

Crescent Head CAG Meeting

Minutes

Date: 22 August 2024

Venue: Crescent Head Community Hall

Time: 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Staff:

Michael Jackson (MJ) – Director Operations & Planning (Chair)

Liesa Davies – (LD) - A/Director Corporate & Commercial (Facilitator)

Grant Dennis (GD) – Design & Investigations Manager (Project Lead)

Mick Hanley (MH) – Community Engagement Manager

Caro Szary (CS) - Group Manager Strategic and Asset Planning

Group Members:

Chloe Hobden-Welch	Lloyd Mather
Daniel Williams	Matthew Shannon
Fred Andrews	Pamela Bryant
Gail Ryan	Ross Foster
Jann Eason	Scott Jansma
Josh Dennis	Susie Hughes
Kerry Hudson	Tom Vermeulen
Kempsey Local Aboriginal Land Council (KLALC) Representative	

Optional Attendees:

David Knights – Civille

Matt Ritson – Civille

Minute Takers: Cass Harvey – Business Support Officer & Tahlia Randle – A/ Executive Officer Operations & Planning

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 2:02pm and acknowledged Country.

Matthew Shannon, Scott Jansma and Daniel Williams were noted as apologies.

KLALC Representative was not in attendance.

Group members were asked to do a quick introduction.

2. Consideration of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the meeting on 25 July 2024 were adopted with the additions to:

Item 10 – The Big Picture (Who uses the space): Businesses i.e. Learn to Surf, Dundee, Carols by the Sea and Melanoma March.

3. Recap of previous meeting

Facilitator provided a recap of discussions from the previous meeting.

4. “Parking Lot” matters

The Facilitator provided an update on matters which were placed in the ‘parking lot’ at the last meeting and noted the plan to include a status for each of these in future minutes.



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Parking Lot Matters	Status
Crown Land Management in key adjoining spaces	To remain parked
How do we get more evidence around the spaces e.g. foot traffic?	For future consideration
Previous Public Domain Plan (PDP) – what questions were asked?	PDP emailed to members for reference
Foreshore pathway to Muddy Arm and beyond – what was adopted previously?	PDP discussed at this meeting
How to manage parking issues at the foreshore?	For discussion at this meeting
Paid parking possibilities	Open to taking views today but acknowledge this is a much bigger issue which can't be considered as part of the project scope.
Killick Creek Foreshore Pathway – request to be included in the scope	Staff to present a report to October Council meeting, for Council consideration.
Muddy Arm – potential to be used as a dog leash free area? Could there be another creek access? and possibility to be used as parking?	<i>Staff to consider and advise</i>
Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) remediation space – further information	<i>Staff to consider and advise</i>
Holiday Park management of encroachment on Killick Creek path – status?	<i>Staff to consider and advise</i>

5. Public Domain Plan

The Project Lead explained the areas adopted from the 2020 Public Domain Plan.

Works are happening in the background:

- There has been implementation of works in Rankine Street and Scott Street.
- Grant funding approved for Lloyd Park with works to commence May/June 2025
- Little Nobby Design Plan by Landscape Architect is 80% complete, expected to be finalised in 6 months. Funding sources to be identified through the Coastal Management Program (once adopted).

A group member queried the width of Area 9 in the Holiday Park It was advised that Area 9 does not have a defined boundary. Consideration of use of this area as part of the foreshore, would require consideration of the foreshore value added and impacts on the holiday park.

6. Car Parking

As a key consideration in the future foreshore planning, the Group explored views on current and potential future parking in the area.

Who are the key user groups of the carpark?

All users identified at the previous meeting, were considered likely carpark users. This included surfers, people watching surfers, tourists, people local to township, travellers, campers from other areas, local airbnb guests, bakery customers, coffee drinkers, families, young children, beach goers, carers, schools (buses), group tours, surf rentals, surf club members (functions, trailers), caravan park overflow, boaties, jet skies, motorbikes, cyclists, free campers, elderly (drive to walk), cars with caravans, first responders long wheel based vans, and market visitors and stall holders. It was noted that car park use varied widely depending on the season, weather, holidays etc.

How do they use it and why do they use it that way?



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Group members noted many and varied uses of the car parking including convenience, don't have to walk and carry beach gear/equipment, can sit in comfort of car/van to enjoy view/ watch kids / partners, back of van provides shade /shelter/ seating, it can be a community/cultural meeting place, a day base, park & go, viewing platform, block southerly, just a beautiful and spot for relaxing.

Where are the prime spots?

The 'prime' parking spots were deemed to vary, depending on the user. It could be the foreshore for surfers, by the playground for families, closer to surf club or closer to green space.

How long is too long? How long is too little?

Timing can be very variable - some visitors to the foreshore will stay from 2 hours until they get hungry, off leash dog walkers require approx. 2 hours to allow time to walk to off leash area and back, free campers generally remain all day which was deemed too long by some, fisherman require 4-5 hours (usually with boat trailers), for people having a day at the beach 4 hours is reasonable

There were mixed views on the surf culture desire to park for long periods of time/all day adjacent to the foreshore. Some noted that enforcement of parking time limits is key, others noted that enforcement and time limits affect overall stress which is counter to the Crescent Head experience and that of small coastal towns.

There was a suggestion that Willow Street could have 4 hours parking, with potential all day on the western side. It was noted also that the Council carpark in town is all day. A need was identified for a drop off zone close to the beach.

How much parking should there be at the foreshore? – bigger / smaller / same as existing?

The members of the group were of the view that either the current amount of parking was ok or that there could be slightly more with better use of the space. Some expressed the view that we could keep similar numbers of parks and still include more green space. Some noted also that increased enforcement of time limits to support better rotation of parks is needed. It was noted that if a drop off zone were available, users may be more willing to drop passengers/equipment and park in other parks further away from the foreshore. It was noted future plans should include specific motorcycle parking spaces.

The group members identified several parking challenges including, weekend use, holidays (easter and Christmas times), surfers waiting for the right conditions, the greenspace adjoining the foreshore parking is too narrow, use of cars for security and comfort with benefits of shelter or shade, families required to park close due to children and beach gear, non-surfers availability, turnover of parks.

7. Homework

Group members were asked to bring notes of a place they love and the elements they want to see in the foreshore design. Examples included:

- South Coast – good signage, maps and wayfinding promoting other places to visit in surrounding areas; use of diamond grid paths not just concrete paths.
- Snapper Rocks – greenspace at front, carpark at back, good open space, free parking enforced.
- Berry – Boongaree Rotary Nature Park – all ages, nature, rocks, water play park, BBQs, great day out.
- Minack Theatre UK – side of cliff amphitheatre, cultural element.



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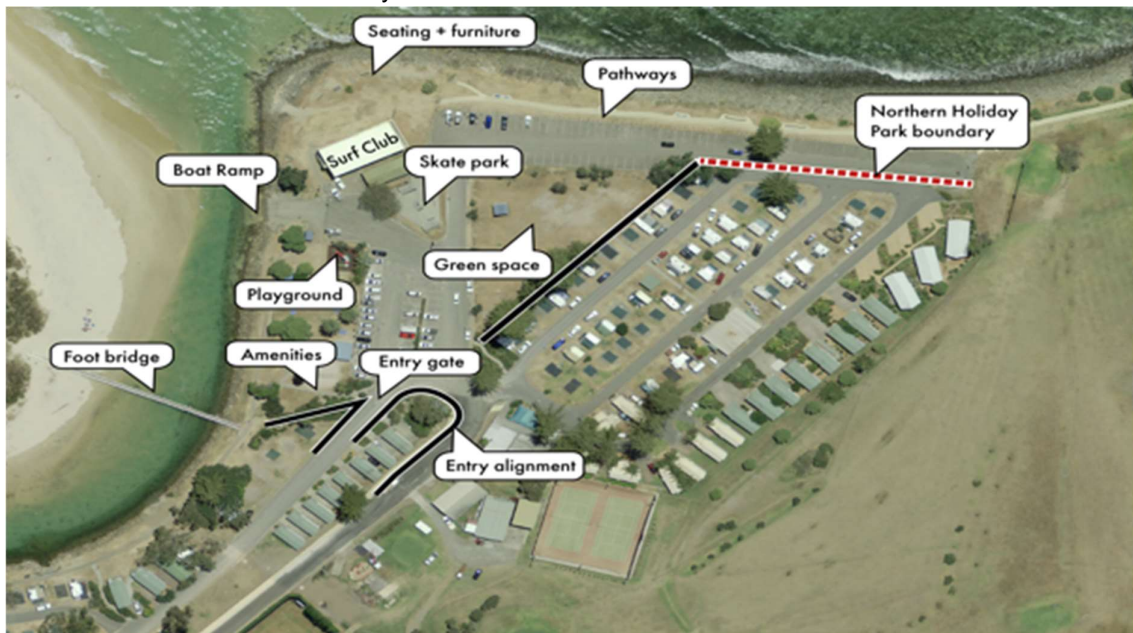
- Forster Celitos Beach – elevated boardwalk and nature education signage.
- Cairns Esplanade – 2.5km walk on foreshore, free fitness activities, markets, dog walking, skating, diverse users, visually beautiful, access for all ages and abilities.
- Evans Head – sandstone block retaining wall.
- Maryborough Foreshore – greenspace by beach, various zones, 15km, parking away from beach.
- Public Domain Plan – old bridge timbers, textual elements and seating.

Representatives from Civile provided real life examples of soft to hard elements of design within the Gold Coast and St Kilda regions, elements will be discussed further when closer to the concept design stage to have a balance of usable spaces and softness.

8. Intro to block planning

The existing uses of the Foreshore and Willow Street were identified, and discussion held around what items needed to stay in the same place in the future and what could be potentially relocated or changed.

It was determined that the boat ramp, foot bridge, amenities and SLSC were to remain the same, the entry alignment and holiday park entry gate would need to remain in the same location but can be tweaked, playground need upgrading but locality is good, northern holiday park boundary can be flexible, greenspace and skatepark to be reviewed/relocated, pathways to be moved/upgraded and extended to Muddy Arm. There was a desire to consider widening of the current creek access and additional access added closer to Muddy Arm. Bench seats potentially to be included on the walkway link from Willow Street to Pacific Street.



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9. Next Meeting

Group members agreed to do the block planning at the next meeting and then consider broader community engagement.

Monday 16th September 2:00PM – 5:00PM

Location – Crescent Head Community Hall

