



Shoal Bay Community Association Inc.

9 Lionel Avenue Shoal Bay NSW 2315 ☎ 4981 0565 mob 0419 144 110 email: secretary.shoalbayca@gmail.com

www.shoalbay.org.au

18 October 2020

NPWS npws.huntercentralcoastbranch@environment.nsw.gov.au
Kylie Yend kylie.yeend@environment.nsw.gov.au
Leanne Ellis Leanne.Ellis@environment.nsw.gov.au

The Shoal Bay Community Associations response to the Tomaree Coastal Walk draft Master Plan and draft review of Environmental Factors

The Shoal Bay Community Association Inc (SBCA) was incorporated in 2010 to provide a voice for the community seeking infrastructure improvements and environmental protection for the benefit and enjoyment of Shoal Bay residents and visitors now and into the future.

The SBCA regularly communicates with over 70 members and 4 businesses who reside/own properties or businesses in Shoal Bay. The Association communicates with its members, and displays on its website, the NSW National Parks documentation regarding the Tomaree Coastal Walk.

Whilst in principle the general view of the Coastal Walk is positive. There are number of our members who have concerns regarding the track being located on the Eastern side of Stephens Peak, Quarry Hill and Green Hill. More importantly the Association's members have major concerns over the lack of infrastructure surrounding the walk in Shoal Bay.

These include:

- The construction of amenity blocks to cater for the increase in public use. Port Stephens Council (PSC) has only budgeted to replace the existing toilet block built in the 1950s with one of an equal size despite the increase in visitors by over 1,000%. The current Tomaree Hill Climb already attracts over 250,000 climbers a year.
- The car parking on Zenith Beach road is already inadequate and requires common sense by NSW Government Departments to designate and release land suitable for parking within the Tomaree Lodge site. This would allow for forward integrated planning to be incorporated into the Master Plan for use when the site becomes vacant.
- The Shoal Bay Road from the egress of an upgraded Zenith Beach loop road should be upgraded and both made one-way so that cars and small buses can drop walkers off and exit the Tomaree Head entry node without blocking incoming traffic. This would also enable the increase the parking capacity of the feeder road.

- Designate funding for the completion of the shoreline pathway connecting Anzac Park to Shoal Bay, this short length of track would allow people to walk from the Inner Light to Tomaree Head as part of the Coastal Walk. This would negate the hazard of people walking along the roadside kerb on a dangerous bend.
- The parking and access are already a problem in Joleen Crescent, Lionel Avenue and Verona Road due to inconsiderate parking blocking the emergency access/egress points to Tomaree National Park and resident's driveways. Designating these road links as part of the circular loop walks will only increase the parking problems.
- The state of the fire trail from the proposed turnoff to the seaward track on Stephens Peak to the Lionel Ave/ Wreck Beach track is in a very poor state of repair with a number of walkers having falls, some of which required surgery.

SBCA would again like to stress the importance of including the construction of the required associated infrastructure of the Tomaree Coastal Walk in the Master Plan. This will require the coordination of the Development Plans for Tomaree Headland with NSW Govt & PSC.

The SBCA congratulates the design of the proposed walkway including those around the seaward side of the hills and the interpretive signs relating to the World War II artifacts, Aboriginal sites, shipwrecks etc, but to be realistic the funding is not going to cover the whole walk to Birubi Point therefore a staged plan and timetable should be prepared and presented as part of the overall planning.

I have attached a copy of the previous submission made on behalf of the Shoal Bay Community Association for your perusal.



Cheers

Tim Meharg
Chairman
Shoal Bay Community Association Inc
0407 462 566

The Shoal Bay Community Association Inc. has made no reportable political donations or gifts.