

Statements from the first phase of community consultation – Huskisson/Woollamia

Planning 'Events' to work for everybody

Events are a significant contributor to our financial wellbeing, however, all Events should be planned and managed so they are a positive experience for everybody including participants, residents, traders and the organisers. This would require improved Council oversight and consultation to ensure a sustainable and acceptable number and spread of events that demonstrate effective event control.

Improving parks and open spaces

Voyager Park, White Sands Park, the Woollamia Boat Ramp and the foreshore along Husky Beach enhance living in and visiting the village. Facilities such as changing rooms, toilets, which would accommodate families with young children should be added to these parks and open space.

Improving the street trees and street scapes

The streetscape is an important part of Huskisson. A policy that conserves the beauty and unique ambiance created by the trees and lights in Huskisson be put in place. For example, underground powerlines, replacement of trees further from the power lines could be considered.

Becoming a self-sufficient village again

The village scores well when it comes to restaurants and cafés. Husky Pics is a gem. To become a more self-sufficient village, community and council work toward the replacement of newsagent, small independent butcher and retention of banking services, policing and a medical practitioner. Our self-sufficient village would also include better information networks / signs especially for Events and activities.

Maintaining the village feel (ambiance)

We love the village character of Huskisson and Woollamia and it is a critical part of the attraction to residing and visiting. The qualities that would need to be sustained are:

- being small and friendly (where you know most people),
- rural (Woollamia),
- peaceful,
- walkability (crossings and paths),
- safe and secure.

All infrastructure and building developments should only be approved when they meet these village qualities. Further 'developments' should be appropriate, facilitate access to spaces that encourage interaction, contain noisy activities. Existing projects such as the Maritime Museum and its market plan to connect into the total community ambience.

Developing and planning the villages while preserving their character

The future policies governing development should include:

- strong planning controls which ensure low developments as the first line of development on beach fronts,
- strong character controls regarding the shape and façade of new buildings so that they reflect the landscape and existing heritage of Husky/Woollamia,
- limited multi-storey development,
- rules and regulations to limit the number of empty units, and balance the density of accommodation
- adequate involvement of indigenous people and local population in planning
- strong replacement of trees in order to preserve the traditional feel of the village .

Fostering a vibrant permanent community

City planning and development should be ruled by policies aiming at creating a vibrant permanent community grounded on a range of employment options and avoiding empty houses and units that are only available for short term accommodation. The council must be empowered to say no to developers and should require high design standards, fresh thinking, forward looking solutions particularly to support young people in the area.

Preserving the magnificent views

The beautiful bay and beaches are core to the attraction of Huskisson and Woollamia. Strict planning controls should be put in place that keep the strong visual connection to the bay and bush and avoid multi-storey buildings that block views. These controls should ensure access for all to views and to the beach and bay. 59 Owen St could be turned into a green space for all to enjoy the view of the bay and beach with a car park put underneath.

Keeping Huskisson and Woollamia identity

"All good as is." Huskisson / Woollamia should move forward while being able to retain what makes it unique and attractive, its essence and simplicity. Chain and franchise shops should be kept away.

Protecting our pristine and precious natural environment

The bay contains pristine water and the area supports a healthy environment, and sense of connection with nature. As marked by the advertising campaign 'unspoilt', Husky-Woollamia should continue to acknowledge these values and protect them. Policies and innovative initiatives should be put in place to promote responsible behaviours and standards of sustainability that would ensure the protection of our precious beauty and ecosystems.

Respecting the village heritage

Huskisson / Woollamia hosts considerable indigenous and colonial history. The heritage of the area is found in many local stories and places including Huski Pics, old weatherboard homes, the Anglican Church, old trees, and the maritime history. Planning control should ensure the protection of this cultural and natural heritage.

Improving transport access to Huskisson / Woollamia

As numbers of visitors and residents increase to the area, both the road infrastructure and the public transport system need to be improved, including:

- the intersection of JB Road with the highway,
- overall better quality of road surfacing
- more frequent public transport options to aid tourism and local resident access surrounding facilities

Improving traffic management

To ensure the safety of pedestrians, in particular during peak visitation time with its increased traffic, there is a need to better control the speed of motor vehicles. Roundabouts could be added to the corner of Sydney and Owen streets, and Keppel and Owen streets. A 15 minute parking zone could be added outside the post office.

Building sustainable tourism

The Huskisson and Woollamia community would like to share this beautiful place they call home with tourists while ensuring the environment and residents' lives are not negatively impacted. Strategies should be devised in collaboration with the community and the tourism organisations to ensure the sustainability of tourism, such as attracting visitors off the peak-season.

Continuing to improve Huskisson / Woollamia Bay and Creek recreation

The area offers many recreation opportunities for locals and visitors and contributes to lifestyle and tourism quality. Council and community have done a fantastic job in providing

and facilitating these opportunities (boat ramp, wharf, barbecues ...). They should continue to provide and look for ways to add and enhance these areas which won't distract from existing experiences, and in particular, providing opportunities for younger generations (e.g. skateboard park).

Growing the network of foot and bike paths that support everybody

People enjoy the opportunity to walk or cycle safely around the villages and to other places. This network of pathways should continue to grow and include paths on the village streets so that people with mobility aids (walkers, prams) can enjoy greater safety.

Improving parking during peak-season periods

Short, medium and long-term parking is problematic in periods of high visitation, and limits the access to commercial services. Creative long-term solutions ought to be found which do not turn Huskisson / Woollamia into a giant carpark.

Having a Council that works for us

The community want a forward thinking and innovative Council with high standards and practices; listening to locals and not just developers. Currently there is significant mistrust and low opinion of Council.