

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Boat Harbour Beach Masterplan due to get green light

Waratah-Wynyard Council is set to adopt The Boat Harbour Beach Masterplan at the Monday, August 19 Council meeting.

The Boat Harbour Beach Masterplan has been developed to address community expectations and provide a unifying vision and strategic plan for the area.

“Adopting the report will set the strategic direction for works and budget in Boat Harbour Beach,” Waratah-Wynyard Mayor Robby Walsh said.

The Boat Harbour Beach Masterplan focuses on the management of public spaces around the beach area and the provision of supporting infrastructure and development.

“The Plan is a great opportunity for Council to identify Boat Harbour Beach’s future vision and to address opportunities and challenges,” Mayor Walsh said.

“Boat Harbour Beach is an important residential and visitor hub for the North-West Coast and the State, but there have been challenges arising from seasonal fluctuations in visitation and usage,” Mayor Walsh said.

Council identified the need “to complete a Boat Harbour Development Plan to improve public realm, traffic and parking arrangements, recreational use and development opportunity” as part of its annual planning process.

Many opportunities were provided for the community to be a key part of the decision making, among them: workshops, an online survey, one-on-one talks and a direct mailout to Boat Harbour Beach land owners. Additionally, a four-week public consultation of the Draft Plan was held and included two information sessions at Boat Harbour Beach.

“Community engagement has been a critical component of input into the preparation of the Plan,” Mayor Walsh said.

The outputs from the sessions indicated support for the plan. Participants were asked what worked well for them about the plan, what reservations they had and what could be done to address the reservations. Road access and freedom camping were most often mentioned.

Following adoption of the Masterplan, a working group will be established with elected members, Council officers and community members to determine priorities to progress the plan. The Boat Harbour Beach Surf Life Saving Club will be a partner in this delivery phase.

**Authorised for general media distribution by Shane Crawford, General Manager, Waratah-Wynyard Council on Friday, August 16, 2019**

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