

Community Engagement Summary Report

Project name	Currawong Beach Wharf upgrade
Consultation period	4 September – 6 October 2025
Background	The Currawong Beach Wharf Upgrade Project encompasses accessibility improvements and remedial works to ensure compliance with relevant standards. A recent assessment of the existing wharf identified deficiencies in meeting current accessibility requirements and highlighted the need to accommodate the future demands of an aging population. Funding for this upgrade has been secured through the State Government. The Currawong site is a significant community asset and is listed on the State Heritage Register. All work will be undertaken with sensitivity, in collaboration with Office of Environment and Heritage and in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan for the area. Key features of the proposed upgrade will include: • a series of stepped platforms and ramps to allow wheelchair and ambulant access across the entire tidal range • a design that complements the existing structure and is durable with regard the surrounding marine environment, to ensure longevity and minimise maintenance requirements. A draft Review of Environmental Factors (REF) has been prepared due to the sensitivities around the marine environment and to comply with State Government requirements. The REF outlines how we will manage all environmental and heritage considerations during the works. The REF will be finalised following the completion of community consultation and an outstanding condition report on the existing structure. Construction activities will be scheduled to avoid the seahorse breeding season.
Total number of unique submissions	9 8 via Your Say 1 email
Summary of findings	We met with local resident groups throughout development of the concept and detailed design and then went out to community consultation to hear from the wider community on

	any additional feedback. Approximately 90% of respondents were in favour of the remedial and upgrade works citing, much needed upgrade to the structure. Most of the positive respondents agreed that the wharf needed an upgrade, however, some indicated that they would prefer to see a small kayak type step ladder or that we check the deck level for the interface with catamaran requirements and wharf alignment in the design. Approximately 10% of respondents did not support the proposal stating that Great Mackerel Wharf should have priority. It is noted that Council is in the process of tendering significant upgrades to Great Mackerel Wharf with works anticipated to be completed prior to Currawong commencing on site. The remaining responses were neutral. Council's internal heritage team provided a response and indicated general support for the proposal. There were no concerns cited with the removal of the stairs as they were non-original additions. The team indicated that in their view the proposed wharf extension is considered sympathetic to the existing wharf, while also allowing for greater accessibility and amenity. The wharf extension was not considered to negatively detract from the heritage item. Council's Aboriginal Heritage Office provided a response and supported the conclusion in the REF that given there are no land-based activities it is unlikely that there would be impacts to the Aboriginal heritage. It was noted that there is potential for unrecorded human burials in beach environments. Council will follow established procedures for any remains discovered should this occur.
Engagement approach	The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Strategy (2022). A project page was established on our engagement platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format, including a robust set of FAQs and 3D image of the proposed works. On site signage was used to promote the project, as well as extensive advertising of the consultation period through our regular newsletters, including our diversity newsletter - the Wave. Local Resident Associations received updates and were encouraged to make a submission. Stakeholder emails were

	also sent to State Government Agencies and other key organisations. The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletters (EDM), media channels and signage onsite. Feedback was captured through a comment form embedded on the Your Say project page. We also invited comment through email and in writing.
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How we notified	
On-site signage	2 signs
Visitors to Your Say page	693 visits
E-News EDM	58,995 distribution x 2 editions
Fortnightly CE Newsletter	22,063 distribution x 2 editions
The Wave – disability newsletter	1,386 x 1 edition
Stakeholder emails	1 Resident Association, 2 Govt. Stakeholders
Stakeholder meetings	2
Media	Pittwater Online, Media Release and News-story

Findings		
Theme	What we heard	Council response
User safety	Add a ladder to help people get out of the water.	Tidal platforms provide the most accessible and practical means for people to exit the water and return to shore. Under Australian standards for maritime structures a ladder is not required due to the presence of the platforms. This issue can be monitored

		and reviewed during operation of the new platforms.
Design refinements - Removal of stairs - Request for additional steps - Deck interface with catamarans	Concern was expressed over removal of the stairs. The wharf should be aligned differently. Check the height of the deck.	Council's heritage team have no concerns about the removal of the stairs from a heritage perspective. We will check deck height versus catamarans and their requirements prior to completing the final design. The wharf is aligned to minimise damage to the Posidonia seagrass and stakeholder consultation has occurred with DPIE Fisheries. The Fisheries Manager has indicated in writing that they are happy with the current proposal and REF. A permit has been issued. No changes to alignment will be considered. A kayak step is for floating pontoons which do not form part of the design due to strong wave forces.
Project justification	Currawong Beach Wharf is fine and is rarely used and does not require prioritisation over Great Mackerel Wharf.	The cottages are well used with no capacity for disabled user access. Great Mackerel Wharf upgrade (estimated 2026) is currently prioritised over Currawong Beach Wharf upgrade (estimated 2027).
Heritage	Works should be carried out as per heritage requirements.	Yes. Heritage is addressed in the draft Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and work planning.

During the consultation period, Council received questions either through direct contact or online.

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
Is the shelter shed part of the scope?	This is not part of the scope of works.
Can we have historic photos in the shelter shed?	This is not part of the scope of works.

Verbatim Responses received

Personal details have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.

No.	Comment
1	It looks fine but is barely used. So little in fact that people in a few holiday cottages have to put up a flag if they want the ferry otherwise it just goes past altogether - that is most of the time. Contrast that with busy Mackerel beach 130 houses many permanently living there and tons of day visitors ! Yet currawong is prioritised? No wheelchair access wharf at Mackerel beach. I could not get to my house for 6 months when injured and in a wheelchair. Tieups at wharf are severely restricted and only for those favoured by nepotism despite multiple requests for fairness of waiting list to council officers.
2	Please check the reduced level (RL) of the highest deck level of the proposed upgrade and compare that with the deck level, at high tide, of the catamaran ferries sometimes used on the Basin run. Please note that during some high tides the access ramp angle at Palm Beach Wharf is too steep to be considered safe
3	I think not will be an advantage to Currawong Beach Cottages.
4	It looks wonderful and definitely needed
5	Looks brilliant, from a boaties point of view. Now if we just had something half as good somewhere around Manly Wharf, perhaps off the old aquarium, that would be used a thousand times more boats than this wharf, wouldn't that be good!
6	Yes. The proposed tiered level extension should not be at right angles to the pier. It should be angled at least 30 degrees further away from the shore, so that vessels (particularly deeper draught ones) can approach it more safely to berth along the landward side. Currawong is very sheltered from the West through South, but exposed routinely to wind from SE through E to N)and to swell from the NE even in calm weather. In such conditions the leeward

No.	Comment
	(landward) side of the extension is often preferable to berth against, and safer, both to approach and depart. The proposed right angle connection to the pier looks nicely geometric on paper but in practice requires vessels to unnecessarily enter shallower water before they can turn to berth against the safer leeward side of the extension. I also feel there are too many tidal levels in the extension - I hope due regard has been given to the much greater swell exposure of Currawong compared with Palm Beach. Currawong is not a Millpond, and even at Low tide the lowest levels would sometimes be swept by swells (as distinct from waves).
7	Good idea and the plan looks good. We have used the wharf often with small kids and this will really help both with ferries and when we bring our own yacht
8	looks good

Verbatim Responses received via Email

Personal details have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.

No.	Submission
1	The Friends of Currawong Committee have looked at the planned upgrade of Currawong wharf and offer the following comments. 1. Public safety and amenity We request two small modifications to ensure public safety and ease of access: 1. the installation of a fixed ladder 2. a small step on the inside of the platforms. People swim off the current jetty and can easily access the water or shore via the steps. It would require considerable strength for swimmers to lift themselves onto a platform, especially at lower tides. This creates a danger for children or anyone not strong enough to easily manage this lift. This problem can be addressed with a fixed ladder. Steps were part of the traditional design of wooden wharves throughout Pittwater. We understand that Council is replacing steps with pontoons, or in this case, platforms, due to both disability access and maintenance requirements. In terms of heritage, it is a shame to lose the traditional wooden steps and we appreciate where Council has kept the steps in their wharf renewals such as at Paradise Beach and Tennis Wharf, Scotland Island. However, whenever the steps are removed on a wharf, a fixed ladder is necessary as a replacement for safe access for swimmers. It can also be difficult for some people to alight from small, low boats such as kayaks or tenders onto a pontoon or platform. This can be addressed by adding a narrow

	step on the sheltered side of the platform where the ferry will not dock. This was done in 2009 at Tennis Wharf, and recently at Taylor's Wharf refurbishment. We also note it is included in the plans for the Bayview Baths and wharf renewal. The Shelter Shed From the description of works, it does not appear that any alterations are occurring to the shelter shed. Can you confirm that this is the case? As the entire Currawong site is heritage-listed, any proposed repairs or alterations to the shelter shed need to be approved as appropriate. We consider that the entry point to Currawong should convey that visitors have arrived at a special place with a unique character. To reinforce this, we have previously suggested that some historic photographs would be appropriate in the shelter shed.
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Document administration	
Version	1.0
Date	13 October 2025
Approval	Content provided and approved by Brett Andrew
Status	Final
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.