Figure 20. Vehicular Movement and Car Parking
Figure 25. Boating and Fishing
Summary of Key Issues

Figure 26. Summary of Key Issues
7 Vision

The participants at the Summit stated there should not be one vision for the foreshore, but rather each precinct should have its own vision and character so to capture the unique sense and place of the foreshore.

The proposed revised vision for the Foreshore is outlined below:

"The foreshore of Port Macquarie, from Town Beach to Settlement City including Kooloonbung Creek is iconic, vibrant, safe and a connected foreshore area.

It provides nodes of interest and activity that creates a foreshore promenade which is a major coastal destination that locals and tourist are proud of because of its environmental and social sustainable amenity."

The Port Macquarie Foreshore was defined to have three precincts. The following is the proposed vision and character of each of the precincts:

Precinct 1: Town Beach and Foreshore East

*The Town Beach to the Breakwall precinct offers an ocean and entertainment experience. An area of significant natural beauty this precinct is focused on water, tourist and family friendly activities.

It is a family oriented series of spaces that provide high quality amenities and facilities such as playgrounds for different age groups, a cafe/kiosk, scented gardens, picnic shelters and BBQ’s to support active recreation, child friendly activities, beach going and fitness and exercise. The area encourages both walking and driving to enjoy its outlook and amenities with a continuous linked footpath and cycleway network that offers a range of opportunities to interact with the water, beach, lookouts and landscape as part of the movement experience through the precinct.

Children have a range of play opportunities here from the upgraded skate park with improved lighting and half basket ball court to the new playground adjacent to it for older children and the young kids play area in Rotary Park. Parents can sit and talk on the seating under shade canopies whilst their children play. Kids can move from water to play areas easily and safely.

The beach and town are connected by improved steps and walkways from the lookouts which offer magnificent views down to the beach front encouraging greater visitation and improved exercise opportunities

Rotary Park offers facilities for visitors and education opportunities through the renovated Observatory visitors information centre, marine science display and star gazing. The street narrowing upgrade connects the park and beach together with a safe pedestrian environment, whilst still providing adequate parking opposite for visitors to the beach.

The Kiosk/ Sea Rescue upgrade/redevelopment offers great facilities to beach uses with food, drink and undercover eating opportunities to sit and watch the waves and swimmers. The upgraded seawall and stairs make beach access easy linking the upgraded parking areas, picnic facilities and Rotary Park.
The breakwall, caravan park and sea parkland create a new node for visitors and residents. The widened and upgraded promenade along the Breakwall with its unique graffiti stones, lookout and fishing platform at the point is a destination for all. The new play areas, upgraded skate ramp, seating, picnic areas and landscaping make it a pleasant and safe place to be whilst still allowing major events in the open space area. The new cafe kiosk and amenities building provide opportunities for a quiet coffee or an ice-cream with the kids playing safely nearby.

The new cascading steps from the hill provide places to sit and read, to enjoy outdoor cinema events and school plays with the sound of the ocean as an accompaniment.

The breakwall celebrates its role as a fishing opportunity and provides safe fishing pods which cantilever over the breakwall occasionally. These pods invite sitting and looking at the dolphins or fishing in relative comfort without the danger of dancing with the rocks. The widened pedestrian and cycle path allows a slow and enjoyable walk or a brisk jog moving from ocean to river.”

Precinct 2: Town Centre

“The town centre precinct is where the city meets the water providing commercial, environmental and social experiences. The river mouth and distance views to Pelican Island and the edge of Westport define the precinct. Easy way finding and termination of the street pattern at the water front with regular laneway connections offer views to the water and create movement opportunities into the town centre.

This precinct hosts major civic events near the water, celebrates the history of the town and its maritime past with the new Anzac lawn and memorial pool and the historic Pilot Boat Shed museum. Commercial boating and the Alma Doepel enliven the foreshore edges, providing activities for visitors and residents to experience the river and local sea life.

The rolling green spaces along the edge of the foreshore offer opportunities to sit and read on the grass or enjoy quiet contemplation of the water. The new playground celebrates the maritime theme with play structures that emulate boat shapes and encourage imaginative play.

This precinct continues the pedestrian and cycle network from the eastern foreshore to link through the town centre and over to the Westport Park. The route changes in character along its length from footpaths through parkland and grassy areas to boardwalks over the water and at the water's edge.

Moving towards the west and Short Street the precinct is a bustling place - the maritime heart of the town, with informal busking, music performances on the paved areas and grass, markets and seafood coop all creating activity.

Visitors and residents stop to enjoy fresh seafood, chowder and other delicacy at the restaurants, eateries and seafood shops which ply their trade along the promenade edge whilst watching the commercial fishing vessels and tourist boats moving in and out of the Port.

Children, parents, fishermen and visitors experience the water at close hand on the new fishing decks, reconnecting the water to the town edge. Views across the creek mouth are improved with the relocation of the coop into the new high quality development on the Short Street site, the upgrading of the wharf and on the other side of the creek the new boardwalk and pedestrian bridge.

Koolongbong Creek links into the foreshore precinct for pedestrians and cyclists with new pathways, landscaping and seawall creating a pleasant if low key environment. The creek footpaths continue to the south and link into the Nature Reserve and botanic gardens.

New development activates the foreshore edge with businesses and apartments looking onto the creek. The new river beach on the western side of the creek provides opportunities to reach the waters edge, for children to paddle and canoe and kayak access.

The western side of the foreshore creates a more passive recreational opportunity. New landscaping, pathways and parking areas improve the visual amenity of the foreshore park. The existing boat ramp with associated trailer parking allows greater boating use of the foreshore but with improved materials and landscaping to soften the impact of the vehicles.”
Precinct 3: Westport Park

"Westport Park and the western foreshore complete the foreshore precinct as a whole. This western end ties the CBD and the Settlement City Precinct together as part of the Greater Port Macquarie Town Centre and provides marine and recreational experiences.

This precinct is home to the major sporting events such as Iron Man which transform the area into a dramatic and active sporting arena. As such the park area is kept clear of obstructions with landscaping around its edges, providing a more intimate environment with wind protection and an improved visual appearance without compromising the use of the green space. Seating areas and picnic shelters on its edges provide opportunities for families to use the park between major events and even play the odd game of cricket on the oval.

The Bowling Club activates the foreshore edge at its pinch point with terraces and landscaping spilling out towards the foreshore path – creating movement and light at night as well as during the day.

Use of the precinct is greatly improved by the new amenities located near the bowling club and the marina. The experience of the foreshore edge is also upgraded with new wider pedestrian/cycle pathways, lighting, seating and landscape. Fishing facilities are provided in more locations adjacent to the boat ramp for fish cleaning and BBQ’s to cook the fish fresh for immediate eating.

The foreshore walk continues along the edge to link into the new development at Park Street, both along the street which has been upgraded as a new waterfront promenade with linear park and along the edge of the foreshore itself past the new marina development.

Active marine and retail uses along the waterfront provide additional dining opportunities and the chance to buy tackle or bait. New children’s play areas including water sculptures and climbing art are located within Westport Park and allow parents to sit and enjoy the view whilst monitoring the kids in the play spaces.

The area is an active boating node with the new marina berths, existing upgraded boat ramp and trailer parking area. The continuous public boardwalk around the Marina and in the future around the new Sails Resort links into a series of public squares and parks that create views and links back into the Settlement City redevelopment and the main town square.

The walk continues into the mangroves with a raised boardwalk with educational plaques on the mangroves and their ecosystem and the navigational marker."
Proposed Masterplan Concepts

Following the comments made regarding different precincts and nodes of activity at the Summit, the Foreshore was broken into three precinct and a few nodes areas. (See Figure 28)
Precinct 1: Town Beach and Rotary Park

Main features of the Concept Plan:

- Continuous high quality foreshore path, which will vary in width depending on the location and surrounds (suggested minimum 3m wide), for shared pedestrian and bicycle use.
- Extensive new landscaping throughout the Precinct including tree planting (located to retain existing significant views), native grasses and returfing of worn areas.
- Enhanced youth facilities including a new championship standard skate ramp and basketball half court in Marine Park.
- New seating, shaded picnic areas and grass kick-a-bout areas for play and informal sports in Marine Park and Rotary Park.
- New kiosk and amenities in Marine Park north.
- New harbour mouth platform and fishing decks along the breakwall.
- New step and ramp access to beach and seawalls where required.
- Upgraded beach parking to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility to the foreshore.
- Closure of Stewart Street to through traffic to reconnect Rotary Park with the foreshore and beach.
- New playgrounds in Marine Park and Rotary Park, accounting for all age groups.
- Amphitheatre steps and bandstand in Marine Park for performances in the park, concerts and special events.
- Enlarged viewing deck and improved paving at Gaol Point.
- New lookout platform at Allmans Hill and path connections to the breakwall and beach through the caravan park (subject to negotiations with Department of Lands).
- Improved access from Rotary Park and Gaol Point to the beach via steps and ramps.
- Mass indigenous planting to eroded hillside between beach and Stewart Street.
- Redevelopment of the Sea Rescue building at the north end of Town Beach.
- Refurbished Observatory building with new café and shaded outdoor seating area adjacent to playground.
- Improved Scented Garden for the vision impaired in Rotary Park.
- Improved lighting throughout the foreshore, particularly along the breakwall and at Gaol Point, to increase safety and deter anti-social behaviour. Where possible, new lighting to be solar powered.
Precinct 1: Town Beach and Rotary Park - Design Imagery & Public Domain Character
Precinct 2: Town Centre and Kooloonbung Creek

Main features of the Concept Plan:

- Establishment of “Anzac Lawn” adjacent to the Anzac memorial and area for important civic and community ceremonies and celebrations.
- Continuous high quality foreshore path, may vary in width depending on the location and surrounds (suggested minimum 3m wide), for shared pedestrian and bicycle use.
- New fishing and viewing platforms, lookouts and steps to water in various locations including the breakwall.
- New interactive play area in Town Green – talking walls, water jets, climbing blocks integrated into overall design.
- Retention of existing mature Fig trees and Norfolk Island Pines in Town Green.
- Picnic shelters, tables, seating and shade tree planting in various locations including the Town Green and Hollingworth Street.
- Seating steps, tree planting and improvements to Short Street (north) car park.
- Improved paving and landscaping around historic Pilot Boat Shed and upgrade (where required) to commercial marina boardwalk.
- Seafood coop (subject to viability) to be either upgraded or relocated within future development subject to operational requirements
- New 5m boardwalk around the Co-op, particularly to the south, subject to the Co-op being retained in existing location.
- Relocation of Alma Doepel schooner to enlarged and upgraded Fisherman’s Wharf.
- New seating and shade on Fisherman’s Wharf suitable for outdoor eating.
- New fish cleaning facilities in popular fishing locations.
- Shortening of Hollingworth Street (north) to allow for additional foreshore park, picnic areas and seating court next to jetty.
- Additional commercial marina berths (and possible short stay berthing for private vessels) and hire/sales kiosk next to Hollingworth Street.
- Shared pedestrian/bicycle path along Kooloonbung Creek linking to existing Nature Reserve south of Gordon Street.
- Step access to Kooloonbung Creek to facilitate canoe launching.
- Native tree and native grass planting along Kooloonbung Creek, including “Eucalypt Walk” with interpretive information (species, origins, Aboriginal uses etc).
- Future playground and café court at end of Haywood Street (subject to redevelopment of Council car park site).
- Traffic signals on Gordon Street to improve connectivity with Kooloonbung Creek Nature Reserve.
- Improved lighting along the foreshore and creek to increase safety and deter anti-social behaviour. Where possible, new lighting to be solar powered.
Precinct 3: Settlement City and Westport Park

Main features of the Concept Plan:

- Westport Park retained as a major events and community recreation node.
- Continuous high quality foreshore path, may vary in width depending on the location and surrounds (suggested minimum 3m wide), for shared pedestrian and bicycle use.
- New shaded all age playground next to picnic shelters, BBQs, water jets, grass kick-a-bout area and tree planting.
- Children’s Beach area, with protected swimming enclosure, concrete seawall (where required) and seating steps.
- New tree and native grass planting along foreshore (located to maximise existing significant views).
- Picnic shelters, tables, seating and shade tree planting in Westport Park.
- Boardwalk and seating courts (accessible 24/7) around Port Marina suitable for strolling, busking, outdoor eating, fishing and passive recreation.
- Kinetic wind sculpture on boardwalk edge.
- New public jetty, and upgraded boat ramp and trailer/ car parking area.
- Retention of existing Centenarian tree plantings and plaques.
- North facing ‘Marina Square’ with outdoor eateries / bars, maritime theme hardwood seating, Figs and ocean mosaic, subject to negotiation with land owners.
- New fish cleaning facilities in popular fishing locations.
- Boardwalk access to historically significant Navigational Marker.
- Fitness stations along foreshore path.
- Large open events space for Iron Man, sports etc.
- Retention of existing mature Fig tree on Buller Street (corner of Park Street) and mangrove vegetation.
- Existing amenities block in Westport Park removed and relocated (subject to negotiations with adjoining land owners).
- Tree arbour and footpath along eastern edge of existing Bowling Club multi deck car park (investigate potential for future sleeving of car park).
- Improved pedestrian pathways around Sea Rescue building, upgraded boat ramp and turning court.
- Improved lighting along the foreshore to increase safety and deter anti-social behaviour. Where possible, new lighting to be solar powered.
9 Framework for Implementation

The vision of the Port Macquarie community for the Foreshore will only be implemented if a framework for implementation is outlined and actioned. The framework and implementation of the draft Final Port Macquarie Foreshore Masterplan however only occurs if Port Macquarie Hastings Council, together with the Port Macquarie residents, community and business, together with Department of Lands work together in a partnership approach or collaboratively.

The framework for implementation incorporates the following aspects:

- Governance - roles and responsibilities
- Funding and partnerships
- Planning framework
- Priorities and Actions

9.1 Governance

Port Macquarie Hastings Council is the local authority and the responsible consenting authority. However much of the Port Macquarie Foreshore land is under the ownership of the Department of Lands, with a few parcels of land owned by private land holders. Maintenance of the public foreshore is either undertaken by Department of Lands or by Council, under agreement. The foreshore is however used and enjoyed by all residents, businesses and tourists in Port Macquarie.

For the Port Macquarie Foreshore Masterplan to be implemented, the following is proposed:

- Port Macquarie Hastings Council should be the “leaders” and facilitators for the implementation of the Plan;
- Port Macquarie Hastings Council should form a Co-ordinating Committee with the Minister and Department of Lands in order to discuss the implementation and their plan of management process;
- Council and the community should work together, and form partnerships, to begin to implement the plan. One example could be to compile and submit an application/s to the state and federal government for funding.
- Council should continue to undertake the maintenance and day to day management of the foreshore.
- Department of Lands should co-ordinate any EOI process on public land with Council.
- Council, Port Macquarie Tourism and business groups should integrate and co-ordinate events and funding opportunities along the foreshore.

9.2 Funding and Partnerships

Implementation of the Masterplan requires commitment from all parties, and hence a partnership approach is necessary. The following funding options and collaborative partnerships are available for the Port Macquarie Foreshore:

- Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (Federal Government):
  $300 million fund for community infrastructure. Port Macquarie-Hastings Council has been allocated $1.16 million for community infrastructure from the Federal Government. Parts of the funding could be used to initiate urgent and priority initiatives in the foreshore.

- Public Reserves Management Fund (Department of Lands):
  This fund provides loan monies and limited grants to trust boards. These funds are available for improvement works to Crown reserves and provide for both capital development and maintenance projects.

- Coastal Management Program (DECC):
  Provides coastal and floodplain management grants to local councils in NSW. In 2008/2009 grant offers for foreshore improvements were made to Port Macquarie-Hastings Council for the North Haven Beach Reserve and Foreshore Upgrading ($90,000) and the Nobbys Beach Walkway Restoration and Upgrade ($35,000). A similar grant could be applied for the Port Macquarie Foreshore.
• **Business Levy (Port Macquarie-Hastings Council):**
  The Port Macquarie CBD Business Levy could be extended, subject to agreement, and used to fund the priority foreshore initiatives.

• **Section 94/94A (Port Macquarie-Hastings Council):**
  Funding for the foreshore project, specifically for open space, could be sourced from developer contributions.

• **Voluntary Planning Agreements or Tender submission requirements:**
  Funding, for community benefit, could result from negotiated outcomes on developable land as part of the Agreement.

### 9.3 Planning Framework

The foreshore is currently zoned, under the Port Macquarie Hastings Local Environmental Plan 2001 (LEP), part Zone 2(t1) Residential Tourist, Zone 6(a) Open Space and Zone 7(f1) Environmental Protection – Coastal. The proposed vision and initiatives outlined in the draft Final Port Macquarie Foreshore Masterplan 2008 can generally be achieved within the current zonings.

The Town Beach and Rotary Park Precinct is predominantly zoned 7(f1). Most of the initiatives and concepts outlined in the precinct are permissible uses, with Council’s consent or as exempt and complying development application under the current LEP 2001. However additional assessment and planning advice should be obtained when upgrading the Sea Rescue and life saving building, particularly when including a kiosk, café and restaurant opportunity.

The Town Centre and Kooloonbung Creek Precinct is zoned 7(f1), while the western portion is zoned 6(a). Most of the initiatives and concepts outlined in the precinct are permissible uses, with Council’s consent or as exempt of complying development application under the current LEP 2001. However additional assessment and planning considerations (due to possible existing use rights) is required, particularly when upgrading/relocation (subject to owner) of the co-op building.

The Settlement City and Westport Park Precinct is zoned 6(a) with the western end zoned 2(t1). Most of the initiatives and concepts outlined in the Precinct are permissible uses, either with the consent of the Council or as exempt of complying development under the current LEP 2001.

The study area falls within the coastal zone (SEPP No 71), which is defined as within 100m of mean high water mark, however for any initiatives/works proposed in the draft Final Port Macquarie Foreshore Masterplan 2008, it is unlikely that referral to the Department of Planning will be required. In addition, the Draft State Environmental Planning Policy (Repeal of Concurrence and Referral Provisions) 2008 (Draft SEPP 2008) aims to remove concurrence and referral provisions from local, regional and state planning instruments. The Draft SEPP 2008 removes the SEPP No 71 requirement for referrals to the Director-General for developments in sensitive coastal locations. From a planning perspective, it is therefore necessary for the landowners to work with Council in implementing the plan.

### 9.4 Priorities and Action

To initiate any implementation of the Masterplan it is important that the Council together with the community:-

- Identify priority initiatives,
- Council to meet and discuss Masterplan and Management Plan with Department of Lands,
- Council to commission more detailed plans of those priority areas or issues, so to obtain architectural drawings outlining the detailed concept, levels, design details, and construction materials,
- Council to then clarify the cost of the initiative, how much funding is required and what partnerships can facilitate the implementation of the initiative,
- Council to undertake detailed assessment of planning and engineering requirements,
- Council and Community to compile submission for funding or EOI for partner to assist in implementing the initiatives of the Plan,
- Undertake staged implementation of the Masterplan,
- On-going monitoring and assessment of initiatives.
10 Conclusion

Port Macquarie is endowed with beautiful waterways and beaches linked by extensive areas of public open space. A continuous, paved foreshore walk stretches from Town Beach in the east to Westport Park boat ramp in the west. In addition, pathways extend south along Kooloonbung Creek, linking the town centre with Kooloonbung Creek Nature Reserve.

The foreshore walk provides a diverse range of experiences that appeal to a wide range of users, from locals to tourists. The workshops and summit highlighted the broad demands, values and expectations placed on the foreshore. Activities and uses range from civic ceremonies, recreational fishing, parking, sports, passive recreation, children’s play, entertainment, marine uses, tourism operations and emergency services. The foreshore also provides important habitat for local fauna, terrestrial and aquatic. Balancing these often competing demands and uses on the foreshore is a challenge for Council and the community. The Foreshore Concept designs attempts to strike the right balance and deliver a master plan that creates an outcome that achieves the vision for the foreshore.

For the purposes of planning and design the foreshore is broken in to three precincts; Town Beach and Rotary Park, Town Centre and Kooloonbung Creek and Settlement City and Westport Park.

The eastern precinct of Town Beach and Rotary Park also includes Mrs Yorks Garden and Allmans Hill. The masterplan reconnects the precinct and provides improved opportunities for safe and active enjoyment of the beach and Marine Park by families and young people. Pedestrian movement along the beach is proposed to be improved by providing new wider pathways and relocating car parking away from prime foreshore land. Increased shade and additional beach access is proposed to provide a more comfortable and convenient experience, especially during peak summer months. Picnic, playground and viewing facilities are identified for Rotary Park and Gaol Point, recognising the important tourism role in this location. New pedestrian and bicycle lanes traverse Mrs Yorks Garden, which is planned to be returned to its former glory. Beautiful Allmans Hill is mostly retained in its current state except for the addition of a viewing deck taking advantage of the spectacular vistas over Hastings River and Pacific Ocean. Pathways are proposed to link Allmans Hill with the breakwall and Marine Park, providing more direct links to the foreshore and beach. Lighting is planned to be upgraded throughout the foreshore to improve safety and facilitate night-time performances and events in Marine Park.

The Town Centre plays an important civic and commercial role in the life of Port Macquarie. The masterplan recognises the Town Green, with its Anzac memorial and proximity to the commercial heart of the town, as one of the most important foreshore spaces. The concept retains large open areas for civic ceremonies and gatherings, a new interactive all age playground, some additional car parking and new pathways and landscaping. Outdoor eating spaces are provided near the seafood coop and commercial marinas. Linking the town centre and the western foreshore and new marina berths is a shared pedestrian and bicycle bridge. The concept of restoring a bridge connection was warmly embraced by the community and stakeholders during the workshops and the exhibition period. New landscaping, water access for canoe launching, shared paths and a playground are proposed along Kooloonbung Creek to improve the amenity and attractiveness of the creek reserve.

The Settlement City and Westport Park precinct provides a vital physical link from Westport and Settlement City shopping centre to the town centre. Further, the foreshore path is heavily used by joggers, walkers and bicycles. Westport Park also hosts important sporting events including Iron Man and boating access to the River. A new playground, picnic shelters, bench seating and children’s beach are proposed on the foreshore between Westport Bowling Club and the Marina. Future redevelopment of the Marina site and Sails Resort provide the opportunity to establish continuous public access along the water’s edge. The achievement of uninterrupted foreshore public access was listed as a high priority for the vast majority of attendees at the workshops and summit. The Masterplan also facilitates pedestrian connections to Westport and future development within the Settlement City precinct. The Masterplan ensures that Westport Park will remain an active and flexible open space with strong physical and visual links to the town centre and Westport.