will coordinate investment attraction and local business growth through a mindset that is underpinned by facilitation, innovation and collaboration.



Economic objectives

Aligned with the vision are core economic objectives that seek to provide a clear direction for each of the strategic priorities established through background research, stakeholder engagement and strategy development. These include:



Leadership through partnerships, engagement & action

Economic participation for all

Creating a connected & productive region

Vibrant towns & communities

Innovation & local capacity

Economic Priorities

The following section outlines the five priorities established through development of the Economic Development Strategy. Each section describes the logic for investment in these priorities as it relates to Port Macquarie-Hastings. These priorities apply to all sectors of the economy, from specific industries, through to interest groups and individual businesses.

How these priorities are proposed to be achieved is outlined through a range of initiatives within the implementation plan at page 24 of this document.

Council's Planning Framework, that integrates State Planning policy, as well as the principles established through the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals provide an important lens for investment and decision making.

Integrating principles of sustainability supports outcomes that target prosperity, well-being, and health within a location such as the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area. To simply achieve one objective such as economic growth at the cost of environmental protection does not achieve a sustainable outcome.

Ultimately, development and investment will strengthen efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and the environment.

LEADERSHIP

- Council supports business opportunities and a strong economy
- Marketing and investment attraction
- Provide long-term planning, commitments and joint projects
- Genuine industry and community engagement
- Advocate to other levels of government

ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

- Expanding local education opportunities
- Value of our diverse workforce.
- Employment opportunities for all
- Housing to support economic participation

CONNECTIVITY

- Efficient and effective transport network
- Digital infrastructure and telecommunications services
- Leverage key transport assets

VIBRANCY

- Strong business networks
- Destination management
- Reignite the vibrancy of our CBDs
- Placemaking and activation

CAPACITY

- Connections between education, training and business
- Innovation and the circular economy
- Local enterprise & wealth capture
- Diverse economic opportunities for our rural communities

Leadership through partnerships, engagement & action

WHAT

Leaders are agents of change. Leadership in economic development involves identifying the people or organisations who exemplify best practices in a region, inspire a shared vision of increased prosperity, and enable others to act.

Economic leadership is primarily driven by the many passionate individuals and businesses in the private sector. Organisational leadership can also be driven by Council to embrace customer service, adopting an approach to 'build on an offer' with a view to exploring opportunity rather than focusing on limitations or constraints.

Strength in economic leadership often comes through partnerships, communication and networking to impact cultural change that can then provide consensus on strategic direction for a location. Local business networks, tourism and traders' associations, peak industry sector bodies and partnerships between business and government help galvanise support and target initiatives to match priorities of all sectors.

Critically, making hard calls and holding course on agreed strategic direction should be the focus for Council. This can be politically challenging, particularly in the face of short-term opposition. Decisions that strongly align to the objectives of a sustainable Port Macquarie-Hastings, and progress broader objectives around equity and opportunity, should be core to Council's business.

Central themes:

- Identifying, enabling and celebrating business and community leaders.
- Recognising and building on Council's leadership role.



WHY

While regions must be agile, inconsistent opportunistic economic development can pose a significant threat to the future of regions. A combined voice for leadership is important to ensure actions taken move the region in the desired direction. Local government is often best placed to provide leadership through coordination of partnerships and driving collective impact from and for multiple stakeholders.

Collaboration opportunities between levels of government, business and institutions such as universities are strongly aligned to regional innovation. The presence of engaged industry groups and a proactive tertiary education sector sees this type of collaboration as some of the core directions for the Port Macquarie Regional City Action Plan and is reflected in this strategy.

Strategies that foster economic development outcomes that 'grow from within' have been linked to greater local prosperity, higher levels of labour force engagement and greater success for small and medium businesses. Indeed, broader influences on the local economy such as climate and sustainability must be addressed through a clear shared direction that can mobilise community and business stakeholders. As the notable leader within PMH, Council has a clear role in leading through example and advocating for investment and economic outcomes aligned with community and organisational values.

Economic participation for all

WHAT

Economic participation refers to people's engagement in work or education. Involvement in these activities enables access to economic resources and supports positive social and health outcomes.

Typically, when economic conditions improve, more people will enter the labour force. When economic conditions decline, labour force participation will contract and educational participation will often increase as people avoid unemployment. However, changes in labour force participation is not equally distributed throughout the community with young people, females and older males typically the most responsive to changes in economic conditions. Similarly, access to education during all economic cycles is not equal with lower socio-economic groups often the most disadvantaged.

Natural disasters also impact on economic participation, particularly for casual employees. The impacts from storm events, fire, flooding and health related responses to COVID-19 have challenged business and industry in PMH. In turn, continuity of employment tenure and the profound impacts to vulnerable industries have been more exposed during the last two years of disruption.

Central themes:

- Focusing on economic participation of the most affected cohorts in the community.
- Taking an approach of lifelong learning.
- Supporting the delivery of services that underpin economic participation.



WHY

Increasing access to meaningful, ongoing and secure employment has a significant impact in regions like Port Macquarie-Hastings. Providing educational opportunities, ensuring access to quality childcare services, and supporting initiatives for workers entering and transitioning out of the workforce are all important aspects of improving economic participation.

The role of education in improving regional prosperity cannot be overstated. In 2015, a UNSW report from the Gonski Institute for Education determined that "if the human capital gap between urban and non-urban Australia was closed, Australia's GDP could be increased by 3.3%". The benefits to regions of increased levels of tertiary educational participation and industry engagement relate to lower levels of unemployment, increased diversity of the local economic base, higher wages (and in turn increased GDP), increased civic engagement and improved levels of personal health and wellbeing. Local provision of higher education has a range of benefits, from unlocking local talent, retaining skills, creating a more resilient and adaptable workforce, and fostering collaboration and entrepreneurship. Creating an environment that supports lifelong learning is not just favourable but essential. It is recognised that people will now typically work in a multitude of jobs across their working lives. The value of skills is also changing rapidly with the half-life of a skill dropping from 30 years to 6 years.

Accommodating a national university, PMH has a competitive advantage for supporting skill development. Presence of a university also acts as a major attractor for young people which can also encourage graduates into local employment and stay within the region. Leveraging the experience of mature workers within PMH also presents a significant opportunity. Capitalising on the professional and life experience to support nascent and emerging local businesses has proved a sound strategy across many locations. The capability of retired and semi-retired locals is made clear through organisations such as the Edmund Barton Centre which delivers mentoring services to support local regional development outcomes.

Creating a connected & productive region

WHAT

Connectivity is ultimately about improving access. Access between locations for both people and freight, access to markets for businesses, and access to health care and education are all examples of connectivity that improve productivity within a region.

Connectivity relates to both physical and digital access. Physical connectivity is essentially the relationship between transport and land use. When the transport network and land use is planned in an integrated way, people and goods can efficiently and effectively get to the places they need to be.

The Port Macquarie Airport also provides PMH with a major asset that supports connectivity and productivity not available to many municipalities. Airports present an opportunity to consolidate economic activity to support transport, freight and logistics, commerce related enterprises, and tourism-based operators.

Digital connectivity is a fundamental aspect of contemporary society to enable business transactions, provide residents with access to services, and to disseminate and access information.

Central themes:

- Establish a transport network that efficiently and effectively supports the movement of people and goods.
- Improve internet and mobile coverage across the municipality.
- Long-term planning and investment to leverage key transport assets.



WHY

Population growth is increasing traffic congestion, putting increased pressure on services and utilities, driving house pricing up and reducing affordability. Concurrently, population growth supports a vibrant construction sector (in PMH accounts for 6.7% of regional revenue and approximately 3,000 jobs), ensures the region is provided with services, and attracts investment. Balancing these often-competing dynamics is important for future liveability. The underlying natural landscape, high amenity values and recognised koala habitat were all key issues raised during preparation of this strategy which need to be preserved through well-planned and managed development.

The recent impact of flood and bushfire events have amplified the need for secure, future-proofed transport networks and digital connections. Increased frequency of extreme weather events caused by climate change, as well as the impacts of COVID-related travel restrictions highlight the importance of a resilient transport and communication networks.

Leveraging existing transport assets can drive opportunities for the region. Airport services are a considerable generator of visitor activity and enable larger events and conferences which typically require an operating passenger air service to consider a location. Longer-term master planning for the Port Macquarie Airport to build on investments made to date, address access as well as consolidate 'non-airside' industry should be prioritized to best leverage this significant regional transport asset.

Australia's average internet speed is currently around 60-70Mbps. Some regional areas in Australia are investing in exceptionally high-speed capacity to drive competitive advantage. For example, businesses in the Bendigo region in Victoria can now access 100 gigabyte capacity internet, more than 1,000 times faster than Australia's average internet speed. Addressing mobile coverage blackspots and taking advantage of existing IoT networks will improve accessibility and productivity, particularly for rural areas.

Vibrant towns & communities

WHAT

PMH is a collection of rural communities, coastal towns and the regional city of Port Macquarie, each of which plays its own unique role in the local economy. The importance of place is significant for the future of small townships where key community values can underpin aspirations, private investment and local vibrancy.

Port Macquarie is the region's major centre, accommodating the majority of existing and future population, services, businesses and tourism activity. The recent Regional City Action Plan for Port Macquarie clearly outlines strong goals and objectives that align with the Economic Development Strategy.

With its hinterland location, Wauchope has strong connections with the surrounding productive rural areas and has a relatively strong manufacturing base. Proximity to the Pacific Highway and accommodating one of PMH's train stations makes the town an important point of entry to the region. Coastal towns of Laurieton, Bonny Hills and Lake Cathie offer outstanding lifestyle opportunities and also have a strong connection to the visitor economy.

Rural communities are important for local residents and play a critical role in supporting agricultural production, with potential to expand value-adding activities and provide alternative tourism initiatives.

Central themes:

- Recognising and supporting the unique role of every township in PMH.
- Supporting and delivering place-based initiatives for towns and precincts.



WHY

PMH is at a pivotal point in its history. Loved for its lifestyle and expansive natural environment, there are structural changes required to ensure a thriving future is achieved for the regional city and the network of existing townships.

While residential land demand is high, suitable development land is dispersed. There is a risk that new greenfield development which are limited in economic diversity will proceed at a cost to established townships with existing assets and services. Reinvigorating existing townships and building on established assets presents a significant opportunity to transform local main streets and employment precincts.

Public investment in developing 'complete streets' has been linked to corresponding private investment by business and property owners within the central trading areas of townships. High-quality urban form attracts businesses, workers, residents and visitors. For employment precincts, this has been strongly linked to innovation 'districts' that attract talent. Investment in infrastructure that can support work from home opportunities, and ultimately link to business creation or growth for local employment, is a significant opportunity within PMH.

Sustainable development objectives are central to this priority of achieving economic growth that builds prosperity for local communities through local employment, reduced work-related travel, and diversity of industry at a township scale. The Destination Management Plan is a key strategic plan that underpins vibrant towns and communities. Opportunities that recognise the linkage between townships and tourism product include activating nature-based tourism, packaging the Koala Hospital, expanding and linking tracks and trails between natural areas and townships, enhancing the role of the Glasshouse and other Council assets, linkage between restaurants, local produce and visitor experiences.

Innovation & local capacity

WHAT

The capacity for regions to position their economies - human, social, political and natural capital - around innovative industries and approaches will be increasingly important. The goal of such positioning is to build local capacity, improve resilience and increase community prosperity.

Opportunities to create meaningful local employment pathways underpin this priority. Linking new emerging industries that match community values around sustainability and the principles of doughnut economics established through the circular economy are examples where job creation and economic outcomes can match local aspirations of sustainability. A circular economy is about shifting the use of resources from extractive to restorative approaches. The use of 'waste' as supply stock, localised production of renewable energy, and economic activities that renew natural systems underpins this thinking. Doughnut economics provides a framework for an economy that operates within environmental limits (an upper ceiling of earth's natural systems) and above a social foundation (a lower boundary where everyone's essential social and physiological needs are provided for).

Directly responding to Council's clear organisational objectives associated with climate change and sustainability, as well as the rejuvenation of local manufacturing and economic systems within PMH should be considered within a complete economic ecosystem. This approach links vocational education, identifies local industry opportunities and provides clear leadership for economic development that retains the important natural and balanced lifestyle amenity of the region.

Central themes:

- Transitioning to a circular economy.
- Building local capacity to improve resilience and prosperity.
- Creating opportunities for local employment.



WHY

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council has recently declared a climate emergency. Climate change is a major challenge, but also presents a significant opportunity to increase local prosperity while simultaneously improving environmental outcomes.

In 2018, the NSW Government released a Circular Economy Policy Statement, "Too Good to Waste". The policy outlines that current levels of resource use are no longer sustainable and provides guidance on the need to minimize the negative impacts of resource use to promote positive economic, social and environmental outcomes. Commitments by governments to de-carbonise and address the impacts of climate change through more sustainable practices are strongly aligned with actions within this priority that focus on the circular economy, localised energy systems, and innovation in food, agriculture and health.

The rapid advance in technology is also a source of opportunity and challenges due to the rapidity of change that is occurring in our social lives and workplaces. How regions respond to these changes may define their future economic success. Regional innovation and specialisation should leverage existing assets to develop new approaches, technology and thinking that have broader application and become an export that brings new wealth into the region.

Community and business engagement undertaken as part of the PMH Imagine2050 Community Strategic Plan and this EDS highlighted the need to focus on local enterprise that captures wealth within the community while addressing sustainability objectives. Supporting socially conscious and innovation led businesses may also address the hollowing out of younger people from the region as this cohort often see that working for a business that has a purpose as more important than simply higher wages.

Measuring success of our economic objectives

The role of monitoring and evaluation of the economic development strategy is important to understand the performance and success of actions taken to achieve our economic objectives. Measurement of the 'Leadership' priority will primarily utilise qualitative assessments of satisfaction which will be obtained through annual surveys of the business community. All other objectives will apply a quantitative assessment of PMH's performance over time. Data sources used will be available for all local government areas in New South Wales, which will also allow performance to be benchmarked to other regions.

| Economic Objective & Priorities | What we are trying to measure | Annual reporting on... | Census (5 year) reporting on... |
|---|--|---|---|
| <u>Leadership</u> | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Council supports business opportunity and a strong economy– Marketing and investment attraction– Provide long-term planning, commitments and joint projects– Genuine industry and community engagement– Advocate to other levels of government– Initiatives to support jobs growth | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Perceptions of and satisfaction with levels of leadership demonstrated by Council. | Business satisfaction on specific leadership metrics. | N/A |
| | | Feedback from the annual PMHC business confidence survey. | N/A |
| | | PMHC customer satisfaction measures. | N/A |
| <u>Economic participation</u> | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Expanding local tertiary opportunities– Capture the value of an ageing experienced workforce.– Employment opportunities available to all– Housing to support economic participation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Education levels– Workforce participation– Affordable housing | Educational participation | School completion and qualifications |
| | | Labour force participation rate and unemployment rate | Labour force status |
| | | Rent to wage ratio | Proportion of households under mortgage and rental stress |

| Economic Objective & Strategic Priorities | What we are trying to measure | Annual reporting on... | Census (5 year) reporting on... |
|---|--|---|--|
| <u>Connectivity</u> | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Efficient and effective transport network– Digital infrastructure and telecommunications services– Leverage key transport assets | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Transport connectivity.– Internet and mobile coverage. | Potential area covered in 20-minute travel time from town centres by: – Car, Bike & Public transport | Proportion of people using active or public transport as their method of travel to work. |
| | | Density of community reported mobile blackspots. | Dwelling access to the internet |
| <u>Vibrancy</u> | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Strong networks of business and industry– Destination management for a thriving visitor economy– Revitalisation of the Port Macquarie CBD– Placemaking & township activation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Business networks– Tourism– CBD activation | Concentration of business entries | N/A |
| | | Value of tourism (as percentage of economy) | N/A |
| | | Economic diversity | N/A |
| <u>Innovation and capacity</u> | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Connections between education, training and business– Innovation and the circular economy– Local wealth capture– Localised energy systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Innovation– Local wealth– Local energy systems | Innovation | N/A |
| | | GRP per worker | N/A |
| | | Solar installations | N/A |
| | | Implementation of Council's Long Term Energy Strategy | N/A |



Implementation Plan

The implementation plan outlines a range of initiatives for strategic priorities, which in turn are connected to achieving the economic objectives and vision outlined in this strategy. While the implementation plan provides a summary of each initiative as well as general timing. Detailed costing, resourcing and more definitive timeframes for each initiative will be specified in relevant strategic plans and action plans.

As the EDS is a ten-year strategy, the implementation plan will also be reviewed and updated over the life of the Strategy to ensure initiatives are current, relevant, responsive to the changing economic environment and new opportunities.

| Strategic Priority | Initiative | PMHC Role | Potential Partners | Timing |
|---|--|----------------|--|----------------------|
| LEADERSHIP THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS, ENGAGEMENT & ACTION | | | | |
| Council supports business opportunities and a strong economy | Review Council policies and procedures to ensure improved customer experience and a solutions-focused approach that will support business opportunity and a strong economy. | Lead | | Immediate & Ongoing |
| | Act as a leader in sustainability practice through implementation of Council's Sustainability Policy and support for community-led sustainability initiatives. | Lead | | Short-term & Ongoing |
| | Provide a minimum number of employment opportunities through internships, work experience or other employment placement, within Council for young people. | Lead | | Short-term & Ongoing |
| | Review and improve Council procurement processes/systems and actively encourage more local suppliers to do business with Council | Lead | | Short-term & Ongoing |
| Marketing and investment attraction | Undertake marketing and PR to bring new investment, business relocation and opportunities to the region, in support of jobs growth, innovation and economic development to ensure activation of our business precincts and employment lands. | Lead & Support | Department of Regional NSW, Charles Sturt University | Immediate & Ongoing |

Implementation Plan

| Strategic Priority | Initiative | PMHC Role | Potential Partners | Timing |
|---|--|----------------|--|----------------------|
| LEADERSHIP THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS, ENGAGEMENT & ACTION cont. | | | | |
| Provide long-term planning, commitments and joint projects. | Initiate or support feasibility studies for large projects that will deliver new and sustained benefit to the community and local economy. | Lead & Support | | Medium-term |
| Genuine industry and community engagement. | Establish regular, ongoing formal engagement with industry and community groups on matters relating to local economic development. | Lead | | Short-term & Ongoing |
| Advocate to other levels of government. | Actively engage with local stakeholders and advocate as a regional leader on behalf of local business and industry. | Lead | Industry Groups, Business Networks, Other Levels of Government | Immediate & Ongoing |
| | Identify and secure grants that will support local economic development and related initiatives | Lead | Business networks | Immediate & Ongoing |

Implementation Plan

| Strategic Priority | Initiative | PMHC Role | Potential Partners | Timing |
|---|---|----------------|---|-----------------------|
| ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION FOR ALL | | | | |
| Expanding local education opportunities. | Actively pursue emerging future industries that link economic outcomes, educational research and community needs in aged and disability care. | Lead & Support | Charles Sturt University, Dept of Social Services, Dept of Education, RDA Mid North Coast | Short-term & Ongoing |
| | Support local industry to connect with local career paths with vocational training opportunities to ensure that the skills match the needs of our business and community needs. | Support | Local High School & Tertiary Education Providers, Mid Coast Connect | Immediate & Ongoing |
| Value of our diverse workforce. | Encourage community participation in mentor program/s with experienced workers providing guidance for new and expanding enterprises. | Facilitate | Edmund Barton Centre | Medium-term |
| | Support initiatives that help mature workers to gain additional skills and contribute in the workforce and contemporary economy. | Support | Local Vocational Education and Training providers, local business networks | Short-term & Ongoing |
| Employment opportunities for all. | Support initiatives that develop skills for our local workforce and drive increased capacity, from secondary/tertiary education and beyond. | Support | Local Vocational Education and Training & University providers, local business networks | Short-term & Ongoing |
| | Engage with the region's large organisations to encourage provision of entry-level positions to increase local retention of school and tertiary graduates. | Support | Industry Groups, Business Networks, Charles Sturt University | Medium-term & Ongoing |
| | Undertake research to identify the factors that contribute to inclusive growth in our LGA to inform economic and land-use planning actions. | Lead | | Medium-term |
| High quality, affordable and adaptable housing to support economic participation. | Implement actions identified in the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Housing Strategy which support economic participation. | Support | | Medium-term |

Implementation Plan

| Strategic Priority | Initiative | PMHC Role | Potential Partners | Timing |
|---|---|----------------|---|----------------------|
| CREATING A CONNECTED & PRODUCTIVE REGION | | | | |
| Efficient and effective transport and active transport network. | Implement transport solutions identified within the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy and associated Plans (once adopted) that support the movement of people and freight within our region and to other regions in particular between key economic precincts and centres. | Lead & Support | Transport for NSW National Parks (Googik Track) | Medium-term |
| | Develop and implement an LGA-wide Infrastructure Strategy to ensure integration in the planning, delivery and funding of all forms of our infrastructure. | Lead | Other levels of government and relevant depts./agencies | Short-term & Ongoing |
| Digital infrastructure and telecommunications services for mobile and internet accessibility. | Advocate for infrastructure and associated services to improve digital connectivity across the region in support of business and industry diversity and a sustainable economy. | Lead | Other levels of government, NBN Co, service providers | Short-term & Ongoing |
| | Support implementation of Council's Smart Community Roadmap and support pilots, projects and partnerships, leveraging innovative thinking, digital technology, data and human expertise. | Lead & Support | RDA Mid North Coast, local stakeholders, community | Short-term & Ongoing |
| Leverage key transport assets. | Continue to support implementation of the Airport Master Plan to expand the current offering for transport and support development of the associated business park. | Lead | Airlines | Medium-term |
| | Explore and support innovative programs that improve intra-regional transport. | Support | | Medium-term |

Implementation Plan

| Strategic Priority | Initiative | PMHC Role | Potential Partners | Timing |
|--|--|----------------|--|-----------------------|
| VIBRANT TOWNS & COMMUNITIES | | | | |
| Strong business networks. | Facilitate information sharing between business groups/networks and encourage local business engagement. | Facilitate | Local Business Networks, Business NSW | Immediate & Ongoing |
| Destination management . | Implement actions from the current and future Destination Management Plans to grow the Port Macquarie-Hastings as a thriving and sustainable visitor economy. | Lead | Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association, Chambers of Commerce, Destination North Coast, Destination NSW | Immediate & Ongoing |
| | Attract, grow and support events that will create vibrancy across the region, opportunities for our community to connect and contribute to our visitor economy. | Lead & Support | Destination NSW, Create NSW, Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association, Arts Mid North Coast | Immediate & Ongoing |
| Reignite the vibrancy of our CBDs. | Build on the Port Macquarie Town Centre Master Plan and 'City Heart' initiatives outlined in the <i>Port Macquarie Regional City Action Plan</i> . | Lead & Support | NSW Government | Medium-term & Ongoing |
| | Support urban design upgrades to key employment precincts to create higher levels of amenity that can attract new business and ensure long-term sustainability of our town centres (e.g. Laurieton Town Centre Master Plan, Wauchope Bain Park Master Plan, etc.). | Support | Chambers of Commerce | Immediate & Ongoing |
| | Facilitate greater diversity of housing and mixed-use developments in the Port Macquarie CBD. | Facilitate | | Short-term & Ongoing |
| | Support investment, business and community activities that encourage an 18-hour place and growing the night-time economy. | Support | Hastings Liquor Accord, Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association, Chambers of Commerce | Short-term & Ongoing |

Implementation Plan

| Strategic Priority | Initiative | PMHC Role | Potential Partners | Timing |
|--|---|-----------|--|----------------------|
| VIBRANT TOWNS & COMMUNITIES cont. | | | | |
| Place-making and activation. | Support a review of a roles within Council focused on Place Management to support the active management of key precincts that drive business collaboration and innovation. | Support | | Medium-term |
| | Improve signage and support place-making initiatives within local towns and villages. | Lead | Community groups, Chambers of Commerce | Short-term |
| | Support regular audits of business and employment in our local centres to inform land-use planning and initiatives to support our local business centres. | Support | | Short-term & Ongoing |
| | Support the development of a thriving creative industry; and encourage, support and enable participation in artistic expression and cultural innovation in accordance with Council's Cultural Plan. | Support | Arts Mid North Coast, Glasshouse, Charles Sturt University, TAFE, Create NSW | Immediate & Ongoing |

Implementation Plan

| Strategic Priority | Initiative | PMHC Role | Potential Partners | Timing |
|--|--|---------------|--|-----------------------|
| INNOVATION & LOCAL CAPACITY | | | | |
| Connections between education, training and business. | Support and facilitate local business and industry innovation, including encouragement of new research and development partnerships. | Support | Charles Sturt University | Immediate & Ongoing |
| Innovation and the circular economy. | Support the establishment of a mechanism for business and industry to collaborate on circular economy opportunities. | Support | | Medium-term & Ongoing |
| | Undertake a Circular Economy Feasibility study that identifies opportunities for local material flows to address supply chain gaps and return local economic benefits. | Lead | | Medium-term |
| | Explore piloting infrastructure/construction sector led Circular Economy Project through research grant funding. | Lead /Support | | Medium-term |
| Supporting local enterprise and capturing wealth within communities. | Target investment attraction and business engagement as a means to drive local innovation clusters (e.g. Health and Education Precinct, Food Product Manufacturing in Wauchope). | Lead | Charles Sturt University, Regional NSW | Short-term & Ongoing |
| | Encourage large businesses in our LGA to identify local procurement opportunities, and collectively enhance regional supply chain diversity. | Facilitate | | Short-term & Ongoing |

Implementation Plan

| Strategic Priority | Initiative | PMHC Role | Potential Partners | Timing |
|--|--|------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| INNOVATION & LOCAL CAPACITY cont. | | | | |
| Create diverse economic opportunities for our rural communities. | Work with primary producers to encourage improved outcomes through innovation, including regenerative farming, agri-tourism, on-farm value-add, and transition into higher-value commodities and techniques. | Support | | Short-term & Ongoing |
| | Support the review of planning controls and permissible uses in rural zones to facilitate land uses that will support and serve rural industries, and encourage tourism in the development of Council's Rural Land Strategy. | Support | | Medium-term |
| | Facilitate opportunities for clean and green industries and look for support to incentivise adoption of sustainability initiatives and practices in workplaces. | Facilitate | | Medium-term |
| | Explore opportunities for localised energy production and/or storage in accordance with Council's Long Term Energy Strategy (e.g. biomass energy production or micro grids within established precincts). | Lead | | Medium-term |
| | Support local businesses to respond to the impacts of climate change, natural disasters and other threats. | Support | | Short-term & Ongoing |



Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
Economic Development Strategy 2022 – 2032

DRAFT V6
01/10/2021

REMPAN: Nick Byrne | Chris Kelly

REMPAN

Attachment B:

History of allocations under the Major Events Marketing Grant

| Event Name | Year | Sponsorship Granted | Economic Impact |
|--------------------------------------|------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Ekam Yoga Festival | 2015 | \$3,500 | \$17,000 |
| Big Band Blast | 2015 | \$5,000 | \$309,000 |
| 3 Rivers Rowing Festival | 2015 | \$3,500 | \$45,000 |
| King of the Mountain Fun Run | 2015 | \$2,000 | \$33,000 |
| Sand Mudder | 2015 | \$2,000 | \$22,000 |
| Beatles Festival | 2016 | \$2,000 | \$135,000 |
| Bago Bluff Mountain Bike Marathon | 2016 | \$2,000 | \$40,000 |
| Port Macquarie Running Festival | 2016 | \$3,000 | \$585,000 |
| Suck it up Buttercup | 2016 | \$5,000 | \$500,000 |
| Ekam Yoga Festival | 2016 | \$5,000 | \$20,000 |
| 3 Rivers Rowing Festival | 2016 | \$2,500 | \$45,000 |
| Big Band Blast | 2016 | \$5,000 | \$309,000 |
| Port Macquarie Beer & Cider festival | 2016 | \$5,000 | \$360,000 |
| ND Road Cycling Championships | 2016 | \$2,000 | \$29,000 |
| Luminosity Youth Summit | 2016 | \$4,000 | \$20,000 |
| Sand Mudder | 2016 | \$3,000 | \$90,000 |
| Beach to Brother Running Festival | 2016 | \$5,000 | \$308,000 |
| King of the Mountain Fun Run | 2016 | \$1,500 | \$22,500 |
| Suck it up Buttercup | 2017 | \$5,000 | \$233,000 |
| Port Macquarie Beatles Festival | 2017 | \$5,000 | \$416,000 |
| Port Macquarie Running Festival | 2017 | \$5,000 | \$763,000 |
| Slice of Haven | 2017 | \$5,000 | \$647,000 |
| Blues & BBQ Festival | 2017 | \$5,000 | \$812,000 |
| Ekam Yoga Festival | 2017 | \$2,500 | \$44,000 |
| Port Macquarie Beer & Cider Festival | 2017 | \$5,000 | \$500,000 |
| Beach to Brother Running Festival | 2017 | \$5,000 | \$353,000 |
| PMQ Mountain Bike Festival | 2017 | \$2,500 | \$10,000 |
| Suck it Up Buttercup | 2018 | \$5,000 | \$267,000 |
| Port Macquarie Running Festival | 2018 | \$5,000 | \$1,021,000 |
| Slice of Haven | 2018 | \$5,000 | \$712,000 |
| Hello Koalas Festival | 2018 | \$5,000 | \$103,000 |
| Elephant Trail Race | 2018 | \$5,000 | \$407,000 |
| Event Name | Year | Sponsorship Granted | Economic Impact |
| Beach to Brother | 2018 | \$5,000 | \$1,066,000 |
| Wildwood Music Festival | 2018 | \$2,500 | \$76,000 |
| Digital Expo | 2018 | \$0-refunded | \$0 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|------------------|---------------------|
| Fox Super Flow MTB Champs | 2019 | \$5,000 | \$106,000 |
| Regional Dementia Conference | 2019 | \$5,000 | \$130,000 |
| Laurieton Multisport Challenge | 2019 | \$5,000 | \$15,000 |
| Elephant Trail Race | 2019 | \$5,000 | \$207,000 |
| 'A Gala Night at the Ballet' | 2019 | \$5,000 | \$63,000 |
| PMBA Bodyboard Teams Challenge | 2019 | \$5,000 | \$154,448 |
| TOTAL (40) | | \$163,500 | \$10,994,948 |

| Event Name | Year | Sponsorship Granted since COVID19 | Est. Economic Impact |
|-----------------------------------|------|--|--|
| Wauchope Twilight Tastings | 2020 | \$2,500 rolled to 21/22 | <i>\$200,000 *Postponed</i> |
| Laurieton Multisport Challenge | 2020 | \$2,500 granted. \$875 retained by PMHC due to cancelation. New total \$1,625 granted. | <i>*Cancelled</i> |
| Cycling NSW Junior Tour | 2020 | \$2,500 rolled to 20/21 | <i>\$149,000</i> |
| PMBA Body board Teams Challenge | 2020 | \$2,500 rolled to 20/21 | <i>\$172,000</i> |
| Fox Super Flow MTB Champs | 2020 | \$5,000 | <i>\$123,000</i> |
| Howling Moon Blues Festival | 2020 | \$5,000 rolled to 21/22 | <i>\$823,700 *Postponed</i> |
| MotoFest Wauchope | 2020 | \$4,000 | <i>Unknown as was a online event in 2020</i> |
| Surf n' Country/Beachside Country | 2020 | \$4,000 rolled to 21/22 | <i>\$1,000,000 *Postponed</i> |
| Elephant Trail Race | 2020 | \$4,000 rolled to 20/21 | <i>Declined Grant</i> |
| Gardenista | 2020 | \$4,000 granted. Yet to finalise acquittal | <i>*Cancelled twice.</i> |
| King of the Mountain | 2020 | \$2,000 rolled to 21/22 | <i>\$286,000 *Postponed</i> |
| David 'Goose' Gosby Memorial | 2020 | \$2,000 | <i>\$86,000</i> |
| Dark Alley Sessions | 2021 | \$5,000 | <i>Digital Reach Event</i> |
| Flamin' Dragons Annual Regatta | 2021 | \$5,000 rolled to 21/22 | <i>\$640,800 *Postponed</i> |
| Ride the Wave | 2021 | \$5,000 | <i>\$1,331,000</i> |
| Vibez in the Vines | 2021 | \$5,000 rolled to 21/22 | <i>\$137,300 *Postponed</i> |
| Festival of the Sun | 2021 | \$5,000 | <i>\$2,000,000</i> |
| Dropknee Sessions | 2021 | \$2,500 | <i>\$68,000</i> |
| David 'Goose' Gosby Memorial | 2021 | \$3,000 rolled to 21/22 | <i>\$103,000 *Postponed</i> |
| MotoFest Wauchope | 2021 | \$5,000 rolled to 21/22 | <i>\$1,000,000 *Postponed</i> |
| Winter Wonderland | 2021 | \$5,000 yet to finalise acquittal | <i>1,500,000</i> |
| TOTAL (21) | | \$80,500 | |

*Estimates are in *red* - Acquittal data for these events is due 60 days after event.

SWL/DSN/GRP

DMS DESTINATION
MARKETING
STORE

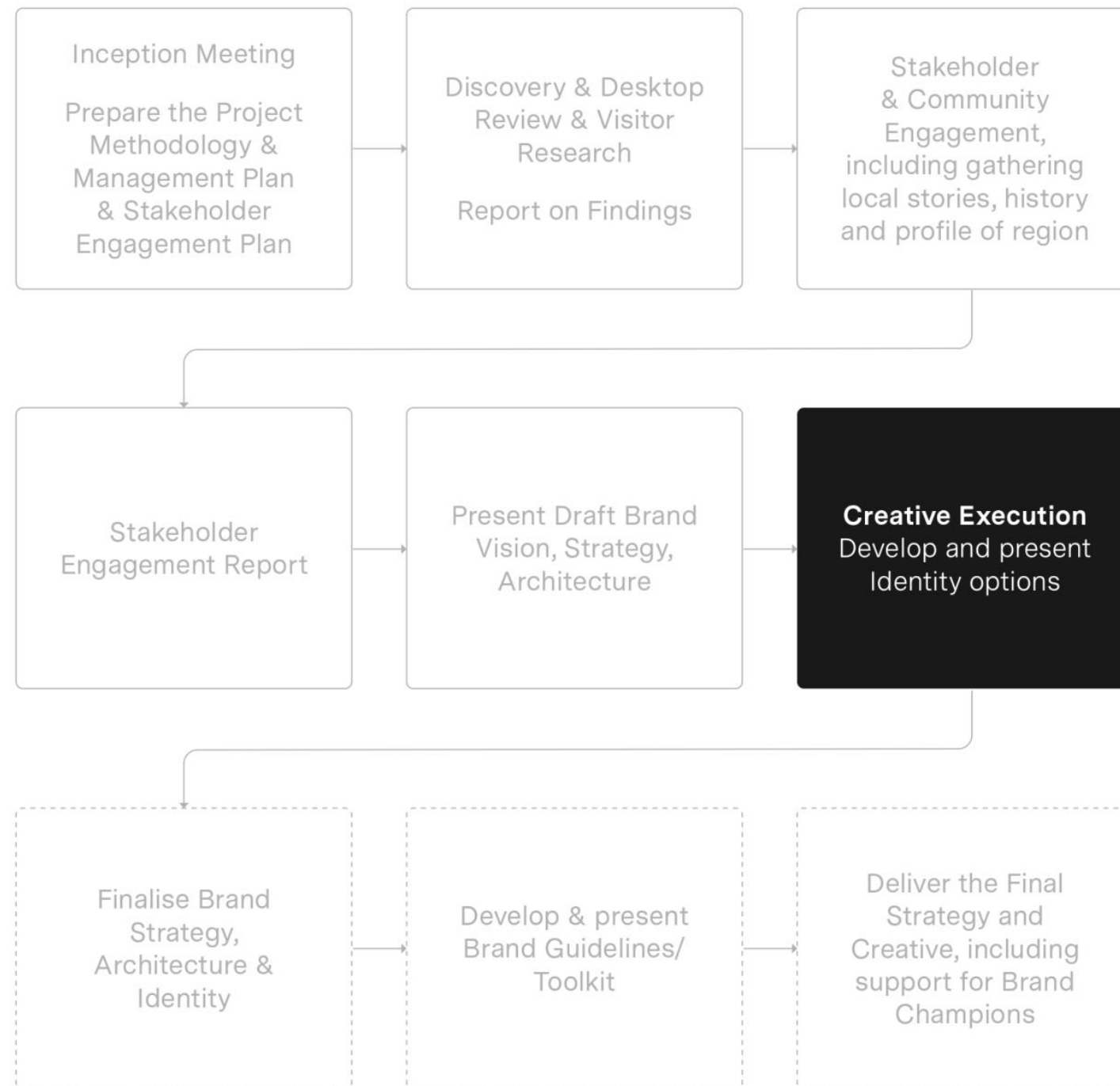
Port Macquarie Creative Execution

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Swell + DMS Port Macquarie Brand Directions

Recap

An overview of our approach



**Research, trends
and situation analysis**

Field visit throughout GPM

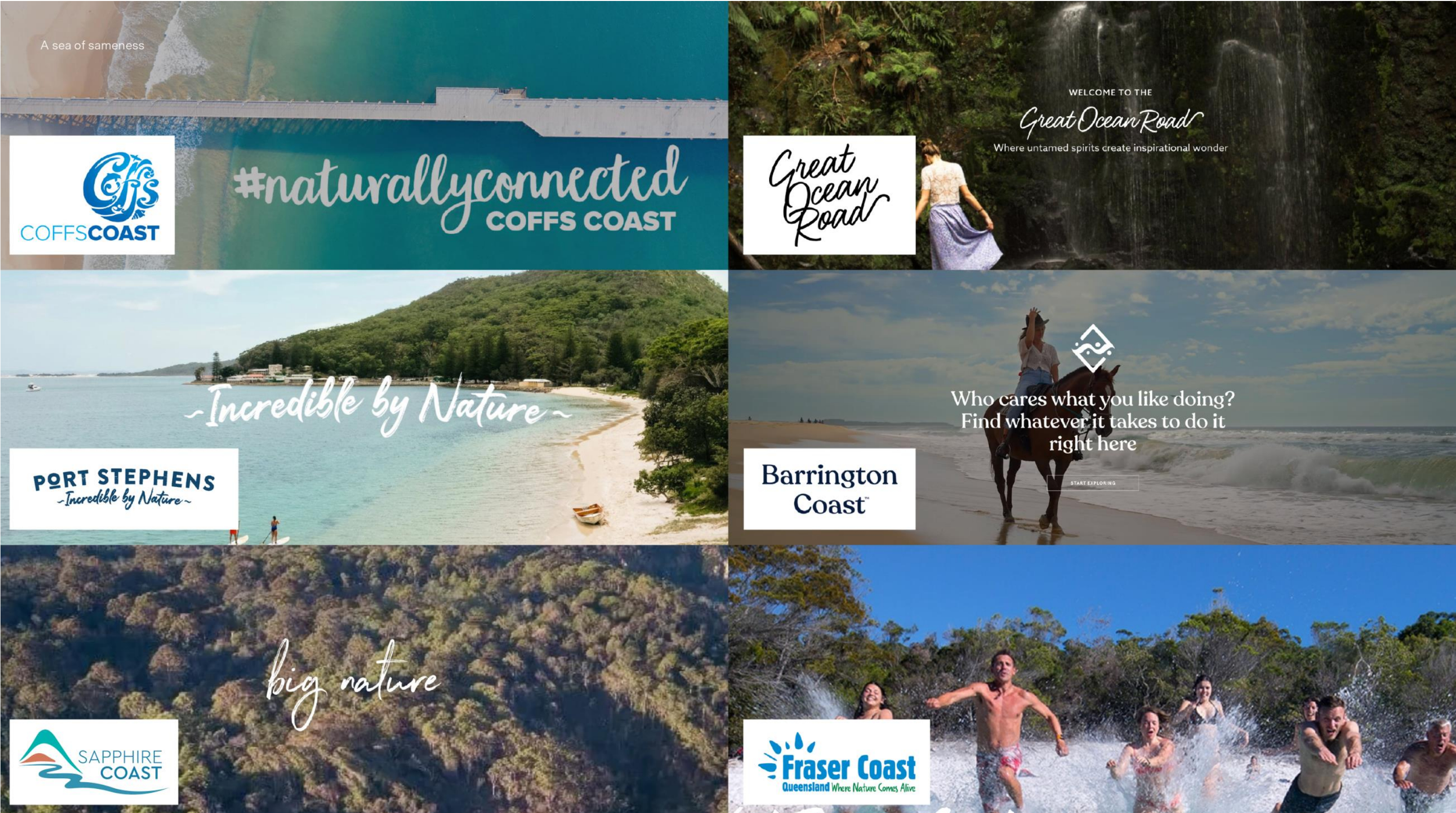
Draft brand strategy

**Consultation with 100 people
from across the region,
including representatives of:**

Local Biripi people

Industry sectors – tourism operators, business chambers, real estate, education

Community groups, artist and artisans, cultural groups



What is a Brand Archetype

What is a brand archetype and what role does it play?

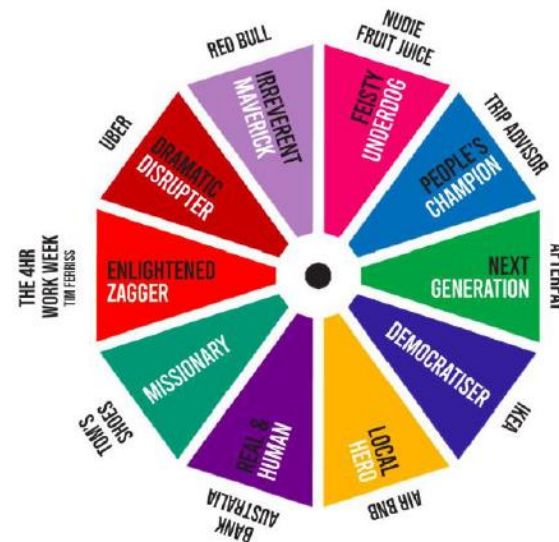
The archetype is the **brand personality** that defines the tone and manner of how the brand story is communicated and experienced. For the purpose of branding, it is common practice to utilise several different types of archetype wheels, such as the one developed by Carl Jung. For this project, the challenger brand archetype wheel has been used to set the region up for different type of future.

A brand archetype is the guiding light in how a brand behaves in the marketplace. For example, a Maverick brand (MONA) archetype behaves and 'shows up' very differently from a Caregiver brand archetype (Johnson & Johnson).

The following page showcases the archetype for GPM.

HOW TO POSITION
AND BRAND GPM
INTO THE FUTURE?

CHALLENGER BRAND
ARCHETYPE WHEEL



GPM Brand
Archetype

NEXT GENERATION

The Next Generation challenger questions the appropriateness of the market leader – or even the whole category – for the times we live in today. It can elegantly position the incumbent as perfect for a time gone by, but new times call for new brands and services. The world's changing – let's move on, people.

Vision

**Show up
and act as a
lifestyle brand**

**What will drive
the future success
of this brand?**

Values

What are the
core values?

Unhurried
Thoughtful
Dependable
Sociable
Meeting place

Essence

An Indulgence of Time

What at its heart is the
one thing upon which
this brand is built and
that gives it meaning?

Personality

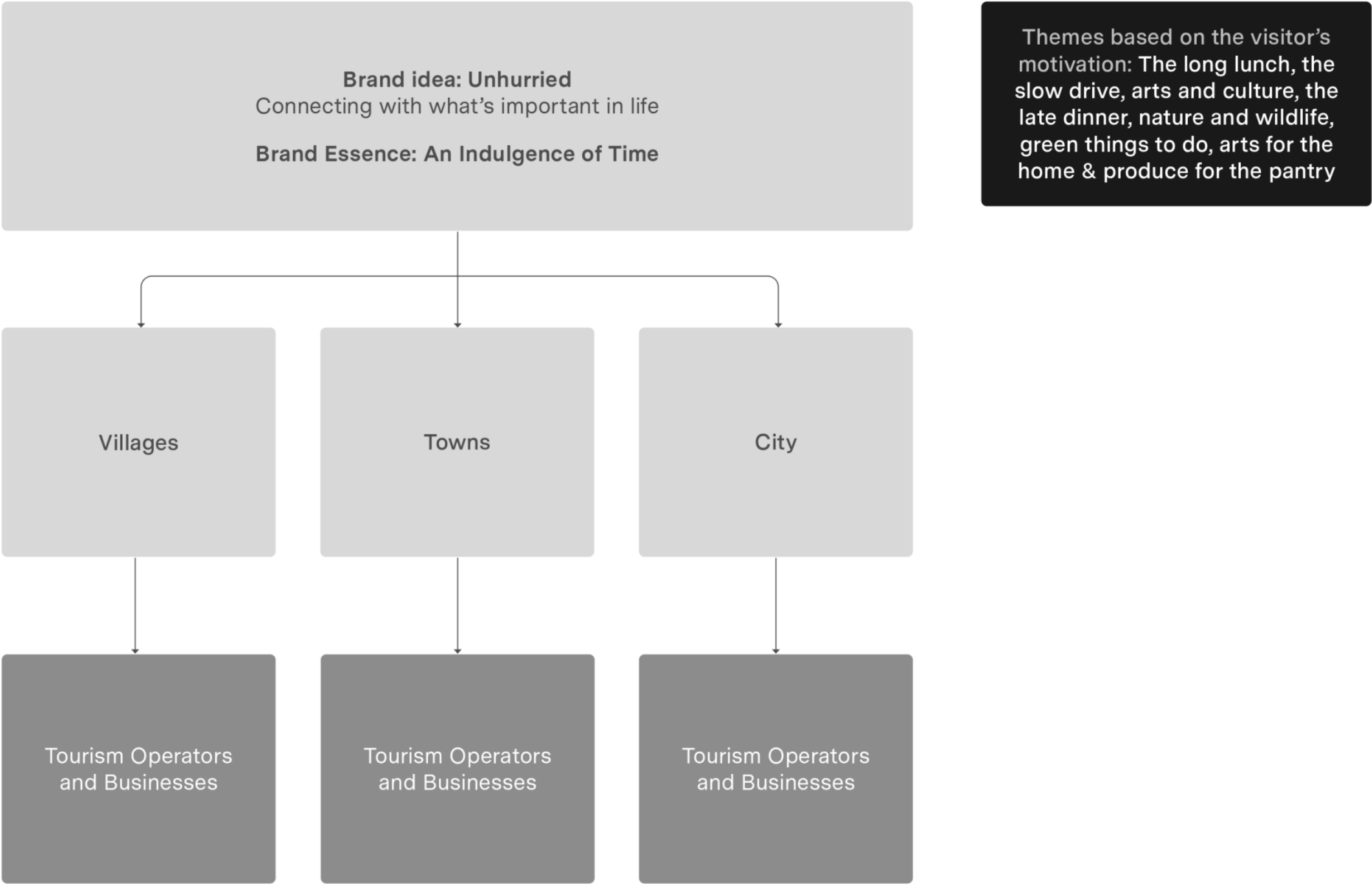
Informal/casual

Sociable

Human

Who is the brand seen to be? What set of personality traits help to define the ways in which audiences see the brand and relate to it?

Brand Architecture



Swell + DMS

Port Macquarie

Brand Directions

Concept

01

Inspiration



Brandmark



Brandmark



Brandmark



Brandmark



Brandmark



Brandmark



Brandmark



Brandmark



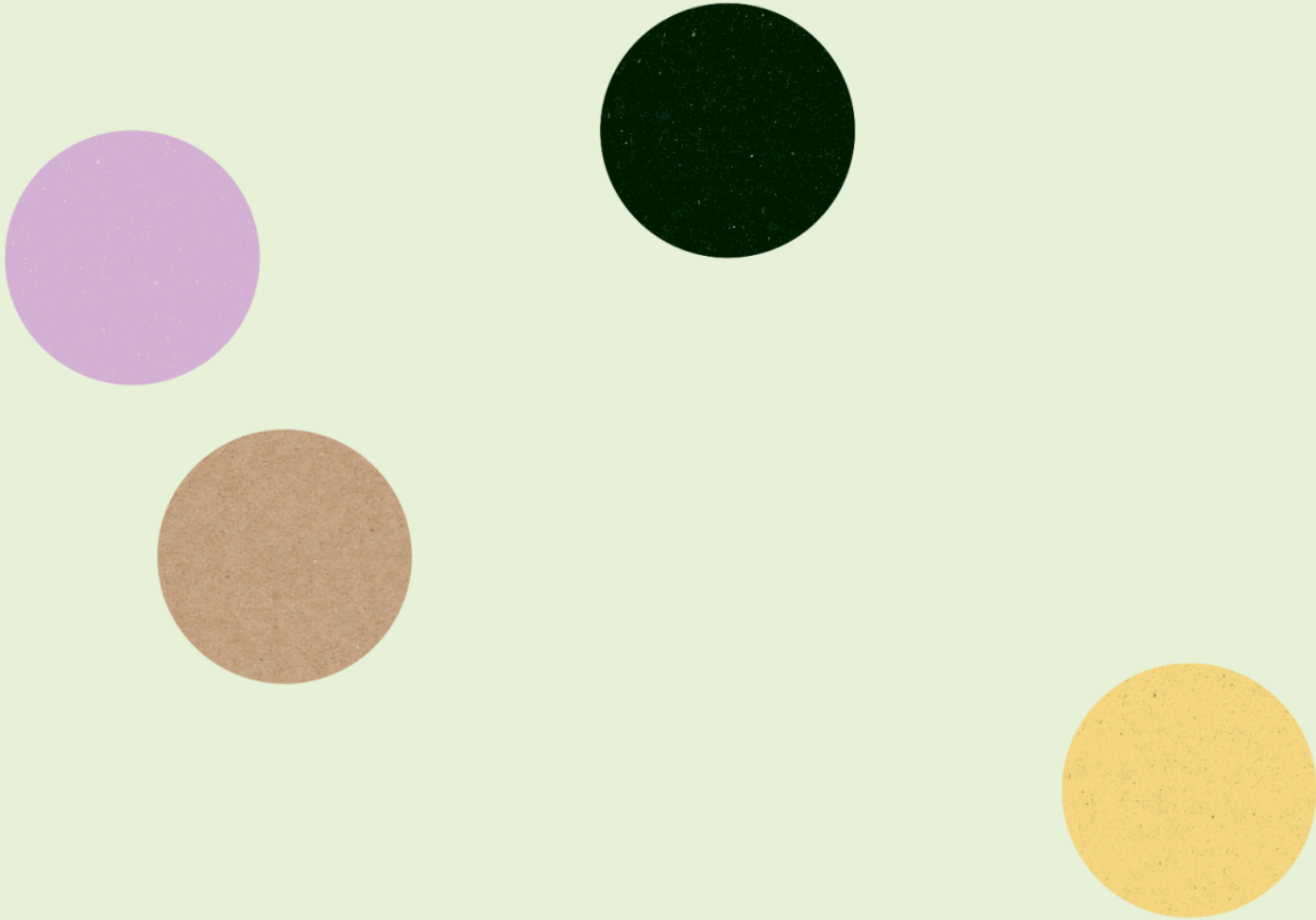
Brandmark



Logotype

PORT MACQUARIE

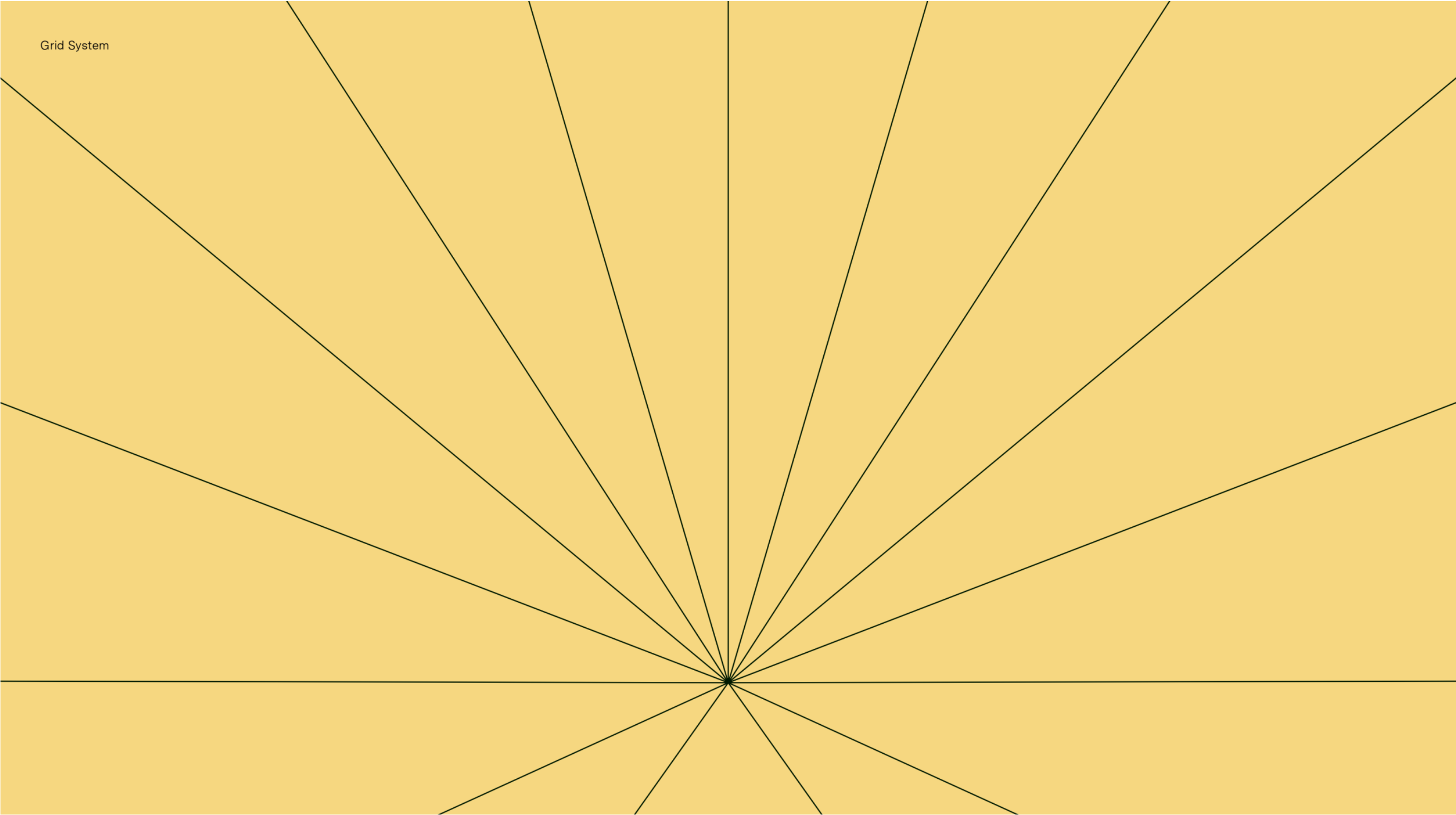
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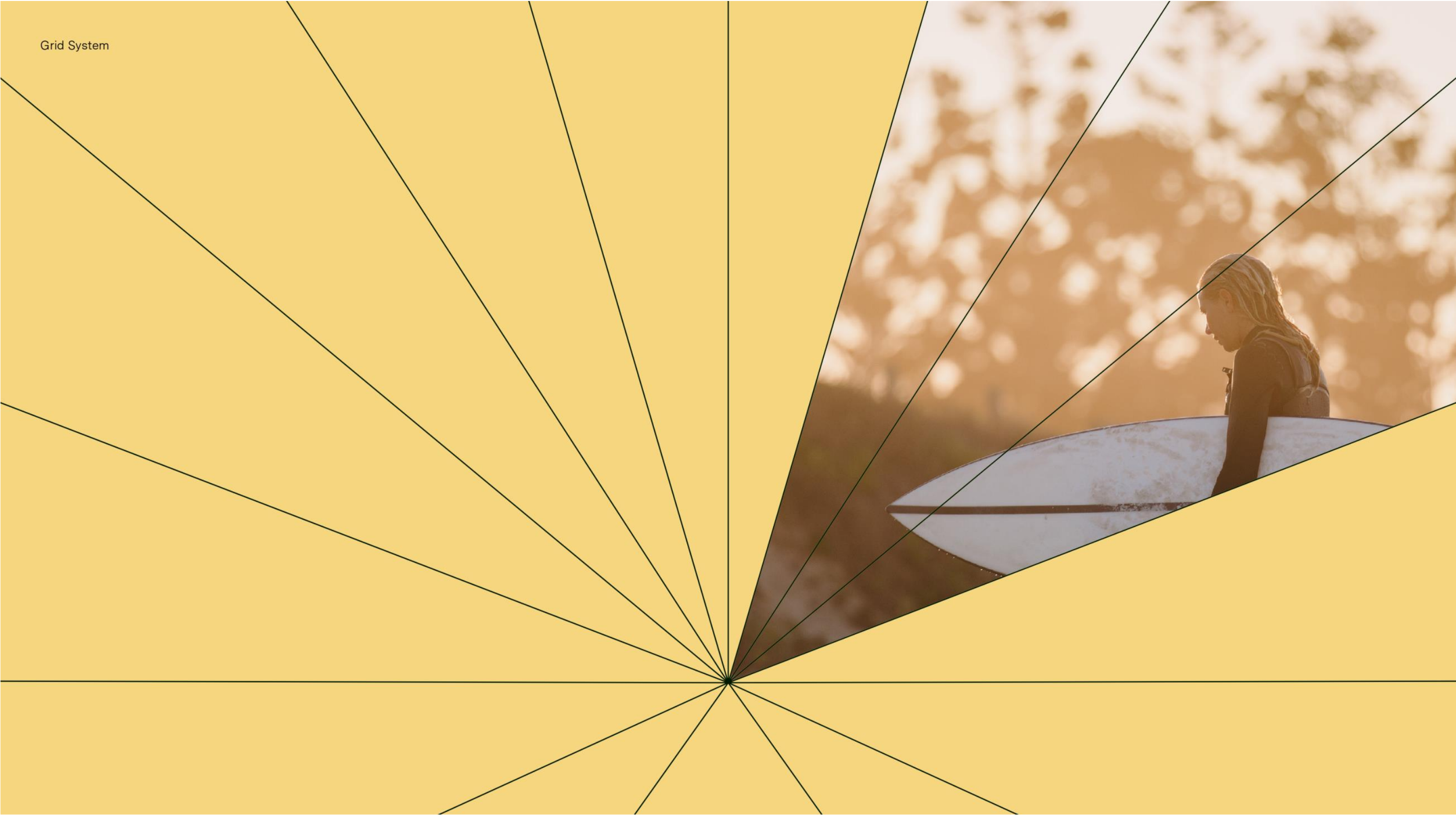


Brand Extension













Press Advertising



OFF THE CLOCK AROUND THE CLOCK

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PORT
MACQUARIE



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PORT
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DANCE WITH A TIMELESS SPIRIT

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PORT
MACQUARIE

SLOW UP FAST DOWN

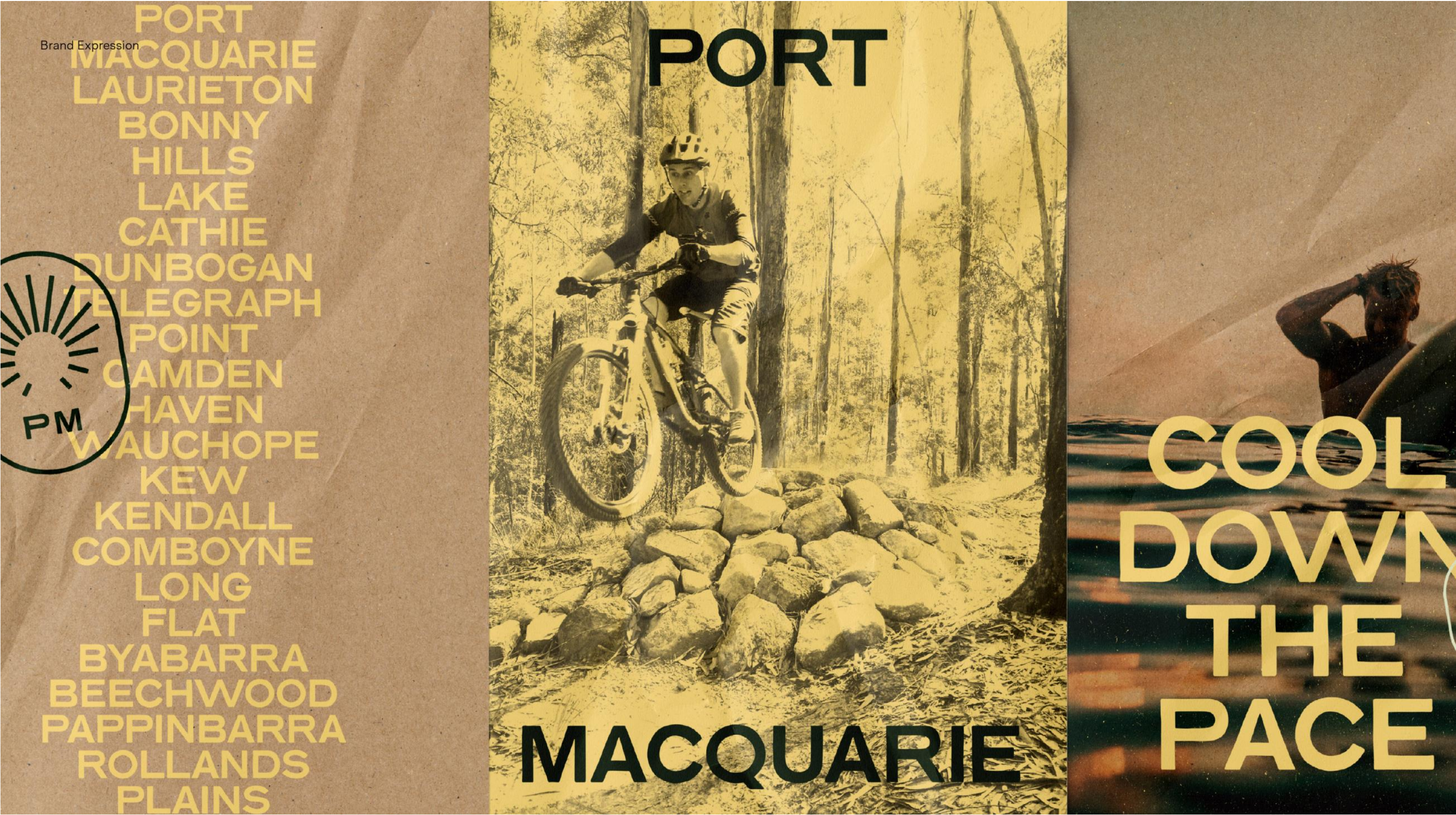


Advertising



Advertising





Merchandise



Co-Branding





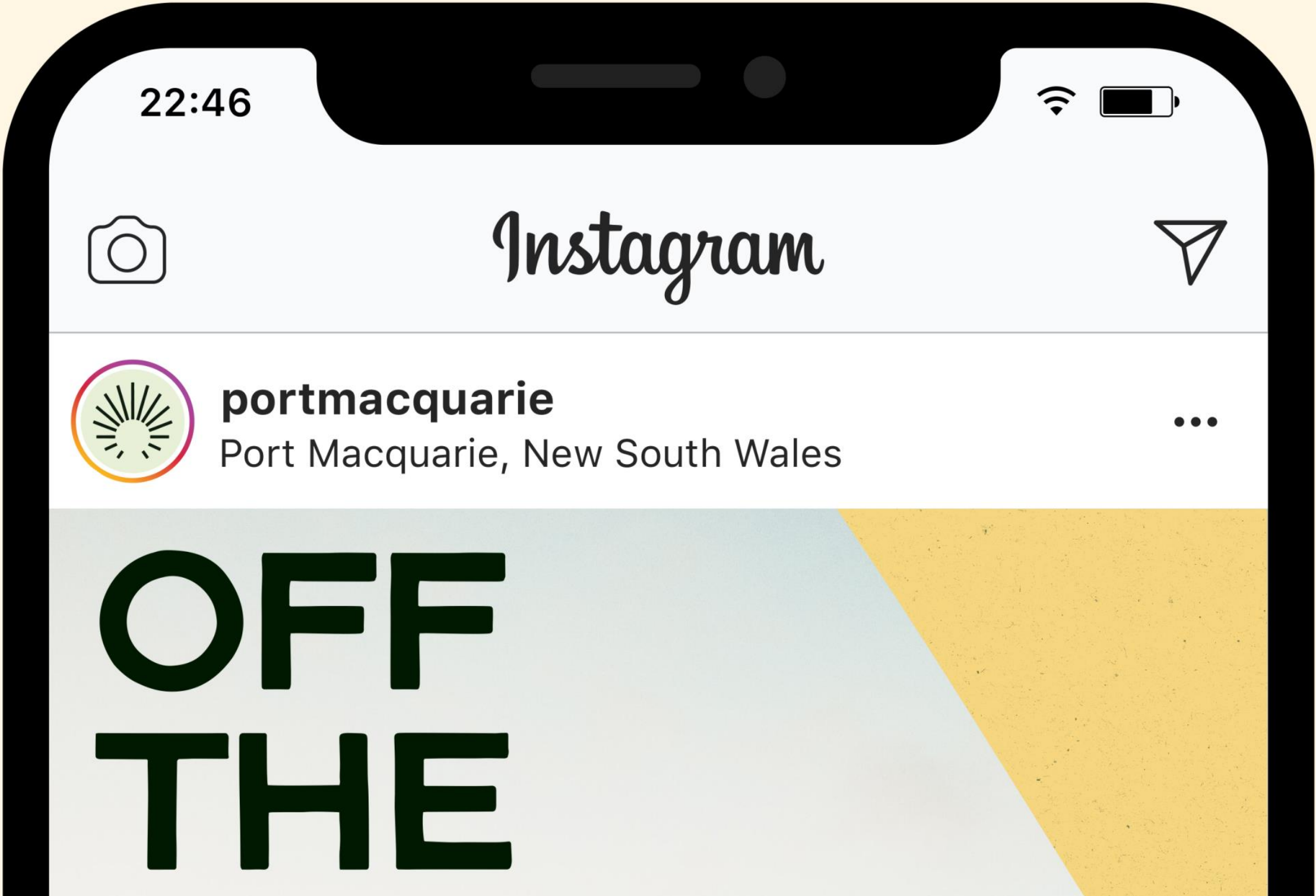
Projection



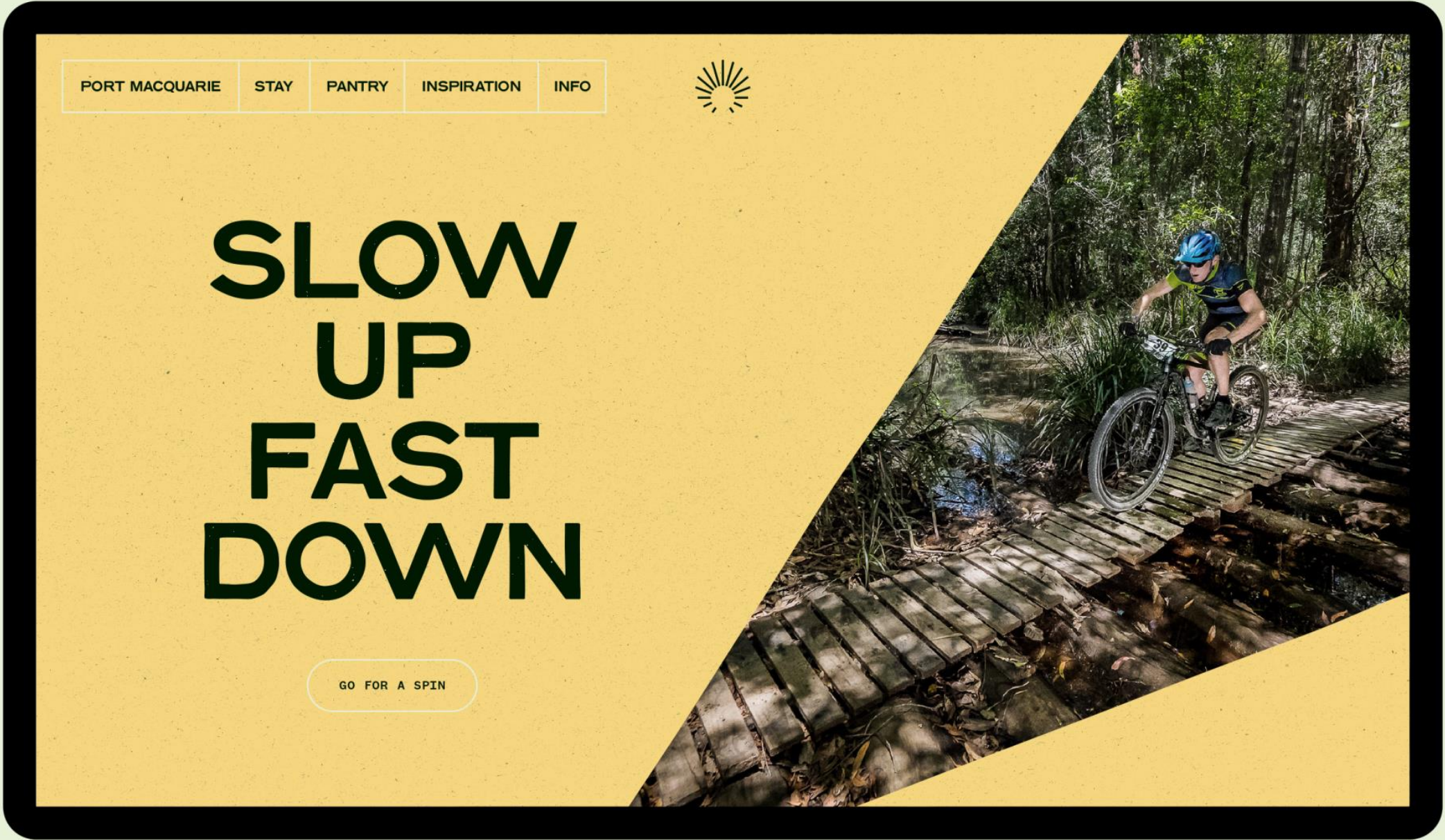
Social Media Carousel

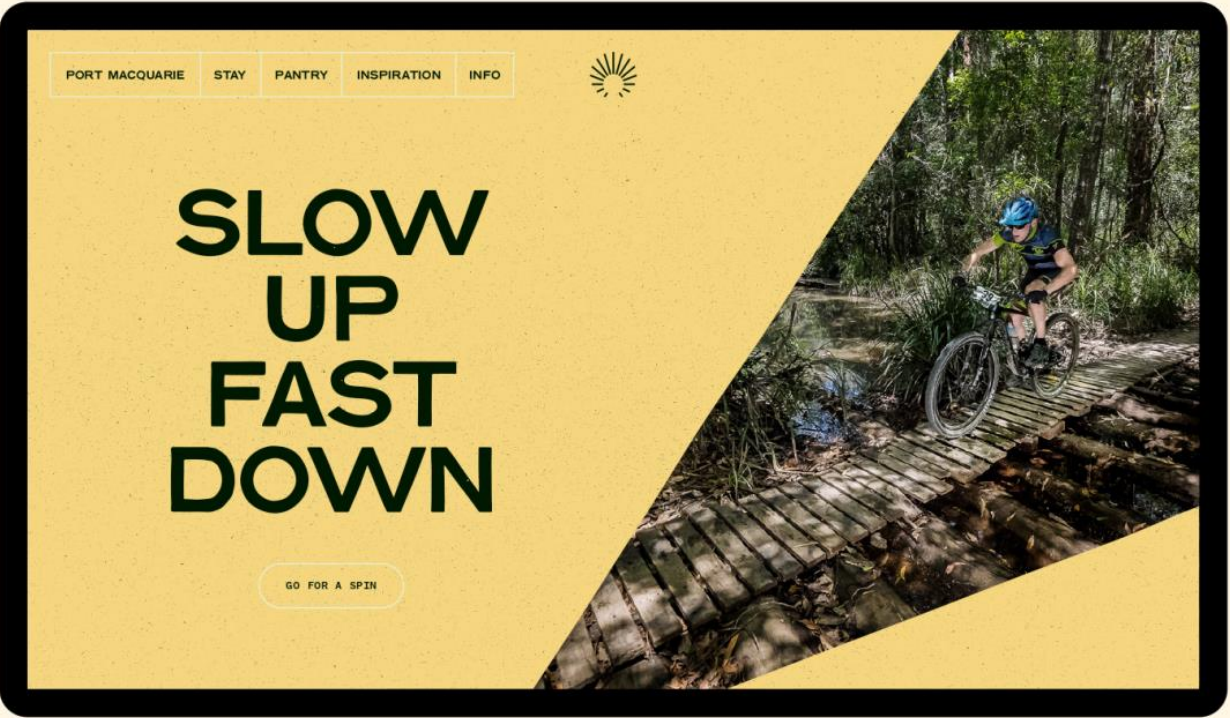
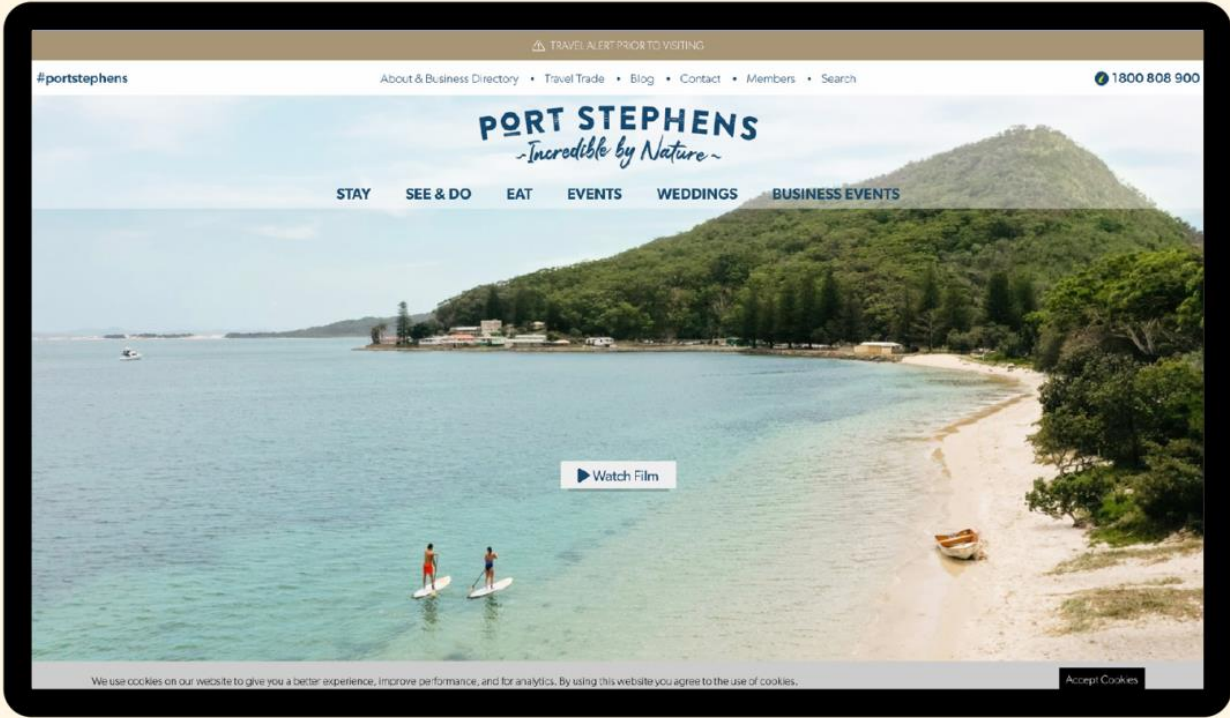
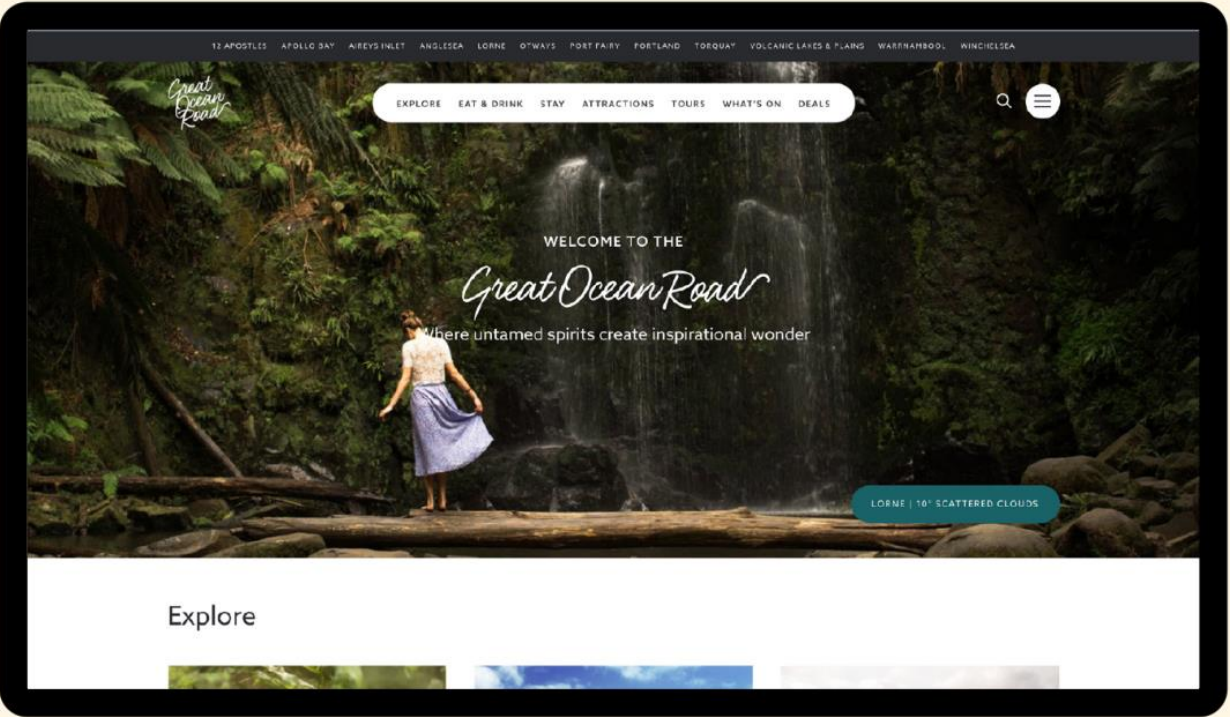
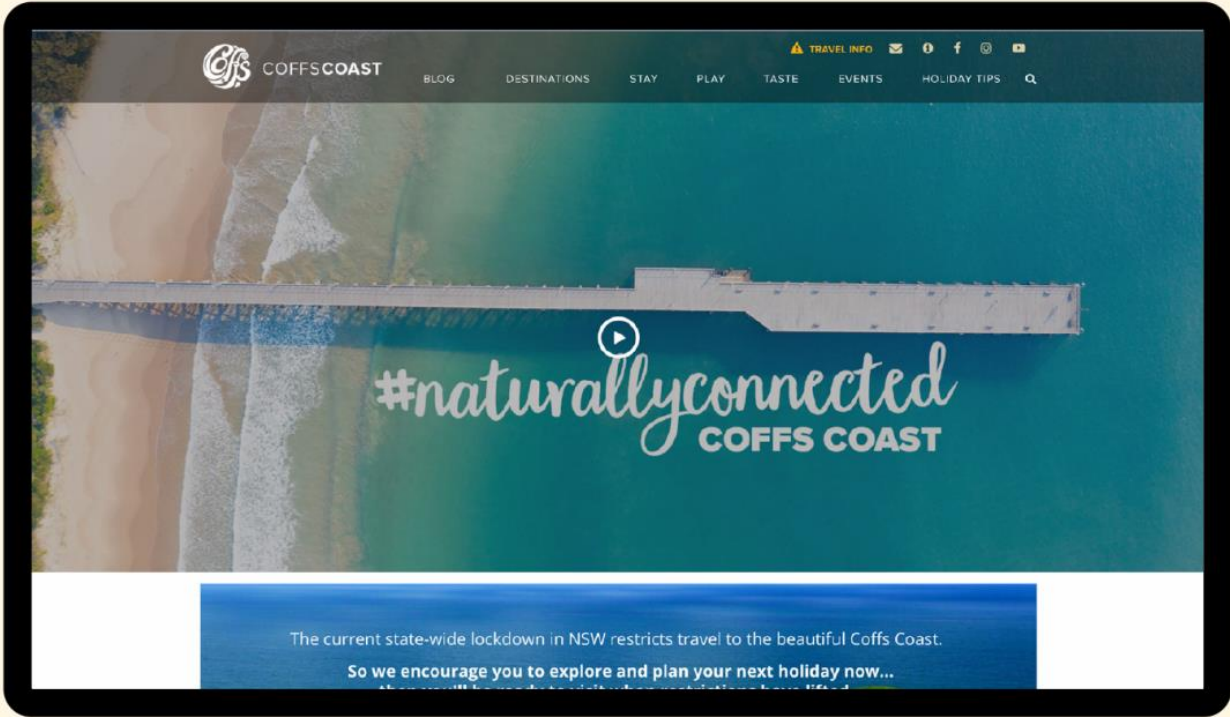


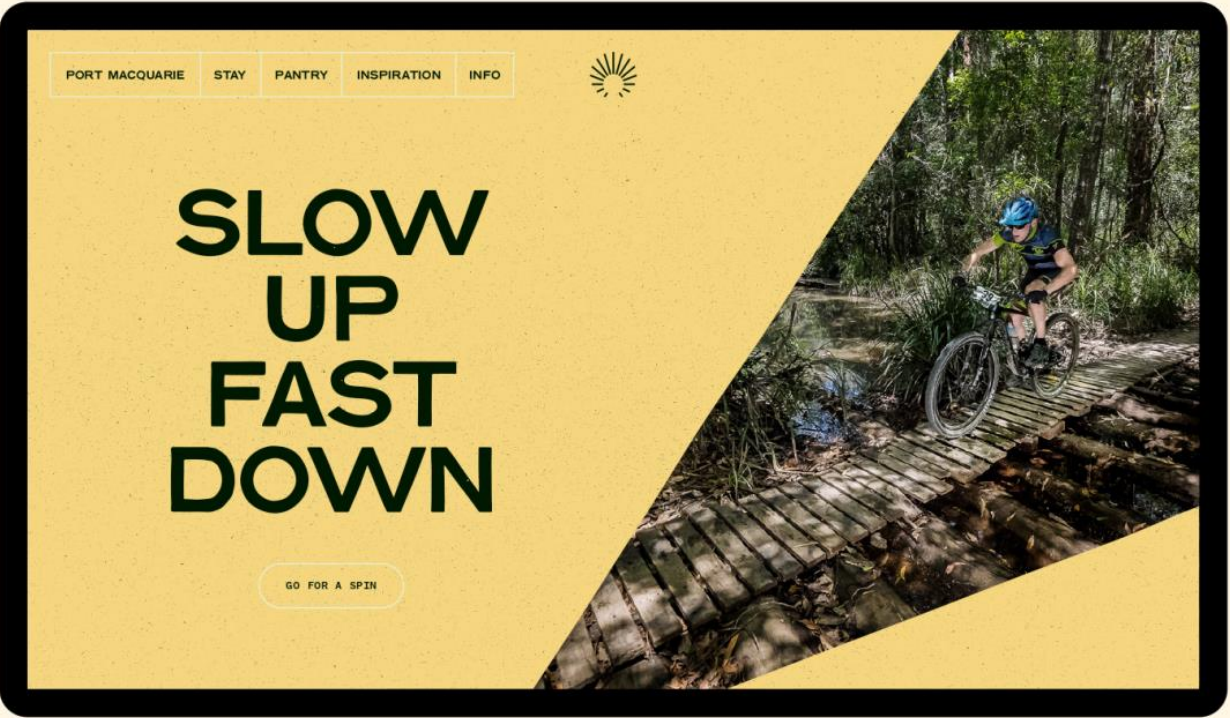
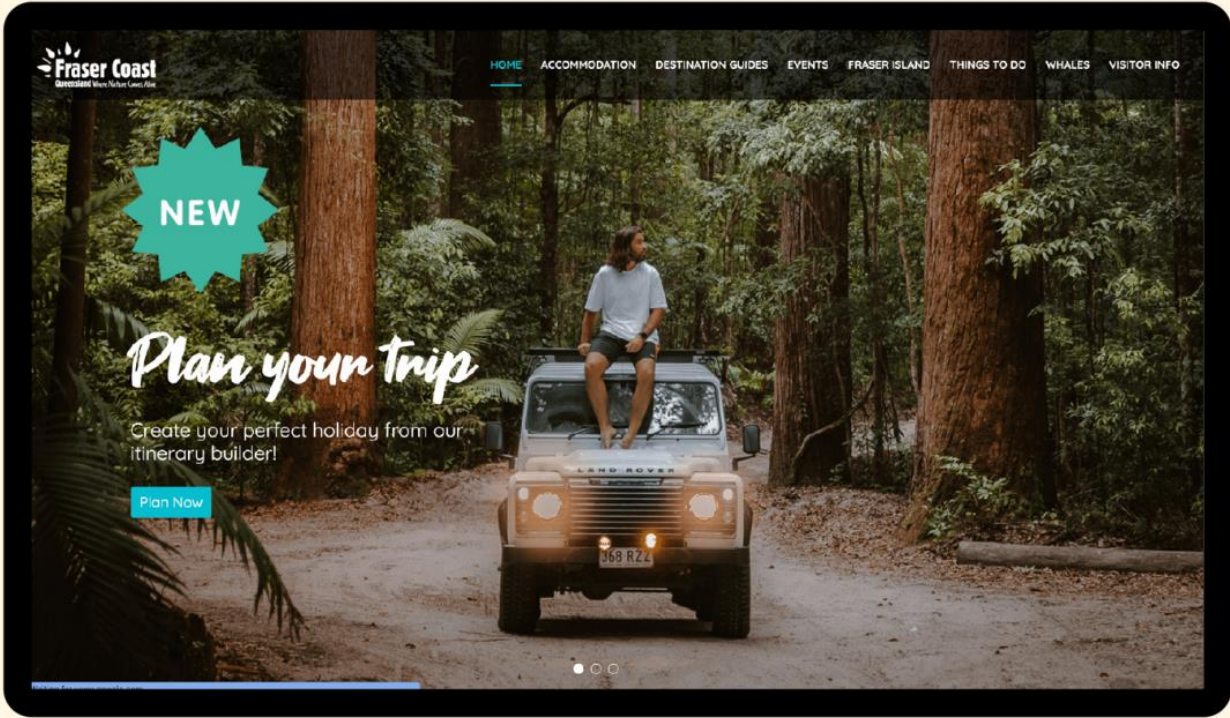
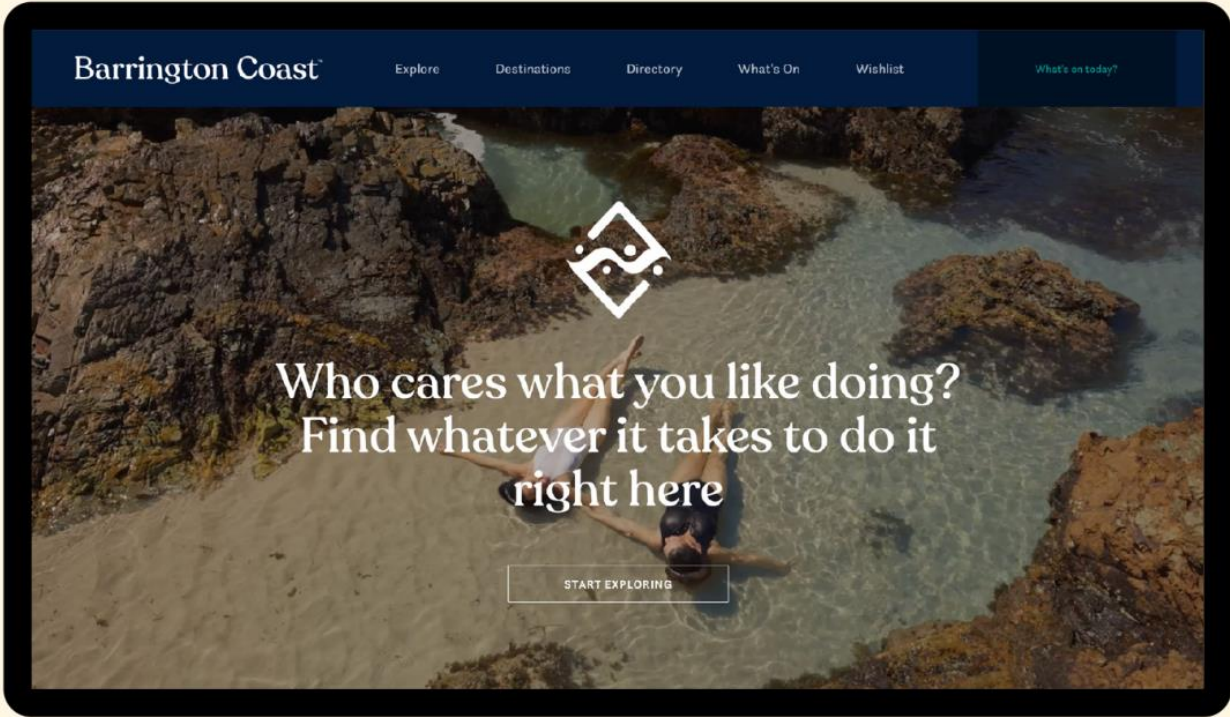
Social Media Avatar



Website Homepage







Swell + DMS

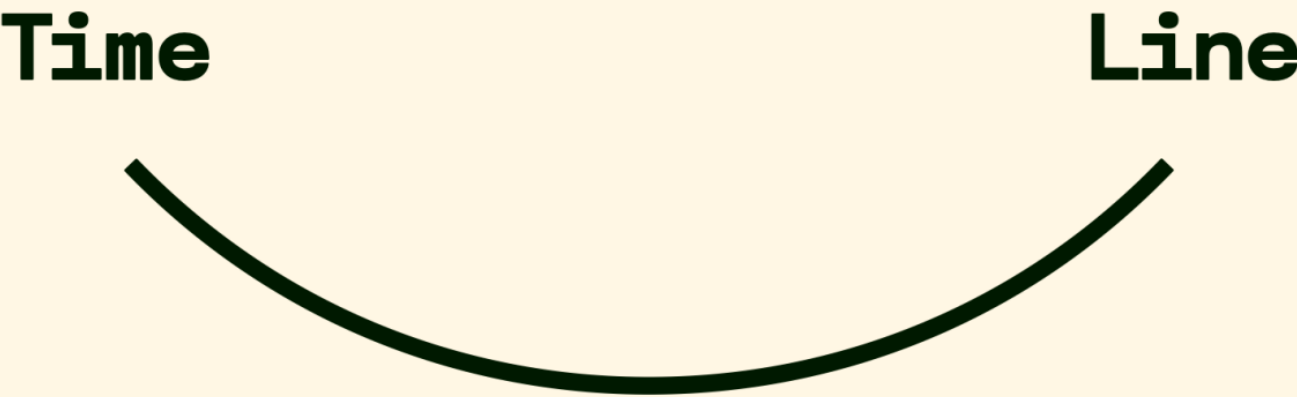
Port Macquarie

Brand Directions

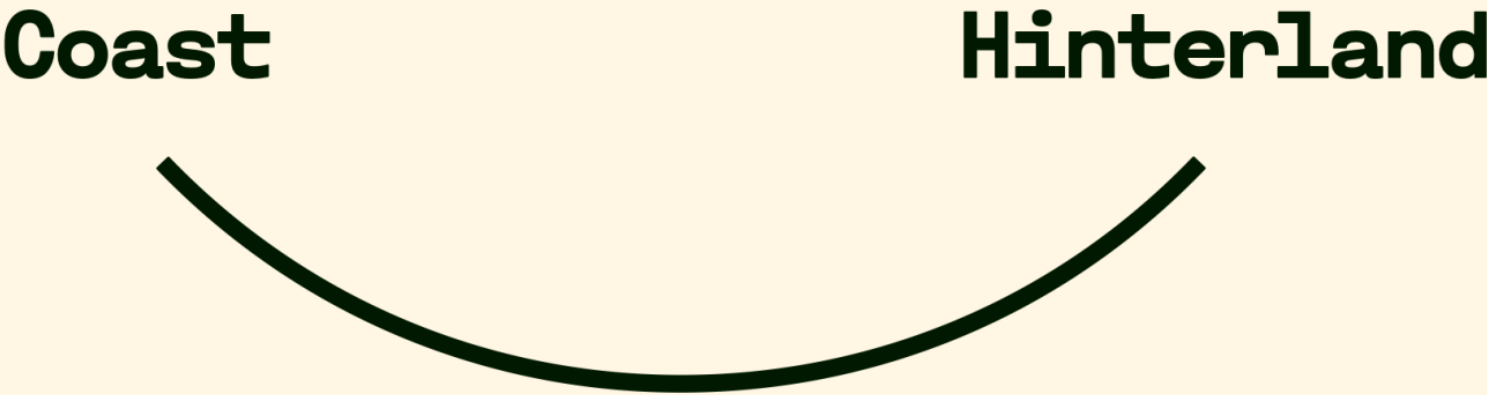
Concept

02

Inspiration



Inspiration



Inspiration

Dreamtime

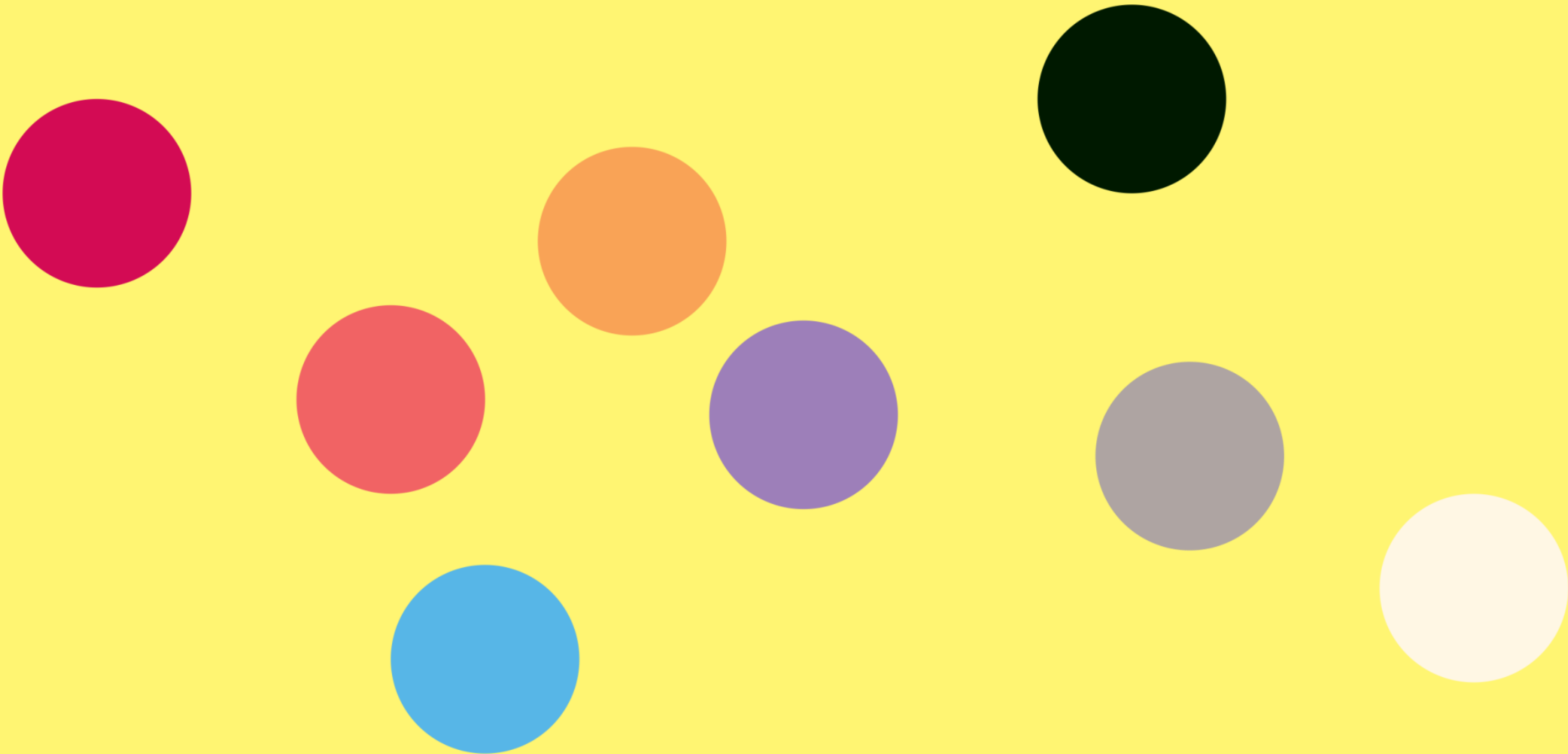
Meeting place



Brandmark



Colour Palette



Brandmark

PORT MACQUARIE

PORT MACQUARIE

PORT MACQUARIE

PORT MACQUARIE

PORT MACQUARIE

PORT MACQUARIE

Typographic References



Brand Extensions



Billboard



Press Advertising



TAKE YOUR FOOT OFF THE PEDAL

PORT MACQUARIE

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Port
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Press Advertising

HANG FIVE FROM NINE TO FIVE

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Port
portmacquarieinfo.com.au

A photograph of a man surfing on a wave at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The water is dark blue with white foam from the wave. A circular logo is overlaid on the top right of the image, containing the text 'CAMDEN HAVEN' and 'PORT MACQUARIE'. A thin yellow line curves across the image, passing through the logo and the surfer.


Press Advertising

DANCE WITH A TIMELESS SPIRIT

PORT MACQUARIE

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Visit
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Press Advertising

CHEW THE FAT ‘TIL THE COWS COME HOME

PORT MACQUARIE

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Port

portmacquarieinfo.com.au

Press Advertising

CONSERVE THE BEST MEMORIES

PORT MACQUARIE

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A photograph of a hand holding a glass jar filled with red raspberry jam. The jar is sealed with a piece of brown paper and twine. The hand is wearing a light-colored, textured sweater. A thin yellow line is drawn around the jar, starting from the top right and curving around the bottom left.

Press Advertising

PERFECTLY
POACHED

EXPERTLY
SHUCKED

PORT MACQUARIE

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Visit

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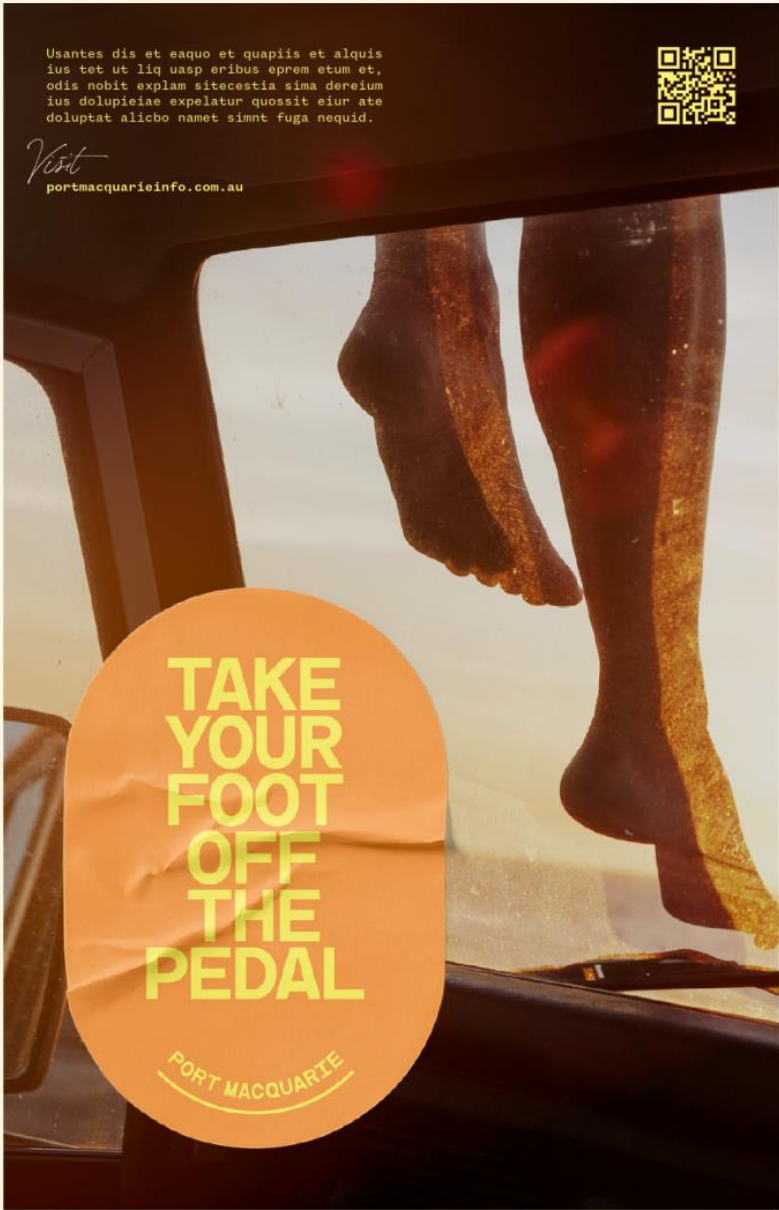
Advertising



Advertising



Advertising





Monogram



Monogram



Brand Extensions

LAKE^{PM}
CATHIE

CAMDEN
HAVEN^{PM}

KEW^{PM}



Merchandise



Co-Branding

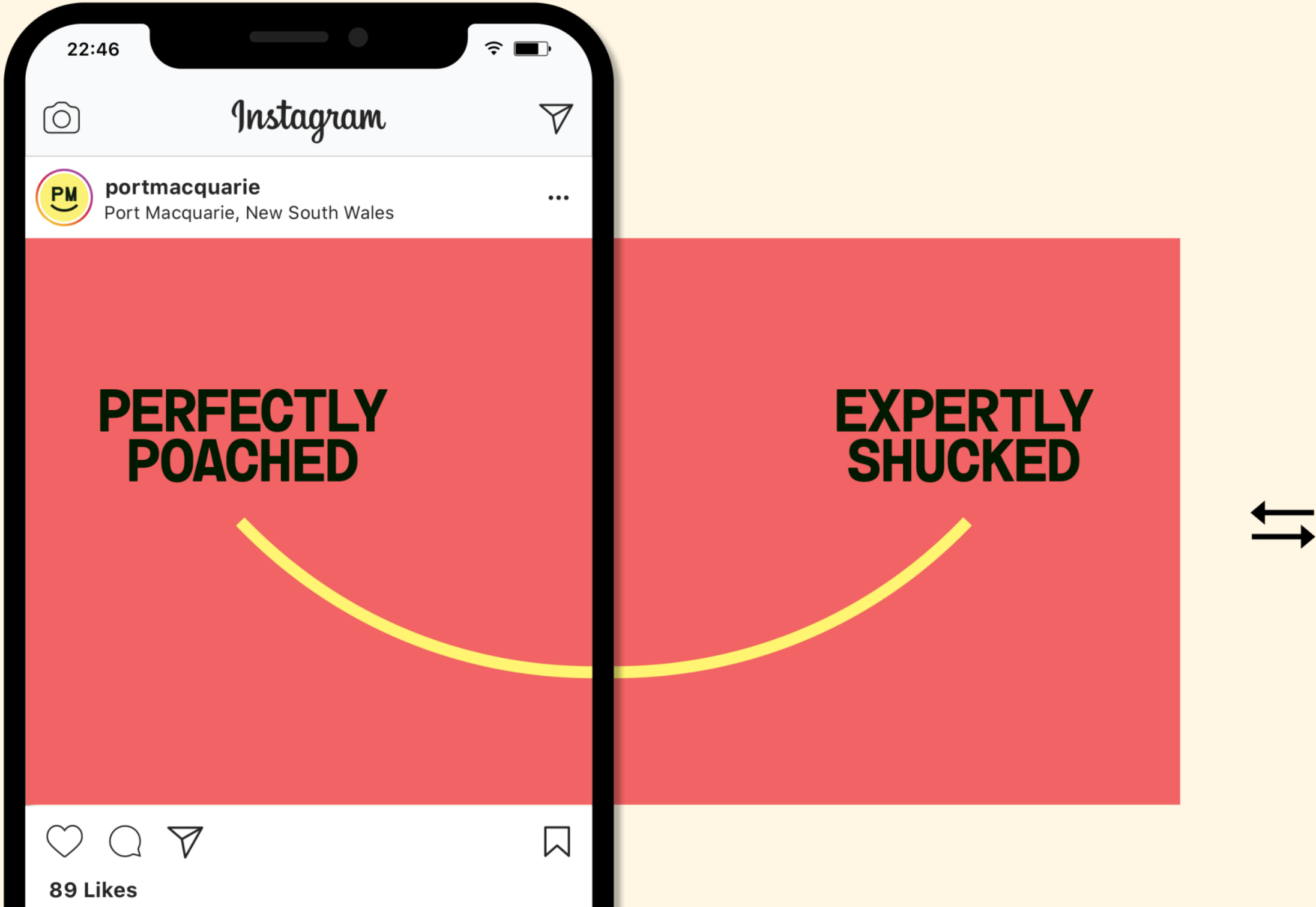




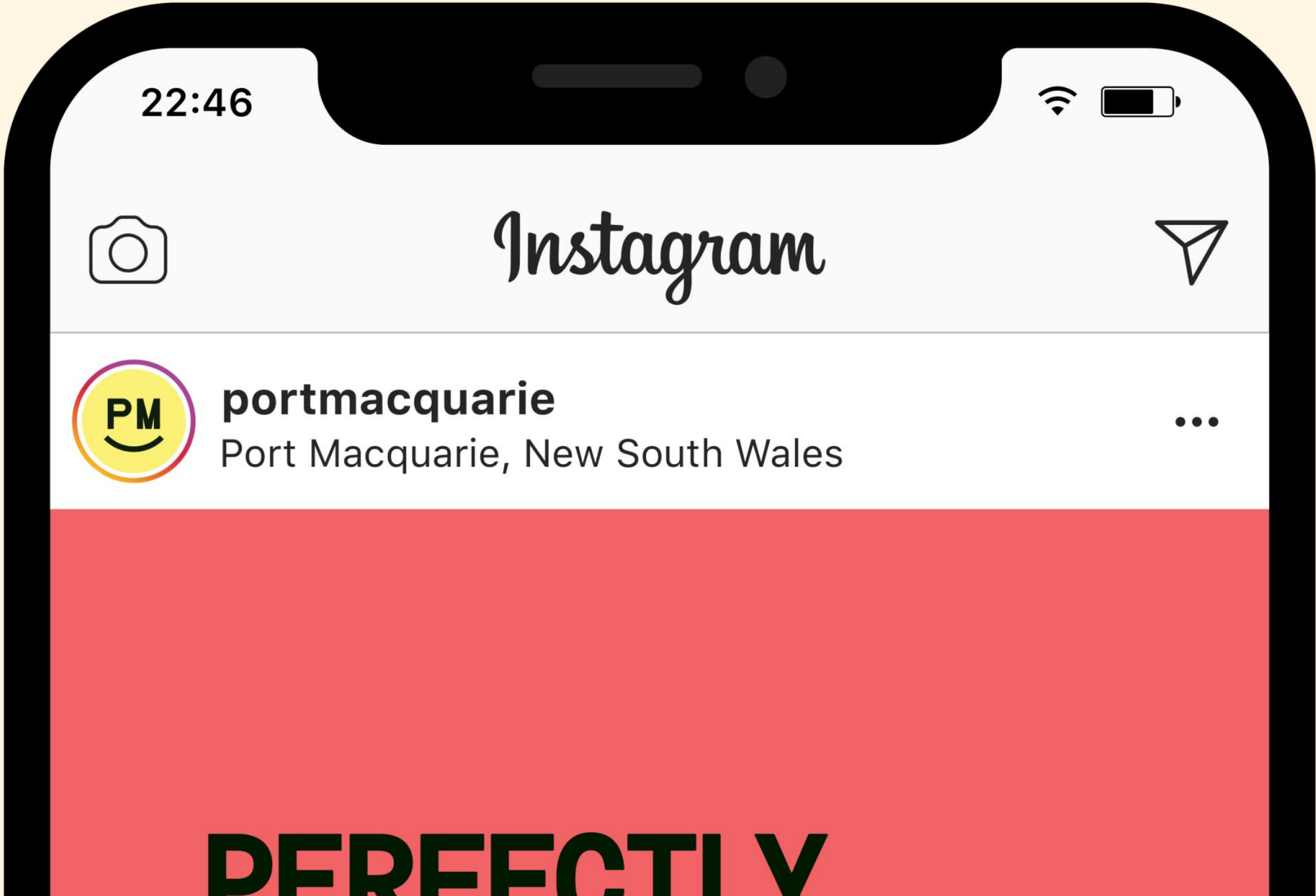
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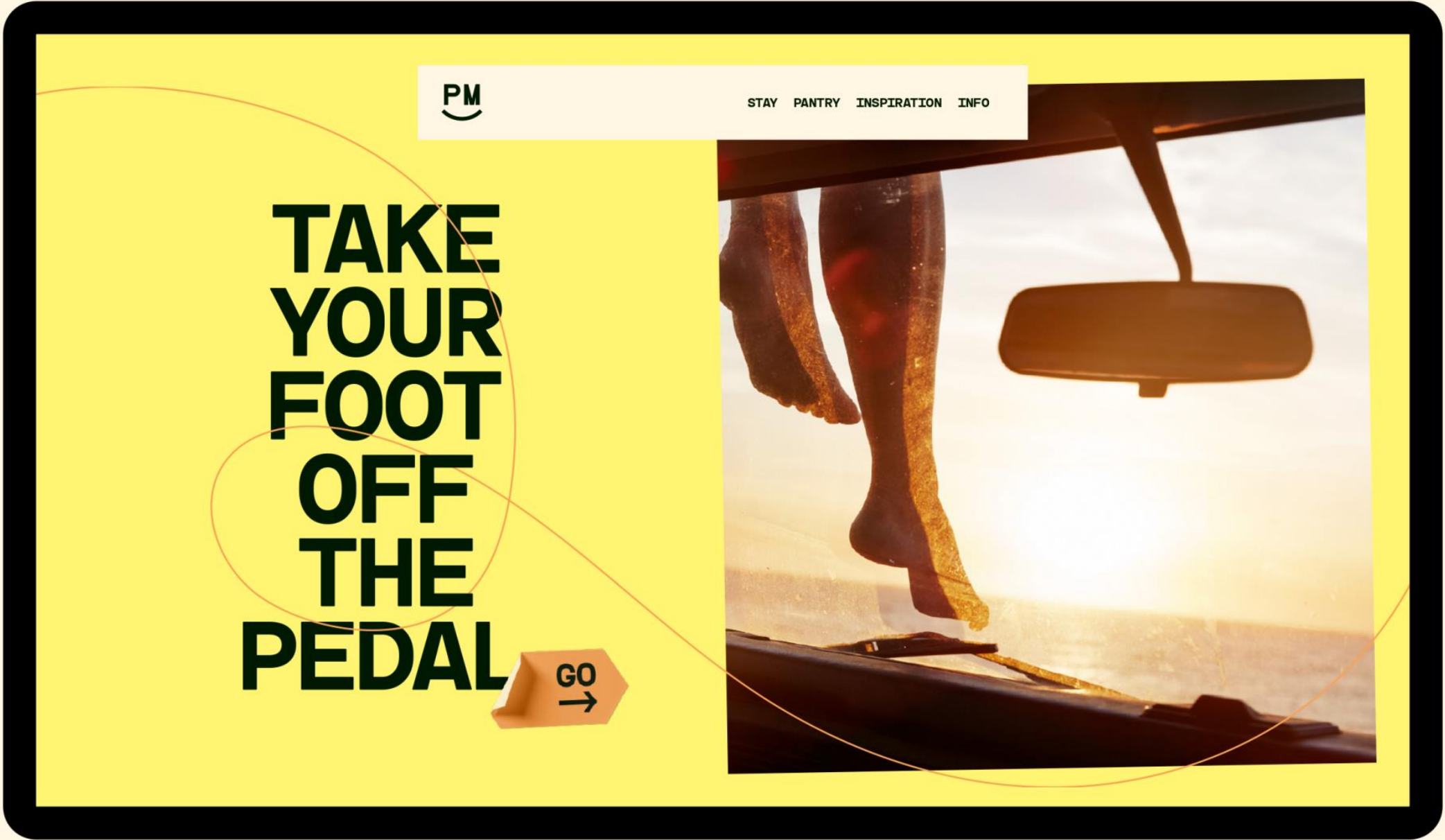
Social Media Carousel

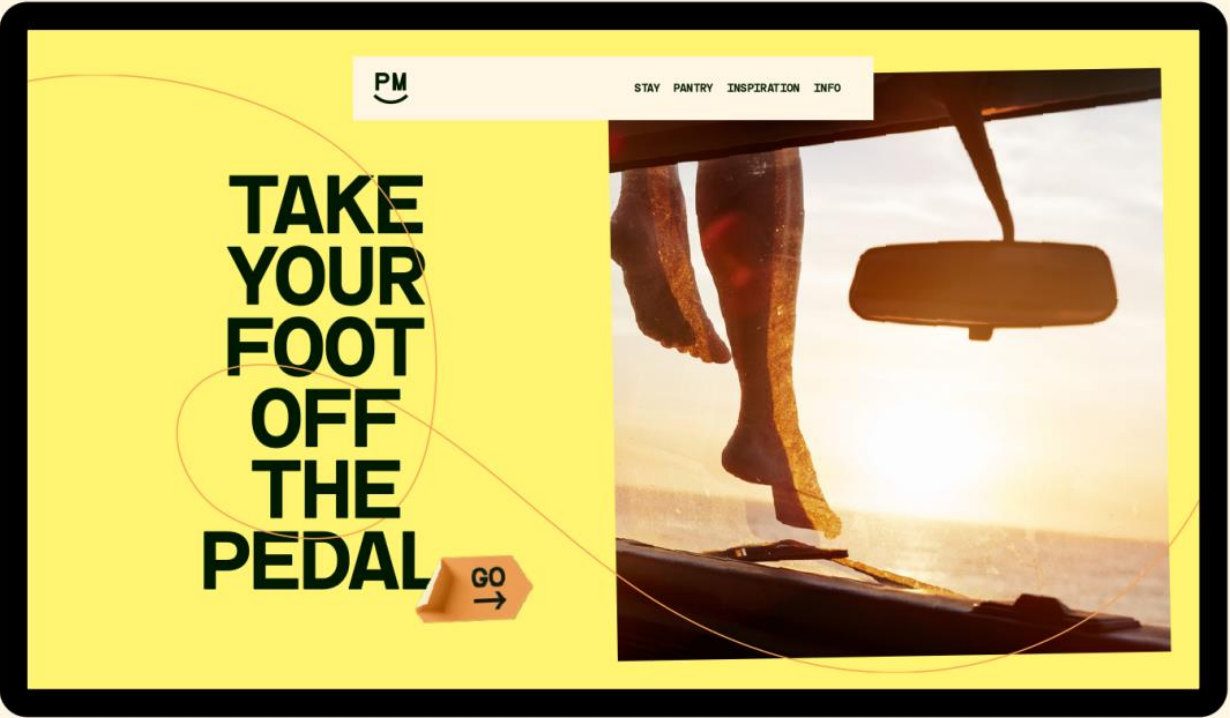
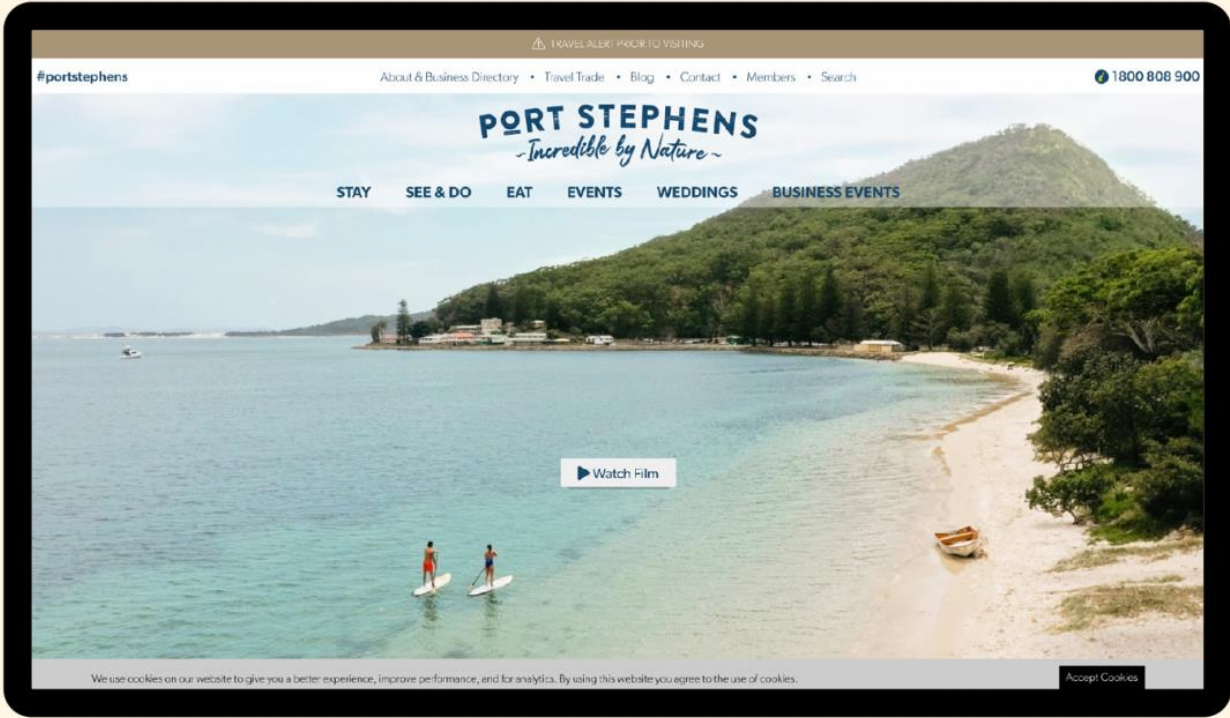
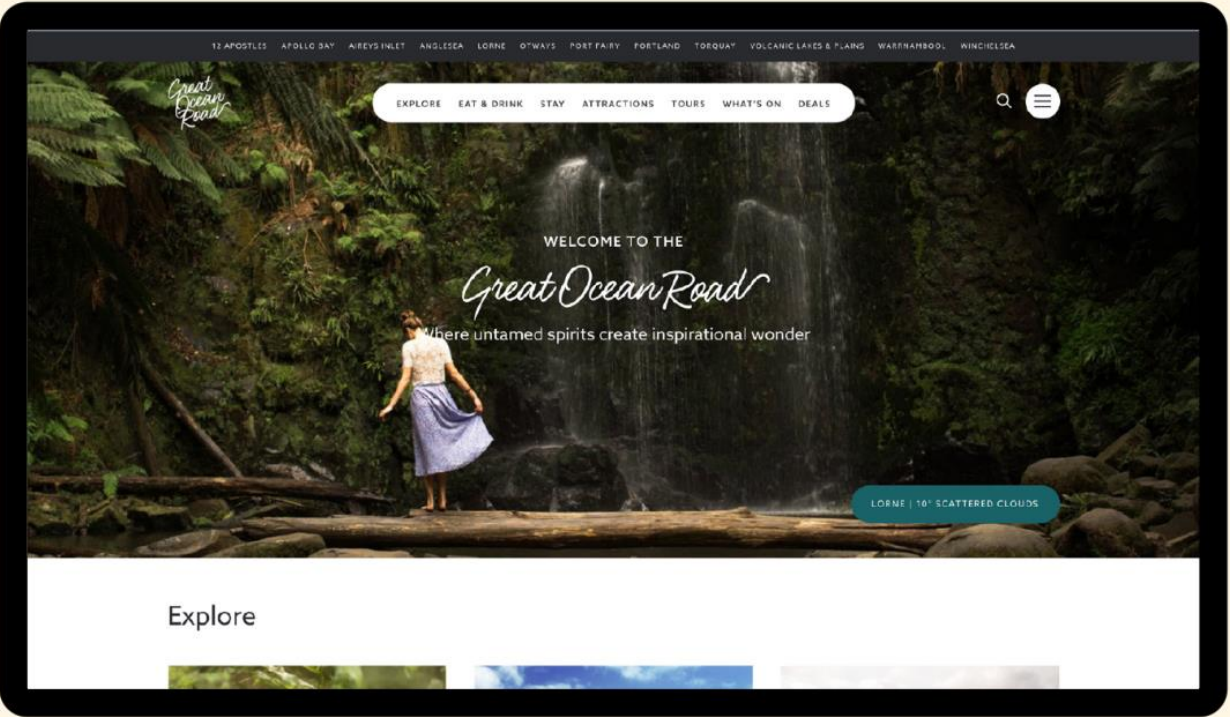
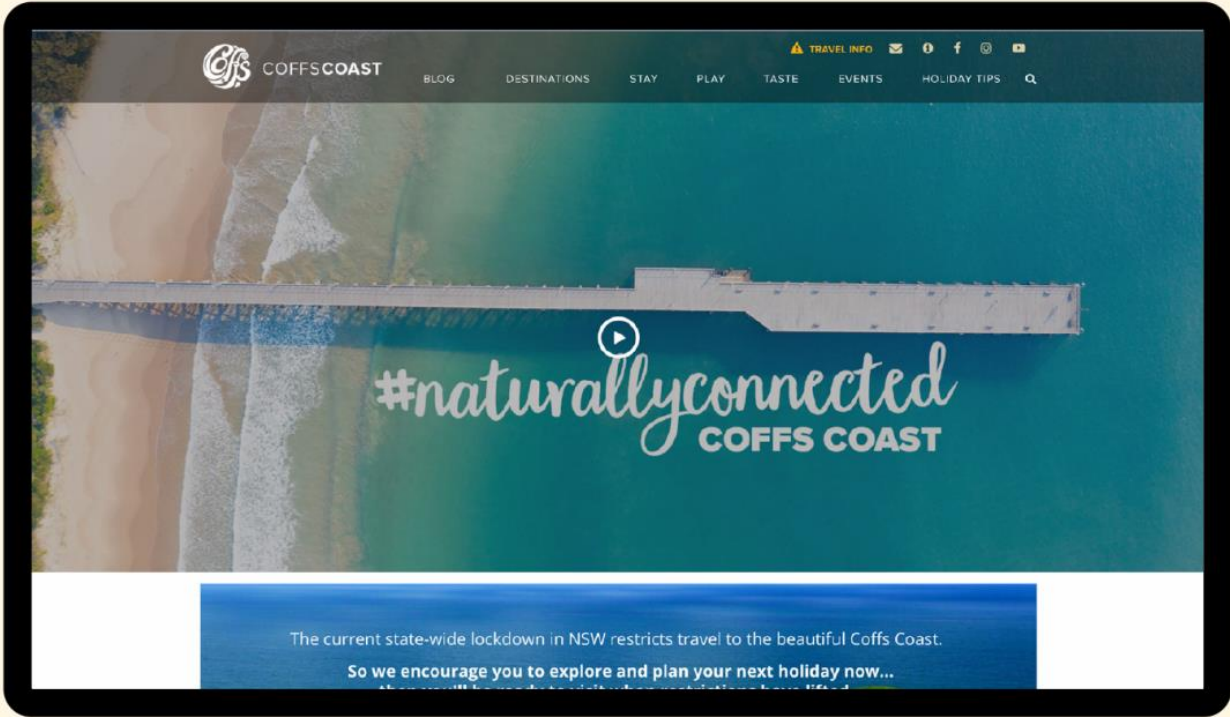


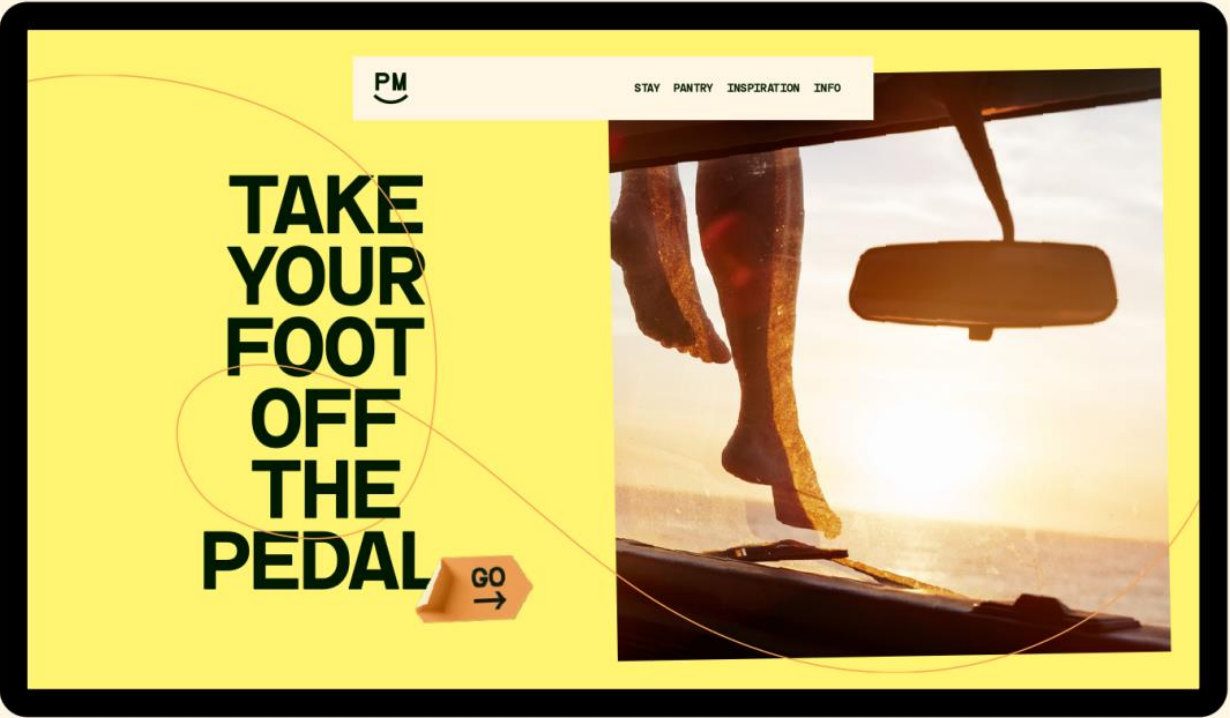
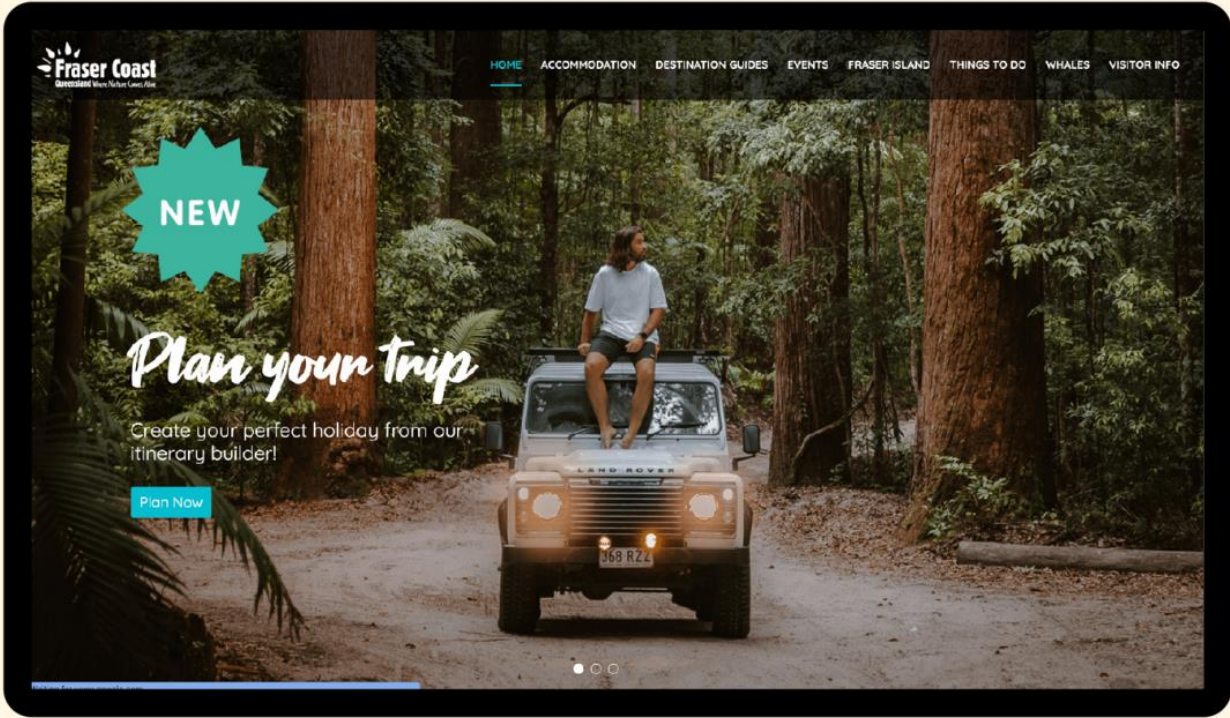
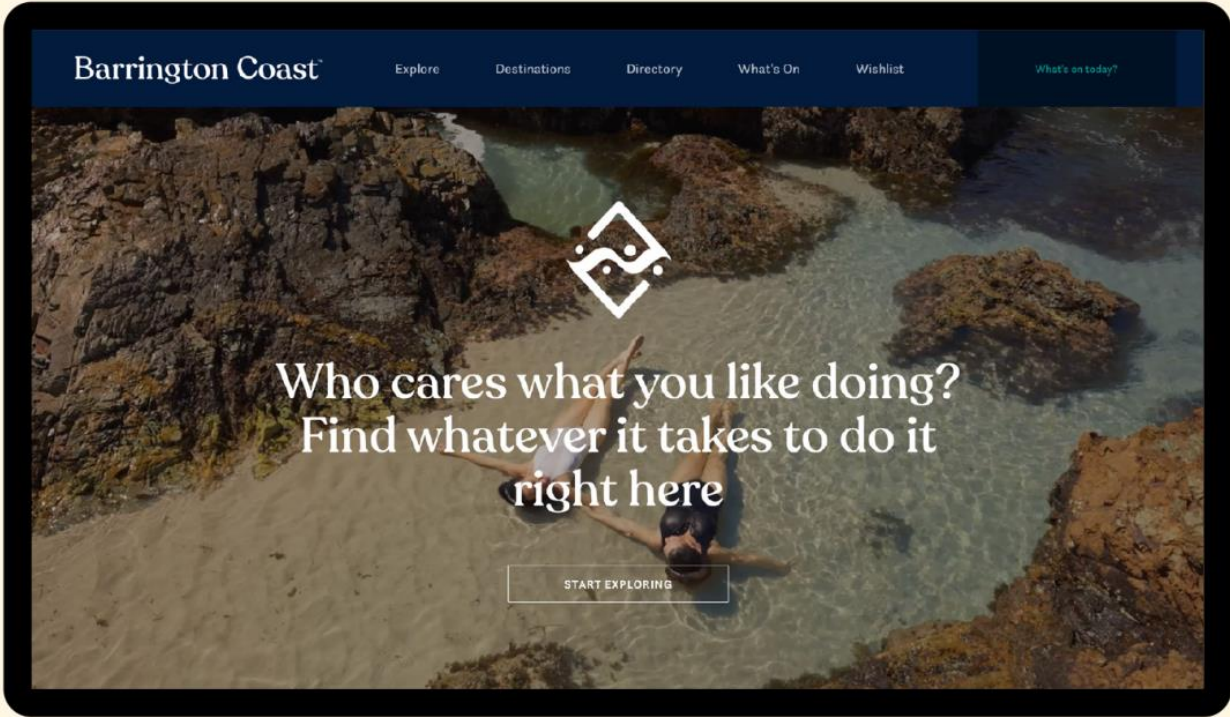
Social Media Avatar



Website Homepage







Swell + DMS

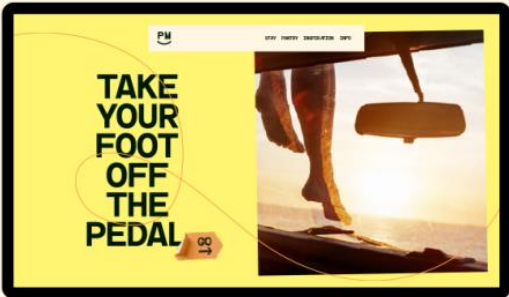
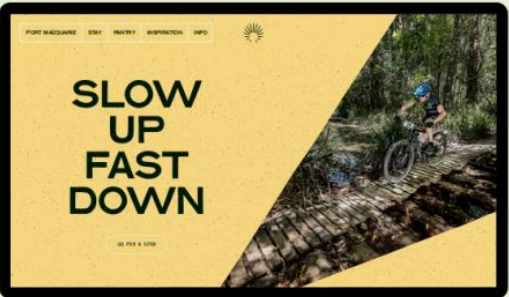
Port Macquarie

Brand Directions

All together

01

PORT
MACQUARIE



02

PORT
MACQUARIE





PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS COUNCIL (PMHC)
DESTINATION BRAND PROJECT: ENGAGEMENT REPORT

1. PURPOSE & OUTLINE OF THE ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The Engagement Report provides a high-level summary of the primary insights shared through the consultation process relating to PMHC's Destination Brand project. The primary objective of the project is to develop and deliver a credible, distinctive and sustainable destination brand strategy, platform and guidelines as well as creative execution of the brand's identity.

The consultation process provided an important opportunity to engage with key stakeholders from the tourism industry, hospitality sector, and other groups, including representatives of the local Aboriginal community and education sector. The stakeholders provided valuable insights into the elements that underpin and inform the development of PMHC's destination brand, including the brand strategy, platform and creative execution.

Destination Marketing Store (DMS) led the consultation while the creative team from Swell were also involved to enable effective linking between the stakeholder insights, development of the brand strategy and the creative execution process.

The consultation program involved a number of core elements, including but not limited to:

- Stakeholder workshops – the workshops were held in Port Macquarie, Wauchope and Camden Haven with the format designed to achieve two primary outcomes:
 - Build an understanding of the development of a distinctive and credible destination brand, including showcasing examples of best practice; and
 - Provide opportunities for the participants to engage in the process and share insights to inform the development of the destination brand strategy, platform and creative execution.
- Small group meetings with specific stakeholder groups, including Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association, the Chambers of Commerce, Aboriginal community representatives, real estate agent representatives and the hospitality and education sectors, among others.
- Face-to-face meeting with the project's Reference Group as well as PMHC's staff involved in the project. A number of PMHC's Councillors and Mayor were also directly involved in some of the workshop sessions.
- Presentation to the Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association's industry networking function, held on the CSU campus.
- Your Say survey distributed through PMHC's Your Say website and promoted through other communication channels.
- Familiarisation visit of the wider region, including visiting various experiences and hospitality venues as well as smaller towns and villages across the Greater Port Macquarie region.



2. PRIMARY INSIGHTS FROM THE ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The insights from the engagement process have been summarised below:

2.1 *Uncovering the essence and persona of Greater Port Macquarie*

One task undertaken in the workshops was to create an ideal visitor persona. Many of the personas created were very similar and shared the same values and attributes. Below, is a summary of the values and attributes:

| Values | Attributes |
|---|--|
| Curiosity - a place to uncover the hidden gems of the region | Refreshed and surprised |
| A place to spend time with each other to reconnect | A natural meeting place |
| Social and social aware | Seeking adventure at a relaxed pace - the adventure has different meaning to different markets |
| Environmentally conscious (This is also about sourcing local produce and sustainable fishing practises) | Seeking cultural experiences from immersive local Birpai cultural experiences through to arts and culture experiences more broadly |
| Fun and engaged. A place to relax and really enjoy what is on offer in the region | The lifestyle the region affords people |
| Easy-going and adaptable – cruisy | Local produce, markets and eating out options |
| Time-out to recharge and refresh | Places to spend time unhurried and more immersive experiences |
| A sense of freedom, of letting go of your normal life and experiencing the lifestyle of the region | The ability of exploration and uncovering new gems of the region |
| An opportunity to transform from one emotional state to another | There is so much to do. Visitor come back or feel they could have stayed longer |
| A place to live your best life | It is how we all want to live, connected to nature, and each other, while still having the ability to have great food and quality retail experiences especially if the retail is local produce |
| Friendships and relationships are central to a visit to the region | Leveraging the profile of the Koala Hospital. Through an experience and or volunteering opportunities (to give back) |
| To give back be a part of something bigger. | |



High-level personas identified from the workshops

Following is a very high-level summary of the personas that were identified in each of the workshops. They are listed in order of the most identified persona.

- Female 30–45 age group in a relationship getting away and reconnection with family and friends is important to her and can influence her travel decisions
- Female 55–65 age group travels with her husband and friends they are active and are interested in immersing in the local lifestyle of the region
- Young family market (35-45) – engaging in the nature-based experiences including wildlife experiences
- Female 40 travels with her girlfriends and in family groups enjoys activities and being active while at the same time relaxing
- Male 45 plus age group escaping their everyday life to relax and recharge fitness and activities are important to them as well as good food experiences
- Male 37 in a relationship into health and fitness and enjoys cycling, walking in a natural setting, visiting wineries, and eating out

Region's brand personality

As a part of the consultation process participants were asked to identify a well-known person or a car which best expressed the personality of the region. Following is a list of personalities and cars nominated

| Personality | Cars |
|--|--|
| Jessica Watson, Lauren Jackson - brave, willing to take a risk have an adventure) | Range Rover - upmarket but practical |
| Annabel Crabb - quirky but practical a thinker, cares and uncovers ideas and the way people think | Audi - style and design |
| Russell Crowe, John Williams, Nancy Bird-Walton, Cathy Freeman - role models, achievers and 'go getters' | Classic 67 Buick cruising car - not flashy like a Cadillac, chilled noticeable and unique. Old but memorable |
| Anh Do and Penny Wong - strong multi-cultural, vibrant, liberated, intelligent, considered | Mercedes – affordable luxury |
| Amanda Keller, Pink, Celeste Barber - compassionate and know who they are | Subaru. Can take it anywhere and it is reliable |
| Emily Blunt and Johanna Griggs – relatable | SUV or 4 WD |
| Lisa Curry Kenny – Strong and outdoorsy | Toyota Kluge – reliable and go anywhere |



2.2 Challenges

- The perception that the name Greater Port Macquarie is not inclusive of the whole region and is only promoting Port Macquarie
- It will be difficult to develop a brand that is representative of the whole region including the hinterland, smaller towns, villages and operators not located in Port Macquarie. The marketing activities and their character will not be able to be expressed as part of the brand project
- There is a lack of local Birpai cultural experiences for visitors, even though there is a deep and rich cultural story for the region.
- The destination is seen traditionally as a place where 'grey nomads' holiday therefore, there may not be very much to do
- The seasonality issue of the summer holidays being a 'hyper' peak season and the opportunity for the region to be an all-year-round destination
- Media coverage of the natural disasters that have impacted the region and how that is reported in sources markets and the view that the region is not open for visitors, or visitors don't want to travel to a disaster affected region
- There is a lack of immersive experiences that engage the local history and culture of the region. For example, there are museums and the Glasshouse, but they are underutilised and could do with investment in curated experiences, performances and entertainment that attract new visitors and higher spending visitors. These facilities have an opportunity to leverage the University and the student base to drive vibrancy for the region
- Limited access to regional artist, studio, and art experience.
- The current 'shell' logo doesn't represent all year round or the entire region. The 'shell' supports the idea that the region is only a summer/beach destination
- Earlier engagement with the local Birpai community at the start of each project
- Driving repeat visitation outside peak periods
- The lack of ways for people to hear Birpai cultural stories
- Lack of youth engagement or input generally from the younger generation into opportunities to create new immersive future-focused experiences
- The impact infrastructure has on the visitor experience such as congestion, especially in peak periods
- The lack of cultural integration into the redesign of the Koala Hospital and the impact the design has on visitor flow.
- There has historically been a big drain on talent with young people leaving (although they expressed disappointment that there are fewer reasons to stay. This leads to problems that are manifest in an older skewed population, such as being able to access staff in some industry sectors such as hospitality
- Lack of Birpai cultural signage and visual cues in town (even though Euro heritage signage is prevalent). Lack of use of traditional language interpretation in existing place signage.



2.3 Other insights

- There is an opportunity for the brand strategy to have a positive impact on the other industry sectors that also benefit from visitors to the region. For example, the real estate agents recognised they often have to sell the destination first before they can sell a house to people seeking to relocate. The desire to relocate to the region is often influenced by a visit to the region for a short break or holiday
- There is a respect for and a desire to support the development of authentic Birpai cultural visitor experiences. Sea Acres has seen an increase in the demand for cultural experiences and workshops
- The media coverage of the bushfires and specifically the impact on the Australian Koala population did raise the profile of the work undertaken by the Port Macquarie Koala hospital. This has definitely created an opportunity for the region to leverage that focus to highlight other nature-based and experiences on offer in the region as well
- Charles Sturt University campus has impacted on Port Macquarie and the region, by bringing in a new workforce (albeit it might be part-time). The university has the potential to create a new more youthful 'vibe' for Port Macquarie and can be positioned as a university town and brings with it many opportunities. This will have a positive impact on the region as a whole
- New infrastructure projects such as the beach-to-beach walking trail developed and built-in partnership with the local community adds to the overall story of the region and impacts the way the visitor and locals experience the place. It is also an excellent example of how infrastructure such as a walking or cycling track can link different experiences together from the beach to cafés to oyster farms.
- A variety of good quality restaurants and food experiences on offer in the region has evolved and improved over time. From very casual beach side dining to high-end hatted restaurants
- Villages with anchor business, such as the Star hotel, The Emporium and café in Wauchope have encouraged other like business to grow and evolve the town to be appealing to visitors, locals and re-locators
- The hinterland, villages and other towns, farms, National Parks and access to the natural environment have an enormous opportunity to evolve and are extremely appealing to the visitor.
- Auntie Rhonda - Stories over facts is an opportunity to infuse the local stories into a visitor's cultural experience. *'People won't always remember what you say but they will remember how you made them feel'* Maya Angelou
- Shift away from only telling and sharing an historical cultural story but also include modern and current cultural stories. *Honouring the history as part of seeing into the future and what this also means for the local youth*



- An opportunity to tell youth stories told-through the surf and skateboard culture
- An opportunity for a dedicated women's group immersive on country experience with the local Birpai women.
- Creating cultural experiences, immersing in the landscape of the region to share the local story
- The increase in intergenerational family travel and the opportunity to make it easy for families to find accessible accommodation and spaces
- The opportunity to be more inclusive and include other cultures
- Focus on a year-round destination
- TAFE are partnering with businesses and Council to provide external recognition for students
- CSU is a drawcard, including an increased sense of vibrancy, which has seen higher quality of businesses, especially in the hospitality sector
- Opportunity for more workshops in the creative industries
- Creating a network of artists, artisans, and others in the creative industries - facilitating a network and providing ways to introduce new people into the network. (Model of Newcastle with Newcastle University and Council collaborating to provide grants as well as workshops and professional development, networking, and networking hubs to connect like-minded people) This is a real opportunity for Port Macquarie and the region, especially in innovation
- View Port Macquarie as a place to connect to the network of young and experienced professionals to strengthen industry, research, and start-ups - links to short-courses and workshops/masterclasses
- Rather than being a thought leader, facilitating opportunities for 'open to' or always learning
- Huge opportunity to position innovation in context of new and useful: Connecting creative industries (e.g. gaming and new technology such as Virtual Reality (VR)) with environmental science, including future-focused agricultural sector as well as with habitat protection for wildlife (koalas and other wildlife)
- Constant learning and fostering curiosity
- See technology as an enabler - to connect with other areas, practitioners etc - practical application of learning and fostering greater collaboration
- Lifestyle as a global view and keeping in touch with the wider world
- Lifestyle approach links to CSU's 10-year strategy for the PM campus and beyond

4 Your Natural and Built Environment

What we are trying to achieve

A connected, sustainable, accessible community and environment that is protected now and into the future.

What the result will be

We will have:

- Effective management and maintenance of essential water, waste and sewer infrastructure
- A community that is prepared for natural events and climate change
- Sustainable and environmentally sensitive development outcomes that consider the impact on the natural environment
- Accessible transport network for our communities
- Infrastructure provision and maintenance that meets community expectations and needs
- Well planned communities that are linked to encourage and manage growth
- Accessible and protected waterways, foreshores, beaches and bushlands
- An environment that is protected and conserved for future generations
- Renewable energy options that are understood and accessible by the community

How we will get there

- 4.1 Provide (appropriate) infrastructure and services including water cycle management, waste management, and sewer management
- 4.2 Aim to minimise the impact of natural events and climate change, for example, floods, bushfires and coastal erosion
- 4.3 Facilitate development that is compatible with the natural and built environment
- 4.4 Plan for integrated transport systems that help people get around and link our communities
- 4.5 Plan for integrated and connected communities across the Port Macquarie-Hastings area
- 4.6 Restore and protect natural areas
- 4.7 Provide leadership in the development of renewable energy opportunities
- 4.8 Increase awareness of issues affecting our environment, including the preservation of flora and fauna

Attachment 1 - BUSHFIRE MITIGATION WORKS 2021/2022

| Site | Total quote \$ | Type of works | Round 1 | Round 2 | Round 3 |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|
| Syd Hopkins terrace | 3950 | Maintenance | | | |
| Rushcutter Way | 970 | Maintenance | | | |
| Candello Close | 3450 | Maintenance | Complete | | |
| Herschell st | 3750 | Maintenance | Complete | | |
| Tomark Pl | 4200 | Maintenance | Complete | | |
| Morcombe pl | 2600 | Maintenance | | | |
| Jonas Absalom | 3850 | Maintenance | | | |
| Maranatha Place | 2420 | Maintenance | | | |
| Grantham Lane | 3440 | Maintenance | Complete | | |
| Mayworth Ave | 4200 | Maintenance | Complete | | |
| Obriens Rd | 4850 | Maintenance | Complete | | |
| David Campbell St | 480 | Maintenance | | | |
| 419 Ocean Drive | 320 | Maintenance | | | |
| Albert St | 1440 | Maintenance | | | |
| Scarborough way | 3920 | Maintenance | | | |
| Elourea Place | 3980 | Maintenance | | | |
| Koonwarra St | 2250 | Maintenance | | | |
| 414 Ocean Dr | 1950 | Maintenance | | | |
| Lakeside Way | 2420 | Maintenance | | | |
| Commerce st | 3192 | Maintenance | Complete | | |
| Blackbutt Dr | 4104 | Maintenance | | | |
| Kingfisher rd | 3288 | Maintenance | Complete | | |
| Brotherglen Dr | 7664 | Maintenance | | | |
| Barton Cres | 675 | Maintenance | | | |
| Newmarket Grove | 945 | Maintenance | | | |
| 160 Hindman St | 945 | Maintenance | | | |
| Savoy St | 945 | Maintenance | | | |
| 161 Hindman St | 1500 | Maintenance | | | |
| Amira Drive | 2025 | Maintenance | | | |
| 148 Hindman St | 405 | Maintenance | | | |
| Reading St | 1980 | Maintenance | | | |
| Boronia St | 1575 | Maintenance | | | |
| Wandella Dr | 1905 | Maintenance | | | |
| Granite St | 675 | Maintenance | | | |
| Verbeena Ave | 2235 | Maintenance | | | |
| Bold st | 1485 | Maintenance | | | |
| Ellerslie Cres | 2460 | Maintenance | | | |
| Panorama Dr | 1575 | Maintenance | | | |
| 77 Panorama Dr | 675 | Maintenance | | | |
| 7 Honeysuckle Ave | 1485 | Maintenance | | | |
| Bago Rd | 810 | Maintenance | | | |
| Eugowra Cl | Nil | Extension of APZ | Scheduled | No further works | No further works |
| Admirals Cct | 6530 | APZ construction | Scheduled | No further works | No further works |
| TOTAL | 103518 | | | | |