

**Thank you, Shoalhaven City Council for our Street scape  
and  
the for all the works and upgrades to be done at Chris Creek  
and  
the safe pathway to and from our village centre that it will provide .  
Thank you for these major works that will have a very positive impact on our district.**

#### **SUSSEX RISE TO SEABERRY STREET SHARED PATHWAY**



#### **Pathway under Construction**

The shared pathway being constructed by the Sussex Rise Developer, when completed, will be another great link creating safe connectivity for our community. The pathway between Hastings Street in Sussex Rise and Seaberry Street will lead onto Thomson Street Sporting Complex pathway, the pool and the school and beyond.

#### **FUTURE PLANNING**

The Forum is in the process of calling for comment and suggestions from the community and has published a draft Footpaths, Cycle ways and Shared Pathways Document on the Forum website.

<http://www.sussexdistrictsforum.com.au>

The Sussex Inlet and District strategic action Plan 2015-2030 recognised the need for an improved network of shared pathways to better link the district.

The Action Plan identified, that with an aging population needing better and safer access to services and amenities, particularly for those using mobility scooters and wheelchairs, as well as providing improved and safer pedestrian access to school for students and parents, this future planning was a priority of high order.

Integration and connection of a pedestrian and cycling networks will lead to the creation of safe and accessible travel routes that will improve the liveability, sustainability and tourism potential and therefore the economic base of the district.

There is a need for a solid pathway from the corner of River Road at Neilsen Lane corner to Jacob's Drive along Neilsen Road for residents of Inasmuch units in River Road Sussex Inlet who require use walking frames and wheelchairs for mobility. This requires a reasonably short stretch of pathway.

## SUSSEX BEACH LOOKOUT -Vegetation Management Issue

The total vegetative obstruction of the iconic view of coastline from public lookout at Sussex (Cudmirrah) Beach at the Sussex Surf Club and the inability to view the beach to the right from the Public Viewing Platform /Lookout position is of concern to the community with Tourism the mainstay of our economy.

### In Support of Management of Vegetation to Open up View.

- Height of existing dune vegetation restricts the view from the lookout/viewing platform to 90 degrees to the left whereas at least a 180-degree view used to be seen.
  - The iconic view to the right along Cudmirrah Beach, all around Wreck Bay to Bendalong and beyond and along the Dividing Range and Pigeon House is completely hidden from view.
  - Sussex Inlet has very limited opportunities for public viewing compared with other districts such as Huskisson, Jervis Bay or Ulladulla.
  - The scene blocked out by the height of the vegetation to the right of the lookout/ viewing platform is spectacular and of high tourism value and needs to be reinstated.
  - **The only place that you can see this panoramic view is from the helipad on crown land on which Council has notified us that it no longer maintains the road or the steps to the beach there**
  - The steep slope to the beach, from where the view can be enjoyed, limits access to many people with health issues or even mild disabilities- wheelchair access to the beach is able to be arranged through the Surf Club – when manned, so it needs to be able to be viewed from the lookout.
  - The site of Sussex Inlet Surf Club building that one could once see the whole vista from, leaves only reasonably narrow access to the beach and look out, so many visitors to the beach walk the access path to the viewing platform to see any of the beach, and if they do not venture down to the actual beach they miss the view. See front page photo
  - One cannot even see the beach to the right of the platform from there.
- There is no lookout tower for safety in the Surf Club Building and no view of the beach at all from the building or car park.
- The observation tower in the Sussex Surf Club building had to be replaced with high tower behind the lookout/viewing platform because of the growth of vegetation in front of the Surf Club building obstructing the view from the original tower.

### Negative aspects of Vegetation Management Considered

- The *Leptospermum leavigatum* (coast tea-tree) and *banksia integrifolia* (coast banksia) that were planted to stabilise the dunes have grown tall and leggy so heavy trimming of the canopy may affect the long-term viability of the trees.



View from Sussex Beach Lookout/ Viewing platform - June 2018 - View: Standing on Lookout Seat



## CUDMIRRAH and BERRARA HEADLAND RESERVES and LOOKOUTS

**There are magnificent views to be enjoyed on the headlands of these reserves, however, the general amenity of the built environment here leaves much to be desired.**

All lookouts in our district need to be made safe especially those on headlands

- Some basic maintenance and repair has very recently occurred at the Berrara/Cudmirrah lookouts
- Seating that was most dangerous was constructed as an extension to one lookout by persons unknown – this has been removed. .by persons or authority unknown.
- Viewing Platforms at Cudmirrah and Berrara have recently had overgrown vegetation obstructing the view of the coast trimmed and had other basic upgrades to assist disabled access to Third avenue lookout which is a prime location for Whale Watching
- Our lookouts need to be accessible to all, so they need to be safe and have ramps provided
- The construction of the lookouts and level of workmanship and investment is very basic and could be much better designed as in other places in the Shoalhaven
- We want to be able to be proud of our public facilities in our district being of the same quality as say “The Bay”
- There are a number of reserves in Cudmirrah and Berrara –the Third Avenue Reserve could be developed and upgraded to be not only a Whale Watching lookout, or viewing platform, but a great passive recreation, picnic and playground reserve, accessible to all.
- Here there is a second reserve /beach access easement that is completely closed to the public by encroachment by neighbouring properties. It needs to be cleared.



**Third Avenue Lookout    Whale Watching**



**Berrara Cove Headland**



**The Cove Lookout Berrara close up**



**The Cove Reserve and lookout**

**The matter of the maintenance of the ocean foreshore and headland reserves is a constant concern and was a topic of much discussion at the May meeting of Forum.**

**Therefore we bring this to your notice today as we showcase our beautiful natural environment – It is what defines our district and the lifestyle it offers to residents and tourists alike.**

Notice of motion for Council Meeting deals with foreshore reserves – Forum agrees with this quote from the resolution as read at our last meeting:

” That Council recognises the social and economic benefits that greater activation of many of our foreshore reserves delivers to the overall prosperity of our city. With this in mind, Council affirms that it is philosophically committed to ensuring that our foreshore reserves are both well maintained and ideally suited to an increased and sustainable level of passive recreation....”

### **BERRARA CREEK, BERRARA BEACH and Berrara Beach Reserve/ Car Park**

**Some upgrading of car park is being undertaken – mulching**



**Berrara Beach Toilet**



**Berrara Beach shower requires better base /stand  
Mural of endangered shorebirds by local artist  
Robert Simpson**

### **SWAN LAKE**

#### **Swan Lake/ Cudmirrah Bridge**

Question of when bridge may be relaced (when in priority list) – need for safe pathway crossing. Footpath stops at National Parks land before bridge

**Swan Lake Ski Beach** – very crowded at holiday time and causes pedestrian, boat and vehicle traffic problem on road interface. Question of possibility of electronic road safety sign installation during peak periods. Boat ramp requires regular maintenance.