

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

New Pedestrian Walkway Church Point (Stage 1 of 1)

Impact level: Three

Report date: 05 June 2020

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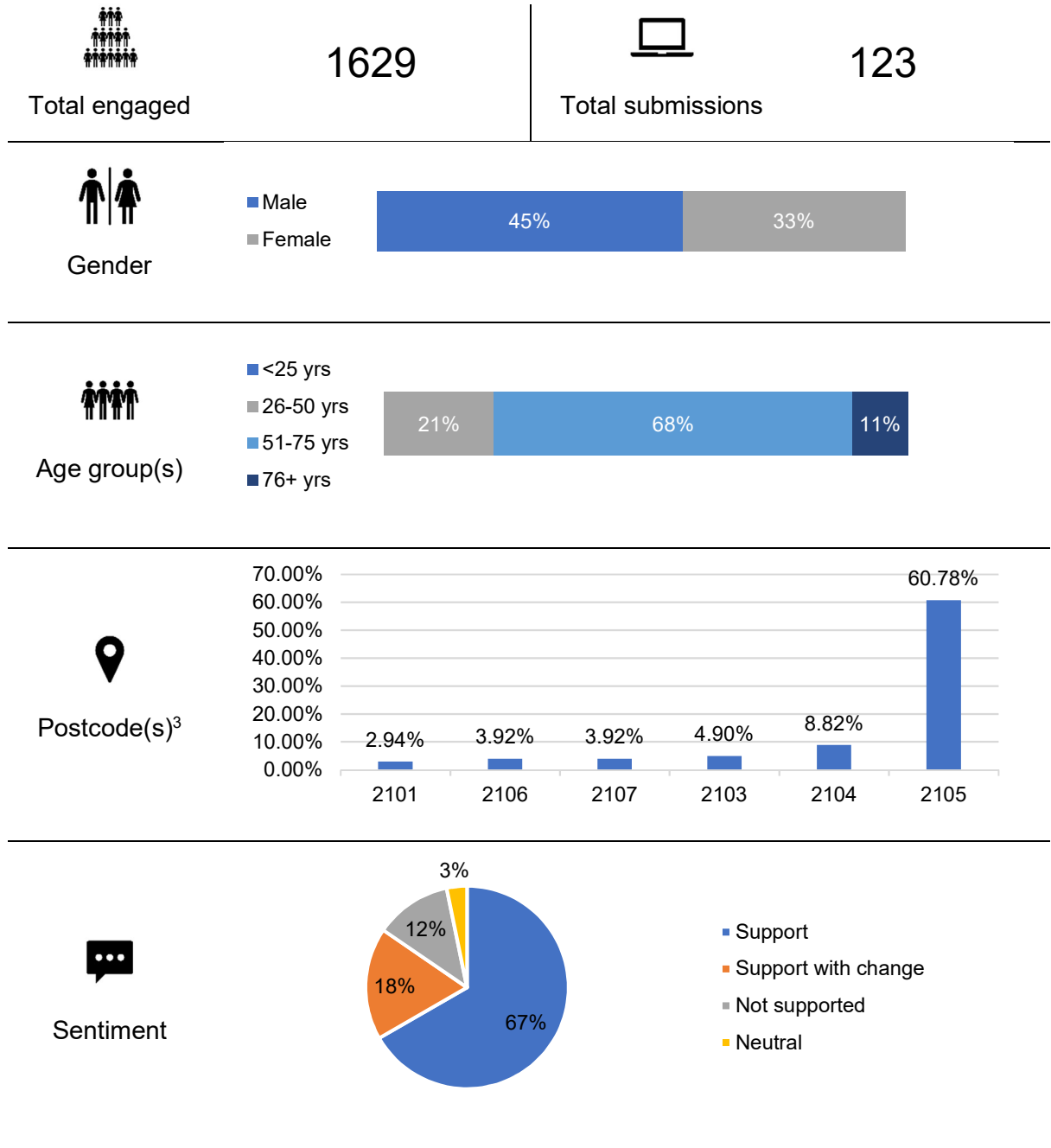
1. Summary¹

This report outlines the community and stakeholder engagement conducted as part of the New Pedestrian Walkway Church Point project.

1.1. Engagement date

Thursday 9 April 2020 to Sunday 10 May 2020.


1.2. Who we engaged²






¹ 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.

² No demographic data was captured for respondents who contributed feedback through written or email submissions.

³ Top six postcode areas from 18 identified.

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------|
|  Feedback themes | Overall support | Additional berths |
| | Pedestrian safety | Precinct beautification |
| | Parking concerns | |

1.3. How we engaged

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  Your Say website | Visitors: 1,629 Visits: 1951 | Average time onsite: 1 min 16 secs |
|  Print media and collateral | Letter drop: 2015 Site signs: Yes | Number: 151 Number: 2 |
|  Electronic Direct Mail (EDM) | Community Engagement newsletter: 1 Council eNews: 1 Stakeholder email: 1 | Distribution: 22,000 Distribution: 55,000 Distribution: 253 |
|  Key stakeholder meetings | 1: Church Point Aesthetic Advisory Group | Attendance: 6 |

2. Background

The proposed new pedestrian walkway at Church Point is part of the implementation of the [Church Point Plan of Management](#).

This Plan of Management aims to ensure that Church Point retains its environmental, recreational, scenic, cultural and social values, while key issues relating to the management of the study area are addressed.

The project was announced in 2017 as an addition to the Church Point Carpark Upgrades, following a consolidated submission from resident groups representing the Precinct⁴ however, could not be completed due to land ownership issues.

Engagement carried out during Apr-May 2019 was completed to ensure the project objectives and community needs had not shifted since the initial announcement in 2017.

⁴ Bayview and Church Point Residents Association, Church Point Friends, Scotland Island Residents Association and the West Pittwater Community Association

3. Engagement approach

New Pedestrian Walkway Church Point community engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's [Community Engagement Matrix](#) (2017).

The engagement approach gave consistent and accessible information and asked a uniform set of questions of participants in all activities. Results provide responses across a spectrum of demographics, expertise, experience and understanding of our local government area.

3.1. Engagement objective(s)

- Build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities (inform)
- Provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way (inform)
- Identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values (consult)

4. Findings⁵

| Theme | Commentary |
|-------------------|---|
| Overall support | <p>Many respondents were generally supportive of the concept overall.</p> <p>The overarching tone of the feedback indicated the proposed new walkway was long awaited by the local community and would complement the work already completed in the precinct and will provide a safe pedestrian access to the Western part of Church Point.</p> |
| Pedestrian safety | <p>The majority of respondents highlighted the positive impact on pedestrian safety the introduction of the new walkway would bring.</p> <p>Some comments reflected the need for additional pedestrian capacity on walkways in the area to ease choke points at the Pasadena and along McCarrs Creek Road.</p> <p>Feedback also identified the need to keep areas around the general store clear of mess/bins as the area can be difficult to navigate.</p> |
| Parking concerns | <p>A number of comments identified concern about parking availability for local residents, due to increase in visitors to the area, in response to the exhibition of proposed outdoor dining licence at 1860 McCarrs Creek Road, Church Point.</p> |
| Additional berths | <p>Residents were favourable towards the inclusion of additional berths in the area. Feedback noted additional information was needed from Council on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how many berths would be added• who would be able to use the berths• how long mooring duration would be. |

⁵ Note: This analysis does not include feedback received after the consultation close date.

| Theme | Commentary |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Precinct beautification | Respondents highlighted the positive outcomes of the previous stages of the Plan of Management and the need to continue these works in a similar fashion. |
| Outdoor dining impacts ⁶ | Many comments reflected community concern that increased outdoor dining may lead to an increase in noise levels and an increase in patron numbers |
| Consultation documents | A small number of submissions requested additional drawings to assist in understanding the proposal. |

5. Next steps⁷

- Finalise outstanding land issues
- Finalise construction start date

⁶ Feedback related to the possible impact the proposed outdoor dining licence for 1860 McCarrs Creek Road, Church Point, exhibited 9 Apr–2 Jun 2020.

⁷ As at time of publishing early June 2020.

Appendix A: Full summary of community and stakeholder responses⁸

| No. | Comment |
|-----|--|
| 1 | The newly constructed footway in front of the new multi-story carpark is a fantastic addition to the area. The proposition to continue it in an Easterly direction around the front of the "general store", and hopefully one day beyond, would be a significant addition and improvement to what currently exists. For pedestrians to move from the public wharf area (roadside general store) towards the new walkway and multi-story carpark, is presently very dangerous due to the proximity to the roadway and that being on a bend. Eliminating a hazard such as this can only be beneficial. CAUTION THOUGH that the public pedestrian walkway that would be created from the public wharf heading west, should not and cannot just be taken over by commercial interests, or allowed to become a second "outdoor pub" as is the present case with the open area outside of the public wharf, between the "general store" and the old Pasadena building. |
| 2 | Please fix up the mess at the back of the general store. When the rubbish bins are put out it is difficult for pedestrians to navigate. Is it possible to make this wider? |
| 3 | Greta (<i>sic</i>) idea...but you also need to resurrect the temporary wharf built during the car park build to alleviate pressure on the commuter wharf for offshore residents |
| 4 | Not much point commenting if you close submissions May 10 whilst expecting construction to begin in May! If the end of the pier extends beyond to northern pontoon, it becomes difficult for yachts to come alongside. Otherwise, looks good. Cheers |
| 5 | Looks great, a long overdue improvement to the area. Will we need a permit to use it? How much will offshore residents have to pay to use this facility as we pay for everything else in the area. When will the user pays principal stop for us & be included in our rates like every other council in Sydney? |
| 6 | The parking is already a problem and now you want more outdoor eating areas so more people will come and no one can park just so the council can make more money on an already too expensive hourly rate car park |
| 7 | There isn't enough parking as it is so where the hell will these extra visitors park? |
| 8 | There isn't enough parking as it is so where will these extra visitors park? |
| 9 | What is going to happen to the existing ferry wharf and ferry shed? |
| 10 | Why is Council continuing with projects that encourage visitors and tourists when parking to cater for these people is entirely inadequate? Yes the foreshores are fir everyone and they should be made accessible - but where do visitors park? Please don't dare suggest the existing car park is adequate. |
| 11 | You have to fix the offshore resident parking situation BEFORE INCREASING VISITOR PARKING DEMAND!!! Current situation: There are insufficient parking spaces in the Church Point precinct for even 1 parking space per offshore property! Yet Council seems to insist on offshore residents NOT BEING TREATED EQUALLY with onshore residents. Onshore residents have 1 public parking space dedicated to their exclusive access (to their driveway). |

⁸ Comments are published as verbatim and inclusive of spelling and grammatical errors. Clear spelling errors are highlighted with (*sic*). Some minor formatting is corrected by Council.

| No. | Comment |
|-----|---|
| | <p>Yet Offshore residents do not have the same dedicated exclusive access provided, and instead have to share the rest of the public parking spaces with visitors ??</p> <p>[Even just yesterday, Easter Monday 13/4, it took me 45 minutes to get a park at Church Point when I returned home at 11am, because visitors were still flocking to Church Point, even with the COVID-19 shut downs!?!]</p> <p>BEFORE you do anything to INCREASE VISITOR DEMAND, you need to align visitor vs resident treatment with other high-demand-low-supply parking areas – Pymont is a great example, where VISITOR parking is LIMITED to 1h any time EVERYWHERE, while RESIDENTS can park UNTIMED ANYWHERE.</p> <p>FIRST you need to shut down the availability of Church Point parking for visitors to a sufficient extend that OFFSHORE RESIDENTS can ALWAYS get a park when they come home. ONLY THEN should you be considering any improvements that would increase visitors to the area.</p> |
| 12 | Looks Great! |
| 13 | I think it is a wonderful idea and an asset to the area, a great improvement |
| 14 | This foreshore area is looking tired and definitely needs upgrading, currently the junction between the postoffice/general store building and new walkway end right on the corner of Pittwater road / McCarrs creek road, if it could be redirected as proposed around the waterfront this would join the loop. |
| 15 | LOOKS GOOD |
| 16 | Excellent plan |
| 17 | <p>We support the plan with two reservations (& one question) since the required level of detail is not included in the information provided.</p> <p>1...The lessees of the general store/restaurant use the south west corner of the building as a garbage dump. This is unsightly, smelly & unhealthy. There needs to be provision for this to be remedied under the new plan.</p> <p>2...The concept plan shows tables & chairs on the western side of the new pedestrian boardwalk. The current lessees have an established practice of using public area for commercial gain. The limits of the restaurant need to be clearly defined to allow unfettered public access along the new boardwalk. Measures also need to be in place to prevent this area from being used as an open air entertainment venue (as is the case each Sunday afternoon at present), to stop unacceptable levels of noise.</p> <p>What will be done at the south-west corner of the general store where the existing footpath (highly dangerous area for both pedestrians and motorists) passes alongside the road, and will the road re-alignment be completed as part of the project?</p> |
| 18 | <p>The concept is good and I applaud the provision of short-term berths for quick access to post office and stores. However, I am concerned about the "opportunities for outdoor dining." If this just expands seating for the cafe, I strongly object; public funds should not be used to enhance private enterprises. In addition, if this serves to increase seating capacity for the cafe, it will have an impact on parking.</p> <p>Access to the new deck via the existing wharf appears to be a choke point which has not been addressed.</p> <p>My yes is support for this project with more information please? (<i>sic</i>) The image supplied doesn't give a full picture of the changes/enhancements. Will there still be pedestrian access to the rear of the Waterfront cafe/post office?</p> <p>Who are the short term berthing be available to?</p> |

| No. | Comment |
|-----|---|
| 18 | <p>The concept plan is supported with the following requests for design development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - where possible reduce extent/size of infrastructure specifically with regards to impact on the heritage listed wharf. The current concept plan intrudes significantly on the wharf curtilage. Church Point is about small group gathering places - excessive size of infrastructure, boardwalk widths etc is not consistent with the character of this unique place. - commit to relocation of the ferry pontoon and ferry masters office to the west side of the waterfront store -provide handrails ONLY where essential. Continue the materials and edge design established in the recently completed boardwalk |
| 19 | <p>Personally I believe the walkway should be extended around through to the otherside of the ferry wharf towards the small wharf outside the Pasedena. There is a very narrow pathway between the waters edge and the Pasedena fence - this should most definitely be widened for access and safety!</p> |
| 20 | <p>While I'm in favor (<i>sic</i>).of the concept plan in general. The plans you've provided the community to respond to are very poor and lacking in clarity of where the pedestrian paths are travel are, the boundaries of the Water Front Cafe outdoor covered dining area, the areas of proposed additional outdoor seating (presumably for commercial use only). The interface with the general Store and McCarrs Creek rd, a nasty pinch point etc</p> <p>All that's been provided is a Civil drawing and sketch artist impression. Where's a detailed Architectural GA of the proposed works. A site plan of the broader area showing connectivity the precinct. Proper elevations etc</p> <p>The Civil drawing is IFC, albeit old and the infill deck layout between the Cafe and the wharf is incorrect.</p> <p>Can you please send me better drawings?</p> |
| 21 | <p>You have to do this because the original planners stuffed up by not providing enough room for the pathway to go around the street. What are the names of those who stuffed Up?</p> |
| 22 | <p>It's a bit hard to judge from a concept drawing. How about some proper plans with measurements?</p> |
| 23 | <p>I support the proposed concept plan because it will improve pedestrian access.</p> |
| 24 | <p>The pedestrian walkway will be a great improvement and will enhance the stage 1 up-grades to Church Point.</p> |
| 25 | <p>More temporary moorings so that boats can come alongside to pick up . 15 min zones</p> |
| 26 | <p>The plan seems to be an expense that provides minimal advantage to the community. Why not invest in the eastern car park and its associated foreshore with 'park' type space to provide the whole community with improved facilities. This plan seems to advantage only a few.</p> |
| 27 | <p>Plan looks good but new surrounding walkway should strictly public access. This should not not seating space for private restaurant use or control. Free public access to foreshores only.</p> |
| 28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) More Detail plans should be provided to allow us to be more informed. b) The concept design is poor and too "utilitarian. c) More of the already congested waterway is taken away. d) The small paved area in front of the ferry terminal is already congested & encouraging more people is not a good idea. e) The 'pinch point" at the north west corner of the Pasadena building is not addressed. f) The main walkway should be near the road in front of the store & the Pasadena. This should have been addressed in the earlier stage by moving the corner of the road by the post office/shop south eastwards, thus allowing for a wider walkway. |
| 29 | <p>looks good</p> |

| No. | Comment |
|-----|--|
| 30 | <p>My wife and I feel that the proposed concept will significantly harm the historic period and genuine (<i>sic</i>) appeal of the precinct, which is close to unique.</p> <p>As residents of Lovett Bay we bring many people to the ferry, cafe, pontoon area with pride and without exception they are captivated by it.</p> <p>The cafe as it stands is also unique on the water - why hem it in? that is what people comem for and it is famous for.</p> <p>As a meeting place for people catching the ferry and tradies and locals on a Friday night it is unstructured, relaxed and real. To change it by modernising would be a tragedy, and to what benefit?</p> <p>Please dont do it.</p> |
| 31 | Looks great! |
| 32 | Great idea!! |
| 33 | <p>Overall looks good</p> <p>However need to make sure that new floating structure can accommodate (<i>sic</i>) at least 4 small commuter boats for short-term parking</p> <p>The existing floating dock is very important for short shopping trips to the General Store for people who do not have a permanent space at the commuter wharf.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> |
| 34 | Traffic calming where the new connection is to the new car park. Also, whilst probably within the scope of works, some calming device between the bus stop (opposite the Pasadena) and the old car park. I'm using public transport more frequently and I still feel I'm taking my life in my hands crossing from the bus stop to the ferry side of the road. |
| 35 | Include widening of the foot path at the waters (<i>sic</i>) edge in front of the PASADINA from church point wharf to the parking lot. It is too narrow. |
| 36 | It will only bring new tourists, is difficult to get parking now for offshore residents. I went over to Church Point this morning for my paper & my neighbours, it was so crowded & this is during the virus pandemic. |
| 37 | recent development work at Church Point has been fantastic. Please continue the well designed and tasteful redevelopment and improvement of this special place |
| 38 | I have reservations about the juxtaposition of an attractive, purpose built new pedestrian walkway and the heritage General Store. The building is sorely in need of maintenance, which the lessees should have undertaken on such a significant local building. At the least, it needs to be painted, and have a reduction in signage. The lessees don't seem to know whether they're operating a cafe or a general store; the flimsy 'coffee bar' semi-permanently outside the entrance with electrical leads draped through to the main building looks very tacky. |
| 39 | Is there availability for cycling especially for children |
| 40 | We cannot encourage more people to the Church Point Precinct without additional parking! There already is not enough parking for offshore residents. We already compete with weekend diners at Pasadena and the Waterfront Cafe. Holmeport Marina has doubled in size as well, yet no more parking!!! |
| 41 | <p>It's nice, but looks upmarket. I remember the way it used to be, which was great, a place that was friendly to all and sundry and not just the rich, so I'm not overly fond of the very slick commercial appearance.</p> <p>I would prefer something that spoke more of the quirky Island and Bays residents and their lifestyle.</p> |

| No. | Comment |
|-----|---|
| 42 | <p>I fully support the proposal as long as there is adequate signage / counter measures and ranger patrols with prohibiting / discourage fishing from the boardwalk extension.</p> <p>Recently on both the commuter wharf and the jetty in front of the water front there have been large groups of people fish with rods and lines cast into the high boat traffic waters outside of the waterfront and the commuter wharf.</p> <p>This often results lines getting caught on boats and motors with friction between the fish men who shouldn't be fishing there in first place and the offshore boating residents.</p> <p>Can it please be made abundantly clear with these proposed works that it is made clear that fishing from wharfs and jetty's are prohibited especially in high traffic boating areas, as currently the signage at the commuter wharf does not make it clear and there is no signage at the jetty is non existence plus the ranger patrols and police patrols have not pointed this out the regular fishermen who take the piss with there rods and lines cast directly into the boat waterways.</p> |
| 43 | <p>Seriously is this a priority for the expenditure of rate payers money.</p> <p>Is the council capable of managing this? The current works at the end of the parking facility at Church point looks as though it is just being milked by the contractor doing the work. A 2-story on site works office for a bit of pavement works which all progressing at snails pace??????? The quaint nature of the current area should be preserved not destroyed by turning into a commercial project.</p> <p>Do better than this. Try improving the Church point road for cyclists. Try building some factories/office facilities to provide cheap rent for start ups. Try building cheap council housing for essential low paid workers. Try building some wet weather sheltered pick up zones at our local schools rather booking parents trying to pick up their kids in wet weather. Try working with our local schools to ensure their sporting facilities are improved and integrated into the councils for the benefit of our local community. Try building more youth centers and facilities. Try getting rid of parking meters. Try building more integrated cycle lanes and routes. Try down sizing the council. Try turning Kimbriki Tip into a community service rather than a profit center. Try putting in free mulch locations for residents to use reduce garden watering needs. Try installing more solar panels. Try cutting the salary of the general manager - is that position really worth nearly \$500K - how much does the Premier of NSW get???????????? JOKE - NOT Lost (<i>sic</i>) of things that can be done better. Give it go.</p> |
| 44 | As many cyclists use this area please be considerate of there (<i>sic</i>) needs. |
| 45 | <p>Looks great, thought it would have been all done by now though!</p> <p>Be aware of middens and sea grass!</p> |
| 46 | Well done on including short term berthing and a floating pontoon. |
| 47 | <p>This all looks very nice but as a long term Island resident I'm concerned as usual of the parking impact this will have on us. Never being able to leave home and go anywhere by car on a weekend due to the lack of parking is so tiresome. The Waterfront Store will become busier than ever, more people, more cars. They already have people dining and consuming alcohol on the outside tables in the park which I'm sure is not legal. There are many other needs that the money being spent on this upgrade would benefit from. The Waterfront Store owners will be the ones that benefit most of all. If this goes ahead as I'm sure it will, I really hope that our concerns will be heard. More CP permit holder only parking, more rangers to deal with illegally parked visitors, more rubbish bins and cleaner maintained public toilets.</p> |

| No. | Comment |
|-----|---|
| 48 | <p>I do love the appalling spelling error. To describe a restaurant application using palate rather than palette is hilarious.</p> <p>The style and palate of the boardwalk extension will mirror the character developed in the western part of the Church Point precinct.</p> |
| 49 | <p>This will greatly improve the safety and experience of walking from the existing boardwalk, around the back of the Waterfront General Store, to reach the paved area of Church Point. My only concern is that the cafe does not increase their seating capacity, so that the total number of diners remains the same. This is crucial to reduce further negative impact on the already contentious parking availability for offshore residents.</p> <p>Thank you for understanding this thoroughly in the planning stages.</p> |
| 50 | <p>Appropriate controls should be established and implemented for the business of the cafe/restaurant/mixed goods retail to operate within so as to not block or restrict public access.</p> |
| 51 | <p>Great concept. Will make a positive difference to the area.</p> |
| 52 | <p>that the relocation of the Church Point ferry wharf must form part of the overall precinct upgrade to open up Thomas Stephens Reserve as per the Plan of Management.</p> |
| 53 | <p>Parking in this area continues to be a problem especially at weekends. This, should it go ahead will make this transport hub for the offshore people and boating people very crowded during weekends and public holidays which is not good.</p> <p>Due to the depression and difficult financial times that are coming to our economy. NBC should retain the money of this project for the essential and unexpected works that It will need to carry out in the future. This walkway cannot be considered essential works.</p> |
| 54 | <p>I am concerned about outside dining. It is once again becoming increasingly difficult to get parking for offshore residents. Encouraging people to spend more time at Church Point will surely mean more call on our limited spaces.</p> |
| 55 | <p>Having recently moved, after living at Church Point for 52 years, we are delighted to see that at last this beautiful area is being appreciated and upgraded. This should help make it easier to move around the Point without fear of being run over. Care must be taken to ensure the area does not become a destination for the consumption of alcohol with the associated problems of parking in surrounding streets, making life difficult for residents. We look forward to seeing the results.</p> |
| 56 | <p>There has already been an increase in foot traffic over the last few years and it has bee (<i>sic</i>) so congested around the reserve. Getting through all the visitors has bee (<i>sic</i>) a hazard on more than one occasion. I have been pushed over, tripped and injured just trying to navigate the crowds on my way to my boat to get home.</p> |
| 57 | <p>The Stairs on the historic wharf will not be able to be used whilst the ferry is berthed. It could cause some traffic conjection (<i>sic</i>) if people park there. This may mean that the public transport users can't be dropped off of in time to catch the bus. It would be better to move the stairs to that side when the ferry wharf is moved, or to remove them completely until the new wharf is built.</p> |
| 58 | <p>This plan will surely enhance the area. There is a problem to attracting more people to the area and that is the parking. It is already a problem to park particularly on the weekends. Also in this plan I see nowhere for the rubbish bins that the Waterfront Store currently store on the temporary walkway.</p> <p>It is necessary to have all that extra jetty area. The historic wharf is being to look a little lost in all the alterations.</p> <p>Adding extra outside dining will only add to the parking problems.</p> |
| 59 | <p>The relocation of the ferry wharf as planned must also be implemented.</p> |
| 60 | <p>we would oppose any outdoor dining proposal from the restaurant there that would interfere with pedestrian traffic.</p> |

| No. | Comment |
|-----|---|
| 61 | Great to have this precinct completed. The communtor (<i>sic</i>) wharf is great and timber walkway is great just need to finish this last part. |
| 62 | How can I really comment with such hopeless provided documents, where is a real architectural and or landscape plan, the provided civil plan is not satisfactory, further it does not clearly show how the tight SE corner of the Waterfront store, road and pedestrian path works which is a key access way and needs to be done pleasantly and safely. Really poor job of consultation, you really need to do better for such a highly used pressure point that is well overdue for attention. |
| 63 | I have lived here for 50 years and our School Children are still Not safe — NO PEDESTRIAN CROSSING All this work and the Bus Stop crossing to Church Point is Still Unsafe with No vision until you are in the middle of the road — nothing will be done until someone is run over ????? |
| 64 | i got off the bus yesterday and stepped into mud and rubbish. then i looked left and right --vision up or down the road limited to under ten metres either way on two curves. how to safely cross to the ferry??? no way except a hope and a prayer. it will be on the council's head when someone is killed or permanently injured by a car. |