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## Community Engagement Report

### Howell Close Stormwater Renewal Works

6/11/2019

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## 1. Project Background

This report outlines the community engagement conducted as part of the Howell Close Stormwater Renewal Works. There has been a long history of flooding of a number of Howell Close properties as the pipe in the Crown of Newport Reserve has a tendency to get blocked. As a result, a new design using advanced stormwater management practices has been developed to reduce blockage of the stormwater system and better manage overland flows. The design includes a new debris management device upstream of the pipe to deflect vegetation into an offline collection area and modifications to the existing screen. Other works include improvements to landscaping and amenity.

The project is engaging the community to provide education about the new stormwater system design and why it was chosen. It is also to announce construction works and answer any questions relating to the design.

## 2. Engagement Purpose and Objectives

Specific project based engagement purpose and objectives included:

- Public are provided balanced and objective information to assist in understanding the problem, alternatives and/or solutions
- Build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities
- Provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way

## 3. Engagement Approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Howell Close Stormwater Renewal Works was conducted over a 4 week period, from October 3rd to November 3rd, and consisted of a series of activities (see below) that provided opportunities and platforms for community and stakeholders to participate.

This report represents what Council has heard as accurately, comprehensively and transparently as possible by using consistent quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques.

Summary of the key activities and results:

Engagement Activity	Overview
Online Platform	A total of 129 visits to the project's online consultation page with an average time on-site of 1.4 minutes.
Face-to-Face (Information Session )	One onsite information session at the Crown of Newport Reserve on Saturday 19 October 2019, allowing face-to-face discussions with 6 community members.
Forms	One comment form was facilitated during the engagement period, with a total of 2 form completions.
EDMs	28 direct emails to local residents and two inclusions in the Council Community Engagement Newsletter during the consultation period.

### 3.1. Online Platform

Your Say Northern Beaches used a project landing-page to conduct online engagement. It provided a portal for users to visit, find information to support their engagement and offer feedback. The provision of information is an important factor in building community capacity to participate in the engagement and make informed contributions.

A total of 96 visitors viewed the project page and average time onsite was 1.4 minutes.

### 3.2. Forms

A feedback form on the Your Say page was used as an engagement tool. The forms design provided participants with an opportunity to communicate their comments.

Feedback received through this form informed the shaping of the overland channel between the stormwater pipe inlet and new pit, which will address issues such as child safety in the reserve.

### 3.3. Electronic Direct Mail

- Project was included in two Northern Beaches Community Engagement Newsletters. With a distribution list of over 20,000, this activity increased awareness and drove traffic to the project landing-page, essential documentation and engagement tools.
- Council sent 56 direct emails to approximately 28 community members.

### 3.4. Face-to-Face

The on-site information session offered residents another opportunity to learn about the Howell Close Stormwater Renewal Works. Facilitators were available at the sessions to engage the public and provide a forum for deeper conversations.

Location	Site	Time and Date	Attendance
Newport	Crown of Newport Reserve	10am-12pm, Sat 19 Oct	6

## 4. Key Findings

### 4.1. Community Sentiment

Overall the community were very pleased with the new design.

### 4.2. Community Feedback

Summary of comments received during the engagement period:

Engagement Activity	Comment
Your Say Page	Information provided at the on-site information session was informative and the representatives gave us a good overview of the project.
Your Say Page	Representatives at the on-site information session said they might create a trench from the stormwater pipe to the new pit. Concerned it would be hazardous to children playing in the reserve and spiders like to make to live in the trench walls.
On-site information session	Only been a problem with flooding in the last few years, residents think it has something to do with changes at the top of the catchment i.e. Bilgola Plateau.
On-site information session	Residents at no. [number deleted] Howell Close use the access way to the reserve to look after the bushland at the rear of their property as council does not maintain it. They also use it to get materials to their house as they are currently doing renovations.
Email/Phone call	Residents at [number deleted] Grandview Drive use the reserve to access the back of their property and the new landscaping will limit this access. They request the access to the rear of their property be maintained and Council to get a land survey to verify their boundary.

In response to community feedback:

- Council has taken into account the risk associated with creating a trench through the middle of the reserve. To address this comment the surface of the reserve will be re-graded to direct flows to the new pit, however no trench will be created.
- Council has taken into account residents' concerns regarding access and has marked out property owners' boundary for the purposes of clearance and modified landscaping plans accordingly.

### 4.3. Questions and Responses

Summary of questions received during the engagement period:

Question	Response
Will residents have access to the reserve during the works?	Residents will have limited use of reserve with the construction area to be fenced adjacent to the screen
Will there be any changes to the grassed reserve?	Potential to install grass swale along the reserve to better convey stormwater overland flows only and additional vegetation and plantings adjacent to the screen proposed in accordance with the landscaping plan
What bush care group looks after the reserve, will they look after the native planting as part of the project and can they get involved?	There is no specific bushcare group for the Crown of Newport reserve, you may register your interest via: <a href="https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/environment/bushcare/get-involved">https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/environment/bushcare/get-involved</a> – Furthermore please contact Karin Nippard <a href="mailto:Karin.Nippard@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au">Karin.Nippard@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au</a> regarding other local volunteer groups.
Will the access way be widened?	The access way linking into Howell Close will be slightly widened
Is the Newport Flood Study available online?	The Newport flood study is available online via <a href="https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/newportstudy">https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/newportstudy</a>
How to find the your say page?	Search for Howell close and you will be directed to <a href="https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/howell-close">https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/howell-close</a>

## 5. Next Steps

- Finalise design taking into account feedback from the community
- Prepare Request For Tender (RFT)
- Go to construction

## 6. Appendices

### 6.1 Engagement Content

#### Letter to residents

10 October 2019

To the Resident

Our Ref:

Dear Resident,

#### Upcoming Works – Howell Close Stormwater Renewal Works

As part of Council's four year Capital Works Delivery plan, Council is proposing to undertake stormwater works to reduce blockage of the stormwater system and help control the flow of water in the Crown of Newport Reserve.

#### What will be involved?

These works will include installation of a new structure to capture debris currently being carried by the stormwater upstream of the pipe and to hold it in a collection area for removal. Other works include improvements to the current maintenance access way from Howell Close, reshaping of the grassed swale at the rear of 7 Howell Close as well as an additional stormwater inlet structure and landscaping to enhance amenity of the reserve.

#### How will this affect me?

The construction zone (see Attachment A) is located in the Crown of Newport Reserve including a construction site compound. Access to Howell Close and the reserve will be maintained at all times with pedestrian and vehicle management in place throughout the works.

Construction works are expected to commence in early 2020 with works to be completed 6 weeks thereafter, weather permitting. Construction works will occur Monday to Friday between 7 am and 5 pm.

#### Community Information Day

Council will be holding an onsite information session and representatives from Council's Stormwater and Floodplain Engineering team will be present to answer all queries related to the project.

Date: Saturday 19 October 2019

Time: 10am to 12pm

Where: Crown of Newport Reserve

#### Learn more and comment

For further information and the opportunity to comment please visit our Have Your Say page at <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au>.

If you have any queries please contact the Stormwater and Floodplain Engineering team on 1300 434 434.

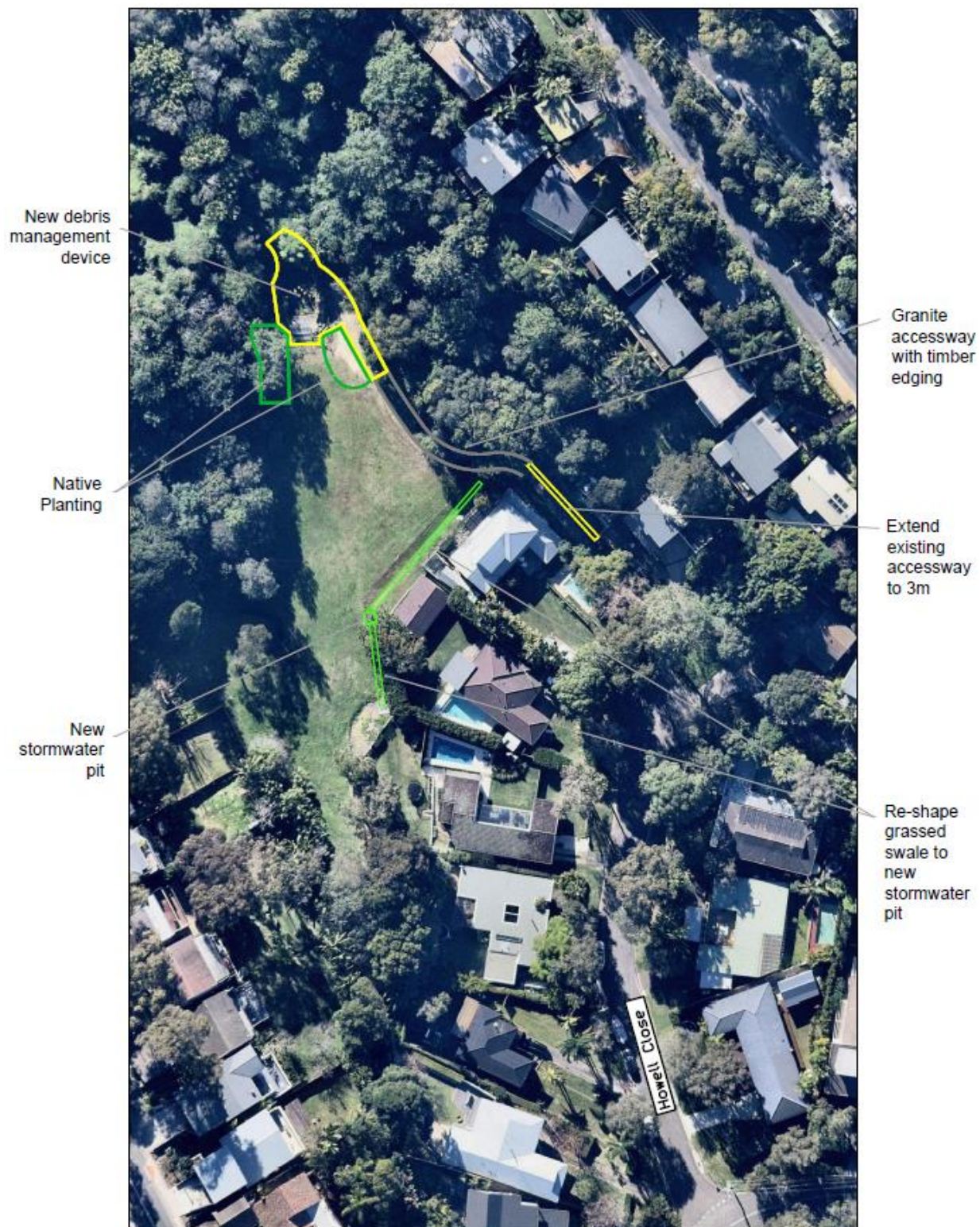
Yours faithfully,



James Leigh  
Manager Stormwater and Floodplain Engineering



## Attachment A - Howell Close Stormwater Renewal Works Area





## Attachment B - Artists Impression of Completed Works

