Attachment 1 - better drawings can be viewed on Council's Exhibition page accessed via the home page - www.tweed.nsw.gov.au
**Drift Nets**

Drift Nets are a response to the need to retain exercise equipment in Jack Bayliss Park and also control the movement of people through the dunes.

The Drift Nets both capture and filter movement through the space, hence the name.

The Drift Nets are a collection of concrete forms of various heights and evolution. Some are fully evolved to seating benches. Some are merely slabs with stories from locals past and present, etched into the concrete. Some are of a height to be used for stretching, push ups, triceps dips, sit ups etc.

The Drift Nets spread from the entrance to each bench track across to the opposite road opening. They are also contained by the line of the Survey Markers.

---

**Legend**

- **Shower & Drinking Fountain**
- **Track raiding**
- **Existing shared path**
- **Fixed existing points**
- **Survey markers**
- **Drift nets**
LEGEND

Proposed 3-5 metre timber boardwalk running the length of the beach protection area. Some concrete sections when not utilised. Accessible by wheelchair and buggy.

Proposed new entrance and exit of Kingscliff Holiday Park. Will reduce the number of car access points to the town.

Access to the beach from the Holiday Park will be from steps adjacent to the boardwalk. This will reduce the number of access points to the beach and the existing erosion problem.

Endings Buildings
Timber Boardwalk
Potential underpass corridor

- If terminal beach protection is constructed, the Kingscliff Holiday Park is proposed to be reduced in size and upgraded to 4-star-star accommodation. Approximately 36 caravan sites, 15 caravan sites and 10 camping sites will be developed.

- If terminal beach protection is constructed, a new park in the centre of town will be developed when the Holiday Park is upgraded. See Sheet 5 for further details about the proposed park location. An underpass corridor may be considered as part of this project.

Boardwalk at Beach Club
Legend:

1. Timber stairs access points from beach to beach
2. Low rise seating to reflect coastal pattern. Place shelter
3. Shade canopy over promenade
4. Timber steps connecting beach to beach access
5. Concrete access point to beach
6. Stainless steel fish sculpture attached to the concrete wall building a raised seating area
7. Timber boardwalk
8. Timber boardwalk
9. Platform & Beach
10. Picnic Shelter
11. Bench
12. Hardstand
13. Concrete access point to beach
14. Concrete access point to beach
15. Concrete access point to beach
16. Concrete access point to beach
17. Concrete access point to beach
18. Concrete access point to beach
27 March 2006

Dear

Kingscliff Foreshore Masterplan Reference Group

Thank you to those who have responded to the Issues and Site Analysis information that was presented at the last meeting, either by mail or phone. I trust that you all received the Minutes package in the mail.

In response to some of the feedback I am collating some documents for your information that have been requested by Reference Group members. These documents include the following and are enclosed:

- Draft Regional Playground Location Study
- Council Resolution 7th May 2003 - Kingscliff Central Business District Car Parking and Outdoor Dining Fees

The Tweed Coastline Hazard Definition Study has also been requested, but this is a large document that is also available on the Council website, so I will only send it to people who feel they really need it as a reference in hard copy.

Other issues that were raised included the lack of representation of the Kingscliff Markets and young people. In response to the Market issue, it was not proposed in my presentation to you that the Markets be relocated from their existing location; therefore I did not anticipate the need to involve them. I have since discussed the issue of the Markets with the Manager Environment & Health Services, Geoff Edwards, and he has informed me that the management of the markets is about to be retendered and may end up being run by someone other than Margaret Kiss. I am therefore going to propose the location of the markets remain as they are in the Masterplan.

In response to the latter comment, the Kingscliff High School were invited to the Reference Group meeting, but were unable to attend. I am pursuing other forms of consultation with the High School, students and parents for their feedback prior to our next Reference Group meeting, and will keep members abreast of the developments.

If you have not yet responded to me in regards to the Site Analysis, I urge you to contact me ASAP, as I am currently inputting responses into the Draft Concept Design and would like to ensure that I am responding to the community adequately.

Lastly, I would like to clarify to group members that the proposed relocation of the Cenotaph was to another location within the proposed new park, not to another area in Kingscliff. The advantage of this would be to create a greater area to hold commemorative services than the existing space available. However, this is still just an idea that obviously requires further discussion, and the location may not change at all.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you or any of your groups' members have any questions - 02 6670 2656.

Kind regards

Leigh Abernethy
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
KINGSClIFF FORESHORE MASTERPLAN

Draft Plans on Display

The Draft Kingscliff Foreshore Masterplan plans will be on display for Community Feedback over the next 4 weeks.

The scope of the plans include: Jack Bayliss Park, Kingscliff Holiday Park, Cudgen SLSC, Lions Park and Faulks Park. Also on display for information purposes only will be the proposed Coastal Furniture Suite.

Plans will be available for viewing at the following locations and times-

- **Kingscliff Shopping Village** – Wed 17th May to Wed 31st May
- **Kingscliff Library** – Wed 17th May to Wed 14th June
- **TSC Website** [www.tweed.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au) – Thurs 18th May to 14th June

All feedback to be addressed to

Leigh Abernethy,
Landscape Architect, Tweed Shire Council
PO Box 816
MURWILLUMBAH NSW 2484
labernethy@tweed.nsw.gov.au
ph 02 6670 2656
23 February 2006

Dear

RE: Kingscliff Foreshore Masterplan Reference Group
Meeting #1 Minutes

Thank you all for attending the first meeting last Tuesday evening. It was an interesting night of discussion that highlighted a number of issues that need further analysis.

As discussed on Tuesday, I have enclosed the minutes from the meeting in relation to comments that were made in specific relation to the plans presented. I have also enclosed several other plans for your consideration. These include:

- Streetscape Materials Analysis – CBD Kingscliff
- Kingscliff Amenities Hall Precinct Plan – as prepared by Lightwave Architects for the Amenities Hall Refurbishment Committee and supplied by Rose Wright
- Kingscliff Beach Holiday Park Concept Plan – as prepared by Integrated Site Design for the Tweed Coast Holiday Parks
- Detail Plan of the proposed Park area – scale 1:500 A2

Please collate any comments from your colleagues and yourselves and send your responses to me by Tuesday 21st March 2006.

The next meeting will be at the Cudgen Surf Club again at 6pm Tuesday 11th April 2006. Please note that this meeting may go longer than 2 hours and food will be provided.

Please direct any queries to Leigh Abernethy, Landscape Architect on (02) 6670 2656 or via email labernethy@tweed.nsw.gov.au.

Kind regards

Leigh Abernethy
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
23 February 2006

Dear

RE: Kingscliff Foreshore Masterplan Reference Group

Tweed Shire Council is commencing the Kingscliff Foreshore Masterplan design project as part of the Coastline Landscape Strategy.

To ensure that local issues are identified and addressed in the design process Council is assembling a Reference Group to advise on relevant issues. Your organisation has been identified as requiring representation on this Reference Group and Council is asking for you to nominate one (1) representative.

The Reference Group will only be required to meet twice on the following dates:

1. Tuesday 7th March 6pm, location to be confirmed
   Agenda – presentation of site analysis plans and issues identification

2. Tuesday 11th April 6pm, location to be confirmed
   Agenda – presentation of Final Draft Masterplan and feedback

Can you please confirm the details of the nominated representative and their attendance at the meetings to Leigh Abernethy, Landscape Architect on (02) 6670 2656 or via email labernethy@tweed.nsw.gov.au.

A copy of the community consultation process that is proposed for all projects being conducted in Kingscliff by Council is enclosed.

Kind regards

Leigh Abernethy
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
PROJECT: KINGSCLIFF FORESHORE MASTERPLAN E&O

MEETING: Reference Group Meeting #3

LOCATION: Tuesday 27th June 2006, 6.30pm
Cudgen Surf Life Saving Club

ATTENDEES: Jason Pearson  Cudgen SLSC
Wayne Quested  RSL Kingscliff Branch
Peter Langley  Kingscliff Dune Care
Richard Adams  Tweed Coast Holiday Parks
Catherine Brown  Kingscliff Ratepayers & Progress Assoc
Neil  Kingscliff Beach Club
Leigh Abernethy  TSC Landscape Architect
3 x Students  Kingscliff High School

APOLOGIES: Rose Wright  Kingscliff & District Chamber of Commerce
Dot Holdom  Kingscliff Ratepayers & Progress Assoc

MINUTES

INTRODUCTION: Leigh Abernethy (LA) opened the meeting by welcoming all the attendees and outlining the agenda for meeting. LA also pointed out that this would be the final meeting of the Reference Group and thanked them for the time and energy that they had contributed so far to the project.

PROJECT UPDATE: LA recapped the consultation process that had been undertaken so far and that TSC had received over 100 written submissions and emails in regard to the project. These submissions had been summarised and the issue of significant concern would be the topic of discussion for the evening.

The outcomes of both this final meeting and the public submissions would be collated into the Kingscliff Foreshore Masterplan and Report.

SHEET 1 of 6: Secondary Path
Should this path be kept in the proposal or remove? Many comments were made against the inclusion of this path mostly due to installation and maintenance cost.

Action: Remove from plan but retain distance markers and review quality of grass in this area.
Terrace St Entrance
Should a playground or play equipment be put in this area, given the location of BBQ and seating facilities?
Can Surf Life Saving patrols be located at Wommin bay?

Action: Locate play facilities near Terrace St entrance
Remove lighting from park but keep in picnic shelters.
Continue to review parking requirements for Terrace St BBQ area.

Response: Cudgen SLSC have discussed an outpost at Wommin Bay, but are concerned about the risk of encouraging people to swim at this location. The Kingscliff Patrol continues to review its service for this area in light of its available resources.

SHEET 2 of 6 Beach Track Design
Beach track entrance design should be similar to those used at Coolangatta to protect dunes and minimise wind in park areas.
Majority support for Drift Net concept.

Action: Modify beach track entrance design, in the short term, to include a dog leg and Hessian sides.

SHEET 5 of 6 Toilet Location
Some group members felt that the toilet block was not in the best location as it is in the most prominent position from both the Marine Pde and beach view.

Action: Relocate toilet block on plan to the west of 6. Resolve final location in detail design process.

SHEET 6 of 6 Pirate Playground
Pirate playground should remain in current location, as it is very popular and close to most amenities.
Locate where toilet is to be relocated in Faulks Park.
Creek access point is sometimes used by SLSC emergency boats in rough seas.

Action: Retain pirate playground (no. 4)
Indicate new location of toilet facility on plan.
Remove Running Mullet feature paving and convert to public art process.

LIGHTING
Action: Confirm lighting proposals with Police for CEPTD

VEGETATION
Action: Send approved species lists to Dune Care.
WELCOME

Welcome to the first of a set of Project Updates to be distributed to the community regarding Tweed Shire Council projects being conducted in the Kingscliff area.

These updates are intended to engage the community in a conversation regarding the issues surrounding the Kingscliff Foreshore Masterplan, the Kingscliff Locality Plan and the Kingscliff Foreshore Protection Environmental Impact Study (EIS).

Today's update will focus on the Kingscliff Foreshore Masterplan.

Council is taking the opportunity to inform the community of the projects that are being undertaken concurrently over the next 12 months by both internal staff and consultants. The community will have a number of opportunities to input into these 3 projects at various times. The exact dates and locations for community workshops, surveys, market stalls, and shop fronts will be identified in this and subsequent Project Updates.

KINGSCLIFF FORESHORE MASTERPLAN

In July 2005, Tweed Shire Council (TSC) adopted the Tweed Shire Coastline Management Plan prepared by Unmwelt Environmental Consultants. The implementation of the Coastline Management Plan is dependent on approval of the 7 Year Plan by the community. The Coastline Management Plan incorporates a number of projects including the Kingscliff Foreshore Masterplan, Kingscliff Beach Protection and the upgrading of the Kingscliff Beach Holiday Park (and subsequent creation of a new foreshore park beside the Amenities Hall).

Therefore, the planning and concept design phases of the Kingscliff Foreshore Masterplan are based around a number of assumptions: that Beach Protection will be funded and implemented, that the upgrade of the Kingscliff Beach Holiday Park will be funded and implemented; and a new park will be created along the foreshore.

The scope of the Masterplan includes the following areas:

- Jack Bayliss Park
- Kingscliff Bowls Club rockwall & carpark
- Kingscliff Beach Holiday Park (proposed upgrade & reduction in size)
- Proposed new foreshore park (adjacent to the Amenities Hall)
- Cudgen Surf Club
- Lions Park
- Faulks Park

The Masterplan objectives complement other associated Council projects:

- Tweed Coastline Furniture Design
- Coastal Signage renewal
- Kingscliff Amenities Hall upgrade
- Tweed Shire Regional Playground Feasibility Study
- Dune Vegetation Management Plans

PROJECT TIMELINES

- MARCH 2007
  - Foreshore Masterplan
- JUNE 2007
  - Locality Plan
  - EIS

Attachment 7
REFERENCE GROUP

A Reference Group has been established for the Kingscliff Foreshore Masterplan to provide input for specific issues relating to the foreshore area and the local community. The information collected from the community for the Coastline Management Plan and other existing documents, has formed the basis for the initial site analysis.

The Reference Group comprises of representatives from the following organisations:

- Cudgen Surf Club
- Kingscliff Bowls Club
- Kingscliff Chamber of Commerce
- Kingscliff Ratepayers Association
- Kingscliff Dune Care
- Kingscliff RSL
- Kingscliff High School
- Tweed Coast Holiday Parks

CONTACT

For further information you can contact:

LEIGH ABERNETHY
Landscape Architect, Tweed Shire Council

Ph (02) 6670 2656
email leabernethy@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Steps in the Masterplan

What has been undertaken so far for the Masterplan:

- LITERATURE REVIEW - summary of information in existing policy documents that relate to the study area.
- REGIONAL COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS - comparison to other coastal development areas (both good & bad elements) in both South East Queensland and Nth NSW.
- SITE ANALYSIS - assessing the existing conditions of the study area including history, structures, vegetation etc.
- STREETSCAPE GUIDELINES - an assessment of the existing Marine Parade streetscape between Turnock Street and Seaview Street, including footpath materials, collars, seats, lighting etc.
- COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - a series of videotaped vox pop interviews of both local residents and visitors to collate together for a DVD presentation back to the community. Includes personal reflections of the area.
- DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN DEVELOPMENT - currently underway

Scope of Masterplan Study Area
Kingscliff Reference Group Meeting 8th March 2006

Minutes

Leigh (Tweed Council):
Explanations of the processes that will be undertaken to come to produce the Masterplan.
Aims: keeping the area natural but embracing the possibility of implementing elements into the design that will generate economic productivity.

Community comments:
Using Tweed streetscape as an example (special pavers were used that had to be manufactured specifically for the job and later became obsolete in addition to being a maintenance problem) Materials should be “practical and durable”

Leigh (Tweed Council):
The analysis on materials, which will be part of the streetscape strategy, will take this into consideration.
Materials will be “off the shelf” and easily attainable with limited maintenance needed.

Leigh (Tweed Council):
The comments by some community members about keeping Kingscliff character and not becoming the same as Noosa or some parts of the Sunshine Coast prompted a trip to the area to generate an analysis on the resent developments. The outcomes of this trip highlighted the positive and negative attributes of the developments and have exemplified possibilities for the Tweed.

Community comments:
The Gladstone foreshore development has been sighted by some members and appreciated.

Leigh (Tweed Council):
“We are a growing community and the need for the integration of Planning and Landscape Architecture to generate viable outcomes are necessary.”

Community comments:
“The Rock Wall”
Questions:
Whether or not the implementation of the rock wall is necessary or will be a financially viable solution?

It will cost too much to build and maintain ie: the replenishment process post storm activity.

The resent storm was stated to be a category 2 and exemplifies the little effect this strength of storm has on the beachscape.

It was stated:
There is photographic evidence and early engineering reports that invalidate the resent reports that denote the need for the implementation of the retainer wall.
The sand problems have been caused due to the and since the implementation of the existing rock wall.

Where is the replenishment sand going to come from and how much will it cost?

Leigh (Tweed Council):
Sand has to be the correct grade and will be trucked in from Tweed Bypass project.

Richard (Tweed Council):
Stated there had been two engineering reports done on the validity of the rock wall by internationally recognised firms. Both had denoted the need for the implementation of the rock wall.
Community comments:
The 50yr hazard line has been denoted as running through the surf club but the resent storm shows the little effect it has.

Richard (Tweed Council):
The possibility of such a problem might be rare but if the beachescape is taken it’s taken forever. The beach is an attraction in the area.
“Do we want to put valid land at risk?”

**Site Analysis Plan**
Leigh (Tweed Council):
The Analysis plan details the existing elements of the site and this is backed up with textual information in the handout.

Looking at the plan from the north end

Community comments:
In relation to beach access paths: Surfers have their own spots to look at the particular banks that are working at the time and will walk through the vegetation to get there.

The weeds are growing over the designated access paths while vegetated areas are being destroyed.

We have been looking at it from land to sea and not sea to land.

“We need access points at each street.” We can’t loose the access at Terrace Street.

Leigh (Tweed Council):
The plan details the pedestrian linkages from the main streets.
We are proposing to fence off the vegetation and rationalise the beach access points so to protect the vegetation and stop people from cutting through the dunes.

To the north of the project area (Murphy’s Rd) we have proposed to construct a platform with barrier free access to service the elderly peoples home. This is not part of this project and has been put on hold due to lack of funds.

The existing paths will stay. The existing toilets are to be upgraded. The market parking area and the 4x4 access at the end of Pearl Street are needed.

Community comments:
The Morton Bay Bug farm will be incorporating water-pumping pipes that will cross the beach north of the bowls club.
To keep the paths is a sensible idea.
Are toilets to be environmentally conscience?
“Are we to be leaders or sheep?”
The self-cleaning toilet (the tardis) situated at Chindarah is loved by the youth.

Leigh (Tweed Council):
The Exa-trail is not used often and is a high maintenance element of the park and we have proposed to implement markers indicating distances. This is to cater for people jogging, bike riding and walking. This will be proposed to be a loop within the boundaries of Jack Bayliss Park.

Community comments:
Local businesses could sponsor each distance marker.
The exa-trail has not been well maintained.
The push up structure is often used.
Are these markers to be similar to that used on the ‘Oceanway’ project in Coolangatta? Yes

‘That Coolangatta foreshore is great.. You can feel the enjoyment people are having… You can feel
the shade and you can feel the sun kiss your face.’

People are still dumping rubbish.

Leigh (Tweed Council):
We aim to inhibit this with the implementation of the fencing.
These are to be a temporary /long-term measure.

Community comments:
The rangers should be policing the dumping of rubbish.

Up to the north end of Jack Bayliss Park, around Terrace Street, some sort of children’s activity is
needed. Maybe not a playground but trails for kids to play with toys… educational.

Why is the market space situated where it is?
A preference would be that of Faulks Park or the proposed town square.
It would be more financially viable for local businesses to have it situated in town.
The Redland Market is a good example of this where the market stalls face the existing shops. This
creates a buying zone that is divided evenly between stalls and shops. Currently the market in
Kingscliff is so far out of town that is detrimental to the local businesses.

It would be good to create a small high quality market in the town centre selling arts and crafts, fruit
and vegetables etc sourced from local people.

Leigh (Tweed Council):
Parking is the problem with that concept as currently the park can be used as a car park as well.

Studies have been done on parking in Kingscliff generally and have stated that there is ample
parking.

Community comments:
The reference group erupts.

The studies need to be done by local people.
The main problem seen for the future is that of the trade’s people who will be working on the Azura
and using the CBD to park.

It was stated: There will be 150 people working on the site and if half of them car pool there will still
be 75 extra cars per day.

There is no parking in Pearl Street.

Leigh (Tweed Council):
The Locality Plan will be examining this and making proposals to cater for the parking problems.
There will be some different options proposed.

Community comments:
The Fig tree at the round about is a Kingscliff icon… ‘The heart of Kingscliff’
Richard (Tweed Council):
The holiday Park will be diminished in area by 11000m².
The design of the new park is aimed at diversifying the accommodation and generating an ‘attractive’ site. This is to be achieved through the incorporation of high standard cabins and a boardwalk to generate connectivity. In addition, there will be powered sites for caravans and some tent sites.

Community comments:
What about a camp ground at Cudgen headland? If people were there it would be a good way to combat the ‘binge parties’ that the youth have during the nights.

It would be good to see the south of Kingscliff and cudgen Headland as part of this masterplan.

Leigh (Tweed Council):
A concept of the masterplan is that of funnelling pedestrians down Turnock Street through the commercial area and towards the flags. Commercial elements will exist on both sides of Turnock Street.

Faulks Park has the possibility of being utilised for car parking.

The area on the Lion/Faulks Park boundaries is a beautiful spot that has limited use. (an appreciation of this ‘secret’ spot was agreed on by many at the meeting)

---

The New Park
Community comments:
The community centre has the structural qualities to become 2 storeys.

The hall is to be opened up and transformed into a central cultural centre. The kitchen is to be up graded to service both in and outside. Part of the structure has been proposed to be an interactive youth space where it can be owned and managed by young people so to promote a feeling of ownership. In addition this would reintroduce the kids back into the town centre and not force them onto the outskirts of town.

Richard (Tweed Council):
The problem with this is the building is owned by the trust and any changes would have to be agreed on by them.

Leigh (Tweed Council):
With respect to the members of the RSL the cantonal has been proposed to become a focal point within the design.

Community comments:
The ground the cantonal is located on has been consecrated.

Responses to the meeting are to be returned by the 21st of March.
OUTCOMES OF THE TWEED SHIRE BEACH & FORESHORE USERS SURVEY

Prepared For Tweed Shire Council by the Australian Regional Tourism Research Centre

November 2006
# Table of Contents

Executive Summary ................................................................. 21

1. Beach & Foreshore User Demographic Characteristics .................. 21
   1.1 Age & Gender Distribution .............................................................. 22
   1.2 Employment & Occupation .............................................................. 22
   1.3 Usual Place of Residence ................................................................. 23

2. Beach & Foreshore User Visitation Characteristics ....................... 25
   2.1 Duration of Visit ........................................................................... 25
   2.2 Frequency of Visit ........................................................................ 25
   2.3 Visitation Group Composition ......................................................... 25
   2.4 Means of transport to Beach/Foreshore ......................................... 25
   2.5 Beach/Foreshore User Expenditure ................................................. 25

3. Beach & Foreshore Use ............................................................... 26
   3.1 Land and Water-Based Activities .................................................... 26

4. Beach & Foreshore User Satisfaction ............................................ 27
   4.1 Positive & Negative Aspects of User Experiences ............................ 27
   4.2 Adverse Impacts by Others on User Experiences ............................ 28
   4.3 Overall Satisfaction of Beach & Foreshore Users ............................ 29

5. Key Factors Affecting Beach & Foreshore Enjoyment ..................... 29
   5.1 The Natural Environment ................................................................. 29
   5.2 Human Interactions ....................................................................... 30
   5.3 Information .................................................................................... 31
   5.4 Facilities ....................................................................................... 31
   5.5 Transport ..................................................................................... 32

6. Beach & Foreshore User Preferences ............................................. 33
   6.1 User Perceptions of their Favourite Beach ...................................... 33
   6.2 The Beach & Foreshore in Ten Years Time ..................................... 33

Appendix ....................................................................................... 34
Executive Summary
This report documents the findings of a study conducted on behalf of Tweed Shire Council by the Australian Regional Tourism Research Centre, which investigated usage of Tweed Shire beach and foreshore areas. Aspects examined in this study included beach and foreshore usage characteristics, factors affecting user enjoyment, user satisfaction levels, users’ opinions regarding the future for Tweed Shire beach and foreshore areas, and user demographics. A questionnaire was developed to collect data from beach and foreshore users, a copy of which can be found as an appendix at the rear of this report. The questionnaire was administered in-situ by an interviewer at Kingscliff Beach, South Kingscliff Beach, Unnamed Beach South of Norries Head (Cabarita Beach) and Pottsville Beach during December 2005 and January 2006. A total of 270 usable responses were obtained by the end of the data collection period.

A summary of the main findings of this study is provided below:

- The main activities engaged in at Tweed Shire beach/foreshore areas were relaxing, swimming, and walking.

- ‘Scenery’ and ‘atmosphere’ at Tweed Shire beach/foreshore areas was found to be an area of strength, while the presence of litter was a considerable area of concern for users.

- Factors relating to the natural environment (such as the condition of headlands/vegetated areas, availability of shade trees and grassed areas) were found to be highly influential in the enjoyment of Tweed Shire beach/foreshore areas.

- 95.9% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with their visit to Tweed Shire beach/foreshore areas.

- When asked how they would like to see Tweed Shire beach/foreshore areas in ten years time, a vast majority of respondents wished to see them remain unchanged.

1. Introduction

This report documents the findings of a study conducted on behalf of Tweed Shire Council by the Australian Regional Tourism Research Centre, which investigated usage of Tweed Shire beach and foreshore areas. Aspects examined in this study included beach and foreshore usage characteristics, factors affecting user enjoyment, user satisfaction levels, users’ opinions regarding the future for Tweed Shire beach and foreshore areas, and user demographics. A questionnaire was developed to collect data from beach and foreshore users, a copy of which can be found as an appendix at the rear of this report. The questionnaire was administered in-situ by an interviewer at Kingscliff Beach, South Kingscliff Beach, Unnamed Beach South of Norries Head (Cabarita Beach) and Pottsville Beach during December 2005 and January 2006. A total of 270 usable responses were obtained by the end of the data collection period.

The report begins by providing an overview of the demographic characteristics of the Tweed Shire beach and foreshore users. This is followed by sections on visitation characteristics and the type of beach and foreshore use and satisfaction levels. The next two sections present data on the factors that are likely to impact on the satisfaction levels of beach and foreshore users and what the preferences are for future development in the Shire. The conclusion is the last section in this report.

2. Beach & Foreshore User Demographic Characteristics

Section 1 describes the demographic attributes for the sample of Tweed Shire beach and foreshore users. Age and gender distributions are first reported, followed by employment characteristics and respondents’ place of residence.
2.1 Age & Gender Distribution

Figure 2.1 illustrates the distribution of age categories for males and females surveyed. Of the total sample, 60% were male and 40% female. More mature age groups were the most represented, with 61.6% of the sample being aged 40 or above. Figure 2.1 also demonstrates that responses from a wide spectrum of age groups were represented in the sample.

![Figure 2.1 Distribution of age & gender amongst the sample](image)

2.2 Employment & Occupation

Persons either employed full or part-time formed the dominant segment of the sample, with 51.5% being employed to some extent (refer Figure 2.2). The remainder of respondents were retirees (23.7%), undertaking full-time family duties (7.8%), studying full or part-time (10%), or were unemployed/looking for work (3.0%).
Appendix A: Data collection questionnaire

What is your current employment situation?
- Full-time paid work
- Part-time paid work
- Full-time education
- Part-time education
- Retired
- Looking for work/unemployed
- Fulltime home or family duties

Figure 2.2 Current employment status of respondents

Of those who were employed either full or part time, a highly diverse range of occupations were represented, which were far too great in number to list individually in this report. However, a summary of the most frequently cited occupations is provided below:

- Teacher (5.2%)
- Labourer (2.6%)
- Nurse (1.9%)
- Doctor (1.1%)
- Hospitality worker (1.1%)

2.2 Usual Place of Residence

Users of Tweed Shire beaches and foreshore areas originated from a wide range of areas, with a total of 180 different locations being identified. As the number of locations was too numerous to list individually, the respondent’s usual place of residence were condensed into four broad categories: the local area, Tweed Shire, the Gold Coast region, and ‘other’ locations. For categorisation purposes, persons residing within the perimeters of postcode zone 2487 were considered ‘local’ residents.

Figure 2.3 illustrates the findings in this regard and indicates that the majority of users were local residents (48.9%), or resided within Tweed Shire (16%). A total of 10.8% of respondents resided on the Gold Coast or Byron Shire, while the remainder were visitors from a variety of locations such as Sydney and Brisbane.
Figure 2.3 Respondents’ usual place of residence
3. Beach & Foreshore User Visitation Characteristics
Section 2 presents data collected in regard to visitation at Tweed Shire beach and foreshore areas. Duration and frequency of visits are reported in Sections 3.1 and 3.2 respectively, while Sections 3.3 through 3.5 describe visitor group composition, use of transportation, and expenditure levels.

3.1 Duration of Visit
Respondents predominantly spent between one and two hours at the beach/foreshore (65.2%), while 31.1% stayed for between two and six hours. Only a small percentage of respondents stayed at the beach/foreshore for more than six hours (3.0%).

3.2 Frequency of Visit
A total of 64.4% of respondents claimed to be ‘regular’ visitors to the beach/foreshore, while 23.7% were ‘irregular’ visitors. Table 3.1 provides the mean, minimum, and maximum number of visits to the beach/foreshore for regular and irregular visitors. The remainder of visitors were first-time visitors and accounted for 10.7% of responses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percent of Users</th>
<th>Mean Number of Visits in Preceding Month</th>
<th>Minimum Number of Visits in Preceding Month</th>
<th>Maximum Number of Visits in Preceding Month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Visitors</td>
<td>64.4%</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irregular Visitors</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>7.25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Time Visitors</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3 Visitation Group Composition
Persons visiting the beach/foreshore with one other person formed the dominant group composition (41.1%), followed by individual visitors (28.9%). Families (16.7%) and groups of friends (12.6%) were also considerable segments. Persons visiting as part of an organised group represented just 0.4% of responses.

3.4 Means of transport to Beach/Foreshore
Respondents were asked to indicate how they made their way to the beach/foreshore that day. Travel by private vehicle was the most popular mode of transport with 58.9% of users travelling this way. A considerable number of people, presumably who live in relatively close proximity, walked to the beach/foreshore (31.5%). Travel by bicycle accounted for 8.1% of users, while the remainder utilised public transport (0.7%) or ‘other’ modes of transport (0.4%).

3.5 Beach/Foreshore User Expenditure
Respondents were asked to approximate how much money they will spend on petrol, food and drink, and other items during their visit to the beach/foreshore. Of the respondents who did indicate that they would spend money on any of these items, the mean amount spent on petrol was $9.83, the mean spend for food and drink was $22.04, and the mean spend on ‘other’ items was $187.28 (refer Table 3.2).

As expected visitors from outside of the Shire spent more on all items than Shire residents. For example, mean expenditure on petrol ranged from $3.86 for local residents to $6 for other Shire residents, $12.22 for visitors from Gold Coast and Byron Shire and $19.59 for other visitors. Mean food expenditure ranged from $7.46 for local visitors to $16.86 for other Shire residents, $11.73 for visitors from Gold Coast and Byron Shire and $35.27 for other visitors. These figures indicate that visitors to the beaches from outside of the Shire (35% of respondents) are making an ongoing contribution to the Shire’s economy (assuming a proportion of expenditure occurs within the Shire).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean ($)</th>
<th>Minimum ($)</th>
<th>Maximum ($)</th>
<th>Number of Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Petrol</td>
<td>9.83</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix A: Data collection questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food &amp; Drinks</th>
<th>22.04</th>
<th>0.20</th>
<th>200</th>
<th>84</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>187.28</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is prudent that two notes of caution be emphasised here:

- The mean figures presented in this section are means derived only from persons who indicated that they would spend money in each particular category, not from across the entire sample; and

- The mean figure for expenditure on ‘other’ items was significantly scaled up by one respondent who indicated that he or she would be spending $2,000 on this particular day.

4. Beach & Foreshore Activities Undertaken By Visitors

In order to generate a better understanding of the range of activities engaged in by users of Tweed Shire beach and foreshore areas, respondents were requested to indicate which activities they undertook on this particular day. Respondents were also asked to indicate which activity (or activities) was their main activity (or activities) while visiting the beach and foreshore area. It should be noted that respondents were able to select more than one response in both instances, thus percentages in Figure 4.1 do not sum to 100%. It should also be noted that only 80% of respondents indicated a main activity or activities. The findings for activities undertaken by respondents are reported in Section 4.1.

4.1 Land and Water-Based Activities

Table 4.1 illustrates the importance of various land and water-based activities undertaken by users of Tweed Shire beach and foreshore areas. Activities in Table 4.1 are presented in order of their final ranking in terms of the number of respondents who participated in the activity. The results in Table 4.1 highlight some interesting differences between the types of activities that visitors undertake in comparison to the main activity they undertake. The activities listed in the Table 4.1 appear to have addressed the majority of activities undertaken on Tweed Shire beaches/foreshore areas. Only 1.9% of respondents indicated they engaged in ‘other’ activities which were not listed on the questionnaire.

Users of Tweed Shire beach and foreshore areas were clearly intent on escaping from the pressures of everyday life or relieving stress, with activities such as relaxing (55.6%), swimming (48.5%), and short walks (45.5%) ranking as the most popular activities undertaken in this setting. However, when examining the main activities some interesting differences emerged. Clearly the most popular main activity undertaken by respondents was surfing (31.9%). Yet only 17.4% of all respondents went surfing. In contrast, while relaxing (55.6%) and short walks (45.5%) ranked as two of the most popular activities only 5.2% and 0.7% respectively of respondents indicated that these two activities were their main activities.

This table is interesting because it indicates clearly what types of activities are important to people and what type of activities are not so important. This knowledge of activities provides information for Council to effectively manage recreation in the beach and foreshore areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>% of Respondents Participating in activity</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Respondent’s Main Activity (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relaxing/getting away from it all</td>
<td>55.6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short walk (up to 1 hour)</td>
<td>45.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appreciation/study of natural features/plants/animals</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunbathing</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting together/socialising with family and/or friends</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix A: Data collection questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>% of respondents</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fishing/bait collection</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jogging</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surfing/surf check</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>31.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children-focused outdoor activities</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog walking – on leash</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog walking – off leash</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography/painting/drawing</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diving/snorkelling</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling/mountain bike riding</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium walk (1-4 hours)</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-wheel driving</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long walk (&gt;4 hours)</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting a site of cultural significance</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PWC (Jet skiing)</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind surfing</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial tour</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Beach & Foreshore User Satisfaction

This section provides an overview of how satisfied the users of Tweed Shire beach and foreshore area users were with their visit. Respondents were asked to provide comments regarding positive and negative aspects of their visit, in addition to any impact the actions and/or activities of other beach users may have had on their experience. Finally, respondents were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with their visit on a categorical scale ranging from ‘very satisfied’ through to ‘very dissatisfied’. The outcomes of such factors are reported in Sections 5.1 through 5.3.

4.1 Positive & Negative Aspects of User Experiences

Two open-ended questions asked respondents to comment on the most enjoyable, and any disappointing aspects of their visit to the beach/foreshore. The responses were analysed in a qualitative manner, looking for frequently recurring themes. As a result, a number of common categories emerged through this analysis, which are illustrated in Figures 5.1 and 5.2.

The scenery and atmosphere provided by beaches in the Tweed Shire was clearly an area of strength, with 72% of positive comments pertaining to this theme. The range of beach activities able to be undertaken, as well as providing a setting for socialising was also a common positive theme. Six recurring themes emerged regarding disappointing aspects of respondents’ experience. The presence of litter on the beach/foreshore area was an obvious area of concern for survey respondents, with a large number of comments made in this regard. Other areas of disappointment included the actions and/or activities of other beach users (discussed further in Section 5.2), and the lack of, or condition of, facilities such as toilets, bins, and car parking. Negative comments were also made regarding the amount of development that has occurred on the Tweed Coast in recent years.
Appendix A: Data collection questionnaire

Experiences

Section 5.1 alluded to the fact that the experiences of some beach/foreshore users were tainted by the actions and/or activities of other beach users. Similar to Section 5.1 qualitative data collected in this respect, six recurring themes were evident, and are illustrated in Figure 5.3.

5.2 Adverse Impacts by Others on User Experiences

Figure 5.1 Enjoyable aspects of respondents’ visits to Tweed Shire & foreshore

Figure 5.2 Disappointing aspects of respondents’ visits to Tweed Shire & foreshore

Figure 5.3 Activities/actions of others negatively affecting user experiences
The disruptive behaviour of other beach users was an apparent area of concern for respondents, as was the reckless use of motorised vehicles such as jet skis and four-wheel drives. For many respondents, it was a combination of the factors identified in Figure 5.3 that adversely affected their beach/foreshore experience. Persons fishing and walking their dog(s) were other minor areas of concern.

It is instructive for Council to note that while four-wheel driving and jet skiing in particular are adversely impacting on beach and foreshore users only a small percentage of people actually undertake these two activities.

5.3 Overall Satisfaction of Beach & Foreshore Users
As a final measure of satisfaction with their visit to Tweed Shire beach and foreshore areas, respondents were asked to provide an overall rating of their visit on a scale ranging from ‘very satisfied’ to ‘very dissatisfied’. Table 5.1 shows that the vast majority of respondents enjoyed their visit, with 95.9% indicating they were either ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with their experience. Only one person indicated that they were ‘very dissatisfied’ with their visit.

Table 5.1 Respondents’ overall rating of their visit to Tweed Shire beach and foreshore areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Satisfaction Level</th>
<th>% of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>52.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfied</td>
<td>43.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfied</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very dissatisfied</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Key Factors Affecting Beach & Foreshore Enjoyment
In order to assess what features or facilities visitors considered were important determinants to the enjoyment of their visit, they were asked to rate the importance of various factors. Section 6 presents the findings of these determinants. The factors were placed into five categories: the natural environment, human interactions, information, facilities, and transport.

Each category is reported separately in this section, however a summary of factors with noteworthy ratings is provided below:

- The enjoyment of Tweed Shire beach/foreshore areas appears to be heavily affected by natural environment factors. All ‘natural environment’ factors were rated as being ‘of great importance’ by 50% or more of respondents.

- The good condition of natural features such as vegetated areas and headlands was rated by 85.2% of respondents as being ‘of great importance’.

- The provision of rubbish/recycling bins was rated as the most important facility factor (64.8% rating as being ‘of great importance’). Other important facilities included toilets (48.1% rating as being ‘of great importance’), dog poo bags (44.8%) and formal access to beaches (41.4%)

- Provision of facilities such as barbecues, children’s playgrounds, bike racks, and access to public transport were factors of little or no importance to survey respondents.

6.1 The Natural Environment
Table 6.1 demonstrates that enjoyment of Tweed Shire beach/foreshore areas is significantly affected by aspects related to the natural environment. A vast majority of respondents believe that factors such as the good condition of natural features (85.2%), the presence of native animals
(73.3%), and the provision of trees and grassed areas (68.1%) are crucial to their enjoyment of the beach/foreshore areas. It was factors from this category that rated far higher in importance than those of any other category.

Table 6.1 Importance of natural environment factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Natural Environment</th>
<th>Of great importance %</th>
<th>Of some importance %</th>
<th>Of little importance %</th>
<th>Of no importance at all %</th>
<th>No opinion/Not applicable %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good condition of natural features such as vegetated areas, headlands</td>
<td>85.2</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surf quality</td>
<td>52.2</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeing native animals and beautiful scenery</td>
<td>73.3</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shade trees and grassed areas</td>
<td>68.1</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.2 Human Interactions

As noted in Section 4.1, the most popular beach/foreshore activity was ‘relaxing/getting away from it all’. This is again reflected in Table 6.2, which indicates the importance of escaping from other people as a factor affecting respondents’ enjoyment of the beach/foreshore. Patrolled swimming zones were also a key factor, with 68.2% of respondents rating them ‘of some importance’ or ‘of great importance’.
Appendix A: Data collection questionnaire

Table 6.2 Importance of human interaction factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human Interactions</th>
<th>Of great importance %</th>
<th>Of some importance %</th>
<th>Of little importance %</th>
<th>Of no importance at all %</th>
<th>No opinion/Not applicable %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to get away from other people</td>
<td>52.2</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrolled swimming areas</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>26.3</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for recreation with others</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to catch up with acquaintances</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.3 Information

The provision of informative signage did not attract high ratings of importance, however 73% of respondents did rate ‘information signage’ as being ‘of some importance’ or ‘of great importance’ (refer Table 5.3).

Table 6.3 Importance of information provisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Of great importance %</th>
<th>Of some importance %</th>
<th>Of little importance %</th>
<th>Of no importance at all %</th>
<th>No opinion/Not applicable %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directional signs</td>
<td>31.9</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information signage</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules and regulations</td>
<td>33.7</td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.4 Facilities

The issue of litter on the beach was an area of concern for beach/foreshore users, as established in Section 5.1. This issue is again raised in Table 6.4, with the provision of rubbish/recycling bins rating of high importance in beach/foreshore user enjoyment. The provision of toilets, dog poo bags and formal beach access paths also attracted relatively high importance ratings. Facilities that attracted low importance ratings were children’s playgrounds and bicycle racks.
Appendix A: Data collection questionnaire

Table 6.4 Importance of facilities provisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Of great importance %</th>
<th>Of some importance %</th>
<th>Of little importance %</th>
<th>Of no importance at all %</th>
<th>No opinion/Not applicable %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toilet facilities</td>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter and seating</td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>31.9</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbecues</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s playground facilities</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shower facilities</td>
<td>37.8</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal access to beach</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>26.3</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewing platforms</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply of drinking water</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubbish / recycling bins</td>
<td>64.8</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog poo bags</td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking / cycling tracks</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike racks</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.5 Transport
The provision of car parking facilities rated as the most important transport factor affecting beach/foreshore user enjoyment. Access to public transport was not an important factor, with 41.3% of respondents rating it as being ‘of little importance’ or ‘of no importance’ (refer Table 5.5). This finding is understandable since 58.9% of respondents use a private vehicle to travel to the beach/foreshore while only 0.7% use public transport.

Table 6.5 Importance of transport provisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transport</th>
<th>Of great importance %</th>
<th>Of some importance %</th>
<th>Of little importance %</th>
<th>Of no importance at all %</th>
<th>No opinion/Not applicable %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car parking facilities</td>
<td>41.5</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to public transport</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walkways / cycleways that link towns to beaches</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Beach & Foreshore User Preferences

Beach/foreshore users were asked their opinions on what general features characterise their favourite beach, and what level of development they would like to see occur in Tweed Shire beach and foreshore areas over the next ten years.

7.1 User Perceptions of their Favourite Beach

Respondents were asked to think of their favourite beach and to choose one of three statements which best describes that beach. As illustrated in Figure 7.1, beaches which provided only basic facilities such as a carpark and toilet amenities rated as the most popular type of beach. This type of beach was selected by 54.1% of respondents. This is consistent with the type of activities users undertake at the beach, such as relaxing and getting away from it all.

![Figure 7.1 Description of respondents’ favourite beach](image)

7.2 The Beach & Foreshore in Ten Years Time

In this regard, respondents were asked to make open comment on how they would like to see Tweed Shire beach and foreshore areas in ten years time. Responses were categorised for reporting purposes, and four recurring themes emerged. A great majority of respondents wished to see Tweed Shire beach/foreshore areas left as they are. Of the 263 responses received, 237 (87.8%) comments were made to this effect. Only four respondents wished to see more development, and the same number wanted to see increased preservation and less development. Sixteen comments were made in favour of providing more facilities at beach/foreshore areas.
Figure 7.2 Opinions of the beach/foreshore area in ten years time

Figure 7.3 provides a breakdown of comments received by different age categories. This figure shows that there was a consensus across the age spectrum that Tweed Shire beach/foreshore areas should remain unchanged. Also illustrated is that respondents aged 30 and above felt that more facilities should be provided. Of those in favour of more development in such areas, the majority of comments to this effect were made by those in the 40-49 age category.

Figure 7.3 Opinions of the beach/foreshore area in ten years time by age

Conclusion
The Tweed Shire beach and foreshore user survey revealed some important findings in relation to user characteristics, factors affecting enjoyment, satisfaction levels, possible options for future development of the beach and foreshore areas, and user demographics.
The majority of beach and foreshore visitors are from within the Shire but a substantial minority (35%) are from outside the Shire. A number of these visitors from outside of the Shire are regular visitors and it is likely they make an ongoing contribution to the Shire’s economy.

It is clear from the results that beach and foreshore users are either satisfied or very satisfied with their visit. Users are looking for a relatively simple experience and require only basic facilities such as carpark parks and toilet amenities. The main activities engaged in at the Shire’s beaches are relaxing, swimming/walking and appreciating the environment – activities that do not require the provision of facilities. Potentially invasive activities such as four-wheel driving and jet skiing are undertaken by only a small number of users (4.9% and 1.9% respectively).

According to visitors, ‘Scenery and atmosphere’ were the most enjoyable aspects of their visit. Consequently, factors relating to the natural environment (such as the condition of headlands/vegetated areas, availability of shade trees and grassed areas) were found to be highly influential in the enjoyment of Tweed Shire beach/foreshore areas. Other factors such as human interaction, signage and facilities were less important for visitors.

As stated previously, visitors were very happy with their visit to the beach, however there were some aspects that did impinge on their enjoyment. Clearly the most disappointing aspect of the visit to the beach was the presence of litter, with approximately 45% of respondents citing it as a problem. There were some recreational activities that also impinged on enjoyment. For example, rowdy behaviour, four-wheel driving, jet skiing or a combination of these activities were cited as impacting negatively on respondents’ experiences.

Finally, a large majority of respondents (87.8%) indicated that they wished to see the Tweed Shire beach and foreshore areas remain unchanged over the next ten years. This desire along with the high values placed on the natural environment indicates that Council must make every effort to minimise development along the beach and foreshore areas. Users have indicated a preference for low level facilities and this factor should ease pressure on development in the Shire’s beach and foreshore areas.
Appendix: Data collection questionnaire
Appendix A: Data collection questionnaire

Tweed Shire Beach and Foreshore Users Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. It is designed to provide Tweed Shire Council with information that will be used to determine appropriate management of the beach and foreshore and assist with planning for the provision of facilities.

(a) Please complete the questionnaire as fully as possible. Feel free to make additional comments if you feel they may be helpful.

(b) If you have any inquiries contact:
   Jane Lofthouse, Waterways and Coast Coordinator on 02 6670 2743

This survey is strictly confidential.

At no time will individuals be identified in the results reported.

Date:
Time:
Beach:
Weather:
Wind:
Surf Cond:
Est. Head Count:
Appendix A: Data collection questionnaire

Are you interested in feedback?

If you would like a summary of the results from this survey please provide details below.

Address for feedback:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Appendix A: Data collection questionnaire

Beach and Foreshore Use

1. How often do you visit this beach and foreshore area? (Circle one response)
   - First visit ........................................ 1
   - Irregularly.......................................... 2
     How often did you visit during the last month?_______________
     Regularly........................................... 3
     How often did you visit during the last week?_______________

2. Thinking about your favourite beach, which of these statements best describes it? (circle one)
   - A beach with no houses and no facilities for visitors at all  1
   - A beach only with a few facilities, like a toilet and car park  2
   - A beach in a coastal community with shops  3

3. How much time will you spend/have spent at this beach/foreshore today? (Circle one response)
   - 1 – 2 hours  1
   - 2.1 – 6 hours  2
   - Over 6 hours  3

4. How did you travel to the beach today?
   - Car  1
   - Bicycle  2
   - Bus / Public Transport  3
   - Walk  4
   - Other (please specify)  5

5. In what kind of group are you visiting this beach/foreshore today?
   - By yourself  1
   - With one other person  2
   - In a family group  3
   - With a group of friends  4
   - With an organised group  5

6. How much money will you spend approximately on this visit to the beach?
   - Petrol: _____________________
   - Food & Drinks: _____________________
   - Other: _____________________

7. Please finish this sentence:
   In ten years time I would like to see the beach and foreshore___________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
8. Please consider the following list of things that are, or could be, found at this beach and indicate how important they would be to your enjoyment of this beach:

*Circle as many responses as applicable.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Environment</th>
<th>Of great importance</th>
<th>Of some importance</th>
<th>Of little importance</th>
<th>Of no importance at all</th>
<th>No opinion/Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good condition of Natural features such as vegetated areas, headlands</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surf quality</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeing native animals and beautiful scenery.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shade trees and grassed areas</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human interactions</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to get away from other people</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrolled swimming areas</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for recreation with others</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to catch up with acquaintances</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directional signs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information signage</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules and Regulations</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toilet facilities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter and seating</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBQ’s</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s playground facilities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shower facilities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal access to beach</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewing platforms</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply of drinking water</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubbish / recycling bins</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog poo bags</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking/Cycling tracks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike racks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transport</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car parking facilities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to public transport</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walkways/Cycleways that link towns to beaches</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. What were the most enjoyable aspects of your visit to this beach and foreshore?

10. If any, what were the disappointing aspects of your visit to this beach and foreshore?

11. What activities did you undertake while visiting this beach and foreshore area?

*Circle as many responses as applicable.*

**Place an asterix* next to your MAIN activity.** e.g. Boating*
## Appendix A: Data collection questionnaire

### Land Based

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appreciation/study of natural features/plants/animals</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jogging</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography/painting/drawing</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children-focused outdoor activities</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial tour</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling/Mountain Bike Riding</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Walking - on-leash</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- off-leash</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relaxing/getting away from it all</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four wheel driving</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting together/Socialising with family and/or friends</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunbathing</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting a site of cultural significance</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALKING - Short walk (up to 1 hour)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Medium walk (1 to 4 hours)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Long Walk (more than 4 hours)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Water Based

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diving/snorkelling</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing/bait collection</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PWC (jet skiing)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surfing/check surf</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind surfing</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (specify)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. What activities by others may negatively impact on your enjoyment of this beach?
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________  

13. Thinking of your entire visit to this beach, the activities you undertook, the experiences you had and the facilities you used, overall were you satisfied or dissatisfied with your visit?

*Circle ONE number on the scale.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Satisfaction</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfied</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfied</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very dissatisfied</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We also need to collect some information about you to ensure that we are obtaining the views of the entire range of beach users.

14. Could you please mark your age group and gender with a tick in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>19 or 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60 and</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15. **What is your current employment situation?**

*Please circle your response. You may specify more than one category.*

- Full time home or family duties 1
- Looking for work/unemployed 2
- Retired 3
- Part-time education 4
- Full-time education 5
- Part-time paid work 6
- Full-time paid work (30+ hrs/wk) 7
- Other (specify) ____________________________________________ 8

16. **If you are working full-time or part-time, what is your occupation?**

______________________________________________________________

17. **What is your normal place of residence?**

Town ___________________ and Postcode __________(for Australian residents)
Country ____________________________(for overseas tourists)