

» Shaws Bay Precinct water quality and amenity improvements

Update: November 2017



Ballina Shire Council is about to embark on a series of actions from the Coastal Zone Management Plan to improve the Shaws Bay precinct for the health of the ecosystem and our community.

» **Background**

Shaws Bay is the body of water that was formed when the northern training wall of the Richmond River was constructed near the river entrance at Ballina.

The bay comprises part of the former river course and exchanges water with the main river every day. It is a popular spot for leisure activities such as picnicking, swimming, snorkelling, canoeing and walking.

The area is very scenic and the landform varies from gently sloping beaches to a steep sandy escarpment which retains littoral rainforest species. The seagrasses in the bay are regarded as some of the best in northern NSW and provide a wonderful environment for safe snorkelling.

» **Protecting the health of the bay and providing community access**

A Shaws Bay Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) has been developed to establish management objectives, address management issues and identify community desires for future management of Shaws Bay.

The CZMP was certified by the NSW Minister for Planning and was Gazetted on 24 June 2016 and includes a series of actions that will assist to achieve the plan's objectives.

Ballina Shire Council will progressively work through these actions, and has identified the following works to progress in 2017 and 2018 (**illustrated overpage**).

» **Action 1: Control bank erosion and siltation into the bay**

Objective: Improve the water quality of the bay and the recreational amenity of the reserve. Improve access from the reserves to the bay.

The existing rock will be removed, banks stabilised and access to the bay improved. Sandy beaches will be created and access to other areas will be closed to allow for revegetation. Much of this work will be carried out at low tide. Tender currently on public exhibition for the works (closes 7 November 2017)

Timeline to commence: February 2018

Budget: \$480,000

Funding partners: Ballina Shire Council, Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Industry - Lands.

(Other Actions explained on the backpage).



RICHMOND RIVER

SHAWS BAY

Potential future footpath expansion

turf and shade trees

» 2

Dredging of Shaws Bay

Western Foreshore Carpark formalised and access to bay improved

access ramp

» 3

Mangrove Walk Boardwalk (future planned works)

Pop Denison Park Precinct Path to connect to the existing Shared Path (future planned works)

» 1

Reclaimed beach with dredging

Shaws Bay Eastern Arm Stabilisation Works rock walls and bank replenishment

clear under-storey vegetation to improve public access

» 4

Pop Denison Park Precinct Expand Carpark

New toilet facilities

Approximate location of future playground

»» **Action 2: Dredging**

Objective: Reduce infilling and improve water circulation.

This stage of the CZMP is of great importance for the health of the bay. Council is discussing proposals with Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries and Office of Environment and Heritage.

Council has received grant funding from the OEH to advance the investigation, studies, approvals and licences required to progress the dredging works.

Timeline to commence: Investigation already underway with the sea-grass mapping completed and sediment core samples obtained.

Budget: estimated to be up to \$500,000

Funding partners: Ballina Shire Council, Department of Industry - Lands, Office of Environment and Heritage.

»» **Action 3: Improve Compton Drive Foreshore**

Objective: Enhance safety and recreational amenity of the foreshore and improve stormwater systems and treatments.

Carparking on the foreshore will be formalised as well as safer shared path access through the foreshore. Realignment of stormwater and improved treatment.

The entry point to the bay will be improved with the installation of a boardwalk style ramp.

Picnic recreational areas will be added, along with shower facilities.

Timeline to commence: 6 November 2017

Budget: \$360,000

Funding partners: Ballina Shire Council.

»» **Action 4: Expand Pop Denison Park**

Objective: Enhance ecological value, foreshore access and recreational amenity of the Park.

These works improve access to the eastern foreshore. The shared path will also continue through this precinct with additional carparking.

Timeline to commence: soon

Budget: \$350,000

Funding partners: Ballina Shire Council.

»» **Other actions completed or underway**

- Mangrove removal will once again occur prior to Christmas along the training wall and on the western foreshore adjacent to Compton Drive (juvenile mangroves and as per licence from Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries).
- Water testing and monitoring for recreational swimming quality under the Beachwatch Program commenced in November and occurs weekly.
- New toilet facilities at Pop Denison Park (completed).



»» **If you have any questions please contact:**

**Ballina Shire Council, Development and Environmental Health Group ph 6686 1210
View the Shaws Bay Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) on Council's website
ballina.nsw.gov.au (search Shaws Bay)**