
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

McKillop Park Boardwalk Extension, Freshwater

Consultation period: Friday 18 November to Sunday 18 December 2022

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1. Summary

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of the public exhibition of the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) – McKillop Park Boardwalk Extension, conducted between 18 November 2022 and 18 December 2022.




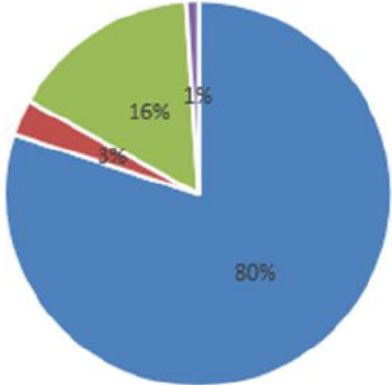

The feedback received during consultation indicated a high level of support for the extension of the boardwalk.

Respondents who commented in support of the proposed extension indicated that the extension will be a welcome addition to what is already a much-loved coastal walk, while making it more accessible to all community members. Some respondents thanked Council for undertaking the extensive Review of Environmental Factors.

Some respondents suggested alternative routes for the proposed boardwalk, with others recommending that the boardwalk be extended beyond what was proposed.






Respondents who commented against the proposed extension indicated concern around the impacts to the environment and the addition of man-made structures to a natural area. Comments also reflected a desire to improve the accessibility to Freshwater Beach over the extension of the existing boardwalk.

1.1. Key outcomes

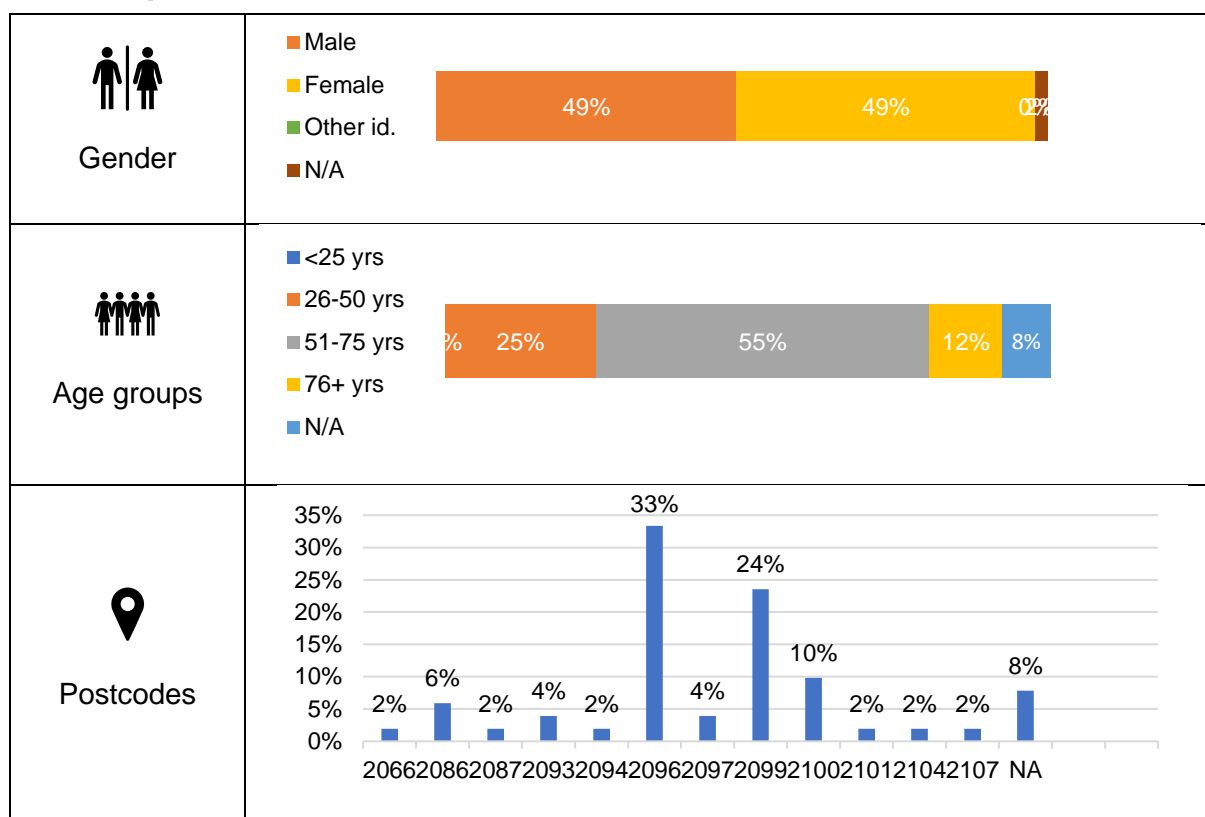
 Total unique responses	54					
 How responses were received	Submission/Comment form Written responses (email/letter)	Completions: 51 Number received: 3				
 Sentiment	 <table><tr><td>■ Support</td></tr><tr><td>■ Support with changes</td></tr><tr><td>■ Don't support</td></tr><tr><td>■ Neutral/Not related</td></tr></table>		■ Support	■ Support with changes	■ Don't support	■ Neutral/Not related
■ Support						
■ Support with changes						
■ Don't support						
■ Neutral/Not related						
	Improves access for all Ensure it's wide enough	Access to rock platform Avoids current congestion				

Feedback themes	Impact on environment and vegetation	
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1.2. How we engaged

 Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 2,310	Visits: 2,684	Average time onsite: 1 min 0 secs
 Print media and collateral	Northside Living: 1 editorial Mailout: to parts of postcode 2096 Site signs used: Yes		Distribution: 199,000 (e-news letter and magazine) Distribution: 100 Number of signs: 3
 Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2 editions Council (weekly) e-News: 3 editions (1 news story and 2 Your Say inclusions) The Wave Disability News (monthly): 1 edition Stakeholder email: 1		Distribution: Approx. 22,000 subscribers Distribution: Approx. 180,000 subscribers Distribution: Approx. 1,300 subscribers Distribution: 19
 Face-to-face sessions	Pop up / Drop in: 1		Attendance: 56
 Key stakeholder engagement	Drop in: 1		Attendance: 8

1.3. Who responded¹



2. Background

The Freshwater Coastal Open Space Masterplan, adopted by Council in 2018, identifies the construction of a link between the end of South Curl Curl Boardwalk (Harry Elliffe Way) and McKillop Park Reserve.

Due to the environmental sensitivities and rich biodiversity of the area, extensive work has been undertaken to ensure the design of the boardwalk has limited environmental impacts.

Total Earth Care was commissioned by Council to prepare a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) to assess environmental impacts for the proposed construction of the boardwalk and associated viewing platforms.

The REF describes the proposed boardwalk, assesses the likely impacts on the environment, and includes measures to mitigate and manage any potential impacts.

¹ Demographic data was gathered by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities
- provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way
- identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the McKillop Park Boardwalk Extension, Freshwater was conducted between Friday 18 November to Sunday 18 December 2022, and consisted of a series of activities that provided opportunities for community and stakeholders to contribute.

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

A project page² was established on our have your say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

The project was primarily promoted through onsite signage, resident and stakeholder notifications, and our regular email newsletter (EDM) channels.

Feedback was captured through an online submission form embedded onto the have your say project page. An open-field comments box provided community members a space to share their feedback.

Email and written submissions were also invited and contact details for the project manager provided should there be questions from the community.

We held an onsite session to promote awareness of the project and answer questions in person. This was an opportunity to speak directly with Friends of Freshwater, local residents and visitors to the area.

4.1. Reaching diverse audiences

A thorough stakeholder mapping exercise was completed to identify and understand the needs of the whole community. It was determined for this project that it was particularly important to hear from people with reduced mobility. In addition to regular channels and engagement technique to capture a range of views, we also included information about the project in Council's The Wave - Disability Newsletter.

We also spoke with representatives of the local Bushcare group.

5. Findings

The consultation process attracted a diverse range of responses which supported the extension of the boardwalk and the Review of Environmental Factors.

² <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/mckillop-park-boardwalk-extension>

Respondents said the area was valued for its views, natural areas, local flora and fauna and active recreational opportunities.

Generally, supportive comments indicated that the extension would provide additional active recreation opportunities to an already loved community walk, while providing improved access to all users and reducing congestion along Lumsdaine Drive.

Many respondents noted that the elevated design would ensure minimal impacts to native vegetation, flora and fauna. Some expressed that the new boardwalk would improve safety in the area, by providing formal access along the rock platform, however requested that the boardwalk be wide enough to accommodate people passing and moving in opposite directions safely.

- *I think this is a wonderful idea. Currently many people negotiate the rocks and it would help other less active people to enjoy the view.*
- *I fully support this proposal. It will make the boardwalk more accessible, particularly for people with pram. The existing boardwalk is an excellent use of public space and this will improve it even further. Council should seek to implement this as soon as possible.*
- *Great idea - my only comment would be to make it as wide as possible so joggers and dog walkers can pass each other*
- *"The extension of the McKillop Park Board Walk in Freshwater is a wonderful idea. The current board walk is very popular with walkers and runners and the planned extension will avoid the congestion that sometimes occurs at the stairs and will make it more accessible for those who have difficulty using the stairs. Any pathway or board walk that encourages the community to get outdoors and exercise is an excellent idea. The council is to be commended on these plans."*
- *This is a very detailed and considered report and i thank the council for commissioning it. Please now go ahead and implement this improvement for community access as soon as possible so the next stages can then be worked on. Making our wonderful area more accessible for all in an environmentally sensitive way will make more people understand why we need to keep these natural environmental assets.*

While overall supportive of the proposal, some respondents suggested an alternate route for the boardwalk extension.

- *At the southern end of the site, the proposed boardwalk crosses over dense vegetation. Were alternative routes across this area considered to lessen the proposed boardwalk impacts?*

For example, can the southern end be re-routed to continue to follow along the edge of the dense vegetation, thereby lessening the impact to the remnant bush land?

If this was possible it would be a preferred outcome as it would have less construction impacts on this area and less long term disturbance and potentially to the overall headland.

I would like to see alternative options for the boardwalk to lessen and minimise the impacts on the native flora and fauna on this remnant bush land habitat as part of the REF review and assessment.

Some respondents felt that an extension to the existing boardwalk was not required, and that the beauty of the area would be impacted by additional man-made structures. Concerns were also raised regarding the impacts of the boardwalk on the environment.

Issues and suggestions are further outlined in table 2 below along with Council's response.

Table 1: Issues, change requests and other considerations

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Preservation of natural environment	<p>The proposed extension is too extensive and impedes on natural vegetation and rocky areas of habitat.</p> <p>The coastline should be kept in its natural state.</p>	<p>The Freshwater Coastal Open Space Masterplan, adopted by Council in 2018, identifies the construction of a link between the end of South Curl Curl Boardwalk (Harry Elliffe Way) and McKillop Park Reserve.</p> <p>The Review of Environmental Factors (REF) prepared for the project, concludes that the proposed boardwalk is unlikely to have a significant impact on the environment.</p> <p>The results of the initial Flora & Fauna Impact Assessment determined no significant impact to threatened flora and fauna and their habitat.</p> <p>The proposed design minimises the impact on the ground, traveling over most of the terrain while allowing light and water through enabling flora and fauna unfettered access.</p>
Cost	<p>Money would be better spent elsewhere than on this boardwalk extension.</p> <p>This project is a waste of money.</p>	<p>The project is fully funded by Grants which have been awarded for the purpose of building the boardwalk extension only.</p>
Disturbing untouched areas	<p>Providing easy access to the headland/rock shelf will disturb what is currently a quiet area not accessible to everyone.</p> <p>The beauty and attraction of this headland is its nature and that its untouched.</p>	<p>It has been designed to fit the terrain and be sensitive to the existing natural environment and landscape.</p> <p>Informal tracks have been made by users accessing the rocks rather than ascending</p>

		the stairs. The continuation of the boardwalk will allow formal access to the coastline protecting the vegetation and rock platforms.
Existing pathway is suitable	<p>There is already a perfectly good walkway there.</p> <p>The footpath already provides an incredible view and more than sufficient proximity.</p> <p>Maintain what we have and stop creating more built form.</p>	<p>This is an accessible boardwalk that will allow elderly or less mobile people to enjoy this portion of the coastline.</p> <p>This project is about making the existing walkway more inclusive to all users.</p>
Alternate route or location	Continue the walkway around the Freshwater toilet block to the beach.	Continuation of the walkway to Freshwater Beach was investigated with several options considered, however it was deemed that this extension was not feasible due to a number of factors, including wave inundation, environmental hazards, ground surface conditions and geotechnical issues, therefore it will not form part of this project.

Table 2: Questions raised and Council's answers

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
Why not upgrade the current path up the stairs and along the sidewalk?	The current path and stairs are not accessible, the boardwalk extension will provide an accessible connection to McKillop Park for all users.
How wide will the boardwalk be?	The total width will be 2.1 metres, with an internal width of 1.8 metres.
How will Council make sure that the "low impact" assessment is accurate and that there will be no significant damage?	To minimise any potential impacts from the proposed boardwalk extension, a number of mitigation and management safeguards are incorporated into the REF. These mitigation and management safeguards are outlined in Section 6 - Impact Assessment.

Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Number	Comment/submission
1	Extension of the boardwalk is totally unnecessary. There is already a perfectly good walkway there, it's merely higher up. Keeping the coastline in it's natural state is far more important given so much of our area is being developed. The money would be better spent by fixing the endless potholes we currently have in our roads.
2	I do not agree with this development. It is unnecessary and disturbs the quiet parts where not all pedestrians and their dogs can pass through or near.
3	Will improve an already great seaside walk.
4	This is a fantastic idea- please do it The boardwalk we have is lovely and to extend it would only bring extra joy to everyone
5	Provide on/off gate with steps before going up to street to allow walkers coming around the point from the pool to get on and head north OR walkers on boardwalk to get off and continue south on rocks around to the pool.
6	McKillop Park Boardwalk Extension: We, as local residents and rate payers, are regular users of the current boardwalk. We have read the REF and fully support the proposed boardwalk extension!
7	Brilliant idea, so good and helps to protect the natural environment and allow people access to walk amongst it
8	Great idea - my only comment would be to make it as wide as possible so joggers and dog walkers can pass each other
9	I am supportive of this boardwalk upgrade while wish to confirm that it will be fully wheelchair accessible
10	My only concerns are that it will once again be delayed and also how it is coordinated with the Wuruna sculpture also due for completion at that time - after a 6 months delay.
11	I fully support this proposal. It will make the boardwalk more accessible, particularly for people with pram. The existing boardwalk is an excellent use of public space and this will improve it even further. Council should seek to implement this as soon as possible.
12	The concept plan for the Freshwater Headland boardwalk looks really very good. My only concern is that there is no access from the boardwalk onto the rock platform. Many people currently divert away from the existing platform near the stairs (point 1 on the concept plan) to walk down to the rock platform. It would be better if there was an exit from the new boardwalk to the rock platform near point 2 on the concept plan.
13	Whilst this is a nice idea, please can we just maintain what we have and stop creating MORE built form around these beautiful areas. It is unnecessary. The footpath already provides an incredible view and more than sufficient proximity. Please, please, please reduce further man-made incursion AND reduce money being spent unnecessarily!
14	As an owner in unit block that looks over Freshwater Beach - I would not support the expensive walkway across the rocks from the already existing curl curl walk to McKillop Park. The BEST suggestion would be - The continuation of the walkway from path around the Freshwater toilet blocks to the beach, up along the grass section above the very hard walkway near the storm water pipes and to the street. This area has so much walking traffic and disabled people especially cannot make this walk at the moment, not to mention families with strollers trying to get to the beach and pool. We should be trying to help make access to this area much easier for all people.
15	The extension of the McKillop Park Board Walk in Freshwater is a wonderful idea. The current board walk is very popular with walkers and runners and the planned extension will avoid the congestion that sometimes occurs at the stairs and will make it more accessible for those who have difficulty using the stairs. Any pathway or board walk that encourages the community to get outdoors and exercise is an excellent idea. The council is to be commended on these plans.

*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.

16	I think this is a wonderful idea. Currently many people negotiate the rocks and it would help other less active people to enjoy the view.
17	<p>Are you [REDACTED] FOR REAL!!!</p> <p>You won't allow dogs on beaches due to potential environmental factors (WHICH ARE ZERO!) but you want to install an entire boardwalk, impacting it SEVERELY!</p> <p>You are the joke of the world NBC!</p> <p>If this goes ahead then the rate paying residents will presume we will be finally allowing approving dogs on all beaches - like the rest of the world!</p>
18	Great idea, I am in favour
19	<p>The walkway is on one of my jogging routes. Last weekend I went there to inspect the proposed extension. I support the extension in principle but the route chosen is not very good.</p> <p>Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People coming from Freshwater beach and pool who want to get on the boardwalk don't like climbing the stairs to the toilets, up through the carpark and then going back down again onto the path. <p>They would prefer to do as little climbing as possible so it would be better if the walkway started lower down, on the rocks near pool level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The boardwalk will eventually be extended to Freshwater beach in the years to come. We may as well plan for that now by having a path that goes in the right direction. - The way it has been designed now, it cuts through bush and bird habitat. There is no need to do that. It would be better to keep the birds and trees and plan around them. <p>I have attached a suggestion for a better route as a pdf file.</p> <p>This route joins the existing walkway to the asphalt road that runs to the pool from the carpark. Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less up and down for people walking on the walkway. - Naturally connects the pool and beach with the walk to Curl Curl. - Well positioned for future extension. - Does not require tree removal and habitat clearing. - Takes people further in the direction they want to go
20	<p>The elephant in the room is the Curl Curl terminus of the walk - a crappy carpark!!</p> <p>Remodel the area into a passive recreational area - seating, green space, lookout with history and environmental interpretive signage. How about some public art???</p>
21	<p>We support anything that encourages walking and making walking safer. We would just like to see strict enforcement of the dogs on leash rules which are currently routinely ignored and the collection of dog poo. Existing boardwalks, walkways and grass verges are all too often spoiled by dog poo which is unsightly, a hazard, odorous and polluting.</p> <p>Thanks!</p>
22	<p>The beauty and attraction of this headland is its nature and that it is untouched. There is not much untouched around anymore so this is a precious place.</p> <p>A boardwalk around the rocks would be nice and it would also take away some of the current look and feel. The appeal of these rocks now is that they are untouched!</p> <p>Why not upgrade the current path up the stairs and along the sidewalk? There is a stunning view from there too and the extended board walk idea could easily be integrated that way.</p>

23	<p>As an elderly resident who uses the Abbott Road, Curl Curl, Freshwater walking path, I commend the council on the McKillop Park Boardwalk extension.</p> <p>Although not lengthy, it will significantly extend and enhance my exercise regime, thank you.</p> <p>The surface material selected not only allows light and water to the area beneath, but is also a safer, longer lasting, non-slip option than the existing timber boardwalk which can become uneven, slippery and a trip hazard.</p> <p>Finally, I know that the surface material can be sourced locally in Brookvale and I hope that Council will be supporting our local industries / businesses.</p> <p>Thank you and congratulations.</p>
24	This will be a great extension to an already lovely walk, thank you NBC
25	<p>The plan looks wonderful and it will be a very welcomed addition to the boardwalk, particularly leading to and from the iconic artwork that will be installed in the next 12 months.</p> <p>However, as a frequent user of the current boardwalk, I think it's absolutely essential that the new boardwalk is wide enough to allow 'two way traffic'. It's just not feasible to have a narrow walkway where users walk both ways, more often than not, with their dog/s.</p>
26	I do Bushcare along this section and am thankful that you moved the path that once went through all our revegetation area. I now fully support this new route. It looks great and will be a great asset to the area. Thanks
27	An excellent idea & i look forward to progress & completion.
28	Excellent idea. The protection of mature native plants and minimising impact to all plants is great.
29	Excellent idea - would be great if it was wider than the current boardwalk as the current width is hard to run along when busy.
30	Great get on with it
31	I support the proposal
32	This proposal is a waste of money. The existing boardwalk and the higher footpath are adequate for enjoying the beauty of this section of coastline and one can feel secure in that all parts are visible to the public. There is the possibility that the extension will pose a security threat in that a part or parts will be isolated and not visible from above as is the present boardwalk.
33	The general concept appears appropriate and will improve the value of this walk. The concern for the existing flora and fauna is recognized. I record a positive response. It would be good if future consideration could be given to the final section near Freshwater Beach where rocks need to be negotiated.
34	I am happy to see the project go ahead. I note there will be minimal damage to existing native flora with re-planting provided for. I note also that the local Bushcare group, of which I am a long-standing member, will be involved in follow-up restoration.
35	I support the extension of the board walk, however it seems extravagant when basic services can not be provided to rate payers. We have been repeated told there is no budget to maintain Councils road reserve in The Drive, Freshwater. Further more The Drive does not have any kerb and gutter along it western side, its just a weedy mess. Surely these works should be prioritised ahead of extending the board walk.
36	<p>I am submitting a comment on the proposed McKillop Park Boardwalk Extension. While I think that an accessible boardwalk is worthwhile, I think that the proposed boardwalk is too extensive and impedes on both the natural vegetation and rocky areas of habitat.</p> <p>Additionally the area of the proposed extension is prone to seaspray and wave splashes in certain weather conditions which may make the boardwalk difficult to access at these times. I think that a accessible boardwalk extension further north along Lumsdaine drive would be safer and less damaging to the rocky habitat to the south.</p>
37	<p>Hi</p> <p>We often walk from South Curly to the point so this extension to the boardwalk would be wonderful and so much nicer than the rather narrow footpath section at the moment.</p>

	The only thing which concerns me is the review of environmental factors and the reliability/competency of the organisation doing the work. When the new drainage was put in under the existing boardwalk (just before the take-off point for the proposed extension) the damage to the vegetation was immense. It was completely denuded of native vegetation for many months and the area still has not recovered. How will council make sure that the "low impact" assessment is accurate and that there will be no significant damage? Our coastal bushland is so precious, we must not do anything that threatens it unnecessarily.
38	I think extension is a terrific idea. While there may be some impact on flora, the damage to the area from random tracks made by people exploring off the path are arguably worse. I believe that constricting movement to a structured path would cause minimal impact on the environment while adding a magnificent extension to a very popular amenity for humans. The popularity of this section of boardwalk is massive.
39	At the southern end of the site, the proposed boardwalk crosses over dense vegetation. Were alternative routes across this area considered to lessen the proposed boardwalk impacts? For example, can the southern end be re-routed to continue to follow along the edge of the dense vegetation, thereby lessening the impact to the remnant bush land? If this was possible it would be a preferred outcome as it would have less construction impacts on this area and less long term disturbance and potentially to the overall headland. I would like to see alternative options for the boardwalk to lessen and minimise the impacts on the native flora and fauna on this remnant bush land habitat as part of the REF review and assessment. Thank you.
40	Totally support the extension to the board walk and would welcome further extension if possible. It is a joy to walk and will only increase the patronage.
41	This is a very detailed and considered report and i thank the council for commissioning it. Please now go ahead and implement this improvement for community access as soon as possible so the next stages can then be worked on. Making our wonderful area more accessible for all in an environmentally sensitive way will make more people understand why we need to keep these natural environmental assets.
42	I support the McKillop park boardwalk extension.
43	Just please ensure it is wheelchair accessible, ie no stairs.
44	The boardwalk would be more user friendly if it was wider - the existing boardwalk is often dangerous and disruptive - as dogs, walkers, including children and fisherman, attempt to pass each other, often two people abreast in each direction. It is a fabulous boardwalk enjoyed by many could be greatly improved by widening.
45	I think this a splendid idea., A good well completed and thought out. Why on a scenic walkway roll have you considered a raised walkway from existing path at northern end of Freshwater beach to connect with the heavy eroded access point on Ocean View Rd
46	This boardwalk extension sounds a wonderful idea, keeping people, and animals, from venturing back up to the busy road. That is, as long as there will be minimal environment impact. I'm excited to see this progress
47	Wonderfull! This walk is such an attraction and so unfortunate it is not accessible for prams and wheelchairs. We very much look forward to this as regular walkers along here.
48	I walk this every day. I don't mind the stairs. I believe the money is better spent fixing roads that have small holes - this walk is highly usable without this extension - the roads lead to car issues and are not.
49	Yes I agree with boardwalk I think it will be a great extension to what is already there
Online submission received out of scope of this project	
50	1. are there plans to collect stormwater currently being directed into ocean?

	<p>2. is it possible to treat wastewater properly and create a n environmental lake of sufficient size to protect people, parks and property? This would reduce asthma attacks when the bush is burnt. It would also save fire fighters lives & remove risk of smoke damage to lungs. Young families would not lose their Dad when volunteering.</p> <p>Automatic sprinklers could be activated from a palm top at first wisp of smoke No more fun for arsonists who appear when weather conditions favour conflagration.</p> <p>Huge savings would fund employment. Every carpark could store water underground</p>
51	<p>Totally in favour of this project but fail to understand why this is any different to the residents proposed boardwalk for Surfview Road Mona Vale, where there is a crucial safety issue of pedestrians vs motor vehicles.</p> <p>We've been campaigning for four years for our boardwalk, yet we see approvals for walkways such as this, all over the beaches and our campaign remains stagnant.</p> <p>Who in council will take our proposed boardwalk seriously? What do we have to do to be heard?</p>
Feedback received in emailed submissions	
52	<p>I very enthusiastically support this proposal the boardwalk is one of my favourite places. My only request is that it be made a little wider so those selfish people who walk in pairs and refuse to move to let you pass do not present a risk to us oldies of being pushed off the edge. Yes it's happened more that once.</p> <p>It would be so much safer.</p>

McKillop Park Boardwalk Extension, Freshwater

The **Freshwater Coastal Open Space Masterplan**, adopted by Council in 2018, identifies the construction of a link between the end of South Curl Curl Boardwalk (Harry Elliffe Way) and McKillop Park Reserve.

❖ **This boardwalk extension will provide a safer and more accessible connection along the headland?**

❖ **Response ::**

❖ **Or “review the Design Concept” to improve it?**

It will remove the need for pedestrians to use the stairs to Lumsdaine Drive to continue their walk along this beautiful stretch of coastline??

It will also connect the existing boardwalk to the public artwork that will be installed in 2023 at McKillop Park Reserve.

Response::

❖ **(So the ACCESS to the PUBLIC ART along the WALKWAY, rather than viewing the Ocean ?? may require “Re-think” ?).**

Due to the environmental sensitivities and rich biodiversity of the area, extensive work has been undertaken to ensure the design of the boardwalk has limited environmental impacts.

Council has commissioned a Review of Environmental Factors (REF), including a Flora & Fauna Impact Assessment, to assess the environmental impacts of the proposed boardwalk extension.

The REF concludes that the proposed boardwalk is unlikely to have a significant impact on the environment.

You can view the REF documents in the tiles below, along with a concept plan outlining the location and sketches of the proposed extension. We've also provided a brief overview of the REF and some frequently asked questions on this page.

View the information and share your comments about the REF by:

- completing the submission form below
- emailing council@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au
- writing to us marked 'McKillop Park Boardwalk Extension' at Northern Beaches Council, PO Box 82 Manly NSW 1655.

If you have any questions before making your submission, contact the Park Assets - Planning, Design & Delivery Team on 1300 434 434 (during business hours) or by [email](#).

Submissions will close on Sunday 18 December 2022.

RESPONSE :: (plus the previous responses above)

THE NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL seems to repeatedly "Under-design" active transport.

So when the Mc Killop walkway is compared to the Bondi to Bronte Beach "ART TRAIL" it can be generally safe to walk and the visitation numbers can be in 500,000.

The Sydney Modern Opening had circa 33,000 "Free admission" visitors in one week.

So the WIDTH of the FOOTPATH is "TOO NARROW" and for an "ART TRAIL" the VIEW does not need to be FIXED on the SEA VIEW.

The "ART FEATURE" can be set in a Landscape background "Thus saving the cost of a LOT OF STAINLESS STEEL WIRES / Cables.

Within a "BETTER STREETS" thinking the nearby streets could provide a SAFE e-bike trail, that could connect to the proposed walkway or nearby.

This can then reduce then need for a "CLOSE CARPARK"

The Inner Harbour Walk from Jubilee Oval to Pyrmont Fish Markets has a Wide Walkway that is accwssible to cyclists and walkers

So repeating that "STANDARD" within the Norther Beaches is a CHALLENGE.

-
- [Will I be able to ride my bike and walk my dog on the boardwalk?](#)

- You will be able to walk your dog on a lead but bikes won't be permitted on the boardwalk as it does not connect to any dedicated shared paths.

Refer to **better streets**

- **What is a Review of Environmental Factors and why do we need it?**
- A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) is an environmental assessment, prepared in accordance with Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) and used to determine whether an activity should be approved by taking into account all matters that affect or may affect the environment.

An REF is required to be implemented for activities conducted by Council as a part of the assessment of activities needing approval under NSW legislation and planning instruments.

The simple answer is to compared the Northern Beaches site with the Bondi to Bronte Art Walk – Sculpture by the Sea.

So the WIDTH of the Boardwalk is TOO NARROW at 2.1 m wide. (instead up to same as Jubilee Park to Pyrmont Fishmarket walkway.

-
- [Will I be able to ride my bike and walk my dog on the boardwalk?](#)
 - You will be able to walk your dog on a lead but bikes won't be permitted on the boardwalk as it does not connect to any dedicated shared paths.
-
- **Why a boardwalk?**
 - Boardwalks minimise the impact on the ground as they travel over most of the terrain, they also let light and water through which enables flora and fauna unfettered access.
-
- [How wide will the boardwalk extension be?](#)
 - The total width will be 2.1 metres, with an internal width of 1.8 metres.
 - THIS IS much narrower than Sculpture by Sea walkway so this detail needs sorting out
 - It's a problem to "CHECK" the details of 2 prams passing ?
 - In the Inner West and even in CBD the prams can roll in same direction in pairs. So that should be considered rather than a single "Pram juggler".

- **What will the boardwalk be made of?**
- It is expected that the boardwalk will be steel framed with fibre reinforced polymer decking.
- **IN the PARK NEAR THE SWIMMING POOL** in Cook and Phillip Park the walkway is wider and uses Concrete planks
-
- **Will the boardwalk connect to Freshwater Rockpool?**
- The boardwalk will not connect to Freshwater Rockpool due to the extremely high costs to wrap it around the cliff face and the need to have footings in an active wave zone.
- **An accessible path to the rockpool will be constructed when the swimming club is renewed.**

In looking at this concept the "BOARDWALK" could extend to Freshwater Beach.





This needs to be CHECKED as in Palm Beach there was a significant “fall” requiring a helicopter lift to the Hospital.



The design “standard” should be checked as the “BOARDWALK” could to located closer to the Roadway thus reducing the needs for “SAFE WALKWAY” standards.

4 Existing Environment

4.1 Landscape Features

4.1.1 Zoning

The site is located within the suburb of Freshwater, encompassed by the Northern Beaches Council LGA. The site is zoned as RE1 – 'Public Recreation'.

4.1.2 Soil Landscape

The entire site has been mapped as 'Lambert' (DPE, 2022i). This soil landscape typically consists of:

4.1.2.1 Geology

Hawkesbury Sandstone, which consists of medium to coarse-grained quartz sandstone with minor shale and laminite lenses.

4.1.2.2 Topography

Undulating to rolling low hills. Local relief 20–120 m and slopes <20%. Broad convex crests and plateau surfaces. Gently to moderately inclined sideslopes, often associated with small hanging valleys. Characteristic sandstone bedrock that outcrops as wide benches (10–100 m), with broken scarps 1–4 m high. Small, poorly drained seepage areas are common.

4.1.2.3 Vegetation

Predominantly uncleared open-heathlands, closed-heathlands and scrublands, with patches of low eucalypt woodland. The heathlands and scrublands are often exposed to strong winds. Their shallow, poorly drained soils fluctuate between being saturated or dry. Bushfires are frequent. Isolated lines and patches of trees are occasionally associated with joint crevices. Shrub she-oak *Allocasuarina distyla* and/or heath banksia *Banksia ericifolia* are usually dominant. Other shrubs such as spiky hakea *Hakea teretifolia* may be locally dominant in areas subject to seepage or prolonged saturation. Associated shrubs include various spider flowers *Grevillea* spp., billy buttons *Kunzea* spp., eggs and bacon *Pultenaea* spp., teatree *Leptospermum* spp. and native heath *Epacris* spp. Isolated occurrences of low eucalypt open-woodland with dry sclerophyll shrub understorey are found at sites with deeper soils and unimpeded soil drainage. Trees often have a mallee habit. Red bloodwood *Eucalyptus gummifera*, yellow-top ash *E. luehmanniana*, yellow bloodwood *E. eximia*, scribbly gum *E. haemastoma* and narrow-leaved apple *Angophora bakeri* are common mallee species. Growth of introduced species in urban areas is stunted. Native trees rarely attain a height of 10m.

The report is GOOD, but the Landscape is close to the rugged rock-face, so having an alternative site location can provide a GOOD site location for viewing Public Art with a landscape background.



There is POTENTIAL to consider extending the Walkway to the Rockpool and to link to the Ocean View Road, plus use the car-parking area as a POTENTIAL Sculpture Gallery Space.

A “BETTER STREETS” project is required to improve the SAFE ACCESS for e-cyclists and bicyclists.

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McKillop Park Boardwalk Freshwater

CONCEPT DESIGN PLAN: Zone 1

The Assessment states:

“The proposal aims to improve recreational facilities and visual amenity at McKillop Park through the provision of an elevated boardwalk with viewing platforms.”

The Assessment makes no mention of the existing use of the rock platform as a walking route. This route has been used for many years, and is likely to continue to be used, as it provides a varied and more challenging terrain. It also provides a different recreational experience to the boardwalk.

What is the impact on the natural area and recreation use of rock platform around Freshwater Headland?

Separation

It is preferable to have a degree of separation (setback) between the walking route along the rocks and the boardwalk to avoid conflict. The boardwalk will have an intrusive impact if it encroaches on the rock platform and is immediately adjacent to the existing walking route via the rocks.

The walk along the rock platform is a different recreational experience and it would be good to preserve the natural amenity of the rock platform.

	<p>The boardwalk will not replace the rock platform route, which will continue to be used. The two routes should complement each other, as they provide a different recreational experience.</p> <p>To avoid conflict of use: Provide a degree of separation between boardwalk and walking route along rock platform: This means: Maintain an adequate set back from the rock platform.</p> <p>Avoid the boardwalk encroaching over rocks or rock platform.</p> <p>Retain the existing width of rock platform where possible.</p> <p>Potential conflict includes more intensive use of the rock platform, recreation use that obstructs the walking route, dogs, and cliff edges posing a greater risk to people.</p> <p>Re recreational experience of the rock platform: Some people appreciate the sense of solitude, away from a busy thoroughfare, in natural surrounds. The rock platform provides a natural and peaceful environment and is a contrast to a busy walkway.</p> <p>Issues Re existing and continued use of rock platform to walk around Freshwater Headland:</p> <p>Northern Section A narrow section of rock platform near to the cliff edge is located at the northern end near the existing boardwalk.</p> <p>The sketch concept plan appears to avoid the rock platform – which is good – to avoid increased use of the rock platform near to the cliff edge.</p> <p>The northern end of the proposed boardwalk is also the existing connection point for walkers using the rock platform. This is the location where walkers climb from the rock platform onto the existing boardwalk or step down from the existing boardwalk to the rock platform.</p> <p>Will the boardwalk obstruct this access? Will the rock platform remain accessible to and from the existing boardwalk? Will the connection allow safe access to the rock platform? This is a design issue.</p> <p>Northern Section - Bush track There is an alternative route to access the rock platform via a track through the bush from the existing stairs. This route avoids the narrow section of rock near the cliff edge. However, the proposed boardwalk would block access to the rocks via this track.</p> <p>Middle Section At the base of a slope the boardwalk is in close proximity to a rock outcrop – a narrow section that allows passage between rocks; used by many to walk across and between the rocks.</p> <p>The boardwalk and small lookout is immediately adjacent to a rock outcrop that provides a narrow passageway for walkers using the rock platform. The boardwalk and small lookout in this location could conflict with the existing use of the rock platform. Is there a height separation to avoid conflict? If not, is there scope for an increased setback?</p> <p>To the south of the rock outcrop, also in the middle section, the boardwalk appears to encroach upon the rock platform. It is not clear if the boardwalk will be located along a 'desire line' that traverses a grassy area behind a rock or if it will be at a slightly higher elevation.</p>
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	<p>Southern Section The southern section is where the boardwalk ascends the hill to join the existing footpath. The location of the ascent is well chosen.</p> <p>At the start of the uphill incline the boardwalk appears to narrow the width available for walkers along the rock platform. It is not clear if the boardwalk is on higher ground to avoid encroachment.</p> <p>Impact on recreational use of rock platform</p> <p>The new boardwalk will attract many people. If the rock platform is easily accessible from the boardwalk how will the influx of people, including dogs and children, be managed? Should access from the boardwalk to the rock platform be restricted?</p> <p>Will the boardwalk have a rail for part or all the length?</p> <p>Boardwalk 'take off point'. The boardwalk bypasses the narrow section of rock platform near a cliff edge.</p> <p>Beyond this section the rock platform widens and provides a safer route across the rocks.</p> <p>The boardwalk will have an impact on the natural area and recreation use of rock platform around Freshwater Headland.</p> <p>The boardwalk has the potential to increase the intensity of use and access to the rock platform. Increased use of the rock platform is not desirable, due to the proximity of the cliff. However, safe access to the rock platform needs to be considered in the vicinity of the existing boardwalk 'take off point'.</p> <p>Route of Boardwalk The plan provides an overview of the boardwalk, but it is necessary to identify the rocks in the photomontage to ascertain the exact location, for example, of the incline.</p> <p>The contours on the map provide a useful clue re the proposed route of the boardwalk. However, without further information, it is difficult to ascertain the exact location and impact on the landscape features and existing recreational use. An on-site walk could be helpful in providing feedback.</p> <p>Alternative options Do nothing option? An alternative is to improve safety near to cliff edges or to provide an alternative trail to avoid the narrow section of rock platform.</p> <p>In this Coastal Management area existing recreational use should be considered. This includes the existing recreational use of the rock platform to walk around Freshwater Headland.</p> <p>Separation Reasons for providing a degree of separation include Safety - avoid intensification of use - discourage dogs and children - to keep people away from cliff edges</p> <p>Three ways of separating the boardwalk from the existing use of the rock platform: 1. Setback from the rock platform 2. Height if the boardwalk is elevated 3. Safety rail at edge of boardwalk</p>
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	<p>The northern section of the proposed boardwalk deviates from the cliff edge and enters bushland, where it appears to have adequate setback from the rock platform.</p> <p>The middle section is immediately adjacent to the rock platform and above a rock outcrop. There is no information as to whether the middle section will achieve separation due to adequate setback, elevation (above the rock outcrop) or a safety rail to restrict access to the cliff edge.</p> <p>The southern section is an incline which deviates from the rock platform; the setback increases with elevation; and the boardwalk has a safety rail.</p> <p>What is the height of the proposed boardwalk and does it provide a degree of separation between the pedestrian use of the boardwalk and rock platform?</p> <p>Safety rail The images show the boardwalk will have a safety rail on the incline. Will a safety rail also be provided on other sections of the boardwalk, for example, to protect vegetation or discourage access to the rock platform and cliff edge.</p> <p>Will there be a rail at the base of the slope as a precaution in case a wheeled device travels too fast down the slope? For example, there is a possibility youngsters may be tempted to ride down the incline on a skateboard.</p> <p>Habitat The bushland provides habitat for native fauna, including small birds, which can be heard in the dense vegetation. If their habitat is lost, what alternative habitat is available, as there is only a limited area of remnant vegetation? Will nearby vegetation be restored to provide additional habitat?</p> <p>Any removal of rock outcrops?</p> <p>Where is the proposed 'on-ground trail' referred to in the Drawing Key in the Concept Design Plan on Page 45 or Flora Fauna Impact Assessment? (I could not find it on the Plan.)</p> <p>Consultation Has there been consultation with residents who use the rock platform (as indicated in the submissions to the Masterplan)?</p> <p>It would be helpful to walk along the rock platform to see more clearly the proposed route of the boardwalk.</p> <p>Additional information is required to ascertain the likely direct and indirect impacts on the existing recreational use of the rock platform.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>
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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.