

## Bulahdelah Highway Service Centre Planning Agreement Reference Group

Date	17 May 2021	Time	6pm
Venue	Bulahdelah School or Arts Hall – Crawford Street, Bulahdelah	Note-taker	Aaron Kelly
Present	Cr Karen Hutchinson, Cr Kathryn Smith, Paul De Szell, Donna Hudson, Richard Pamplin, Arthur Baker, Kevin Carter, Dale Bradshaw, Barbara Gordon, Allan Freihaut, Judy Dixon, Helen Dafter, Nicola Stockdale, Gary Ekert, Richard Pamplin, Aaron Kelly		
Apologies	Nil		

### Meeting items

Item	Key points/actions
1	<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b>
2	<p><b>Introduction and Roundtable – All</b></p> <p>A roundtable introduction was carried out which included each of those present what they most liked about Bulahdelah. Common themes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bulahdelah has outstanding natural beauty</li> <li>• Bulahdelah has excellent potential in that it is well located as a popular tourist stop and has under-developed facilities and attractions</li> <li>• Bulahdelah is resilient, and has rebounded well since the Pacific Highway bypass</li> <li>• Bulahdelah is experiencing increased visitor numbers with extended stays</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>Presentation by Donna Hudson – Governance Procedures and Terms of Reference</b></p> <p>Donna Hudson, MidCoast Council's Governance Liaison and Projects Coordinator distributed an induction kit highlighting the reference group responsibilities</p>
4	<p><b>Presentation of the Bulahdelah Highway Service Centre – Aaron and Richard</b></p> <p>MidCoast Council staff Aaron and Richard gave a presentation that explained the process of what has led to the establishing of the reference group and general information about the Bulahdelah Highway Service Centre Planning Proposal.</p>

General questions from the Reference Group were taken relating to the Planning Agreement process and the roles of the Reference Group, Council and proponent of the highway service centre in the funding of Bulahdelah improvements.

5

***Roundtable presentation of the reference group members 3 ideas for Bulahdelah improvements***

*Each member of the reference group was encouraged to present their 3 main ideas for the prioritisation of improvements to Bulahdelah.*

*Summary of Themes*

*Car Parking*

- Parking a universal issue for all those present:
  - Can the concrete barriers preventing parking along Stroud St be removed?
  - Want timed parking to encourage vehicle change-over throughout the day rather than all day parking by business owners and employees.
  - A new all day carpark – possibly on the land the Visitor Information Centre is on as it has sufficient space for a carpark to be built, though would need to be filled due to flood/drainage issues.
  - Disabled parking options should be considered
  - More parking for caravans and camper trailers in Stroud Street and Crawford Street
  - New carpark on other side of the bridge for cars and caravans next to house boats

*Allum/Bulahdelah Mountain*

- Alum Mountain was recognised by most as being a drawcard for Bulahdelah and very underutilised:
  - Geo-tourists an opportunity – 1 of top 100 sites in Australia
  - Largest deposit of Alunite above ground in the World – opportunity
  - Previous Alum mining – heritage opportunity
  - Significant Aboriginal cultural heritage site – opportunity
  - 87 varieties of rare orchids present on the cliffs (conflict between rock climbing and plants)
  - Rock climbing – well known as highly technical climb – sensitively done this could be a great opportunity
  - Walking trails – with signage so people don't get lost - this is a great opportunity

***Note: Multiple stakeholders – Local Aboriginal Land Council, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Crown Lands, Council, user groups – difficult to manage, cost and plan for - however worth pursuing***

*Signage*

- Want improved signage on highway with images of mountain etc
- Wayfinding signage needed so people can find groups of business and points of interest e.g. service stations, bowling club, caravan parks, trails etc
- Beautification of signage

	<p><i>CBD</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free public Wifi</li> <li>• Remove some carparks and replace with eating areas (with free Wifi) so that people can go to bakery etc and then eat in main street – consolidate so you can eat in town on common tables</li> </ul> <p><i>Myall River</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreshore stabilisation works – both northern and southern sides</li> <li>• Foreshore boardwalk (Karuah provided as example) – or long jetty on town side</li> <li>• Skywalk over river</li> <li>• River walk</li> </ul> <p><i>Footpaths/cycleways</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are missing links that need to be completed – need to unite town</li> <li>• Lack of cycleways</li> <li>• Self-guided heritage walk with interpretive info</li> <li>• Footpath under bridge to courthouse</li> </ul> <p><i>Parks and recreation areas</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shade structure for playgrounds – both Wade Park and Alum Park</li> <li>• More play equipment for both parks</li> <li>• Large outdoor chess set (Wade Park)</li> <li>• Land at tourist info centre with seating landscaping etc. upgrade</li> <li>• Rectify drainage issues on sports fields – not able to be used in wet and on gala days</li> </ul> <p><i>South River Park</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toilet facilities</li> </ul> <p><i>Community solar power hub</i></p> <p><i>Lighting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solar lighting in Stroud and Meade Streets</li> </ul> <p><i>Promotion of local area</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlighting natural attractions</li> <li>• Promote Bulahdelah as a destination</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>For next meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council staff will provide estimated costings for preliminary ideas where possible for the next meeting</li> <li>• Council staff will present to the Reference Group some activities to further refine some of the ideas raised</li> </ul>

## Next meeting

TBC