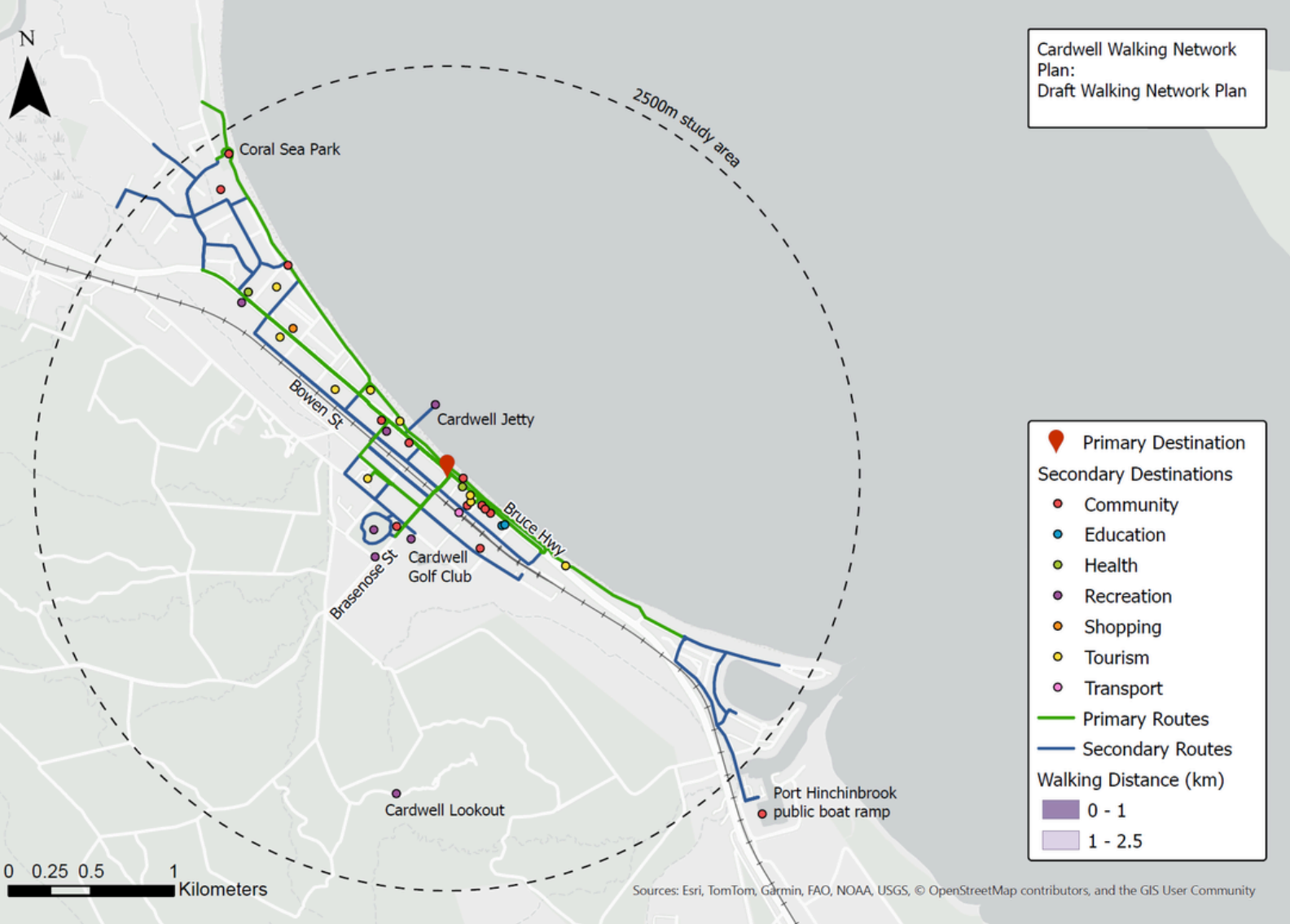


# Community Engagement Summary Report

# **Cardwell Walking Network Plan**



# Engagement Snapshot

**548** YOUR SAY VIEWS

**35** YOUR SAY CONTRIBUTIONS

**1** COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

**12,446** SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN REACH



## Introduction

With a compact township layout, highly utilised coastal foreshore shared path and a diverse mix of local services and attractions, there is strong potential for Cardwell to become a more walkable township. Although many key destinations are located within walking distance, the existing footpath network is limited outside the township centre, which reduces the overall convenience, accessibility and attractiveness of walking as a mode of travel.

To address these issues, Council has prepared the Cardwell Walking Network Plan (WNP) to improve walking connectivity, accessibility and safety across the township by identifying priority walking routes and infrastructure improvements to key destinations within Cardwell, including the town centre, foreshore shared path, key public transport connections, community facilities, local businesses and tourism attractions. Improving pedestrian connections between residential areas and these destinations will help support safer and more convenient walking for both residents and visitors.

As part of this plan, Council is also exploring opportunities to deliver low-cost and value-for-money solutions that can deliver quicker and more affordable outcomes that support more people walking in the community as a result of increasing costs to deliver infrastructure and financial constraints that local governments face today.

The development of the Cardwell WNP is supported through funding provided by the Queensland Government's Active Transport Grants Program.



## Engagement Purpose

The purpose of the community engagement process was to gather local knowledge and insights to inform the development and refinement of the Cardwell WNP. Residents, businesses and other stakeholders were encouraged to share their experiences of walking in Cardwell, help identify any barriers and safety concerns, and highlight locations where improvements may be required.

The feedback collected through this process helped to refine early assessments on where future investment in walking infrastructure could be delivered and helped ensure the final Cardwell WNP reflects local priorities and needs.

# How We Engaged

Council undertook a comprehensive public consultation campaign over a five-week period between Monday 12 January and Sunday 15 February 2026 to increase awareness and seek community input to the development of the WNP. The public consultation campaign included:

- Release of a dedicated 'Your Say' engagement page for the project on 5 January 2026.
- Provision of an online survey on the 'Your Say' engagement page from 15 January 2026 to 15 February 2026.
- Social media awareness posts on 5, 12 and 19 January and 9 February 2026.
- Radio adverts airing between 5 and 18 January 2026
- Corflutes installed throughout Cardwell from 12 January 2026.
- Media release – Step by Step: Building a Walkable Cardwell released on 5 January 2026
- Community workshop on 6 February 2026.



FIGURE 1: CARDWELL WNP CORFLUTE AND SOCIAL MEDIA TILE

# Public Consultation Outcomes

## Cassowary Coast Your Say Platform

A 'Your Say' project webpage for the Cardwell WNP was published on Council's website on 19 January 2026 (a link to the Your Say webpage link can be found [here](#)) which included an interactive digital map and a survey to capture community feedback on their walking experiences in Cardwell.

In total, the Cardwell WNP 'Your Say' webpage received 35 contributions over the five-week period. As can be seen in Figure 2, a total of 23 submissions (65%) were received within the first week of the project webpage going live. This early level of participation indicates that the project was effectively promoted and reached the local community. It also suggests a strong level of interest and willingness from residents to provide feedback on opportunities to improve walking conditions in Cardwell.

Number of Responses

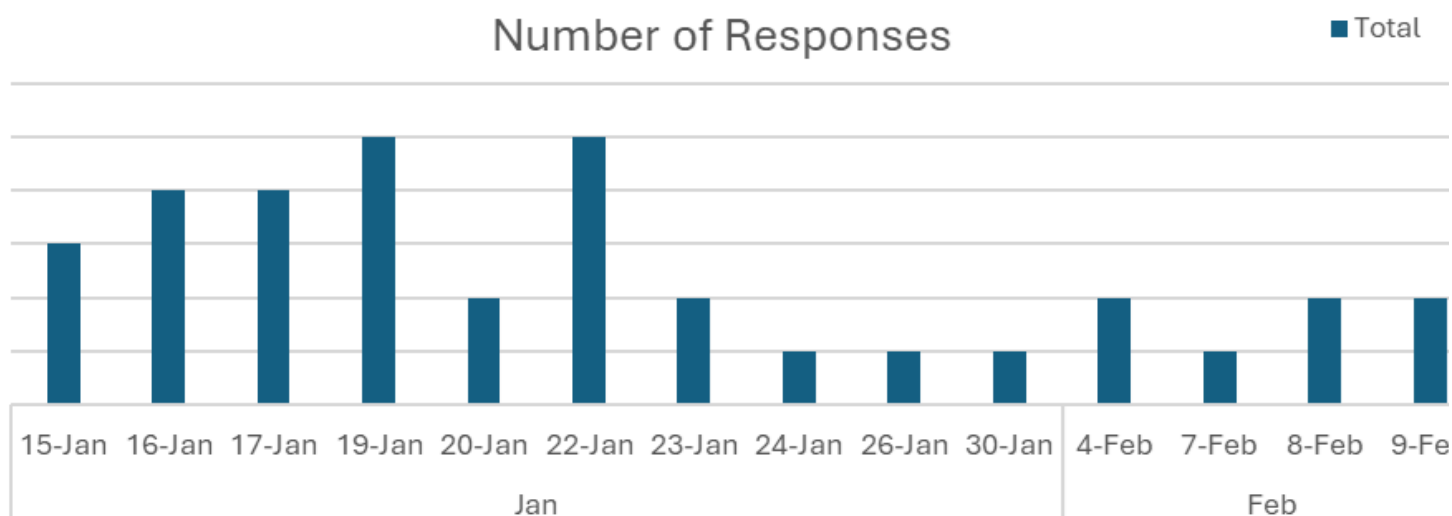


FIGURE 2: CARDWELL WNP YOUR SAY CONTRIBUTIONS

Survey responses were received from a range of age groups, with the majority (71%) coming from respondents aged 25 to 50 and 65 to 79. Participation from younger age groups was more limited, with two respondents aged 18 to 24 and one respondent aged 18 years and under. As shown in Figure 3, the age profile indicates that survey feedback was primarily provided by working age and older residents.

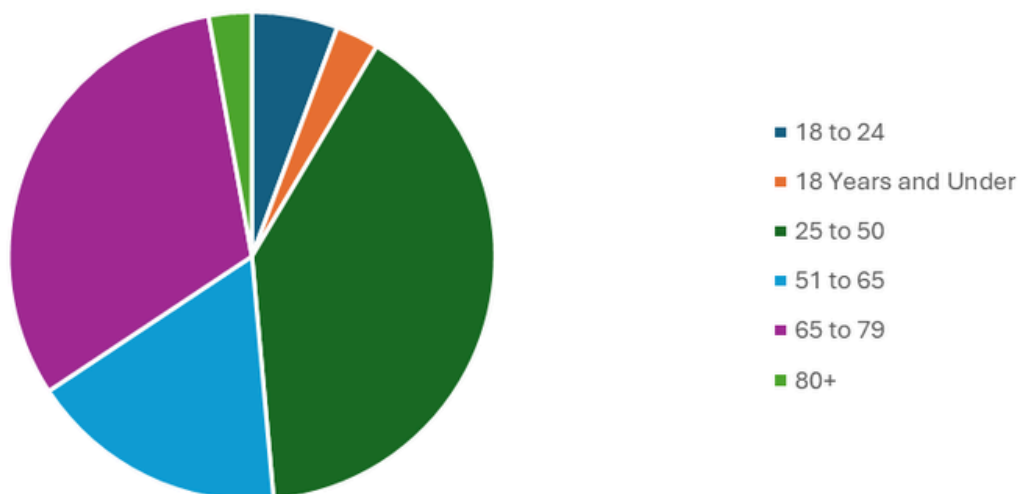


FIGURE 3: AGE PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

# Public Consultation Outcomes

## Barriers to more walking

As can be seen in Figure 4, 'weather' was identified as the dominant barrier to walking in Cardwell (22% of responses). Heat, humidity and rainfall can significantly influence walking comfort in the region and this was identified by the community. This was followed by a lack of shade or rest areas (15%), highlighting the importance of shaded routes and places to rest, particularly for older residents. Lack or limited infrastructure such as missing or degraded footpaths, safety, hazards, poor maintenance or cleanliness were also frequently mentioned (11% and 9%), suggesting that overall footpath infrastructure, maintenance, and shade provision could significantly enhance the attractiveness and usability of walking routes in Cardwell.

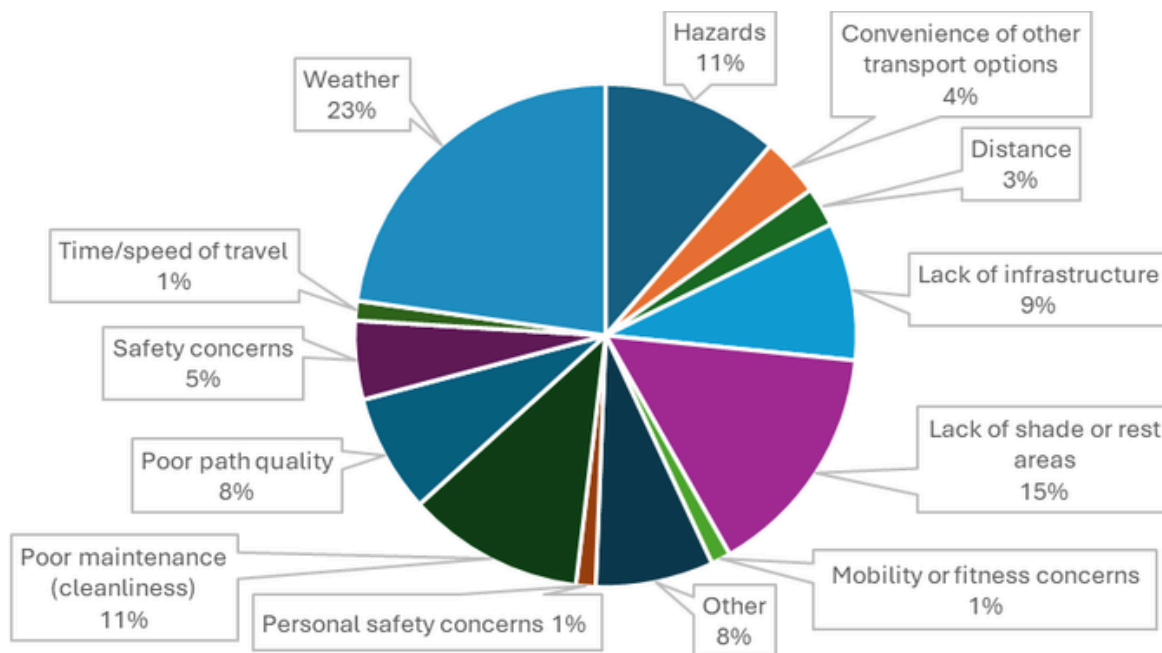


FIGURE 4: KEY BARRIERS TO WALKING

## Why people want to walk

Survey responses to what encourages people to walk found that the Cardwell community overwhelmingly values walking in locations with a high environmental appeal (29% of responses), to improve their overall health and fitness (26%) and to spend time outdoors (25%). These results suggest a preference for routes that are attractive, comfortable and enjoyable, such as the existing path along the foreshore. Respondents typically did not walk for work, environmental or financial reasons, indicating that enhancing the recreational experience and supporting active lifestyles are key drivers that will increase walking participation in Cardwell.

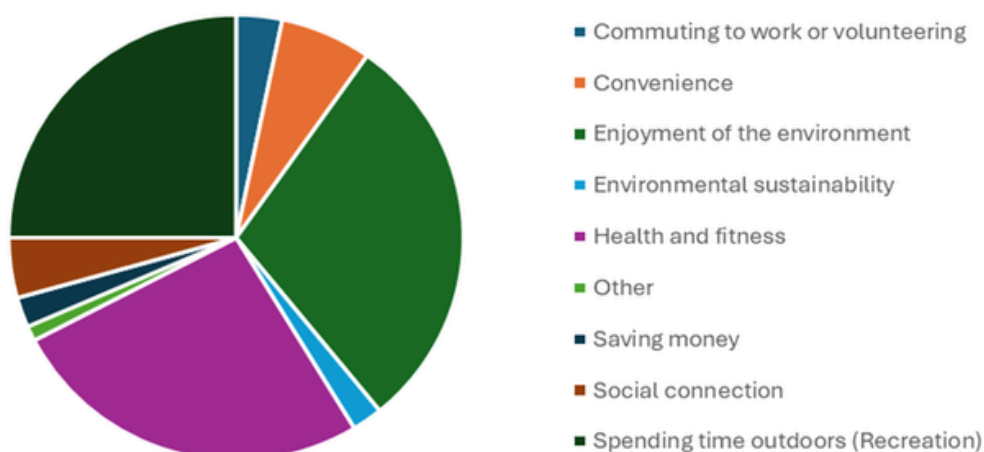


FIGURE 5: WHAT ENCOURAGES YOU TO WALK?

# Public Consultation Outcomes

## Main walking destinations

As a scenic location with an established and high quality footpath along its length, it was no surprise that the beach foreshore emerged as the primary walking destination in Cardwell, with 30% of respondents identifying it as a location they regularly walk to (see Figure 6 below). This was followed by local shops (23%), parks and playgrounds (13%) and cafés and restaurants (10%), highlighting the importance of safe and convenient walking connections to the town centre and family-based walking activities. Survey responses indicate that walking to the homes of friends or family members or to school or work was less common, suggesting that walking in Cardwell is primarily driven by recreational activity and access to local services, particularly around the foreshore and town centre. This aligns with the community's primary motivations for walking in Cardwell (see Section 4.1.2), which included spending time outdoors in areas of high environmental appeal and improving overall health and fitness.

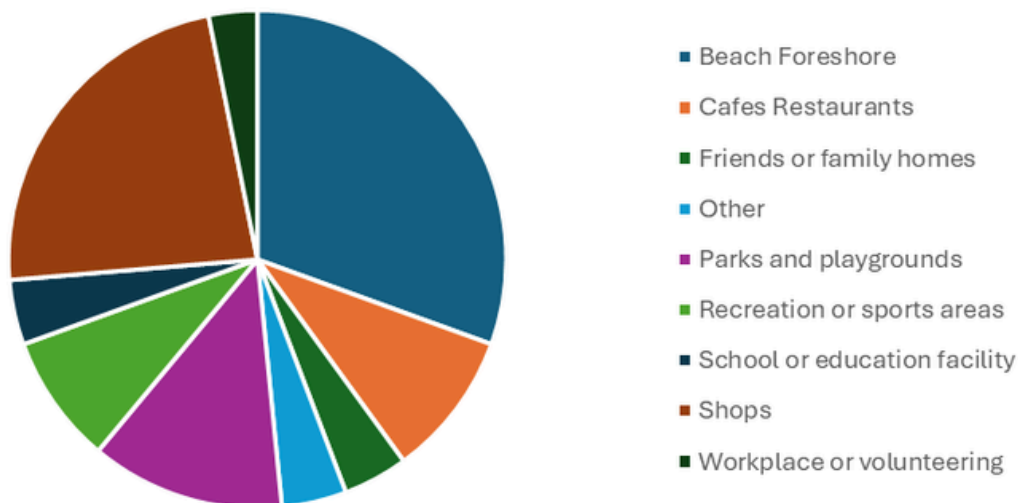


FIGURE 6: MAIN WALKING DESTINATIONS

# Community Workshop

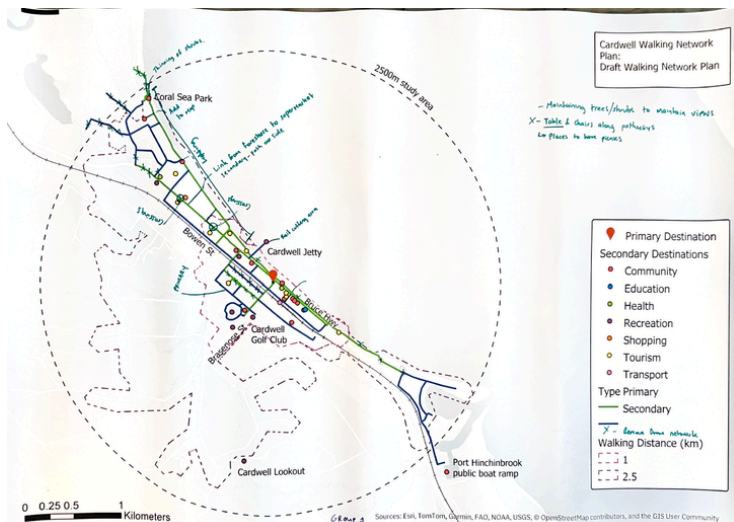
A community workshop was held at the Cardwell Library on 6 February 2026 between 9:30 am and 11:30 am. A total of 14 community members attended the workshop, with time-poor contributors also able to provide feedback directly on the Draft WNP at a separate pop-up stall during the session. Most attendees aligned with the middle to senior aged brackets and all lived within Cardwell or the immediate area.

The workshop was facilitated by Hartecs Group with support from Council project team members who co-facilitated individual tables with workshop attendees. The agenda for the workshop was as follows:

- Project purpose and vision
- Methodology
- Exercise 1 – Testing of the Draft WNP
- Potential infrastructure design solutions
- Exercise 2 – Improving the walking experience
- Next steps.



FIGURE 7: COMMUNITY WORKSHOP, CARDWELL LIBRARY



## PRIORITY

1. Connection from foreshore to supermarket
  2. Connection from town to hall
  3. Improve pathways out front of Ballial St exit
  4. Signage on foreshore path to cultural precinct - Ballial st
  5. More seating & shade
- \* Maintain foreshore - protect from erosion
- Do not advocate narrowing streets.

## Common themes

Exercise 1 focused on reviewing the Draft WNP and encouraged workshop attendees to consider where they currently walk and where they would like to walk in the future. Participants were asked to review the proposed primary and secondary routes and comment on whether they were appropriate. They were also invited to identify routes that currently work well, as well as locations where connections are missing or improvements are required. Feedback indicated that:

- Improving connectivity to the foreshore shared path should be prioritised over footpath provision on local streets.
- Footpaths along the Bruce Highway should be improved.
- Brasenose Street should be prioritised for future walking infrastructure provision to connect the recreation precinct to the town centre.
- Maintenance, improvement and expansion of the foreshore shared path was highly valued by the community.
- There are width and access constraints on Liverpool Street and Gregory Street.

Exercise 2 asked workshop attendees to consider what improvements could enhance the walking experience across Cardwell and rectify known problem areas. A well-functioning walking network involves more than footpaths, utilising a diverse range of infrastructure solutions to make walking safer or easier. The facilitator utilised the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) Walkable Neighbourhood Design Options guidance to demonstrate potential infrastructure design solutions (such as protected crossings or street lighting) that could be applied in these situations. Feedback from this exercise indicated that:

- There is a lack of shade on the foreshore shared path for people walking.
- A kerb ramp is needed at the southern end of the foreshore shared path at Keith Williams Drive.
- There is a desire for water bubblers, dog waste bins, benches and other ancillary infrastructure on the foreshore shared path.
- There is not enough street lighting on the foreshore path or at key crossing locations over the Bruce Highway.
- Additional staged pedestrian crossing points over the Bruce Highway would help improve overall safety when accessing local shops, recreation areas or the foreshore shared path.
- Pedestrian crossing improvements over railway crossings would improve safety for people walking.
- There is an opportunity to investigate options to improve safety between people walking and cycling on the foreshore shared path.

Marked up maps documenting community feedback are provided in Appendix A.

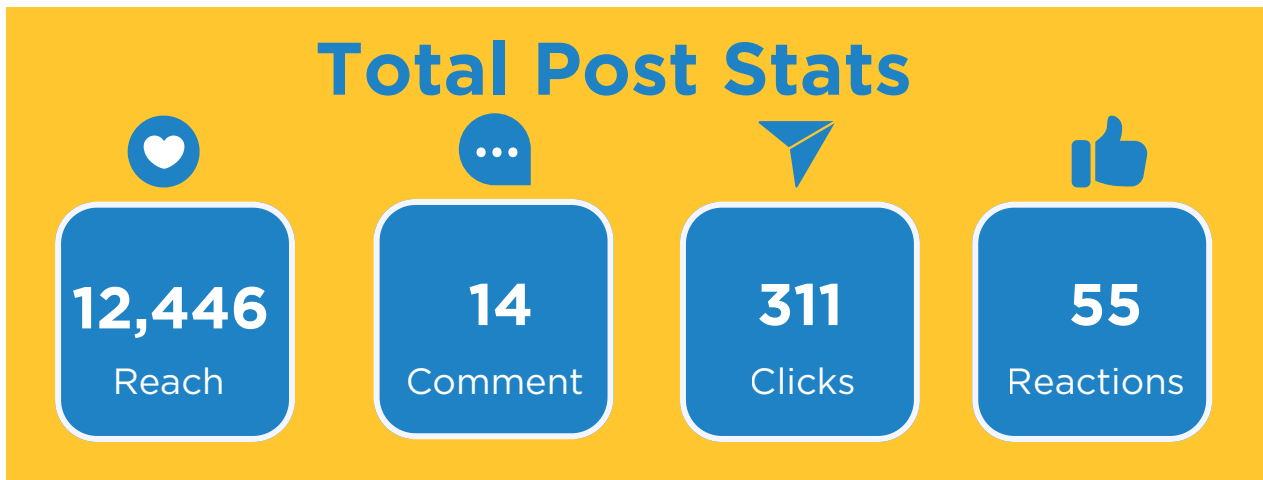
## Key feedback adopted

Feedback received through the community engagement process was reviewed and considered in the refinement of the Cardwell WNP. Input from the community provided valuable local insights into walking conditions, priority routes and locations where improvements could be made to encourage more walking. Where appropriate, this feedback has been incorporated into the final plan to better reflect community priorities and ensure the proposed walking network responds to the needs of the community and visitors. Key changes to the WNP directly influenced by community feedback includes:

- Primary and secondary network changes:
  - An extension of the primary route on the Bruce Highway between White and Gregory Street.
  - Additional secondary routes on:
    - Ferguson Street
    - Gregory Street
    - Parker Street
    - Gregory Street.
  - Promoting secondary routes to primary routes on:
    - Gregory Street (between Liverpool and Brasenose streets)
    - Keith Williams Drive.
  - Removal of secondary routes not considered to be of a priority for delivery under the Cardwell WNP, including:
    - Panos Street
    - Lawson Drive
    - Albert St/McAndrew Drive
    - Foxtail Avenue (south of Poinciana Boulevard).
- Infrastructure design solutions:
  - Inclusion of street lighting on the foreshore shared path
  - Provision of dog waste bag providers and bins along the foreshore shared path
  - Provision of a kerb ramp on Keith Williams Drive to connect to the foreshore shared path
  - Maintenance of the foreshore shared path to minimise coastal erosion threats
  - Mid-block crossings over the Bruce Highway to improve safe connections to improve connectivity to:
    - Liberty Oil Cardwell
    - Kookaburra Holiday Park
    - Friendly Grocer Cardwell
    - Jetty Playground.
  - Maintain trees/shrubs to maintain views and clearance along the foreshore shared path
  - Investigate locations across Cardwell to plant trees along footpaths and rest areas to increase shade cover
  - Placement of wayfinding across Cardwell to direct visitors and the community to key locations
  - Investigate separation methods to improve safety between people walking and cycling on the foreshore shared path.

# Social Media

Council shared 5 posts designed to connect with a wider audience. One of these posts received a strategic boost over a 10-day period to enhance visibility. The results speak for themselves: an impressive total of 9,545 individuals were reached, with 109 actively engaging with the content.



Be nice to have a footpath from stoney creek to town.

Just make sure the foreshore path doesn't end up in the ocean

Be nice to have trees

more trees! Yesssss

I love Cardwell, a lovely, clean place. Not like Innisfail, rubbish lying everywhere I walk a long the river front and up past the hospital and towards town, I am disgusted by how very untidy along the back packers accomadation it smells as well. Cardwell is lovely and clean and well looked after.



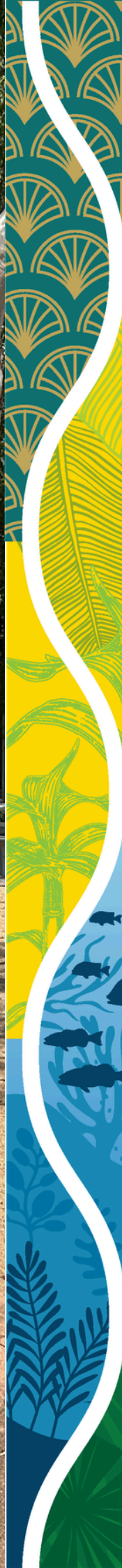
FIGURE 8: CARDWELL WALKING NETWORK PLAN FACEBOOK POST 15 JANUARY

## Next Steps

This report will be distributed to key internal and external stakeholders and made publicly available through Council's 'Your Say' website.

Feedback gathered through the community engagement process has helped identify priority and secondary walking routes, highlight barriers to walking and pinpoint locations where improvements may be required. These insights will help inform the finalisation of the WNP and guide the development of an associated action program which will support future decision making around investment in walking infrastructure and initiatives within Cardwell.

Actions identified within the Cardwell WNP and action program will be considered alongside actions emerging from other Walking Network Plans across the Cassowary Coast region. These actions will be prioritised against one another to ensure that investment is directed towards the highest priority projects across the region. This will be documented in a region-wide delivery plan to coordinate implementation and guide the staged delivery of walking improvements over time.



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