

HYAMS BEACH STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre

16 April 2018, 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Notes from Workshop

Attendees:

Councillors	Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clr Amanda Findley• Clr John Wells• Clr Mark Kitchener• Clr John Levett• Clr Jo Gash• Clr Patricia White	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Russ Pigg, General Manager• Phil Costello, Director Planning, Environment & Development• Colin Wood, Building & Compliance Manager• Cameron Rouse - Ranger• Paul Keech, Director Assets & Works• Tony Fraser, Works & Services Manager• Brad Davis - Asset Strategy Manager• Wayne Schnoor - Transport Engineering Officer• Coralie Bell - Tourism Manager• Jessica Rippon - Executive Strategy Manager• Madelaine North - Community Engagement/ CCB Officer• Rianna Burgess - Community Engagement Support Officer
Government	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federal Member for Gilmore, Ann Sudmalis• Moses Raudino – Navy• Kayleen Brown – Booderee NP• RFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hyams Beach Villagers Assoc. (CCB):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Morgan Sant○ Lois Sparkes○ Kate Friis○ Ken Renwick○ Mark Crowther• Dean Hargraves – Whalers Cottages• Bob Clark – Vincentia Matters

The meeting was opened by General Manager, Russ Pigg at 3:02pm.

1. Opening of Workshop

Russ Pigg suggested that this would be the last broad stakeholder meeting – with the format changing to a smaller working group style of meeting. The matter may go back to Council, to make decisions as needed.

Russ Pigg handed the meeting over to Executive Manager – Communications, Jessica Rippon, to facilitate.

Jessica Rippon provided an overview of the meeting. First item - review the Easter event and attendees to provide comments, starting with positive and then moving to negative.

2. Review of Easter

a) Staff perspective - positives

- The one-way traffic arrangement generally worked well (except for Sunday). It provided more space and better traffic flow occurred. Discussion - having the permanent one-way traffic resolution may result in having a negative impact on the permanent residents who live in Hyams Beach.
- A temporary roundabout option or junction, such as at the intersection of Naval College Road and Booderee Avenue could be implemented to split the traffic and relieve the traffic pressure.
- Pedestrian access along the reserve worked well.
- The Coordinator position was adequate.
- Visitors were generally polite to staff and respectful.
- Rangers were generally happy – only had to step in to do traffic management on the Sunday.
- No tourism pop up site – from a staff perspective this did not have an impact.
- No communication support (etc Facebook posts, media etc) – unsure if this had an impact.
- Main issue was with resource levels – reduced number of traffic controllers and Rangers as a consequence of budget cut backs.

b) CCB perspective – positives

- HBVA emailed their database of 400 members after Easter seeking feedback. By and large, the feedback was as expected.
- Approximately 4,000 cars on the Sunday, due to the good weather. By and large, most residents affected by the one-way system were very happy.
- Location of toilets at Chinamans Beach worked well.
- The temporary footpath was very effective. Pedestrian access along the side of Cyrus Street was a huge improvement.
- Overall, the Easter plan worked well and the residents were looked after and were happy.

c) CCB perspective – negatives

- Booderee Avenue on Sunday was dangerous. Traffic right up to Naval College Road. There were pedestrians walking next to traffic in an 80km/hr zone which was very dangerous. After seeing this the previous option floated regarding having parking up there is definitely not an option.
- Dangers of driving up Booderee on Sunday afternoon with the angle of the sun in driver's eyes. Also, very narrow on Sunday afternoon – emergency vehicles could not have driven up there.

- Illegal camping was still a significant issue. Suggestion that a crackdown on illegal camping in Bendalong has had an impact on illegal camping in JB?

d) Staff perspective - negatives

- The budget limitations had an impact, with limited traffic controllers and Rangers able to be employed.

Question: *How much money was spent on the managing Easter?*

Answer - Jessica Rippon: *It's hard to say, as the figures aren't finalised, however, estimations put it at around \$15,000, not considering revenue raised.*

- Lines for the showers, especially when people were leaving the beach in the afternoon were very long – illustrating the need to provide more facilities in the future.
- There were problems with people waiting around in the hope of getting a car space after someone else leaves – 20-30 cars during the peak. Drivers needed to be asked to move on when at capacity. This wouldn't have occurred if the original plan and budget had been implemented.
- There were pedestrians walking down into the village with eskys, equipment and young children etc. Staff interaction indicated that people were quite willing to do this and didn't consider it to be a big deal. It was suggested that most visitors come from Sydney, and as such, are used to congestion, waiting and queuing etc.
- Seamans Car Park should be closed permanently. This would provide the opportunity for increase toilet and shower facilities and disabled parking (currently limited in the village).

3. Illegal Camping

a) Staff response:

- Regarding illegal camping, the budget provided limited capacity for Rangers to patrol 24/7. Observations indicate that campers are arriving late at night and departing early in the mornings and therefore avoid patrol times.
- There is also a blurred line/grey area in what a "campsite" is and is not i.e. people can claim that they are just enjoying the sunset with a blanket – and not sitting at a campsite.
- Campers are camping on the edge of Council land and NPWS land – therefore Council has limited jurisdiction.
- Rangers have reported that campers were happy to move on but didn't know where to go. There is generally no availability during Easter in tourist parks so they are camping on the beach.
- The majority of campers were polite (the ones dealt with after dark, but within the patrol times) and collected their rubbish when requested
- There is significant demand for an increase in the availability of primitive camping in the Shoalhaven (this is a City-wide issue).

b) CCB response:

- Illegal camping is most pronounced at Seamans Beach.
- At one point during Easter, 6 tents were seen pitched to the left of the walkway. Upon leaving, another loud group were seen setting up on the southern side.
- Rethinking Seamans car park may improve this situation.
- Campers are getting smarter and pitching further away from the access points – past NSW land and into the ACT territory.

4. Questions and General Discussion

Jessica Rippon explained that a report will be presented to Council for information only reporting on the outcomes of the urgent Easter measures.

Question: *Does Council have the figures from the traffic counters yet?*

Answer: *The data has come back, however, staff have not analysed it yet.*

Question: *Will the road closure impact the stats?*

Answer: *No, as the road was only closed for 20-30 minutes at approximately 12.30pm on the Sunday. It was not the full study that was proposed, but it will give us some kind of indication.*

Question: *What is the purpose of paid parking?*

Answer: *There are multiple behaviours that can be encouraged and controlled through the introduction of paid parking, such as raising revenue, limiting the time spend in car spaces and increasing turnover of cars. There was discussion around whether the visitors to Hyams want to be in the village all day, with some arguing that most do. Rangers voiced that their observations are different, and that parking being limited would be suitable for visitors.*

5. Small Group Discussion

At 3:42pm, the room broke into four small groups to further discuss the following options:

- Permanent one-way traffic
- Additional showers and toilets
- Portion of parking timed
- Paid parking options
- Closing of Seamans car park (options)
- Line marking (particularly yellow around corners and curves)
- Signage (additional / temporary or permanent)
- Campaign and actions around illegal camping
- Shuttle option
- Car parking options

Additional Showers and Toilets

- It was discussed that a review of the toilet and shower facilities within the Hyams Beach area is currently being undertaken. Additional toilets added onto the current Seamans Beach toilet facility could potentially be a great improvement.
- A potential resolution to the issue of limited shower facilities could be the addition of multiple outdoor shower facilities in different locations around Hyams Beach. The outdoor showers themselves were considered to be a lower cost solution and may assist in balancing out the current long wait times for showers in peak periods.

Portion of Parking Timed

- No resolutions identified for this option.

Paid Parking Options

- In relation to paid parking options – it was felt that a paid parking option could be implemented into Hyams Beach but possibly in conjunction with a shuttle bus services.

The way in which a paid parking option could work would be:

- Half day (AM and PM) timed parking options for visitors could be implemented.
- Timed parking could be implemented as quite expensive with a much more affordable Shuttle Bus option implemented at the same time which could then be viewed as a more attractive and affordable option for visitors to the Hyams Beach area.

Closing of Seamans Car Park (options)

- No resolutions identified for this option.

Line Marking

- No resolutions identified for this option.

Signage

- It was discussed that signs and barrier boards could be put out at a point along Naval College Road to assist with traffic flow. If this infrastructure could be afforded to be put into place with adequate resourcing – traffic management issues could be more quickly resolved as they arise.

Campaign and Actions Around Illegal Camping

- It was discussed that a “Ballot” or “Lottery” option for tourists to stay and camp at designated sites within Hyams Beach, similar to one which was implemented at Greenpatch Beach, may be a successful solution.

Shuttle Option

- It was felt that a shuttle option could work well for the Hyams Beach area. One way in which the shuttle option could be implemented, is for the shuttle bus pick up/drop off point to be at the Vincentia Marketplace car park - as this would enable travellers to leave their cars in the large free All-Day car park located at the side and rear of Vincentia Marketplace.

- Additionally, it was felt Vincentia Marketplace would be a good option as tourists and visitors to the area would be able to purchase groceries and supplies as required from the Vincentia Marketplace stores.

Car Parking Options

- Discussion was had in relation to the location of the old tip located close by to the Hyams Beach area being converted into a car park.
- Another option could be for peak tourist time periods, such as over the four-day Easter break, to be managed as an Event – with traffic management resources implemented including the use of Road Marshalls. This would assist to ensure that logistically, the traffic management and flow of traffic would run more smoothly and tourists to the area could be notified efficiently when Hyams Beach car parking was at full capacity.
- If data could be collected in relation to who are the key groups of tourists visiting the area – such as, overnight campers or sight-seeing “day trippers” then this may help in determining what permanent car parking solutions may be best suited.

Group 2 – notes taken by Community Engagement Officer, Madelaine North:

Members of group:

- Lois Sparkes – HBVA
- Bob Clarke
- Tony Fraser – SCC
- Madelaine North – SCC

Permanent one-way traffic

- Generally supported.

Additional showers and toilets

- Not necessarily more showers – as this might encourage illegal campers. Rather more taps should be provided for beach goers to wash their feet, as observations by residents suggest that this is the main use for the showers. Would be especially valuable at Chinamans – northern end.
- Bubblers for drinking water would be beneficial in the village too.

Paid parking options

- Would this be permanent or seasonal?
- Should this be considered as a City-wide issue?
- Would need to be determined with knowledge of the way forward regarding the one-way system, as one-way system would impact parking and vice versa.
- Council needs to have a broader strategic plan across the Shoalhaven. Would like to see Hyams Beach used as a guinea pig for introducing this to the City.
- Suggestion that a version of the permit system could work – where Hyams was considered a certain parking “zone” and permits would need to be purchased to park there (i.e. at a Gatehouse). This might be more manageable and feasible than implementing an in situ, on street paid parking system.

Closing of Seamans car park (options)

- Supported. Council should consider closing. This would allow for disabled parking only.
- Council's proposal to push back the car park area further from the beach and create a car free area between the beach access and toilet block was supported. This would provide separation between vehicles and people queuing for toilets.

Line marking (particularly yellow around corners and curves)

- Supported – if part of Shoalhaven-wide system. It was explained that there already is such a system.

Signage (additional / temporary or permanent)

- Questions raised:
 - Would signage make a difference?
 - Do visitors take any notice of the current signage?
 - Will more signage help? Many don't look at the flashing VMB as it is!

Campaign and actions around illegal camping

- Tourism brochure could be developed to explain many points of concern to Council and the community – i.e., illegal camping – where you can, where you can't, facility and their location, the one-way traffic system, etc.
- Need more compliance – issue more fines.

Group 3 – notes taken by Building and Compliance Manager, Colin Wood:

Members of the Group:

- Colin Wood (Council),
- Councillor John Levett,
- Councillor Amanda Findley,
- Dean Hargreaves (building owner),
- Brad Davis (Council) and
- Ken Renwick (resident).

Permanent one way:

- It was an improvement.
- The signs should be permanent. As there are only around 20 permanent resident sites, the residents will get used to it.

Showers and toilets:

- Extend toilets at Seamans Beach carpark (4 unisex).
- Provide new toilets in the park off Cyrus Street (4 unisex).
- Delete the toilets at Little Hyams because they are old and need too much work to upgrade them.
- Showers outside of both toilet blocks.

Paid parking:

- Group not in favour of paid parking.
- Suggest ticketed parking that allows for 4 hours only. Once expired, they need to leave Hyams Beach. This will support the turnover of vehicles. This will apply to all people with no concession given to residents or guests staying at rental properties.
- This arrangement can be switched on or off depending on the peak periods. For example, it operates for the 6 weeks of Christmas, Easter and long weekends. It could be turned off during the week and during the winter.

Closing Seamans car park:

- Agree with closure after a certain time. This could also be dealt with by signage indicating that the car park cannot be used after a certain time.
- Make all the spaces accessible and provide for a set-down area to let people out (e.g. parents with young children, the elderly or those with a temporary disability or injury).

Line marking pavement:

- Line marking the corners with yellow paint will certainly assist the Rangers in delineating the 10-metre clearance to the corner. Kerb and guttering is needed.
- Perhaps put lines on the roadway to delineate driveways to be kept clear.
- Do not want lines everywhere.

Signage:

- Like the idea of permanent signs for one-way traffic.
- Like the idea of signs to advise people on the parking.
- Supportive of the VMS signs.
- Did not want the town over ridden by signs.

Illegal camping:

- Keep pursuing this via Rangers and NPWS.
- Would like to consider giving residents authority to issue penalties.

Shuttle bus:

- Consider a trial of the shuttle bus to see how it goes. Report back to next meeting.

Car parking:

- Seek out alternatives and report back.

Group 4 – notes taken by Tourism Manager, Coralie Bell**Members of the Group:**

- Councillor Jo Gash
- Councillor Patricia White
- Community member

- Morgan Sant (joined later)
- Coralie Bell - Tourism Manager

Permanent one-way traffic:

- One way, preferably 6 months on and off, sleeve in the ground for bollards, like seen in New Zealand.
- Footpath, asap, community led.

Additional showers and toilets:

- Showers bigger issue than toilets, showers should be attached. Same as Moona Moona Creek. Disabled toilet is essential.

Paid parking options:

- Proportional is needed, buses included as close as you can get to the three entrances, maybe not Chinamans because it's not as heavily used. 15-30 min parking.
- All year round.
- All village.
- Residents get 2 permits?
- 3-4 hours shared fairly then changed.
- Kiama and Wollongong have same model, 9pm and 5am.
- All residents have cars - have parking for 2-3 spots

Campaign and actions around illegal camping:

- Overnight camping could be simply solved by no overnight parking in the dark.

Line marking (particularly yellow around corners and curves):

- Yellow line, on all corners.
- Dashed yellow lines for overnight camping, high fines allowed, this would solve camping issues.

Closing of Seamans car park (options):

- Disabled only, need to say on the sign \$\$\$ fine amount is \$\$\$ closed. But needs better clearer signage.
- Space for toilets ok.

Signage (additional / temporary or permanent):

- Signage, yellow markers on the ground will mean you can remove signage.
- Remove lots of signs.
- Removable signs with sleeves.
- Can we have digital signs on the highway from JB turn off to say Hyams beach closed, like Sutherland where it says National park is full.

Hyams Beach Boat Ramp:

- Closing of little Hyams boat ramp, permanent but gated.
- Remove no stopping signs.

Shuttle option:

- Buses - left turn at Booderee and drop off just to the left of the T. Needs a good drop off/pick up. One way has full time advantage.
- Where to park is ongoing, can we take road reserve back from NP on Booderee?
- General feeling there should be parking at the top and shuttle down.
- Parking marked on map (old tip site and gravel bits section).
- Drop off points are great.

Campaign and actions around illegal camping:

- Campaign - online and hard copy info - these are beaches and this is where you can park - this didn't go too far really.

c) Presentation by HBVA

At 4.15pm, Morgan Sant, President of HBVA gave a presentation (see handout).

Jessica Rippon then proposed that a small working group be formed to move the subject matter forward. Jessica to send an email to stakeholders inviting nominations to be part of the working group.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm.