

Eurobodalla Shire Council



Hanging Rock, Corrigans Beach and Observation Point Reserves Consultation Summary Report

May 2020

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Acknowledgment of Country

Locale Consulting acknowledges the Yuin people, the custodians of the land to which this plan applies. We pay our respect to all Aboriginal people of this land and to Elders past, present and future.



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1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background & Report Purpose

The purpose of this Consultation Summary Report (**Report**) is to document the initial consultation activities and outcomes for the Hanging Rock, Corrigans Beach and Observation Point Reserves Plan of Management and Master Plan project. In doing so, the Report identifies key directions, themes and principles to inform the project moving forward.

The project is being undertaken by Eurobodalla Shire Council (**Council**), with an aim to enhance these foreshore areas as places for recreation, events and relaxation. Council has been successful in obtaining funding to assist in the delivery of these projects and they incorporate the area as described in the adjoining plan.

The initial consultation activities were undertaken in September 2019, noting a further round of consultation with Council staff and Councillors was held in November 2019 that builds on the findings of the initial stage. Further community engagement activities scheduled for the first quarter of 2020 were unable to be held due to the bushfires and subsequently by COVID-19.

The outline of the Project Study Area and Plan of Management Area is shown in the plan adjoining. Within the document, Site Analysis plans are also provided to highlight site based feedback in a graphical form.



2. Consultation Activities

As discussed throughout this document, the spaces that comprise Hanging Rock, Corrigans Beach and Observation Point Reserves are highly valued and utilised by the local community as well as visitors to the area. This also includes a wide range of community, sporting, education and commercial interests.

In order to capture the variety of stakeholder interests and ideas, a number of consultation activities were undertaken including the following:

- o Desk top review of background documents.
- o Face to face meetings with key user groups and lease/ license holders.
- o Councillor briefings.
- o On-site pop up stall/ drop in session at Corrigans Beach Reserve.
- o Letter box drops and phone calls to adjoining residents/ businesses/ landowners/ community groups.
- o Provision of an electronic survey that was open for 2 weeks (with hard copies made available at Batemans Bay library).
- o All relevant sections of Council.

The face to face meetings, first Councillor Briefing and on-site pop up stall/ drop-in session were undertaken on 3, 4 & 5 September 2019.

The survey was open from 16 – 30 September 2019.

The other consultation activities continued throughout September/ October 2019 and there was also a further Councillor Briefing held in November 2019.



126 Survey responses



24 Face to face meetings & 2 Councillor Briefings



28 Letter box drops



6 Hours at pop-up stall & drop in session visited by 75+ people



45 Phone calls to adjoining neighbours, businesses, landowners & community groups



10 Submissions, including 1 Petition

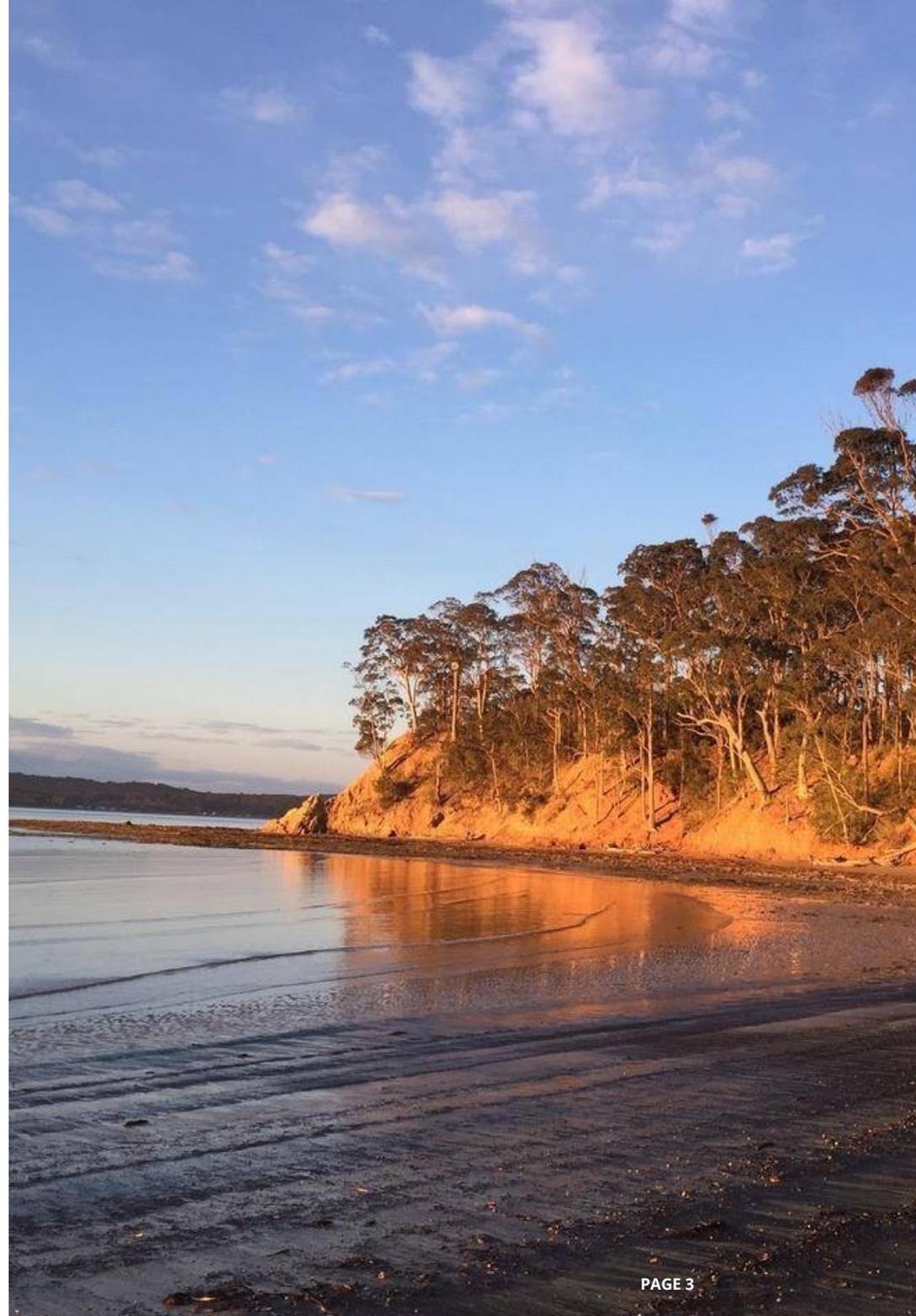
3. Consultation Outcomes by Area

This section provides a summary of key consultation outcomes by the three core areas - Hanging Rock, Corrigans Beach and Observation Point.

The aim of this section is to document information and ideas gained that inform the preparation of the Analysis Plans and Schematic Plans (included as an Appendix to this document) from which the draft Plan of Management and Master Plan will be developed.

The consultation information and ideas create emerging directions, which are also documented for each of the three main areas below.

Analysis Plans graphically represent the key issues and opportunities that have arisen through stakeholder consultation and on-site assessments to date. Schematic Plans illustrate early master planning and design principles only and are high level plans designed to test early thoughts for future design outcomes.



3.1 Hanging Rock

Hanging Rock Reserve, also known as the Hanging Rock Sport & Education Hub, is highly valued as a long-standing sporting, education, cultural and foreshore precinct. The area has a unique range of co-located and accessible community facilities. The co-location of so many community and recreation uses at one site make it attractive to a wide range of residents, but also visitors who seek recreation, sporting and education uses when in Batemans Bay.

The area has a number of key user groups that utilise different parts of the site at different times – some as often as daily or weekly, and others monthly or yearly. These key user groups put forward ideas to support the ongoing frequent use of the site in terms of additional facilities that could enhance the space in terms of infrastructure, accessibility, sport, education and the natural environment.

The consultation outcomes support ongoing improvements that reinforce the many well-established facilities that are highly valued and well supported by existing user groups.

On the sporting site, the Hanging Rock Sporting Complex contains the main formal field-based sports facilities in the Batemans Bay area (excluding works underway at Mackay Park (which continues to operate) and Surfside Sporting Fields). As evidenced by Council's Recreation and Open Space Strategy and on-site assessments, the site correspondingly accommodates a wide range of sports and recreation uses including: Rugby League, AFL, tennis, cricket, soccer, indoor basketball, skate park, remote control cars, Marine Rescue, sailing and a boat ramp. This part of the site also includes the Hanging Rock

Function Centre, which is a bushfire evacuation centre for northern residents of the Council area.

The site is also an education hub, accommodating TAFE, University of Wollongong, Batemans Bay Library and other educational spaces. The sporting fields and education hub are set back from the foreshore.

It is noted a master plan for the Hanging Rock Precinct was completed in 2013 (prior to the redevelopment of Mackay Park precinct which is currently underway). Potential items for consideration in the 2013 master plan include expansion of the indoor sports facility, reconstruction of the football field & ancillary facilities and spectator facility enhancement (noting other items have been completed). Further, the part of the site that was to accommodate a swimming pool/ aquatic area is no longer required for that purpose.



Key Consultation Outcomes to Consider Moving Forward

- The Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the space and its connection to the foreshore, waterways and adjoining areas is of high value and recognition of this is supported by many stakeholders.
- The skate park is a well located and well utilised, and when combined with surrounding education and sporting uses, there is an opportunity to consider greater diversity and scale of use. The area requires practical improvements such as bins, water filling stations, shade, lighting and wi-fi.
- The education hub continues to be well utilised and improvements are supported by many stakeholders, including accessibility, wayfinding and parking.
- The boating facilities are well utilised and of very high value to residents and visitors. Specific opportunities to improve the boating facilities were raised, and included: boat storage, accessibility, shade, tables, water provision, car/ boat/ trailer parking and event infrastructure.
- The formal sporting spaces are of very high value to the community. Specific opportunities to improve the sporting facilities were raised by many, and included: seating/ spectator comfort/ shade, parking, amenities, infrastructure to support training and events, field condition, irrigation, club rooms, club expansion options, security and signage.
- Protection of the natural environment, including the dunes, whilst managing safe access to the beach and an overall natural setting, matters to stakeholders.
- Car parking, vehicular access, public transport and pedestrian access/ safety in and around the site is important, due to the area's high levels of regular visitation.

Emerging Consultation Directions

- Providing safe and effective pedestrian circulation, crossings and amenity building provision.
- Ensuring safe vehicle circulation and establishing formalised parking in key high-use locations.
- Reinforcing individual recreation / sporting activities to enable growth in participation within the context of well-used facilities.
- Increasing capacity of sporting fields through improvements such as lighting, irrigation, drainage and existing buildings.
- Reinforcing youth, education and cultural activities as a core hub of interrelated activities.
- Protecting and enhancing vegetation/ natural environment, particularly along the foreshore / riparian corridors.



3.2 Corrigans Beach

Corrigans Beach Reserve is highly valued as an active foreshore reserve with well used facilities, including the biggest inclusive playground in Eurobodalla. The location of Corrigans Beach Reserve between the retail/ tourist accommodation precinct and Corrigans Beach make it attractive to residents and tourists alike.

It has a number of key regular user groups that utilise different parts of the site for markets and other events / activities, whilst others are occasional users of the popular playground. Many users of the area put forward ideas to support the ongoing frequent use of the site in terms of additional facilities that could enhance the space and reinforce its successful current uses in terms of potential infrastructure, accessibility and the natural environment improvements.

The consultation outcomes support precinct development within the Corrigans Beach Reserve, with its size, central location and configuration all enabling some clear use areas to be delineated, including a large multi-purpose open space to support regional and tourism-based events.



Key Consultation Outcomes to Consider Moving Forward

- The large area at the western end of Corrigans Reserve is valued for its size and ability to hold large events, including the Bells Carnival, Batemans Bay High School activities and other events, recreation and training opportunities - albeit some improvements are required.
- Protection of the natural environment, including for the dune system/ foreshore, whilst maintaining safe access to the beach and an overall natural setting, matters to stakeholders.
- Car parking and pedestrian access/ safety in and around the site is important, due to the high levels and regularity of visitation.
- The playground is of very high value to the community and visitors. Opportunities to improve the space around the playground were raised by many, and included:
 - Seating / Picnic tables
 - Shade
 - Connecting pathways
 - Amenities
 - Further play options (including a water splash pad)
 - Infrastructure to support events (such as markets)
 - Informal recreation space.

It is noted that a petition was also received in support of the water splash pad to be included within the play space area. Whilst there is space available for this activity, Council staff advise that this type of facility will be included within the proposed Batemans Bay Regional Aquatic, Arts and Leisure Centre at Mackay Park. In addition, given the high cost and level of resourcing required for day to day and long term management of water based facilities (such as regular water quality testing), the need for a similar facility at this location is not currently supported in the related Schematic Plan.

Emerging Consultation Directions

- Creating safe and inclusive pedestrian circulation around the playground and linking to the foreshore / beach.
- Ensuring that vehicle circulation and parking is effective, but not detrimental to the enjoyment or dominant in the space.
- Protecting and enhancing vegetation/ natural environment, particularly along the foreshore and including effective tree planting for shade and amenity.
- Reinforcing the discrete precincts within the Reserve – events/ festivals area (including overflow parking/ event camping), playground area and foreshore.
- Resolving core infrastructure/ services needs, including stormwater, dump point and provision of services such as water and electricity for events.



3.3 Observation Point

Observation Point Reserve is a headland with 280 degree views of the adjoining waterways and islands. Consultation activities strongly indicated this precinct's value as a key viewing area in the context of a natural, well vegetated setting with historical and cultural significance.

The site is popular with locals and tourists alike due to its headland location and spectacular vistas. Its location near residential housing and the businesses of the Corrigans Beach area also lead to consultation feedback that placed emphasis on safety, accessibility (both vehicular and pedestrian) and linkages to surrounding foreshore areas.

Stakeholders generally supported the upgrade of the site and put forward suggestions to enhance the space in terms of retaining vegetation, recognising the heritage/ historical significance of the site, as well as addressing the sporadic nature of parking, safety, security, seating and accessibility.



Key Consultation Outcomes to Consider Moving Forward

- The site is valued as a headland/ lookout destination with high visitation by tourists and residents alike.
- Protection of the natural environment, whilst maintaining safe access to the headland in an overall natural setting, matters to stakeholders.
- There was clear indication that an upgrade of the site should include infrastructure such as: viewing platforms, picnic tables, lighting, defined pathways/ walking trails and bins.
- Car parking and pedestrian access/ linkages in and around the site is important, due to its high levels of visitation.
- Feedback about some anti-social behaviour was raised, identifying any future upgrades should facilitate safer by design principles.

Emerging Consultation Themes

- Providing for safe pedestrian circulation & wayfinding, including formalised lookouts/ viewing platforms.
- Formalising vehicle circulation to avoid pedestrian conflicts and damage to the natural environment.
- Protecting and enhancing vegetation/ natural environment, including the regeneration of degraded areas and the provision of clear pathways/ access points.
- Provision of cultural interpretation opportunities.
- Incorporating improved opportunities for picnics and rest spots along the pathways, as the site is both a destination and part of a larger coastal walking experience.



4. Emerging Themes & Principles

The enthusiasm of stakeholders in their involvement in the initial consultation has informed the key directions for each of the areas – Hanging Rock, Corrigans Beach and Observation Point – as outlined in Section 3 of the report.

Key themes identified across the entire study area can be grouped as follows:

- Pedestrian circulation, vehicular circulation & wayfinding (including layout, parking, accessibility, pathways, signage)
- Recreational activity & use (including sporting, playgrounds, active/ passive & land/ water-based recreation activities, events)
- Environment & safety (including native vegetation, foreshore, dunes, lighting/ surveillance)
- Aesthetics, education & culture character (including heritage/ cultural interpretation, visual amenity, beautification, infrastructure provision).

It will be important to weave the overall directions, themes and principles into future stages of the project, and ultimately into the draft Plan of Management and Master Plan.

The outcomes of the individual area and theme-based directions highlight four key design and planning principles as shown in the following chart.

Key Design and Planning Principles



Appendix – Analysis and Schematic Plans
(provided as a separate document)

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