

Community Engagement Plan

Project Name: Witton Bluff Base Trail

Project Description

The Witton Bluff Base Trail (WBBT), a 1.37km section of accessible pathway around Witton Bluff, between the foreshore at Christies Beach and Port Noarlunga forms part of the State Government's Coast Park initiative and the City of Onkaparinga's Coast Park Plan (2019) (www.onkaparingacity.com/Services-and-projects/Projects/Coast-Park-Plan-2019).

The proposal reinforces the State Government's Coast Park vision to enhance open space linkages and ensure safe, accessible and convenient access for pedestrians and cyclists. The Coast Park Plan identifies and prioritises segments along the City's coast yet to be completed and the Witton Bluff Base Trail is the remaining link for a continuous coastal pathway from O'Sullivan's Beach to Moana.

Project Background

Since 2003, the City of Onkaparinga has been working in close partnership with the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure to deliver the State Government's Coast Park vision for a 70km coastal linear park from North Haven to Sellicks Beach. To date 51.5km of Coast Park have been completed, 17.1km within our council area, and 18.5km yet to be completed, 13.9km within our council area.

In June 2019, Council approved the Coast Park Plan 2019 "Delivering the Coast Park Vision". The Plan highlighted gaps in the delivery of Coast Park and provided priority actions for the staged implementation of the remaining 13.9km. The northern section of Coast Park (council's northern boundary to Pedler Creek, Moana) is fully constructed (8.1km) or design for the unconstructed sections is well advanced, with the exception of the Port Stanvac segment (3km, which is not owned by Council).

Witton Bluff Base Trail was identified as a priority action to commence detail design in 2019-20 and construction in 2020-21. The Witton Bluff Base Trail segment will provide a considerable tourist drawcard, creating a unique experience with the shared use path close to the water's edge.

Funding was secured from state government in May 2020 as part of the Open Space and Places for People Grant Program.

Project Scope

The project scope focuses on the creation of a 1.37km section of accessible pathway around Witton Bluff, between the foreshore at Christies Beach and Port Noarlunga. The proposal is to seal the existing gravel path from the Christies Beach foreshore to the Bluff and continue with a new boardwalk pathway around the base of the cliffs and above the limestone shelf to the Port Noarlunga foreshore. Concept design work commenced in 2008 with initial investigations and early concepts.

The scope of work includes:

- Upgrade of the existing unsealed pathway from Christies Beach to the wave-cut shelf to a 3-metre-wide (4m including 0.5m shoulders) DDA compliant shared-use path
- A new 3-metre-wide DDA compliant boardwalk above the wave-cut shelf designed to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists

- A coastal path link in the embayment area between the wave-cut shelves, which could consist of:
 - modification of the existing revetment wall
 - construction of an elevated platform
 - a bridge type structure
- New and formalised viewing areas and pedestrian and cyclist access connections to adjoining shared path and cycle networks
- New landscaping and revegetation with local indigenous species suitable to the coastal environment
- Interpretive and wayfinding signage
- Appropriate trail lighting and furniture
- Public art to reflect the coastal setting and recognise Kaurna heritage, including the important Tjilbruke Dreaming, at the site and surrounds.

Purpose of engagement

The purpose of community engagement is:

- to consult with the community on the desired outcomes of the project and to make sure council is aware of the things we will need to consider during the design and construction process.
- to inform the community and stakeholders of the project
- to ensure all stakeholders, both internally and externally are made aware of the project and the changes to the path network
- to inform the community and stakeholder of the projects process, highlighting key milestones and activities

Engagement objectives

The objectives of the community engagement are:

- provide information about the project including overall methodology
- to seek input from relevant key stakeholder (user) groups into specialist elements e.g. vegetation, cultural heritage, cliff stability and ensure they have opportunities to input into the overall design concept
- to inform communities of the project objectives and opportunities
- to provide a variety of opportunities for the community and stakeholders to comment on the draft concept design
- to ensure the community is kept informed of the progress of the project and how their feedback may have influenced/contributed to the decision.

Kaurna Engagement

Given the cultural sensitivity of the site and the coast in general, a key and early focus of the engagement will be with the local Kaurna community. The Mayor held a forum in July as the first step towards strengthening the working relationship with the Kaurna Community. This may provide the opportunity to initiate discussions with Kaurna about their participation in this project.

The desired outcomes of the Kaurna consultation are to reach agreement on how cultural considerations can be integrated into the project through public art and interpretive signage and to agree the process of delivering the cultural components of the project.

Key Messages

The following key messages will be incorporated in communication materials during the community engagement process:

- Works are jointly funded by the state government and Council
- The works are required to be complete by then end of 2021
- The new path is part of the Coast Park project and is a 3m wide shared use path for pedestrians and cyclists
- The Witton Bluff Base Trail segment will provide a considerable tourist drawcard, creating a unique experience with the shared use path close to the water's edge
- The project will require robust materials and design to minimise ongoing maintenance and maximise asset life in a challenging environment
- Public art and interpretive signage will be included in the total project. Council proposes to work closely with Kaurna representatives on the delivery of these project elements.
- Due to several reasons there will be limited ability for the community to influence the design. These include:
 - significant design and construction constraints
 - due to the projects complexity and risk it is envisaged that specialist contractors will be engaged for parts of the project. This may entail the use of proprietary products and details.
- Construction works are to be undertaken in 2021. During construction parts of the project site and surrounds will be inaccessible to the public. This will include the existing unsealed section of trail, the Port Noarlunga Boat Ramp and areas around the Christies Beach toilet block.
- During construction works there may be impacts on the adjacent areas including traffic restrictions (road or lane closures), reduction in car parking, additional noise and potentially a loss of views.

Engagement scope of influence

What can the community influence?

- elements of the design that do not impact negatively on its function, or external funding requirements
- information and wayfinding signage

- public art

What can't the community influence?

- the project has been approved by Council and funded by Govt and Council for 2020-21
- timing of construction works
- path alignment
- materials and construction details

Any further engagement will focus on targeted meetings with key stakeholders.

Related and/or Neighbouring Projects

- Does the project have an impact on other projects? No
- Are there other works in the same area? – No
- Does the project include public art? - Yes

Risk and Community Expectations Assessment

The following table will assist you to assess the level of complexity, sensitivity and potential impact, and help to determine the best engagement approach.				
Area	low	medium	high	explanation
degree of complexity of project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The project includes multiple elements requiring integration, planning and timing.</p> <p>The project is planned for a sensitive area.</p> <p>Complexity of the project is high, given the profile of the site, technical considerations, number of stakeholders and funding requirements. The design and construction of the project is complex, in terms of community engagement we need to provide information about the complexities however there is limited opportunity to influence things like technical designs and construction methodologies.</p>
degree of potential community impact of project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>There is limited opportunity for the community to impact the key elements of the project. The project provides an important link to the existing sections of Coast Park.</p>

degree of political sensitivity of project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>There will be many and possibly conflicting expectations and values in relation to the proposed improvements however there is overall mainly support for the project.</p> <p>The profile and connections of the select stakeholders will increase the political sensitivity.</p>
Total	1	1	1	Consult/Active participation

Assessment outcome

The above assessment table indicates a **medium** assessment of complexity, sensitivity and potential impact. This assists in determining what method of engagement should be used considering that the higher the expectations become, increased opportunities for engagement should occur.

Selecting an engagement approach

The higher the expectation, greater levels of engagement should be employed i.e. involvement as opposed to informing and consulting.

A medium assessment indicates that a **consult/active participation** approach to engagement is appropriate however the narrow strip of land, exposed cliffs and invasive natural processes impacting on the constrained base of the bluff combine to create a complex design and construction methodology. These physical constraints (exposed cliff, coastal conditions) and the proposed procurement process (design and construct) mean there will be limited opportunity to influence things like technical designs, infrastructure alignment, materials or construction methodologies. As a result, a 3-staged community engagement approach is proposed consisting of:

- **Stage 1 – Active participation with Kaurna community [August 2020 – ongoing]:** Given the cultural sensitivity of the site and the coast in general a key and early focus of the engagement will be with the Kaurna community. via the Kaurna Nation Cultural Heritage Associations (KNCHA).
- **Stage 2 – Community consultation [September 2020]:** Input will be sought from the community at an early stage to make sure that we aware of anything required to inform the design
- **Stage 3 – Information provision [March 2020]:** Following the completion of the concept design the community will be informed of the design outcomes, noting there will be minimal opportunity to influence the design.

Engagement will be managed through:

- **Consult** - to consult with the community on the desired outcomes of the project and to make sure council is aware of the things we will need to consider during the design and construction process.
- **Active Participation** approach for interpretive signage and public art
- **Inform** approach for the design of the shared use path including alignment, materials and features.

Stakeholders

Political and Elected Members

- Minister for Transport, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
- Member for Reynell (Local MP)
- Federal Member for Kingston
- Mayor – City of Onkaparinga
- Mid Coast Ward Councillor – City of Onkaparinga
- Council Elected Members
- CEO – City of Onkaparinga

Project Sponsor

- Director, City Operations

Project Team

- Project Lead - Project Leader
- Asset Lead - Asset Planner – Coastal
- Design Lead - Senior Civil Engineer
- Construction Officer –Project Leader/Construction Officer

Subject Matter Experts (Internal)

Assets

Facility Operations

Maintenance

Parks and Natural Resources

Technical Services

Communications and Community Engagement

Wayfinding and Signage

Public Art

Planning, property and permits

-

Consultants

- As required

Local Community

- Residents and businesses within geographic boundaries

- Local businesses (specifically located directly adjacent to works near Beach Rd roundabout – Christies Beach).

Cultural groups/Specific interest groups/NGOs/individuals

- Kurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association (KNCHA)
- Kurna representatives (Local Kurna Elders)
- Christies Beach Business and Tourism Association
- Port Noarlunga Business and Tourism Association
- Parkrun
- Port Noarlunga SLSC
- Port Noarlunga Aquatic Centre
- Port Noarlunga/Christies Beach Conservation Group
- Witton Bluff Base Trail action group

General Public

- Residents and businesses within geographic boundaries
- All community

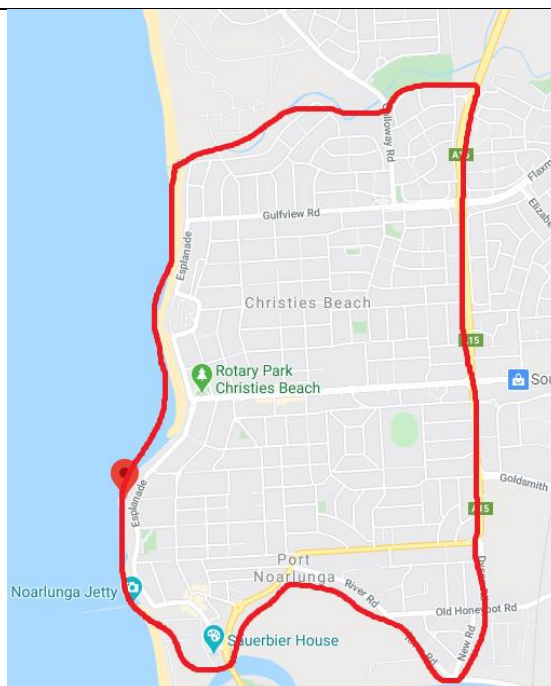
Government agencies

- SA Power Networks
- DEW Coast Protection Board – Crown land proposal/ coastal works
- DEW Marine Parks
- SA Ambulance Service
- Emergency Services
- DENR – Coastal Management branch / Coast Protection Board
- DPTI – Office for Cycling & Walking
- DPTI – Open space unit
- Crown Solicitors Office
- Native Vegetation Council
- Environmental Protection Authority
- PIRSA

Engagement parameters

Geographic boundaries

Geographical boundary is Port Noarlunga and Christies Beach



Timelines

See Engagement Action Plan Summary

Engagement Action Plan

Phase	Method	Stakeholders	Techniques	Timeline	Who's Responsible	Desired outcome
Project Planning and Development	Active Participation	Staff Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial workshop with technical staff Project team meetings Meetings On site meetings 	June 2020 to construction	Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff have an opportunity to influence the concept design. Ideas/suggestions for milestone activities are noted. Ideas/suggestions for how the community can be involved are noted. Ideas/suggestions for how staff can be involved are noted. Review of existing high-level coast park plan concept Technical information gathering
	Active Participation	Project Sponsor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email Briefing Monthly meeting Memos 	July 2020 to construction	Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Sponsor is aware of the project and provide advice and final approval of major scope changes Project Sponsor has an opportunity to influence the design.
	Inform Consult	Elected Members All community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your Say EM Weekly News 	June/July 2020	Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform elected members of project including timelines and future consultation timeframe Provide an early mechanism for feedback

Phase	Method	Stakeholders	Techniques	Timeline	Who's Responsible	Desired outcome
	Active Participation	Elected members, Directors group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Report and Meeting 	August 2020	Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected members are aware of the project status and approve the Community Engagement Plan Wider engagement is approved to proceed
	Active Participation	Kaurna <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KNCHA Local Kaurna Representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings Kaurna Forum 	July to Oct 2020	Mayor CEO Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree how cultural considerations can be integrated into the project through public art and interpretive signage Agree the process of delivering the cultural components of the project KNCHA support the project and any suggestions or feedback are considered in the design development
	Active Participation	Key Stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific interest groups Government Agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On site Meetings Targeted site walks with specific interest groups/user groups Phone calls Emails Meetings 	July 2020 to construction	Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather ideas and site information from stakeholder groups Approvals where required Gather design constraints
	Inform	Call Centre Staff	Infonet updates and Project Register (Call Centre)	Prior to Community being informed of Concept Design	Project Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call centre is aware of the upcoming engagement and know where to direct enquiries

Phase	Method	Stakeholders	Techniques	Timeline	Who's Responsible	Desired outcome
	Consult	Neighbouring properties Specific Interest/Community/Resident groups All community All Key Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letters Emails Your Say survey/submission form Drop in session On site signage Facebook Post 	September 2020	Project Leader Engagement Unit Social Media (note they require min 2 weeks' notice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community is informed of the project and know how to provide feedback on the draft concept design Promotion via social media increases awareness of the project Increased awareness of planned community engagement and how to participate All correspondence points people to the Your Say page
	Reporting	Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community engagement feedback report 	October 2020	Project Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from the engagement is summarised into an engagement feedback report The engagement unit have reviewed the feedback report
	Inform	Elected members, Directors group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Report and Meeting 	November 2020	Project Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected members are presented with the outcomes of community engagement Elected members approve the prudential report (if required)
	Inform	Community groups Specific interest groups General and wider community Landowners Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your Say Page updated with engagement outcomes Email/letter to key stakeholders and anyone that has provided 	November 2020	Project Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities who participated in engagement activities are kept aware of the progress of the plan and are informed of how their participation influenced the decision. Outcomes of community engagement are shared with the community.

Phase	Method	Stakeholders	Techniques	Timeline	Who's Responsible	Desired outcome
		Neighbouring properties	feedback on the project to date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter box drop to surrounding residents • Documents on Council's website. • Facebook post to provide project update 			
Detail Design and feedback to community	Consult	Project Sponsor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email • Briefing • Monthly meeting • Memos 	ongoing	Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Sponsor is aware of the project and provide advice and final approval of major scope changes • Project Sponsor has an opportunity to influence the detail design.
	Inform	Elected Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Report and Meeting 	April 2021	Project Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected members are aware of the project status and the concept design

Phase	Method	Stakeholders	Techniques	Timeline	Who's Responsible	Desired outcome
	Inform	Community groups Specific interest groups General and wider community Landowners Council Neighbouring properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Say Page updated with engagement outcomes • Email/letter to key stakeholders and anyone that has provided feedback on the project to date • Meetings with key stakeholder groups • Onkaparinga News article • Letter box drop to surrounding residents • Documents on Council's website. • Facebook post to provide project update 	April 2021	Project Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes and final concept design details are shared with the community. • Construction timing is shared.
Construction	Inform Pre-construction	Community groups Specific interest groups Neighbouring properties General community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On site signage to notify of construction • Update on Your Say page with construction timing • Letter to neighbouring properties • Email/letter to community groups/specific interest groups • Facebook post to notify wider community 	January 2021	Project Team Engagement Unit Social Media (2 weeks min notice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All stakeholders are aware of the construction about to commence, timing and any impacts • All stakeholders can follow the project progress via Your Say

Phase	Method	Stakeholders	Techniques	Timeline	Who's Responsible	Desired outcome
	Inform During construction	Community groups Specific interest groups Neighbouring properties General community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly updates on Your Say page with progress photos • Letter to neighbouring properties • Promotional Facebook posts to notify community of progress • Email/letter to community groups/specific interest groups 	During Construction Period Major Milestones/ Impact	Project Team Engagement Unit Social Media (2 weeks min notice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All stakeholders are aware of the projects progress and/or any timing or impacts • All stakeholders receive and know how to follow the project progress
Project Completion	Inform	All stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Event • Update on Your Say page with photos of finished project and any ribbon cutting ceremony etc • Weekly news article • Email/letter to key stakeholders and anyone that has participated in the project • Social media 	Immediately following project completion	Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All stakeholders are aware of the project being completed

Evaluation

Evaluation will be measured against the project engagement objectives:

- To inform the community of the scope
- To inform the community of the project timelines
- To assess if there are any community issues around the project
- To ensure those who participate in engagement activities are kept aware of the progress of the plan project and are informed of how their feedback may have influenced/contributed to the decision.

In line with best practice engagement, Feedback Reports will also include:

- The number of people who are **aware** of the project
- The number of people who are **informed** about the project
- The number of people who **engaged** about the project.

Sign-off

Officer who prepared the document

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