
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

South Curl Curl Boardwalk – Accessible Pathway Connections

Consultation period: 2 August to 1 September 2024

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1. Summary




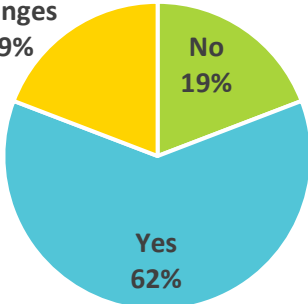

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of the exhibition of the proposed South Curl Curl Boardwalk – Accessible Pathway Connections project conducted from 2 August to 1 September 2024.

Overall, responses show strong support for the proposed pathway upgrades, especially in terms of accessibility and safety. Community members stressed the need to balance these enhancements with the preservation of the natural environment and the area's character. Key themes identified in the community feedback include accessibility, environmental impact, and design considerations.

We have revised the landscape plan following an assessment of community responses. Notably, the access pathways behind South Curl Curl Swim Club have been reviewed and the switch backs and steps originally proposed have been removed through development of the design. This change addresses the mixed views expressed about stairs, with some community members advocating for their complete replacement with ramps. The revised design now features straighter pathway alignments, addressing suggestions to improve flow. These modifications aim to enhance accessibility while also considering the feedback provided by the community.



This iterative process of community engagement and design refinement highlights the project's aim to create accessible path connections that align with community needs and preferences while respecting the local environment.

1.1. Key outcomes

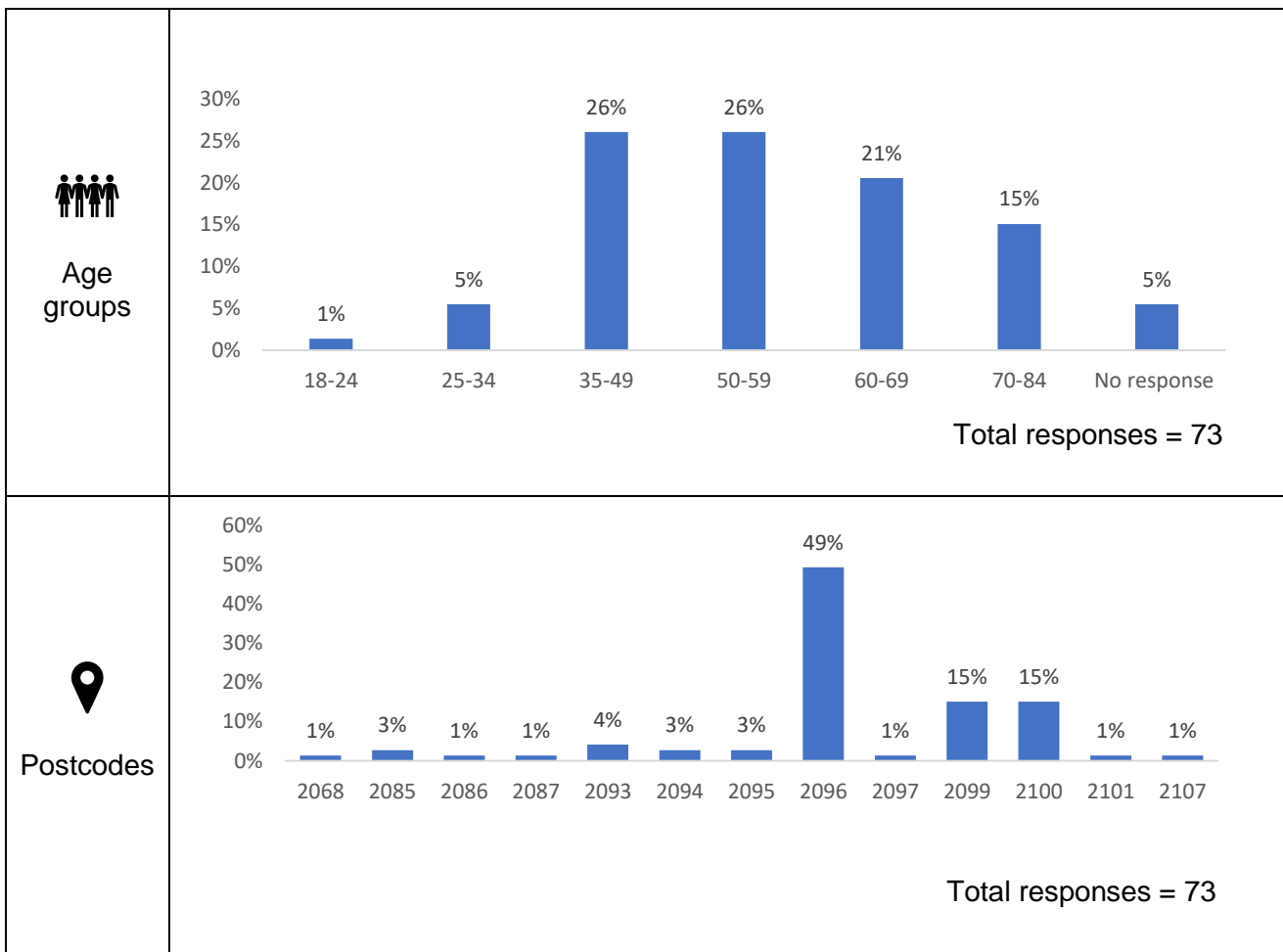
 Total unique responses	<h1>75</h1>	
 How responses were received	Your Say – Survey Email	Completions: 73 Received: 2
 Online sentiment question: Do you think the proposed landscape plan meets the needs of the community?	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Yes, with changes 19%</p> <p>No 19%</p> <p>Yes 62%</p> <p>Total responses = 73</p> </div>	
 Feedback themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention of existing concrete pathway Pedestrian safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved accessibility Make the pathways as wide as possible New boardwalk doesn't flow

1.2. How we engaged

 Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 14,701	Visits: 20,092	Average time onsite: 1 minutes 23 seconds
 Print media and collateral	Letterbox drop: 2096 Site signs used: 4		Distribution: 1,141
 Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 3 editions Council (weekly) e-News: 3 editions The WAVE disability Newsletter: 1 edition		Distribution: 21,900 Distribution: 58,100 Distribution: 1,386

 Face-to-face sessions	Pop up event at proposed works location: 1	Approx.60 attendees
 Key stakeholder engagement	Stakeholder emails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Curl Curl SLSC • Stewart House • South Pacific Private • We are Ramblers • Friends of Freshwater • Curl Curl Lagoon Friends 	Distribution: 1 Distribution: 1 Distribution: 1 Distribution: 1 Distribution: 1 Distribution: 1

1.3. Who responded¹



¹ 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

Council is dedicated to enhancing accessibility within our community. This project aims to provide an accessible connection from South Curl Curl Beach to Fisherman's Walk (Harry Elliffe Way) to increase the overall connectivity and accessibility in this area.

In 2014, the [Curl Curl Beach Landscape Masterplan](#) was adopted by Council, providing guidance for the revitalisation of Flora and Richie Robert Reserve located behind Curl Curl Beach. The aim was to maintain a safe, natural, and open space for the community. These works were completed in 2019 except for the accessible connections around South Curl Curl Swim Club, due to budget restrictions.

As the construction cost of the [McKillop Park Boardwalk](#) exceeded the allocated funding, we collaborated with the funding body to identify an alternative project that would deliver similar benefits and greater value to the community. The completion of the remaining works outlined in the Curl Curl Beach Landscape Masterplan was deemed to be a suitable alternative project.

This project looks to construct an accessible connection from South Curl Curl Beach to the swim club, continuing along the eastern side of the upper beach carpark and connecting to Fisherman's Walk (Harry Elliffe Way). This project will increase connectivity and accessibility, bringing users closer to the ocean along this stunning stretch of coastline. It will also improve pedestrian safety by removing the shared zone in the upper carpark.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities
- identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values
- provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way
- communicate to community and stakeholders how their input was incorporated into the planning and decision-making process.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the South Curl Curl - Accessible Path Connections project took place from 2 August to 1 September 2024. This engagement involved a series of activities designed to allow community members and stakeholders to provide their input.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's [Community Engagement Strategy](#) (2022). A Your Say project page² was established with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format. Key stakeholders, resident groups, and local residents received notification letters requesting their feedback on the proposed landscape plan. The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletter (EDM), various media channels, and signage at the location to effectively reach those who frequent the area. Additionally, we distributed

² <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/south-curl-curl-accessible-path-connections>

information through The Wave Disability newsletter to ensure that individuals who would directly benefit from the accessible path upgrades were informed.

Feedback was collected through an online comment form embedded on the Have Your Say project page, which included a question directly asking respondents for their level of support for the proposed landscape plan and accessible path connections. An onsite pop-up event was held on a Saturday morning at the proposed location to gather feedback and maximise community involvement. We also invited comments via 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 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
- emails to identified key stakeholders
- displays of onsite notification posters
- inclusion in the WAVE disability newsletter
- inclusion in Council's community engagement newsletter
- Mayor's weekly e-news.

5. Findings

Community responses indicate strong support for the safety and accessibility benefits of the proposed pathway upgrades, highlighting the need to balance improvements with environmental preservation and local character. Key themes include accessibility, environmental impact, and design considerations.

The landscape plan for the accessible path connections project has been revised based on valuable community feedback. In response to mixed opinions on the proposed stairs and suggestions for better pathway design, the switchback ramp and steps have been removed. This change aligns with community advocates who preferred ramps over stairs and suggested straighter, wider pathways. The revised design focuses on enhancing accessibility, improving flow, and minimising sharp turns, reflecting our commitment to community involvement in the project's development.

Table 1: Issues, change requests and other considerations.

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Safety & Pedestrian access	<p>Separating pedestrians from vehicles in the car park area - Respondents strongly supported this aspect, noting it will greatly improve safety, especially for parents with strollers/young kids.</p> <p>Improved access to Fisherman's Walk and the beach area - The proposed pathways were seen as providing safer, more convenient pedestrian access.</p>	<p>By removing the shared zone through the upper car park we are significantly improving the safety for pedestrians using the coastal walkway, while also preventing congestion through this area during peak usage times.</p>
Accessibility	<p>Accessibility for mobility-impaired users - Many respondents highlighted the importance of ensuring the pathways are accessible for those using wheelchairs, walkers, etc. Requests included wider paths, gentler gradients, and more designated disabled parking.</p>	<p>Council approved the Curl Curl Beach Landscape Masterplan in 2014 to enhance Flora and Richie Roberts Reserve behind Curl Curl Beach. The project aimed to create a safe, natural space for the community.</p> <p>A key aspect of the Landscape Masterplan project was to provide accessible connections around South Curl Curl Swim Club. With the allocation of funding by the NSW Government to this project Council is now able to deliver on this final piece of the masterplan.</p>
Preserving green space and natural features	<p>Several respondents were concerned about the potential loss of the grassy hill/seating area adjacent to the showers. They urged the council to find a way to retain this valuable community space.</p>	<p>Based on feedback received during engagement Council officers have prepared an alternate concept that provides accessible connections while retaining the grassed areas.</p>
Using sustainable, natural materials	<p>A few comments requested the use of materials like sandstone instead of concrete to better blend with the coastal environment.</p>	<p>The design will be guided by Council's Technical Guidelines for Sustainable Design. These guidelines consider sustainability, climate change and resilience in asset development and renewal.</p>
Minimising impacts to vegetation	<p>There were requests to protect existing trees, shrubs and other landscaping as much as possible.</p>	<p>Existing native vegetation will be retained with additional native plantings to complement the pathway connections. Two trees have been identified for removal; however, these are exotic species and will be replaced with species endemic to the area.</p>

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Pathway alignment and flow	Some respondents provided detailed design feedback, such as suggesting straighter, wider pathway alignments to improve flow and minimise sharp turns.	Based on feedback received during engagement Council officers have prepared an alternate concept design that provides accessible connections while removing the switch back ramps shown on the original concept.
Proposed stairs	There were mixed views on the proposed stairs, with some feeling they should be widened while others advocated to avoid stairs entirely in favour of ramps.	Based on feedback received during engagement Council officers have prepared an alternate concept design that provides accessible connections while retaining the existing concrete pathway alignment, removing the need for stairs.
Seating and amenities	Suggestions included adding more benches/seating along the pathways and ensuring a drinking fountain/bubbler is provided.	The concept identifies additional seating opportunities and these will be installed as part of the project where suitable.
Signage and wayfinding	A couple respondents requested clear signage to guide pedestrians and discourage walking through the car park.	The car park has been a shared zone for cars and pedestrians to date, this project looks to separate cars and pedestrians, providing a safe pedestrian connection to Fisherman's Walk.

Table 2: Questions raised and Council's answers

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

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
The accessibility looks like it will improve but there is only one designated car parking spot for people with a disability?	Changes to the car park layout are out of scope for this project.
Large sandstone blocks make for fabulous seats and are not visually intrusive as they blend into the natural landscape. Could you provide those dotted along the path?	The concept identifies additional seating opportunities, which will be installed as part of the project where suitable.
There must be another way of doing this and not having to rip up the brand new pathway.	A section of the concrete pathway will be retained. A section of the existing pathway will need to be replaced to meet the new levels required to provide an accessible ramp.

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
<p>The view from the beach back south to view above South Curl Curl Pool, when the flowers are in bloom is simply wonderful and a structure to support a walkway would interfere with this view. If there is a need to extend the car park width, could this not be achieved by cutting between the road pedestrian way and the car park?</p>	<p>The impact on the existing vegetation will be minimal with additional planting proposed for the embankment between the rockpool and the upper car park.</p>
<p>Wasn't this proposed several years ago? It took over 3 years to widen the path from the lower carpark to the upper, so I trust this project will not take so long, with the previous multiple delays.</p>	<p>Council approved the Curl Curl Beach Landscape Masterplan in 2014 to enhance Flora and Richie Robert Reserve behind Curl Curl Beach. The project aimed to create a safe, natural space for the community.</p> <p>A key aspect of the Landscape Masterplan project was to provide accessible connections around South Curl Curl Swim Club. With the allocation of funding by the NSW Government to this project Council is now able to deliver on this final piece of the masterplan.</p>
<p>I don't understand why path behind building (marked 11 on plans) does a "dog leg" and not continue through tree zone (10). Is this due to level changes or to allow for more trees? Will it encourage people to "short cut" through tree zone? People often want to take the most direct route.</p>	<p>Based on feedback received during engagement Council officers have prepared an alternate concept design that still provides compliant accessible connections while removing the switch back ramps shown on the original concept.</p>
<p>Can you make the steps on the Eastern side of the SCCSC much wider than they currently are, wide enough to allow the passage of two people & attendant beach paraphernalia possible instead of the current narrow one person set of stairs?</p>	<p>Widening of the steps from the rock pool to the upper car park are currently out of scope due to the budget available.</p>
<p>Can you also please control the growing numbers of unleashed dogs on the beach, around the rock pool area & on the boardwalk?</p>	<p>Appropriate regulatory signage will be installed as part of the project.</p>
<p>Please put signs on path reminding people/dogs to walk on the left.</p>	<p>A review of the current signage at the site will be undertaken as part of the project.</p>
<p>Can you please add No Stopping signs on the retaining wall?</p>	<p>Car parking operations do not form part of this scope. This suggestion will be directed to the appropriate team within Council.</p>
<p>Instead of building a pathway around the car park - why not get rid of the car park? It could be converted to a community space.</p>	<p>Council approved the Curl Curl Beach Landscape Masterplan in 2014 to enhance Flora and Richie Robert Reserve behind Curl Curl Beach. The project aimed to create a safe, natural space for the community.</p>

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
	A key aspect of the Landscape Masterplan project was to provide accessible connections around South Curl Curl Swim Club. With the allocation of funding by the NSW Government to this project Council is now able to deliver on this final piece of the masterplan.
Why go to all the trouble of accessible walkways if there are no accessible toilet / change room facilities?	South Curl Curl Surf Life Saving Club has accessible public amenities open during daylight hours.
During construction, could detour notices be erected for walkers wanting to access the entrance to Fishermans Walk from the promenade along South Curl Beach. When is the work likely to occur?	Appropriate signage will be erected during construction directing pedestrians to alternate routes. It is anticipated that construction work will commence in early 2025 for completion in Spring 2025

6. Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Click here for attachment:

<https://eservices.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/ePlanning/live/Common/Output/Document.aspx?t=webdoc&id=5eSBLvqdZ0kV0A60ki4OEG==>

*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.

Document administration	
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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.