

Cowley and Kurrimine Beach Foreshore Management Plan Project

About the project

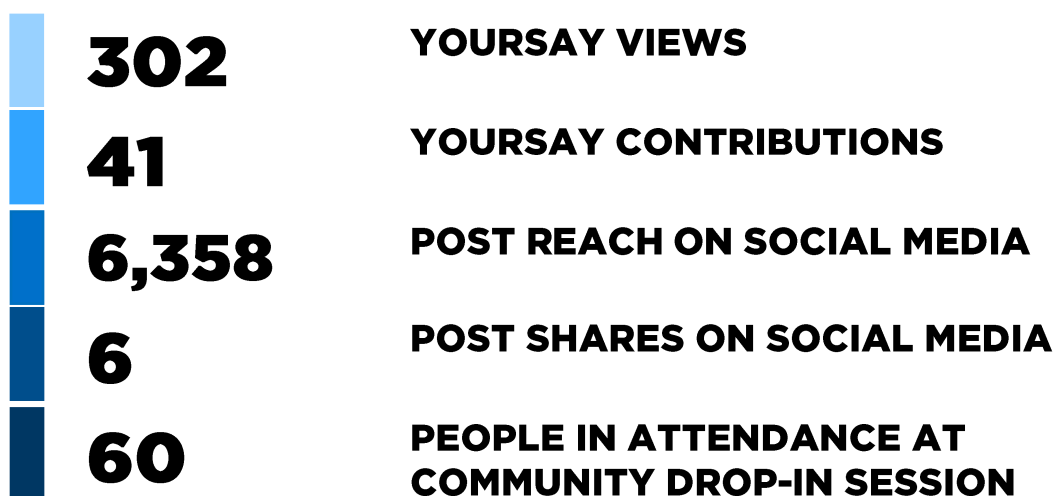
The Cassowary Coast Regional Council (Council) is developing a Foreshore Management Plan (FMP) for Cowley and Kurrimine Beach communities that will guide the use, development, and access of the area in a manner that ensures the short and long-term preservation of ecological, cultural, and social values. The FMP will be developed in collaboration with Council and be consistent with State Planning Policy, and local plans and policies. Consultants at GHD Pty Ltd have been contracted to develop the plan and seek community input into the plan. Capturing community input throughout the development of the plan will help to enable use of the coastal foreshore in a sustainable manner.

The community was invited to share their feedback on the Cowley and Kurrimine Beach Foreshore Management Plan.

Objectives of the community engagement

- Inform and consult the local community and stakeholders about the project.
- Ensure that stakeholders receive information about the project in an appropriate format and in a culturally appropriate manner.
- Provide the community and stakeholders with an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.
- Develop solutions in the plan that address community expectations where possible.
- Manage stakeholder feedback in a timely, respectful way.
- Monitor and evaluate community and stakeholder feedback to measure engagement effectiveness and identify common themes of enquiry and/or complaint.

Engagement Snapshot



How we engaged

A range of engagement tools and activities were utilised to capture communities' input into the Plan, these included:

- Survey tool through Councils Your Say Website open from Monday 15 – Monday 29 April 2024
- Social Media Campaign through Facebook and Instagram – Total of 4 posts
- Letter drop advertising to residents in both Kurrimine & Cowley Beach
- Physical Corflute Displays (Three at each location)
- Written Survey's (available at Customer Survey Centres)
- Community Information Sessions Held on 18 April 2024 at Cowley Beach (4:30pm to 5:30pm) and Kurrimine (6:00pm to 7:00pm)

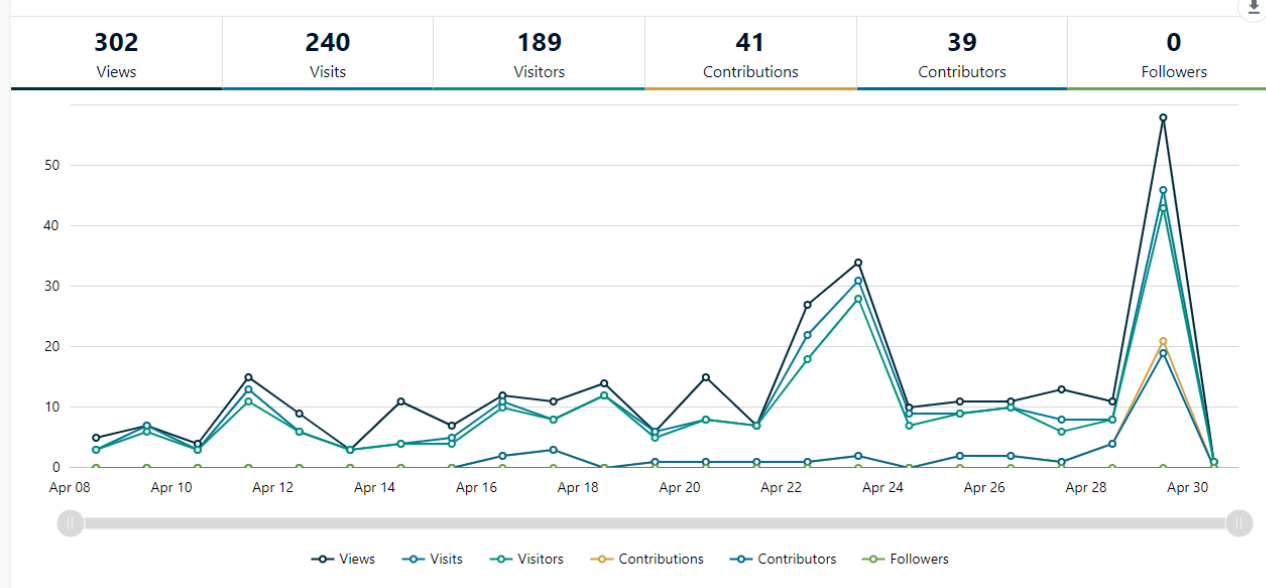


What we've heard

The Foreshore Management Plan Kurrimine and Cowley Beaches Your Say Website received 41 contributions from 39 contributors, which is a reasonable proportion of the relevant communities and therefore a good representation of community views. The site saw a total of 302 views from 189 individual visitors.

Overview

Performance Summary



Your say survey summary

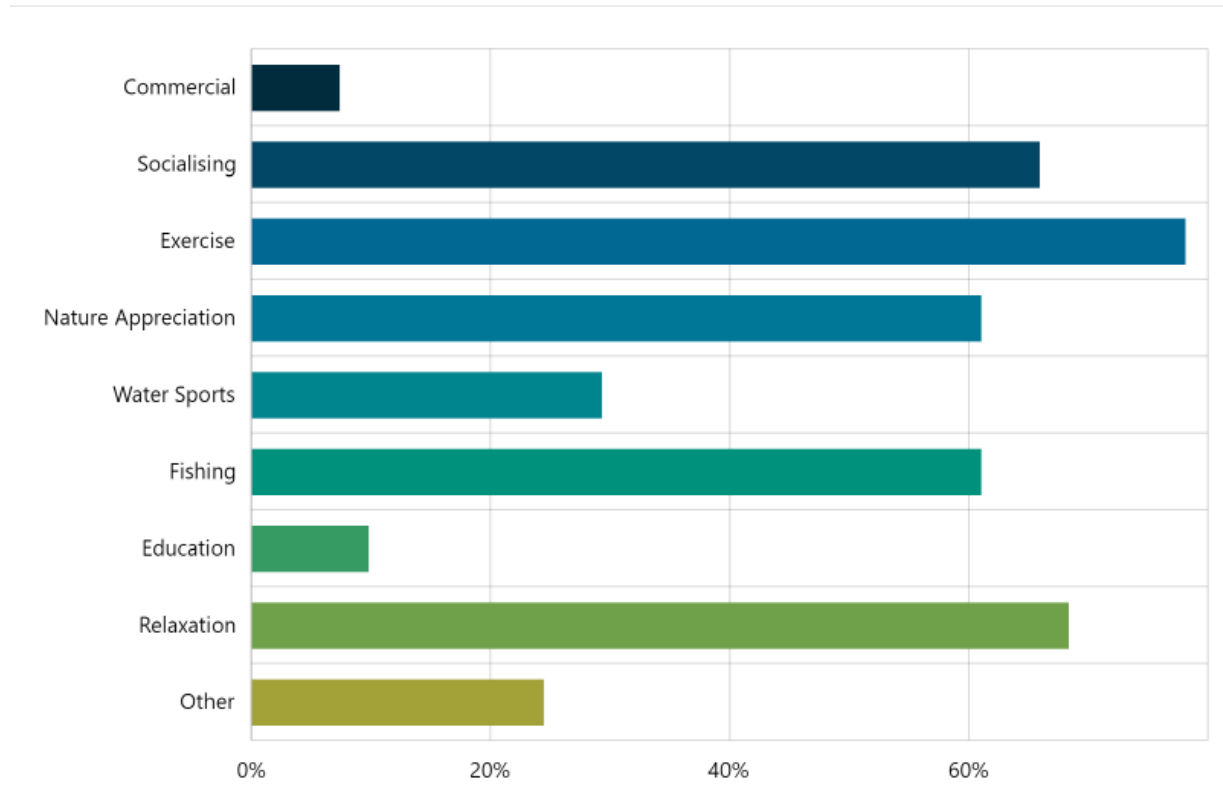
The survey explored a number of topics including how respondents use the foreshore area, priorities for foreshore management, and knowledge of the nearby world heritage area. Opinions on vegetation, wildlife, and amenities management were also recorded, and valued recreational activities and views on foreshore accessibility were sought after.

The below provides a summary of the top responses collected via the survey or during the community drop-in sessions:

- The beaches are predominately used/accessed for exercise, socialising, and relaxation activities.

4. How do you use/access Kurrimine or Cowley beaches?

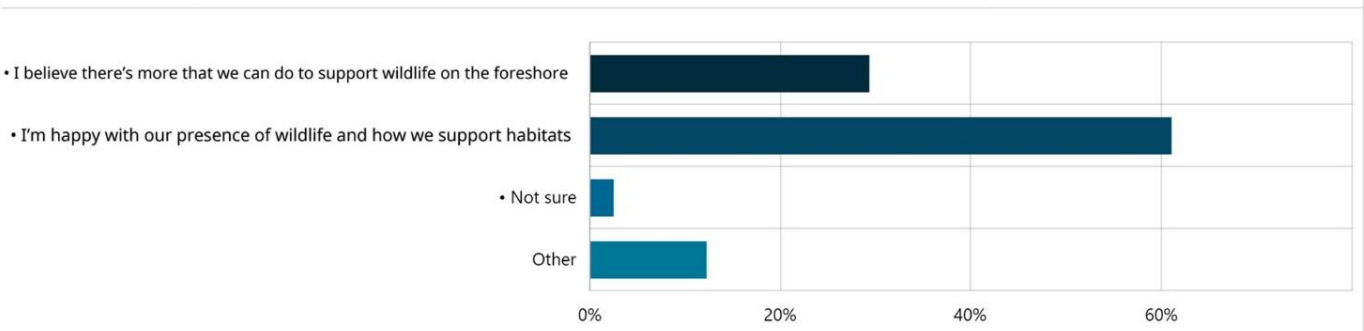
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 41 (100%)



- Key priorities for inclusion in the management plan are the maintenance of infrastructure for public use (i.e. boat ramps, walking tracks) and the protection of natural resources for biodiversity and to promote resilience against natural disasters.
- Feedback on how vegetation and weeds are managed in Cowley Beach suggested that management of Singapore daisies was a particular concern.
- Feedback on how vegetation and weeds are managed in Kurrimine Beach suggested that vegetation on the foreshore should be minimised where possible to promote recreational use.
- Wildlife management in both areas is adequate. However, the safety risk posed by crocodiles was noted at both beaches.

7. What are your thoughts on how wildlife is managed in this area?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 41 (100%)



- Picnic areas and BBQ's for socialising were considered important recreational activities along the both foreshore.
- The majority of submissions did not see any challenges with accessing the foreshore.
- Existing structures and amenities along the foreshore of both beaches require maintenance and/or upgrades. These structures and amenities include the toilet block, playground and boat ramp at Cowley Beach, and the amenities block, accessibility of the beach, walking track and recommendations for more public seating areas at Kurrimine Beach.
- More native vegetation and weed control measures, and more parks and public spaces to promote public use of key areas were considered as opportunities that could make the management of the foreshore areas better.

Additional feedback

Key additional feedback collected via the survey and during the community drop-in sessions includes:

Flora maintenance

- Singapore daisy and uncontrolled undergrowth need to be managed, particularly in areas of popularity i.e. near the boat ramp and main beach access at Cowley Beach and by the stinger nets at Kurrimine beach.
- A scheduled weeding/mowing/pruning program would benefit both beaches.
- Revegetation of dune stabilising plants in the vicinity of both boat ramps to combat erosion.
- Foreshore coconut trees are a safety concern, there is a need for a scheduled de-nutting and frond removal program.
- Unauthorised damage, removal or burning of vegetation needs to be addressed.
- Recommendation for a community garden.
- Calls for revegetation of Rebecca Jane parade areas that were recently cleared are balanced by a desire to remove more vegetation for improved usage of the foreshore.

Upgrades to public amenities

- Implementation of consistent public amenity maintenance regimes including particular assets such as the BBQ area and toilet block at Cowley beach and drain north of Kings Reef at Kurrimine beach.
- Sealing the roads that are normally graded was recommended.
- Upgraded parking areas at Cowley beach was recommended.
- The boat ramp at Cowley beach is a safety concern, the focus should be a holistic fix instead of constant repairs.

Bins

- Bins need to be appropriately located away from residential areas, and in areas of high traffic.
- Implementation of consistent bin emptying programs would benefit both communities.
- Commissioning a wire sculpture for use as a marine debris bin was recommended.



- Exploration of Beach litter bins/processes to support those doing regular beach cleanups.

Walking track

- An extension of the Kurrimine beach walking track to Larry's Gap was recommended.
- Regular maintenance of the Kurrimine walking track is required as it is very popular and needs to be kept in good condition.

Play areas

- Investment into more age-appropriate play options for children of all ages.
- A pump track at Kurrimine beach was recommended for bicycle and scooter access.

Various

- More prosecutions and compliance for those undertaking illegal clearing.
- More transparency of Council maintenance schedules.
- Improved knowledge of protected area locations.
- Varying views on Quad bikes supportive of continued use to banning altogether.
- More engagement of TOs in management.
- Varying views on wildlife management (both crocodile safety and other wildlife).
- There are some wildlife issues which could be addressed, such as the presence of pigs.
- More opportunities for community to be involved in wildlife management.

Holding statement

This document was produced by GHD for the Cassowary Coast Regional Council.