

# Little Manly Reserves Landscape Masterplan

## Stage 1 Community Engagement Report – Feedback on Scoping Documents

December 2018

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## 1 Background

In June 2017 Council resolved to build a boardwalk along the beachfront between 36 and 40 Stuart Street to connect the two public spaces known as Little Manly Reserve.

In fulfilling this resolution, staff completed a design for a boardwalk and undertook community engagement on the design in late 2017.

The feedback from this engagement period revealed that 67% of respondents did not support the project.

There was consistent feedback during this period that a project like a boardwalk should be considered within development of a landscape masterplan of the whole Reserve precinct.

Using ideas and suggestions from the boardwalk engagement, Council's Senior Landscape Architect prepared a site analysis and scoping document to use in initial engagement for the landscape masterplan.

During late 2018, the scoping documents were placed on public exhibition for comment. Comments from this engagement period will be used to prepare a draft landscape masterplan for public exhibition in early 2019.

## 2 Engagement objectives

The overall objective for the landscape masterplan project is to engage with the local community and users of the Little Manly Reserves (beach and point) to develop a landscape masterplan.

The objective of stage 1 engagement is to obtain feedback on a draft scoping document that will be used to frame the landscape masterplan.

### 3 Engagement activities

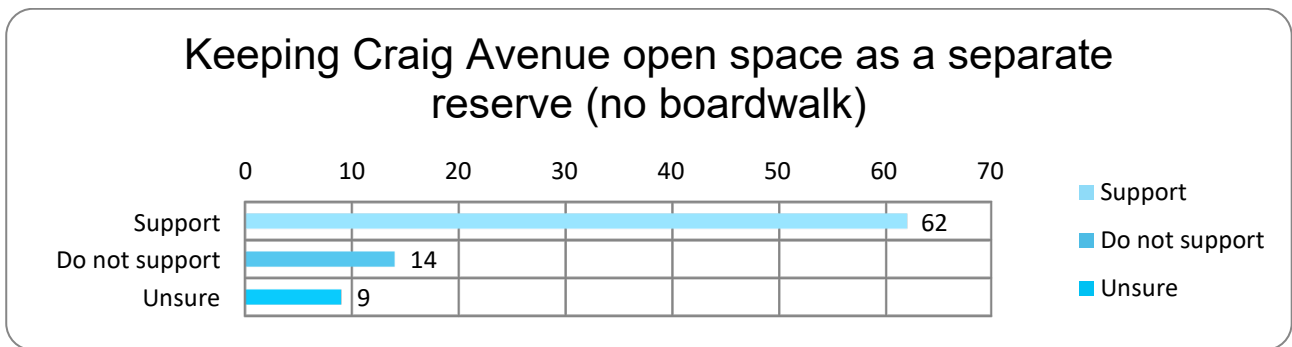
During the public exhibition of the scoping documents Council received:

- 93 online submissions from 85 participants
- 45 ideas and comments posted to the online ideas board from 24 participants
- 50 visitors to the community drop in session

### 4 Key findings

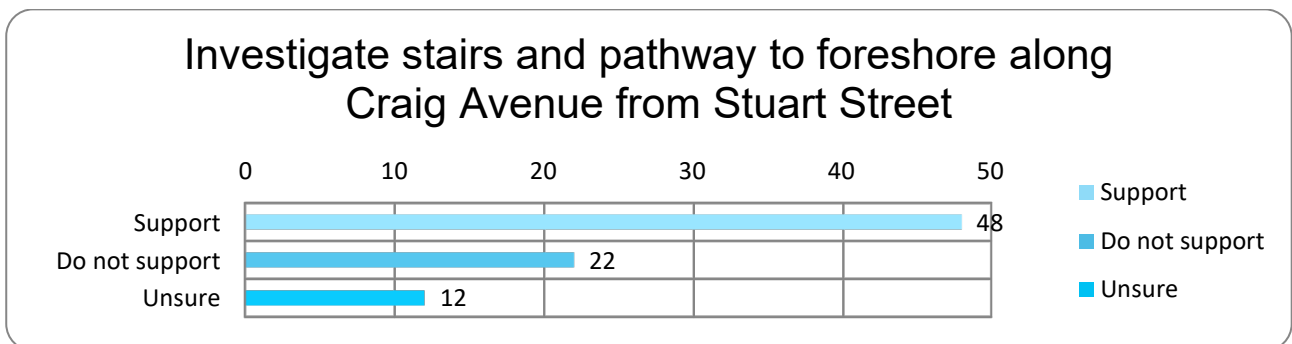
On the project webpage (online comments form) Council asked a series of questions about the main concepts proposed within the scoping document.

The following charts show community responses to these questions.



In addition to a demonstration of support for the functional separation of the two beachfront reserve spaces, the following comments were also made in relation to this concept:

- Include more boat storage facilities (including dragon boats and kayak storage)
- Retain and support dedicated boat and trailer parking
- Restore the area for boat washing, have a hose there permanently

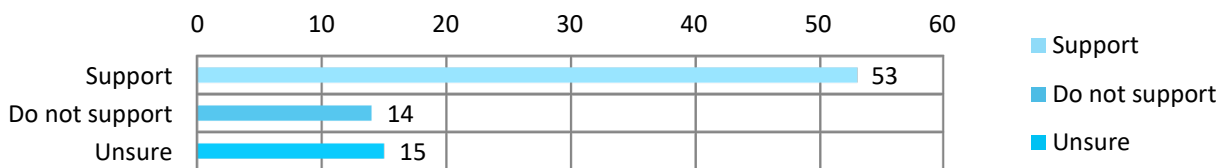


There is a level of community support for provision of safer pedestrian access along Craig Street. In addition to the response above, people also commented:

- Enhanced pedestrian access along Stuart Street as a preferred option

- Remove palm tree on boundary of 34 and 36 Stuart Street to create accessible path to boat storage
- Improve safety at crossing of Craig Avenue along Stuart Street
- No further restriction on boat ramp access and parking for boat trailers

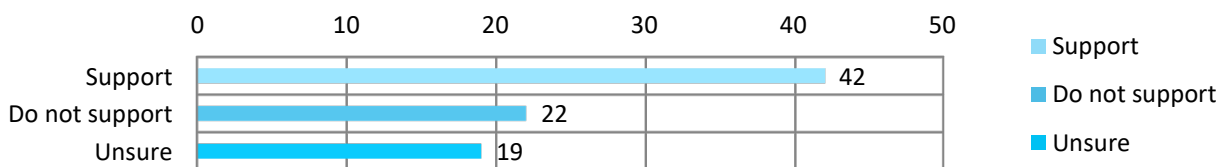
### Ideas in the document for improved pedestrian safety along Stuart Street



Movement of people and traffic along Stuart Street was a topic of conversation as a consideration for the development of the draft landscape plan. Specific themes are as follows:

- Provide traffic calming to reduce speed along Stuart Street (preference for chicanes over speed bumps)

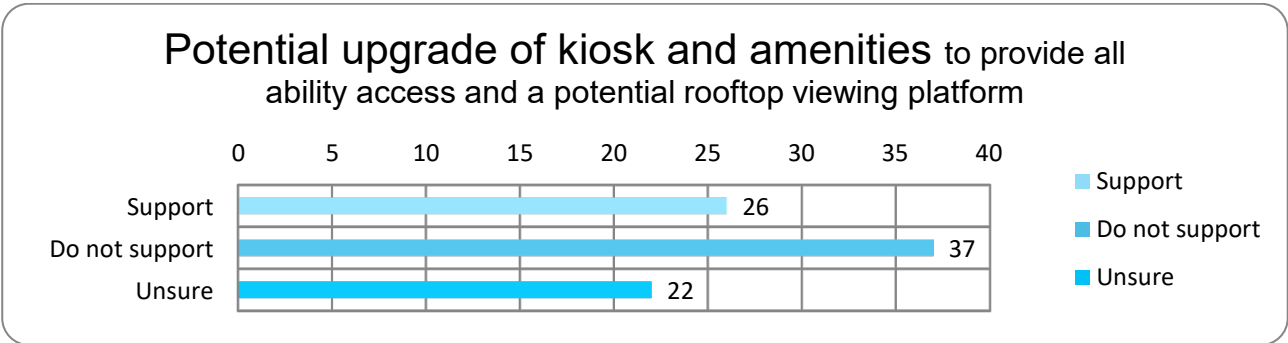
### Relocating the existing playground further towards Stuart Street and introducing nature play



Views about the location and form of the playground are mixed as shown in the graph above. In addition to the survey results, people also commented:

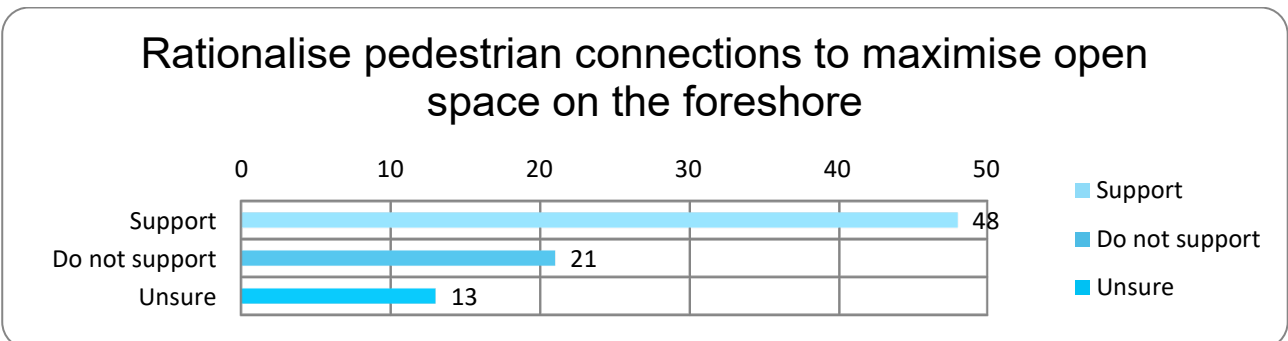
- Remove fences at number 40 Stuart Street and place the playground there
- Improve the accessibility ramp configuration and provide a better landscaping solution to the corner adjacent to number 40 Stuart Street
- Add some more equipment – not just swings
- Trim understorey adjacent to number 40 Stuart Street to allow large fig and paperbark to flourish
- Retaining swings where they are
- Add no further equipment - swings are enough
- Remove the swings and provide better connections to the playground at the point

- Reduce the width of the wide section of garden adjacent to the side wall of 40 Stuart Street to provide more shaded grassed area
- Fence any new playground and provide shade



Community comments for consideration with respect to the kiosk include:

- Allowing the kiosk to have a larger outdoor seating area
- Management of access through the kiosk, as this is a public pathway (including improved access for disabled people or putting the public access outside the current kiosk footprint)
- Minimising changes to the kiosk, keeping it low key and not having a restaurant in the reserve
- Limit the 'spread' on to public land of the existing kiosk as it is alienating public access and space
- Demolish the existing kiosk and returning this area to open space (redevelopment of number 40 Stuart Street in exchange)
- Moving the kiosk back towards Stuart Street but not incorporating rooftop access as an option

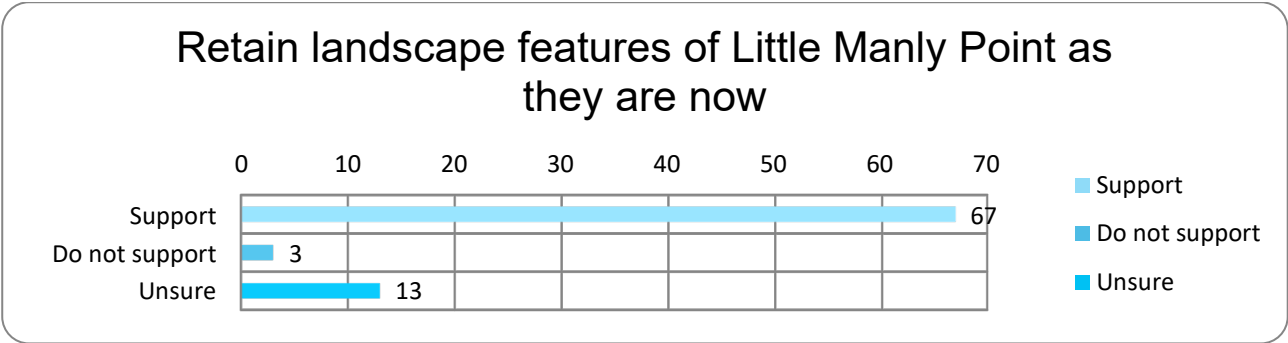


Ideas for pedestrian connections also include:

- A connection between the Point and the lower park area with harbour views and seating along the way
- Widening the footpath along Stuart Street at frontage of 34-40



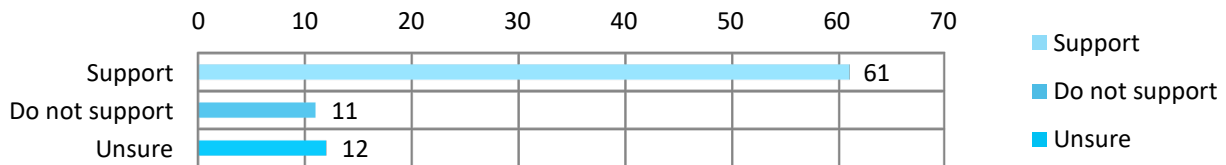
- Reconfiguration of the access to the reserve from Stuart Street to a single grade – thereby increasing open space
- Build a disabled access path in front of the existing kiosk and demolish the disabled ramp from the path to the women’s toilets on the eastern side of the kiosk to give more grassed area under the Norfolk Pine



In addition to support for retaining the landscape features of the Little Manly Point as they are, the following comments and suggestions were made:

- Requests for thinning of vegetation cover at the Point and surrounding the playground (sometimes for view enhancement and sometimes for improvement of landscape outcomes but making the area less isolated from the rest of the reserve)
- Improved access to the playground at the point, installation of toilets and a re-think of play surface in the playground
- Acknowledge that this area is also habitat for bandicoots, echidnas, brush turkeys, water dragons, rabbits and birds
- The point needs proper landscaping that reflects the open and formal intent of the original park when the gas works closed. It should be guided by a heritage study and have up to date interpretation. The scrappy self-seeded trees that are choking the figs should be removed urgently. The place needs to be open and formal to encourage proper use and discourage the camping and parties that current happen due to the secluded and bushy nature of the park.
- Consider more car parking at the point
- Consider allowing bike riding at the point and for building facilities for teens, like basketball court or skate ramp

## The need for public amenities (restrooms) at Little Manly Point



There is a level of support for integrating an accessible toilet facility into the reserve at Little Manly Point.

- Some visitors use the tree area as a toilet
- Lock the new amenities at night
- Signpost to existing amenities at the beach reserve

### Additional comments

Engagement participants were also given the opportunity to provide general comments within the online survey, or the online forum, or in writing as a separate submission to the CEO.

The following is a summary of the additional comments obtained during the engagement period.

- Community use of number 34 Stuart Street, with garden maintenance undertaken and fences removed to create more open space (suggestions for community use include: not-for-profit organisation, respite centre, aged care, minority language day centre, sea scouts, men's shed, museum, art or photo gallery, picnic pavilion, harbour-related scientific research group, a community interest organisation, Aboriginal Heritage Office, environment centre)
- In relation to number 40 Stuart Street:
  - Demolish it and return to open space
  - Sell it for a profit
  - Turn it into a restaurant/cafe
  - Build public amenities there and construct an improved graded access over its roof down to the reserve
- Limit commercial activity to a kiosk/café
- Undertake maintenance, kill the bindis, but otherwise leave everything unchanged
- Restoration of the historical swimming enclosure. Suggestion of including a walkway around the top edge of the pool fence.
- Requests for enhancement of harbour views through tree management
- Management of disruptive drinkers passing through the area



- Avoid activities which bring additional traffic into an already congested area
- Analyse changing users and user patterns of beach and park. Numbers of people using the area have increased in past 10 years. The area is subject to seasonal activities as well as different uses day and night, water based activities as well as land based.
- Dogs are regularly exercised in this area off-leash, contrary to signposting
- Retain the simple, quiet, unspoilt character of this area
- Speak to Roads and Maritime Services about marker buoys to keep swimmers separate from boats in the water
- Apply to remove the electrical substation kiosk
- More signs to remind people not to camp at the point
- Every pole to have a 2 hour parking reminder, especially in Wood Street
- Consider making Stuart Street a one-way street from Marshall Street uphill
- Consider a local traffic only restriction to prevent buses from using the area
- Add benches under the trees on the pool side of the kiosk
- Consider the Manyo Designs and McGregor Coxall reports from 2014 that were prepared by Manly Council
- Use native plants in landscaping outcomes
- Talk with the relevant utilities to retain the public phone
- Remove dangerous fences at Jump Rock
- Protection of penguins at western end of Little Manly Beach and consideration of a barrier to prevent access by dogs
- Provide water fountains for bottle refill purposes
- Stainless steel bins look grubby unless cleaned frequently
- More shade trees

## 5 Next steps

Feedback obtained from the public exhibition as detailed above will be used to prepare a draft landscape masterplan for the Little Manly Reserves in early 2019.

The report to Council that will accompany the draft landscape masterplan will address the above comments.