



VINCENTIA RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC – CCB “VVRA-CCB”

SUBMISSION DPOP 2023/24- AND TEN-YEAR CAPEX 24/33

Executive Summary

The VVRA DPOP submission this year is :

To “fill in the gaps arising from lack of information being received from council for the “budget bid process” for 23/24 and to provide support in the “transition or succession planning for the DPOP process”.

The community has been well informed by the message from Councillors attending VVRA meetings of the impact of the 22 storms and the need for the priority of Council and staff to focus on the management of the roads.

In doing so, as endorsed at VVRA meetings in 2023, the VVRA is resubmitting the DPOP submission of 22/23 (as they still need to be addressed), the addition of any new items, or updates to Operating activities and Capex bought forward on the DPOP and/or capex listing for 22/23.

The submission has taken into consideration :

requests from VVRA members

the review of the VVRA 22/23 submission with Councillor Christen in March 2023,

the addition or update of items arising from the collaboration at Council’s pop up stall

in June 23 and/or the CCB exec meeting in June 2023

The key element of the VVRA submission is :

SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY and VISITORS.

It is considered it is time to focus on SAFETY in the DPOP process, especially safety for the community and visitors. The VVRA reaches out for the “Tone at the Top” in SCC to promote Safety of people as the most important objective for the 23/24 DPOP.

An effective starting point for consideration by SCC could be a simple commitment :

“To make the community and visitors return home in the same or better state than when they arrived to make, play or stay within the community”.

This commitment could be put into practice by modifying the 23/24 DPOP put on exhibition to include two of the VVRA’s most pressing safety risks, these being approval of :

1. Frederick Street / Elizabeth Drive Pedestrian Refuge and associated Shared User Paths.

Scott Well’s PAMP has identified increased risks over and above those allowed for in the updated detailed design recently prepared by the City Services Department. The VVRA (through the Vincentia Pathways and Connection sub committee) endorsed the updated detailed design. The updated detailed design provided an approach with a sense of urgency “to provide pedestrian refuge and connecting pathways around the immediate corners at Frederick St and Elizabeth Drive”. One can appreciate the community demanding a sense of urgency, for the Frederick St intersection goes back to 2018, when a young Mum, Jess Rawlins, highlighted the risks to users of the intersection, and made communications with both the VVRA and Council. It was endorsed by the VVRA at a presentation Jess made at a VVRA meeting back in 2018.

Council is requested to **amend the 23/24 Capex budget to include Approval for Council to fund the “Design and Community Engagement phase”** in the current budget year 23/24.

Scott Wells latest correspondence which arose from discussions at the recent CCB executive meeting on 8th June 2023 provided an understanding the full project cost cannot be absorbed into 23/24 because grants are no longer available for 23/24 .

A recent experience of the VVRA’s applying directly for a grant with the Gaming and Liquor Agency was rejected because it was not shovel ready and furthermore considered Council needed to fund Safety initiatives.

This is a real conundrum for the Community and Council, for the community focus on risks and implement actions to turn threats into opportunities, whereas Council is seen to treat risks as threats and fail to act with a sense of urgency.

Thus, the plea to Council to seriously consider "To make the community and visitors return home in the same or better state than when they arrived to make, play or stay within the community".

2. Making the Shared User Path "SUP" from Moona Creek to Plantation Point Fit for Purpose, in particular, making the whole width of the SUP, the surrounds and the overheads available for use.

Fit for purpose includes all types of users, be it walkers, runners, cyclists, All inclusive equipment, power assisted skateboards, scooters, roller blade riders and dogs. Many sections of the shared user path are not accessible because of the vegetation protruding or overhanging from and controlled by the Natural Areas Department or insufficient space between the fencing of the natural area and the SUP.

The responsibility and **provision of a "compensating and increased budget" should be provided in the 23/24 operating budget of the City Services** team from Woolamia, to be responsible for all the planning and maintenance of SUP and surrounding area. There is obviously an overwhelming demand for an additional horticulturalist in the Woolamia depot to meet the demands of the whole Bay and Basin district.

There is considerable safety risk from users of the path not being able to move aside when there are two or more types of users passing by, be it from behind or from front on. endorsed by VRRRA. The above safety improvements, 1 and 2, have been endorsed at various meetings of the VRRRA.

3. A snap shot of the Other proposed modifications to the 23/24 DPOP put on exhibition which arose from to Evan Christen's review, the pop up and CCB Executive meeting are :

- **Operation budget -Community Engagement** - Town Team Concept is supported.
- **Operations Budget Community Engagement** - Reach out for a Lebanese restaurant in Vincentia Village Shops
- **Capex** - The demand for an extra SUP between Moona Creek should go alongside the current Collingwood Beach SUP, that is where the vast majority of community and visitors want to go.
- **Capex** - Trees should provide the shade needed at Plantation Point in preference to sails
- **Operations budget** - Vegetation along Collingwood should be trimmed back to the levels of vegetation immediately in place at the completion of the trial sites and a Banksia Management Plan be invoked to prevent the desires of vandals to poison vegetation.
- **Operations Budget** - Collingwood Beach Access ways should be made fit for purpose by a scraping of sand for entry onto the beach.
- **Capex** – Collaboration between Council and Vincentia Village shop owners take place for a financing Recovery Plan to cover financial losses during construction phase of the Village capex – perhaps an interest free loan from Council. This lesson learnt on financial impact upon small business shop owners be applied in roll out of the placemaking concept from Vincentia into other villages. This lesson learnt be added to the recent request (rejected by Council staff) for a capex post audit on the Village Development and the request be resubmitted to the Audit and Risk Committee.
- Operating & Capex – Problem definition and solution be provided for the recurring water/storm water problems at Plantation Point
- **Capex** – inclusion of electronic notice board (with access to Council site) at Vincentia Village – perhaps using the current electronic marketing board which exist in most commercial shopping areas and pubs and clubs
- **Operations Budget** – the cost consequences, if and of, the request by Council to the State Government to cancel the imposition of a Emergency Service Level upon Council

in 23/24, be borne by Council, not by an increase over and above the rates in scc budget for 23/24. See minute MM23.13 Extra ordinary meeting 15th May '23. C/be \$1.064m.

- **Operations Budget** - Name the connection of Bayswood to Collingwood Beach SUP via Berry St "Phil's Way" and launch a media campaign on completion of the pathway and pedestrian refuge.
- **Operations Budget** – Place the process owners name and date on all Community Engagement communications
- **Operations budget** - Insurance – public risk for CCB's – Give consideration to one national/global insurer rather than 34 individual policies for each CCB..
- **Operations Budget**– Invite Peter Windley to VRRRA meeting to present the background on recycling
- **Capex** - Bayswood Bus Shelter **be included in the 23/24 capex**. A grant has been received and banked by the VRRRA to contribute to this.
- **Operations Budget** - Community Engagement - Jervis Bay Draft CMP – (scheduled to happen in Q1 23/24 } The notice of the draft CMP going on public exhibition be posted to the ratepayers addresses for those properties referred to by Council "As the owner of a property on the coast located in an identified existing coastal risk hazard area (beaches and coastal cliffs and slopes), we would like to invite you to be involved in planning the future management of Shoalhaven's coastline and estuaries". Refer to "Notice of Public Exhibition" Council Reference 5647EContainer (D19/47935)dated 17 December 2019 signed by Phil Costello.
- Capex Confirmation the Berry St to Bayswood SUP and Pedestrian refuges will be completed in 23/24 and capex for uncompleted works carried over to 23/24.
- Restore priority to 23/24 the completion of the Stormwater Discharge of upgraded collection at the Bayswater St Road head and restore the upgrade of discharge systems at Berry, Montague, Susan & Illfracombe.

Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc – Vincentia CCB



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14 June 2023



RESUBMISSION OF THE DPOP SUBMISSION OF 22/23 (AS THEY STILL NEED TO BE ADDRESSED – REFERRED TO IN THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AS : TO “FILL IN THE GAPS ARISING FROM LACK OF INFORMATION BEING RECEIVED FROM COUNCIL FOR THE “BUDGET BID PROCESS” FOR 23/24

VINCENTIA RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC – CCB “VRRRA-CCB”

SUBMISSION DPOP 2022/23- AND TEN-YEAR CAPEX 23/32

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Executive Summary

1. Prioritise/bring forward to 22/23 the network of pathways providing safe connectivity for residents and visitors in the Vincentia Community.
Black spot - Safe crossing and short path at Frederick St junction
Completion of Coastal Pathway to Blenheim and Greenfield Beaches.
Completion of Bayswood to Berry St / Elizabeth Dr. a
Associated pedestrian refuge crossings.
2. Bring forward to 23/24 and following years.
Pathway access from Vincentia hill to Elizabeth Dr and beaches.
Associated pedestrian refuge crossings.
3. Restore priority to 22/23 the completion of the Stormwater Discharge of upgraded collection at the Bayswater St Road head and restore the upgrade of discharge systems at Berry, Montague, Susan & Illfracombe.
4. Plan with Plantation Point the Place to Play - management of the overflows from Hyams, Booderee, Huski into Vincentia township.
5. Preserve the beaches and waterways in Jervis Bay and restore the iconic views of Jervis Bay from Collingwood and Nelson beaches.
6. Use the benefits from the infrastructure improvements of Princess Highway from Berry and the Jervis Bay Rd intersection.
7. Provide for increase in tourism to stimulate housing developments and major events.
8. Plan for a link to a Very Fast Train from Sydney to Melbourne.
9. Reach out for Economic Development of the Dog Industry.

10. Participate in Prime Minister “Annual Disaster Mitigation Funding” events from sea.
11. Major items still subject to collaboration.
12. Minor items still subject to collaboration.
13. The Bakers Dozen – is there a Plan B DPOP windfall from the \$55m of grant?

Background to the VRRRA-CCB DPOP 22/23 submission.

The submission is based upon the community input gathered from the various sub committee’s “teams,” representing people identifying opportunities for the Vincentia township. The reference no’s below relate to the respective no’s in the Executive summary.

1. The pathways and connections team were empowered with providing a safer environment to live, stay and play in the Vincentia township.
This team is a benchmark for other CCB’s to use as a model.
The Draft DPOP provides for line items 932, 981 and the Berry St SUP connecting Bayswood to Collingwood Beach approved in last year’s DPOP and is currently WIP .
It is considered the three locations identified under item 1 in the above exec summary present significant safety risks and should not be delayed. It is felt it is appropriate the timing be bought forward to 22/23. A power point presentation by the team with pics and maps at a recent VRRRA-CCB meeting is attached to this submission
2. Line items 986, 982, 946, 985, 926, 938, 1018,941, 1065.
The respective no’s shown on the road map in the attachment are 1, 2, 3, 4.1, 5.1&5.2, 6, 7.1, 7.3, 8
The team identified the need to provide safer connections from the streets in the hills nearby to traffic flowing to and from the golf course and Elizabeth Drive or Plantation Point Pathways needed to be addressed. This was identified some years ago when Jess Rawlins made a presentation to the VRRRA. Thus, the pathways were placed in the DPOP’s some years ago.
It is suggested the timing of the line items in the 23/32 ten-year capex be bought forward. Most of the items have dropped back two or more years or shown as unfunded items. Further collaboration is needed with the team to identify the changes in timing and determine priorities.
Line items 992 (Ada St), 993 (Jervis St to Blenheim Round the Bay) and 1047 (Parking) will be confirmed in the collaboration.
3. DPOP Line No 1148 (Bayswater Discharge) No 935 (Berry, Montague, Susan St and Illfracombe Ave discharge points).
Last years Line no’s - for item 1148 see the second page of the Capital Adjustments at Council meeting 29/6/21 and item 764 for (Berry, Montague, Susan St and Illfracombe Ave discharge points)

The first stage of these projects, Bayswater St, to increase the capacity of the pipes to collect storm water (i.e., to stop the storm water overflowing into subject homes near Bayswater Street) was completed in Q2 of 21/22. The stage for the modifying storm water discharge process is still work in progress. It is in the draft DPOP for 24/25, whereas it was in last years DPOP to happen in 21/22. It is suggested this now be restated back to 22/23.

Berry and Susan Sts are antiquated, uncontrollable "pit systems" to be upgraded to replicate the pipe system being to be constructed at the Bayswater St roadhead.

Montague St and Illfracombe Ave discharge points also need to be aligned with the Bayswater St concept of discharging the storm water from the seaward edge of the foredune. This project appears to have been overlooked when transferring line item 764 from last year's ten-year capex report. It appears only the boardwalk section of last year's capex has been transferred to the 23/32 capex projects.

Thus, the need to reinstate the capital allowance and timing in the 21/22 DPOP of 22/23 \$50k and 23/24 \$649. All four discharge points would be done at the same time to yield the benefits of economies of scale.

The need for a common storm water discharge system which could manage the movement of people and storm water through the same point in the dunes, i.e., at end of roadheads, was identified when the Directors of Council made a site visit some years ago. The Directors saw the huge gaps where sand was lost from the dunes, ending up in Moona Creek.

This resulted in Director Keech putting forward a Concept Design which has been refined with input from City Services, Natural Resources teams and a consultant.

The design, in respect to the viewing platforms after the experiences of the April '22 storm would be enhanced if viewing platforms were replaced with lower vegetation providing a 180o sight line of the iconic views of Jervis Bay for the residents and thousands of tourists all the way along the existing SUP of Collingwood beach.

4. The budget bid concerned the need to upgrade Plantation Point Park to manage the overflow from the increase in visitors, along with imposition over the number of visitors to Hyams Beach popularity of visitors to Huski. Bids were made for BBQ facilities, café and action to address the constant leaking of water throughout the park. Further collaboration is needed.
5. The CBPG is in constant collaboration with Council, in particular the loss of sand from the dunes exacerbated and caused by discharge of storm water. Requests have been made to Council as to whether a Recovery Plan is in place for the damage to the dunes from the storm of April 1st and 2nd 2022. Council responded

“Council is enacting it's Coastal Zone Emergency Action Subplan (CZEAS) for high-risk beaches in accordance with Council's legislated and adopted Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP, 2018). Council has inspected beaches for damages post April-22 storm, with Nelson's Beach being prioritised for remediation works. Council have access to a Coastal Reserve

which is a specific fund that was created after the 2016 East Coast Low (ECL) in order to have funds set aside for emergency response works to significant storm events.”

The DPOP includes lines 201 Coastal Erosion Works - \$568k pa and line 805, Implement Beach Scraping at High Priority Beaches \$155k+\$78K over 22/23 and 23/24. Understandably Council could not be expected to nominate this by beach or waterway because every beach and every storm is different. It is requested the DPOP be updated to reflect the assessment of the amount of the emergency funds to be allocated for a recovery plan from April 22, if any at all. Furthermore, whether it is in 2022/23 or if it is intended to start works in 21/22 and carry over funds for WIP to 22/23.

It is recommended some funds be put aside in the capex program for 2028 to celebrate the 50th anniversary on 4th August 2028 of the success of the completion of the beach scraping which took place at Collingwood Beach.

It is felt item 316 for Support Universities – Research Projects be deleted from the DPOP package, where does one start and where does one finish when using rate payer’s funds to pay for Education bodies funding of research.

6. An understanding is sought if any of the benefits arising from the completed or planned infrastructure improvements can be linked to outcomes in the DPOP package, be it in tourism or expected development of new housing sites in the Shoalhaven etc.
7. An understanding is sought if the Council uses or contemplates using a KPI linking the increase in tourists to a KPI for people moving into the Shoalhaven or investing in holiday homes or investment properties, thus an increase with providing land for development and an increase in the ratepaying database and income. Like China using internal growth to create GDP from moving upwards from the single child household could Council use the increase in tourists as lead indicator for increase in number of ratepayers and Council’s revenue ?
8. An understanding is sought if the Shoalhaven is expecting the opportunity to link in with plans by State or Federal Government in Very Fast Train developments in the next decade or thereafter.
9. An understanding is sought if the Shoalhaven could expect an opportunity in the area for the development of a “Dog industry in the Shoalhaven.” In particular, if the land between the Bay and Basin Leisure Centre and west to the Jervis Bay / Wool Rd could be utilised for dog park and pond and the many related business opportunities, be it manufacturing, wholesale, retail or services or dog minding. Could the noticeable increase of passion the residents and visitors show for their dogs provide some innovative ideas ?
10. An understanding is sought if Council sees the Shoalhaven participating in and, being a pilot for flood levees or sea walls. Please refer to the attached announcement by the Prime Minister on “Annual Disaster Mitigation Funding for events from the sea.”
11. The budget bid included significant investment projects for :

Olympic size swimming pool opposite Vincentia School

Duplicate the existing SUP from Holden St to Moona and integrate into protection of public assets along Collingwood into the Coastal Management Program or the Pedestrian and Mobility Plan "PAMP." See attached pic of similar concept at Kogarah Bay many decades ago where water used to wash over a park and have significant impact on main traffic thoroughfare.

Could Council consider adding the above two strategic items to the DPOP ten-year capex ?

12. The Budget bid included many less significant items not shown in the DPOP.

Collaboration is sought on including in the DPOP, namely :

- Life Saving and Storage facilities in conjunction with the Vincentia Sailing Club

Little nippers' storage facility at Plantation Point.

Reinstate shark patrols at Nelson and Collingwood beaches over school holiday periods.

- White sands walk

Could tourism consider providing sponsorship contributions to the Annual White Sands Walk, the inaugural event being held on 18th September 2022 and to sponsor and support the other significant activities around Vincentia which attract many visitors, e.g., Vincentia Sailing Club, the Triathlons etc

- Showers & bubblers be installed at the end of each road head along Collingwood, Nelson and Orion beaches
- Allocation of below budget items passes in Council motion in December 2020.
 - o Allocate a dedicated annual budget of \$15,000 from 2021/22 onwards to continue to implement Council's Vegetation Prevention Vandalism Policy across the Shoalhaven, noting the type of replacement trees planted in the dune from Susan Street to Albion Street must be on the approved revegetation species list in the Collingwood Beach Dunecare Action Plan.
 - o Allocate additional funding for annual maintenance funds from 2021/22 onwards, to prune overhanging vegetation, to allow for at least three maintenance events each year for Collingwood Beach.
 - o Thinning of vegetation in the thickets
 - o Attend to other 8 actions in December 2020 motion for the Collingwood Beach dune Vegetation Plan

- Maintain rather than reduce the no of accessways at Collingwood and Nelson beaches
- Protection needed to ensure sustainability of water main in Illfracombe Ave and public roadway i.e., Illfracombe Ave.
- Outcomes from Arborist safety Report, what,when,where, who by

13 Can Council provide an understanding if there is an opportunity for a Plan B DPOP package which might use funds freed up from grants from other tiers of government. It is assumed such funds could be used to bring forward and prioritise DPOP items which have in general been put back between two and four years compared with the timings in last year's DPOP package.

This request arises since discussion with a representative of the local working party for the newly elected Federal Government. The representative indicated the Federal and State Government were committing to grants of around \$40m which means Council will have freed up funds normally committed to the items now covered by the grants.

A council representative provided the following information on the roads funding and other grant applications in progress.

As part of its advocacy for additional funds, Council has secured a promise from the incoming government to improve key roads including Forest Road (\$8M), Callala Bay Road (\$6M), Culburra Road (\$14M), intersection works at Coonemia / Currarong / Callala Bay Roads (\$2M), intersection works at Greenwell Point / Worrigeer Roads, Wool Road (\$3M) and St Georges Basin Rd (\$2M).

This is in addition to the proposed \$50M of funding Council has applied for the rehabilitation of the road network after the devastating March 2022 rainfall event.

The Draft DPOP also provides for \$34.7 M of Capital upgrades to the road network and an increase of \$2.6M on the existing road maintenance budget to bring that up to a total of \$38.8M being spent in the 2022/23 financial year.

Conclusion.

The VRRRA commends and thanks Council for providing such an articulated and transparent DPOP package and encouraging the VRRRA-CCB to Get Involved and make a submission.

The VRRRA-CCB endorses the other activities such as the significant investment for the Bay and Basin Leisure Centre, the Vincentia Expansion Area and the many other items for the Vincentia township to enjoy

Thanks go to The Manager – Corporate Performance & Reporting, The Coastal Management Program Co Ordinator and the staff at the Tomerong and Huskisson exhibition stalls for their help and providing information to help in the VRRRA submission.

The VRRRA-CCB looks forward to collaborating with Council to achieve the goals set out in the DPOP package.

Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc – Vincentia CCB

Ken Buckley Lou Casmiri

President Secretary

13th June 2022