

Director City Services Report No. CS6 / 16



Subject: Malabar Headland - Western Walking Track - Community Consultation

Folder No: F2014/00503

Author: Joe Ingegneri, Manager Technical Services; Kerry Colquhoun, Coordinator, Open Space Assets

Introduction

This report addresses the outcomes of community consultation associated with the construction of the Eastern Beaches Coastal Walkway within the Malabar Headland National Park (MHNP). This portion of the Coastal Walkway connects the southern part of Maroubra Beach and Pioneers Park. The section is known as the Western Walking Track.

The greater Malabar headland encompasses 177 hectares of open space and remnant bushland at the southern end of Maroubra Beach. The National Park in the western part of the headland is bounded by high density private residential areas to the west and the council managed Cromwell Park and Pioneers Park to the south-west.

Malabar Headland National Park (MHNP) is located in separated lots. One portion is located on the west side of the Headland and one on the east side. Each portion is separated by the Malabar Headland rifle range.

The community consultation described in this report specifically addresses the Western Walking Track located in the western lots of the National Park. There was a great deal of interest shown by the community in the proposal, with over 446 survey submissions.

The report describes the background to the project as well as the number and types of submissions received. It addresses the issues and makes recommendations on the way forward for the project.

Issues

The completion of a continuous coastal walkway from Clovelly to La Perouse is a key priority for Randwick City Council under the Randwick City Plan. Substantial sections of the walkway are completed, particularly to the north of the City. Other sections e.g. routes through the southern golf courses are at different stages of planning and construction.

Randwick City Council with the support of the Malabar Headland Interagency Group has lobbied the federal government to return public access to Malabar Headland for a number of years. This lobbying has contributed to the transfer of the Malabar Headland National Park to the community.

In December 2012, 17.7 hectares of land that forms the western section of the headland was established as Malabar Headland National Park. In addition, a further 70 hectare of the headland, located to the east of the rifle range was transferred to State ownership and was declared a National Park in January 2016. It is proposed that this portion of National Park be partially opened to the public in mid-2016.

Randwick City Council has a proposal to have 2 coastal walkway routes along the eastern and western parts of the Malabar Headland through the National Parks. The Western Walking Track has been developed as more immediate priority whilst the coastal walk along the eastern part of Malabar Headland is considered a longer term priority.

Western Walking Track

The proposed Western Walking Track will formalise access connecting south Maroubra Beach and Malabar Beach. The total length is approximately 1.15km consisting of a new boardwalk with ample seating and viewing areas. This coastal walkway will provide the community access through the National Park as part of the overall Eastern Suburbs Coastal Walkway. This walkway offers some very spectacular views and will be attractive to tourists and those not wanting to spend large amounts of time specifically bushwalking in the National Park. It will give local residents the opportunity to easily access the beach from a large residential catchment.

The planning and development of the Western Walking Track has taken over 8 years and has involved a large range of community and government stakeholders. Council officers have met with a range of stakeholders over that period of time and made substantial amendments to the route and design details to accommodate concerns raised by the stakeholders.

The route has been designed to avoid any areas and minimise any impacts on the endangered ecological community.

Eastern Malabar Headland National Park

NPWS has informed Council that the eastern section of the park is proposed to be open in mid-2016. At the time of the opening the walking track will be largely unformed and will not be available when the Rifle Range is in use. The track is located on top of the coastal cliff line and although at times it offers spectacular views, it is often located well into dense bushland scrub. This track will be more of a nature based bushwalking experience approximately 3.6km long.

The Consultation Plan

A Consultation Plan was developed for the Western Walking Track and a public consultation process was undertaken between 1 March 2016 and 31 March 2016. Some submissions were received after this date, however, they have been included for consideration.

The communication methods used for the public consultation period included the following activities:

- Facebook posts to Council's 10,000+ strong Facebook page
- Tweets on the @RandwickMayor and @RandwickCouncil accounts
- Advertising in the Southern Courier
- Presentations at the Maroubra Beach and Malabar Precinct meetings
- Promotion in Council's weekly Randwick eNews sent to 15,000+ subscribers
- Posters and flyers distributed around South Maroubra and Malabar
- Letter from The Mayor to residents in Broome Street, Byrne Crescent, Ford Road and Brown Road advising of the consultation
- Letter from The Mayor to key stakeholders advising of the consultation:

Submissions Received

Participants contacted Randwick City Council in a variety of ways including:

Yoursay website

A dedicated Yoursay webpage on Council's website was created and featured documentation on the planned track, detailed design information on the boardwalk and stairs, a survey, quick poll and Q&A forum. A full list of questions asked by participants and Council's response is included in the attached Consultation Report.

The online consultation was made available in hard copy, and was on exhibition at all Randwick City libraries and at the Customer Service Centre. A hard copy survey was received as well as one hard copy quick poll.

Drop-in Session

An informal drop-in session for residents to speak with Council, NPWS and the Consultant Landscape Architects was held on Saturday 19 March 2016 at 9am. Held at the South Maroubra Surf Life Saving Club, the session was attended by approximately 22 residents.

Byrne Crescent Resident Meeting

Prior to the meeting, a number of written submissions were received from residents of Byrne Crescent. Due to concerns raised by the residents, it was decided to hold a meeting to specifically discuss their issues. The meeting was held on 23 March 2016 at the Bowen Library. The meeting was attended by Councillor Belleli, 10 residents, Council staff, NPWS staff and the Consultant Landscape Architect.

Consultation Outcomes

Due to the variety of methods used to express opinions on the proposal, in a number of instances, an individual filled in the online survey as well as submitting a response by proforma or by direct correspondence. In these cases, their preferences have been noted in the online survey analysis only.

Using this methodology, the summary of submissions received is as follows:

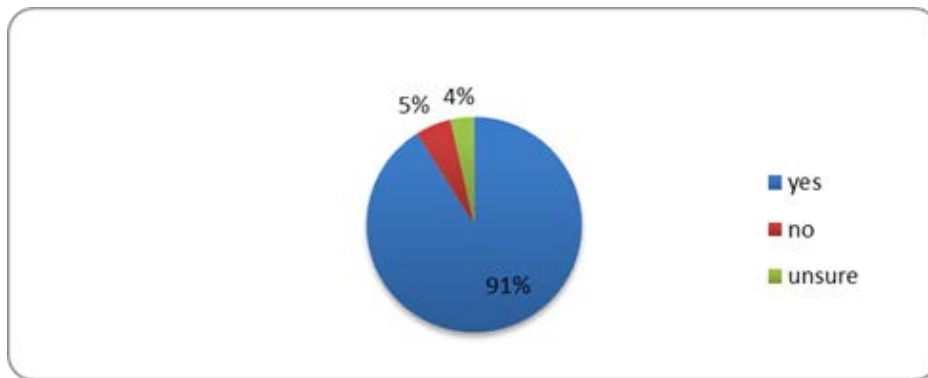
Your- say Results

- A total of 1,690 visits to the yoursayrandwick.com.au/malabarwalkway webpage
- 50 quick poll responses
- 27 questions were asked
- 446 survey submissions

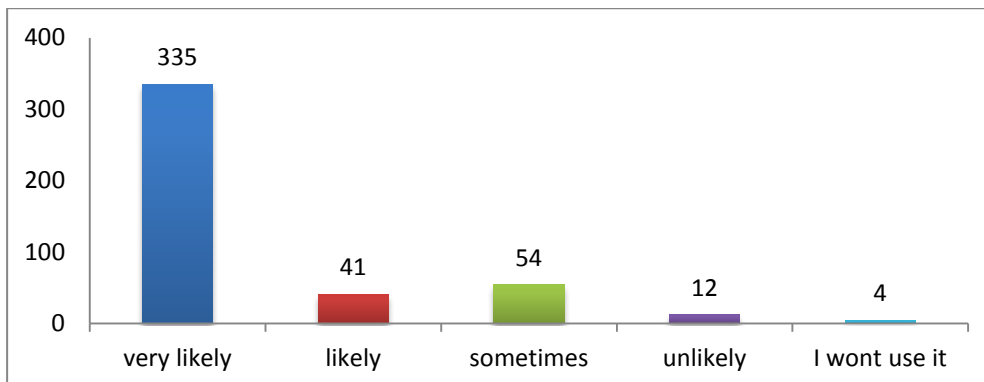
The submissions received across all media were accompanied by many comments and suggestions for the site. These comments are too numerous to list or address individually, but are represented in the attachments to this report and will be considered in the design development of the project.

Online survey respondents were asked to undertake a quick poll. The results are summarised in the following:

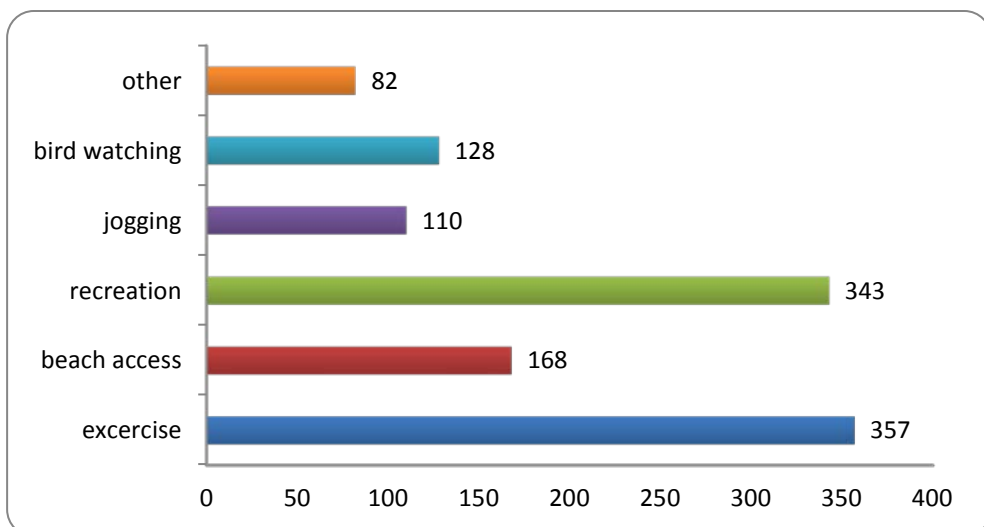
1. *Do you support the plan for Coastal Walkway connecting South Maroubra Beach and Malabar Beach?*



2. How likely are you to use the new walkway?



3. Why would you use the walkway?

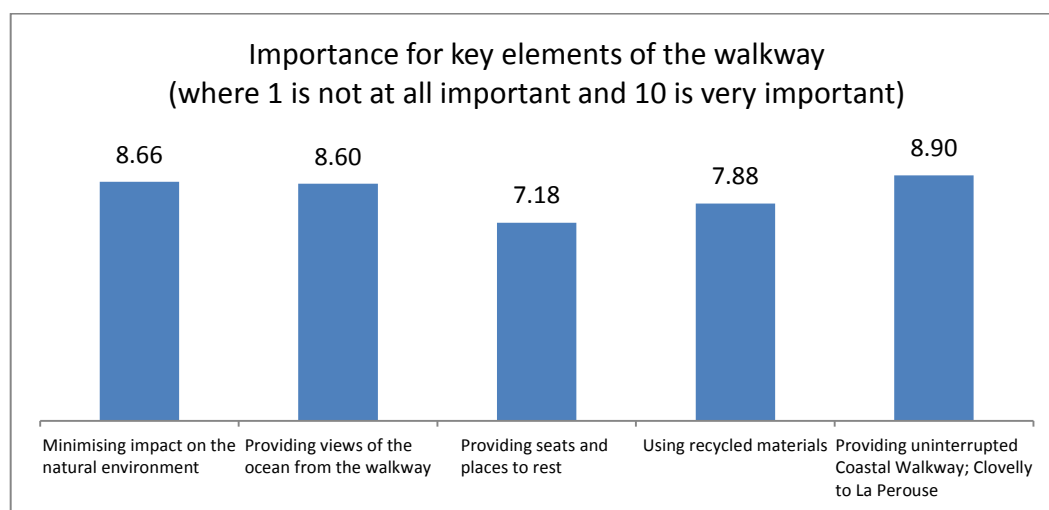


The top two reasons for using the new walkway were for exercise and recreation, with 357 and 343 responses respectively.

4. Please rate how important each of the following is to you on a scale of 1-10 where 1 is not at all important and 10 is very important.

- a) Minimising the impact of the walkway on the natural environment
- b) Providing views of the ocean from the walkway
- c) Providing seats and places to rest along the walk
- d) Using recycled materials

e) Providing an uninterrupted Coastal Walkway from Clovelly to La Perouse



This table shows that the majority of respondents consider the provision of an uninterrupted coastal walkway (from Clovelly to La Perouse) as the most important element of the planned Malabar Headland coastal walkway. This is closely followed by minimising the impact of the walkway on the natural environment and providing ocean views from the walkway.

Drop-In Information Session

Overall the conversations were very positive and visitors to the session were supportive of the proposed walkway.

Attendees at the session were encouraged to make submissions to Council about their views.

Precincts and Key Stakeholders

Staff from Council's Strategic Planning team attended both the Malabar and Maroubra Beach Precincts to present the proposed coastal walkway and take questions from the residents.

Twenty-three residents attended the Malabar Precinct meeting on 10 March 2016 and resolved "that the Malabar Precinct supports the walkway in principle, and we request that a rep from National Parks and Wildlife attend the June meeting of the Precinct".

Thirty residents attended the Maroubra Beach Precinct meeting on 22 February 2016. No resolution was raised by the precinct in regards to the walkway, but residents were encouraged to go online to view more information and contribute to the consultation once it opened on 1 March 2016.

Byrne Crescent Residents

The attached Consultation Report shows the full list of issues raised by the Byrne Crescent residents at the meeting and Council's response to these concerns. As with previous meetings, the main area of concern raised was about safety and security. The following table lists the main issues raised and Council's response to these issues.

Issues raised	Council response
1. The new walkway will result an adverse higher risk	The walkway has been moved to the eastern boundary of the western lot as far away as possible from the residents. Additionally, the raised boardwalk route is fenced on both

Issues raised	Council response
of anti-social behaviour and malicious damage for residential adjoining owners in Byrne Crescent. Therefore the walkway should be fenced with cyclone fencing on both sides.	sides. The proposed fence is 1.3 metres on the western side (above the boardwalk) and a chain wire fence between the boundary of the national park and the Commonwealth land (Rifle range). There is already a cyclone fence between the private property boundaries and the firebreak installed by the Commonwealth. Council officers contacted the NSW Police and the representative from the Federal Department of Finance (DOF) to discuss the concerns raised by the nearby residents about inappropriate activities occurring in the park. The Police have advised that they will monitor the situation and are available to take action if required. The DOF representative advised they will be reviewing their security parameters of the Commonwealth land. They can be readily contacted for breaches in the boundary fences.
2. Firebreak should be fenced to minimise access from public.	There are already a number of fences and gates that deter any inappropriate access to the area. Fencing of the firebreak would have a significant visual impact and would need to be considered in the fire management practices.
3. Firebreak needs to be maintained.	Fire management of the National Park is the responsibility of NPWS. NPWS has a fire management plan for this area. They have committed that they will be maintaining it to the required standards.
4. Protection of Eastern suburbs Banksia Scrub.	NSW National Parks agency (NPWS) has fulfilled all the legislative requirements for the impacts on the eastern suburbs banksia scrub (ESBS). Numerous assessments have been made in regards to this ESBS community and it has been carefully considered in the walkway design.
5. Concern that asbestos exists on site.	The remediation of the western lots of Malabar Headland has been the responsibility of the Commonwealth government. Council understands that they have completed the necessary processes to allow the public to access the site. From Council's discussions with NPWS they have advised that they would not have accepted the transfer of the land unless it was at the acceptable levels.

In 2010, Council proposed a walkway known as Option 1 that was closer to the rear yards of the Byrne Crescent properties. At that time, Council met with the Byrne Crescent residents to fully understand their concerns about security and privacy issues. Council subsequently investigated possible alternative routes for this section of the walkway, taking into account residential concerns, ecological values and the coastal walk experience.

Council then considered a number of options for an alternative route. The alignments underwent rigorous analysis and consideration by the Malabar Headland Interagency Committee to determine a preferred option. The preferred route was then translated into the updated Malabar Headland Coastal Walk Concept Plan – Option 5.

Overall the route best satisfies the following criteria:

1. Located away from residential properties: the route increases the distance from the residential properties, alleviating visual and physical access concerns.
2. Through appropriate construction techniques and materials the damage to the EEC ESBS can be minimised. Installation of interpretative signage will significantly enhance the community's understanding and appreciation of ESBS vegetation and coastal ecology, increasing the coastal walk values and experience.
3. With increased pedestrian use of this area, it is anticipated anti-social behavior will decrease.

The planning for this project was only able to proceed when the Commonwealth transferred the relevant land to NPWS in January 2010.

Overall, the proposed route balances social and ecological values and has been determined as the preferred route that was presented to the Byrne Crescent residents at the meeting on 23 April 2016.

Due to concerns raised by residents at the meeting about the fence on the west side of the walkway, the fence will be raised to 1.3 m from 0.9m. The walkway through this land is a raised boardwalk and this will further increase the height above the ground level, discouraging persons from leaving the walkway.

Next Steps in the Project

The Community Consultation for the Western Walking Track is now complete. The outcome has been of overwhelming support for the construction of the walkway. To complete and deliver the project, the following steps will be required:

1. Finalisation of a Memorandum of Understanding between Randwick City Council and NSW National Parks that will detail the responsibilities for the maintenance and repair of the track.
2. Finalisation of the detailed design and specification of the proposed works.
3. Issue of works for Tender.
4. Resolution of Council to select successful tenderer.
5. Construction of the project.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 3:	An Informed and Engaged Community.
Direction 3c:	The community has increased opportunities to participate in decision making process.
Outcome 4:	Excellence in Urban Design and Development.
Direction 4a:	Improved design and sustainability across all development.
Outcome 5:	Excellence in Recreation and Lifestyle Opportunities.
Direction 5a:	Maximise opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy both active and passive open space uses.
Outcome 6:	A Liveable City.
Direction 6a:	Our public assets are planned, managed and funded to meet the community expectations and defined levels of services.

Financial impact statement

The cost estimate for the construction of the Western Walking Track in the Malabar Headland National Park is \$2,177,240. There is currently \$1.55M available in the 2015-16 Capital Works budget for the coastal walkway project. An additional \$800,000 has been allocated to this project in draft 2016-17 Capital Works Budget.

Council received \$200k Metropolitan Greenspace Grant for the construction phase of this project in December 2014.

Conclusion

Council has undertaken extensive community consultation on the Western Walking Track proposal and has received overwhelming support from the community and also from NSW National Parks, federal Department of Finance and other interagency organisations.

The community members opposed to the proposal were mainly the Byrne Crescent residents. The concerns raised by them have been carefully considered and amendments made to the proposal to further address their concerns. It is considered that the proposal will not create safety concerns.

The Eastern Beaches Coastal Walk is a very significant recreational and economic asset to the City of Randwick. Randwick City Council has worked for over six years with a range of stakeholders including the community, state and federal government agencies to be in a position to deliver the Western Walking Track.

Recommendation

That the Western Walking Track proposal be completed by proceeding to detailed design stage and the tendering of the construction.

Attachment/s:

1. Malabar Headland Coastal Walk Map
2. Malabar Headland Coastal Walkway - Community Consultation Report



Malabar Headland Coastal Walkway

Community Consultation

March 2016

Results analysis and report

Prepared by Amanda Mather, Precinct Coordinator

Randwick City Council

Date 5 May 2016

Contents

Executive Summary	3
Background	4
Consultation	4
Yoursay webpage	4
Drop-in Session	4
Byrne Street Resident Meeting	5
Written submissions	5
Communication	6
Precincts and Key Stakeholders	7
Yoursay Results	7
Appendices	12

Executive Summary

This report outlines the consultation process undertaken to engage with the Randwick City community on the proposed Malabar headland coastal walkway. Specifically, Council undertook to consult with the community to give residents the opportunity to view and comment on the proposed walkway.

The consultation was open from 1 March 2016 to 28 March 2016 and used a number of communication tools to encourage participation in the consultation and inform residents of the project. Firstly, a dedicated Yoursay webpage was created and featured documentation on the planned track, a survey, quick poll and Q&A forum. The consultation was also on exhibition at all Randwick City Libraries and at Customer Service.

An informal drop-in session for residents to come and speak with Council, NPWS and the landscape architects was held on Saturday 19 March, 9-10am. Held at the South Maroubra Surf Life Saving Club, the session was attended by approximately 22 residents.

A special meeting with residents of Byrne Crescent was held on 23 March 2016 at the Bowen Library. The meeting was attended by 10 residents, along with staff from Council, NPWS and the landscape architect. The meeting allowed residents to discuss their concerns regarding the walkway location, fencing, access and maintenance.

A number of written submissions from residents were received by Council.

Council used a range of methods to communicate and encourage participation in the consultation, including Facebook posts, tweets, advertising in the Southern Courier, presentations at select precinct meetings, promotion in Randwick eNews, posters and flyers distributed around South Maroubra and Malabar, and letters from The Mayor to residents adjacent to the proposed track and key community stakeholders.

Results from the Yoursay webpage show that there was a total of 1,690 visits to the site, 50 quick poll responses, 27 questions asked and 446 survey submissions. From the survey, 91% of respondents supported the coastal walkway, 4% did not support the walkway and 5% were unsure. The majority of respondents indicated that they are very likely to use the new walkway, with 335 responses, and most would use it for exercise and recreation. The provision of an uninterrupted coastal walkway was the most important element of the planned Malabar Headland coastal walkway for survey respondent. This is closely followed by minimising the impact of the walkway on the natural environment and providing ocean views from the walkway.

Background

Council's 20 year City Plan (5a) commits to a continuous coastal walkway from Clovelly to Botany Bay. A critical missing link to this walkway south of Maroubra Beach is across Malabar headland through to Pioneer Park and Malabar beach.

A further City Plan Direction 5c is to advocate the return of the remaining Commonwealth land at Malabar Headland to community open space.

Council is proposing a western walking track across Malabar Headland, which will offer a unique bushland walking experience and amazing views from the escarpment. Council has worked with various government agencies and liaised with adjacent residents over several years to identify possible routes for this walkway which will link the southern end of Maroubra beach with Pioneer Park. The one kilometre western headland extension to the coastal walkway will result in a timelier outcome than a coastal option of the headland.

Council undertook to consult with the community to give residents the opportunity to view and comment on the proposed walkway.

Consultation

The Malabar Headland Coastal Walkway consultation was open from 1 March 2016 to 28 March 2016.

Yoursay webpage

A dedicated Yoursay webpage was created and featured documentation on the planned track, detailed design information on the boardwalk and stairs track (see Appendix A), a survey, quick poll and Q&A forum.

www.yoursayrandwick.com.au/malabarwalkway

The online consultation was made available in hard copy, and was on exhibition at all Randwick City libraries and at Customer Service. One hard copy survey was received as well as one hard copy quick poll.

Drop-in Session

An informal drop-in session for residents to come and speak with Council, NPWS and the landscape architects was held on Saturday 19 March, 9-10am. Held at the South Maroubra Surf Life Saving Club, the session was attended by approximately 22 residents. Overall the conversations were very positive and visitors to the session were supportive of the proposed walkway.

Image: Facebook post 19 March 2016



The majority of enquiries were for general information on the proposed track. Other enquiries included:

Topic	No. of enquiries
Accessibility	3
Bike access	2
Cost/funding and construction times	1
Dogs	1
Extending the track around the headland	4
Fencing/gates	1
Maintenance	1
Rifle range	2
Vegetation	1

Byrne Street Resident Meeting

A special meeting with residents of Byrne Crescent was held on 23 March 2016 at held at the Bowen Library. The meeting was attended by 10 residents, along with staff from Council, NPWS and the landscape architect.

Chaired by Joshua Hay, Manager Communications RCC, the meeting

1. Alan Bright, Manager Strategic Planning RCC gave a brief overview of Randwick Council's involvement in the project
2. Ben Khan, NPWS spoke about National Parks and Wildlife Service's role in caring for the track
3. Glenn Berrill, Director Thompson Berrill Landscape Design spoke in detail on the track design and construction, focussing on the areas of concern for the Byrne Crescent residents
4. An open discussion took place and the group addressed each of the major concerns outlined by the residents, namely:
 - Walkway location
 - Fencing either side of the walkway
 - Ford Road access to the walkway
 - Maintenance of the firebreak
 - Long term maintenance program
 - Access gates

See Appendix B for discussion and outcomes of the meeting: File note – Meeting with Byrne Crescent Residents

Written submissions

A number of written submissions from residents were received by Council.

Communication

Council used a range of methods to communicate and encourage participation in the consultation, including the Yoursay webpage and drop-in session.

The communication methods included:

- Facebook posts to Council's 10,000+ strong Facebook page
- Tweets on the @RandwickMayor and @RandwickCouncil accounts
- Advertising in the Southern Courier
- Presentations at the Maroubra Beach and Malabar Precinct meetings
- Promotion in Council's weekly Randwick eNews sent to 15,000+ subscribers
- Posters and flyers distributed around South Maroubra and Malabar
- Letter from The Mayor to residents in Broome Street, Byrne Crescent, Ford Road and Brown Road advising of the consultation
- Letter from The Mayor to key stakeholders advising of the consultation:
 - Mr Michael Daley MP, Member for Maroubra
 - The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP Member for Kingsford Smith
 - Mr Paul Fownes, Chairman South Maroubra Surf Life Saving Club
 - Ms Alison Vuletic, Hon. Secretary Maroubra Surf Life Saving Club
 - Mr Nadeem Akram, Plant Manager, Malabar WasteWater Treatment Plant
 - Mr Alan Patrick, Treasurer, Metropolitan District Rifle Association
 - Mr Chris Ingre, CEO, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council
 - Mr Stuart Read, Landscape Specialist, NSW Office of Environment & Heritage
 - Ms Donna Wright, South East Equestrian Club Incorporated
 - Mr Stan Konstantaras, Chairman, Recreational Fishing Alliance
 - Mr John Burgess, Executive Officer, Australian National Sport Fishing Assoc Ltd
 - Mr Ross Stevens, Director - Commercial Properties & Land, Department of Finance.

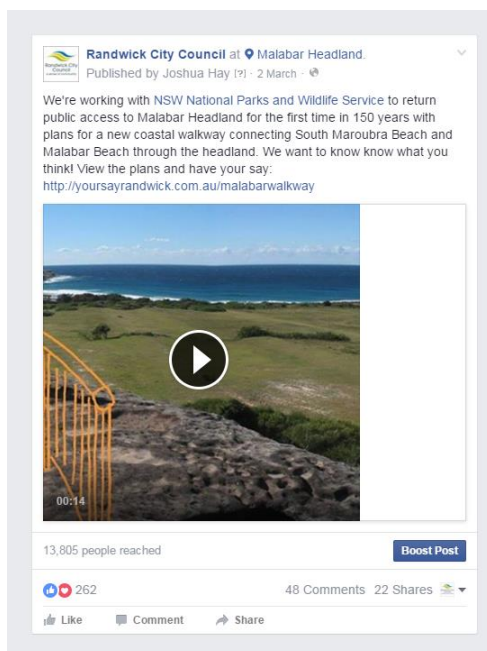


Image: Facebook post 2 March 2016

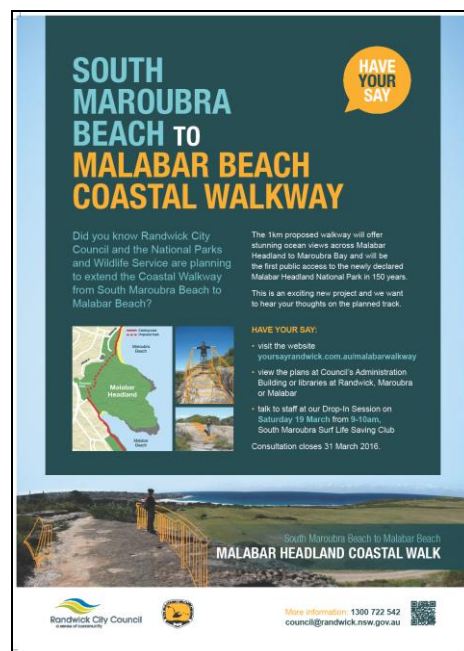


Image: Poster

Precincts and Key Stakeholders

Staff from Council's Strategic Planning team attended both the Malabar and Maroubra Beach Precincts to present on the proposed walkway and take questions from the residents.

23 residents attended the Malabar Precinct meeting on 10 March 2016 and resolved "that the Malabar Precinct supports the walkway in principle, and we request that a rep from National Parks and Wildlife attend the June meeting of the Precinct". As requested, Ben Kahn (NPWS) and Kerry Colquhoun (RCC) have agreed to attend the next Malabar Precinct meeting on 9 June 2016.

30 residents attended the Maroubra Beach Precinct meeting on 22 February 2016. No resolution was raised by the precinct in regards to the walkway, but residents were encouraged to go online to view more information and contribute to the consultation once it opened on 1 March.

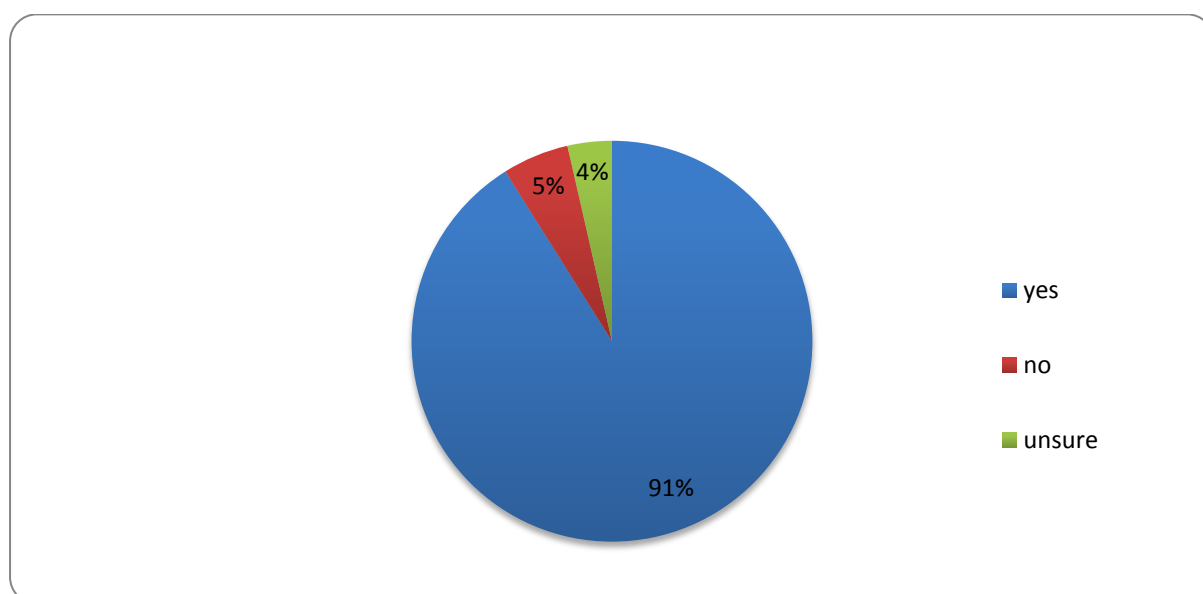
No submissions were received from the key stakeholders contacted by The Mayor by letter.

Yoursay Results

- A total of 1,690 visits to the yoursayrandwick.com.au/malabarwalkway webpage
- 377 maximum visits in one day (on March 1)
- 50 quick poll responses
- 27 questions were asked
- 446 survey submissions

Quick Poll

Do you support the plan for Coastal Walkway connecting South Maroubra Beach and Malabar Beach?



From the quick poll results, the majority of respondents support the coastal walkway. 91% answered 'yes', 5% answered 'no' and 4% were unsure.

Question and Answer (Q&A)

27 visitors asked a question about the walkway, with a total of 28 questions being asked (one respondent asked two questions).

The types of questions asked are summarised below:

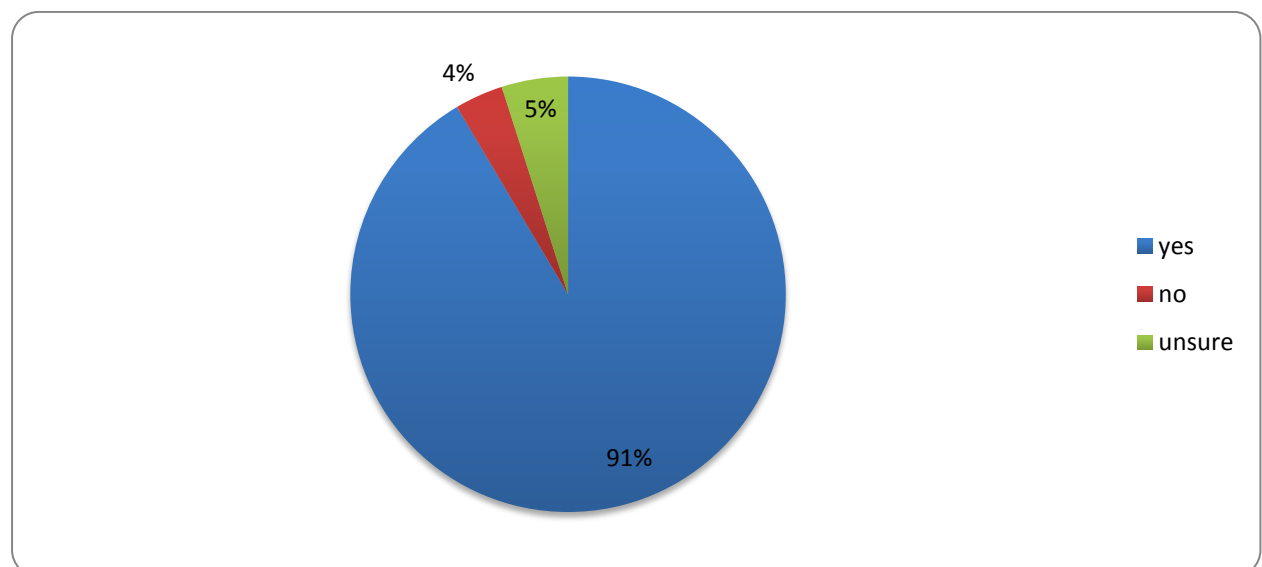
Topic	Number of related questions
Eastern headland walkway	6
Rifle range	5
Accessibility (wheelchair/pram)	4
Vegetation	3
Dogs	3
Bicycle path/access	2
Stormwater pipe Malabar	1
Wastewater treatment plant	1
Malabar SMAC aero modelling club	1
Cost of construction	1
Design/construction materials	1

Most questions asked related to the construction of a track around the eastern part of Malabar Headland (that is, making it a 'true' coastal walkway), followed by questions regarding the rifle range and public access to this area, and finally access for wheelchairs and prams.

See Appendix C for a full transcript of all questions and answers posted on the Yoursay webpage.

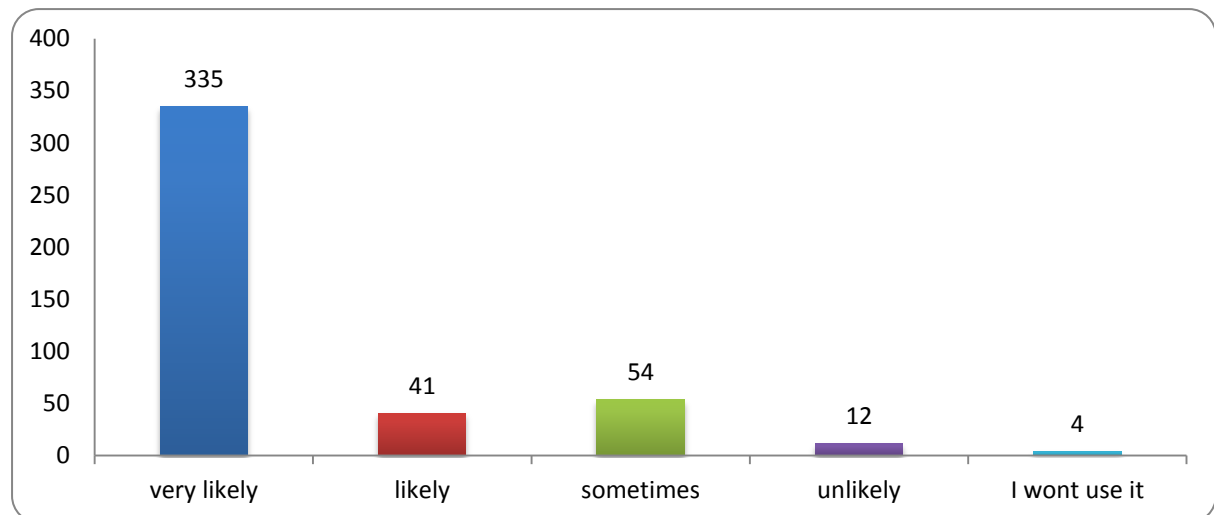
Survey

Question 1: Do you support the plan for a Coastal Walkway connecting South Maroubra Beach and Malabar Beach?



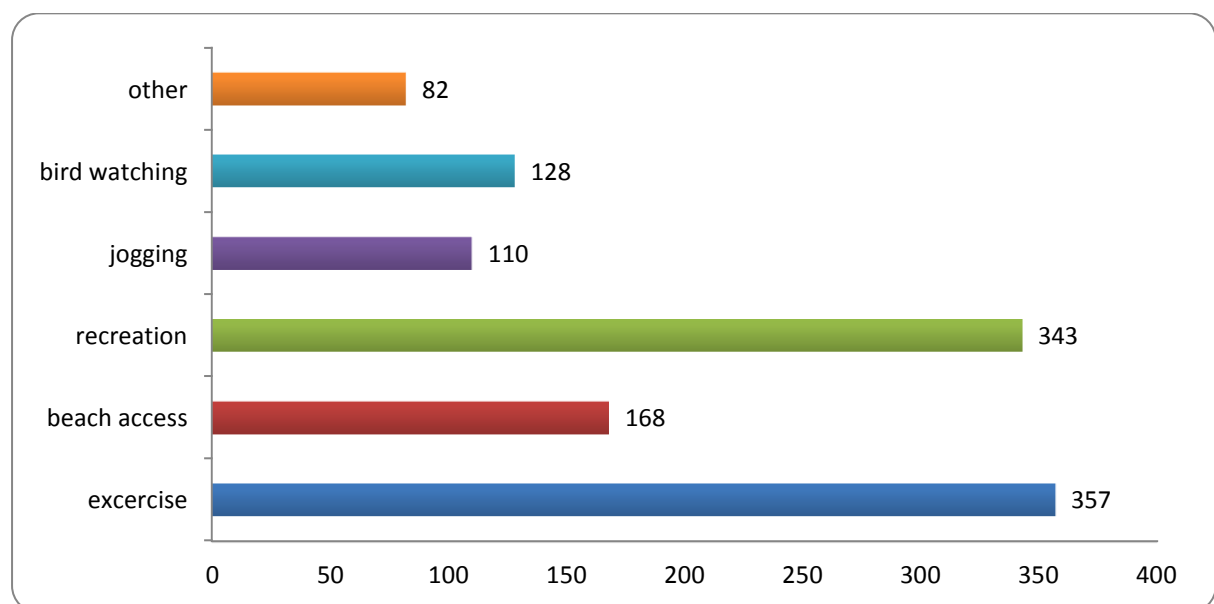
The results from this question are consistent with the results from the quick poll, whereby 91% of respondents said 'yes' they do support the coastal walkway. 4% indicated they do not support the walkway and 5% were unsure.

Question 2: How likely are you to use the new walkway?



An overwhelming number of respondents indicated that they are very likely to use the new walkway, with 335 responses. This was followed by 54 respondents indicating that they will use the walkway sometimes. Only 4 respondents indicated that they won't use the walkway.

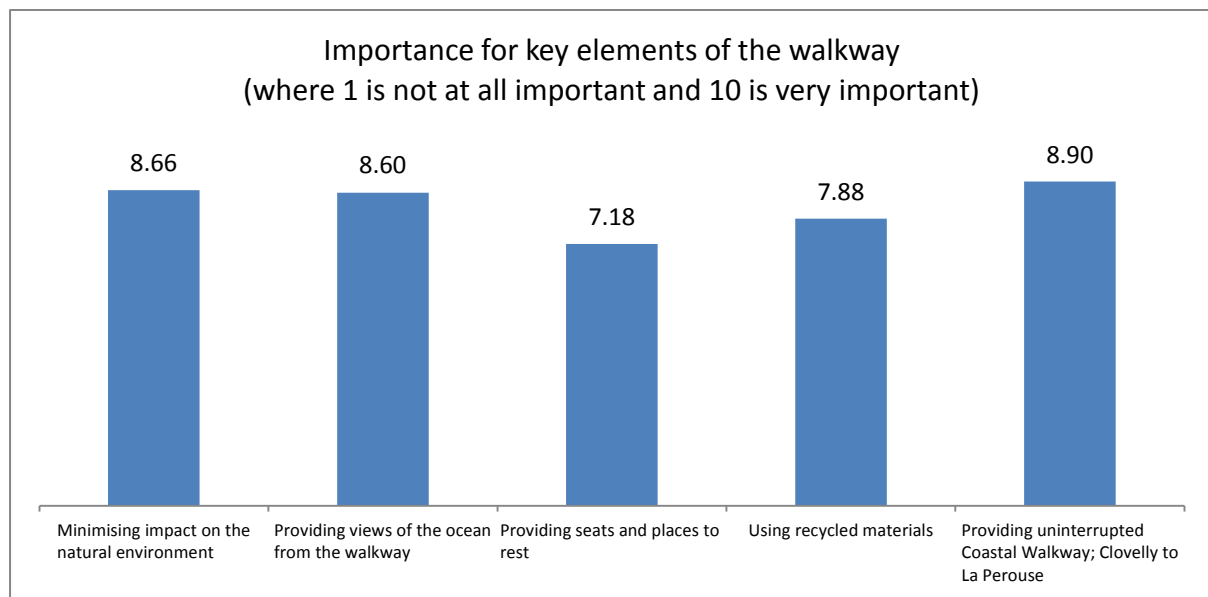
Question 3: Why would you use the walkway?



The top two reasons for using the new walkway were for exercise and recreation, with 357 and 343 responses respectively.

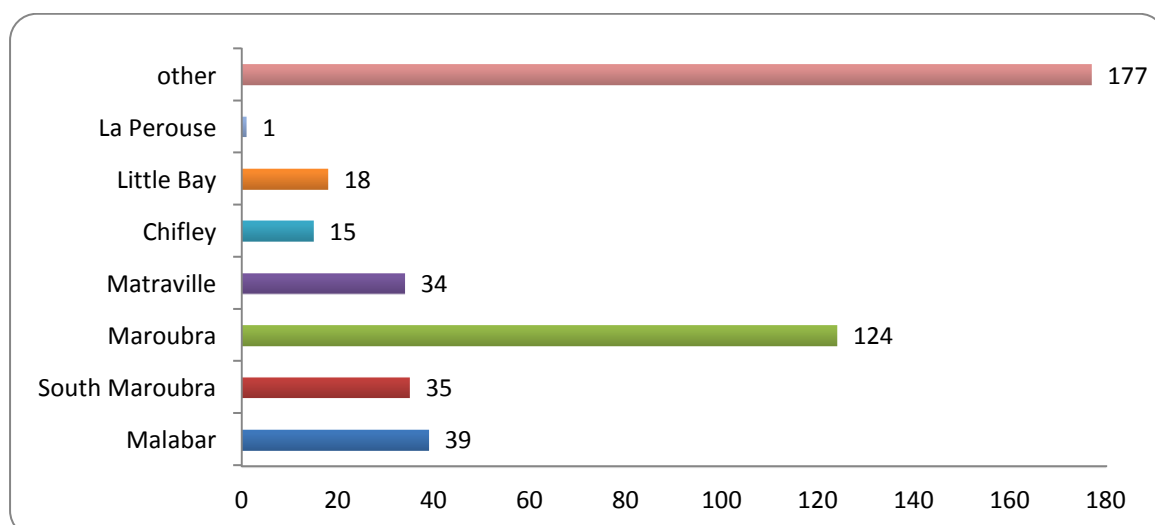
Question 4: Please rate how important each of the following is to you on a scale of 1-10 where 1 is not at all important and 10 is very important.

- a) Minimising the impact of the walkway on the natural environment
- b) Providing views of the ocean from the walkway
- c) Providing seats and places to rest along the walk
- d) Using recycled materials
- e) Providing an uninterrupted Coastal Walkway from Clovelly to La Perouse



This table shows that the majority of respondents consider the provision of an uninterrupted coastal walkway (from Clovelly to La Perouse) as the most important element of the planned Malabar Headland coastal walkway. This is closely followed by minimising the impact of the walkway on the natural environment and providing ocean views from the walkway.

Question 9: Your suburb



The majority of respondents listed 'other' as their suburb. From the data, the suburbs mostly commonly listed as 'other' are shown in the table below:

Other suburb	Number of respondents
Coogee	49
Randwick	49
South Coogee	24
Kingsford	15
Clovelly	7
Kensington	6

Appendices

Appendix A – Design documents on Yoursay Website



detailed design documentation

Malabar Headland Boardwalk & Stairs System

TBLD were engaged to investigate, refine and design the proposed extension of the popular coastal walk. Through extensive site visits, TBLD resolved key features including new stainless steel, timber and FRP boardwalk access structures; viewing platforms; and boardwalks over sensitive terrain. TBLD designed an enjoyable walk connecting Maroubra Beach to Malabar Beach, offering panoramic coastal views with minimal disturbance to endangered ESBS vegetation communities.

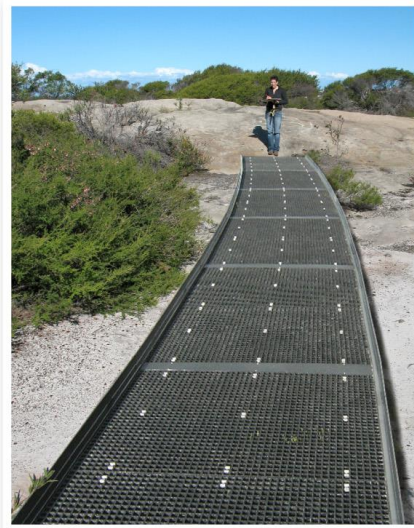
TBLD produced a Masterplan to environmentally, socially and economically link the two beaches over a dramatic sandstone escarpment using sustainable design principles to unobtrusively integrate the coastal walk into the natural environment.



TBLD, Randwick City Council and OEH assessed risk factors associated with areas of the escarpment. A risk reduction procedure was implemented that decreased the associated risk whilst maintaining the open nature of the site.



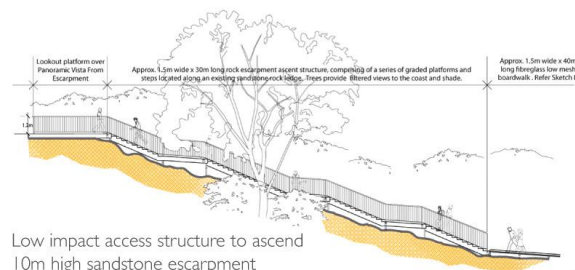
Sketch of boardwalk offering panoramic views over coast



Realistic photomontage of FRP boardwalk, showing use of new boardwalk materials that are durable, installed with minimal impact, allow light penetration for vegetation and direct visitors through the site without the need for additional infrastructure.



Protection of the ESBS endangered vegetation community



Low impact access structure to ascend 10m high sandstone escarpment

Appendix B – Meeting with Byrne Street Residents

Memorandum



TO: FILE

FROM: SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

DATE: 24 March 2016

FILE: F2010/00211

SUBJECT: MALABAR HEADLAND WESTERN WALKING TRACK

Notes from Meeting with Byrne Street residents on Wednesday 23 March 2016 at held at Bowen library.

Byrne Street residents: see sign in sheet

In Attendance from Council: Councillor Robert Belleli, Alan Bright, Joshua Hay, Kerry Colquhoun, Bronwyn Englaro and Amanda Mather

Question/Issue	Concern	Suggested response
Walkway should be fenced on both sides.	Vandals setting up camps in the area with drugs and light fires.	Fence on western side of walkway will be 2metres off the ground. Three fences will be provided between the rifle range and the residential properties.
Ford Road entrance should be fenced.	Don't want people using the fire trail as a short cut.	Gates for fire vehicle access were described and a map/plan was handed out to show the locations.
Maintenance of the firebreak.	Used to be done by Department of Finance and vegetation has encroached on this area.	NPWS is now responsible for this maintenance, any issues should call NPWS.
Fence maintenance.	High fences are being cut and not maintained. Who do we contact to get these fixed?	NPWS is now responsible for this maintenance, any issues should call NPWS.
Condition of vegetation.	Weeds and dead wood pose a fire risk.	NPWS have a fire management plan for this area and this will be extend to cover the eastern area

Question/Issue	Concern	Suggested response
Status of the eastern walking track.	Has this started?	NPWS have engaged a contractors to close down unwanted tracks and to trim the vegetation.
Asbestos.	Who told you this site was clean and how will you manage risks?	NPWS accepted the site with auditor signoff. The construction method for the boardwalk is a no dig approach. If asbestos is found during construction, works will stop and it will be removed. The boardwalk will provide a no soil contact walking track .
Parking on Ford Road.	Not enough parking as it is and this walkway will the situation worse. Should remove access to Ford Rd.	Council can't stop people from parking in the street. However the walkway will provide a local facility for local residents to access the beach.
Public access to shooting range.	People want to access the shooting range from Ford Rd and cut the fences a gate which could be locked during shooting would help prevent this	Commonwealth land with restricted access, RCC can raise this with the Commonwealth.
Maintenance of the track.	Who will do it and do you have a maintenance budget?	Council will be responsible for the maintenance and has a maintenance budget for the coastal walkway.
Boardwalk materials.	Is it fireproof?	Yes the FRP material can withstand low intensity fires.
Timing.	When will the walkway be built and how long will it take?	Construction is expected to start this calendar year and to take approximately 6 months to build.

Actions:

- Provide cadastre and 2014 aerial GIS files to TBLD.
- Council to notify Local Area Command of anti-social behaviour issues and request regular patrols when the walkway is opened.

Bronwyn Englaro

Senior Sustainability Officer

Appendix C – Q&A results on Yoursay Website

Date	Question	Answer
29-Feb	What are the plans for the eastern bushland section of the headland?	The ownership of the eastern headland has been handed over to NPWS to be managed as a National Park. It is the intention of the NPWS to make it officially open for public use once some outstanding issues are resolved. It is also a long term plan of Council and PWS to have a eastern headland coastal walk.
1-Mar	Wouldn't it be better to have the walkway closer to the coast - or an alternate path along the coast? I understand the issues with the shooters, but there is plenty of space close to the sea cliff edge to have a walkway that would not in any way be affected by the shooters (I have walked there many times during shooting - you are nowhere near the range). It would be good to rationalise the many small pathways that currently run near the ocean - they are affecting the bushland there. A built walkway would keep people out of the rest of the bush there - is this under consideration?	We agree that a walkway should also be built around the coastline and this is Council's long-term plan. However we can't progress these plans until issues around access and safety are resolved on the eastern part of the headland, so the walkway across the western part of the Headland provides an immediate solution to return public access. We're hopeful to be able progress plans for a walkway around the coastline in the future which will link up with the western walkway providing a 4km loop around Malabar Headland as well as a link between South Maroubra and Malabar Beaches.
1-Mar	How will the deep green moss carpets, which grow especially well on the escarpment edges during winter and spring, be protected from damage by our footwear?	The moss carpets have been carefully considered in the design of the walkway. They have been mapped and where necessary they have either been avoided or in some sections a low level elevated mesh boardwalk is proposed for this area to protect the moss from walkers and to allow light through and allow the moss to continue to grow below.
1-Mar	Is Randwick Council considering removing south maroubra shooting range and turning into public access park?	The rifle range and associated facilities at Malabar Headland is on Commonwealth owned land and Council has no control over it. The Commonwealth has advised that they are investigating potential new sites for the rifle range, however no announcements have been made as yet.
1-Mar	What action is intended to eradicate bitou bush which is infesting the whole of this coastal area including The Coast golf course?	The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is currently conducting bush regeneration activities including weed suppression at Malabar Headland National Park and will continue to do so into the future. Bitou Bush is being targeted by both contractors and the community volunteer group, the Friends of Malabar Headland. The Friends of Malabar Headland have been carrying out activities to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the headland for over 15 years. If you would like to volunteer with the Friends of Malabar Headland or find out more, visit http://malabarheadland.org.au/

1-Mar	Is it disability-friendly? i.e. can a person using a walker negotiate it?	Some sections of the track will require the construction of stairs to ensure safe access over escarpments, rock ledges and changes in topography, as well as protecting significant vegetation. Council has engaged the services of landscape architects who are experts in the design of walkways and trails, and have attempted to minimise the use of stairs as much as possible to ensure the highest level of accessibility.
1-Mar	If the gunmen use it more frequently what about noise pollution ?	The rifle range is on Commonwealth land located in the central part of the headland. Randwick Council does not have any control over these activities.
2-Mar	Does Randwick Council with Sydney Water intend to bury under dirt and vegetation (as has been proposed) most of the unsightly green storm-water pipe on Malabar Beach? It is not a good look for people to experience the beautiful natural headland along the proposed new walkway only to be confronted with this huge ugly green pipe that many people today still think allows effluent on to the beach despite it originally for storm water. Moreover this pipe sits incongruously as a reminder to all of the bad old days of storm water pumping directly into our beautiful beach. Please reply. Regards Louie	Yes we are looking at a number of options to reduce the visual impact of this pipe on Malabar Beach. As you are probably aware, a number of years ago Randwick Council and Sydney Water diverted most of the stormwater away from the beach which has resulted in a significant increase in water quality at the beach with BeachWatch rating the beach 'good' for the past three years. Unfortunately we can't remove the whole pipe as it is still required for overflow stormwater activity. As the pipe is an eyesight and a reminder of the 'old days' we're looking at options to partly bury it so that it blends into the natural landscape. Kind regards Josh
2-Mar	While I think a walkway is terrific, has any consideration been given to a bicycle path of some description which could eventually become part of a separate cycle or shared path route connecting Maroubra to La Perouse? Such a path could be along the lines of those enjoyed by cyclists and walkers on the southern end of the Gold Coast in Queensland or the Cooks River in Marrickville. We live in a relatively flat part of Sydney and we need more family friendly cycleways as well as walkways. Making this walkway wide enough to be a shared path would increase its use, especially once a more coastal walk along the cliff edge of the headland can be negotiated.	When designing the Coastal Walkway, various options were considered in regards to the function and width of the pathway. Due to the topography of this area and cost implications a path that accommodated a cycleway was not feasible. In the future, the National Parks and Wildlife Service may consider the inclusion of a bicycle path in the park.
2-Mar	When is construction proposed to commence on the Malabar Headland segment? When is construction proposed to commence on the Malabar-Little Bay- La Perouse sections? This is a fantastic project and the sooner it happens the better. Thank you to all involved.	Construction of the Malabar Headland walkway is expected to begin mid to late 2016. As a long-term project, Council envisages extending the coastal track south of the headland. However to complete this, a number of significant issues need to be resolved, including areas that are topographically challenging to design and agreement between Council and the local Golf Clubs who control the land in regards to impact on the

		course, ongoing maintenance and liability.
2-Mar	Hi, Are there any plans to reduce the odour that is produced by the wastewater treatment plant? The odour can be quite bad on certain days. It would be good if the national park could be enjoyed without the odour. Thanks	Sydney Water manages the Malabar Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and they are currently implementing an Improvement Project at the Plant. A reduction in odour from the WWTP is one of the expected benefits of this project. If you would like to know more about the Malabar Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project please call Sydney Water on 13 20 92 (Monday to Friday from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm) or you can email them on malabarwwtp@sydneywater.com.au
2-Mar	Is the walkway going to be "wheelchair accessible" OR Is the walkway going to be JUST another place the disabled/elderly cannot go. So far only a few places on the whole walkway are "wheelchair accessible"	Council has engaged the services of landscape architects who are experts in the design of walkways and trails. In planning the construction of the new walkway, Council has attempted to minimise the use of stairs to ensure the highest level of accessibility. Working in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Council considered a range of options to provide access in areas where the topography changes, including ramps. Unfortunately, in an effort to retain significant vegetation and to traverse some very steep topography, we have been unable to avoid stairs in some parts of the track.
2-Mar	How about an off road bicycle trail in there? There is an increasingly large user group of cyclists in the eastern suburbs that can not ride off road legally, anywhere between Manly and Sutherland. There has been plenty of push for something similar in centennial park for years but Malabar would hugely better suited!! MTBA could provide statistics where necessary.. Thank you	Malabar Headland National Park contains the Endangered Ecological Community, Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS). Less than 3% of the original distribution of this community remains in a number of isolated remnants. ESBS occurs on disjunct patches of nutrient poor aeolian (wind blown) dune sand. These soils are very sensitive to erosion. Historically, informal access to the headland has resulted in erosion and physical damage to the ESBS. The National Parks and Wildlife Service are, in the first instance, committed to providing visitors with safe and environmentally sensitive walking routes to reduce the current degradation and fragmentation of the ESBS at Malabar Headland National Park. A Plan of Management(External link) will be prepared for the park and there will be a community consultation phase and stakeholders will have an opportunity to propose further recreational concepts at that time.

2-Mar	As the Coastal Walk (once extended along coast-edge of golf courses to South of Malabar) will be stair-less and fully 'accessible' from North Coogee to at least Little Bay (or maybe even La Perouse), why would Council introduce one set of stairs in this 4-8km length of 'accessible' walkway? Surely the the alternative to this one flight of stairs is to 'curve' the walkway route towards the West (ie staying in NP land) to slowly gain the height, rather than building a set of stairs to go directly up edge of rock-face. Especially with raised walkway, this change to avoid stairs is 'easy' (as an engineer who has walked whole area). The curved path that climbs from Bronte playground North to Marine Parade is a 60+ year old design done properly, whereas the endless stairs where path passes cemetery South of Bronte is a 10yo design that was done poorly, due to its excessive use of stairs. Can Council please 'step-up' to a better less-discriminatory design?	Council has engaged the services of Landscape Architects who are experts in the design of walkways and trails. In planning the construction of the new walkway, Council has attempted to minimise the use of stairs to ensure the highest level of accessibility. Working in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Council considered a range of options to provide access in areas where the topography changes, including ramps. Unfortunately, in an effort to retain significant vegetation and to traverse some very steep topography, we have been unable to avoid stairs in some parts of the track.
2-Mar	How can this be a Q & A when council has already decided the route of this INLAND walkway. This is NOT a coastal walkway. I am very disappointed that construction is proposed to commence on a substandard route. Please, please try harder to negotiate mutually suitable times for shooters and walkers to access the COAST, not the inland as shown in this proposal. Specify times for walking and times for shooting and advertise. If you are going to do it, do it right and make it a truly coastal walkway.	The route for the walkway is just a proposal at this stage and will be informed by this consultation process. At this point in time we are limited in where we can locate the walking track and it needs to be on the western part of the headland which has already been declared national park. The middle part of the headland is Commonwealth land used by the Shooters and Council has no control or input into this land or how it is used. We are also planning a walking track around the coast on the eastern part of the headland, however these plans are dependent on resolving safety and access issues. The benefit of having both an inland walking track and coastal walking track is that they will meet up and provide a shorter 1km track from South Maroubra Beach to Malabar Beach and also a longer 3km coastal track as well as a 4km loop around the headland. Please be assured our long term goal is to provide a walkway around the coast and we're working with our partners NPWS to achieve this.
7-Mar	What is a plan to reopen Malabar SMAC aero modelling club?	The Sydney Model Aero Club's use of Malabar headland was subject to a lease agreement between the Commonwealth Department of Finance and the club. The club was required to vacate the site with all other users in 2011 when asbestos was found to present a health hazard. Any further use of the central lot of the Malabar headland site would be subject to a lease agreement between the club and the Commonwealth as owners of the land.

7-Mar	How much construction of this walkway would cost to local residents?	The cost to construct the entire length of the walkway will be in the vicinity of \$2 million, however this is an estimate at this time. The walkway is funded by Council's annual works budget. For a number of years numerous sections of the Eastern Suburbs Coastal Walkway have been significantly funded by Randwick City Council, which has resulted in a world class recreation facility that is rated as one of Sydney's most admired tourist attractions. The walkway has contributed substantial income to the local economy.
7-Mar	If the walkway is going to protect the environment from foottraffic, wouldn't it also significantly reduce any impact from responsible dogwalkers who cleanup after themselves and have dogs on leads? Is there anyway to get an exemption from the State National Park prohibition on dogs and manage the pathway so that dogwalkers can use the whole coastal walkway and not have to go around from Pioneer Park to Maroubra beach?	Dogs are not permitted in NSW National Parks, although some regional parks can and do allow dog walking. You can find the National Parks and Wildlife Service, 'Pets in Parks' Policy along with a list of regional parks which allow dog walking at; http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/conservation-and-heritage/care-for-parks/dogs-in-parks . There are a number of on and off leash open spaces adjacent to Malabar Headland National Park, a list of these locations can be found at; http://www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/services/animals-and-pets/off-leash-dog-areas
7-Mar	Hi Council, are you actively working to remove the shooting range which is taking away all the truly spectacular precious area of the Malabar peninsula away from the general public? To be honest, the walkway is not really a coastal walkway - it is more or less a compromise walk around the shooting range (which is way too dangerous for anyone even remotely being able to enjoy what the Malabar has to offer). The proposed walkway is just around the corner from the existing pathway to Malabar via Broome street, Anzac Parade and Cromwell pl....it seems like a waste of tax payers' money to be building another walkway that does not deliver what everyone wants i.e. an actual "coastal walkway".	The Commonwealth Government control the central portion of the Malabar Headland where the ANZAC Rifle Range is located, and attempts to relocate the rifle range in the past have been unsuccessful. Any future negotiations to relocate the rifle range remains the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. The proposed western walkway provides a very different experience to walking along Broome Street. The walkway offers some spectacular views of the coast as it winds its way through some impressive vegetation and terrain.
7-Mar	The ESBS remnant behind Byrne Crescent at the northern end of the walkway is now part of the Malabar Headland National Park and is magnificent condition. Is it intended to allow unrestricted access to this remnant? How will people, dogs and cyclists be confined to the boardwalk?	Randwick City Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service are aware of the extent of the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub located in this area and this important ecological community has been carefully considered in the location and design of the walkway.. The walkway route is largely located to the western edge of the ESBS, also sections of the walkway include "ESBS Protection fence" which is a low fence that encourages walkers to stay on the walkway route.

10-Mar	Why isn't the "Coastal" walkway actually running around the Coast? It seems like an inland walkway. Why can't you work with governments and users of the headland to actually run it around the headland.	A walkway should be built around the coastline and this is Council's long-term plan. However we can't progress these plans until issues around access and safety are resolved on the eastern part of the headland, so the walkway across the western part of the Headland provides an immediate solution to return public access. We're hopeful to be able progress plans for a walkway around the coastline in the future which will link up with the western walkway providing a 4km loop around Malabar Headland as well as a link between South Maroubra and Malabar Beaches.
17-Mar	Why aren't you fighting for the WHOLE Headland to be handed to local people and the people of NSW? Is the Council going to support the sub-division and sale of the rest just like Prince Henry was lost to the public?	Council's position on the Malabar Headland is outlined in the Randwick City Plan and includes an action for the four year delivery program (2013-2017) to: "Advocate the return of the remaining Commonwealth land at Malabar Headland to community open space." To view the plan, visit (see page 53): http://www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/10279/20_Year_Randwick_City_Plan.pdf
20-Mar	As the rifle range is on Commonwealth owned land and Council has no control over it who do we contact in the Government to find out what's happening? Thanks. Can't wait to roam free range in my park whenever I like.	To find out more about the rifle range you can contact Mr Cameron Blagdon, Project Manager, Property and Construction Division, Department of Finance. Telephone 02 6215 3989 or email: cameron.blagdon@finance.gov.au
29-Mar	Hi Council and thanks for the forum. I have two questions: 1. The coastal walk along Maroubra currently is quite heavily laden with dog excrement due to walkers who do not pick up after their dog. This walk will be built in a sensitive natural environment in a national park. How will it be protected from dogs, and how will these measures be enforced? 2. The walkway is only substandard to a coastal walkway, which I understand is regrettably not within your control at the moment. Will the Council's official position continue to be to strongly lobby the Commonwealth government and the State for the return of ALL of the headland to the community so it can be available for recreational use by everyone?	Dogs are not permitted in NSW National Parks. Signage will be included at the entrances of the walking track to inform pet owners of park regulations. Enforcement of park regulations is carried out by National Park and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Rangers. Some regional parks can and do allow dog walking. You can find the National Parks and Wildlife Service, 'Pets in Parks' Policy along with a list of regional parks which allow dog walking at; http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/conservation-and-heritage/care-for-parks/dogs-in-parks NPWS have begun the planning for a walking track in the eastern part of Malabar Headland National Park, which will connect South Maroubra Beach to Long Bay. While these plans are being developed, NPWS will maintain an interim Class 4 walking route between these locations (Class 4 tracks are defined as long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited and bushwalking experience is recommended). This mostly on-ground track will be open for public use by June this year. We agree that a walkway should be built around the coastline and this is Council's long-term plan.

30-Mar	Has the landscape architects included any wheelchair users when planning this track? It seems incredible that in the middle of the track you are putting in a set if stairs. Go and watch who is using the coast walk and you wont see any wheelchairs - because it not accessible at all. There is a spinal unit at Randwick and Spinal Cord Injuries Australia is at Little Bay - disabled people should be included in this facility	In planning the proposed track, Council and the landscape architects were mindful of providing an accessible walking track. Unfortunately, in an effort to retain significant vegetation and to traverse some very steep topography, we have been unable to avoid the one set of stairs you are referring to in the plan.
----------------------	--	--