

# Summary: Community Engagement Report Upgrade of Cudgen Foreshore Park & Ed Parker Rotary Park car parks



Above: Cudgen Foreshore Park car park, Sutherland Street, Kingscliff

The car parks at Cudgen Foreshore Park (pictured above) and Ed Parker Rotary Park are being upgraded. Both parks are located off Sutherland Street and provide important access to viewing opportunities and enjoyment of Cudgen Creek and its surrounds.

The draft concept plans for the car park upgrades were on public exhibition from 29 July to 26 August 2024. The community was invited to join Council staff at a Community Information Session on Saturday 10 August from 9 am to 11 am at Cudgen Foreshore Park to discuss ideas and provide feedback on the draft concept plans.

#### BACKGROUND

#### **Cudgen Foreshore Park**

At Cudgen Foreshore Park, and as part of the car park upgrade, Council proposed a phased plan for the rehabilitation and management of the reserve. This plan includes initially excluding some areas from vehicle access, undertaking rehabilitation efforts, and transitioning to natural barriers to manage vehicle movement through the park.

Council has faced ongoing issues with hooning behaviour in the park, which has led to significant environmental damage and safety concerns. Reckless driving has destroyed vegetation and wildlife habitats, causing extensive damage to turfed areas.

The impact of these activities necessitates the exclusion of vehicles in some areas during rehabilitation and repair efforts to restore the park to a safe and enjoyable state for the community. We will incorporate bollards, a mix of trees, mounded shrubs, plantings, and rocks to exclude vehicles. Over time, we propose to gradually remove some of the bollards and rocks as the trees grow strong enough to serve as natural barriers.

### What's proposed for Cudgen Foreshore Park

- Asphalt internal road and asphalt parking spaces
- Install rocks and bollards to manage vehicle movement
- Accessible parking bay
- Connecting footpaths to picnic facilities and the public toilet
- · New accessible shelter and picnic setting
- Installation of stormwater headwalls to help manage stormwater
- Installation of a rainwater garden to capture and absorb rainwater
- Speed humps for traffic calming
- Retain the existing Bush Stone Curlew nest and habitat area
- Additional tree planting
- Installation of aluminum access stairs (grant funds have been received through a separate program).

### **Ed Parker Rotary Park**

Ed Parker Rotary Park is located on the eastern side of Sutherland Street, Council proposes to asphalt the internal access road and some of the car parking areas, complete with line marking. Currently, only half of the access road and parking areas are asphalted, with the remainder consisting of road base, which often develops significant potholes, particularly after wet weather.

The proposed plan involves removing the central turning loop and creating a cul-de-sac at the northern end of the park. Sections of the loop road will be converted back to parkland, and new pathways and accessible parking spaces will enhance the recreational and aesthetic qualities of the park while improving traffic flow and accessibility.

### What's proposed for Ed Parker Park

- Redesign a section of the car park, asphalt internal road with a cul-de-sac at the northern end
  of the car park
- Asphalt car parking spaces on the easter side of the access road
- Concrete edging
- Connecting paths
- Install rocks and bollards to manage vehicle movement
- Accessible parking bay and connecting footpath
- Speed humps for traffic calming
- Additional tree planting



Above: Ed Parker Rotary Park car park

The car park projects are jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments through the Community Assets Program. Council has received \$594,000 for car park works at Cudgen Foreshore Park and a further \$429,000 for car park works at Ed Parker Rotary Park.

This report summarises the findings of the community survey (Section 1) and feedback gathered during the community information session (Section 2) and public exhibition period. The feedback provides valuable insights into the community's preferences and opinions, which will guide the final concept plans for the car parks.

Car park construction is scheduled for April 2025.

Visit https://www.yoursaytweed.com.au/cudgenforeshoreandedparkerparks to keep up to date with the project.

### **Communications and Engagement Approach**

	HOW WE ENGAGED	WHO WE ENGAGED
Your Say Tweed online portal	https://www.yoursaytweed.com.au/cudgenforeshoreandedparkerparks	Shire residents
Social media	Facebook post	Shire residents
Community survey	Residents were encouraged to view the draft concept plans and provide their feedback via a community survey, promoted in the local media, and in the Tweed Link. The survey opened from 29 July to 26 August 2024. Residents living within 200m of the parks received an A5 flyer advising the public exhibition period and the opportunity to provide feedback.	<ul><li>Shire residents</li><li>90 surveys responses</li></ul>
Community Information Session	A Community Information Session was held on Saturday 10 August from 9 am to 11 am to discuss the community's ideas and provide feedback on the draft plans.	Shire residents

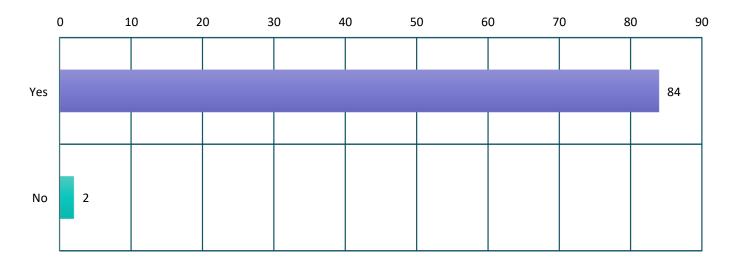


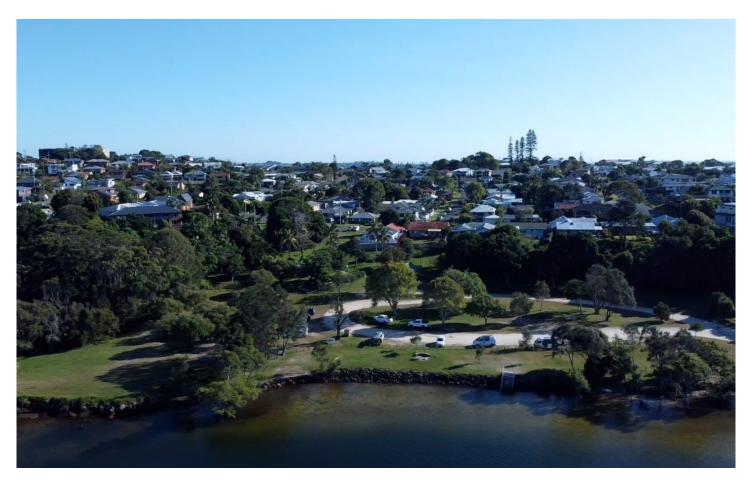
Section 1: What you said

### Respondents were asked if they use Cudgen Foreshore Park.

A total of 86 people responded to this question.

- 97% or 84 respondents answered 'Yes' they do use Cudgen Foreshore Park
- 3% or 2 respondents answered 'No' they do not use Cudgen Foreshore Park





### Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with the draft concept plan for Cudgen Foreshore Park car park upgrade.

A total of 87 people responded to this question.

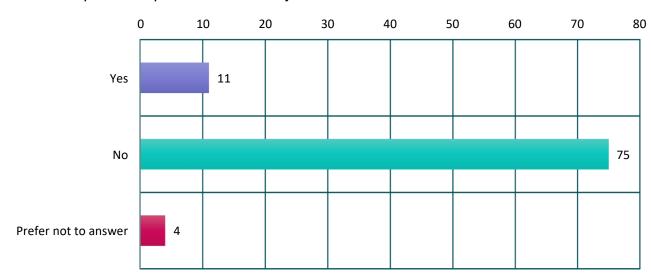
- 7% or 6 respondents said they were very unsatisfied with the draft concept plan
- 16% or 14 respondents said they were unsatisfied with the draft concept plan
- 18% or 16 respondents said they were neither satisfied nor unsatisfied with the draft concept plan
- 37% or 32 respondents said they were satisfied with the draft concept plan
- 22% or 19 respondents said they were very satisfied with the draft concept plan.



## Respondents were asked if they are living with a disability or are a carer of someone with a disability.

A total of 90 people responded to this question.

- 12% or 11 respondents identified as living with a disability or as a carer of someone with a disability
- 83% or 75 respondents did not identify as living with a disability or as a carer of someone with a disability
- 5% or 4 respondents preferred not to say.



## Respondents were asked if they had feedback on the draft concept plan for Cudgen Foreshore Park car park upgrade, the following comments were provided:

THEME	COMMENTS AND NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Support for the draft concept plan (26)	<ul> <li>The draft concept plan looks good/okay (6), will make parking and use easier, support the improvement of both car parks (1) and hope the plan helps to reduce the damage (3) and hooning behaviour (1), support for the bitumen seal and additional car parking spaces (1), have been waiting for this upgrade for years (1)</li> <li>Council must manage illegal camping (1)</li> <li>Thank you for cleaning up the park and the issues with overnight campers (1), support the safety improvements (2) and efforts to reduce the damage to environmental areas (2)</li> <li>Support for drainage improvements and the additional vegetation proposed (1), the upgrade will improve the park for locals and visitors (1)</li> <li>Support for reducing dust (2), and grading the access road (2)</li> <li>Support for access improvements (1)</li> </ul>
Parking and traffic (39)	<ul> <li>Restrict cars from the area if that is the problem, restricting vehicle would put an end to the issues (1), lock the park up when the toilets are locked at night to prevent antisocial behaviour, hooning and illegal camping (6), install a gate (1), limit parking and install bollards (1)</li> <li>The appeal of these parks is their undeveloped nature (1)</li> <li>Install CCTV to address illegal behaviour (3)</li> <li>The plan makes it easier for cars to damage the natural areas (1)</li> <li>Consider one way traffic flow through the park (1)</li> <li>The access road is not a pedestrian footpath, and it is not safe to walk on (2), and the area has got busier with more pedestrians since the hospital opened (1)</li> <li>Concerned about the number of car spaces, being not enough (2) causing cars to overflow onto Sutherland St and create a safety risk (1), on weekends and in school holidays, the parks are often overcrowded and car park all over the grass (1)</li> <li>The existing road is a goat track with more pot holes than the road (1)</li> <li>Any grassed areas that are open for parking will be abused (1)</li> <li>Picnic and walking areas should be vehicle free (1)</li> <li>Install speed limits and signs that advise vehicles to drive at walking pace only (1)</li> <li>Double the number of carparks to meet demand in holiday periods (1)</li> <li>Support the parking area near the toilets (1)</li> <li>Currently, the parking in each park is disorganised, especially away from the 'fence line' along the footpaths. Parking under the trees, where cars are close to the roots, is problematic (1)</li> <li>Support for asphalting the road, installing rocks and bollards (1)</li> <li>Adding more parking will encourage free camping and vagrants who already occupy the park at night, making it unsafe to walk through (1)</li> <li>The concept does not indicate the extent of informal parking allowed, which might be inadequate during busy periods (1)</li> <li>Confirm whether concrete edging/gutters will be installed (1)</li> </ul>

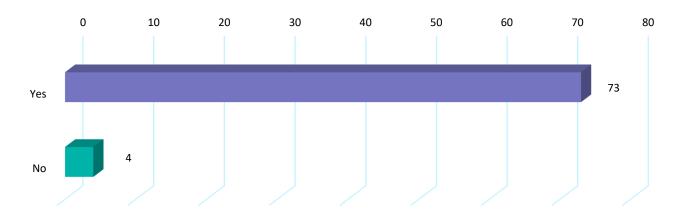
The speed humps should be closer together to prevent acceleration between humps (1), install more speed humps (1) Support for slowing traffic (1) and improving informal grassed parking areas (1), particularly those opposite the sandbag-protected area and current parking spaces. Wider car spaces are needed to accommodate sports equipment like kayaks, SUPs, bikes, strollers, and other bulky items without damaging neighbouring vehicles (1) Allow vehicles to reverse into the car parks to avoid unloading equipment on the road (1) Support for accessing the grassed areas for long vehicle parking or for vehicles with a trailer (1) Park Provide a small fenced off leash dog area (4), with shade cover (1), to facilities help protect small dogs (2), to protect wildlife (1). (23)The beach off leash area is not accessible (1) With increased visitation, please install 'dog on leash' signs and have rangers enforce this to protect bush stone-curlews and their habitat (1) Upgrade the park facilities in each park, provide the community with more modern facility (1) Install additional seating (2) and shaded picnic tables (1) drinking fountain Provide additional toilets (1) Protect the fishing spots on both sides of the bridge (1) Provide a playground for kids, barbeques and more family friendly areas (1), upgrade the existing playground to appeal to a wider age range (1), fix the existing barbeques (1) Install a cold shower at the toilet block to allow people to rinse off after swimming or even just a usable tap to wash hands (1), install an outdoor shower (2) **Pathways** Install a pedestrian/shared path to improve access and connect Cudgen (20)Foreshore Park to Sutherland St and Ed Parker Rotary Park (10), and connect to the coastal cycleway (to access Casuarina and Cabarita). pathways will prevent wear and tear on the park (1), provide a shared path linking Kingscliff High School and Vulcan St to the parks and connect to other boardwalks and cycle paths (1) When exiting the park on a bike, the right-hand turn onto the gravel road is very dangerous (1) Support for the new pathway on Vulcan Street, nice to see it being used by students and community. Extend the path through Cudgen Foreshore Park to Ed Parker Rotary Park (2), separate pedestrians and vehicles (2) Provide safe access along Sutherland Street, either along the road or via a path through the trees to the park. Existing paths are old or nonexistent, and walking down Moss St is difficult due to the narrow paths and fastmoving vehicles (1) Support for a path between the new asphalt road to the crossing point on Sutherland St (1) The concept does not address pedestrian safety, lacks connected paths, attention to pedestrian desire lines, and integration with existing routes to the high school, upstream foreshore, and Ed Parker Rotary Park. Many children and young adults use this park for recreation and commuting,

	and there is no integrated design to ensure their safety and convenience, especially as road sealing will increase traffic speeds (1)
Road safety (10)	<ul> <li>Install a zebra crossing on Sutherland St to ensure safe crossing between the two parks (6), the community has serious concerns for children's safety. Increased traffic on Sutherland Street makes it dangerous to cross with multiple children. The issue has been repeatedly reported to Council including the number of near misses involving children. A pedestrian crossing is essential for safety, as it's only a matter of time before someone is fatally injured (1). The pedestrian refuge has not improved safety, and Sutherland Street is becoming busier, raising serious safety concerns (2)</li> <li>Crossing Sutherland St at the current traffic island is extremely difficult due to constant traffic. As a family of five with three young children and a dog, it's very stressful for one adult to manage safely (1)</li> </ul>
Creek access, aluminium staircase and ramp (8)	<ul> <li>Install a small jetty for fishing, swimming, and kayaking (1)</li> <li>Consider using a more natural material instead of aluminum for the stairs (1)</li> <li>Install a ramp instead of more aluminum steps and improve access for people with disabilities (1)</li> <li>A ramp for kayak use would prevent erosion (1), design the area to be more kayak friendly (1)</li> <li>Ensure access is retained for kayaks entering the water (1)</li> <li>No support for reducing access to creek at the end of Sutherland St (1)</li> <li>The area for launching unpowered watercraft, like kayaks and canoes, has a gentle slope and a sandy bottom, making it ideal for this purpose. Access to this area must be maintained, including car parking for vehicles transporting the watercraft. Currently, parking is available on the grass adjacent to the launching area (1)</li> </ul>
No support for asphalting the access road and parking spaces (4)	<ul> <li>The plan is superficial and will ruin what is a nice, green family area (1)</li> <li>No support for sealed roads and car parking (2), will look like a Woollies car park (1)</li> </ul>
Address illegal camping (4)	<ul> <li>Enforce illegal camping (1), campers have been in the park for 3 weeks (1), Council rangers need to enforce the 11pm-7am parking curfew (1)</li> <li>Illegal campers poo in the bushes (1)</li> </ul>
Other (3)	<ul> <li>There is a problem with homelessness (1)</li> <li>How does the plan differ from what is there now (1)</li> <li>Manage the ant nests in grassed areas. After mowing, these nests become more visible and could be easily removed (1)</li> </ul>

### Respondents were asked if they use Ed Parker Rotary Park.

A total of 77 people responded to this question.

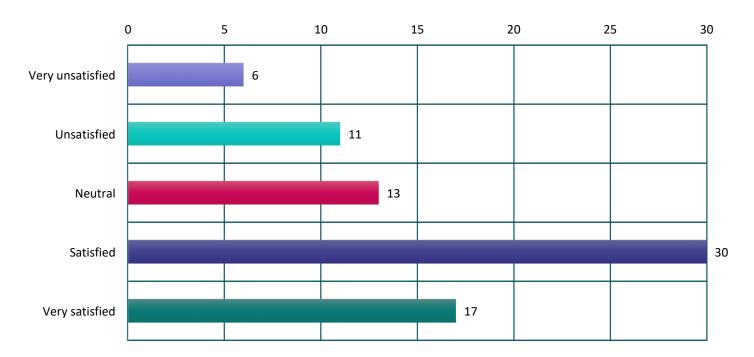
- 95% or 73 respondents answered 'Yes' they do use Ed Parker Rotary Park
- 5% or 4 respondents answered 'No' they do not use Ed Parker Rotary Park



### Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with the draft concept plan for Ed Parker Rotary Park car park upgrade.

A total of 77 people responded to this question.

- 8% or 6 respondents said they were very unsatisfied with the draft concept plan
- 14% or 11 respondents said they were unsatisfied with the draft concept plan
- 17% or 13 respondents said they were neither satisfied nor unsatisfied with the draft concept plan
- 39% or 30 respondents said they were satisfied with the draft concept plan
- 22% or 17 respondents said they were very satisfied with the draft concept plan



Respondents were asked if they had feedback on the draft concept plan for Ed Parker Rotary Park car park upgrade, the following comments were provided:

THEME	COMMENTS AND NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Support for the draft concept plan (22)	<ul> <li>Support for the upgrade, the upgrade is much needed (14), the upgrade is well overdue and will encourage use (1)</li> <li>Like to see an overlay of what is there now and what is proposed (1)</li> <li>The plan addresses water access, parking, and accessibility issues while also allowing access to most of the green space for parking and picnic use (1)</li> <li>Support for safety improvements and reducing environmental damage (1)</li> <li>Great to see some action to curb hooning behaviour (1)</li> <li>Support for drainage improvements and additional vegetation proposed (1), the upgrade will be an improvement for locals and visitors (1)</li> <li>The park is a lovely family spot (1)</li> </ul>
Access road and car parking (16)	<ul> <li>Support for asphalting the access road (1), parking is adequate too (1)</li> <li>Provide plenty of car parking (1), there is enough space for car parking (1)</li> <li>Retain the turning circle within the reserve and increase parking closer to the road (1)</li> <li>Concerned the public may park their vehicles on the cud-le-sac and this will block driveway access for residents and access to the building which accommodates the fishing club and the surf club. Considered no stopping with line marking to restrict parking in this location (1)</li> <li>Maximise parking near the surf club and fishing club building, this is the most used area of the park by locals (1)</li> <li>Hoping the plan prevents vehicles from parking on the grassed picnic areas (1)</li> <li>The access road is at times a goat track, with more pot holes than the road (1)</li> <li>Concerned about the number of car spaces, not being enough causing cars to overflow onto Sutherland Street and create a safety risk, on weekends and in school holidays the parks are often overcrowded, with cars parking all over the grass (1)</li> <li>Caravans and campervans often use these areas before and after checking into local caravan parks. Without designated parking spaces for larger vehicles, they will occupy several spots (1)</li> <li>Restrict cars from the area if that is the problem, restricting vehicles would put an end to the issues, lock the park up, when the toilets are locked at night, lock the park too and install a gate (1)</li> <li>The cul-de-sac is too long and will result in traffic congestion from failed searches when at peak demand. There should be an intermediate turnaround opportunity, and a dedicated drop-off zone created for unloading passengers and watercraft near the beach access points (1)</li> <li>Currently, the parking areas in each park are disorganised, especially away from the 'fence line' along the footpaths. Parking under the trees, where cars are close to the tree roots, is problematic (1)</li> </ul>

	<ul> <li>The dust from the hooning vehicles spoils the atmosphere (1)</li> <li>Install "No Stopping" yellow line markings to restrict parking at the culde-sac and in front of driveways (1)</li> </ul>
Park facilities (12)	<ul> <li>Provide additional toilets (1)</li> <li>Protect the fishing spots on both sides of the bridge (1)</li> <li>Install 'dog on leash' signs (1), consider a fenced off leash dog area (1)</li> <li>Provide more seating (1) and shaded picnic tables (2)</li> <li>Provide a drinking fountain (1)</li> <li>Support for a shower (1)</li> <li>Install a children's playground (2)</li> <li>Upgrade the park and provide the community with modern facilities (1)</li> </ul>
Road safety (7)	<ul> <li>Provide safe access along Sutherland St, either along the road or via a path through the trees to the park. Existing paths are old or nonexistent, and walking down Moss Street is difficult due to narrow paths and fast-moving vehicles (1)</li> <li>Provide a safer crossing point for pedestrians between Cudgen Foreshore Park &amp; Ed Parker Rotary Park (2)</li> <li>Consider a pedestrian crossing on Sutherland St between the two parks, it is very dangerous for pedestrians (1)</li> <li>Buses and vehicles drive too fast up these narrow streets, consider one way traffic control (1)</li> <li>The community has serious concerns for children's safety and Council is not taking it seriously, there are so many near misses (1)</li> <li>Install a pedestrian crossing on Sutherland St. The pedestrian refuge is not safe, pedestrians must run across the road as there is always a constant stream of traffic (1)</li> </ul>
No support for asphalting the car park and parking spaces (6)	<ul> <li>The upgrade is superficial and will ruin what is a nice and green family area (1)</li> <li>Fix the access road but leave the rest of the car park as is (1)</li> <li>No support for turning the park into a large car park (3), it will look like a Woollies car park (1)</li> </ul>
Creek access, aluminium staircase and ramp (5)	<ul> <li>Improve access to the creek (2), for swimming and kayaking (1)</li> <li>Manage creek access and erosion (1)</li> <li>Install 'dogs on leash' signs near the creek (1)</li> </ul>
Pathways (4)	<ul> <li>Install a pedestrian/cycle path to improve access and connect Cudgen Foreshore Park to Ed Parker Rotary Park and to the creek (1), provide more dedicated cycleways (1)</li> <li>Provide a footpath at the northbound end of Sutherland St. Kingscliff Hill residents currently lack direct access to Ed Parker Rotary Park and Cudgen Foreshore Park. There was once access from Sutherland St near Viking Street, but it no longer exists. Adding a footpath on the northbound lane would restore this connection and continue the good work done on Orient Street (1)</li> <li>Pedestrian movements between Cudgen Foreshore Park &amp; Ed Parker Rotary Park should be formalised, convenient, safe &amp; accessible (1)</li> </ul>

Design (2)	<ul> <li>Remove the loop road, grass the area and clear the non-native paperbark and pine trees to create space for family activities like soccer/football, cricket, kite flying etc. There is currently no open space on the Kingscliff Foreshore for these activities and residents of Kingscliff Hill do not want to have to travel to North Kingscliff to Walter Peate Oval to have fun family outdoor games (1)</li> <li>Place speed humps closer together to prevent hooning (1)</li> </ul>
Other (7)	<ul> <li>Illegal campers move from one park to the other park to appear they have not stayed overnight and then move back again (1)</li> <li>Spend money on other parks that need upgrading or put the funds towards the roads we drive on daily (1)</li> <li>Provide environmental information to the public so no one is left guessing (1)</li> <li>Ed Parker was a good man. It is nice this park is named after him (1)</li> <li>Jumping off the bridge is dangerous (1)</li> <li>Ants are a concern here too, but not as bad as Cudgen Foreshore Park (1)</li> <li>Remove the container that has been placed by Council in Ed Parker Rotary Park, near the toilet block. There was no development application/ approval for this placement. The container, which is often covered in graffiti adversely impacts the amenity of the park and surrounding parklands and waterways. Alternatively store the boats regularly used adjacent to the Surf Life Saving Training building or the owners could take them home after use (1)</li> </ul>





**Section 2**: At the Community Information Session held on Saturday 10 August 2024 in the park, residents were invited to complete a survey. Key discussions on the day included the following:

### **Key points - General:**

- Improve road safety at Sutherland Street.
- Add a footpath linking Cudgen Foreshore Park and Ed Parker Park, with a safer crossing point at Sutherland Street.

### **Cudgen Foreshore Park**

- Address pedestrian access through the reserve and review pedestrian desire lines.
- Provide a pathway from the access road through the park to Sutherland St in the eastern corner.
- The bridge between the school and Cudgen Foreshore Park is in poor condition and requires repair or replacement.
- Remove non-native trees and replace them with native species.
- The back section of the reserve adjacent to the toilets retains water and requires a channel and concrete culvert to address the issue.
- Provide oversized parking spaces for drivers of campervans and larger vehicles to enjoy the park.
- Improve park maintenance and repair community assets rather than removing them when vandalized, aging, or damaged.
- Re-evaluate the necessity of asphalting the parking areas on the foreshore and near the toilets. There is less support for sealing certain sections of the car park to reduce the amount of asphalt.
- Address issues with malfunctioning barbeques.
- Add a shower at the toilets (with hot water).
- Address the ant problem in the park.

#### **Ed Parker Rotary Park:**

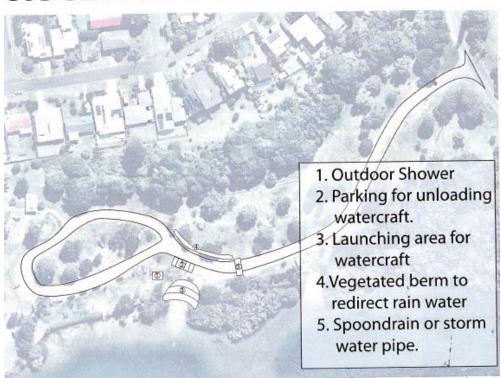
- Install a shower at the toilets, with hot water.
- Address issues with malfunctioning barbeques.
- Address the ant problem in the park.
- Widen the shared path in front of the building that accommodates the fishing club/surf club service and introduce line-marking to reduce conflicts between road users.

### Late submission for Cudgen Foreshore Park with diagram attached

### **Key points**

- Provide an outdoor shower;
- Provide parking in the area preferred by watercraft users, and relocate the proposed sealed car parks to this location.
- At the watercraft launch site, consider excavating and profiling the area to create a gentle slope (or tiered approach) toward the water, using geofabric in the intertidal zone. The steps may not be necessary and are not the best option here;
- The proposed vegetated berm may not effectively manage the high volume of water flow, which could result in washout of the roadway. Consider extending the vegetated berm along the upper roadside to divert water away; see the diagram for the location;
- If the berm were constructed, the road surface would need to be protected by a spoon drain or stormwater pipe.

### **CUDGEN FORESHORE PARK - FEEDBACK**



- amenity provided.
- Parking. Watercraft users prefer to use this area as it has the easiest access to water. These spaces can be reallocated from others already proposed elsewhere.
- 3. Watercraft Launching Area. This area should be excavated and profiled to a gentle slope (or tiered) towards the water using geofabric in the intertidal zone. The proposed steel steps may not be necessary and are not the best option here.
- 1. Outdoor shower. Usually the first 4. Vegetated Berm. The proposed Rain Water Garden may not deal with the occasional high volumes of water causing washouts on the new roadway. Another solution could be to extend the existing vegetative berm along the upper roadside to divert water away from Areas 1 & 2. 5. Spoondrain. If the berm was constructed the roadsurface would need to be protected by a spoon drain or stormwater pipe.