

# Hinterland Place Plan Engagement Report

Planning for your place





# Hinterland Place Plan

## Engagement snapshot

The place planning process aims to capture the character of the unique communities within Port Stephens and to give voice to their residents. By giving ownership to the community of the roadmap for the future, it not only enhances their connection to place but also ensures that the priorities and actions within the plan are created by those who it will impact. The Hinterland Place Plan is an action-oriented strategy informed and guided by community input.

### What we've been up to



**Community workshops**

18 attendees



**Drop ins**

100+ attendees



**Surveys + comments**

376 recorded



**Direct emails**

4000+ sent



**Social media**

17272 reached

### Top 5 Hinterland Liveability Index care factors



**76%**

Elements of natural environment

(LGA 71%)



**71%**

Sense of neighbourhood safety

(LGA 54%)



**66%**

Sense of personal safety

(LGA 51%)



**62%**

Protection of the natural environment

(LGA 53%)



**61%**

General condition of public open space

(LGA 62%)



## Top things we've been hearing

Access to the top of the Riverbank [Wallalong] would actually be a picturesque and enjoyable experience

Cycleway connection would be great along Raymond Terrace - all the roads are deadly! Bike riding is difficult especially with kids - even dog walking is problematic

Hinton and Woodville need historical interpretative signage

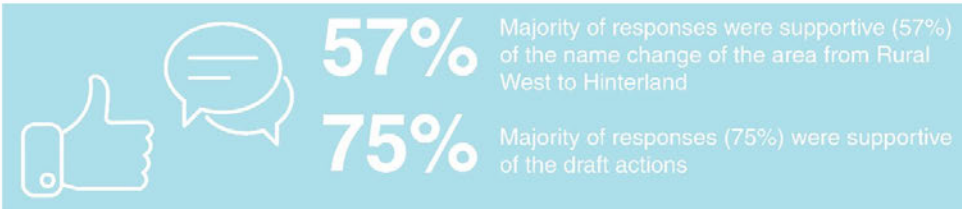
### Top priorities Hinterland (Liveability)

Walking/jogging/bike paths  
 Spaces suitable for specific activities or special interests  
 General condition of public open space  
 Protection of the natural environment  
 Landscaping and natural elements

### Expanded via the workshops

Better connection between townships  
 Greater access to the rivers and riversides for leisure and commercial activities  
 Beautification of towns and parks  
 Protect area from overdevelopment, clearing  
 Improve and enhance natural areas

## Check in survey



## Project timeline



# Contents



	<b>Page</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Communication and engagement methods</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Key engagement findings – What the community told us</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Appendix A:</b> Liveability Index survey (Sep 2020)	<b>18</b>
<b>Appendix B:</b> Workshop 1 (3 Nov 2021)	<b>20</b>
<b>Appendix C:</b> Workshop 2 (10 Nov 2021)	<b>35</b>
<b>Appendix D:</b> Check-in survey responses (Mar- Apr 2023)	<b>39</b>
<b>Appendix E:</b> Comments from drop-ins (Mar- Apr 2023)	<b>72</b>
<b>Appendix F:</b> Written submissions and online survey feedback - public exhibition	<b>76</b>

## Context and engagement approach

Place Plans are a new way of planning for the growth of the unique communities across Port Stephens. Place Plans provide a local filter on the Port Stephens Local Strategic Planning Statement and other strategic documents to create actions which improve the liveability and wellbeing of our communities.

Place plans will capture the character of our unique communities, including their values and priorities and document this into an action orientated roadmap for the future. Place plans are intended to be developed from the 'bottom-up' providing the community with a tangible document that incorporates their collective ideas. It's an action-oriented strategy that enhances a community's connection to their place.





The Hinterland Place Plan covers the rural areas in the west of Port Stephens – including the suburbs of Woodville, Wallalong, Hinton, Seaham, East Seaham, Osterley, Butterwick, Duns Creek, Eagleton and has worked through a four phased engagement approach:

- Phase 1** Involved the collection of the Liveability Index data collection. Completed September 2020.
- Phase 2** Was a targeted and collaborative engagement approach and allowed an opportunity to 'deep dive' into the Liveability data. It also provided a chance for local residents, business and other stakeholders to identify future vision and actions for the place. Completed November 2021.
- Phase 3** Involved testing of the draft key themes and actions with the broader community. Completed May 2023.
- Phase 4** Involved public exhibition of the draft document for public comment for a 4 week period (7 August to 4 September 2023)

The key objectives of all phases of engagement are to:






-  **Increase community awareness** of the development of the Hinterland Place Plan
-  **Inform the key stakeholders and community** about upcoming engagement opportunities in the Hinterland
-  **Seek feedback** on the draft Place Plan and how community priorities might have changed
-  **Identify and report on** community preferences to inform the Hinterland Place Plan

# Communication and engagement methods

ENGAGEMENT METHODS		
ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	RESULTS
<p>Phase 1</p> 	<p>Liveability Index</p>	<p>146 surveys for The Hinterland (previously identified as Rural West) area</p>
<p><b>Liveability Index reports</b></p>		
<p>Phase 2</p> 	<p>Workshops investigated the outcomes of the Liveability Index survey and provided more detail to explore ideas and solutions.</p> <p>Workshop 1: 3 November 2021</p>	
<p><b>Community Workshops</b></p>	<p>Workshop 2: 10 November 2021</p>	<p>18 participants</p>
<p>Phase 3</p> <p><b>Check in Survey and drop-ins</b></p>	<p>Survey was open from 24 April 2023 to 15 May 2023</p> <p>Drop in on 29 April 2023 Woodville Coffee Cubby 8:30-10:30am</p> <p>Drop in on 5 May 2023 at Seaham Shop 2 - 4:30pm</p>	<p>~100 people across both drop ins</p> <p>166 surveys completed</p> <p>53 social pinpoint comments</p>
<p>Phase 4</p> 	<p><b>Pop-up one:</b> Brandon Park, Seaham 10 August 2023</p> <p><b>Pop-up two:</b> Bowthorne Park, Wallalong 19 August 2023</p> <p><b>Pop-up three:</b> Hinton Markets 27 August 2023</p>	<p>100 people visted</p> <p>45 people visited</p> <p>40 people visited</p>
<p><b>Hinterland pop-ups</b></p>	<p><b>Total visitors</b></p>	<p><b>185 total visitors</b></p>
<p>Phase 4</p>  <p><b>Public exhibition survey</b></p>	<p>To make it easier to lodge a submission, a short survey was created to help us understand the community's opinion about the draft Hinterland Place Plan, specifically the proposed actions in the Plan that aim to make Hinterland a better place to Live, Work, and Recreate</p>	<p>8 surveys completed</p>
<p>Phase 4</p> <p><b>Public exhibition submissions</b></p>	<p>Emails, documents and reports received by council through direct channels and correspondence sent directly to council officers.</p>	<p>3 submissions received</p>

## COMMUNICATIONS METHODS

### COMMUNICATION METHODS

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	RESULTS
 <b>Project webpage</b>	Phase 3 April 2023 Dedicated Hinterland Place website page <b><a href="#">/developments/place-plans/hinterland-place-plan</a></b> Phase 3 only visits 24 April 2023 to 16 May 2023	491 visits
	Phase 2 General Place Plan page <b><a href="#">/developments/place-plans</a></b> From October 2021 to May 2023	588 visits
 <b>Have Your Say page</b>	Have Your Say page for Place Plan early recruitment for engagement phases 1 and 2. <a href="https://haveyoursay.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/planning-for-your-place">https://haveyoursay.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/planning-for-your-place</a>	965 visits
 <b>Direct emails</b>	EHQ members direct email and newsletter PSToday on 19/8/21 Direct emails via <a href="mailto:converse@portstephens.nsw.gov.au">converse@portstephens.nsw.gov.au</a> to identified known stakeholders and interest groups.	4000+ reach
<b>Social media</b> 	Phase 3 April 2023 Port Stephens Council Facebook Boosted post includes <u>video</u>	Social media 17272 reached 34 shares
	Phase 2 September - October Port Stephens Council Facebook Advertisements ran from 27 August to 8 September 2021 and 8 October to 27 October 2021	2 posts 6959 reached 122 link clicks
 <b>Media Release</b>	A media release was issued on 18 August 2021 <i>Plans that put people and places first</i>	Published in the Port Stephens Examiner and News of the Area

# Key engagement findings – What the community told us

## Phase 1: Liveability Index

The top priorities identified in the Liveability Index for the Hinterland area included:

Celebrating and protecting the strengths of the area:

- Sense of personal safety (for all ages, genders, day or night)
- Overall visual character of the neighbourhood
- Physical comfort (including noise, smells, temperature)
- Elements of natural environment (natural features, views, vegetation, topography, water, wildlife etc)
- Sense of neighbourhood safety (from crime, traffic, pollution)

Improve underperforming areas highlighted as follows:

- Walking/jogging/bike paths that connect housing to communal amenity (shops, parks)
- Spaces suitable for specific activities or special interests (entertainment, exercise, dog park, BBQs)
- General condition of public open space (street trees, footpaths, parks)
- Protection of the natural environment
- Landscaping and natural elements (street trees, planting, water features)

See Appendix A for full details.



## Phase 2: Workshops – see Appendix B and C for full details

The key engagement component for Phase 2 was 2 x community workshops. These workshops were facilitated by Matthew Endacott of Wren Consulting and included the following:

- **Introduction and education** - building rapport, building understanding of scope, setting the scene and presenting Liveability data to guide the session, and what makes a great place.
- **Immersion and detailed exploration of place** - priority places, issues and deep dive into local values
- **Ideas generation** - quick wins and big picture moves - actions for both Council and community leaders. Identification of barriers to delivery and how we can deliver.
- **Action planning** - actions planning of some of the quick wins and big picture moves identified as part of the workshop.

## Key Findings

- A diverse mix of ages and genders were represented in the workshops
- The group was passionate and community-minded with great pride in their place. It was clear participants want to protect the natural environment and wildlife corridors from overdevelopment and clearing, while leveraging off the natural assets for greater outdoor recreation opportunities e.g. mountain biking, riverside camping, canoeing
- Connections and access was a common theme in both workshops. Participants want better pathway connections for walking and cycling within town centres and across townships e.g. Seaham to Raymond Terrace; Hinton to Wallalong. In addition, participants also spoke about feeling unsafe for themselves and for local children being forced to walk on high-speed and truck-heavy roads due to a lack of footpaths. It should also be noted that participants didn't necessarily want traditional concrete footpaths and suggested sand or bush trails were more in keeping with the local character
- Participants spoke of wanting greater access to the river and riverside for leisure (canoeing, walking, picnicking) and for commercial purposes. Participants compared the potential here to similar to that of neighbouring Morpeth
- Beautification of towns through walking trails, local history signage and tree planting were suggested ways in which the rural towns of Hinton, Wallalong, Woodville and Seaham could be elevated
- It should be acknowledged that the Place Planning workshop series was designed to both learn from the community and understand their vision and priorities for their place, as well as build capacity within a group of passionate community members to encourage community-led action into the future. As such, not all activities in the workshops were designed to gain information and community insight for Council purposes, but also to build capacity and networking amongst the group.

### Phase 3: Check-in survey and ideas generation

The approach for Phase 3 consisted of a survey seeking to confirm the direction of the draft place plan, provide feedback on the draft actions, as well as providing an opportunity for further ideas generation. This engagement also included two drop-in sessions.

The check-in phase for the Hinterland Place Plan used a wider approach in comparison to what was used for the Medowie Place Plan. This wider approach was decided upon due to the spread of suburbs that this plan covers and also because of the break between when the workshops were held in Phase 2 and the development of the draft actions in Phase 3.

The survey received 166 responses. Full details are available in Appendix D.

Key survey findings include

- Q1: Majority of responses were supportive on the name change of the area from Rural West to Hinterland (57% supportive, 28% unsure, 15% unsupportive).
- Q2: See Appendix D for full list of comments (46 comments).
- Q3: Majority of responses were supportive of the draft Economy actions:
  - Create pop up experiences (67% supportive, 23% unsure, 5% unsupportive)
  - Agritourism mentoring program (73% supportive, 23% unsure, 4% unsupportive)
  - We're here to help (63% supportive, 31% unsure, 6% unsupportive)
  - Deliver an annual event (76% supportive, 17% unsure, 7% unsupportive)
  - DA incentive rebate (60% supportive, 28% unsure, 13% unsupportive)
- Q4: See Appendix D for full list of Economy action suggestions (49 comments)
- Q5: Majority of responses were supportive of the draft Character actions:
  - Celebrate local character (77% supportive, 17% unsure, 6% unsupportive)
  - Create a brand identity (70% supportive, 20% unsure, 10% unsupportive)
  - Beautifying village centres (87% supportive, 10% unsure, 3% unsupportive)
  - Connection with your community (87% supportive, 10% unsure, 3% unsupportive)
- Q6: See Appendix D for full list of Character action suggestions (35 comments)
- Q7: Majority of responses were supportive of the draft Management and Safety actions:

- Establish a Hinterland 'Town Team'  
(65% supportive, 28% unsure, 7% unsupportive)
- Connect with neighbours  
(82% supportive, 13% unsure, 5% unsupportive)
- Establish a Community Resilience Network  
(74% supportive, 20% unsure, 6% unsupportive)
- Start with yes  
(62% supportive, 31% unsure, 7% unsupportive)
- Has it worked?  
(45% supportive, 47% unsure, 7% unsupportive)
- Q8: See Appendix D for full list of Management and Safety action suggestions (31 comments)
- Q9: Majority of responses were supportive of the draft Movement actions:
  - Improving access to interesting places  
(83% supportive, 11% unsure, 6% unsupportive)
  - Options for connection  
(79% supportive, 13% unsure, 8% unsupportive)
  - Walking and cycleway paths  
(82% supportive, 10% unsure, 8% unsupportive)
  - Keeping our kids safe  
(84% supportive, 9% unsure, 7% unsupportive)
- Q10: See Appendix D for full list of Movement action suggestions (45 comments)
- Q11: Majority of responses were supportive of the draft Environment actions:
  - Promote the sustainable conservation of landmarks  
(87% supportive, 9% unsure, 4% unsupportive)
  - Preserving the waters of The Hinterland  
(85% supportive, 10% unsure, 5% unsupportive)
  - Protection and enhancement of wildlife corridors  
(88% supportive, 8% unsure, 4% unsupportive)
  - Encouraging sustainable gardening  
(84% supportive, 11% unsure, 5% unsupportive)
- Q12: See Appendix D for full list of Environment action suggestions (27 comments)
- Q13: Majority of responses were supportive of the draft Open Space actions:
  - Where the rivers run  
(83% supportive, 11% unsure, 6% unsupportive)
  - A shared space for a better place  
(75% supportive, 17% unsure, 8% unsupportive)
- Q14: See Appendix D for full list of Open Space action suggestions (33 comments)
- Q15: Do you have any final comments (43 comments)
- Q16: Contact information (98 comments)

- Q17: I am interested in learning more about the Hinterland Town Teams – 60 people said yes and the remainder (106) skipped this question.

Full details see Appendix D.

At the drop ins people were encouraged to complete the survey and were also invited to make comments on sticky notes and these were recorded in Appendix E.

### Survey and Drop-in comment analysis

Overall the responses to the survey questions were generally well supported with an average of 75% supportive across all of the questions. Some of the actions needed more information with a high ‘neutral/unsure/need more information’ score to help answer the survey effectively.

To address the themes in the comments of both the survey and the drop-in comments we’ve coded them primarily against the actions above. This coding helps us quickly determine if other great action suggestions can be reviewed for inclusion in the draft Place Plan.

Some of the common comments and suggestions as per the coding assigned include:

#### **Clearer understanding of the function of a place plan (coded: More information required, misinterpretation)**

There was a clear lack of trust in Council represented across many of the responses to retain the rural character of the Hinterland area. There was also an overwhelming fear of an ‘unconsidered’ overdevelopment of the area.

Comments indicated that there was a need for clearer understanding and more education about the function of a place plan and Council in general.

These comments are totalled as follows:

Survey Q2	5 comments
Survey Q4	14 comments
Survey Q6	11 comments
Survey Q8	8 comments
Survey Q10	8 comments
Survey Q12	8 comments
Survey Q14	4 comments
Survey Q15	14 comments
Drops ins	5 comments
<b>Total</b>	<b>69 comments</b>

Example comments

1. *A lot of TALK! What we need is complete and detailed precinct planning so we know our way ahead, as many residents are now being priced out by above average valuations creating unaffordable rate increases. All your programs are short term - we need long term solutions*

- covering planning alterations on a whole of area basis to create the new environmentally sensitive planned precincts required by the rapidly advancing future. These changes should be led by Council initiative, not await developer interest, and address the diversity of ownership and physical characteristics. If you wish to address ECONOMY, residents need the security of concrete and detailed planning for the future. Use planning for the Ralstons Road area as an example of what can be achieved if the effort is applied. [Source Q4]*
2. *My main concern is that council will move to turn the 'hinterland' into another Thornton or Aberglassyn with mid and high density residential development. The whole appeal of the area is it's nature and rural aspect. [Source Q4]*
  3. *Changes to planning approvals/planning incentives does not have a good history in the hinterland. We're proud of the natural and rural feel, and do not want that to change. Anything that lessens the rural appeal will not be supported, and given the relative lack of transparency and complicated nature of DAs, I do not support anything that would make it easier to increase developments beyond existing controls [Source Q15]*
  4. *Totally support the development, promotion and maintenance of the unique peaceful rural environment that the area encompasses, Can't afford to lose that due short sighted opportunistic developments that provide no true benefit to the area and long term degradation of the area [Source Q15]*
  5. *Flood mounds – why are these being approved? [Source Drop in comments]*

### **Getting around safely for all is a priority in this area! (Coded: Getting around safely (roads))**

There was a strong focus on improving the road network not just the pedestrian or cycling network. The action around 'keeping our kids safe' had a high level of support of 84.48% however there was some commentary around making sure it was not only our kids being kept safe. Also, some of the draft actions were seen as superfluous and that Council should concentrate on delivering essential services such as roads.

These comments have been totalled as follows:

Survey Q4	5 comments
Survey Q6	2 comments
Survey Q8	5 comments
Survey Q10	9 comments
Survey Q15	7 comments
Drops ins	8 comments
<b>Total</b>	<b>36 comments</b>

#### Example comments

1. *Not just kids being kept safe, everyone! [Source Q10]*
2. *Cycleways on the regional roads with trucks and all the quarry trucks is ridiculous [Source Q10]*
3. *It all sounds a bit like putting lipstick on a pig. Fix up the roads first. East Seaham Road and Italia Road are horrendous. If you want people to come, they need to be able to drive their cars without losing their diff. [Source Q15]*
4. *What can be done about the truck movement and danger to our community – we went from 47 trucks to over 150 trucks each year – the issue is getting worse and no one is doing anything about it ie. Brandy Hill quarry, Seaham Battery etc [Source Drop in comments]*

## **Advocacy of the use of non-Council controlled land for leisure activities (coded: Advocacy of the use of non-Council land)**

Comments indicated that there was a strong focus for Council to advocate for public access to non-Council-controlled land for leisure activities including the rivers. Strongest response was from Q14 which was focused on open space.

These comments have been totalled as follows:

Survey Q2	5 comments
Survey Q4	2 comments
Survey Q10	2 comments
Survey Q12	3 comments
Survey Q14	18 comments
Survey Q15	1 comments
Drops ins	1 comments
<b>Total</b>	<b>32 comments</b>

### Example comments

1. *More focus on the state forests and national parks for space, bbqs, tables, maps , mountain biking, hiking [Source Q14]*
2. *Bring back access to areas that have been closed, eg. Seaham Weir, Hunter/Paterson River Junction. [Source Q14]*
3. *Absolutely love the idea of more connection with rivers. Allow canoe hire business, segway tours along the levee, a place where people could swim their horses, cafes & picnic spots with water views. Maybe an annual (novelty) raft race from Seaham to Raymond Terrace. [Source Q14]*
4. *Look at private land owners / reserve and working with the likes of HWC to open up corridors for people to us so they can get bikes, people and horses off the roads (80KM zone) [Source Drop in comments]*

## **Recognition of the indigenous history of the area (coded: Indigenous recognition)**

There were quite a few comments regarding better recognition of the indigenous culture of the area in the Place Plan.

These comments have been totalled as follows:

Survey Q2	5 comments
Survey Q6	2 comments
Survey Q14	1 comments
Survey Q15	1 comments
Drops ins	1 comments
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 comments</b>

### Example comments:

1. *I'd prefer an appropriate name reflecting indigenous culture and heritage [Survey Q2]*
2. *A suitable Aboriginal name. Why not Wallalong? (Wollalaghn - meaning flat near a river or creek. The key feature of your Hinterland is that it is dominated by floodplains. ) It was a gathering place for large numbers of people around the former Lake Paterson, and was an*

- initiation site (colonial records of circles near junction of Butterwick and Clarencetown roads;*  
*b) a name that acknowledges the area's outstanding farming heritage, beginning with John Tucker Junior's establishment of Albion Farm at Woodville in 1812 - the first free Australian-born settler in the entire Hunter Region, and the first outside the Sydney Basin. [Survey Q2]*
3. *No mention of Indigenous history or dual names for important places. [Survey Q14]*

## **Future engagement recommendations**

Due to the specific engagement approach for this phase of the development of the draft Hinterland place plan it meant that there were a lot of responses from people who had not been involved in phase 2 of the place plan development. In our approach during this phase of engagement, we relied heavily on social media rather than direct emails to previous participants which meant that a lot of people didn't have any background about place plans in general. More education around the function of a place plan is required.

Despite this the level of engagement was extremely high and there was a significant amount of thoughtful feedback received.

## **Phase 4 - Public exhibition findings**

### **Submissions and survey completion**

Public exhibition allowed the opportunity for community members to submit responses to the draft Hinterland Place Plan. A survey was also created in Survey Monkey to collate community feedback as an alternate option to the written submissions. Unlike the check-in survey from Phase 3, this survey was not targeted at previously engaged residents but instead sought input from all community members and interested parties.

The survey sought feedback on specific actions outlined in the Hinterland Place Plan and whether or not the community supported or opposed them. It also provided the opportunity for respondents to leave more detailed comments on the actions.

Council received 3 written submissions whilst 8 community members completed the online survey. This demonstrates initial phases of engagement with the community were extensive and productive from the outset of the Hinterland Place Plan with limited submissions received during the public exhibition period. The submissions received solidified the draft actions and themes and did not generate any new actions.

### **Community Pop-ups**

Council staff attended three community events in the Hinterland during the public exhibition period. Members from the Engagement, and Vibrant Places teams set up a stall at the Seaham Netball Club at Brandon Park, Seaham Bowthorne Football

Club at Bowthorne Park Wallalong, and Hinton markets in order to provide information and answer questions from interested community members.

The stalls had maps, large copies of the Place Plan, and information handouts that linked to the online survey. The feedback from the community was predominantly positive and not all related to the Hinterland Place Plan, however it did provide valuable insight into how the proposed actions might affect local residents and more importantly how they can get involved with delivering these actions moving forward.

The overall support for the draft place plan and related actions were positive with respondents happy with the outlook of improving the liveability status of the Hinterland.

For a list of questions and the response data, see **Appendix F**.



# Appendices

**Appendix A: Phase 1:** Liveability Index survey (Sep 2020)

**Appendix B: Phase 2** Workshops 1 (3 Nov 2021)

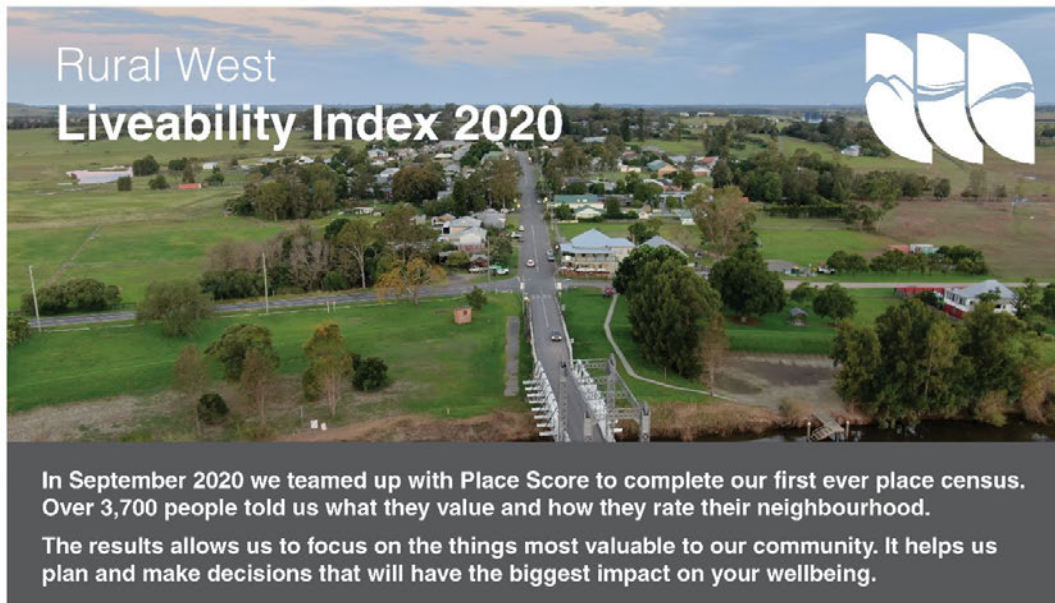
**Appendix C: Phase 2** Workshops 2 (10 Nov 2021)

**Appendix D: Phase 3** Check-in survey (Mar-April 2023)

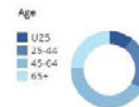
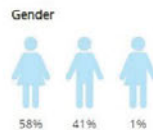
**Appendix E: Phase 3** Comments from drop-ins (Mar-April 2023)

**Appendix F: Phase 4** Written submissions and online survey  
feedback - public exhibition period (7 Aug-4 Sept 2023)

# Appendix A - Liveability Index survey



**146**  
responses from  
Rural West



**Liveability is simply what a place is like to live in — a liveable place is a healthy place.**

Liveability is influenced by safety, the natural environment, infrastructure, accessibility, things to do, attractiveness and inclusivity.

Rural West



Port Stephens



National Average



## OUR TOP 5 RURAL WEST VALUES

**These are the things most important to Rural West residents in their ideal neighbourhood:**






- Elements of natural environment — 71%
- General condition of public open space (street trees, footpaths, parks) — 62%
- Walking/jogging/bike paths that connect housing to communal amenity (shops, parks) — 55%
- Sense of neighbourhood safety (from crime, traffic, pollution) — 54%
- Locally owned and operated businesses — 54%

In the Rural West your ideal neighbourhood has:

- locally owned and operated businesses that provide the community with their daily needs
- well maintained and managed public domain; footpaths, parks, roads and other public assets
- easy to access shared community amenities, like the local shops, on foot or bike

## OUR STRENGTHS

**These are the things you care about most and say are performing well. We must continue to celebrate and protect these.**

-  Sense of personal safety (for all ages, genders, day or night)
-  Overall visual character of the neighbourhood
-  Physical comfort (including noise, smells, temperature)
-  Elements of natural environment (natural features, views, vegetation, topography, water, wildlife etc)
-  Sense of neighbourhood safety (from crime, traffic, pollution)

## OUR LIVEABILITY PRIORITIES

**These are the things most important to you and are underperforming. We must work to improve these.**

-  Walking/jogging/bike paths that connect housing to communal amenity (shops, parks)
-  Spaces suitable for specific activities or special interests (entertainment, exercise, dog park, BBQs)
-  General condition of public open space (street trees, footpaths, parks)
-  Protection of the natural environment
-  Landscaping and natural elements (street trees, planting, water features)
-  Evidence of recent public investment (roads, parks, schools)
-  Access and safety of walking, cycling and/or public transport (signage, paths, lighting)
-  Quality of public space (footpaths, verges, parks)
-  Evidence of community activity (volunteering, gardening, art, community-organised events)
-  Evidence of Council/government management (signage, street cleaners)
-  Amount of public space (footpaths, verges, parks)
-  Spaces for group or community activities and/or gatherings (sports, picnics, performances)
-  Things to do in the evening (bars, dining, cinema, live music)
-  Local history, historic buildings or features
-  Local businesses that provide for daily needs (grocery stores, pharmacy, banks)
-  Free places to sit comfortably by yourself or in small groups
-  Spaces suitable for play (from toddlers to teens)

For more information go to  
[PORTSTEPHENS.NSW.GOV.AU](http://PORTSTEPHENS.NSW.GOV.AU)



PORT STEPHENS  
COUNCIL



# Appendix B - Workshop 1 (3 November 2021)

## Workshop Activities

### **Activity: Testing the Liveability Index values for Rural West**

The online engagement tool Social Pinpoint was used to help capture and focus a 'deep dive' into the Liveability Index findings for Rural West. The exercise was designed to explore what the attributes mean to different people.

The following table is a summary of the activity findings.

In the summary table, the 'raw' comments have been uplifted to focus on the broader Placescore attribute rather than on specifics. For example, if someone had commented, 'Local people have been fighting for pathways/corridors for animals and that these are retained and not destroyed', this comment has been uplifted to the attribute Elements of natural environment (natural features, views, vegetation, topography, water, wildlife etc). This process ensures similar comments can be grouped and key priorities are more easily highlighted.

There were 85 comments received and these have been aligned into the following table to best highlight the similar attributes and comments and are not in the order of priorities.

## TESTING THE LIVEABILITY INDEX VALUES FINDINGS

Type	Liveability attribute	What does this mean to me? Why is it important to me?	Comment count
STRENGTHS	Overall visual character of the neighbourhood	Green hills, forest walks, natural bushland, stress-free living	5
	Elements of natural environment	Protection of wildlife corridors from over-development	4
	Physical Comfort	A quiet and peaceful area free from noisy mine blasting or too much infrastructure	2
	Sense of personal safety	I feel safe here	1
HIGH PRIORITY	Walking/jogging/bike paths that connect housing to communal amenity	Roads are dangerous to walk along, risky for school children to wait for and catch buses along busy and unsafe roads	8
		Pathway connection between townships is poor	3
	Protection of the natural environment	Overdevelopment concerns, specifically waste from housing fill, destruction of koala habitat, air quality, flood risks	5
	Landscaping and natural elements	More street trees wanted, including edible street trees	3
	Spaces suitable for specific activities or special interests	Greater public access to the river for leisure for canoeing and picnicking	2
Areas and activities which draw on and highlight local areas and businesses e.g. mountain biking, local artisan trail, riverside camping		7	
SECONDARY PRIORITIES	Spaces suitable for play	The character of Hinterland is to be retained in public spaces e.g. no gaudy playground colours	1
		Additional play equipment	3
	Local history, historic buildings or features	Celebrate local historic buildings and bridges through historic trails and signage	3
	Spaces for groups or community activities and/or gatherings	A community hub for information, community support, and connections in harmony with local aesthetics and environment	3
	Amount of public space	Greater community access to the river for both leisure and tourism/business opportunities	2
	Evidence of Council/government management	Solar-powered speeding signs – to encourage safer and slower driving speeds	1
	Quality of public space	Gravel or sandy paths, and not traditional concrete pathways	1
		Existing playground equipment replacement	1
	Access and safety of walking, cycling and/or public transport	Roads walking is too dangerous. Greater pathway and river access would mean less reliance on cars	3
	Evidence of recent public investment	Good roads will mean more visitors to our area	1
	Evidence of community activity	Events and markets that leverage local food production and gardens	4

## Testing the Liveability Index values – ‘raw’ contributions

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Attribute and related comments</u></b>	<b><u>Liveability area</u></b>
<b>#</b>	<b>Attribute: Elements of natural environment (natural features, views, vegetation, topography, water, wildlife etc)</b>	<b>Strengths</b>
1	Please keep this area a special and unique part of the Hunter and Port Stephens animals should not be relocated but should be able to live where they were born.	
2	Local people have been fighting for pathways/corridors for animals and that these are retained and not destroyed	
3	The main reason for living in Wallalong is for the Rural Outlook. It must not be allowed to Rezone for high residential development.	
4	Please remember that the plants and animals are important to the entire ecosystem. Remove any part of that and you condemn or compromise everything else. When you allow clear felling for development as is visible in some areas already, you destroy habitat, connectivity for animals, change the liveability of an area through an increase in temperature as there is now no natural shade, pollution through run off.....and so on. Everything is linked and we are in that picture.	
	<b>Attribute: Physical comfort (including noise, smells, temperature)</b>	<b>Strengths</b>
1	Feeling secure living in a peaceful rural location without the worry of new mines/quarries & constant blasting pushing us away into another location.	
2	Retaining trees and other flora in the landscape reduces the temperature of your environment. It is essential that this is taken into consideration in future development and it would be wonderful if the council could increase tree planting on streets where possible.	
	<b>Attribute: Overall visual character of the neighbourhood</b>	<b>Strengths</b>
1	People travel to this area: Woodville, Seaham, Brandy Hill, Wallalong, Butterwick, Dunns Creek, and Green Wattle Creek Rd to experience driving the open roads, rolling green Hills, views of mountain ranges, forest walks and the absence of infrastructure. It is an escape place, the Byron of the Hunter. The openness is special and it's the "Green Sea' of Port Stephens.	
2	It is also important to note the mental benefits of this landscape. People report the feeling of ease, fall in stress levels and anxiety when either viewing or living in this kind of environment.	
3	The visual characteristics that I appreciate are natural bushland and healthy ecosystems	
4	Rural aspect, character and ambience of the area. Openness and natural environment and not cheap housing	
5	Yes, free of noxious weeds on council land.	
	<b>Attribute: Sense of personal safety (for all ages, genders, day or night)</b>	<b>Strengths</b>

<b>No.</b>	<b><u>Attribute and related comments</u></b>	<b><u>Liveability area</u></b>
1	Road conditions and traffic can affect the safety on our community, Nelsons Plains. Apart from that the safety of our area is fine.	
<b>Attribute: Landscaping and natural elements (street trees, planting, water features)</b>		<b>Highest priorities</b>
1	It would be wonderful if edible street trees were planted. Some suitable species would be - olive, carob, macadamia, almond, pecan, chestnut, quince, pomegranate, Lilly pilly	
2	It would be so wonderful if street trees focused on edible species (such as olive, carob, macadamia, almond, pecan, chestnuts, quince, pomegranate, Lilly pilly)	
3	Street plantings were going to happen at Brandy Hill but only one street was picked and crepe myrtles were chosen. It was never expanded. Imagine Brandy Hill Drive with an Avenue of trees. At first, it might need a small incentive to get homeowners to look after them, but the majority would rise to the occasion.	
<b>Attribute: Protection of the natural environment</b>		<b>Highest priorities</b>
1	Concern regarding the amount of fill being brought into flood plain areas by trucks for the construction of pads for the construction of houses in the flood plain. Consideration to be given to water displacement.	
2	Concern: Coal Fly Ash is planned to be imported to Brandy Hill Quarry. This is to be stored and then mixed with concrete. 1. It's a waste product being stored in our area. 2. It may jeopardize the air quality when the concrete and bitumen is crushed that has coal fly ash in it. 3. This area has the last remaining examples of Hunter dry and wet Sclerophyll forests. The area is rich in bird diversity and other species. Koala Corridors isn't the solution to clearing 52 H of forest = noisy miners destructive.	
3	While the floodplain was once covered in natural vegetation it is now a part of our environment as it is. We relate to it but it is now also at risk with the fill for house mounds with no end in sight. Flood risks, environmental risks.	
4	With the number of subdivisions being planned by developers the natural environment and biodiversity is under threat. Developers see trees as an intrusion on their plans of jamming more houses onto smaller and smaller blocks. Little regard is made by them and in many cases the consent authorities on the impacts on flora, fauna and the natural environment which we all love.	
5	Eagleton has a large number of koalas and native fauna. With huge development of Kings Hill, it puts most of the native corridors at risk north of this development, by shutting it down. Very concerned.	
<b>Attribute: Spaces suitable for specific activities or special interests (entertainment, exercise, dog park, BBQs)</b>		<b>Highest priorities</b>
1	There are 2 x Rivers near Wallalong and almost zero access to the Riverbank bar under Hinton Bridge. More public access to the River is needed.	
2	Accessibility to river - northern end of Raymond Terrace cricket ground area would be good place to start - better access. Also, about access to river at Woodville - scoping works for a number of spots to allow for canoes; power boats - trail options/picnicking.	
3	It would be great to have growers and artisan markets held near Seaham, Hinton & other areas to bring people in.	

<b>No.</b>	<b><u>Attribute and related comments</u></b>	<b><u>Liveability area</u></b>
4	There was a suggestion years ago that it would be interesting to have a '3 bridges' running or cycling event. This could become an annual event and draw card for the increasing interest in these activities.	
5	We have an air BNB and would like to offer stand up paddle boards - HWC owned reserve - whether we could open it up again.	
6	People come to me and ask to use private land for activities like mountain biking; trail walking - rewilding experience.	
7	Three river region; farm gate trail, local artisan trail.	
8	It would be nice if more people in the area used HipCamp to allow Campers to buy time on their property for accommodation. Along rivers, floodplains, bushland etc.	
9	We own an events business in Woodville and are new to the area. Keen to see more community spaces and events, to bring the community together.	
	<b>Attribute: Walking/jogging/bike paths that connect housing to communal amenity (shops, parks)</b>	<b>Highest priorities</b>
1	Pathways to connect people within 5km radius of Brandy Hill - smaller areas and Seaham - so people can walk and ride their bikes between communities and to community facilities. Can only use the car at the moment.	
2	For our area there are no paths at all, a connection to Raymond Terrace and Seaham would greatly increase the amenity of the area and safety. There are a number of regular bike riders in the area who would I am sure use these facilities.	
3	For Wallalong, there are almost zero connecting pathways to other areas. From Rosebank to Anne street for example - seems like it would be easy but it is not connected. I have witnessed people on the road walking from Wallalong to Hinton. Even the roadway from Wallalong to Woodville would be useable. Can McClymonts Swamp road connect to Brandy Hill for example?	
4	Safe walking / cycleways on rural roads would be amazing so that we're not all forced to try and use the shoulder on 80-100km roads	
5	Eagleton section of gravel road has no footpath just bush and children can't walk to friends property due to being unsafe.	
6	Concerned about school kids and bus stops on gravel section of Six Mile Road. Very dangerous.	
7	In answer to 'buses in Brandy Hill' .....we only have school buses.	
8	Traffic in the Brandy Hill area creates hazardous conditions for residents, including school children accessing buses. Also, very dangerous to ride a bicycle along Brandy Hill Drive when the trucks are running.	
9	with the brandy hill quarry expansion the safety of children catching school buses on Seaham Rd is becoming more dangerous. Parents are already driving their children to relatives in other areas rather than use the bus routes on Seaham rd. With the added subdivisions mooted for Eskdale and 610 along with the trucks more thought is needed in providing safe infrastructure for school children in the morning and afternoon	
9	Quarry trucks, and buses passing on minimum road widths is dangerous on gravel section of Six Mile Road. Let alone children walking along roads with poor visibility to bus stops.	



<b>No.</b>	<b><u>Attribute and related comments</u></b>	<b><u>Liveability area</u></b>
10	Being a kid in Wallalong can be dangerous - and lonely. Getting from place to place is difficult due to lack of safe connectivity options. No public transport. To get anywhere they have to walk or ride along a main road. There are bus routes nearby - for Brandy Hill/Seaham and for Morpeth - but NOTHING for Hinton or Wallalong. Additional safe connectivity to areas within Wallalong (Rosebank to Ann Street for example) or to neighbouring suburbs would make a big difference.	
	<b>Attribute: Spaces suitable for play (from toddlers to teens)</b>	<b>Secondary priorities</b>
1	Maybe with more a natural feel, and tribute to the honey and bee's, the boats on the river. Blending in with natural landscape. Gordy blue and yellow colour sun shelter at the park in Paterson (Dungog Shire) is a distraction from the natural beauty of the park and really detracts from the historic building and natural beauty of the tree's, open space the natural uplifting green of our area.	
2	Additional play equipment around the rural west and park furniture in other areas other than Seaham Park would make the rural west more inviting to residents and visitors.	
3	Lack of adequate playground facilities suitable for all ages.	
4	Along with the additional playground facilities the infrastructure for the children to get to these places safely without relying on being driven by car.	
#	<b>Attribute: Local history, historic buildings or features</b>	<b>Secondary priorities</b>
1	I get sad when I see this building empty and neglected. The feedback I get is people want to enjoy and enhance their knowledge of historical local places and stories and buildings. I think this is why Woodville is also popular - it's a unique little pocket. If every area we visit is the same and created by some development group you may as well not go there because it looks the same as everywhere else.	
2	I feel that the old Wallalong Broom Factory is a wasted opportunity. A Micro Brewery/Eatery or Vineyard outlet like Boydells. Is there a tourism trail for the 'Founding' houses of the area? Wallalong House, Hinton, Osterley, Seaham etc?	
3	VOWW, at a meeting with PSC, made the suggestion that interpretive signs could be placed in strategic historic sites. Woodville would have several locations where a sign might say....this shop was once....., Hinton pub, bridges etc. there is some amazing history and other areas have self-guided drives where the route highlights the amazing past and what still remains. A historic photo would show what it was once like.	
	<b>Attribute: Spaces for group or community activities and/or gatherings (sports, picnics, performances)</b>	<b>Secondary priorities</b>
1	Definitely needed, but please not over developed and "infrastructured" and expensive. So people can experience Nature, simplicity and its non cluttered or chaotic like many public spaces these days.	
2	Need a community Hub - a Connect and Share space - Info on tourism, events, mental health services, child and family and activities, help when needed and a friendly person working there to pull it all together and things to do to meet others, not just an empty hall for hire.	
3	I would love to see a repair cafe in the area which would build community and reduce waste.	
	<b>Attribute: Amount of public space (footpaths, verges, parks)</b>	<b>Secondary priorities</b>

<b>No.</b>	<b><u>Attribute and related comments</u></b>	<b><u>Liveability area</u></b>
1	Public access to the River at Woodville will be amazing and let's celebrate the cultural heritage by replacing the wharf that was washed away many years ago in a flood. Potential for Guided tours. The Woodville precinct is very family friendly and it would be great for people to picnic and play launch canoes/kayaks there or tie a boat up and grab a pie. A community Hub Space & tourism "welcome to Port Stephens" could be good there. A commercial tourism business could operate. May need to purchase property though.	
2	My main query here is that there are two Rivers through and near Wallalong - but almost no public access to the Riverbank (bar Hinton Pub). Why are the footpaths on the roadside publicly accessible, but the riverbanks along rivers are not? The UK has the Ramblers code, NZ has the Queens Chain, why does Australia not have a Riparian access law?	
	<b>Attribute: Evidence of Council/government management (signage, street cleaners)</b>	<b>Secondary priorities</b>
1	Active solar power signs entering Wallalong and Hinton 50kmh Zones that read back the speed of the approaching vehicle - might help to reduce the speed of vehicles in the area. Approaching Hinton from Osterley is particularly bad with vehicles still at high speed well into Hinton, but cars through Wallalong from either end of town tend to arrive too fast as well, especially on the down-hill approach.	
	<b>Evidence of community activity (volunteering, gardening, art, community-organised events)</b>	<b>Secondary priorities</b>
1	Slow food earth markets like at the levee brings people from Sydney, Newcastle and Maitland. Love to see it happen as a regular event.	
2	Encouraging and supporting food production in the area - to celebrate and encourage our rural character	
3	Can Port Stephens provide some input or get some advantage from the Maitland Garden Ramble? A number of properties within Port Stephens are visited - specifically out along Paterson Road between Woodville and Dunns Creek. Might there be other locations in the LGA that could participate?	
4	A proper farmers market (with food rather than rubbishy market junk) would really bring a focus on our rural skills and values. It could bring tourists to the area and provide a sustainable food source to the locals	
	<b>Attribute: Quality of public space (footpaths, verges, parks)</b>	<b>Secondary priorities</b>
1	gravel sandy paths not concrete please xx	
2	Playground equipment is run down in most areas. Need to be replaced with more modern equipment which reflects safety for children using and educational benefits, coordination, all important for development. Great examples all over Australia but sorely lacking in PS.	
	<b>Attribute: Access and safety of walking, cycling and/or public transport (signage, paths, lighting)</b>	<b>Secondary priorities</b>
1	My children have grown up in Wallalong without access to Public Transport. They have also grown up without access either River that pass through the region - The Williams or the Hunter. Even a walk to the Skate Park is semi-dangerous from Rosebank due to the need to walk on the road along High Street. We have had to drive them everywhere their whole lives and their ability to ride anywhere beyond Wallalong is just too dangerous.	

**No. Attribute and related comments**

**Liveability area**

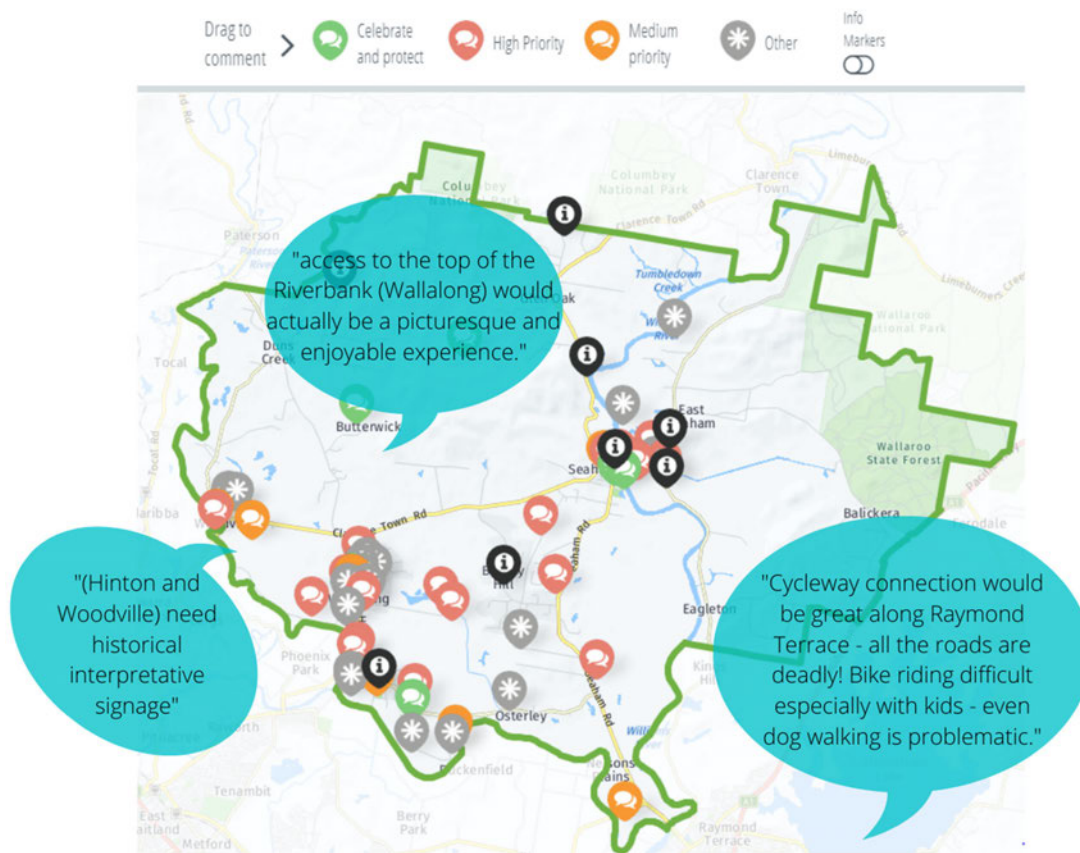
- 2 Apart from the school buses which pick up on busy Seaham Road there is no public transport. We have a number of regular cyclists who use Seaham Rd for training and fitness. They contend with b double trucks travelling at 80 to 100k on poor roads extremely scary. If a cycling/ walking path were constructed the danger for children and adults alike would be greatly improved along with the health benefits of physical exercise. The roadsides also along here need to be mowed more regularly by council.
- 3 Wallalong road from Wallalong to Woodville. Almost unpassable at the moment. A small dirt road now mainly used by the local farmers and some kids who ride to the Woodville general store (there is nothing else within safe distance for kids to ride to. Access to Riverbank would make this route even more attractive for use). Has PSC discontinued maintenance by any chance? It has even damaged a BMX bike (!!)

**Attribute: Evidence of recent public investment (roads, parks, schools)**

**Secondary priorities**

- 1 Easy navigation and pleasant driving for community and tourists including business tourism - people will be more likely to return.

## Activity: Mapping your priorities



This exercise mapped specific areas to a liveability priority. There were 57 responses received and some of the key themes are as follows:

- More pathways are needed, particularly ones which connect towns together e.g. Wallalong to Hinton; Seaham to Raymond Terrace (13 comments)
- Town centres to be beautified and local history acknowledged and celebrated (11 comments)
- Greater access to river for recreation and commercial use (9 comments)

## Workshop activity: Mapping your priorities 'raw' contributions

COMMENT TYPE	LOCATION	COMMENT
High Priority	Weir Park, Seaham	Closed of weir park - hunter water park - there was some safety issue here perhaps. We can investigate the problem at the site.
High Priority	High Street, Wallalong	Pathway along High Street or backstreet if not possible to connect Clarence Town Road to Hinton - Pathway connectivity
High Priority	High Street, Wallalong	People wanted to walk further during lockdown
High Priority	Seaham to Raymond Terrace	Cycleway - connection - would be great along Raymond Terrace - all the roads are deadly! Bike riding difficult especially with kids - even dog walking is problematic.
High Priority	Wallalong	Connecting pathways to the sport facilities and skate park - connectivity to facilities
High Priority	Seaham Road, Brandy Hill	High load of trucks - quarry and others, creates hazardous conditions for residents. Many near misses, including cyclists. Road too narrow, speed too high. Need to make environment safe before inviting visitors, lower speed limits would help.
High Priority	Seaham Road, Brandy Hill	Living there also the road is of a poor quality due to the heavy traffic and also extremely unsafe for school children who have to stand on the edge of the road with b doubles etc running past at 80km +. Also residents and local farmers have difficulty entering and exiting their own properties very pertinent when a driver hit our vehicle at over 90km as we tried to turn into home. More visitors would make it even worse. Speed reductions needed
High Priority	Seaham	Very under-utilised resource - and is not well known - come across it by accident - needs promoting - including the historic area of Seaham.
High Priority	Seaham Road, Nelsons Plains	Pathway connection to Hinton Road to Brandon Park which is linked to Seaham - pathway connectivity
High Priority	Wallalong to Brandy Hill	Connect McClymonts Swamp Road from Wallalong to Brandy Hill - for pedestrian and cycle access
High Priority	Wallalong to Brandy Hill	Pathway connection from McClymonts Swamp Rd to Brandy Hill
High Priority	Brandy Hill	Pipeline walking trails - using dirt or gravel - softer on your feet for runners - mountain bikes and horses friendly.
High Priority	Stuart Park, Hinton	More facilities in this park. Improved maintenance in this park. It's not welcoming for people to enjoy the facilities. Children's play equipment would be beneficial. - General condition of open space
High Priority	Wallalong	2 things. (1) Clean up and maintain the road so BMX bikes do not get damaged and (2) if there was access to the top of the Riverbank it would actually be a picturesque and enjoyable experience.
High Priority	Seaham Swamp Natural Reserve	support the walkway around Seaham Swamp with some signage that talks about some of the heritage of the area, and the natural attributes, bird ID etc.
High Priority	Woodville	Open deck eatery near new private shed overlooking river - things to do in the evening

<b>High Priority</b>	Wallalong	People enter either end of Wallalong too fast. It would be good to have solar power radar displays at each end of town showing 'Your Speed' as each car approaches. They did this at Paterson years ago and it made a big difference to slowing the traffic.
<b>High Priority</b>	Hinton	People enter the East entrance of Hinton WAY too fast, especially coming from a 100 zone. It would be good to have a solar power radar display showing 'Your Speed' as each car approaches. They did this at Paterson years ago and it made a big difference to slowing the traffic.
<b>High Priority</b>	Hinton	Plant Fig Trees north of the bridge, and make sure it is mowed more frequently to prevent snakes. Design to allow future covered family/picnic area when funds allow, and to allow pathway along levee bank.
<b>High Priority</b>	Seaham town centre	Create a town environment - more shops, footpaths, sense of place.
<b>High Priority</b>	Seaham town centre	Sense of place rural, foody, recreation, remaining native forests
<b>Medium priority</b>	Nelsons Plains, entry to Raymond Terrace	Opportunity for entry signage, tree lines and so on - transition into Raymond Terrace etc. Create a real visual sense of entry and space.
<b>Medium priority</b>	Wallalong Playground	Play equipment needs updating as there is no good kids playground in the area - spaces suitable for play
<b>Medium priority</b>	Woodville	Need historical interpretative signage to help engage residents and visitors with history.
<b>Medium priority</b>	Hinton	Need historical interpretative signage to help engage residents and visitors with history.
<b>Medium priority</b>	Hinton, Swanreach Road	2 things again (1) Why is Swan Reach Road not open to the public along it's total length and (2) this would give casual walkers/riders access to the Hunter riverbank?
<b>Medium priority</b>	Woodville	A spot near Woodville Bridge to view or picnic - Free places to sit comfy in small groups/ spaces suitable for special interest
<b>Medium priority</b>	Woodville	A small launch wharf or jetty to put canoes kayaks in - how awesome would it be to have a tourist info and community neighbourhood hub or "activity centre". The history of the area re old wharf. It be kind of cool to have a walk/horse bike trail loop from Green Wattle Creek Road crown land or equestrian centre to the water at Woodville or somehow to the Seaham Weir.
<b>Medium priority</b>	Cross Street, Seaham	Very busy road with excess speeds used. More signs with speed limits and policing of heavy vehicle usage
<b>Medium priority</b>	Morpeth Street, High St Wallalong	Street Tree plantings and kerb along Morpeth Street and High Street would improve amenity.
<b>Other</b>	Wallalong	This does not connected and would be great to connect - Pathway connectivity
<b>Other</b>	Eagleton	Develop the old church precinct
<b>Other</b>	Hinton	With Maitland creating a Pathway from Morpeth to Walka, could pedestrian access over the River be a possibility - and Link Hinton, Wallalong etc and Beyond to Maitland. A Rope Bridge/suspension bridge of some kind at the end of the dirt road from Hinton Pub?

Other	Hinton	Where the Paterson meets the Hunter, why is all the land completely inaccessible to the public - on both the Maitland and PSC sides? Is there a way to open up these up for all to benefit?
Other	Noongah Road, Nelsons Plains	The Hunter Water Pipeline Corridor. Lobbying Hunter Water to block Motorcycles, but to make it easier and more apparent that Pedestrians and Cyclists could use the corridor.
Other	Woodville	Riverside Jetty access for Wedding Parties to travel to/from Woodville weddings along the waterway
Other	Wallalong	Connectivity between areas within and out of Wallalong that do not require travelling down high Street. For example linking pedestrians from Rosebank to Ann St allowing 1 swift crossing of high St to get to Bowthorne Park. Connecting Wallalong to Brandy Hill via McClymonts Swamp. Connecting Bowthorne to Hinton down the Wallalong Hill road and the Riverbank - which is also a route to Woodville.
Other	Hinton	The Riverbank on the sweeping bend front Hinton is absolutely beautiful. It would make for a good pathway to link Wallalong to Hinton. There are also old riverside woodworkings only visible from on the river - was this some kind of Jetty for the old Bowthorne Butter factory?
Other	Wallalong	The old Broom factory would make for a fantastic Microbrewery location.....
Other	Wallalong	There are gourmet cheese/chocolate/cafe experiences based at Dairy Farms. Look at Gallo Dairyland for example in Queensland. Could the Wallalong Dairy extract itself from low-price high-volume milk supply and instead become an artisan Dairy that supplies gourmet products to places like Morpeth and King St Raymond Terrace?
Other	Hinton	Maintained areas along the Riverbank could make for opportunities using HipCamp - an AirBnB style service that attracts paying travellers and campers who want to stay just for the location.
Other	Pathways, Osterley	Richmond Vale Rail Trail (RVRT) will use the HWC corridor across Hexham connecting Shortland to north end of the RVRT/SMR Rail Line corridor. Attempts are in progress to have Maitland extend this from Hexham via the HWC pipeline corridor from Tarro to Duckenfield. M1 to Heatherbrae consultation is ensuring the Hexham to Tarro corridor is preserved. If this comes to pass, PSC should consider Pedestrians crossing at Osterley and link ongoing HWC Pipeline path to Brandy Hill/Seaham/Wallalong
Other	Woodville	Some of the big Hay Barns in the area could benefit from historical murals or signage. Think of the Indian Root Pills barn leading to Morpeth, and how much that features in their marketing of the area.
Other	Wallalong	No Public Transport in Wallalong or Hinton AT ALL. Can any Port Stephens services extend this way? Perhaps is it more prudent to lobby to have the Maitland Bus route 184 extend from Morpeth?
Other	Seaham Weir-Williams River	Places upstream of Seaham Weir along either side of the Rivers Edge would be GREAT additions to Hipcamp.com.au.
Other	River towns- Seaham, Raymond Terrace, Hinton	Linking towns via the River is a thing of the past. But if Raymond Terrace was ever to succeed in establishing a River Bus link to Morpeth to help bootstrap commerce at historical King Street, perhaps one day that could be extended to Hinton/Paterson and, if a Lock could be built at Seaham, up to Clarence Town. (I have watched a number of British Canals videos of late!)

<b>Other</b>	Hinton, Swanreach Road	Swan Reach would be a great area for public river access and a boat ramp don't you think? An incredibly picturesque area locked away from the public (See attached photo). Imagine roping off all of Newcastle Beach Shoreline or the periphery of Lake Macquarie as inaccessible to the Public. That a place like this is roped off is bordering on criminal. Can Port Stephens be the catalyst to have sweeping changes made to Riparian Access legislation?
<b>Other</b>	Wallalong	Wallalong is close to services at Raymond Terrace, Maitland, and Newcastle, so it is a locality to be shared and celebrated with existing residents, new residents, and visitors alike.
<b>Information - upcoming projects</b>	Brandy Hill Drive shared pathway	Let's make this a priority as it is part funded by Hanson.
<b>Celebrate and protect</b>	Seaham Park Playground	Good playground that is well liked and used - Spaces suitable for play
<b>Celebrate and protect</b>	Seaham Swamp Natural Reserve	Protect this area - Natural environment
<b>Celebrate and protect</b>	Non-specific	Supporting existing local business; support people on the journey on producing food and living rurally; farm gate tours; DA issues and legal support; don't want to be sued for selling a jar of jam; help support home businesses selling produce; connecting businesses in Nelson Bay but not in this area - we are not welcome down there; workshops to help people do their businesses confidently and within the rules;
<b>Celebrate and protect</b>	Seaham Park Playground	Add more facilities to park such as fitness equipment
<b>Celebrate and protect</b>	Wallalong Skate Park & Playground	Great little playground that flies under the radar.
<b>Celebrate and protect</b>	Hinton	Harry Boyle Park - celebrates the heritage of the area and an underutilised space. Right beside the bridge. Harry Boyle was a local historian, and a character!
<b>Celebrate and protect</b>	Green Wattle Creek Road Equestrian Area	Horse trails - Green Wattle Creek Road equestrian area
<b>Celebrate and protect</b>	Green Wattle Creek Road Equestrian Area	Green Wattle Creek Road - beautiful forest and escape place protect the crown land



## Workshop 1: Activity: What name would give your district?

Participants were asked to brainstorm alternate names for the Rural West which would brand and create a sense of identity for the area. Suggested names included:

- Port Stephens Hinterland
- The Hinterland
- The Three Rivers

Collectively the group settled on 'The Port Stephens Hinterland' as their preferred district name.

## Activity: Local case study – Destination Rural West

A case study using online break out rooms was used to discuss ways to improve the rural west as a destination that can be shared with visitors.

Some of the ideas shared are:

- Farmers Markets at Woodville Church
- Pathway connectivity between Woodville, Wallalong, Morpeth and Brandy Hill.
- Historical interpretative signage and potential historic trail
- River access between Woodville and Wallalong
- Festival of small halls
- Local noticeboards of what's on
- Artisan markets

## Local Case Study: Destination Port Stephens

What is our brand and identity?	What experiences or destinations would you highlight?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Australian dream – to live with so much nature and openness,</li> <li>• The green treechange dream – room to breathe.</li> <li>• Could 'taste' the air, it's so fresh</li> <li>• Accessible – get away, but without going too far</li> <li>• From a visitor perspective – close enough for a day trip – or just a beautiful</li> <li>• Gateway to Port Stephens</li> <li>• Very central for tourism – vineyards one way, beaches and Newcastle the other. Easy access to Barringtons</li> <li>• Nature, space, community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic villages</li> <li>• Farmers Market – potential host at Woodville church!</li> <li>• Historic villages</li> <li>• Old fashioned Sunday drive – or motorbike ride.</li> <li>• Seaham Swamp</li> <li>• Coffee and local produce at Woodville Store</li> <li>• Morpeth</li> <li>• Phoenix Park – farm to gate, picnic</li> <li>• Birdwatching, koalas</li> <li>• Paddling on the rivers</li> <li>• Rock Frog Grange? Clarencetown</li> <li>• Bushwalking – green wattle creek Rd - crown lands, mountain biking and horse-riding? Off Butterwick Rd. Aboriginal heritage here too.</li> <li>• Paintball and motor racing at Eagleton</li> <li>• Mountain biking and hiking at Dungog</li> <li>• State forest on Balickera Road</li> </ul>

### What are some ideas for community led projects?

- Several areas – close to each other but not connected – Woodville has a great history/church + viewing areas to river (private property issues)
- Levee Bank between Woodville and Wallalong (dirt road) somewhere for access to River along here – like Patterson – excellent for cycleway opportunity – not high traffic road and then connect to McClymont Swamp Road – either dirt or sealed??
- Similar situation for Seaham near to Boat Ramp – better park near bird hide
- Access to former Seaham Weir Park- Hunter Water
- Connectivity between Woodville – Wallalong – Morpeth and Brandy Hill Shared Pathway connect to Seaham
- Woodville is a destination.
- Wallalong House – privately owned – potential for open house/open garden scheme??
- Access to Woodville from Maitland side as a tourism – potential footbridge across River as there is no pedestrian access at all
- Woodville and Hinton bridges are heritage listed – could be very expensive??
- Historical areas interpretative signs – trail
- Christmas market (at community hall/s?)
- Christmas in July (open fires, into the wild! etc)
- There's a lack of information about what the area has – visitor information at general stores (need noticeboards)
- Driving tour of the area with historical background info – birds and nature
- There might be a food swap market style thing in Seaham – check FB.
- Growers market.
- Artisan market.
- Treasure hunt – geocaching
- Some way to share the stories of the area – Matt's got some great ones.
- Forestry workshops from private property.
- Festival of Small Halls
- Bush Dance in the hall

# Appendix C - Workshop 2 (10 Nov 2021)

## Workshop 2 November Activity: Quick Wins, Big Picture

---

At the conclusion of Workshop 1 participants were asked to undertake a home work exercise which would feed into the activities for Workshop 2. This activity centred around people detailing their quick win and big picture ideas. These were presented as part of the presentation for Workshop 2 as follows:

### Quick wins ideas

- Improve existing parks
- Create a sense of arrival with signage, plantings
- Protect wildlife corridors & create a way for locals to report koala sightings
- Allow informal use in parks and along the river, including camping
- Signage to tell our stories & identify existing pathways, lanes, public tracks
- Create a walkway with signage around the Seaham Swamplands
- Improve sense of community through street libraries, pop-ups.

### Big picture

- Plan a Three Rivers Festival
- Improve & create open spaces
- Link villages with paths and cycleways
- Link Brandy Hill & Wallalong via McClymonts Swamp Road
- Investigate options to utilise Hunter Water service roads
- Horse trails
- Investigate options for public transport
- Improve our village experiences, especially Seaham
- More eateries
- Farm to gate experiences

The above quick wins and big picture ideas were further distilled into four key actions and these were then action planned using online workshop breakout rooms.

Quick Wins	Big Picture
Create sense of arrival using signage and trees	Create a Three Rivers festival
Improve access and connectivity between village centres	Upgrade village centres and connect them via paths and cycleways
Enable camping/accommodation in areas	Enable local businesses to grow and become attractions

## Action Planning

<b>QUICK WIN 1: CREATE A SENSE OF ARRIVAL USING SIGNAGE AND TREES</b>	
What do we already have to work with?	Bridge – avenue of trees – beautiful landscaping Existing situation with sunflowers at Redgate Farm
What's the situation?	Mowing of existing levee banks with owner permission at Raymond Terrace Finding/scoping areas for putting access to the river – kayaks and canoes – signage required
What does success look like?	Better signage into the villages – suburb signage Better signage for walking options
Who needs to be involved and what is their role	Potential for competitions
What might stop this happening?	Legislation requirements

<b>QUICK WIN 2: IMPROVE ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN VILLAGE CENTRES</b>	
What do we already have to work with?	Potential access routes on service land and private land that could be utilised
What's the situation?	Off the main roads there isn't a lot of access Potential access routes on service land and private land that could be utilised Unknown who owns the land alongside the levy banks
What does success look like?	Existing connections and opportunities to be brought up to a safe standard Drawing on existing roads and pipelines to create the access rather than expect large amounts of infrastructure
Who needs to be involved and what is their role	Hunter Water; Property owners; State Government responsible for levy management. Community involvement in where the need is, potential routes and what success looks like
What might stop this from happening?	Lack of funding, community support may decrease if too much time goes by and legislation requirements
Three key actions to make it happen	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create a plan with the community about where connections should occur</li> <li>2. Create logical steps for the connections to be established</li> </ol>

<b>QUICK WIN 3: ENABLE CAMPING AND ACCOMMODATION IN AREAS</b>	
What do we already have to work with?	Existing businesses which offer accommodation; develop a location where there are existing facilities (loos etc.). There is camping at Hinton Pub – there's a website called pubcamp; there are a number of locations that advertise their sportsgrounds for camping, but these do have facilities – power, loos etc. Maybe around the community halls? Hipcamp.com.au – like Airbnb but for campers – the area has some attractive spaces.

What's the situation?	Lack of facilities – loos, power etc. Riverside access. People unsure of what might be required in terms of Council approvals. Insurance! People need to understand that this is an option to activate their properties and the area. Need clarity around access to river – is this public?
What does success look like?	Trial making camping available to see how it goes, whether it's attractive, good for the community and so on. Adoption – increased options on AIRBNB/hipcamp. Active camping creating economic benefit for villages.
Who needs to be involved and what is their role	Council/national parks – regulatory. Hunter Water possibly. Clarify public access entitlement to rivers. Property owners for Airbnb.
What might stop this happening?	Money Private land owners
Three key actions to make it happen	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify a potential pilot site and do a trial</li> <li>2. Survey property owners of riverside land to determine attitudes to public access</li> <li>3. Let property owners know they have options to have guest accommodation, and the process.</li> </ol>

<b>BIG PICTURE 1: CREATE A THREE RIVERS FESTIVAL</b>	
What do we already have to work with?	Where and what you are allowed to do - LEP compliance River sites – choosing location Music Charity fundraiser Existing nearby areas such as from Dungog to share their success and learnings
What's the situation?	We are lacking that the current groups are very specifically, focussed groups and not an overarching community group – VOWW suggested as sub-committee Risk assessment and safety requirements Involvement and interest from the community What would the event be???
What does success look like?	Would need active committee or existing groups to join Event contractor to help pull together
What might stop this happening?	Accessibility for parking, traffic etc etc Community consultation to residents Exhausting – potential for an event organisation business to take over from exhausted volunteers
Three key actions to make it happen	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Get interested people together to learn more about what is involved, what would it actually be – mini wild festival? Anything? a tik tok taster?; develop broad event options;</li> <li>2. Would need a project committee rather than a specific committee – concentric circles – or a partnership committee/organisation to help run the event.</li> <li>3. Location aspects – potential for smaller sized events rather than a single large event?? Timetable of events to showcase the area a bit more – see Harvest Festival at the Central Coast/ Hastings Farm Gate tour</li> </ol>

**BIG PICTURE 2: UPGRADE VILLAGE CENTRES AND CONNECT THEM VIA PATHS AND CYCLEWAYS**

What do we already have to work with?	Woodville village centre and Seaham village centre
What's the situation? e.g. No connecting pathways; nowhere for young people to hang out; no activities for families	Woodville – popular village centre for a little town with people coming to the area. Not a lot to do but there is the coffee cubby and also the store that is taking a different approach to stock more local produce and health food. Food stall up the road that has been shut for a long time. Not any 'space' in the area to create a community space for gathering, picnics etc. People generally try and use the church grounds but these are private property.  Seaham – existing general store and used a lot by tradies. Store is on the route from Pacific Hwy and Barrington.
What does success look like?	Woodville - Continue the romantic historic village feel for the area with a community space for picnics and play. This should remain the main centre for the west.  Seaham – The uniqueness of Seaham is celebrated and not try to be changed. They serve a 'mean fish and chips'! Include a Seaham walk with interpretive signage that also connects around the swamp.
Who needs to be involved and what is their role	Business owners, private property owners, Council, community groups, local residents

**BIG PICTURE 3: ENABLE LOCAL BUSINESSES TO GROW AND BECOME ATTRACTIONS**

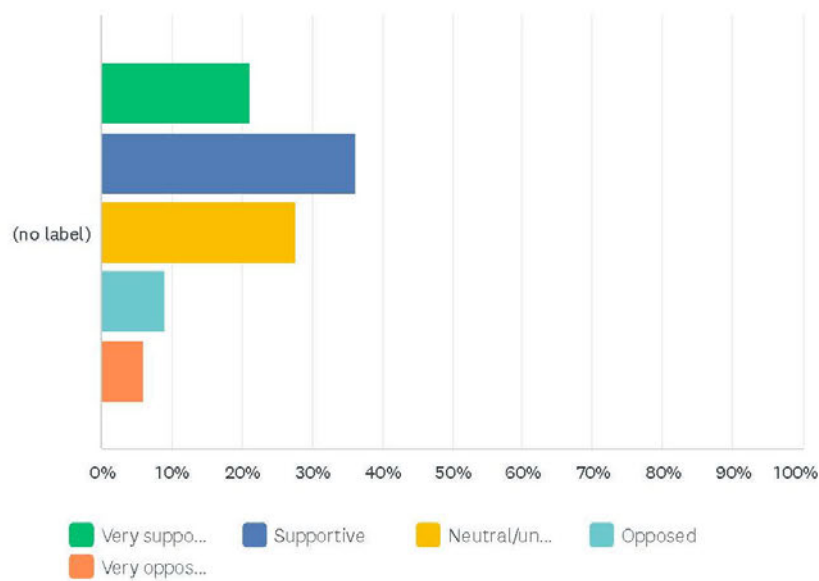
What do we already have to work with?	Existing businesses which could expand/diversify – ie dairy could sell gourmet cheeses and chocolates, broom factory could add a café etc. There are many home business which, with support and encouragement could diversify, maybe into farm gate, tours? Could tag onto the Maitland Garden Ramble
What's the situation?	People don't know what's required You really need a car to get anywhere Need to get river access sorted Need to promote reasons to visit the area Much cycling in the past but now too much traffic and road safety issues. Road edge is poor.
What does success look like?	Vintage car clubs visit regularly.

## Appendix D – Check in survey results

Please note survey written responses have only been updated to improve spelling or punctuation to improve readability.

Q1 How do you feel about the name 'Hinterland' to describe the area of Port Stephens LGA outlined on the map below?

Answered: 166; Skipped 0



	VERY SUPPORTIVE	SUPPORTIVE	NEUTRAL/UNSURE	OPPOSED	VERY OPPOSED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	21.08%	36.14%	27.71%	9.04%	6.02%	166	2.43
	35	60	46	15	10		

Key survey finding:

Q1: Majority of responses were supportive on the name change of the area from Rural West to Hinterland (57% supportive, 28% unsure, 15% unsupportive).

## Q2: Do you have any other suggestions for the name?

Answered: 46; Skipped: 120

Q2 Responses	Comment code(s)
Rural Communities Place Plan	Other suggestion
No other suggestions, very much like "Hinterland".	Positive comment
Rural port stephens	Other suggestion
River lands	Other suggestion
No	
No I think that's a wonderful name	Positive comment
Not really	
No Hinterland sounds fine, unless it becomes the name of a huge residential development.	Positive comment
was there a problem with the term 'rural west'?	More information required, misinterpretation
Neglectland; Wasteofratesland; Onlytheretocollecttheratesland; Giftittomaitlandland	Negative comment
Consult with the local Aboriginal people to give it a proper name or at least a name that represents them. The lack of visible acknowledgement of Aboriginal people in this area is appalling.	Indigenous reference
The Hills	Other suggestion
A hinterland suggests "hills", most of this area floods	Negative comment
No, Hinterland is Perfect	Positive comment
I'd prefer an appropriate name reflecting indigenous culture and heritage	Indigenous recognition
I feel Raymond Terrace should be included in this plan	More information required, misinterpretation
To be honest I live here and until I saw this survey did not know it was referred to as The Hinterland.	More information required, misinterpretation
Rural Port	Other suggestion
a) A suitable Aboriginal name. Why not Wallalong? (Wollalaghn - meaning flat near a river or creek. The key feature of your Hinterland is that it is dominated by floodplains. ) It was a gathering place for large numbers of people around the former Lake Paterson, and was an initiation site (colonial records of circles near junction of Butterwick and Clarendtown roads; b) a name that acknowledges the area's outstanding farming heritage, beginning with John Tucker Junior's establishment of Albion Farm at Woodville in 1812 - the first free Australian-born settler in the entire Hunter Region, and the first outside the Sydney Basin.	Indigenous recognition
Rural West as it has been known for. Ages, or preferably it's original Worimi name.	Indigenous recognition; Other suggestion
port trade OPEN BAY 2 bridgeway port	Other suggestion
Outlander	Other suggestion
The forgotten part of Port Stephens LGA	Negative comment



Q2 Responses	Comment code(s)
Rural West is just fine. The Hinterland is better for tourism and real estate marketing purposes. Another suggestion: "God's Country"	Positive comment, Other suggestion
Port Stephens Riverlands	Other suggestion
no	
No the hinterland describes the location perfectly	Positive comment
Feel that the hinterland sounds a bit like the forgotten people which I feel we are.	Negative comment
Westport	Other suggestion
Giacomoville	Other suggestion
The outskirts	Other suggestion
no	
Port Stephens green belt	Other suggestion
This name just feels very marketing heavy ready like it's an estate, rural west was more relatable.	Negative comment
Greater Port Stephens Port Stephens Rural	Other suggestion
No	
No hinterland sounds pretty good	Positive comment
Riverland.	Other suggestion
Nothing wrong with the names of the suburbs now	More information required, misinterpretation
Just 'Port Stephens'	More information required, misinterpretation
An Indigenous name	Indigenous recognition
Country Port Stephen's	Other suggestion
Rural Port Stephens	Other suggestion
No	
The forgotten lands is more fitting. Council routinely forgets to do any road maintenance and the like out here.	Negative comment
Barbakewaria.	Other suggestion

Q2 Comment code summary (Answered: 46; Skipped: 120)

Code	Percentage	Comment code #'s*
Other suggestion	41.3%	19
Positive comment	15.22%	7
Negative comment	13.04%	6
Untagged	13.04%	6
Indigenous recognition	10.87%	5
More information required, misinterpretation	10.87%	5

\* Note comment code numbers are higher than individual comments received (Q2 = 46) due to multiple comment codes applied

### Q3 What do you think of each of the Economy action items from the Draft Hinterland Place Plan?

Answered 134; Skipped 32

	VERY SUPPORTIVE	SUPPORTIVE	NEUTRAL/UNSURE/NEED INFORMATION	OPPOSED	VERY OPPOSED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Create pop-up experiences	38.06% 51	33.58% 45	23.13% 31	2.99% 4	2.24% 3	134	1.98
Agritourism mentoring program	32.84% 44	40.30% 54	23.13% 31	2.24% 3	1.49% 2	134	1.99
We're here to help	28.36% 38	34.33% 46	31.34% 42	2.99% 4	2.99% 4	134	2.18
Deliver an annual event	41.79% 56	34.33% 46	17.16% 23	3.73% 5	2.99% 4	134	1.92
DA incentive rebate	28.36% 38	31.34% 42	27.61% 37	7.46% 10	5.22% 7	134	2.30

#### Key survey findings:

Q3: Majority of responses were supportive of the draft Economy actions:

- Create pop up experiences  
(67% supportive, 23% unsure, 5% unsupportive)
- Agritourism mentoring program  
(73% supportive, 23% unsure, 4% unsupportive)
- We're here to help  
(63% supportive, 31% unsure, 6% unsupportive)
- Deliver an annual event  
(76% supportive, 17% unsure, 7% unsupportive)
- DA incentive rebate  
(60% supportive, 28% unsure, 13% unsupportive)

**Q4 Do you have any other great ideas or comments to add about the draft Economy action items?**  
 Answered 49; Skipped 117

Q4 Responses	Comment code(s)
<p>A lot of TALK! What we need is complete and detailed precinct planning so we know our way ahead, as many residents are now being priced out by above average valuations creating unaffordable rate increases. All your programs are short term - we need long term solutions covering planning alterations on a whole of area basis to create the new environmentally sensitive planned precincts required by the rapidly advancing future. These changes should be led by Council initiative, not await developer interest, and address the diversity of ownership and physical characteristics.</p> <p>If you wish to address ECONOMY, residents need the security of concrete and detailed planning for the future. Use planning for the Ralstons Road area as an example of what can be achieved if the effort is applied.</p>	<p>More information: clearer understanding of function of place plan</p>
<p>Bike and walking trails</p>	<p>Captured under existing action</p>
<p>A lot of people move out here to be away from lots of traffic. Creating pop-up experiences and annual events nullifies this. It is hard enough to get through the round-about at Raymond Terrace Road and Seaham Road without adding more to it.</p>	<p>Getting around safely (roads)</p>
<p>Not really high on my priority list</p>	<p>Miscellaneous</p>
<p>Don't allow for the quiet location to be over run , we choose to live in Rural settings for a reason</p>	<p>More information: clearer understanding of function of place plan</p>
<p>I strongly believe an annual event or markets within our area would be lovely</p>	<p>General positive comments</p>
<p>We really need a walkway in Wallalong down High St, and I would argue that the walkway could continue down past the Hinton Bridge to Morpeth. It would be a great incentive to boost the economy in the Hinton area, as it may encourage a cafe or a corner store to open up.</p>	<p>Captured under existing action, General positive comments</p>
<p>What makes this area is the community and the land. I think it's really important to ensure it keeps its 'old world' charm and not become overly touristy. It needs to be a fine balancing act by the council to ensure the area is not urbanised by the change. Any change to properties to include businesses &amp; accommodation need to be sympathetic to the area and not be over commercialised.</p> <p>The roads definitely need increased maintenance to handle any increase in traffic.</p>	<p>Captured under existing action, Getting around safely (roads)</p>
<p>My main concern is that council will move to turn the 'hinterland' into another Thornton or Aberglassyn with mid and high density residential development. The whole appeal of the area is its nature and rural aspect.</p>	<p>More information: clearer understanding of function of place plan</p>
<p>Proper crossing to Seaham Public School from Seaham General Stop, car do not slow down, we have seen so many near accident, we don't want to wait till someone gets hurt for something to be done</p>	<p>Getting around safely (roads)</p>

Q4 Responses	Comment code(s)
Artwork along walking trails that fit the natural environment.	Captured under existing action
A bit concerned about the effect of some ideas on neighbouring residents. Eg, a mini caravan park - let's say for up to 10 vans/tents with noise and behaviour/septic tank upgrades needed.	More information: clearer understanding of function of place plan
All residents within the Hinterland area should be given written information. Not all have access to the internet nor are Facebook members. Therefore they miss out on the information. Information should be given well in advance of any meetings or deadlines.	Miscellaneous
Cycleways between the hinterland areas. Wallalong/Hinton/Woodville using the levee banks, etc.	Captured under existing action
Celebrate our rivers and waterways	Captured under existing action
Include Raymond Terrace please	More information: clearer understanding of function of place plan
There is nothing 'wrong' with the community as it is. Why does it have to create economic benefit?	More information: clearer understanding of function of place plan
I think allowing more subdivisions like Rosebank estate will enhance the area and allow for infrastructure e.g... bus services, more places for people to build	More information: clearer understanding of function of place plan
Community events at local businesses, sponsored by council, similar to what you would do at Nelson Bay	Captured under existing action
A walk way along Italia Road and limiting dangerous amounts of trucks through the area	Captured under existing action
Invite clubs/organisations to use facilities e.g. Flyball to use sports grounds for competitions.	Suggestion; Captured under existing action
Create trailer parking areas for horse riders / motor bike riders adjacent to state forests / national parks	Advocate for use of non council land for leisure activities, Suggestion; Captured under existing action
More water tours	Suggestion; captured under existing action
Na	Miscellaneous
Look at existing halls like at Seaham. Look at existing events like at Karuah with the Oyster and Timber Fest. Look at linkage with Tocal Field Days. Look at historical tours and the Williams River usage over time. Look at new Solar Battery at Seaham, and the Seaham Wear and	Captured under existing action, General positive comments

Q4 Responses	Comment code(s)
Balickera Pumping Station. Look at Wallaroo Nature Reserve and Forest.	
Sounds good, as long as everyone keeps their freedom of travel through and beyond the implementation of Agenda 2030.	More information: clearer understanding of function of place plan
Hay bale sculptures annually to celebrate the harvest.	Suggestion
Three rivers - use these in an annual triathlon, kayaking, cycling, running.	Suggestion
No	Miscellaneous
Loosening restrictions for agritourism and businesses on shared land would be good.	General positive comments
Why is the term growth always incorporated in proposals. Can't we learn to be content with the way things are?	More information: clearer understanding of function of place plan
The area must be kept rural	More information: clearer understanding of function of place plan
Festivals similar to Bluesfest/splendour etc but with sufficient on site accommodation/Camping and transport to accommodation services in coastal PS towns. Regional park upgrades with playgrounds and facilities that allow cafe businesses to lease commercial space. Seaham would be an excellent location. Similar to Wiseman's Ferry park and kiosk.	Captured under existing action, Suggestion
No.	Miscellaneous
Do not want to lose that 'country' feel.	More information: clearer understanding of function of place plan
The promotion of events needs to bring together local accommodation options and include entertainment at pop up events. To bring people from other regions we need more than just another market but an event that is a draw card with entertainment that provides local providers a platform to promote their produce.	Captured under existing action, Suggestion
Improve the sporting facilities	Captured under existing action
Many of these initiatives are just community suggestions lacking tangible support structures	Captured under existing action
Don't let the area become an industrial region with large industrial type developments battery banks etc	More information: clearer understanding of function of place plan
Roadside local produce drive. Farmers could opt in to have their roadside stall placed on a map for people to map out 'weekend drives'	Captured under existing action

Q4 Responses	Comment code(s)
Access to another service station in the area - it's Woodville, Raymond Terrace or Dungog and for some areas, it takes over 30kms to reach one of these places.	Suggestion
All of these ideas sound great but I believe road improvements to the area need further attention before we increase traffic to the area.	General positive comments, Getting around safely (roads)
Improve the roads	Getting around safely (roads)
Regularly maintain parks and walkways where these event may occur. Most areas are not maintain so can't be used.	Captured under existing action
Bike/walking track on Italia Road - it's a much used road that is already dangerous for locals to exercise	Captured under existing action, Suggestion
More ways to access rivers. E.g. jetty / canoe hire. Council-owned multi-purpose buildings with great river views, leased for cafes & events.	Advocate for use of non council land for leisure activities
I had no heard of this before. Will be doing further enquiry.	More information: clearer understanding of function of place plan, Miscellaneous
No	Miscellaneous
The DAs need to fit in with the rural lifestyle. There are too many developments going to council for small blocks. We need to keep farmland and not build it out.	More information: clearer understanding of function of place plan

#### Q4 Comment code summary:

Answered 49; Skipped 117

Code	Percentage	Comment code #'s*
Captured under existing action	32.65%	19
More information required, misinterpretation	28.57%	14
Other suggestion	20.41%%	10
Getting around safely (roads)	10.2%	5
General positive comment	10.2%	5
Miscellaneous	10.2%	5
Advocate for use of non-council land for leisure	4.08%	2

\* Note comment code numbers are higher than individual comments received (Q4 = 49) due to multiple comment codes applied

**Q5 What do you think of each of the Character action items for the Draft Hinterland Place Plan**

Answered 128; Skipped 38

	VERY SUPPORTIVE	SUPPORTIVE	NEUTRAL/UNSURE/NEED INFORMATION	OPPOSED	VERY OPPOSED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Celebrate local character	40.63% 52	36.72% 47	17.19% 22	1.56% 2	3.91% 5	128	1.91
Create a brand and identity	38.28% 49	32.03% 41	19.53% 25	6.25% 8	3.91% 5	128	2.05
Beautifying village centres	55.47% 71	32.03% 41	10.16% 13	0.78% 1	1.56% 2	128	1.61
Connection with your community	49.22% 63	38.28% 49	10.16% 13	0.00% 0	2.34% 3	128	1.68

**Key survey findings:**

Q5: Majority of responses were supportive of the draft Character actions:

- Celebrate local character  
(77% supportive, 17% unsure, 6% unsupportive)
- Create a brand identity  
(70% supportive, 20% unsure, 10% unsupportive)
- Beautifying village centres  
(87% supportive, 10% unsure, 3% unsupportive)
- Connection with your community  
(87% supportive, 10% unsure, 3% unsupportive)

**Q6: Do you have any other great ideas or comments to add about the draft Character action items?**

Answered 35; Skipped 131

Q6 Responses	Comment code
Refer last answer. Residents need the longer term confidence to apply any of your short term veneer, dress up initiatives. Prefer to see investment in items like a pathway between Brandy Hill and Raymond Terrace similar to that from Medowie, which will provide its own character building well into the future.	More information: clearer understanding of role of place plan
Let it grow happen without forcing	More information: clearer understanding of role of place plan
You are asking people to send in their photos. Why not get professional photographers and generate some income for them?	Fits under existing action
Concentrate on the historical details of each area as Port Stephens "Hinterland" dates back to the start of European settlement. The history story should / must include the data of the indigenous people that occupied the areas before European settlements.	Indigenous recognition
More general awareness of the suburbs within the "Hinterland" . More signage to the area and within the area (in particularly Suburb introduction). Our Glen Oak sign was removed when the "River Flat" was resurfaced and despite a request for the sign to be returned, it never happened. Please don't forget about little suburbs like ours.	Suggestion, Fits under existing action
I believe especially in our beautiful town of wallalong planting beautiful flowering trees to line our streets or even in Hinton would be beautiful!  Also it would be great if in Wallalong where we are to make our playground and tennis courts more usable by having a path to the playground and toilets that kids can use	Positive comment, Fits under existing action
A nature walkway connecting Wallalong to Hinton, and Hinton to Morpeth	Fits under existing action
Any change to the area needs to be subtle, low impact and sympathetic	Fits under existing action
The character of the area is largely a quiet, rural setting with koalas, kangaroos, birdlife etc. Any beautification must keep touch with these features and not spoil them.	Fits under existing action
It would be great to have additional accommodation options like caravan parks near water ways and new boat ramps to bring communities together. Hinton would be a great location for this!	Suggestion, Fits under existing action
Giles Road and Croft Road have a very high Wallaby Population.  There are Koalas as well. These Need to be Protected. But not made a tourist attraction as high volumes of cars will only endanger their existence.	Suggestion, Fits under existing action



Q6 Responses	Comment code
Signage to identify indigenous place names. Access to our rivers and stream ... pathways, parkland. Bush walks promoted	Suggestion, Indigenous recognition
Include Raymond Terrace please	More information: clearer understanding of role of place plan
Connecting community through a footpath on Italia and stopping Boral and others from ruining our roads	Fits under existing action
Beautifying Town centres is great, but need to make sure the rural / small town charm isn't lost in the process.	Fits under existing action
Prevent sub division of rural areas	More information: clearer understanding of role of place plan
Clean up all the rubbish that is dumped along the roadways	Suggestion, Fits under existing action
Connect with River Heritage by reinstating the load wharf adjacent to the silos along Hunter River	Suggestion
Maybe fix the problems we already have e. g. Stormwater management, poor roads and traffic management before thinking about beatification.	Getting around safely (roads), Suggestion
Council should support established community groups such as VOWW.	Fits under existing action
No	Miscellaneous
The character of small 'villages' often depends on the way vehicular traffic is routed. Seaham will be difficult to improve while the large number of gravel trucks continues to use Warren Street as a through street.	Getting around safely (roads)
Character should be about the community giving a town life not council using it to profit off. E.g.: making a township nice should be only to attract income it should be for residents to enjoy/bring family and friends to enjoy.	Fits under existing action, More information: clearer understanding of role of place plan
Maintaining a relevant and unified village presence. Allowing the heritage and character of the village to deplete creates eye-sores. Towns like Bright in Victoria, Dungog as well, all have maintained heritage façade and minimalist signage on the village streets which entrances the aesthetic of the town. Planting trees and landscaping will also help improve the impression of the town and maintain a consistent charming feel through the region.	Fits under existing action
No	Miscellaneous
It depends whose idea of beauty we are talking about. Seaham's space, sense of community and land is what makes Seaham, Seaham. Overcrowding wouldn't be beautiful but a few more local businesses would be nice i.e. post office, a cafe etc.	More information: clearer understanding of role of place plan, Fits under existing action
Focus on historical stories of each region and what their names relate to. History of Paterson is well documented and promoted but not as much our region. Lots of stories of people and events that established our original communities	Fits under existing action
No street trees. For years you've been told how silly this idea is. Just stop.	Negative comments

Q6 Responses	Comment code
Ensure area retains beautiful rural character by not allowing large ugly industrial type developments like battery banks etc.	More information: clearer understanding of role of place plan
'Hinterland' is a very stupid idea	Negative comments
Other than Seaham and Raymond Terrace, we don't have village centres. Is the funding all going to the Terrace?  We have Woodville shop and Hinton pub, but they are privately owned businesses.	More information: clearer understanding of role of place plan
Beautifying areas should have already occurred. Little things like suburb signs are hit and miss. Some communities don't have businesses so will they be forgotten?	More information: clearer understanding of role of place plan
Not approving quarries in koala habitat (e.g. Brandy Hill) that reduce residents' enjoyment of their place with noise & truck movements. Not approving a giant battery storage industrial area at Seaham.	More information: clearer understanding of role of place plan
Seaham park is a wonderful facility and location. Promotion for picnics would be a suggestion	Fits under existing action
Stop murdering the koalas through poorly thought out mine extensions	More information: clearer understanding of role of place plan

Q6 Comment code summary:

Answered 35; Skipped 131

Code	Percentage	Comment code #'s*
Captured under existing action	48.57%	17
More information required, misinterpretation	31.43%	11
Other suggestion	20%	7
Getting around safely (roads)	5.71%	2
Indigenous recognition	5.71%	2
Miscellaneous	5.71%	2
General negative comments	5.71%	2
General positive comment	2.85%	1

\* Note comment code numbers are higher than individual comments received (Q6 = 35) due to multiple comment codes applied

**Q7 What do you think of each of the Management and Safety action items for the Draft Hinterland Place Plan?**

Answered: 121; Skipped: 45

	VERY SUPPORTIVE	SUPPORTIVE	NEUTRAL/UNSURE/NEED INFORMATION	OPPOSED	VERY OPPOSED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Establish a Hinterland 'Town Team'	28.93% 35	36.36% 44	28.10% 34	3.31% 4	3.31% 4	121	2.16
Connect with neighbours	38.02% 46	43.80% 53	13.22% 16	1.65% 2	3.31% 4	121	1.88
Establish a Community Resilience Network with Hinterland communities	33.88% 41	40.50% 49	19.83% 24	1.65% 2	4.13% 5	121	2.02
Start with yes	28.93% 35	33.06% 40	30.58% 37	4.13% 5	3.31% 4	121	2.20
Has it worked?	21.49% 26	23.97% 29	47.11% 57	4.13% 5	3.31% 4	121	2.44

**Key survey findings:**

- Majority of responses were supportive of the draft Movement actions:
  - Improving access to interesting places  
(83% supportive, 11% unsure, 6% unsupportive)
  - Options for connection  
(79% supportive, 13% unsure, 8% unsupportive)
  - Walking and cycleway paths  
(82% supportive, 10% unsure, 8% unsupportive)
  - Keeping our kids safe  
(84% supportive, 9% unsure, 7% unsupportive)

**Q8: Do you have any other great ideas or comments to add about the draft Management and Safety action items?**

Answered 31; Skipped 135

Q8 Responses	Comment code(s)
History has shown that many people who join groups like this do so to actually further their own long term interests and not the community. Who will be responsible for vetting and monitoring the members of a Town Team committee?	Captured under existing action
Again, looks like window-dressing. Council has the responsibility to provide long term, confidence building planning, so please get on with the precinct planning job, and allocation of long term investments in pathways etc., to really physically connect the communities as well as provide safe, practical and healthy outcomes. Just look at the continual use of the pathway along Warren St Seaham.	Captured under existing action, More information required; misinterpretation
There are many community teams in place. Maybe council could fund articles in local newspapers to advertise the progress of community project teams. A website posting is a very poor source of this information.	Other suggestions
Community gatherings are a great idea. But street parties in Glen Oak are impossible with no kerb & gutters, no street lights, unfortunately. A park would be nice, we don't have any community facilities.	Other suggestions' Captured
Sounds as if you are wanted to do things without full consideration of the council laws	General negative comments
We already have street get-togethers in Wallalong. We have an annual Christmas party and Easter hunt. An annual Easter hunt at Wallalong park would be awesome and appeal to a lot of people	Captured under existing action
I don't necessarily agree with reducing red tape if it comes at a cost to the feel of the area. Controls MUST be put in place to ensure any development is in-line with the feel of the area. For example a neighbour having a cabin for rent on their property would be okay but a caravan park would not be. It is vital that the area doesn't lose its countryside feel.	More information required; misinterpretation
As above	Captured under existing action
These communities need regular bus services on weekends and outside school hours. People can't get from Wallalong to Morpeth or a train via public bus. That's ridiculous.	Captured under existing action
Include Raymond Terrace please	More information required; misinterpretation
Why does change need to happen? Isn't part of the beauty of the Hinterland that it is what it is? So why are you so keen to change it?  A brand serves the product and creates brand recognition. Why is this needed? Unless you are planning to sell our community?  We can connect with our neighbours just fine without your strategy - thanks but you are like 100 years too late to the party	More information required; misinterpretation

Q8 Responses	Comment code(s)
SAFETY - less trucks in narrow roads, add wider lanes or walking track	Captured under existing action, Getting around safely (roads)
Pot holes in roads are horrible	Getting around safely (roads)
I remain skeptical of long term agendas. Will the distinction of "The Hinterland" group of suburbs be used as a lockdown area for whatever reason is decided upon in the future?	More information required; misinterpretation, General negative comments
Sounds like communitarian agenda - global agenda - smart cities, easy population CONTROL. NO NO NO!	More information required; misinterpretation, General negative comments
Wellness is becoming a community need, meditation locations in key locations would attract community and visitor sector.	Captured under existing action, Other suggestions
We should make out centre cutting all the red tape	Miscellaneous
Fix traffic management and school traffic in Still Street where I live.	Getting around safely (roads)
No	Miscellaneous
Again, change is welcome but continual growth shouldn't be encouraged. Very few of the points so far have emphasised the natural environmental resources we have. Yet the Liveability Index has it front and centre.	Captured under existing action
All of the above should be a council task being we pay high rates, these areas can assist council but should not solely be put back to community to do with the rates etc paid for council to complete as part of their role.	More information required; misinterpretation
No	Miscellaneous
The Town Team would need to be established with good governance to manage conflicts of interest and to ensure it supports progressing initiatives and not slow them down. Chair person would need to have clear agenda and timeline	Captured under existing action
We like living rural, so leave it rural. Sometimes the best thing people can do is not change things. If we wanted to live in cities we would be there.	More information required; misinterpretation
All stupid ideas.	General negative comments
Again, most of the Hinterland doesn't have public spaces like parks unless you are talking about the Terrace or Seaham. If you actually want to involve everyone in the Hinterland I think you will need to develop more public spaces across the region.	Other suggestions
Strict rules when it comes to use of motorbikes on private property. 500m exclusion zone from neighbouring dwellings.	Other suggestions
Add safety by fixing the Butterwick and Duns Creek Road give way intersection, I had a terrible car accident here on Christmas and something needs to be done, to save lives this is not good	Getting around safely (roads)
Bike or walking track on Italia Road would increase safety	Captured under existing action,

Q8 Responses	Comment code(s)
	Getting around safely (roads)
Community resilience duplicates existing networks. Eight years apart seems a long time for Liveability ratings.	Captured under existing action
Wider publicity	Other suggestions

Q8 Comment code summary:

Answered 31; Skipped 135

Code	Percentage	Comment code #'s*
Captured under existing action	35.48%	11
More information required, misinterpretation	25.81%	8
Other suggestion	19.35%	6
Getting around safely (roads)	16.13%	5
General negative comments	12.9%	4
Miscellaneous	9.68%	3

\* Note comment code numbers are higher than individual comments received (Q8 = 31) due to multiple comment codes applied

**Q9 What do you think of each of the Movement actions for the items for the Draft Hinterland Place Plan?**

Answered: 116; Skipped: 50

	VERY SUPPORTIVE	SUPPORTIVE	NEUTRAL/UNSURE/NEED INFORMATION	OPPOSED	VERY OPPOSED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Improve access to interesting places	56.90% 66	25.86% 30	11.21% 13	1.72% 2	4.31% 5	116	1.71
Options for connection	51.72% 60	27.59% 32	12.93% 15	2.59% 3	5.17% 6	116	1.82
Walking and cycleway paths	62.93% 73	18.97% 22	10.34% 12	2.59% 3	5.17% 6	116	1.68
Keeping our kids safe	56.03% 65	28.45% 33	8.62% 10	2.59% 3	4.31% 5	116	1.71

**Key survey findings:**

Q9: Majority of responses were supportive of the draft Management and Safety actions:

- Establish a Hinterland 'Town Team'  
(65% supportive, 28% unsure, 7% unsupportive)
- Connect with neighbours  
(82% supportive, 13% unsure, 5% unsupportive)
- Establish a Community Resilience Network  
(74% supportive, 20% unsure, 6% unsupportive)
- Start with yes  
(62% supportive, 31% unsure, 7% unsupportive)
- Has it worked?  
(45% supportive, 47% unsure, 7% unsupportive)

**Q10: Do you have any other great ideas or comments to add about the draft Movement action items?**

Answered 45; Skipped 121

Responses	Comment code(s)
Pathways need to be visible from roadways to inspire a feeling of security from users. Whilst the use of pipeline access may provide a lower cost solution, any walking use will be inhibited by this lack of visibility.	Suggestion, Captured under existing action
Use easements between Duns creek, Glen Oak and Seaham to provide an alternative to Clarence town road.	Advocacy for use of non-council land for leisure or getting around, Suggestion, Captured under existing action
I have a letter from Council from 2020 advising there will be a walkway the entire length of Brandy Hill. This was one of the conditions of Hanson being allowed to increase opening hours and truck movements. 3 years later and we are yet to have any updates on this matter.	Getting around safely (roads), More information required; misinterpretation
Improve public transport in the "Hinterland" region as it will assist with activity access for teenagers and shopping access for the elderly.	Suggestion
Would love to see some cycleways/walkways in Glen Oak. Would like to see a Give Way sign as you enter Timbertop Rd and cross the water pipeline.	Captured under existing action
More walk ways and bike paths for health and well-being. Hunter River in particular!	Captured under existing action
Our street Rosebank drive, high street and Clarence town road needs a solar panel speed sign or speed humps. It would be amazing if we had more walking paths because there are so many drivers that have bear missed us walking next to the road.	Suggestion, Captured under existing action
We need a walkway throughout Wallalong and Hinton. Along High St in Wallalong and past the bridge in Hinton towards Morpeth. Keeping families, exercisers and pub goers safe. There is a huge disconnect between the suburbs that could easily be remedied with a walkway.	Suggestion, Captured under existing action
Again, it all sounds great but the whole appeal of the area is its remoteness. Will some of the ideas mentioned have a negative impact?	Captured under existing action
Additional accommodation options like caravan parks near water ways, new boat ramps and improved walking/cycling paths to connect towns to bring communities together. Hinton would be a great location for boat ramp and new pedestrian pathway to Morpeth.	Captured under existing action
Timed, Reasonable lighting for early morning and evening use	Suggestion
Seaham Shared Pathways path concept	Captured under existing action
Include Raymond Terrace please	More information required; misinterpretation
Walking and cycle paths would be great!	General positive comment
Cycleways on the regional roads with mil trucks and all the quarry trucks is ridiculous	General negative comment



Responses	Comment code(s)
Bike track/walking path - can't take children for a walk or ride on my own roads. Dangerous amount of trucks also. Italia Road	General negative comment
Definitely need safe pathways for walking, bike riding and horse riding.	General positive comment
More footpaths. Fenced off leash dog parks.	Suggestion, Captured under existing action
Communicate and campaign hunter water to utilise the tracks disused along Balickera canal for walking / push bike riding and horse riding	Advocacy for use of non-council land for leisure or getting around
Better school bus zones and bus shelters	Getting around safely (roads)
Fix Italia Road. Seal East Seaham Road. Fix New Line Road	Getting around safely (roads)
These are all good, as long people's choice of transportation is never limited for environmental concerns.	General positive comment
Produce trail starting at the vine meandering to conclude at the Hunter River.	General positive comment
As previous, review traffic management and definitely work to provide more walkways and cycle paths so maybe children could walk to school instead of being driven. Work with Hunter Water to improve management of waste water in Still Street so our property is not inundated by stormwater every time it rains.	Getting around safely (roads), More information required; misinterpretation
The lack of connectivity is the greatest obstacle to creating social inclusion. Developing walkways may be complex but should be a priority.	General positive comment
No	Miscellaneous
A couple of safety issues at Seaham. The walkway along the edge of Warren Street near Torrence Street needs a barrier - traffic is too close to pedestrians. The School crossing area is unsafe for pedestrians around the start and finish of school.	Getting around safely (roads), Suggestion
Walking/cycling tracks are absolutely needed! No edge of road to walk along in Brandy Hill. Too dangerous to go for regular walks for exercise without driving an extended distance.	More information required; misinterpretation, Captured under existing action
Improve maintenance of existing pathways and facilities, such as mowing the lawn more reliably and regularly along pathways and parks	Captured under existing action
Reason for delay in delivering the Brandy Hill shared cycle/walkway promised by Hanson (Brandy Hill quarry)? Original proposal seemed economically feasible and satisfactory to meet local needs? The area is still rural so reducing speed limit on Brandy Hill Dr not necessary, just need a space for pedestrians/cyclists please.	More information required; misinterpretation, Captured under existing action
Construct shared walking/bike paths in area - particularly between Hinton and Wallalong. You have kids in Hinton and a skate park at Wallalong and no safe avenue for them to get to and from. Also, do a joint project with Maitland Council for similar shared bike/walking path between Morpeth and Hinton - perhaps with a tourist attraction of a suspension bridge access alongside the Hinton bridge. Hinton hotel is a major draw card and encourage tourists from Morpeth to so the relatively short walk.	Captured under existing action

Responses	Comment code(s)
Remembering these areas people moved to as RURAL areas, not to have items like concrete paths etc. safe walking spaces would be great. However keep in mind the rural lifestyle our community has and loves. If we want those this we would go to more populated built areas.	More information required; misinterpretation
Family and friends who rely on public transport from Newcastle, Charlestown or anywhere really, are unable to get to Seaham via train or bus which is very sad.	Suggestion
Incorporate the river as much as possible in ideas and approach to engage people. it is a link between so many areas in the region and also the history and why our communities were first developed	Captured under existing action
How about putting a footpath linking both ends of Seaham primary school via Dixon Street before promising the world and failing to deliver, again.	Captured under existing action
Very supportive for access to pathways. That is really missing in this area and it would great if the natural beauty of the river could be capitalised on so we can access these sites safely. The sides of the road are often narrow, very overgrown and unsafe to use for this purpose and there's not much choice but to travel to access safe walking spaces. As a hobby landscape photographer, it would also open up opportunities for me to capture the local area in its full beauty as this is often restricted due to the above mentioned items.	General positive comment, Captured under existing action
Widen Paterson road in between Iona school and Iona Lane	Getting around safely (roads)
Water pipeline not really necessary - out here people have rainwater tanks & this is suffice. In times of drought you could fund water deliveries. This would probably be cheaper than a pipeline.	More information required; misinterpretation
It's a rural area so reviewing speed limits doesn't always mean a reduction. Things maintaining the road or putting in appropriate drains and appropriate gutters (not like at Clarence Town Rd - a silly gutter that took a long time to build that goes nowhere.)	Getting around safely (roads)
Woo definitely to keep both young and old active, I believe a bike or walking track through Italia rod would be of great benefit!	General positive comment
We're already isolated and all the reduced speed limits further isolate us, by making trips take longer. They're also often nonsensical - eg the 80km zone from Wallalong to Hinton - straight road, no houses & 80km	Getting around safely (roads)
Not just kids being kept safe, everyone!	Getting around safely (roads)
To extend the current path from Seaham to Brandon park.	Captured under existing action
Footpaths, curb and gutter and street lights in the western side of Wallalong would be a good start	Captured under existing action
The gravel mines go against everything you are wanting to do. What do they contribute to the community, and do we need them?	More information required; misinterpretation

[SQ10 Comment code summary:  
 Answered 45; Skipped 121

<b>Code</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Comment code #'s*</b>
Captured under existing action	42.22%	19
Other suggestion	20%	9
Getting around safely (roads)	20%	9
More information required, misinterpretation	17.78%	8
General positive comments	15.56%	7
General negative comments	4.44%	2
Advocacy for use of non-council land	4.44	2
Miscellaneous	2.22%	1

\* Note comment code numbers are higher than individual comments received (Q10 = 45) due to multiple comment codes applied

## Q11 What do you think of the Environment action items for the Draft Hinterland Place Plan?

Answered 114; Skipped 52

	VERY SUPPORTIVE	SUPPORTIVE	NEUTRAL/UNSURE/NEED INFORMATION	OPPOSED	VERY OPPOSED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Promote the sustainable conservation of landmarks	53.51% 61	34.21% 39	8.77% 10	2.63% 3	0.88% 1	114	1.63
Preserving the waterways of The Hinterland	58.77% 67	26.32% 30	10.53% 12	3.51% 4	0.88% 1	114	1.61
Protection and enhancement of wildlife corridors	59.65% 68	28.95% 33	7.89% 9	1.75% 2	1.75% 2	114	1.57
Encouraging sustainable gardening	54.39% 62	29.82% 34	11.40% 13	2.63% 3	1.75% 2	114	1.68

### Key survey findings:

Q11: Majority of responses were supportive of the draft Environment actions:

- Promote the sustainable conservation of landmarks (87% supportive, 9% unsure, 4% unsupportive)
- Preserving the waters of The Hinterland (85% supportive, 10% unsure, 5% unsupportive)
- Protection and enhancement of wildlife corridors (88% supportive, 8% unsure, 4% unsupportive)
- Encouraging sustainable gardening (84% supportive, 11% unsure, 5% unsupportive)

**Q12: Do you have any other great ideas or comments to add about the draft Environment action items?**

Answered 27; Skipped 139

Responses	Comment code(s)
See previous comments - this all falls into only part of the need for long term detailed precinct planning.	More information required; misinterpretation
Organic farming.	Other suggestion
Green wattle creek crown reserve well known to bird watchers.	
The council can do much more. Port Stephens Council should place more emphasis on the protection of all native animals (not just koalas) and native flora when assessing development proposals. The council could also support the management of all forested areas being transferred from the "State Forests" to "National Parks" to increase the level of flora and fauna protection.	Advocacy for the use of non-council lands, Other suggestion
These matters have departments to manage and look after them as it is	More information required; misinterpretation
Make these areas more usable and accessible to increase appreciation and care of the river systems	Advocacy for the use of non-council lands
I love wildlife and gardening and I am trying to create more habitat and gardens but it becomes very expensive so having people donate or reduce the cost of plants or giving us an idea of what to plant would be wonderful.  IMPORTANT  The signs around our area telling people to keep dogs on leads and cats inside is barely legible and ALOT of people regardless or reports to council still allow their dogs and cats to wander around Wallalong so it would be great to provide education around this and more signage.	General positive, Other suggestion, Captured under existing action
A nature walkway through Wallalong and Hinton	Other suggestion
This is definitely important especially with the amount of koalas in the area. Another reason why I am opposed to residential development in the area.	Captured under existing action
Not enough is being done to protect and expand koala habitat. Make it a priority	Captured under existing action
Include Raymond Terrace please	More information required; misinterpretation
Protection of rare and endangered species, especially Koalas), is critical.	Captured under existing action
Wildlife corridors are a planning re-zoning and will restrict agriculture	General negative
Sustainable gardening support is already available	
The environment is the area's biggest asset and needs to be preserved and utilised.	Captured under existing action

Responses	Comment code(s)
Remove cost barriers and encourage participation in local markets	Captured under existing action
Bees worm farms community gardens	Captured under existing action
Need lines	Miscellaneous
Will people's freedom to use natural resources be removed?  Will the "sustainable" gardening be GMO?  Is this all to score credit on the Agenda 2030 report?	Miscellaneous, General negative
As previously mentioned look at the wastewater that is being channelled into the Williams due to inadequate stormwater management by the council.	More information required; misinterpretation
Wildlife corridors are incomplete. Are they mapped and is the map available? Gardening education could include identification of local weeds such as African olive.	Other suggestion, Captured under existing action
No	Miscellaneous
Seaham Swamp reserve has some well-maintained tracks. More could be developed and maintained, and some better effort made to restrict/police the use of these tracks by people on motor bikes and with off leash dogs. Free roaming cats in our natural areas are a continuing problem for the conservation of our wildlife.	Other suggestion, Captured under existing action
Perhaps the pot-hole filled dirt road beside Seaham Swamp could become a park, with lots of seating for picnics. Such a beautiful place but nowhere to sit and relax while taking in the beauty and wildlife. Also, we are surrounded by rivers yet where are the picnic areas beside rivers for picnics and families to play and relax. Meeting places like these enhance connectivity between locals.	Advocacy for the use of non-council lands, Captured under existing action
Seaham community would love a sustainable garden down near the river.	Other suggestion
Don't let the area become an industrial region with large ugly industrial type developments such as battery banks etc.	More information required; misinterpretation
500m exclusion zone of use of motorbikes on private property from neighbouring dwellings.	More information required; misinterpretation, Other suggestion
We don't all want increased visitors. Part of the attraction is fewer people. It would be nice though, to have nice places to entice friends to visit. Part of the isolation is that there's nothing between "the Hinterland" (which sounds like its secondary btw) & Newcastle, due to the flood plains around Hexham. MRAG (in Maitland, with its lovely cafe is good).	More information required; misinterpretation, Other suggestion, Captured under existing action
Make the towns safer e.g. Raymond Terrace, by building communities and leave the countryside as farm land	More information required; misinterpretation, Captured under existing action

Q12 Comment code summary:  
 Answered 27; Skipped 139

<b>Code</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Comment code #'s*</b>
Captured under existing action	44.44%	12
Other suggestion	33.3%	9
More information required, misinterpretation	29.63%	8
Advocacy for use of non-council land	11.11%	3
Miscellaneous	11.11%	3
General negative comments	7.41%	2
General positive comments	3.7%	1

\* Note comment code numbers are higher than individual comments received (Q12 = 27) due to multiple comment codes applied

**Q13 what do you think of the Open space action items for the Draft Hinterland Place Plan?**

Answered 114; Skipped 52

	VERY SUPPORTIVE	SUPPORTIVE	NEUTRAL/UNSURE/NEED INFORMATION	OPPOSED	VERY OPPOSED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Where the rivers run	50.00% 57	33.33% 38	11.40% 13	2.63% 3	2.63% 3	114	1.75
A shared space for a better place	49.12% 56	26.32% 30	16.67% 19	5.26% 6	2.63% 3	114	1.86

**Key survey findings**

Q13: Majority of responses were supportive of the draft Open Space actions:

- Where the rivers run  
(83% supportive, 11% unsure, 6% unsupportive)
- A shared space for a better place  
(75% supportive, 17% unsure, 8% unsupportive)



**Q14: Do you have any other great ideas or comments to add about the draft  
Open space action items?**

Answered 33; Skipped 133

Responses	Comment code(s)
See previous comments.	More information: required, misinterpretation
Reduce speed of boats on Williams river to eliminate wash and erosion	Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure
Entry & easier access to the Williams River on the "River Flat" border of Seaham & Glen Oak for kayaks, fishing, etc.  More open spaces in Glen Oak. Love to know more about the history of Glen Oak.	Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure
Work on what is already there	Fits under existing action
Making the river lands more open and accessible increases appreciation. More signals and places to enjoy are crucial.	Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure, Fits under existing action
Would love more walking trails!!	Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure, Fits under existing action
Walkway connecting Wallalong to Hinton. Along High St in Wallalong. There is no area for kids to safely travel to skate park or playground in Wallalong. There is no opportunity for families to be out walking without a safe walkway. Also, the awesome skate park in Wallalong has drawn so many families to the area. It makes sense to put in walkways and update the playground in Hinton and Wallalong.	Fits under existing action
Care must be taken to protect the waterways from the impact of human activity.	Fits under existing action
Improved pathways for "park runs" 2km-5km options would be great! Finish at a connecting town to support local small businesses in Morpeth or Paterson. New boat ramp at Hinton. More cafes and camping options locally too	Fits under existing action
More focus on the state forests and national parks for space, bbqs, tables, maps , mountain biking, hiking	Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure
Include Raymond Terrace please	More information: required, misinterpretation
promote jet skiing, water skiing etc on the river	Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure

Responses	Comment code(s)
No mention of Indigenous history or dual names for important places.	Indigenous recognition
Land along the estuaries is Crown land and owned by the people of NSW. Council may be a CL manager but not always an owner.  Riparian is not plain English and you should use this in a survey as the majority of people won't understand what you are asking. This question is therefore misleading	Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure
Riverside activities and camping space would be very well used.	Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure, Fits under existing action
A dog area at Bowthorne Park- everyone ignores the no dog signage	Fits under existing action
Create a pathway along east Seaham road along the river to link the park to the wetland s	Fits under existing action
Much better public transport needed. It's very car-dependent.	Getting around safely (roads)
As long as people keep their freedoms intact and council do not harm a few "for the greater good".	More information: required, misinterpretation
As I live on the Williams I would like to be consulted on these issues.	More information: required, misinterpretation, Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure
Connecting us would benefit all	Fits under existing action
Harry Boyle reserve at Hinton could be developed as a heritage/environmental space.	Fits under existing action
No	Miscellaneous
Oops I jumped the gun. All my ideas I wrote for the previous question would go in here. :)	Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure, Fits under existing action
Improve maintenance of existing open space on council-owned property	Fits under existing action
Having improved public access to the waterways that allow for sustainable eco-tourism like kayaking and cruises, boat hire etc.	Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure, Fits under existing action
More street lighting along walking path of Seaham. There is nowhere for families to gather at Seaham boat area. It would be nice if the area was cleared of the tall grass and rubbish and opened up for families to fish and have a picnic with friends and family. A BBQ, public toilet, fish cleaning table and taps would be amazing.	Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure, Fits under existing action
Seaham boat ramp area needs a major upgrade and a general tidy up could be more family friendly area to gather for bbqs and picnics	Advocate for use of non-Council

Responses	Comment code(s)
	controlled land for leisure, Fits under existing action
I think the waterways are key to the success of community engagement with broader community	Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure
Bring back access to areas that have been closed, e.g. Seaham Weir, Hunter/Paterson River Junction.	Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure
Public access to Paterson river at Woodville.	Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure
Absolutely love the idea of more connection with rivers. Allow canoe hire business, Segway tours along the levee, a place where people could swim their horses, cafes & picnic spots with water views. Maybe an annual (novelty) raft race from Seaham to Raymond Terrace.	Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure, Fits under existing action
Improve boat ramp and encourage cafes by water	Advocate for use of non-Council controlled land for leisure, Fits under existing action

#### Q14 Comment code summary:

Answered 27; Skipped 139

Code	Percentage	Comment code #'s*
Advocacy for use of non-council land	54.55%	18
Captured under existing action	54.55%	18
More information required, misinterpretation	12.12%	4
Indigenous recognition	3.03%	1
Other suggestion	3.03%	1
Miscellaneous	3.03%	1

\* Note comment code numbers are higher than individual comments received (Q14 = 27) due to multiple comment codes applied

## Q15 Do you have any final comments about the Draft Hinterland Place Plan?

Answered 43; Skipped 123

Responses	Comment code(s)
The plan speaks loudly of maintaining the small villages' character of this area. Is one to assume then that council is averse to allowing the development of large scale residential areas close to these villages?	More information required, misinterpretation
Please make this more than a window dressing, and commit to the long term nature of detailed planning for these precincts, and the controls necessary to achieve results and build resident confidence.	More information required, misinterpretation
Wonderful to see great initiatives and community engagement being encouraged.	General positive comments
It all sounds a bit like putting lipstick on a pig. Fix up the roads first. East Seaham Road and Italia Road are horrendous. If you want people to come, they need to be able to drive their cars without losing their diff.	Getting around safely (roads)
I hope that the protection of native flora and fauna is approved. I also note there was no set plan for the routine inspection and repair of the "Hinterland" roads to better protect rate payers and visitors to the areas.	Getting around safely (roads), Comments fit under existing action
Look forward to promoting our "Rural West" as the new "Hinterland" and raising community awareness about our little rural townships to show Port Stephens that there is more to our shire than just "the Bay". Even people from Raymond Terrace are totally unfamiliar with the suburbs of Glen Oak, Duns Creek, etc and yet we are not far from their doorstep!	General positive comments
This sounds amazing as long as it's done properly and money is not wasted on putting things in that are not needed.	General positive comments
Please, we desperately need a walkway in Wallalong and Hinton. It is a really unsafe road for people that love to walk and care for the outdoors. We want our kids to live their lives outdoors, and to be able to walk together on the weekends. We also really need a playground refresh for the area as it is so well populated but so dated.	Comments fit under existing action
As a regular visitor to the Hinterland, it would be nice to have some places to walk in the natural surroundings and have clean, decent seating and/or bbqs maintained so we can enjoy the day. While there are plenty of benches around, they are usually surrounded by long grass or are filthy.	Comments fit under existing action
Whilst I understand that there is a need for more housing I strongly believe that this area is not the right place. We must protect the natural habitat from further degradation and preserve our koala population. Woodville, Seaham, Hinton and Wallalong are often cut-off due to flooding, our roads are already overused by quarry trucks and I am very concerned that our area is losing its' country appeal.	Clearer understanding of function of a place plan
Improve Italia Rd to suit the ever-increasing amount and types of traffic using it. Large numbers of trucks, boats, caravans. The road is too narrow. All these suggestion in the hinterland plan will only increase the use of the road. It's a logical entry from the highway to the hinterland.	Getting around safely (roads)
While preserving wildlife, flora and fauna, please consider more options for:  Outdoor activities via new boat ramps, cycle/walking paths, cafes,	Comments fit under existing action, Advocate for access to non-council land for leisure activities

accommodation options both caravan/camping/cabins with close proximity to water ways	
Emphasis should be on enhancing and protecting the environment that is the priority for the area. Improving existing parkland, tidying up some of the streetscapes with tree plantings etc. I have some concern about impact on neighbouring properties when allowing commercial enterprises with the risk of destroying the existing character through noise etc.	More information required, misinterpretation; Comments fit under existing action
Keep it simple...less is more!!	Comments fit under existing action
Keep in mind the varying ages within the community and disabilities	
Preserve rural communities and environments. Limit urban subdivision. Protect floodplains so they can do their natural work.	More information required, misinterpretation
Include Raymond Terrace please	More information required, misinterpretation
On Dangar's map of the Hunter River (1838) there is a notation to a locality known as 'Terrigat Hills' which roughly coincides with the proposed 'hinterland'. I assume this is an Indigenous name for the locality and if that can be verified, I feel it would be an appropriate name. Consultation with the Worimi land council would also be mandatory as would be their approval to use the name. The name "hinterland" is meaningless and could be applied to millions of places.	Indigenous recognition
This is great	General positive comments
Yes, by making contact details compulsory in your survey you are not affording us anonymity.	Miscellaneous
There are no terms and conditions attached with this survey outlining how you are handling this information and what is published. Additionally you do not have a privacy collection notice	
Please increase safety and places for physical activity and exercise	Comments fit under existing action
Great to see some attention - slashing or beautifying High Street Wallalong would be good. More footpaths to reduce pedestrian risk on roads	Comments fit under existing action
Fix the roads	Getting around safely (roads)
Sounds great, but is this just dressing up the implementation of the "15 minute smart city" initiative? Will this make it easier to remove people's freedom of movement in the future? The way the C19 pandemic was conducted has made me very wary of future lockdown initiatives and after reading Agenda 21, this sounds like you are conforming, are you aware of the long term agenda?	Clearer understanding of function of a place plan
I am opposed, it's a precursor to herding the people into an isolated area that's easily controlled and locked down at the whim of government... 'climate concerns' - lockdown, 'pandemic scare' - lockdown, place bogus reason 'here' - lockdown. It's a gulag with flowers.	More information required, misinterpretation
I'll lend my support to a well planned plan that delivers value to the community	General positive comments
Heading in the right direction	General positive comments

<p>Please look after the roads better and more regularly, there's a lot of pot holes and they take forever to get fixed, and when they do they're usually a pretty bad still, feels like rushed jobs. There's also some roads that don't have any tarmac such as the end of East Seaham road, it's all gravel and potholes there</p>	<p>Getting around safely (roads)</p>
<p>Great idea</p>	<p>General positive comments</p>
<p>Support for revegetation programs on council land and on private land would be good. Landcare could be encouraged to look at Seaham Swamp surrounds.</p>	<p>Comments fit under existing action</p>
<p>Keep planning and improving! So much beauty to see while driving but hardly any access to stop and soak it up.</p>	<p>Comments fit under existing action</p>
<p>Changes to planning approvals/planning incentives does not have a good history in the hinterland. We're proud of the natural and rural feel, and do not want that to change. Anything that lessens the rural appeal will not be supported, and given the relative lack of transparency and complicated nature of DAs, I do not support anything that would make it easier to increase developments beyond existing controls</p>	<p>More information required, misinterpretation, Comments fit under existing action</p>
<p>Suggested initiatives sound good. Since multiple suggested 'committees' would likely have shared interests, why not combine them?</p>	<p>Comments fit under existing action, General positive comments</p>
<p>More shared walking/bike paths between Hinton/Wallalong and joint project between Hinton/Morpeth. This is a must to improve bike access/pedestrian traffic. Dangerous ATM due to number of heavy vehicle movements in and around centres.</p>	<p>Comments fit under existing action</p>
<p>Please remember we live in this area for a rural lifestyle close to the city. We don't need to be a busy, have everything community/tourism space. Simple is what the area has been and I hope it continues to allow the rural lifestyle I had for future generations. Average style property with neighbours far enough to relax and enjoy our beautiful location. That's the attraction to the area, not tourism, paths etc. if we wanted that we would move to Chisholm or the likes. Please consult the long term residents who have lived and breather the community.</p>	<p>More information required, misinterpretation</p>
<p>It would be beneficial to reach out to landowners/residents who have potential business ideas and work with them to develop grants and business mentoring for them to engage in eco-tourism. The visitor numbers and accommodation is very limited in these regions and current businesses would be revolving around local and day tripping patrons. This makes the ability for small businesses to stay viable. I'd be keen to see more holiday parks, Farm stays and eco retreats in the area.</p>	<p>Comments fit under existing action</p>
<p>Seaham Park and Playground! The old plastic play equipment is used every day by families but our children would benefit by a bigger, natural playground that provides risky play and opportunities for problem solving and movement. The Park itself is often left unmowed for long periods of time and there is no bike path for us to teach our children to ride a bike. We would benefit from businesses or resources such as a post office, an ATM, butchers, a food option that delivers I.e. Domino's Pizza, a cafe or bakery with all-weather seating,</p>	<p>Comments fit under existing action</p>
<p>Family oriented events and activities required in these areas.</p>	<p>Comments fit under existing action</p>
<p>Totally support the development, promotion and maintenance of the unique peaceful rural environment that the area encompasses, Can't</p>	<p>More information required, misinterpretation,</p>

afford to lose that due short sighted opportunistic developments that provide no true benefit to the area and long term degradation of the area	Comments fit under existing action
Just to make sure it actually includes the rural towns and not just Raymond terrace and Seaham because they are suburban areas.	More information required, misinterpretation
Improve rules on offensive noise on private property. 500m exclusion zone for use of motorbikes on private property from neighbouring dwellings to improve liveability for hinterland residents.	Comments fit under existing action
Please fix our roads, we don't need more tourists or traffic before this is done	Getting around safely (roads)
Some good ideas and directions It's not clear how much council will do or will its role be to just make a plan & expect community volunteers to do the rest? Stop approving massive mounds in Nelson's Plains, buy the land & returns it to wetlands - would be a spectacular wide life viewing attraction & good for the environment. Less emphasis on "branding" & "signage" and more action on actual infrastructure. Also, the roads need fixing.	Getting around safely (roads), More information required, misinterpretation, General positive comments
It needs to be supported by council, as there seems to be a massive collaboration between the council and Le Motte, which does not make me feel as though it is a fair process	More information required, misinterpretation

#### Q15 Comment code summary:

Answered 43; Skipped 123

Code	Percentage	Comment code #'s*
Comments fit under existing action	41.86%	18
More information required, misinterpretation	32.56%	14
General positive comment	20.93%	9
Getting around safely (roads)	16.28%	7
Indigenous recognition	2.33%	1
Advocacy for use of non-council land	2.33%	1
Miscellaneous	2.33	1

\* Note comment code numbers are higher than individual comments received (Q15 = 43) due to multiple comment codes applied

#### Q16 Contact information

Answered 98 Skipped 68

- Data collected for administrative purposes only

#### Q17 Town Teams Interest

Answered 60; Skipped 106

- 60 people indicated that there were interested in learning more the Hinterland Town Teams

## Appendix E - Phase 3 Comments from drop-ins/online mapping tool

Comments received: 53

Comment	Comment code
Footpath along Brandy Hill Drive	Comments fit under existing action
Help with management of lantana near roadworks at Duns Creek	Comments fit under existing action
Roads and lantana management	Comments fit under existing action
Nature play equipment for variety of ages	Comments fit under existing action
We have been asked to put our bins on opposite side of our road to our house. There isn't a lot of room and bins regularly are hit meaning they have to be replaced and maybe more concerning... bins and rubbish are strewn across the road causing potential dangers. Please consider / review	Miscellaneous; Getting around safely (roads)
State of roads - Iona and Patterson Roads	Getting around safely (roads)
Owners in and around Butterwick entertain people currently using their own backyard so that bike riders don't have to break the natural connection of the trip. Would be great to formalise this loop. Also talk to Ride Dungog etc for inspiration.	Suggestion
LLS – lantana removal – paperwork is so intense, consider grants for pastoral improvement, Davidson Moth to replace bee pollination	Comments fit under existing action
Les Darcy – great history in the Hinterland – use that to our advantage by creating trails for people to use / visit Natural history – particularly around Seaham – bird watching / watchers or twitchers are knowledgeable and would love the opportunity to get involved People history and buildings – need signposting that explains heritage of the Hinterland - consistency around signage	Comments fit under existing action
Dangerous position for bus stop in its' current position (Forest Road)	Getting around safely (roads)
Rural rating for Hinterland rates? Questions terminology	Miscellaneous
Weed maintenance - Are we spraying for alligator weed?	Miscellaneous
Flood mounds - why are these being approved? please discuss	More information required, misinterpretation
Look at private land owners / reserve and working with the likes of HWC to open up corridors for people to us so they can get bikes, people and horses off the roads (80KM zone etc)	Advocacy for use of non-council land
Love that I can put my boat in at the ramp - and have access to the water - would be good to see other places have this opportunity in the Hinterland	Comments fit under existing action
I am moving from Sydney - I love the open space, freedom, fresh air and donkeys that we have in the Hinterland! Don't want to see 15 min cities in Hinterland and don't want to see housing developments destroying the character of the rural lifestyle	More information required, misinterpretation



Comment	Comment code
Love our community, friendly neighbours, rally together when things happen ie floods and natural disasters - would be good to support people and places who stand up during crisis and provide information to smaller communities ie The Woodville Store	Comments fit under existing action
Like most residents in the Butterwick area, we moved here for quite rural living. We don't want housing estates on our door step or a neighbour 2 meters away, much prefer to see wildlife or the neighbours horses etc.	Comments fit under existing action
Connect Brandy Hill to Seaham with a shared pathway.	Comments fit under existing action
Italia Road is narrow with a damaged surface. It has become increasingly dangerous to drive along the road, to walk to catch a bus, to ride a bike for commuting or for fitness or walk to visit a neighbour. We are more isolated from each other. This is therefore becoming a very unhealthy place to live. As incidental exercise is fundamental to well-being for life long healthy habits, Italia Road is no longer a healthy place to reside. We are more socially more at risk. Solution: Cycleway	Comments fit under existing action
We desperately need a walkway down High street. The street and neighbourhood is full of young families and exercise enthusiasts that risk the narrow and bushy side of the road for their daily walk. It is a busy road full of big trucks during the week and especially on the weekend. There are kids that walk the side of the road every day to catch their school bus, as well as pub goers walking home from Hinton Pub, that risk their necks every time they walk home. It is in dire need of a walkway.	Comments fit under existing action
1354 and 1356 Clarence Town Road – needs a rail apparently the customer was assured they were getting one after road works were completed – can't get their caravan over the dip and doesn't feel safe.	Miscellaneous
Destination Park - Nature / action park	Suggestion
Oakdale Farm – with walking and cycling from Brandy Hill – Wallalong	Comments fit under existing action
3 months waiting for concrete pads for 3 x picnic tables	Miscellaneous
More rural road maintenance	Getting around safely (roads)
We want a pub!	Comments fit under existing action; suggestion
Access to public transport is a key issue	Suggestion
Mowing and other maintenance needs to be done	Comments fit under existing action
New developments should be known by indigenous names	Indigenous recognition
Consider all native animals – not just koalas – trees too!	Comments fit under existing action
No housing developments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood prone</li> <li>• Koala habitat</li> <li>• Impact on lifestyle</li> <li>• Increase in traffic</li> <li>• Impact on roads</li> </ul>	More information required, misinterpretation

Comment	Comment code
No industrial development – RES battery storage shed site aesthetics has raised concerns	More information required, misinterpretation
Seaham Park – explain grant status, plantings and maintenance	Comments fit under existing action
Communication, lack of action – it feels as though councillors don't visit or are as interested as they used to be – we need connection	Comments fit under existing action
Lions members and more broadly volunteer groups – how to we engage younger people to help take over the reins? Numbers just aren't there after COVID and older people getting too old to continue to do the manual labour	Comments fit under existing action
Baiting in the bush on land around Seaham has killed 7 dogs	Miscellaneous
Speed limits – 60km zone outside Nelson Plains preschool	Getting around safely (roads)
Why do you destroy forest habitat to build homes or quarries when there's cleared land available?	More information required, misinterpretation
Local and speed limit – Wighton Street 5 vehicle roll overs in 15 years	Getting around safely (roads)
Weeds maintenance needs to be more frequent Seaham park. We also used to have availability to access soil whenever we needed it - why doesn't this happen anymore?	Comments fit under existing action
Local projects have lost priority since Councillor Ken Jordan left – we don't see councillors anymore	Comments fit under existing action
What's to stop new planning reforms allowing multiple granny flats across rural properties to end up populating and destroying the rural feeling of the Hinterland? We could end up with mini cities under the “new opportunity”	Comments fit under existing action
What can be done about the truck movement and danger to our community – we went from 47 trucks to over 150 trucks each year – the issue is getting worse and no one is doing anything about it ie. Brandy Hill quarry, Seaham Battery etc	Getting around safely (roads)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 driveways on Seaham Road</li> <li>• No turning bays into pre school</li> <li>• Speed limits 100 / 80</li> <li>• 600 trucks per day from Hansen</li> </ul> Dangerous on the roads	Getting around safely (roads)
Footpaths along Seaham Road as needed Safety concerns for children	Comments fit under existing action
Brandy Hill Drive – Brandon Park 2km of footpath required for safety	Comments fit under existing action
Love our riding opportunity - Hinterland annual road cycle event	General positive comment
Historic trail for The Hinterland Needs historical signs	Comments fit under existing action
Would love more access to our unique environment - Boardwalk in sections around Seaham Swamp	Comments fit under existing action
Rural access above and below the weir – ie jetty, parking More use of history of river use	Comments fit under existing action

Comment	Comment code
Grading of levy road between Woodville and Wallalong	Getting around safely (roads)
Create a shared pathway along Clarence Town Road to connect Seaham, Brandy Hill, Wallalong and Woodville. Clarence Town Road is extremely busy and hazardous to cyclists walkers, horse riders etc.	Comments fit under existing action

## Online Mapping Tool

### Comment code summary (53 total)

Code	Percentage	Comment code #'s*
Comments fit under existing action	53%	28
Getting around safely (roads)	15%	8
Miscellaneous	11%	6
More information required, misinterpretation	6%	5
Suggestions	9%	
Advocacy for use of non-council land	2%	1
Indigenous recognition	2%	1
General positive comment	2%	1

# Appendix F - Phase 4 Public Exhibition Written submissions and online survey feedback

## Written submissions

### 1 of 3 responses

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 3 September 2023 2:58 PM  
**To:** have your say  
**Subject:** PSC 2020-00033-0007

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Place Plan Hinterland (Rural West)

Thankyou for allowing further input into the Place Plan process. I have been involved since the beginning of the consultation with the west ward community and it is great to see this process being brought together. Here are some further comments.

The Hinterland (West Ward) is an important part of Port Stephens Shire. It really needs to retain its rural character and therefore lend itself to rural type tourism rather than large scale development as in the eastern side of Port Stephens. At a time when developers are pushing for more and more subdivisions and housing this rural landscape needs to be preserved or it will disappear under a sea of grey roofs and concrete like neighbouring local council areas.

We fully support the development of cycle paths and footpaths within the west to enhance the connectivity between villages and rural places. The expansion of networks would substantially increase the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. We understand these are longer term projects which require a larger cost. In the interim it would be appropriate for changeable solar powered speed signs in locations such as Seaham Rd as near the Hinton Rd intersection or near the Jacaranda Pre school.

Roads in West Ward need to be assessed as far as speeds are concerned. There are many hidden driveways where occupants are daily subjected to danger when entering onto the roadway or exiting their properties. This is exacerbated more so with high numbers of heavy vehicles that speed through the area laden with quarry product or heavy machinery.

A formalised cycleways - pathways mapping which would prioritise for the area would also help with the future connectivity of pathway infrastructure that has already been established.

Information on farm gate stalls and attractions need to be developed along with the history of the area as many locals are not even aware of what the rural west has to offer. This was quite obvious during the Econetwork/ VOWW East meets West bus tours we conducted in July and August. There were many comments that the participants were not aware of what the west has to offer.

The Rural West Environment is very special and it needs to be preserved to retain its uniqueness and character. Elsewhere it is rapidly diminishing and West Port Stephens could become the last piece in the Lower Hunter.

Thankyou

[REDACTED]  
Secretary VOWW

## Written submissions

### 2 of 3 responses

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 3 September 2023 11:52 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** "Hinterland" Place Plan suggestion...

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

"Hinterland" Place Plan (HPP) suggestions...

Hello,  
Thanks for inviting feedback, this is an exciting time for the western-part of West Ward...

You'll note that I haven't used the term "Hinterland" deliberately as I believe it has negative connotations. Clearly it's not intended that way, but implies that it is "behind" somewhere else. That somewhere is quite likely bigger and better such as an urban centre like Raymond Terrace or the tourist destination/retirement hub on the Tomaree Peninsula.


In-short "hinterland" suggests it's somebody's "backyard". Of course backyard's in Australia and around the world are cherished by homeowners and residents but unfortunately they're disappearing due to population growth and urban density. The term implies it's not an important place in its own right, doesn't have its own unique physical, social, economic, historic and environmental characteristics. It suggests a wasteland, to continue being ignored and forgotten.

*Port Stephens Council website's Introduction quoting strategy and environment section manager Brock Lamont says "part of the actions for this plan were to review the planning controls of the Hinterland to maximise the economic potential of rural land, without restricting agricultural uses... supports changes aiming to support a diversified economy, encourage new points of sale for local produce, and support agri-tourism while respecting the history and lifestyle of Hinterland communities... provides an exciting opportunity for residents, visitors, and businesses to work together to transform the region's vision into reality," he added.'*

Recently [REDACTED] a bus tour *East meets West* on 5 August (the second of two) organised by the umbrella organisation *EcoNetwork Port Stephens*. [REDACTED] now with 25 affiliate groups ENPS it's great to see it draw on a range of different views held by various stakeholders and interest groups. [REDACTED] I've never seen so many of the former hanging in the letter! [REDACTED] *Imagine Cruises* about [REDACTED] so am acutely aware of the opportunities, threats, weaknesses and strengths needed in considering the planning, establishing and growth stages to create a flourishing small business in a unique environment.

While [REDACTED] the Tomaree Peninsula at various times for fifteen years and have frequented Morpeth, Maitland, and of course the vineyard area as a visitor, am ashamed to say that I've never "gone west" over the Hinton Bridge. It remained a mystery, in fact it seemed somewhere

unknown and unknowable. Yes I've driven up Seaham Road into the deep, dark nether-regions (the Netherlands?) of Port Stephens. Until recently was yet to discover the beauty, diversity and history of Hinton, Woodville and Wallalong villages and surrounding farmlands .

 I suggest the following to consider for the strategy and campaign to encourage increased visitor numbers, time and money spent in this very special part of our Local Government Area?

Also Seaham "Swamp" indicates that it's a useless, lifeless wasteland, which couldn't be further from the truth. While it's the official name given by the *National Parks and Wildlife Service* perhaps PSC and Destination PS could use:

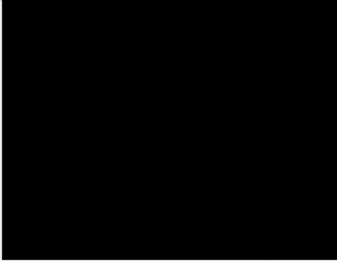
- Seaham Wetlands
- Our western wetlands
- Our wild-west wetlands

Here are some general marketing phrases and tag-lines which may be useful:

- **Three-rivers** (land/vale/valley/area)
  - **Riverland**
  - **River Bank**
  - **Hunter North**
  - **Hunter River Northside**
  - **Hunter River North Shore**
  - **Floodplain Farmlands**
  - Our **Food-bowl**
  - Our **Food basket**
  - Our **Food pantry**
  - **Over the bridge**
- 
- **Rich in agriculture, history, culture, nature.**
  - Our rich Riverland, Riverland food-bowl/basket, Three Rivers' fertile floodplain etc
- 
- **Connect to our past and present**
  - Full of opportunities to taste and buy local food, relax by a shaded riverbank, twitch-with-the-birds by Seaham wetlands
  - Come, eat, play, relax, connect, stay and dream...
  - Come for fun and stay to find yourself

Please note I also have a great deal of photos taken on the bus-tour which you're welcome to use in your documentation and advertising...

Kind regards



**Written submissions**  
**3 of 3 responses**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 21 August 2023 2:06 PM  
**To:** have your say  
**Subject:** draft Hinterland Project Submission  
**Attachments:** SP Response to Hinterland Place Draft Plan.docx

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Please find attached submission.

[REDACTED]  
Secretary  
Seaham Park and Wetlands Committee



## Response to Hinterland Place Draft Plan

This Committee strongly supports this Plan and is pleased to see our rural area highlighted in Council's planning. So oft it is that east of the Pacific Highway get the attention.

### 1. Canoe Trails

On Page 11 of the draft Plan is stated that "*Across the Hinterland, there's strong support in the community to improve access to outdoor recreation areas such as rivers and nature corridors, providing areas for activities such as riverside camping, picnicking, mountain biking and canoeing.*"

Seaham and other Hinterland residents as well as visitors have enjoyed paddling on various parts of the Williams River over the years. There is a great opportunity to work with Dungog Council and Mid-Coast Council to develop canoe trails on the Williams Rivers similar to the Murray River Canoe Trails, Murrumbidgee River Canoe and Kayak Trail and Sportsmans Creek Canoe Trail, all in NSW.

### 2. BMX Track

In December 2019 members of the community approached our Committee about having a BMX (social) track in Seaham Park. We agreed that a dirt BMX track would align with the Committee's vision for Seaham Park for a bike track which has been a goal since 2010. We agreed in principle to support a BMX (social) track if there was sufficient community interest.

At our meeting on 16 March 2020 the Committee was presented with a petition of 183 names for a BMX bike track for *social* bike riding in Seaham Park. A letter, together with the petition, was sent to the Mayor, Port Stephens Council. However nothing happened. Today there is even more interest in a local BMX track for the Hinterland.

### 3. Amenities

On page 12 it is acknowledged that: "*The Seaham Boat Ramp Open Space: Creating quality open space In rural areas like the Hinterland, we need to explore innovative ways to create connection. Connected communities are important for social inclusion and environmental sustainability. By prioritising pedestrians and cyclists over cars, the liveability and appeal of the area can be enhanced. This can be achieved by slowing down vehicle traffic, improving the connectivity of shared pathways, and providing amenities such as bike racks. This approach applies to areas such as Hinton, Woodville, Wallalong, and Seaham. To connect these towns, existing networks like the Hunter Water easement or electricity easements can be explored for the development of walking, horse riding, or mountain biking trails. The community sees these links as a potential way to experience the local environment and provide access paths between the villages in the Hinterland area. Establishing a unique rural access trail could attract visitors to local farm stays or bed and breakfasts and lay the foundation for future walking and cycling events. Movement: Connection and access for all to enjoy and Canoe Launch provides access for smaller*

vessels and paddlecraft from public land." It is no good upgrading or building boat ramps and canoe launching facilities without amenities.

At the upgraded boat ramp and canoe launching point in Seaham there are no toilets. People are urinating and defecating under Jimmy Scott Bridge due to lack of public toilets.

On Page 12 it states that: "*Key sites such as Seaham Swamp Nature Reserve and Bird Hide are truly special, offering bird watchers and nature based visitors a unique experience.*"

The bird hide is located on East Seaham Road Reserve in Seaham and this Reserve needs to be regularly maintained by Council. Again, toilets are an issue with people urinating in the Bird Hide. It should not be up to the local community to pressure wash the floor of the Bird Hide.

P. McGee

Secretary

Seaham Park & Wetlands Committee (355c)

## Online survey submissions (9 responses\*)

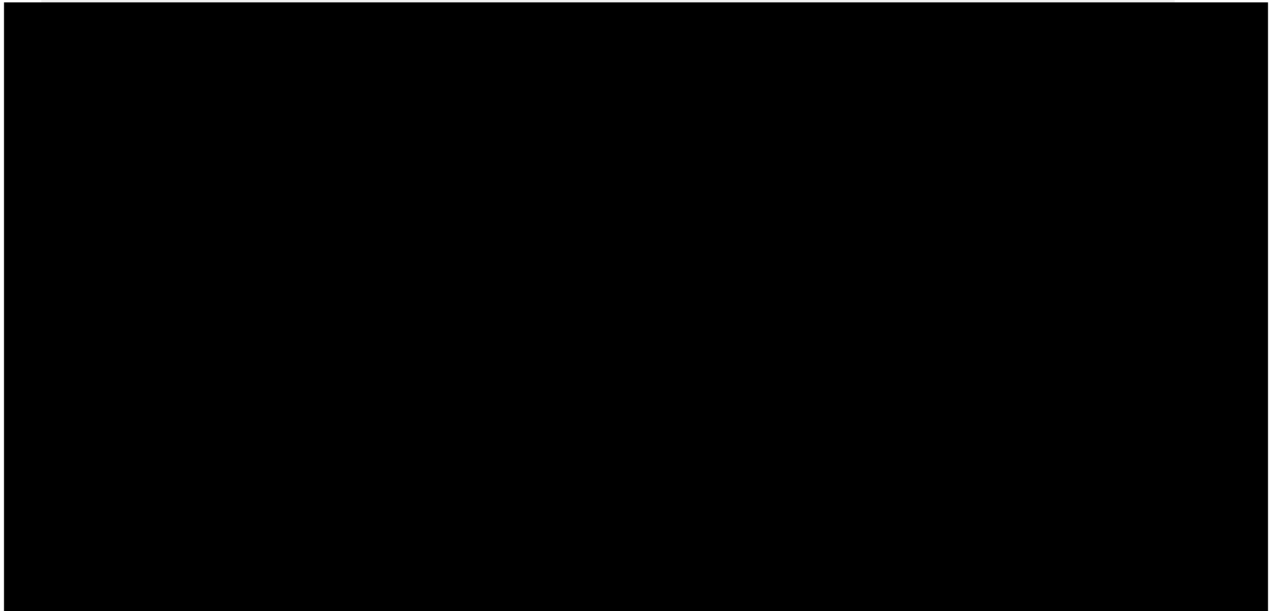
Draft Hinterland Place Plan - submission

Q1 Contact Information Please note as your responses will be considered a formal submission please include at least your name and email.

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	100.00%	9
Address	88.89%	8
Suburb	88.89%	8
Postcode	88.89%	8
Email address	100.00%	9

Name	Address	Suburb	Postcode	Email address
------	---------	--------	----------	---------------



\* Please note: one survey submission had no responses and as such was not counted in overall response. Comments however were included in written submission received.

Draft Hinterland Place Plan - submission

## Q2 What do you like about the Draft Hinterland Place Plan?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Useful reference map on page 8. The Plan documents that the Liveability score for the Hinterland falls below both that for the nation and for Port Stephens generally. It is good to see acknowledgement that Hinterland communities place a high value on their local natural environment, stating that "in fact it's the thing they care most about."	9/4/2023 4:55 PM
2	Positive outlook for the future, with plenty of community considerations.	9/4/2023 4:01 PM
3	It shows that Port Stephens Council intends to liaise with the local rural communities on making improvements with the various areas of the Hinterland	9/2/2023 7:03 PM
4	That it is designed to IMPROVE the liveability and wellbeing of the Hinterland community.	8/29/2023 9:17 AM
5	I think the importance placed on open space and conserving the character of the area is an excellent feature of the draft plan.	8/21/2023 10:08 PM
6	That it recognises the need to increase activities and communal areas for the people who live here. At the drop in session it was discussed the possibility of a joint project with the Hunter Water board to access the pipeline area of Osterley and create a walking trail with a viewing platform. This would be highly beneficial to the community and visitors in this area. There are regular groups who travel through our area ie: push bike riders, large biker groups (every weekend) and Sunday drivers enjoying the area. A location to stop and have a destination to enjoy the sites would be great. Drawing even more people to the area. Not only this, it is a known fact that rural living equates to a generally higher level of unhealthy weight/fitness. Residents of this area walk along the road dodging traffic on a regular basis. Providing a walking track up along the pipeline will include great health benefits for the community. ■■■■■■■■■■ Morpeth - Maitland City Council area to walk my dog! Keep up the good work thinking of us who are a little more rural but who still want to exercise! The safety of those using the roads, areas to pull over and rest, bench seats and the like with shade or trees would be a investment in the areas.	8/21/2023 4:58 PM
7	That it has a broad strokes approach to the problems and opportunities that exist for our small communities.	8/10/2023 1:36 PM

Draft Hinterland Place Plan - submission

### Q3 What would you like to see changed in the Draft Hinterland Place Plan?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I would like to see some real acknowledgement of the very real conflict between the need to preserve the environment and amenity of rural communities from the demands of greedy developers and heavy industry. Many residents are making their own plans to move away in view of the failure of Council to advocate on their behalf to stop the destruction of their homes by never ending quarry developments.	9/4/2023 4:55 PM
2	Include recognition of the challenges posed in this picturesque rural area where 71% speak of the importance of the natural environment, by the many proposals for quarries. There must be advice about strategic planning to protect and enhance wildlife corridors, road safety, and in particular pedestrian and driver safety.	9/4/2023 4:01 PM
3	I would like to see more detail on what is being considered so that the local residents can comment on initiatives before ratepayers money is wasted on low priority projects.	9/2/2023 7:03 PM
4	I can't believe that in this plan that Council is trying to improve our community while State Government is trying to push through the development of the huge Stone Ridge Quarry which will destroy our lifestyle. Local residents wellbeing is being totally disregarded.	8/29/2023 9:17 AM
5	More detail in relation to flood control and evacuation plans at the local government level.	8/21/2023 10:08 PM
6	Diversions and encouraging heavy traffic to utilise more suitable routes. Rather than driving through increasingly populated houses areas. Adding trees to the communal areas, imagine some of our villages becoming treelined village. This provides a completely different feel to the locations. The Hinterland is a hot area in summer and providing shade for visitors and communities will encourage more outdoor activities and gatherings. Areas of interest could be created, informational signage for historical significant areas. There is a long history in the Hinterland but who knows the rich stories. Assistance for entrepreneurial groups who wish to invest and setup small ventures for the area. It is quite incredible that we live between all these waterways and a large dam (lake) yet water sport is pretty much limited to Raymond Terrace boat ramp. That is an example of the population who wish to access the rivers, the car park can be quite highly utilised in warm weather. Encourage points of interest and places to eat/socialise need to be explored and supported.	8/21/2023 4:58 PM
7	There needs to be more information on the specific activities taking place. For example a pathway in Brandy Hill \$2,500,000. Either this amount is a typo or "pathway" is more of a colloquialism. What is it an extended road access, 20km biking and hiking trail or was it meant to be a \$25k footpath.	8/10/2023 1:36 PM

Draft Hinterland Place Plan - submission

## Q4 What have we missed in the Draft Hinterland Place Plan?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	There is a failure to honestly engage with the concerns of residents. The plan does not even talk about the various proposed quarry developments that are set to destroy our local environment and community. There is no point claiming you have been listening when no earnest effort is made to take on board the community's concerns.	9/4/2023 4:55 PM
2	Any mention of planning to cope with quarries/mining to enable the many desirable priorities: things like physical comfort (without the noise, dust and earth movements), personal and pedestrian safety (on narrow roads with heavily laden quarry trucks), Walking/jogging/bike paths, protection of the environment,	9/4/2023 4:01 PM
3	The draft plan certainly lacks detail and I don't think the needs of the various hinterland communities has adequately been identified.	9/2/2023 7:03 PM
4	That our community and wildlife is being decimated by MORE quarries in the East Seaham are.	8/29/2023 9:17 AM
5	Proposed future zoning of the area. There is a large land area owned by a large developer in Wallalong that many parties and locals are concerned about which has not been addressed. Is it to be left never to be re-zoned? By the tone of the draft plan it would indicate this to be the case, if so, terrific!	8/21/2023 10:08 PM
6	Pathway for cycling and walking safely between residences will have a great impact on connecting and helping for a healthier lifestyle for those living in the areas.	8/21/2023 4:58 PM
7	Links to more in depth detail of the activities described.	8/10/2023 1:36 PM

Draft Hinterland Place Plan - submission

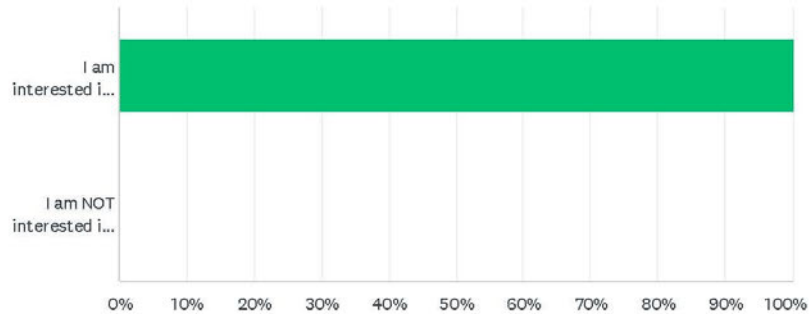
## Q5 Any other comments?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 3

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Stop wasting time on pretty words that no one busy has time to read, and which will do nothing to protect the Hinterland from the ravages of greedy developers who care nothing for the environment or the community when their profits are at stake.	9/4/2023 4:55 PM
2	While State Sustainable Development is somewhat beyond the control of PSC, Council must acknowledge the challenges and discuss how to overcome them; not just avoid this difficult topic altogether.	9/4/2023 4:01 PM
3	The Hinterland plans should include: - Improvement in public transport as the residents in the Hinterland is aging. The older population will increasingly rely on public transport for them to shop for their daily needs and access services within and outside the Port Stephens area. - Each community within the Hinterland area would benefit with the placement of community noticeboards. The noticeboards could be used to highlight upcoming community events, details on PSC projects in the areas, items for sale and information state significant development items that effect the area as well as future federal, state and council election information.	9/2/2023 7:03 PM
4	Over the past three years Port Stephens Council has approved development - eg. Primitive Camp Ground, which has destroyed our lifestyle. Unless something drastically improves we would never encourage anyone to live in Port Stephens Council.	8/29/2023 9:17 AM
5	Make known the nature and habitat corridors. We have a wonderful bird life and too often I see owls and important less common birdlife become roadkill. Signage to make people aware of the nature inhabiting the areas might be helpful. Much of the community are long term residents who chose to live in the villages and surrounding areas well into advanced age. Creating the ability to maintain a health lifestyle, staying socially connected are extremely important. Morpeth is a great example of this. Many people are choosing to retire in the area. The hinterland can also be developed to draw in the regions visitors. Places to escape and unwind are incredibly popular, for example where can anyone visit and camp in the Hinterland? Can council develop and caravan park in the area or encourage free camping locations? Somewhere like Seaham or Hinton with access to facilities, a coffee shop, a pub and a shop! This would draw tourism dollars to the region and opportunities for locals to make a living supporting the visitors.	8/21/2023 4:58 PM
6	I believe that the traditional owners of the inland parts of the Shire are not Worimi lamds. This needs to be seriously checked. The Gringai clan of the Wanarua people appear to be the traditional owners of some, if not all, of the Hinterlands area.	8/10/2023 6:32 PM

Q6 After the draft Hinterland Place Plan is adopted, we will look at setting up Town Teams for The Hinterland. If you are interested in creating or joining a Town Team or even just learning more about the process, check the box below and we will keep in touch.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I am interested in learning more about The Hinterland Town Teams	100.00%	4
I am NOT interested in becoming part of the Medowie Town Team	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 4		





**PORT STEPHENS**  
COUNCIL