

HYAMS BEACH WORKING GROUP
Notes from Workshop
5 June 2018

The first meeting of the Working Group, established by Council as the ongoing group to address future strategy, and to bring forward, for consultation and consideration, options and proposals for dealing with high visitor pressures on Hyams Beach, was held on 5 June 2018. Lois Sparkes has prepared a summary of that meeting (thanks Lois) below for information.

PRESENT

Amanda Findlay - Mayor
Russ Pigg – General Manager
Jessica Rippon (Chair)
Daniel Dunstan – Transport Engineer
Dean Hargraves – Community Rep
Craig McIntosh – Community Rep
Chris Allison – Community Rep
Morgan Sant - Community Rep
Lois Sparkes - Community Rep

1. The meeting was a follow up from the series of stakeholder meetings that had been convened by Council. At the last stakeholder meeting it was agreed that a smaller working group would be formed to progress the issues. The meeting was called to discuss:
 - The contents of the report to Council that will be presented to the Strategy and Assets Committee on 12 June 2018
 - Traffic matters and process to be followed
 - Project updates
 - Resourcing and expectations.
2. The meeting discussed a way forward that would address some of the issues impacting on the amenity of the village in the short term. It was noted that some action was needed to ensure solutions were in place to deal with the commencement of the next “summer” season.
3. Council noted that they were looking for solutions that would not involve lots of manpower and resourcing on a stop gap and ongoing basis. Council was looking for cost efficient solutions within tight budget conditions.
4. All Hyams Beach representatives stressed the need to look at any solutions in a longer term context and stressed the need for some long term strategic planning and a masterplan for Hyams Beach. It was recognised that many of the issues impacting on Hyams were common to other areas in the Shoalhaven.
5. Council sought input on two “projects” that they had been working on:
 - . Traffic management;
 - . Seaman’s Beach carpark.

Traffic Management

6. Hyams Beach representatives present acknowledged the volume of traffic - noting that
 - this was not a peak period when compared to Xmas;
 - there were nearly as many vehicular movements for Hyams Beach as there were for Booderee National Park;
 - the traffic data provided does not capture the fact that there are significant influx of cars prior to 10am;
 - there is significant vehicular movement late at night not presented in the data.
7. Hyams Beach representatives made a further request for the full traffic data for the period before and after Easter and for the full 24 hour period. Council noted that there was a resourcing issue in extracting the data and to do so would divert staff from more pressing priorities.
8. The discussion then moved to how to manage the volume of traffic. The Council preference is for the introduction of a permanent one-way flow system as per the Easter trial. Hyams Beach representatives present noted that there were a range of views on this in the village and strongly indicated that they were not in a position to endorse this. ***Rather Hyams Beach representatives stressed the need for consultation with all Hyams Beach ratepayers. A commitment to do this was provided by Council.***
9. It was noted that a one-way system was a short-term solution and would not in and of itself solve all the congestion, access or safety issues. Further, HB representatives noted that it would be short sighted to implement a one-way flow if other solutions, albeit longer term, could be found to address the problem.
10. It was agreed that the community should be consulted on a concept plan that would include a package of measures. In general, the Council had already initiated some consultation or received feedback, on some of the measures to be included in the proposed package. The package that was discussed included the following:
 - permanent one-way flow for the northern end of the village - along the lines of the Easter Trial;
 - drop off zones - as per the Easter Trial;
 - yellow line marking;
 - pathway along Cyrus between Anemone and Aster Streets; and
 - extension of fence at the far end of Cyrus - about 12 feet need to ensure there is protection from the cliff eroding at the northern end near existing temporary shade cloth.
11. There was a general view that the bulk of the above matters might be progressed for next summer.
12. Other matters to be included in the concept plan are the upgrade of toilet facilities and beach access points.

Seaman's Beach Carpark

13. The discussion on this was somewhat confusing. The Council proposed that 8 spaces be provided for disabled parking. However, they also noted some concerns around significant planning that had proceeded to make Plantation Point the access point for persons with a disability. It was also noted that as Council planned to build a toilet facility to meet the needs of persons with a disability in the Cyrus Street reserve, it was questioned whether all of Seaman's Beach carpark should be devoted to disabled parking spots.

14. After much discussion, there emerged a position that was a mixed use carpark with some provision for disabled parking, time limited parking during the day and no parking between 9pm and 6am.

Other Matters

15. There was general support for closure of the road to Little Hyams Beach. There was some discussion around need for access for emergency vehicles and other users such as people with a disability and dive schools. General support for closure during the October to April period. Similarly, it was noted that Council had agreed to the purchase of new VMS and these should be located in strategic locations to inform visitors of the traffic situation at Hyams Beach. Improved and larger signage, for example, about no camping and overnight stays was also noted as being required

Budget

16. Council noted that there were budget constraints but there were some positive indications that money could be found to support the package. Any changes to traffic management would need to be endorsed by the Traffic Committee and go to the full Council for endorsement. The footpath may be included in the curb and footpath line items for 2019/20 Budget.
17. Hyams Beach representatives noted the need to source funding from external sources such as the Tourism funding from the NSW Government. Ms Findlay noted that they were exploring this and were looking for “shovel ready” projects. There was general agreement that this source of funding might support tourism infrastructure projects.

Conclusion

18. Ms Rippon will prepare a report for Council will summarise the outcomes of the Easter Trial and discussions with stakeholders. That report will note a three stage process;
- a. In the short term the need to focus on regulating traffic (vehicular and pedestrian and associated amenities) in the village;
 - b. Longer term solutions (such as overflow parking, paid parking, park and ride etc) will be addressed at a later stage.
 - c. Major infrastructure upgrades to be part of broader funding package and consultation with other areas.
19. The report to Council will focus on (a.) short term measures and will include the items noted at paragraphs 10 and 14 above. ***Hyams Beach representatives noted that in general they supported the process but were not in a position to endorse the specific measures, stressing that Council should undertake consultation with all of the community. Ms Rippon assured representatives that this would be reflected in the report.***
20. The report would include an indicated budget and a staging of works.
21. It was agreed that any documents presented for community consultation should provide an overview of the full traffic management and amenity upgrades, supported by maps and costings and indicative timing.