
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Long Reef boardwalk and bridge replacement

Consultation period: 5 April to 12 May 2024

Contents

1.	Summary.....	2
1.1.	Key outcomes	3
1.2.	How we engaged	4
1.3.	Who responded.....	4
2.	Background.....	5
3.	Engagement objectives	5
4.	Engagement approach	6
4.1.	Reaching diverse audiences	6
5.	Findings	7
1.	Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses.....	10
	Comments received via Your Say form.....	10
	Comments received via email	25

1. Summary




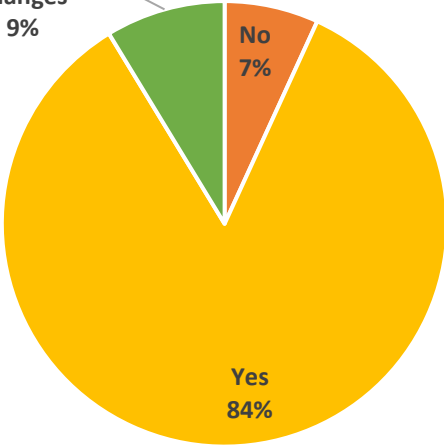

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of the exhibition of the proposed Long Reef boardwalk and bridge replacement conducted between 5 April to 12 May 2024.

The feedback received during consultation indicated a high level of support for the proposal to replace the boardwalk and bridge, relocating it slightly further away from the coast to minimise the impacts of storm surges. The majority (84 percent) of respondents supported the plan outright and feedback said the plan was sensible and proactive.

While the proposed upgrade was warmly welcomed by the community, many respondents commented that walker safety needs to be considered. Some community members said that the materials used need to blend into and be sympathetic to the environment.






Those who did not support the proposal said they would prefer to rebuild the boardwalk and bridge at its current location and others mentioned they wanted to retain northern beach access. Suggested changes included formalising pathways between the boardwalk and Long Reef Surf Club which is not within scope of this project.

1.1. Key outcomes

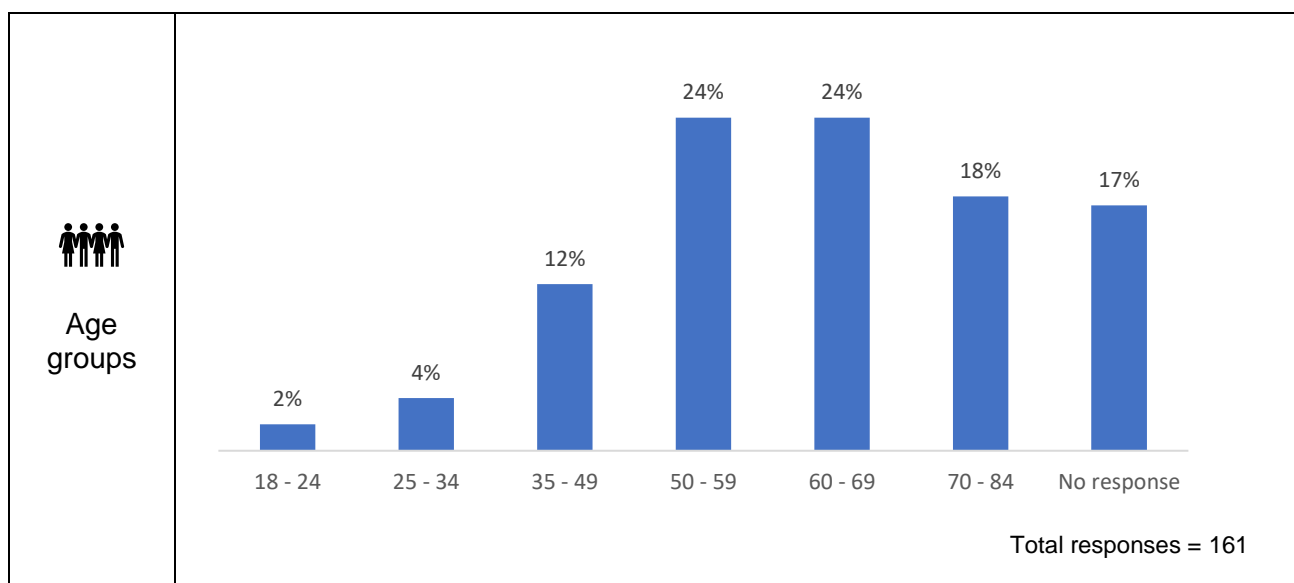
 <p>Total unique responses</p>	<p>162*</p>	
 <p>How responses were received</p>	<p>Your Say – Survey Written responses (email)</p>	<p>Completions: 161 Number received: 1¹</p>
 <p>Online sentiment question: Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge?</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Yes 84%</p> <p>Yes, with changes 9%</p> <p>No 7%</p> <p>Total responses = 161</p> </div>	
 <p>Feedback themes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety concerns • Keep current location • Material choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalising pathways between boardwalk and Long Reef Surf Club • Retain beach access

¹¹ individual submitted a written response in addition to making a Your Say survey submission.

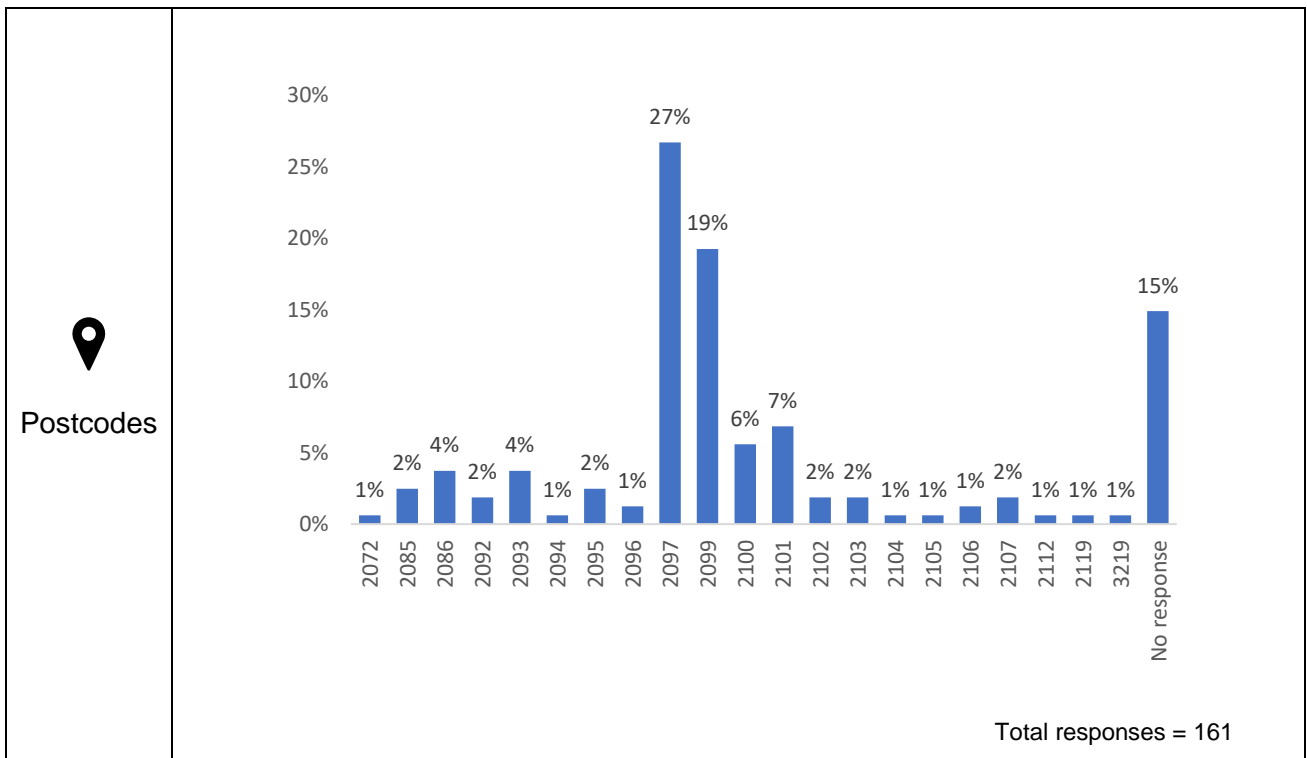
1.2. How we engaged

 Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 2,066	Visits: 2,608	Average time onsite: 2mins 9secs
 Print media and collateral	Letterbox drop: 2097 Site signs used: 5		Distribution: 65
 Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2 editions Council (weekly) e-News: 1 edition		Distribution: 23,000 Distribution: 61,500
 Face-to-face sessions	Pop-up event: 1		Approx. 56 attendees
 Key stakeholder engagement	Long Reef Golf Club Collaroy Tennis Club Long Reef Surf Life Saving Club Collaroy Rugby Club		Distribution: 1 Distribution: 1 Distribution: 1 Distribution: 1

1.3. Who responded²



² Demographic data was gathered by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail. No demographic data was captured for respondents who contributed feedback in writing.



2. Background

Long Reef Headland is a very popular coastal walk used all year round by locals and visitors to the Northern Beaches. The highly utilised boardwalk and bridge section of the walk, located between Long Reef Golf Course and Long Reef Beach, has reached the end of its useful life. This section has been impacted by recent storms, resulting in coastal erosion and costly repairs.

We are planning to replace the boardwalk and bridge, relocating it slightly further away from the coast to minimise the impacts of storm surges on this section of the coastal walk.

An Options Report was prepared with the preferred option (Option 2) being selected. A Review of Environmental Factors has also been prepared based on Option 2. Not proceeding with this project could result in closing off this section of the Long Reef Headland walk. Relocation of the boardwalk results in minor changes to two greens and a pathway on Long Reef Golf Course. We have engaged with the Golf Club and they are supportive of the current option.

An Aboriginal Site had previously been recorded in the direct location of the proposed works. An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment has been undertaken and it has been determined that the Aboriginal Site has been destroyed by natural occurrences (storm surges).

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities
- provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way

- provide balanced and objective information to assist in understanding the problem, alternatives and/or solutions
- identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Long Reef boardwalk and bridge replacement project was conducted between 5 April and 12 May 2024, and consisted of a series of activities that provided opportunities for community and stakeholders to contribute.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's [Community Engagement Strategy](#) (2022).

A Your Say project page was established with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

Key stakeholders, resident groups, local residents and businesses received notification letters requesting feedback on the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge.

The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletter (EDM), media channels and signage at the location to reach those frequenting the area.

Feedback was captured through an online comment form embedded onto the Have Your Say project page. The form included a question that directly asked respondents for their level of support on the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge.

An onsite pop-up event was held on a Saturday morning where our project team was at the proposed location to gather feedback and to maximise community involvement.

We also invited comment through email and in writing.

4.1. Reaching diverse audiences

A thorough stakeholder mapping exercise was completed to identify and understand the needs of the whole community.

We encouraged community participation and sought feedback on the project through several other activities to attract all the potentially affected people including:

- information was provided on Council's Have Your Say project page
- a community pop-up event with the project team held on a Saturday morning
- letterbox drops to neighbouring residents and businesses
- displays of onsite notification signage
- Mayor's weekly e-news.

5. Findings

Table 1: Issues, change requests and other considerations

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Safety concerns	Some respondents were concerned that by moving the boardwalk closer to the golf course, it would increase the risk of golf ball strike	A new continuous and planted sand mound (dune) is proposed to be constructed between the new boardwalk and golf course. The new dune is approximately 2m higher than the proposed deck of the boardwalk. This will assist in reducing the risk of golf ball strike.
Keep current location	Some respondents suggested that the boardwalk and bridge should be rebuilt in the existing location	The options and feasibility report considered several options including renewing the boardwalk and bridge in its current location. This option was not considered to be viable, with the reasons for this noted on page 8, 9 & 10 of the feasibility and options report provided.
Formalising pathways between boardwalk and Long Reef Surf Club	Some respondents suggested that the existing gravel pathway between the existing boardwalk and Long Reef Surf Life Saving Club car park was not easy to navigate for people with reduced mobility	This is currently out of scope for this project; the available budget is not sufficient to carry out these works in addition to replacing the boardwalk and bridge.
Material choices	Some respondents suggested that the proposed materials were not in keeping with the location	The materials have been chosen for their durability and ability to make them visually sympathetic. The FRP decking has been selected as it allows good plant growth beneath the boardwalk, as sun filters through while allowing maximum water pressure escape in high storm surges. Council will work to have the boardwalk and bridge as visually sympathetic to the environment as possible while ensuring durability.

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Retain beach access	Some respondents did not support the removal of the northern beach access ramp	The northern beach access is highly exposed to coastal storm wave impacts. The southern beach access is better protected from storm direction and damage and is proposed to be rebuilt as part of this project.

Table 2: Questions raised and Council's answers

During the consultation period, Council received a number of questions either through direct contact or within feedback received.

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
Great solution but do we have a small height net between the tee and the pathway in case of stray golf balls?	A new continuous and planted sand mound (dune) is proposed to be constructed between the new boardwalk and golf course. The new dune is approximately 2m higher than the proposed deck of the boardwalk. This will assist in reducing the risk of golf ball strike.
I'm wondering if black netting along the walkway will be needed to protect walkers from stray golf balls coming from the west to easterly direction?	Council does not support the construction of a net in this location and have proposed the above solution to reduce the risk of golf ball strike.
I think this is a great idea and fully support the change however will there be any added risk from the golf course with stray golf balls?	
A sustainable option, assuming that no further erosion occurs. Is council satisfied that to be the case?	Coastal erosion will continue; however, the new boardwalk is proposed to be constructed at 5.5m AHD (Australian Height Datum) at its lowest point, where the current boardwalk is at approximately 3.6m AHD. This will significantly reduce the potential of the boardwalk being overtopped by waves.
My only question is - will further erosion mean the new boardwalk will need replacing again in a few years, or is it sufficiently inland and protected?	A 20-year ARI event has been used as the basis for the location of the boardwalk, along with the proposed structure having a design life of 25-30 years. Due consideration was given to the following when realigning the boardwalk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - available space between beach and golf course land - provision of a wider boardwalk and bridge in consideration of the volume of use - construction of a sand dune to protect users from errant golf strike.
How long will the walk be affected during relocation?	The boardwalk and bridge will remain open to the public during most of the works. There will be a period of 4-5 weeks where this section of the headland walk will be closed while the bridge is removed and replaced.

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
<p>Could you please tell me if the whole walk including the exit at the top of the headland will be Wheelchair and mobility scooter friendly?</p>	<p>Due to the natural elevations of the headland, the required levels cannot be achieved for the entire walk to be accessible for wheelchair use.</p> <p>Replacing the existing gravel path between Long Reef Surf Life Saving Club and the boardwalk with concrete is not within the scope of this project.</p>
<p>Could you also adjust signage regarding bikes. I am not sure if these are allowed? If not, it would be good to remind cyclists that ride and threaten walkers safety.</p>	<p>Signage will form part of this project.</p>

1. Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Comments received via Your Say form

Comment No.	Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge? Yes. That's great, can you tell us what you liked?
1	This will ensure the longevity of the boardwalk as there is less likelihood of damage due to coastal erosion
2	<p>Comment 1 (answered "Yes, with changes"): Where the new ramp up from the beach meets the walkway it needs to be a little wider so that pedestrians coming up the ramp have more room to blend in with people going up or down the board walk .Also before this intersection on the high side needs speed limiting obstacles as sometime bikes come down the hill very fast and this could be a location for an accident waiting to happen.</p> <p>Comment 2 (answered "Yes"): I have already made one submission about this project. Another thing I would like to say is: Many bike riders use this walkway some do not have bells on to warn pedestrians.I think putting speed humps would only make it look like a mountain bike track jumps and allWhat I would like to see at the bottom of the pathway are bollards before the boardwalk so that bike riders have to dissmount or go very slowly to get through them with obstacles either side so that they cannot ride around them. Of course you would still need to provide safe thoroughfare for push chairs, wheel chairs and pedestrians.</p> <p>You would still need to provde safe thoroughfare for push chairs and wheelchairs and pedestrians.</p>
3	Agree, the current boardwalk needs replacing further away from the beach edge.
4	Moving it will ensure it will not be damaged in storms and keep it open all year round. Great initiative
5	<p>Just need to ensure there is no high dropoff to the sand at the Long Reef Beach end of the walkway as there is currently at times.</p> <p>Also, there needs to be signage along the walkway reminding dog owners about the prohibition of off-leash dogs or in fact, dogs at all given the owners continued ignoring the rules and allowing their off-leash dogs to run in the undergrowth and onto the beach and rock shelf.</p>
6	It's an improvement and well needed.
7	Looks great and much needed.
8	Please be sure to pay attention to walkers safety from golf balls. I think someone has to die before some form of fence protection is installed. Its not pleasant when they tee off ans scream "four" and you have no clue where the ball is!
9	It makes good environmental sense, as does the accompanying remediation work. Thank you
10	The new bridge and board walk are higher snd further from wave impacts. The dunes will be protected. Thank you to the golf course fir their flexibility in moving the 2 tees closest to the new board walk. Happy that the current biatdwslk can be used while the new one is under construction.
11	Moving the bridge will ensure walkers can access the coastal walk even after storm surges. Great idea. This is a good long term plan to keep the coastal walk open.

*Personal details and inappropriate language have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.

Comment No.	Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge? Yes. That's great, can you tell us what you liked?
12	Good that there is still a way on to the beach. Now fix the rest of the path so there are not so many rocks creating trip hazards
13	It's great to have walking tracks to inspire people to exercise. I would like this walking trail to extend to Dee Why so we have a long coastal walk of our beaches. Further a walking and bike trail around Dee Why Lagoon like Curl Curl lagoon and Narrabeen Lake would be terrific!
14	It's a good long term solution.
15	The boardwalk is a valuable local asset, used by many local residents
16	Anything that can maintain a wonderful community exercise location while maintaining safety is a must. Bravo for fixing this now before someone is injured or worse.
17	All possible impacts of relocation have been considered. Very grateful that walk will remain open
18	Great walk and current location is nit sustainable.
19	Great solution but do we have a small height net between the tee and the pathway in case of stray golf balls?
20	As long as I have access to the beach I agree to do what is necessary.
21	While the proposed alterations will have some moderate effect on the existing dune structure the existing arrangement also had impacts on it. The proposal pays due regard to the dune structure. I use this path everyday and this part of it has been destroyed by weather, tide and wave action on two separate occasions when we've experienced East Coast low pressure systems and has meant all sorts of unhelpful deviations across the golf course and the beach. This is a welcome change that hopefully provides a longer term solution than the existing arrangement. Maintaining the off-shoot to provide direct access from the path to the beach is also appreciated.
22	The ability to continue to walk along the edge of the sea while not impacting the area too much.
23	Will be safer for walkers along coast.
24	Good design , still goes over the beach
25	Any alternative that will reduce closure of the wall after storm events and minimize impacts to the dune system is welcome. Hopefully the works when undertaken will not result in significant closure times of this popular walk. In the past despite council closing this section of the walk for repair, many people climb around fencing and continue to walk through this area. This needs to be considered during the works period.
26	will allow a very popular coastal walk to continue.
27	Design looks good and more resilient than what is currently there.
28	I'm a runner (and walker) and use this path regular basis. Whilst the cost of installing the revise path might be slightly higher that a quick fix of the old path, there should be a long term benefit of not having to constantly repair the old wooden structure. Great Initiative.
29	Great idea - thank you It would be enhanced with some artworks from local artists plus some heritage / environmental signage. Bigger picture - it should connect with a walkway around the Dee Why Lagoon.
30	Looks like it makes sense
31	Less likely to need closure once complete.
32	Minimal impact to golf course and more protection for bridge. Great walk and always busy so well used by many.

Comment No.	Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge? Yes. That's great, can you tell us what you liked?
33	The plan is just sensible in that it should greatly reduce maintenance costs & I don't believe it will adversely affect anyone. It is great that Council has given the public a chance to have their say. For me the idea is a no-brainer. Go ahead with the plan!
34	Moving it will prevent this section from being closed off entirely
35	As a regular walker of the Long Reef headland and walkway over decades, moving it away from the slowly eroding coastal edge makes good sense.
36	Beach access retained, new ramp to beach. More storm resilience.
37	That the path will be at less risk of damage from the ocean. The path will allow users to walk along the walking trail with the risk of injury from damaged parts or issues from the boardwalk.
38	The relocation will ensure the walk way is maintained for the future
39	I would like to see the material used to blend in with the environment and not just metal walkways . The current boardwalk is beautiful and fits in with nature.
40	Good proposal in principle. The choice of durable materials for the boardwalk and handrails should be environmentally sustainable and sympathetic to the visually sensitive location. The boardwalk is also frequently used by a friend who is blind so should have tactile indicators and any signage have braille included.
41	Close to the original
42	Just keeping the walking track open for everyone to safely use is great.
43	No walking onto the beach and its a straight walk for the elderly instead of doing the beach trek ...easy on everyone!
44	Minimal change proposed to track
45	Vital for community health and well being.
46	This is a very popular walk and to close it would be a great loss. The remediation work appears to be sympathetic to the environment and to the golf Course. It would enhance safety and minimise damage. It is good to see detailed plans. Thanks
47	Sensible solution
48	Just a good idea
49	Like that it is still close to the coastline and is wider and also that native vegetation will be placed ther
50	We use and value all our coastal walks and hate to loose any of them.
51	It's great the Council is replacing this important walkway and taking it back away from the beach will significantly reduce the bridge's risk profile and hopefully ongoing maintenance.
52	The boardwalk has been repaired several times and this should prove a long term solution
53	I walk this track twice a day and i have often thought that it would be best to move it to the location you have proposed. I have one concern that the people who use the path maybe closer to the course with more chance of being hit by a wayward golf ball. I have been hit twice by wayward balls from the 13th tee. I have also had numerous close calls walking near the 17th fairway. It would be great if you could a high fence was installed between the 13th fairway and the public path.
54	I like that it protects access to the beach, while moving the infrastructure further inland .
55	Continuity of walkway without the need to go onto the beach.

Comment No.	Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge? Yes. That's great, can you tell us what you liked?
56	We need the boardwalk open so people can walk. If this doesnt go through you'll close it down so people cant walk. So we need this. Please extend the boardwalk all way to Dee Why across lagoon.
57	Eminently sensible proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge further away from potential inundation and to use more effective materials. The proposal would have been more acceptable if actual comparative cost estimates had been provided. It's also encouraging to see that the proposal is to continue the existing Coastal Walk rather than making an attempt to introduce a Shared Path.
58	Continued use of the track in a more resilient location.
59	like the plan
60	The design doesn't move the boardwalk too far from the current position, doesn't demonstratively impact the golf course and if the design is successfully implemented should save rate payers money in ongoing storm surge repair costs.
61	The proposal keeps it similar to the existing walk. I would like to know what the plan is for future protection against erosion along the cliff.
62	It's a great and frequented walk and would be ashamed to close this beautiful section
63	It's a very good idea, great foresight and we keep a brilliant walk that covers a fantastic coastline. It's good to hear the golf club has agreed to the plan so far. I'm wondering if black netting along the walkway will be needed to protect walkers from stray golf balls coming from the west to easterly direction?
64	This definitely needs to be done, however it does not need to be elaborate and should blend into the landscape as this is such a beautiful area of the coast.
65	I support having a bridge and board walk along this section. Whilst I do not think it is the best solution and an engineered boardwalk could be built in the original location, obviously the cost of a perfect solution has been eliminated due to the excessive cost and a compromised cheaper solution has been selected. Regardless of the solution selected it will still require maintenance repairs periodically.
66	Good plan to minimise the sea impact on the very popular walking trail.
67	I regularly walk our dogs around the golf course and would not like to see part of it closed.
68	Away from the beach, with less chance of damage and closer due to big surf.
69	Needs to be done. Moving the bridge and boardwalk to a better protected area is sensible.
70	I think Option 2, the relocation of the bridge and boardwalk is a permanent solution to the problems that have destroyed the walkway twice (?) in recent times. Rebuilding in the same location defies logic, given those experiences. The fact that there are safety improvements and access improvements are added benefits.
71	To keep the access to the headland is an asset for the northern beaches. The design is low profile and fits with he coastal surroundings. Pleasing to read that the golf club is supportive. Perhaps some information board to acknowledge the indigenous habitation at the relocated site with reference to it being washed away by natural causes.
72	More secure and durable footpath.
73	Location of new board walk, Great initiative by council. This has been a long time coming. I use this location daily. PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT PEOPLE WITH DOGS USING THE BEACH TO EXCERCISE THEIR MUTTS OFF LEASH
74	A wider and more foot friendly path

Comment No.	Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge? Yes. That's great, can you tell us what you liked?
75	As a local I notice the storm surges and coastal erosion. The walk seems to be getting more popular. I do have concerns about the number of dogs going into the marine reserve and would like to see more signage deterring this.
76	It is practical and will prevent a recurring need for repairs due to storm surges.
77	That it is far enough away from the surging waters to be safe and not be washed away.
78	Seems sensible idea to minimise re-work from storms
79	I think this is a great idea and fully support the change however will there be any added risk from the golf course with stray golf balls?
80	Existing walkway keeps getting damaged in storm conditions. Council should also review the stormwater drainage to a section of the concrete walkway as you are leaving the dog park, heading towards Long Reef. After a storm, dirt and sand are washed over the pathway making it difficult to pass through this section of the walk.
81	Option 2 is a sensible compromise that has minimum impact on the golf course while allowing pedestrian traffic to continue safely
82	It's a commonsense solution. Too costly to keep getting it repaired after each huge storm.
83	It is clear that the current boardwalk will not last without ongoing expensive repairs. As a result, I support the repositioning of both structures.
84	I think its a great idea.
85	Great long-term solution, not a quick fix. Thankyou - this walk is so important to many people.
86	Save the constant repairs from large swell and storms . More stability as the bridge at times has become dangerous. This is an important walk for many people and great mental health relief . It should also connect with Dee why beach with an elevated bridge walk around Dy lagoon !
87	This is a walk I have done often over many years. The history of repeated damage by storm surges shows repairs are a waste of money. The move & rebuild a short distance away from the beach will keep this very popular walk open for the tourists, locals, families, people with dogs etc who come every day.
88	Gives protection against possible future storm damage.
89	Beach erosion is always going to be an issue. Moving the walkway slightly inland reduce costs in the long run by not have to make repairs every time there is a storm. This also appears to have a minimal impact on the golf course, so a win win situation.
90	Seems like a good plan. I can't see any major issues with it. It would be great if the entire loop was passable easily with a pram. But I understand that is out of scope for this project.
91	We have been walking the headland for over 30 years, closing it down would be terrible. We like the positive attitude to find a solution and option 2 appears to keep the walkway as similar as possible to the current walkway, close to the ocean and giving the golfers some space. Well done
92	Keeping the walk open. It provides a great walk that encourages people to get out and exercise.
93	A sustainable option, assuming that no further erosion occurs. Is council satisfied that to be the case?
94	It will retain safe access through this area.
95	Money well spent. A good proposal to ensure the walkway is safe and doesn't need fixing each time there's a storm swell.
96	The path not affected by wild weather and will not have to be constantly fixed or upgraded
97	That the walkway will still be available. This is a much frequented walk for dog owners and is a very picturesque walk. Moving it slightly will not impact its appeal as a link between Long Reef and Dee Why Beach.

Comment No.	Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge? Yes. That's great, can you tell us what you liked?
98	It's common sense. How long will the walk be affected during relocation??
99	Reduces the recurring incidence of damage to the bridge.
100	keeps the coastal walk possible and moves the bridge away from the surf to reduce future damage
101	Future proof connectivity
102	The proposal seems like it is a good solution for that area.
103	The use of FRP for the boardwalk. Realignment of the public walkway further north (into the golf course land). The southern edge of Long Reef will be eroding forever with prevailing weather and its exposure - so having a 'retreat plan' for the walkway is essential.
104	Maintaining walk but improving environmental effects.
105	This is a great proposal. Like many locals I walk this pathway also every day. It provides a great relaxing activity for many locals, as well as good social engagement. It also needs correction works, as major storms regularly cause damage to a part of the walkway. Regards
106	It will greatly improve walkway not being damaged by severe weather conditions
107	Could you please tell me if the whole walk including the exit at the top of the headland will be Wheelchair and mobility scooter friendly?
108	Seems logical. Climate change is increasing erosion here, and the substrate is friable and can't be protected. My only question is - will further erosion mean the new boardwalk will need replacing again in a few years, or is it sufficiently inland and protected?
109	Safer walkway
110	We would walk Long Reef twice a week with our dogs. The plan looks fine and safety first is excellent. As long as everyone can walk around the loop. Could you also adjust signage regarding bikes. I am not sure if these are allowed? If not it would be good to remind cyclists that ride and threaten walkers safety.
111	Happy with the slight path adjustment
112	It looks toward long term use of facility and not subject to storm surgesd
113	Hopefully sturdier
114	I prefer the look of plan 1 and the beach access and rehabilitation, however if the studies have been done then option 2 seems ok. Looks like less work on the course and overall for option 1.
115	I don't want the walkway closed
116	The old bridge is getting rather decrepid and old.
117	It seems necessary as the boardwalk has been damaged on a few occasions recently due to higher seas and storm events
118	The proposed location solves the contest with the sea. As the Golf Club is amenable to the course adjustment safety status is retained. However a risk assessment should be carried out. My suggestion is that the new bridge is built out of sustainable materials other than timber as the moisture laden environment doesn't assist with prolonged asset life.
119	No further comment provided
120	Sensible solution

Comment No.	Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge? Yes. That's great, can you tell us what you liked?
121	Safer for walkers with overall minimal impact to all involved.
122	Moving the boardwalk further away from the coast so it remains open
123	A minor relocation to minimise future storm damage is sensible.
124	Its important to keep the access open
125	The width of the new bridge being 2mt is going to make it much easier to use as the current bridge is quite narrow & does not allow walkers/runners to pass safely.
126	The new path will continue to provide safe passage for coastal walkers.
127	Better for the land
128	No brainer - needs doing - in fact long overdue.
129	Maintaining access from beach to boardwalk
130	You can't beat nature. Foreshore will still erode over time. Views of the ocean while walking will still be received. We walk it regularly (bi- weekly)
131	It's just sensible. Well done.
132	This proposal is important because it will keep this section of the coastal walk open.
133	It is a practical solution thus ensuring golfers and walkers are able to access this walkway. The Golf Club supports and no heritage sites exist.
134	Makes sense to relocate and head off future damage/repairs and closures. Great to keep this wonderful walk in place.
135	It makes sense. I'm sure you have received good design advice on where the path should go and how it is constructed. The solution seems straightforward. Definitely a wooden path.
136	Looks good

Comment No.	Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge? Yes, with changes. What changes would you like to see?
137	As a frequent user of this path I am keen to see the coastal trail maintained and upgraded. However, we are currently quite worried each time we use the section directly adjacent to the golf course, as we often have had to run along or protect our children from golf balls. If the path is relocated closer to the golf course this risk and associated liability will increase. I would suggest the plans be modified to include either protective screening, or fast growing screening trees.
138	Even more effort to future proof, with greater efforts to protect biodiversity and minimise impact on nature
139	I'd like to see the Aboriginal heritage of the site reflected by a sculpture or artistic interpretation similar to the wonderful Signal Fire sculpture on Freshwater Headland on or near the new bridge. Something that explains the ecology and abundance of sea food and the traditional owners connection, respect and care for Sea Country. Using traditional language would also be important.

Comment No.	Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge? Yes, with changes. What changes would you like to see?
140	<p>The beach access should not start in the creek that the bridge goes over. After rain, this creek can become difficult and dangerous to walk into, particularly for infants.</p> <p>The beach access should start on the southern side of the creek in a place where it is dry after heavy rain. It should not cut into the sand dunes but should be stairs above the dunes.</p> <p>For the path through the golf course, walking on it is currently dangerous because golf balls could hit pedestrians. If the path is to move further into the golf course, the danger will increase. This danger can be mitigated by putting in higher and denser vegetation especially in a direct line between golf tees and pedestrians' heads. In other words, it will be safest if pedestrians cannot see golf tees from the path (balls cannot directly hit pedestrians).</p>
141	<p>On behalf of the Board of Directors and its collective 5066 Long Reef Golf Club Members, please find attached our letter of reply regarding feedback of the Long Reef boardwalk & bridge replacement.</p>

Comment
No.

Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge?
Yes, with changes.
What changes would you like to see?



LONG REEF GOLF CLUB LTD

10 May 2024

Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 82
Manly NSW 1655

Attention:

Park Assets - Planning, Design & Delivery

Email:

council@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au
@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Subject:

Long Reef Boardwalk & Bridge Replacement

Dear

We thank you for your email dated 5 April 2024 regarding the realignment of the existing boardwalk and bridge located between Long Reef Beach and Long Reef Golf Course.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and its collective 5066 Members, we support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge further away from the coastline to minimise the impacts of storm surges per option 2 but raise concern of course disruption and if consideration has been given to the long-term safety of the Golf Course and all walking path locations.

The Board has reviewed the feasibility report as prepared by landscape architect consultants Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd (TBLD) noting their primary objectives to be as follows: -

1. Outline issues and opportunities (environment, recreational experience, public safety, materials, constructability, etc.) of the proposed Long Reef boardwalk & bridge; and
2. Determine a feasible trail alignment, concept, and construction methodology to guide Concept Design.

It further notes within section 3.1.1 'Golf Ball Strike Risk', that there is no fence or barrier between the golf tees and existing boardwalk, with a resultant potential risk of walkers being hit by stray golf balls.

The Club has been a major supporter of the Sargood Foundation and was the second Golf Club in Australia to become a 100% disabled friendly facility, providing a fully accessible golf course for golfers in wheelchairs including access to the Paragolfer vehicle.

Council's commitment to making the Collaroy precinct 100% wheelchair accessible has had a positive impact on the local community and presented new opportunities for visitors of Sargood, that are a given to the everyday abled body person. However, the popular Bicentennial Coastal Walk around Long Reef Headland does not provide wheelchair users the ability to complete the full loop. They are impeded by three stairs at the Headland lookout and then a 300 metre gravel track running parallel to the Club's iconic 17th hole.

We therefore request Council to consider on behalf of the wider community a long-term solution that further compliments the proposed works and realign the existing restricted wheelchair accessible gravel path from the southern end of the proposed new works via a newly constructed fibreglass reinforced polymer (FRP) boardwalk providing a safer route for all abilities, cyclists, joggers, and walkers while protecting the dune and shoreline biodiversity.

Comment No.

**Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge?
Yes, with changes.
What changes would you like to see?**

An example of the proposed location may be found in Image 01 below.

The benefits of this boardwalk are:

- Provides a consistent grade of all abilities, prams and wheelchair accessibility.
- Resolves safety hazards involving golf ball strikes.
- Provides protection and revegetation of adjacent dune areas.
- Provides a much better experience and vistas being well removed from the golf course boundary.
- Provides direct access to Long Reef Surf Club, its new facilities and additional parking.
- Provides additional dual pedestrian access links to Long Reef Beach.
- Preserves any remnants of Aboriginal middens.

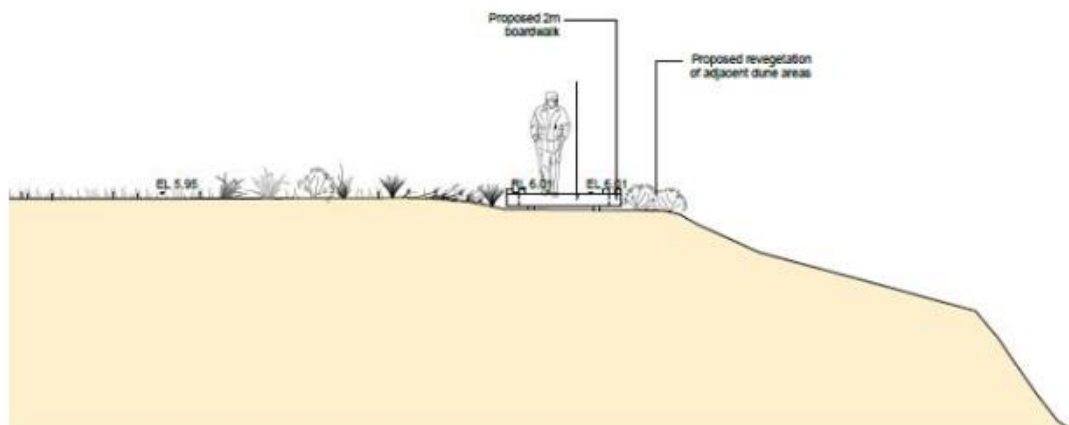
Image 01:

Proposed location of newly constructed fibreglass reinforced polymer (FRP) boardwalk



Image 02:

Example of new boardwalk through dunes to Long Reef Surf Club (Image c/o TBLD)



Comment No.

**Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge?
Yes, with changes.
What changes would you like to see?**

The 2022 Northern Beaches Council Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan considers the changing community demographics, best practice guidelines and trends and benefits that are unique to the Northern Beaches as well as those documented in relevant literature.

Some of the key trends that are consistent with the strategy and action plan that support our boardwalk extension include:

- Providing a network of interconnected spaces.
- Supporting healthy living and mental and physical wellbeing.
- Multipurpose and flexible spaces and facilities.
- Consideration of quality and amenity in design, maintenance, and management (e.g. look and feel).
- Realising the full potential of existing open spaces.

Northern Beaches Council is familiar with the proposed boardwalk extension and studies that have been developed and adopted for the Curl Curl headland boardwalk along with several stages of the Aquatic Narrabeen Lagoon trail.

The proposed design of the boardwalk is elegant yet economical as detailed from previous builders 'Fleetwood Urban' of these assets.

As seen in images 03 and 04 below, the extension to Long Reef Surf Club has the ability to seamlessly integrate and provide an overall complete long term sustainable solution.

As provided by Fleetwood Urban, key design features are as follows: -

- Structural design protects ecologically sensitive areas.
- Sections are pre-assembled for fast installation.
- Durable and highly customisable.
- Minimal excavation required for installation.
- Low ongoing maintenance.

Image 03:

Example Wheelchair Accessible Fibreglass Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Boardwalk.



Comment No.

**Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge?
Yes, with changes.
What changes would you like to see?**

Image 04:

Fibreglass Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Boardwalk. (c/o Northern Beaches Council)

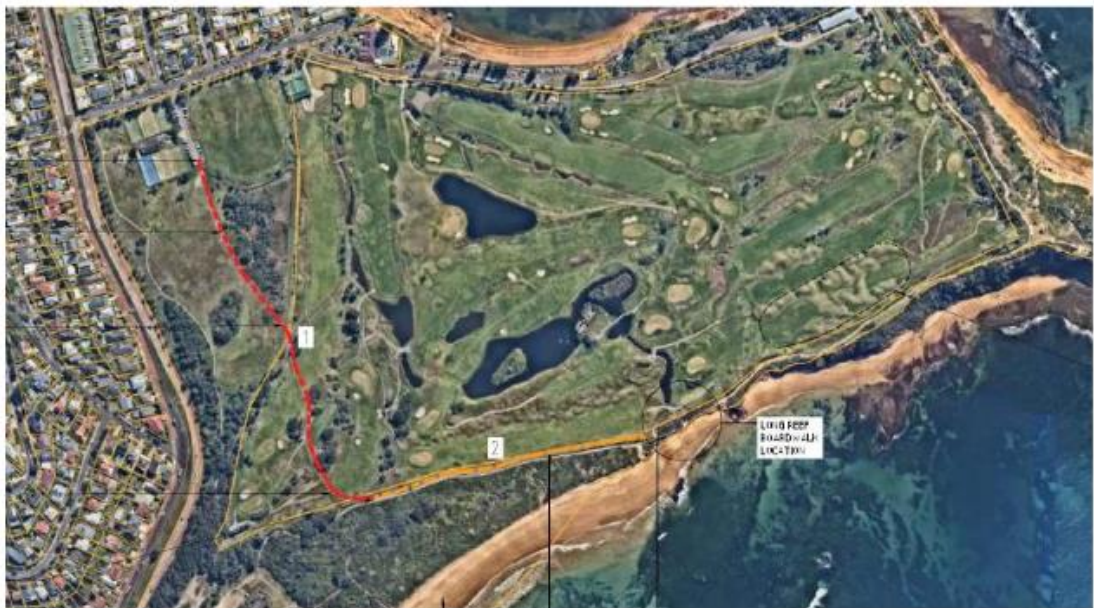


With reference to Councils preferred option 2 for the Long Reef Boardwalk & Bridge Replacement and its vehicle access plan, we seek the following clarification and impact on our Members and overall disruption to the Course.

- Impact of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd fairway for the heavy vehicle truck access (see image 05 below) and its required period of closure during truck movements.
- Can contractors use a temporary created access alongside the timber boardwalk from Long Reef Surf Club leading onto existing gravel path to eliminate the above?
- Consideration of the iconic 17th hole and the impact of views from all 4 tee boxes post any new mound construction. In 2019 the 17th hole was voted one of the Australia's best golf holes by Golf Australia magazine and ranking Long Reef as the 2nd best public access course in Sydney and #32 in Australia. (Refer Image 06 below)

Image 05:

Long Reef Vehicle Access Plan



Comment No.

**Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge?
Yes, with changes.
What changes would you like to see?**

Image 06:
Iconic Existing Views from the 17th Tee



Conclusion:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and its collective 5066 Members, we seek Northern Beaches Council evaluate further feasibilities to consider the extension of a Fibreglass Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Boardwalk from the proposed Long Reef Boardwalk & Bridge Replacement connecting a complete accessible loop via Long Reef Surf Club. As such providing a sustainable solution in accommodating: -

- Best practice safety for pedestrians, cyclists & wheelchair accessibility.
- Minimal environmental impact.
- Diversity of recreation experience on the boardwalk.
- Aesthetically pleasing outcome with iconic vistas to Long Reef and Dee Why Beach.
- Ability for Council to undertake revegetation and restoration of the degraded dune areas.

We thank you for your consideration with the above and please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or General Manager on

Yours Sincerely,

President
Long Reef Golf Club Ltd

Comment No.	Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge? Yes, with changes. What changes would you like to see?
142	Love the idea of taking back land from golf course, given way more people use the walk than the golf course. I would like to see the pathway (south of the proposed move of existing bridge) fully cemented instead of its current rough gravel and potholes. This would make the walk more accessible to people with limited mobility or using wheelchairs and similar devices.
143	I would like to see ramp access to the beach for people living with disability and the elderly/ less mobile. There is already a slightly ramped section there that just needs extending to allow for the sand movement. This would allow access to a currently inaccessible part of the beach and allow a great alternate walk along the sand. I know it would be welcomed by many existing path members.
144	There should be several points where dog Pooh bags can be deposited
145	Planting of some bushes and smaller trees alongside the new walkway. This would also reduce the risk pedestrians being accidentally hit by golfballs.
146	Retain the boardwalk, Enabling options of both the boardwalk or using the new path. The boardwalk alongside the beach is the most special part of the loop walk.
147	I'd like to see the boardwalk moved slightly further back, unless the council can guarantee that the proposed location won't be affected by future storm surges.
148	The boardwalk extended to the Long Reef Surf Club car park through the dunes so that it can be wheelchair accessible to the nearest parking. The current gravel path is not wheelchair suitable.
149	If moving the boardwalk is meant to protect it from the sea, then why can't the boards be just that- boards- and not some plastic look-a-like? In the event that there is another collapse, these plastic boards will float out to sea and become another addition to the appalling total of marine plastics..
150	The ramp to access the beach should run from the paths north to the beach being south. This is the same as the existing ramps direction and is the natural flow for a person that is walking the beach. If you ignore this advise. People will walk up the rock creating there own path and the money spent on the new ramp will be wasted.

Comment No.	Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge? No. What part of the proposal don't you like?
151	Waste of time and effort. The current one is fine and it's good to be close to the ocean at that point. It might require repair work on the odd occasion but typically very minor
152	Page 14 of the options report concerning costs is not provided. It looks like the proposed options will be costly and no assessment appears to have been made of installing protection sufficient to provide a 20 year design life of the existing section of the existing beach access which has been previously damaged. The current beach environment has a good quantity of sand in and around the walkway and no damage has occurred in the past 2 years. Strengthening and improving the existing structures along with provision of some protection of vulnerable sections of the walkway is likely to be the least cost option and accepting that some future maintenance and repair may be required is not an unreasonable decision for Council to make.

Comment No.	Do you support the proposal to relocate the boardwalk and bridge? No. What part of the proposal don't you like?
153	<p>1. The proposal deletes the existing extremely well used and enjoyed direct beach access to Long Reef headland.</p> <p>2. The material selection is out of character with the unspoiled natural beauty of Long Reef headland - sustainably sourced Australian hardwood would be a much better solution visually and underfoot</p> <p>3. The proposal requires installation of sandstone boulders to stabilise the proposed new timber beach access - why not just re-engineer and if necessary protect the two existing access points</p>
154	<p>Let's just properly maintain existing boardwalk in keeping with the unique surrounding. A lot less cost overall and more pleasing to the eye than some monstrosity</p>
155	<p>It's not well thought out, doesn't fit well with the natural environment and people will just walk over the dunes to access the beach. Leave it as it is and add other supports to existing structure.</p>
156	<p>Number one looks better if anything but the change isn't great enough to be worthwhile, access to the beach at that location is required or you will find people creating there own paths and ruining the dunes anyway. What waste Of tax payer money</p>
157	<p>It's so lovely to walk everyday and see the water at sunrise close</p>
158	<p>Storm surge and erosion is still going to occur, you will be moving it further back in another few years! you should rebuild where is is and just make it more durable and build some protection for the long term to protect the bridge and maintain the coastline in that area. You should also be implementing sand dune protection by educating the public about the damage they cause when climbing and sliding on the dunes as well as disturbing wildlife.</p>
159	<p>The boardwalk if any replacement is actually needed which i have reservations should be where it is currently located not moved from its current location and placed where the concept design indicates</p>
160	<p>Changing the location - the existing bridge should be maintained or replaced with an identical one in the current location.</p>
161	<p>Seems unnecessary as the replaced/repared footpath and bridge now works just fine. And to suggest that the path would be closed if the project does not go ahead is ridiculous.</p>

Comments received via email

No.	Comment
1	<p>Long Reef boardwalk & bridge replacement - document missing pages</p> <p>In the document "Options Report" about the "Long Reef boardwalk & bridge replacement" linked from page https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au%2Flong-reef-boardwalk-bridge-replacement&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cc3742cb414b440f8736608dc54f1b24a%7C8c5136cbd646431c84ae9b550347bc83%7C0%7C0%7C638478644261467778%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=X50zImrNElqMgG1TwOSWpJNi6WlsV58vhf7X%2FoN5D6w%3D&reserved=0 document https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Feservices.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au%2FPlanning%2Ffive%2FCommon%2FOutput%2FLoadGenWebDoc.ashx%3Fid%3DYQg64eiuvFsV0A60ki4OEG%253d%253d&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cc3742cb414b440f8736608dc54f1b24a%7C8c5136cbd646431c84ae9b550347bc83%7C0%7C0%7C638478644261478172%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Yb6gPq7MuGKC0oS9iY%2Ba4SrhzEmkMMGbvDhCpmn4ofc%3D&reserved=0 https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Feservices.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au%2FPlanning%2Ffive%2FCommon%2FOutput%2FLoadGenWebDoc.ashx%3Fid%3DYQg64eiuvFsV0A60ki4OEG%253d%253d&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cc3742cb414b440f8736608dc54f1b24a%7C8c5136cbd646431c84ae9b550347bc83%7C0%7C0%7C638478644261486955%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=L8JihiPPUXnThub7NL78cYJ89nbAuwgu7tlAVgubUZM%3D&reserved=0 page 14 - "Cost" (section 4.0) is missing.</p> <p>Can you please update a complete document.</p> <p>Thank you</p>

Document administration	
Version	1.0
Date	13 June 2024
Approval	Content provided and approved by Park Assets – Planning, Design & Delivery Team Responsible manager: Lia Skountzos
Status	Final
Related Projects	N/A
Notes	Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.