


Hervey Bay Esplanade

Community Consultation 2019



What is your vision for the Esplanade and how do we balance the differing needs now and for the next 20 years?



Prepared for Fraser Coast Regional Council

Community Panel Report

23 June 2019



Introduction

We are a diverse group of 36 people from the whole Fraser Coast region who are community minded and passionate about the future of the esplanade in Hervey Bay.

Over the past two months we have regularly met and interacted to discuss and plan the future 20 year vision for the Hervey Bay Esplanade.

During this time we have gathered information via visual inspection of the Esplanade area, listening to key speakers, community surveys, online collaboration and extensive panel discussion.

Through the guidance and training from the facilitators MosaicLab, we have developed the following visions, principles and recommendations and we look forward to these being implemented.

Guiding principles for planning

Principle Heading	Description of what this might look like when applied to Esplanade Planning
Safe and welcoming community	It will be an exciting and safe family friendly venue that is inclusive and culturally aware.
Enhance and protect our native natural environment	Future development must continue to provide and protect natural habitat for fauna and flora.
Follow Federal, State and Local Government legislation	To be compliant with Federal, State and Local Government legislation in all planning.
Embrace technology - smart city	Lighting and security for appropriate areas which protects fauna habitats and people. Incorporate evolving technology in all precincts to enhance communication; provide efficient and adaptive lighting (sympathetic to the needs of wildlife); and security (eg CCTV).
Future development celebrates and respects the origins of the area	Future planning needs to acknowledge and respect Butchulla and other history and culture.
Maintain unique beach lifestyle	Improve and expand on our park and BBQ areas for family and communities. Promote and build on each precinct individually.
A critical approach to economic environment social impact now and in the future	Recognising our responsibility to future generations when making recommendations ensure consideration is given to future impact with respect to social, environmental and economic sustainability.

Vision

<p>Our vision for the <u>Hervey Bay Esplanade</u> is</p>	<p>To be an exciting and safe family venue that is inclusive and culturally aware.</p> <p>Where business and tourism can co-exist with the natural beauty that makes Hervey Bay unique.</p> <p>A modern city that is embracing future technologies to enhance our community's standard of living.</p>
<p>Our vision for <u>Point Vernon</u> is</p>	<p>To maintain and improve all current assets. To build on the family friendly and accessible parklands without intruding on native flora and fauna.</p> <p>To protect and nurture the land and sea environment, with specific regard for the turtle hatchling area.</p> <p>Point Vernon to remain primarily a residential area.</p>
<p>Our vision for <u>Pialba</u> is</p>	<p>A safe and enjoyable recreational area and event space (eg. Seafront Oval) for families linked to the modern CBD, whilst preserving natural surroundings.</p>
<p>Our vision for <u>Scarness</u> is</p>	<p>A tropical seaside lifestyle with a focus on boutique hospitality, e.g. cafe, wine bar, microbrewery and nightlife. Accommodation options to cater for a diverse range of tourists. A family friendly place for water sports, outdoor entertainment and recreation.</p>
<p>Our vision for <u>Torquay</u> is</p>	<p>An area noted for its extensive boardwalks and fitness trails through native flora. Sandy beaches are a hub for water sports. A place for local arts, craft and a culturally diverse marketplace and dining experiences. Decorative lighting enhances the night dining experience.</p>
<p>Our vision for <u>Urangan</u> is</p>	<p>A unique and historic area where past and present culture is celebrated. A destination for up market accommodation, fine dining and high-end shopping.</p>
<p>Our vision for <u>Dayman Park</u> is</p>	<p>An open space that caters to all walks of life whilst paying tribute to its indigenous significance. Known for its excellent facilities and views.</p> <p>Has the ability to be used for large events as well as catering to events such as weddings.</p>

Key priorities

Priority Action Heading	Creating informative signage and walkways	
	Description	Where does this recommendation apply?
	<p>Informative walks with signage at key points relating to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geological formations • Flora and fauna that exist in each precinct • Points of cultural significance for the Butchulla People as to their recommendation • Points of historical significance • Educational points of interest 	The Whole Esplanade
	Conformative/ uniform signage along the whole esplanade i.e. similar size and look of each sign	Whole Esplanade
	Both audio and visual signage at key points along the walking trail and including main precinct areas	Whole Esplanade
	Additional boardwalk in Scarness, woodland area similar to Torquay	Scarness
	All signage relating to walking trail on beachside of esplanade	Whole Esplanade
	Size of signage: A1 size with information at historical or cultural sites, with smaller paths leading to a specific historical or cultural site. Also have colour coded signage to differentiate between cultural or historical.	Whole Esplanade
Overall Rationale/ Reasoning	It would be a tourist attraction that is also educational. A place for families or schools to visit and learn. To help preserve historical knowledge.	
Some examples of this include:	Informative signage at historical/cultural points of interest, as an example: history of Scarness hotel, skating rink or swimming enclosure, or Dayman park cultural history, or turtle info at Gatakers Bay.	

Priority Action Heading	Creating Pathways and Boardwalks for Current and Future growth.	
Description	Where does this recommendation apply?	
<p>In high usage areas from Point Vernon through to Urangan, footpaths should be uniform upgrades in construction, at least 3 metre minimum width, lit up along the whole pathway. This would allow for future growth to accommodate pedestrians, bicycles, mobility scooters and segways. Due to motor run vehicles and sporting enthusiasts and trained cyclists it is recommended a speed limit is put in place on footpaths.</p> <p>In high usage areas, development of more scenic boardwalks would allow for separation of pedestrians and bicycles.</p> <p>It is considered High Priority.</p>	The whole of the esplanade.	
<p>Options of lighting suggestions due to marine life to be taken into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be directed away from the sea • Sensor lighting • Wildlife Friendly • Injection deterrent lighting 		
<p>Dayman Park bike and recreation pathway lighting is in need of serious upgrade and should be connected to Pier Park with a raised boardwalk. For example: respecting the natural environment this connection could be a raised boardwalk/ bike path similar to Torquay.</p>		
<p>A raised boardwalk to connect the pathway opposite Queens Road all the way to Aqua Vue. This will alleviate pathway traffic without widening the width.</p>		
<p>The extension width wise and the additive lengths can relieve congested areas such as Scarness and Torquay, giving people a wider explorative in other areas. The inclusion of other exercise stations than should be a possibility.</p>		

<p>Overall Rationale/ Reasoning</p>	<p>To ensure the safety of all users.</p> <p>In the future we will change the way we move around and need to plan and cater for this.</p> <p>To enjoy activity safely in early evening without affecting marine or other wildlife all along the esplanade.</p>
<p>Some examples of this include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where environment is to be protected raised boardwalks/paths are to be instilled. • Width of pathways need to be extended • Speed limits to be put in place • A consistent look and construction of the pathway needs upgrading along the whole Esplanade where a boardwalk is not needed. • Lighting must be respectful of marine and other wildlife. • Solar power or other energy saving lighting such as a moving sculpture that produces energy, creating a display in the open areas. • Uniform lighting along the path for the majority where in some sectors ie. Pt Vernon could explore artistic and alternative energy source. • Website example: Smart street lighting (landscape street lighting) www.lighting.philips.com.au > road

Priority Action Heading	Protection, preservation and sustainable management of the natural environment	
Description		Where does this recommendation apply?
<p>Preserve and maintain existing native vegetation.</p> <p>Stabilise sand dunes, stop erosion by natural means using development of native vegetation. In areas that require infrastructure for flood mitigation and to prevent erosion, we recommend that the infrastructure has a functional purpose also. Whether it be tiered concrete steps for seating, garden beds, murals on the wall, etc.</p> <p>Build more boardwalks through the woodland areas as an alternative to foot paths to limit the impact on vegetation.</p> <p>Protection of fauna and their habitat. Including marine, bird and land-based wildlife.</p> <p>Council to collaborate with environmental specialists such as Council nursery, local coastal Landcare groups and Mary River Catchment Co-ordinating Committee, to determine what would be the best methods and species for dune stabilisation and vegetation rehabilitation.</p> <p>We would like removal of the dead standing trees (above the ground) because of the safety issue.</p>		Existing natural areas of the entire Esplanade.
Overall Rationale/ Reasoning	<p>Responsibility to preserve the native coastal ecosystems for future generations.</p> <p>Erosion prevention to preserve the coastal strip and the existing infrastructure.</p> <p>Boardwalks to allow for the enjoyment of the woodlands while minimising the impact on the vegetation and sand dunes.</p>	

	To maintain the attraction of the natural environment.
Some examples of this include:	<p>Revegetation of Point Vernon and areas of low use that are lacking in vegetation.</p> <p>Extending existing boardwalk through woodlands in Scarness towards Pialba. Boardwalks over dunes with low lying vegetation to assist in erosion prevention.</p> <p>Educational/ Research Centre of excellence for ongoing monitoring and management in a changing eco system. The centre should include marine, bird and land-based wildlife research and monitoring. Managed by Council, collaborative groups, state and federal grants, universities and/or private consortiums. Possible location is near Tuan Tuan Creek.</p>

Priority Action Heading	Esplanade Facilities	
Description		Where does this recommendation apply?
<p>Improvements to existing toilets to include baby change tables and improved disability access and showers where feasible. Upgrades to take into consideration individual precinct distinct visions.</p> <p>All high use areas require additional bins and increase BBQ and picnic tables along with shade.</p> <p>Fixed recycled plastic deck chairs strategically placed along foreshore at look out points.</p> <p>Extend exercise equipment (Torquay area) along path to link Urangan to Pialba.</p>		Entire Esplanade
<p>Gatakers Bay - Shade over playground area and upgrades to include more equipment.</p> <p>Construct amenities block at cross road of Kehlet Street to cater for weddings utilising Sandy White Memorial Park.</p>		Point Vernon
<p>Modernise caravan park (refer to the example below) At youth precinct, require a play area for young children under 5 years.</p>		Pialba
<p>Modernise caravan park (refer to the example below).</p> <p>Upgrade amenities beside Outrigger Canoe Club to include specifically shower and change table.</p> <p>Enzo's area - build shade over the playground.</p>		Scarness

<p>Improve disability access to the beach.</p>	
<p>Modernise caravan park (refer to the example below).</p> <p>Provide emergency vehicle access road to the top of the ramp for Surf Lifesaving Club.</p> <p>Improve disability access to the beach.</p> <p>More picnic tables Bill Fraser park.</p> <p>Upgrade boat ramp beside Hervey Bay Sailing Club to meet safety requirements.</p>	<p>Torquay</p>
<p>Build a shaded playground at Pier Park.</p> <p>Pier: Shaded rest areas with seating, drinking fountains and rubbish bins.</p> <p>Extension to the end of the pier to bring back to original length - historical.</p>	<p>Urangan</p>
<p>Construct additional amenities block at top end of park.</p> <p>Shade over playground.</p>	<p>Dayman Park</p>
<p>Overall Rationale/ Reasoning</p>	<p>As the population increases the demand on existing infrastructure will become higher and facilities should reflect that.</p> <p>Urangan pier is Hervey Bay’s icon, if extended could then attract cruise ships. Not necessarily Councils responsibility to build may be through private investment and 20 year vision.</p> <p>Rest areas would allow greater access for all abilities who may not necessarily be able to walk the whole length of the pier.</p> <p>The additional length would also allow increased fishing areas due to access to deeper water.</p>

	<p>Shade is non-negotiable in line with current Queensland health sun safe recommendations.</p> <p>Current exercise equipment is well utilised showing the popularity and increasing equipment could be utilised to link all the precincts together in a fun and interactive way.</p>
Some examples of this include:	<p>Caravan Parks - to have modern amenities that reflect the specific precinct vision, include play activities for young children and security. Include easy access for people with a disability. Landscaping to enhance to area.</p>

<p>Priority Action Heading</p>	<p>To increase the attractiveness of the Esplanade, and enhance Hervey Bay, as a tourist destination.</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>Where does this recommendation apply?</p>
<p>An app for all devices that tourists can access and be aware of what the esplanade has to offer, plus info hubs at airport, each precinct etc advising of app and information. As part of the Discover Fraser Coast Project.</p> <p>Council to support, facilitate and incentivise tourist activities and enterprises along the Esplanade, see examples below.</p> <p>This of course would be a more longer term project within the growth of Hervey Bay. Council should explore the funding for these projects between Council and private enterprise.</p>	<p>Whole of Esplanade from Pialba to Urangan.</p>
<p>Overall Rationale/ Reasoning</p>	<p>Tourism needs to be the number one priority, to bring lots of people to the area and to sustain the many business operators on the Esplanade, which will improve our economy.</p> <p>It should be emphasised that the uniqueness and character of Hervey Bay can still be maintained but we also need to be progressive. We need this for the Bay to thrive and survive, this by no means is a plan for us to become the next Gold Coast especially as we discourage any buildings on our foreshore.</p>
<p>Some examples of this include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage and enable all access by linking the 4 precincts with a quirky solar driven rubber wheeled trackless train. This will have each carriage that is open and will be in the design of different marine animals. to transport people from the far end of the Urangan Pier to the Waterpark, as a hop on hop

off form of transport through the precincts. This will be operated as a council franchise payment being made using the same system as being used by the waterpark slides. We feel that the “Whale Bay Train” will be a major tourist attraction.

- Extend Urangan Pier with floating a pontoon for pop up food carts including seating areas and shading. The food trucks could be rostered by all the cafe and restaurant owners so they have the opportunity to showcase their food. Would only allow the usage of organic biodegradable packaging and containers. This structure may be cheaper and depends on councils’ budget. The purpose of extending the pier is to provide some form of tourist attraction at the end, to boost the general appeal of Hervey Bays biggest icon.
- A walk through interactive marine (whale, dolphins, dugong, coral etc) park. A maze of marine animals in life size statues, that you can sit on have an ice cream and have interactive buttons that for example gives that animals sound and information. With a hub in the middle that offers more education and visual information
- A small whale-a-coaster slide type of attraction on the eastern side of the Urangan Pier. A whale shape where the riders come in through the mouth go over the spout and end up at the tail. This could incorporate water.
- A marine carriage ferris wheel to be located on a vacant esplanade block i.e. Shark Show corner block or available land.

Priority Action Heading	Integrating smart city technology including eco friendly lighting	
	Description	Where does this recommendation apply?
Continued up to date security options to ensure safety (CCTV).		Urangan to Pialba
Charging stations for electric vehicles / scooters and portable smart device integrated into future car park developments.		Urangan to Pialba, set back off the main Esplanade
Hotspot WiFi and future wireless internet areas in main and tourist precincts to cater for smart devices.		Whole Esplanade
Eco friendly mood lighting along the esplanade and beachfront (in certain areas), either utilising a dimmable or on/off (motion sensor lighting) system at night, that is powered by solar with minimal interference to nature and residents. Options to the lighting to consider turtle habitats (in compliance with State voluntary guidelines), in particular during nesting season.		Whole Esplanade Suggested areas for beachfront lighting – Torquay and Scarness
Smart signage to be utilised for speed limits, parking availability and for traffic conditions etc.		Whole Esplanade
Overall Rationale/ Reasoning	Safety is an important component; the right lighting can encourage use of the Esplanade after daylight hours. This will develop night time potential and encourage people to walk between each precinct. This needs to be efficient, eco friendly within budget constraints, utilising up to date technology such as low level LED /wildlife friendly lighting and solar powered. Technology is constantly changing so future considerations need to keep relevant to new opportunities.	
Some examples of this include:	See Port Phillip Bay Trail Lighting Elwood as a possible example of pathway lighting. For example Chermside and Sunshine Coast Plaza car park signage/lighting.	

Priority Action Heading	Appearance of the Esplanade to be visually appealing and unique, fresh and colourful and celebrate art, culture and heritage
Description	Where does this recommendation apply?
<p>The Esplanade to be visually appealing and unique, with artwork and designs that are fresh and colourful and that represent the heritage and essence of Hervey Bay and of each precinct.</p> <p>Amenities and utilities are aesthetically pleasing through design which reflects the individuality of each precinct.</p> <p>Clean and appealing shop fronts and streetscape eg. planting</p> <p>Artwork of various forms displaying Hervey Bay’s culture</p> <p>Murals and urban vibe in laneways/access areas from backstreets to Esplanade.</p> <p>Well maintained up to date parklands, gardens and playgrounds</p> <p>Maintain clear access paths to beach front ensuring vegetation is not damaged unnecessarily.</p>	Whole of the Esplanade
To maintain and improve the look of our current parklands to be consistent with Hervey Bay’s heritage and assets (ie. marine life and culture... see examples outlined below)	All precincts
Use local talent or artists to develop a unique Hervey Bay signature image... Something that puts us on the map.	
Overall Rationale/ Reasoning	<p>To encourage people to the Esplanade.</p> <p>To attract more visitors and tourists to spend more time shopping and playing in our region.</p> <p>To make people culturally aware of our area.</p> <p>Ensure each precinct has an individual character reflecting its history.</p>

	<p>So that there are lots of Insta-worthy photo opportunities to advertise the Bay.</p>
<p>Some examples of this include:</p>	<p>Planter boxes etc along shop centres (Torquay, Scarness, Urangan) Murals along alleyways (Torquay, Scarness, Urangan) that reflect that area's heritage.</p> <p>More sculptures from Torquay to Urangan that celebrate the marine life</p> <p>Limited signage on shops (see Development and future planning recommendation).</p> <p>Signage to designate beach access.</p> <p>Each precinct could have its own designated signage/artwork to reflect its assets or heritage (ie. Pialba has whales, Urangan has fishing designs, Torquay has eateries, Scarness has water activities, Dayman Park has cultural significance).</p> <p>Add some photo frames for scenic places along the Esplanade (similar to the one at Urangan) at Wetside, Torquay, Scarness and Dayman Park.</p>

Priority Action Heading	Additional Foreshore Activities	
Description	Where does this recommendation apply?	
<p>To fill the low tide gap of safe activities on the foreshore (at Torquay/Scarness).</p> <p>Swimming Enclosure: An all tidal netted swimming enclosure, accessible to all. Constructed in a boardwalk design extending out from the beach incorporating pontoons & dockable areas for small boats. For example, see Eastern Beach enclosure at Geelong. Have rock pools construction as the base to hold the water at low tide as well as the netted swimming enclosure.</p> <p>Volleyball Courts: New beach volleyball courts.</p>	<p>Swimming Enclosure: Torquay and/or Scarness</p> <p>Volleyball Courts: Near the Pialba recreational facility (skate park/all abilities playground area)</p>	
<p>Restaurant Precinct: Modern alfresco dining with boutique shops</p>	<p>Scarness: in newly designed alleyway and one more close to Enzo's.</p>	
<p>Late night market close to new restaurant precinct. Opened from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon.</p>	<p>Scarness</p>	
<p>Renovate buildings that aren't being utilised to their best potential on the foreshore. They could be used as restaurants, cafes and function rooms.</p> <p>There is a perception that certain Esplanade structures are underutilised. When leases become due for renewal, Council will liaise with potential and existing lessees to ensure maximum utilisation through renovations and upgrades.</p>	<p>The whole Esplanade</p>	

<p>Overall Rationale/ Reasoning</p>	<p>Swimming Enclosure: Enhances swimming opportunities at low tide conditions. Allows for additional fishing locations and opportunities on the outside of the enclosure and can allow better ocean access for the disabled. Does not impinge on existing foreshore parkland and has minimal maintenance requirements.</p> <p>Volleyball Courts: Encourages and provides for the possibility of local & national competitions as well as private and club usage.</p> <p>Restaurant Precinct and Late Night Market: More variety. Draws people that will attract more people.</p> <p>Utilising Under Utilised Building: To allow the wider community access to these facilities. They have high revenue potential that is being lost.</p>
<p>Some examples of this include:</p>	<p>Swimming Enclosure: Eastern Beach Geelong</p> <p>Restaurant Precinct: Mooloolaba</p> <p>Surf Life Saving Club: Burleigh Heads</p> <p>Markets: Southbank Brisbane</p>

Priority Action Heading	Improve traffic flow and parking capability along esplanade	
	Description	Where does this recommendation apply?
<p>Seen as essential to maintain safety of pedestrians and road users.</p> <p>Areas which are congested and difficult to manoeuvre in need to be addressed, particularly the Pier corner (Urangan) and Elizabeth Street (making the road one-way is an example).</p> <p>Remove parking from one side of The Esplanade and create additional parking capacity one block from the front (eg. Freshwater Street). The additional space can be used to realign traffic lanes and cater for cyclists (ie. dedicated cycle and traffic lanes).</p> <p>Additional threshold treatments (raised intersection) at intersections to calm traffic and cater for pedestrians (incl Queens Road and Elizabeth Street).</p> <p>Include additional parking pods where needed and possible. Assess position of existing pedestrian crossings to move them away from intersections.</p> <p>Explore the opportunities of “STOP, DROP AND GO” zones in high usage areas to free up parking and make people friendly offload and reload of passengers and equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alternative suggestion is to one-way traffic through busy shopping areas, with nose in angle parking. 	<p>This applies to the Scarness, Torquay and Pialba precincts, plus Urangan pier corner</p>	
<p>Reduce speed limits to 40kph in shopping precincts.</p> <p>Develop parking areas along northern side of open drain on Freshwater Street.</p> <p>Install pedestrian access at end of main street to enable pedestrian access to waterpark and recreation area.</p>	<p>Scarness and Torquay.</p> <p>Pialba</p>	

<p>Review with the intent to increase the number of shared zone crossings along the Esplanade.</p>	
<p>Overall Rationale/ Reasoning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Safety to all concerned. ● Reduce collision risk between vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians ● Slow traffic at intersections ● Relocating pedestrian crossings away from intersections will make pedestrian movements more obvious for left turning vehicles
<p>Some examples of this include:</p>	<p>One-way traffic flow and 40kph limit from Elizabeth Street to Urangan Pier Park and around to King Street and/or Hibiscus Street to ease traffic congestion and parking. Or through traffic lights or roundabouts (instead of one-way).</p>

Priority Action Heading	Development and Future Planning	
Description	Where does this recommendation apply?	
Maintain the present legislated council height limits of all buildings along the Esplanade. This will be regardless of any future rezoning changes	All of the Esplanade	
<p>Opportunities for rezoning and future planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future commercial developments to include shopping plazas and arcades • Tourist Information Kiosks on the Esplanade (not beachside) • No more buildings on the beach side of the esplanade and no more expansion ie. outward of current footprint of existing buildings on the beach side of the esplanade. Upward to 2 storeys is possible. • The Council should develop legislative/regulative signage guidelines for commercial signage along the Esplanade. • New mid to high density buildings on or near Esplanade must provide adequate off street parking 	All of the Esplanade, commercial nodes ie: shopping precincts	
Improve visual aesthetics of shop and business signage	Business nodes in Scarness, Torquay and Urangan	
Caravan parks to be retained in current locations	Esplanade	
Don't change the zoning of low / medium density areas to high density areas. No high-rise buildings in these areas	Point Vernon	

**Overall Rationale/
Reasoning**

Retain the Coastal Town ambience. We want to see development that co-exists with the natural and unique beauty of Hervey Bay Esplanade, as opposed to a dominating concrete jungle.

All development should take into consideration the impact on the native flora and fauna.

MINORITY REPORTS

Minority Report 1

Priority Action Heading	Foreshore Seawater Lagoon	
Description		Where does this recommendation apply?
Family-friendly all abilities place to swim and wade (water play) on the esplanade with shade provided.		Torquay
Overall Rationale/ Reasoning	<p>Given the 20 year remit and expectations around climate change, the lagoon would ensure hervey Bay remains a safe place to swim (i.e. lurkandji)</p> <p>Extending time families can spend on the esplanade at low tide and drawing people to the businesses located nearby</p> <p>Attracting tourist and visiting friend and family revenue</p> <p>More than 65% of community engagement panel support this initiative</p>	
Some examples of this include:	Torquay Progress Association's prepared submission	

Minority Report 2

Priority Action Heading	Development and Future Planning	
Description		Where does this recommendation apply?
<i>Don't change the zoning of low / medium density areas to high density areas. No high rise buildings in these areas.</i>		All along the Esplanade
No upward and outward renovations to existing buildings on the foreshore		All along the Esplanade
Overall Rationale/ Reasoning	Keeping to our original vision of the Esplanade	