

**INITIAL FEEDBACK REPORT – SOUTH WEST ROCKS
COMMUNITY CATCH-UP MAY 23, 2018**

Overview: Over 80 people attended the South West Rocks Community Catch-up in late May. The workshop style format saw participants in table groups answering several questions and discussion topics.

The following report summarises the points that table groups reported back and identifies key themes.

1. What do you love about SWR?

Table	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
1	Natural beauty – best beaches on North Coast	Lifestyle of the town	Friendly community we live in
2	Nature & wildlife	No building over 3 storeys – restrained development	Sporting facilities
3	Beaches	Small laid back / friendly community	National Parks
4	Environment – natural beauty	Community spirit – importance of sport	Back Creek & Horseshoe Bay Reserve areas
5	Roxy theatre	Beaches – family friendly	Shopping amenities – facilities – doctors – ambulance – self-sufficient town
6	Lifestyle – beaches, natural beauty	Community	Tourism & environmental attractions
7	Man-made landmarks – Roxy cinema, Gaol, lighthouse	Natural environment	Community
8	Natural beauty and assets -	Diversity of activities – all ages – playgrounds, golf, surfing, fishing, walking	Quiet and peaceful place
9	Natural beauty – beaches, national parks	Laidback lifestyle community spirit	Climate
10	Village atmosphere	Friendly community	Safe environment
11	No high-rise buildings – keep access to beach	Fishing	Relaxing lifestyle – no traffic lights

Key Themes: This summary shows that the natural beauty, the beaches and the associated lifestyle and community spirit are highly valued attributes of South West Rocks.

2. What do we need to do to preserve and retain the things we love about SWR?

Table	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
1	Development controls such as; Limits on high rise Quality facilities Access to beaches Maintain recreation and national parks	Maintain and protect natural beauty and wildlife especially the pine trees and National Park	Maintaining wellbeing and support of people in the community – facilities linked to well being
2	Youth are the future of our community. They need; Entertainment & things to do Jobs High School Sports	No high-rise buildings – keep the village feel and local businesses	Engage all community groups to work together with KSC on agreed vision
3	Environmental changes – ban plastics	Keep the village feel Keep community facilities	Responsible and sustainable development; • Community involvement • Three storey limit • Keep green open spaces in residential development
4	Ageing community – need affordable housing and aged care	Well maintained roads – SWR Rd & Plummers Rd (how tourists come into town)	Helicopter pad for emergency services
5	Proper planning at all levels including coastal planning and community input	Establish and monitor goals regularly for refocussing purposes	Protecting and enhancing our natural environment
6	Keep strict adherence to zoning, block sizes, height limits	Support for holding and promoting events throughout the year to support low season	Liaison between National Parks and Council

7	No high rise, high density living	No development along beach front – open for all	Improve infrastructure – roads, cycleways, parking
8	Ensure sustainable growth – responsible development	Get response from Council to community ideas & suggestions, comments	Fair share of budget for SWR Eg. Smith St compared to carpark in headland area. Kempsey gets too much
9	Don't over develop	Multipurpose community facility	Quality facilities - Seniors centre, Men's Shed, Visitor Information
10	Collaborative community approach to recreational spaces	Maintain and improve sporting infrastructure and facilities	Single-use plastic free town
11	Ensure development is best practice, sustainable and appropriate to maintain the waterways and natural beauty	Council facilitate wide ranging community input that is timely and effective	Transparent and accountable decision making by Council based on clear criteria that is understood by the community

Key Themes: This summary shows that monitoring and regulating development alongside the provision of quality community facilities and environmental management are viewed as important techniques for retaining what is loved about SWR.

3. Where do we want to get to? What do you imagine for the future?

Participants were provided with a list of ideas that had been pre-lodged by people in the room, provided to Council by the SWR Synergy group or are contained in the existing SWR Community Plan. Those ideas were discussed by the groups, added too and prioritised, with the highest ranked suggestions being;

- Multipurpose Community Centre – multiple suggestions covering inclusion of potential space for Men's Shed space, coffee shop, art gallery, upgraded Library, facilities for Senior Citizens activities and meetings plus information kiosk / Council branch office
- Improved disability access
- Expanded sports facilities including hydrotherapy pool
- Youth hub and recreation area
- Strategic Plan for the SWR area including how it will be implemented

- Entrance statement and welcome signage
- Norfolk Pine Management Plan
- Walkways, cycleways and connectivity
- More festivals, arts and music events
- Recreation space, bbq areas and shelters – community gathering areas
- Back Creek Development - primarily amenities block
- Deliver Horseshoe Bat Master Plan

4. What's one thing the Council can do and one thing the community can do to reach these goals? (Smaller groups 2 or 3)

Group	KSC	Community
1	Disabled access issues – toilets. Please form a consultative group with appropriate and skilled community representation.	Participate
2	Open transparent communication. Acknowledge a concern has been received and provide a timely response.	Attend engagement events and speak our thoughts.
3	Open communication, transparency, timely response	
4	Communication and collaboration. Relationships with the community to build strong connections.	Work positively with council – honest, open and respectful relationships
5	More frequent consultation between Council and community	Take ownership for organising community meetings and events – example a sausage sizzle and clean-up day
6	Effective timely communication	Need to have SWR reps on Council
7	Through communication Council & community build a collaborative culture	Support interactive community groups
8	Better communication between Council and the community, groups and individuals. Engagement in multiple forms and reach those that don't traditionally engage.	Support and increase facilities for families, sport, entertainment and dining
9	Proper planning that keeps revisiting correct processes that will achieve community goals.	
10	Improve communication by Council – reply to letters.	Be active in our community so community culture is helpful.

11	Respond to community's letters and emails	Build stronger community organisations
12	Communication – prioritise needs of the community	Work together with realistic expectations
13	Fix Plummers Lane at once. Have new Councillors asap	Plastic free zone
14	Read and respond to correspondence	Provide more feedback
15	Provide feedback to the community Fix South West Rocks Road	
16	Improve access roads into the rocks Amenities at Back Creek and Brighton Park New Councillors	
17	Improve our roads Communicate more openly with ratepayers	
18	Improve roads into SWR Read and answer letters New Councillors	Plastic free shopping bags

Questions from the floor

Q. Horseshoe bay upgrade – meeting in 2009 – only thing that has happened is playground

A. Point Briner walkway done, we have funding for walkway around Horseshoe Bay, trying to get funding for carpark, so there is action but we've agreed to seek further community input into the recreational space and layout within the plan.

Q. When are we going to get decent pool – prefer heated

A. Council resolved at the April 2018 meeting to develop a Community Infrastructure Strategy in the coming financial year. This will help us work with the community to identify what does community want, what do we already own and how do we fund this infrastructure? Research and discussions to date haven't planned for a new pool as part of that infrastructure strategy.

Q. Disability access – our greatest asset here is people. We have wide streets (Landsborough and McIntyre Sts) and they create a pedestrian safety issue. The traffic at the back of the school is also a concern.

A. Some pedestrian access issues were addressed in recent months with actions from the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) carried out on Gregory Street. We will create space on the Your Say Macleay site where you can upload photos and comments regarding safety issues.



Q. What is KSC's position on the future of arts, culture, entertainment?

A. No strategic plan at this stage. There is a greater desire to plan and introduce more public art Shire wide. You have a great example in SWR where the beautiful wooden seat on the headland is a piece of art, not just a seat.

Q. When KSC will start work on Plummers Lane?

A. Preparatory drainage works were completed in April, but changes to other jobs delayed the start of work. Works are expected to commence by the end of May. The 2018-2019 works program includes funding for another 1km of work.

Concluding Comments from Council

The Catch-up wrapped up with a summary of observations and next steps;

- Council committed to getting this report back to the community and participants quickly as possible
- Council identified the need to seek more detailed feedback on the Masterplans for Horseshoe Bay and Back Creek reserves. These are to be opened for comment as part of the Your Say Macleay website.
- After a period of six weeks further engagement Council will then review the feedback and identify next steps, which may require further design work and face-to-face engagement. Masterplan up for six weeks until end of June. Then present updated plans in new financial year
- Council acknowledged the feedback that better planning and greater involvement from the community is required. Confirmation was provided that a new planning unit been created at Council as part of the organisational restructure and once the recruitment and set-up phase is complete these staff will be able to work more closely with the community.
- Council also acknowledged the community's frustrations with communication issues and the need to change processes and practices as part of the organisational improvements underway.