

Sylvan Beach, Bellara Draft Masterplan

Community Engagement Summary Report

October 2022





Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Kabi Kabi, Jinibara and Turrbal Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waterways of the Moreton Bay Region, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We recognise that the Moreton Bay Region has always been a place of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance to First Nations people.

We are committed to working in partnership with Traditional Custodians and other First Nations communities to shape a shared future that celebrates First Nations history and culture as an irreplaceable foundation of our region's collective identity.



Alignment with our roadmap

The draft masterplan project for Sylvan Beach, Bellara on Bribie Island is helping to achieve the outcomes of our Corporate Plan 2022–2027 and realise our vision: **Our Moreton Bay. Amazing places. Natural spaces.**

The strategic pillar this project specifically relates to is:



By 2033, our Moreton Bay will have vibrant communities that proudly come together to participate in and celebrate different cultures and life experiences, with access to the services and facilities they need.

Read more about Council's Corporate Plan and the pillars that underpin it at



mbrc.link/corporate-plan

Disclaimer

The Moreton Bay Regional Council and its officers accept no responsibility for any loss whatsoever arising howsoever from any person's act or omission in connection with any information, expressed or implied, contained within this document. Nothing in this document should be taken as legal advice.

More of what you love most about Bribie Island

Council has developed a draft precinct masterplan for Sylvan Beach, Bellara on Bribie Island to improve and expand the community facilities in the area.

Sylvan Beach at Bellara provides a more natural, laid back contrast to the Bongaree foreshore further south. It offers a variety of activities, services and infrastructure.

Community input is an important part of enhancing and revitalising Bribie Island. Your feedback, insights and collaboration are essential to developing a masterplan for Sylvan Beach that continues to reflect the unique essence of the area.

Early in the planning phase, between 12 September 2022 and 21 October 2022 we asked the community what you wanted to see included in the plans. With a genuine willingness to collaborate and listen, Council engaged to:

- build an early picture of community needs to inform the planning and development in relation to the draft masterplan
- identify community priority elements for delivery of a masterplan that would roll out in stages over several years
- improve long term outcomes and enhance community benefits from the project.

Council notified the community of the opportunity to have their say on the project via:

- ✓ letterbox drop to 5,500 Bellara households and community services
- ✓ electronic newsletter to over 3,000 local subscribers
- ✓ three drop-in information events
- ✓ online posts and web page.

What we learned from you is informing planning and design of future facilities and open spaces.

How we engaged


We invited local water sport clubs, residents and visitors to participate in the consultation by:

- attending one of our pop-up community displays and participating in an interactive mapping activity
- engaging in an online interactive map with improvements, bright ideas and things they loved
- providing feedback via email.

We received **23 emails**, had **80+ conversations with community members** at our in-person events and **93 feedback** comments on the in-person mapping activity, **60 online mapping interactions** and **1,228 web visitors**.

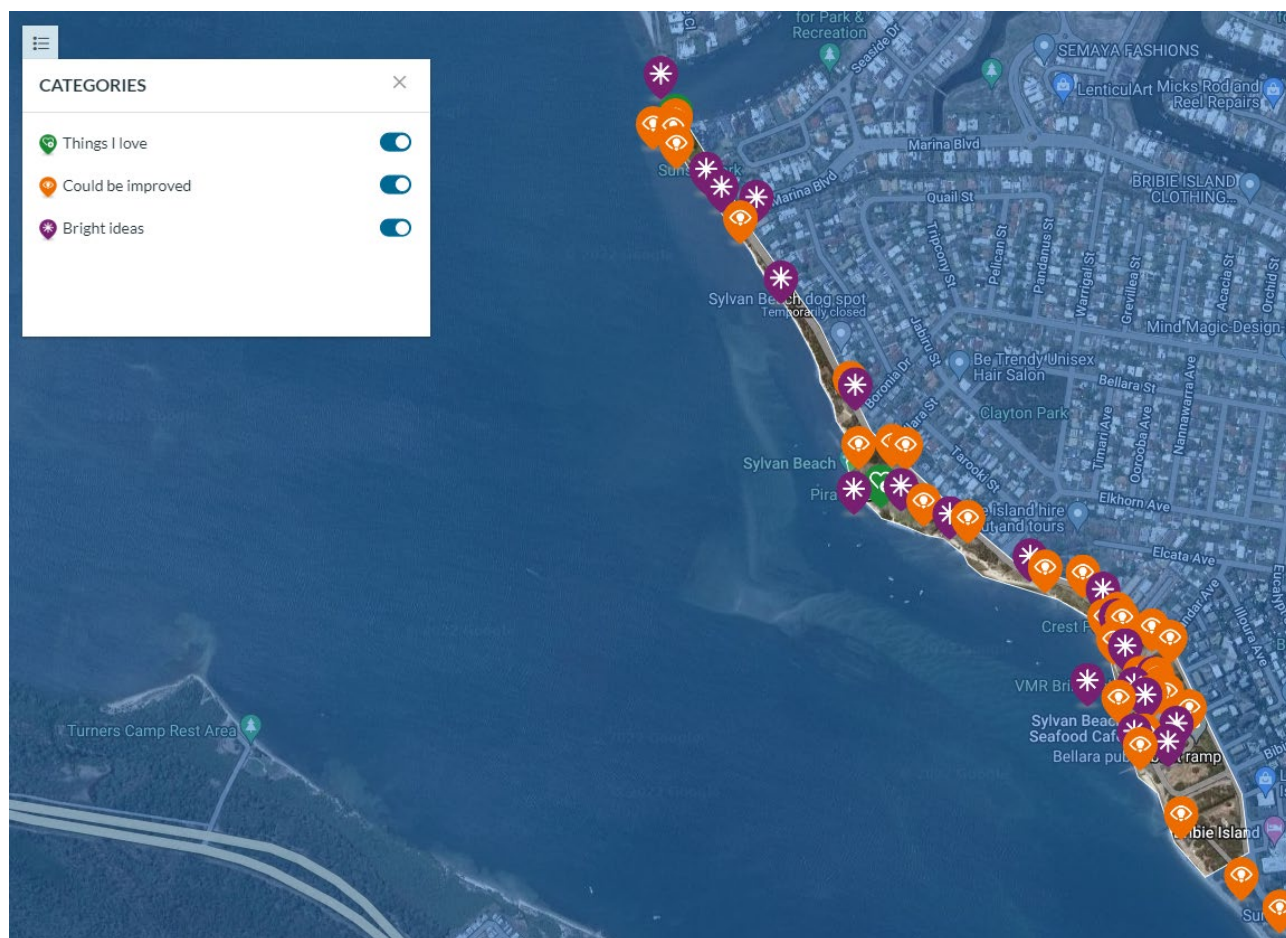
Thank you to everyone who got involved and took the time to provide us with their valuable feedback.



 *Thank you for the opportunity to have our say with regard to the proposed developments."*

Local participant

Our interactive map allowed people to add pins based on what they loved, improvements they saw and new bright ideas.



What we heard from you

With a total of **186 points of feedback** throughout consultation, comments were categorised to highlight the community's topics of interest. Through our conversations and your input, some key findings emerged for the masterplan.

We feel we now have a good understanding of what the community wants to see at Sylvan Beach. These are summed up as the below themes:



Safely connected



Protecting our environment



Purpose built parks



Access to the water



Accessible for one and all

Key themes

Safely connected

We heard a lot of comments about safe footpaths, extra lighting, and the new boardwalk. The common theme around these comments was the community wanted safe and enjoyable connections around the Sylvan Beach area.


Some of this feedback also relates to the theme of making Sylvan Beach accessible to one and all by ensuring footpaths are suitable for wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

The existing boardwalk near Pirate Park restricts access for maintaining the drain, which could impact nearby residential areas. Most community members understood the need to remove the old boardwalk.

The main sentiment regarding a replacement boardwalk was about improving design outcomes for the new structure. The community suggested Council consider the following when designing a new boardwalk:

- providing access to the beach from the boardwalk
- safety considerations including splintering and fall risks
- opportunities to extend the new boardwalk over the water.

Some community members also raised the idea of a pedestrian bridge across the canal to link Sunset Park to Banksia Beach. Council will need to investigate the feasibility of such a bridge before any further planning.

 *Love that the footpaths are being made wider and safer but there also needs to be more lighting. It is very unsafe and scary walking after dark along the Bellara foreshore footpaths.”*
- Local participant

Protecting our environment

The breadth of feedback about the environmental management of the foreshore and minimising potential impacts of upgrades showed us the Bribie Island community want to enhance the local area without compromising its natural offerings.

Top sustainability considerations

- coastal erosion management, specifically on dune areas
- one request to ban balloons from the foreshore
- better management of litter from the cafes or foreshore visitors
- a suggestion to add nest boxes to trees in the park
- consideration of any potential construction impacts on local wildlife.

Trees

There were several comments regarding trees and shade in the park, including a general preference for trees rather than shade sails.

Many community members mentioned the vandalism of newly planted trees in the area and requested signage and CCTV to help protect them.

There were also comments regarding the selection of tree species for the foreshore, emphasising the use of locally specific species and avoiding risks from falling branches in a public space.

 *I would like to see more trees planted in front of the Anchorages, it is like crossing a desert in the summer!”*
- Local participant



Purpose built parks

It came as no surprise that residents had plenty of feedback about our parks and outdoor spaces. Sunset Park, Pirate Park, Crest Park and the Lions Club Park were all highlighted by locals who wanted to see more facilities to support their varying uses.

Sunset Park feedback:

There was strong support for the new lookout shelter and additional plantings. Users of Sunset Park suggested additional seats, additional shelters, and a new toilet block. There were also some suggestions for a new exercise equipment area somewhere in the northern part of the foreshore, possibly around Sunset Park.

Pirate Park feedback:

Feedback regarding the Pirate Park area was positive, particularly regarding a new lookout and improvements to the toilet block. There were some requests for improved fencing near the road and carpark and more lighting. Suggestions for new play equipment include:

- beach volleyball court (on the beach)
- climbing wall
- lookout tower with a slide
- flying fox.

Lions Club Park feedback:

Facilities to support events such as the Munch Markets at the Lions Club Park were most strongly noted, including additional toilets, power supply, improved access, and additional parking.

Interest in a splash park:

Many comments expressed interest in a water play splash park at Bellara, although this contradicts comments in favour of maintaining a more natural and laid-back parkland.

“Love the addition of a shelter and picnic table but don't think one is sufficient as this is one of the most popular areas on the foreshore due to the amazing views” - Local participant

Our Vibrant Communities



Access to the water

The volume of interest in the boat ramp area was unsurprising given it is the most heavily used area of the foreshore. The community told they want to make the area safer and more enjoyable to use for more people. Feedback around the area included:

- additional parking areas, including along Marine Parade
- a jetty that could be used for fishing or accessing boats
- footpaths and pedestrian crossings, including on Sylvan Beach Esplanade
- improved safety and traffic flow in the boat trailer parking area
- facilities to assist mobility impaired users access boats, such as a jetty or pontoon.

There was also a lot of interest from community groups in the proposed new water sports storage facility. Council will continue to consult groups as the design for the facility progresses.



“Would love to have a jetty so people could walk out over the water. It would be a draw card for Sylvan Beach and surrounding areas, enhancing local business. Viewing sunsets from here would be spectacular!”

- Local participant



Accessible for one and all

Sylvan Beach should be a place for all to enjoy. You told us that that accessibility is a key consideration to multiple aspects of the draft masterplan, including:

- seating areas that are accessible by pathways and have concreted areas for wheelchair users to sit with other people
- gaps in seating walls to allow wheelchair users to sit beside companions
- footpaths that are suitable for mobility scooters
- Person with a Disability (PWD) parking close to the dog off leash area and to cafes
- improved accessibility of the dog off leash area
- large print signage throughout park
- ramp access to the beach in multiple locations
- accessible water sports support near the boat ramp, such as a pontoon.

Council will continue to work with user groups to ensure designs for park upgrades are fully accessible for all users.

“All seating should consider access for wheelchairs and the cement pad should have a ramp and turn around space” - Local participant



Next steps

Thank you to everyone who got involved and provided their feedback.

Our planners are using your feedback and ideas to develop a Masterplan for Sylvan Beach, Bellara. Here's what you can expect next:

- ✓ we will keep talking to water sport clubs about a storage facility to meet community needs
- ✓ we will continue to plan for a community event space, including power and water provision.
- ✓ we will publish the masterplan for the Sylvan Beach area to the public in 2023.

We will start construction on the first stage of the masterplan in 2023 with works to roll out progressively over the coming years.





For more information on our new Corporate Plan and Pillars
scan the QR code or visit moretonbay.qld.gov.au