

Streets as Shared Spaces: The Esplanade, Umina Beach

Engagement Summary

Central
Coast
Council

Summary

Between 29 March and 26 April 2021 Central Coast Council sought community feedback on draft concept designs for traffic and streetscape improvement at The Esplanade, Umina Beach. The project was designed to slow traffic and improve pedestrian safety between Ocean Beach Road and Trafalgar Avenue following requests from the community.

This project is funded by the NSW Government under the Streets as Shared Spaces program which provides one-off grant funding to support local councils to test and pilot new and innovative ideas for streets as safe, shared public spaces.

To ensure the upgrades reflect what current and future users want to see, interactive drawings were developed and used to capture feedback.

Engagement Results

The money was not well spent or could be used for another project

This project is proudly funded by the NSW Government under the Streets as Shared Spaces program. The grant monies and associated agreements set out how the money can be used and what it can be spent on.

Requested removal of power poles

The power poles along The Esplanade are the only source of lighting to help pedestrians and road users navigate the road way safely at night. This project budget does not accommodate the removal of power poles from The Esplanade.

Concern: The traffic improvements and Shared Zone implementation were not investigated

As part of investigating traffic and pedestrian safety improvements in The Esplanade, Council engaged a qualified traffic auditor to undertake an audit and provide a report on their findings. The proposed shared zone is consistent with the audit findings.

Traffic issues due to slow speed limit

The primary purpose of this project is to improve the safety of pedestrians and road users when using The Esplanade. The 10km/h speed limit allows for a safer environment for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists.

How you connected



464 visits to the Your Voice Our Coast website



The plans were downloaded 195 times



More than 7,300 social media users reached generating 184 likes, comments and shares.



12,555 stakeholders were kept up-to-date through e-news



1,167 visits to the interactive map, generating 125 comments and 2,767 reactions



A total of 139 comments from 69 community members and/or interested stakeholders.

Not enough lighting

Due to the narrow width of The Esplanade, additional lighting cannot be accommodated safely in accordance with Council's standards. The provision of any additional street lighting may negatively impact on nearby residents. The Esplanade is currently lit in accordance with Council's standards.

In-ground landscaping, removal of planter boxes

Based on community feedback, the number of planter boxes will be reduced however some planter boxes will remain to improve the amenity of the area.

Criteria within the funding agreement identifies improvements that are of a temporary nature and can be removed. The provision of planter boxes will not interfere with traffic turning movements or pedestrian accessways.

In-ground landscaping is not an option for this project due to the narrow width of the laneway and the impact such plantings would have on close-by underground utilities. The size of planter boxes will be large enough to deter movement by pedestrians.

Against seating

Based on community feedback, the seat proposed for South Street has been removed from the project design. Temporary seating will remain in place at the parklet, nearby Umina Beach Surf Club.

Requests for convex mirrors

Convex mirrors give a distorted image of upcoming traffic and allow no concept of speed or distance. Due to this, Council will not be proceeding with installing any convex mirrors. The 10km/h speed limit will assist with improved ability for vehicles to enter The Esplanade safely.

Shared Zone will be dangerous for pedestrians

The maximum speed limit within the shared zone is 10 km/h, as motorists are travelling at a lower speed, they are able to better control their vehicles and safely avoid impact with other road users. Motorists and pedestrians have equal right of way.

Traffic sight concerns at intersections

All of the intersections along The Esplanade operate under the Give Way rule with a requirement to give way to traffic travelling along The Esplanade. The proposed improvements will reinforce the current arrangements and the lower speed limit will improve conditions for traffic turning at these locations.

What's next?

The project management team have used the feedback received to refine the plans. Works on The Esplanade are set to commence in June-July 2021.

We will keep the community informed as the project progresses.

Find out more and stay up to date at yourvoiceourcoast.com