



A proposed footbridge will be the centrepiece of The Entrance's upgrade

Entrance a gateway to tourism

BRITTANY STACK

AN impressive bridge, outdoor bandstand and skate park will form the centrepiece of a 20-year plan to revamp The Entrance and make it a must-go tourist destination on the east coast.

The draft masterplan for The Entrance town centre is on exhibition for public comment. It includes a multi-million dollar plan to build a Water Walk and Sunrise Bridge.

The pedestrian promenade, to be built over water, will cross The Entrance Channel, linking The Entrance North to The Entrance.

The draft, which can be viewed until November 30, also recommends a renowned international sculptor collaborate in the design of the bridge to create "a unique piece of art as well as bring The Entrance to the world stage, encouraging new residents and tourists".

Wyong Shire Council's senior strategic planner Steve Ashton said the idea for the Water Walk and other initiatives were put forward by members of the community in a series of eight workshops run by the local council.

"Tourism will remain a key economic driver, but we are hoping to create

an area where we can bring more jobs and full-time residents into the town," he said.

"Obviously, this will need a lot of investigating in terms of the engineering and impact on the ecology of The Entrance Channel, while we will also be looking for funding, which will involve both state and federal governments.

"Central Coast Tourism will also be involved.

"This is about a number of different organisations taking ownership of what we hope will become one of the most talked about structures in the country."

The 20-year rejuvenation plan will go before Wyong Shire Council at the end of the year, with cost estimates to follow.

Other aspects of the draft plan include a solar tower to power lighting for the waterfront precinct, a town green with a performance stage, a paved marketplace, children's bike circuit and playground, an off-leash dog area, and a pier on the waterfront with cafes and ice cream stands.

The Entrance is already one of two major tourist spots on the Central Coast, along with Terrigal, and is famous for its pelican feeding shows.

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Hello, sunrise

THIS is an artist's impression of the "Sunrise Bridge" - a link between The Entrance and The Entrance North that is part of a new town centre masterplan for the area. FULL REPORT PAGE 5

THE ENTRANCE

Dawn of a new icon



A water walk and sunrise bridge at The Entrance is just one exciting possibility highlighted in the draft masterplan.

fast lane

On exhibition

Do you want to have a closer look at the proposals under the draft Masterplan? The plan can be viewed on the council's website at www.wyong.nsw.gov.au/publicexhibition and at public libraries, the council's civic centre in Hely St, Lakeside Plaza, and The Entrance Tourism Information Centre. don't delay, it's on exhibition until November 30.

In the pipeline

Other recommendations in the Master Plan include construction of a pier with cafes and ice cream stands. A lake splash pool for children, a town green and a new stage in Memorial Park are also planned. A paved marketplace will provide an all-weather surface for markets and shows, a children's bike circuit, a fitness circuit and an off-leash dog park may be added.

Public workshop

Members of the public can have the draft Entrance masterplan explained during a special workshop tomorrow. The presentation and workshop will be held at 10am at The Entrance Community Centre. Masterplan designer Kristy Ryan will present the main features of the plan. This will be followed by a session to hear community views. The meeting is being hosted by The Entrance Peninsula Community Precinct Committee. Inquiries: 4332 5593.

Denise Barnes

EXCITEMENT OVER SUNRISE BRIDGE AND WATER WALK PLAN

A WATER Walk and Sunrise Bridge linking The Entrance and The Entrance North could become one of the greatest tourists attractions along the east coast of Australia. The walk is just one exciting possibility highlighted in The Entrance Town Centre draft masterplan now on exhibition for public comment. The structure would cross The Entrance channel and

link Karagi Park at The Entrance North with the Memorial Park carpark. The idea has come from the community and was one of many put forward by several stakeholders at a series of workshops facilitated by Wyong Council to discuss the masterplan project. "We were looking for ways to link The Entrance with The Entrance North

and were mindful of the fact the existing bridge does not supply the safest option for families to walk across," senior strategic planner Steve Ashton said. "That's how the water walk concept emerged and it's quite an exciting possibility that has the potential to change The Entrance as a tourist destination - the structure itself would be iconic."



Memorial Park stage will be replaced under new plans.

VOX pop

DO YOU THINK A WATER WALK LINKING THE THE ENTRANCE AND NORTH ENTRANCE WOULD BOOST BUSINESS AND TOURISM?

CHRISTIE LEE
The Entrance

A walkway would be good for the area. As long as they do it nicely so it doesn't ruin the look of things. As a business owner I think it would be really great and attract more people to the area.



ROB FOWLER
Bateau Bay

Yes, I think it's a good idea. I enjoy riding my bike along the waterway and I think this would give more people the opportunity to do this, especially if it's safer and you are not competing with traffic.



NAREEN GALLAGHER
The Entrance

Not really because the North Entrance is more of a small village and I don't think there is that much over there which would justify for the walk way. Best left as more of a smaller coastal town.



NONI RICHARDS
Narara

I think it probably would be a worthwhile thing. If it's something that allow people to explore and enjoy the beautiful scenery then I think it would be good for the area. I would be in favour of it.



CAROLYN HOLBURN
The Entrance

Yes, I think it probably would work. It would be nice for people to take a stroll across the waterway, however I would like to keep it the way it is and not interfere too much with the natural scenery.



PETER LAMONT
Shelly Beach

I'm all for this idea. I think it will attract more tourists and provide an incentive for them to come here. I think something like this can only be beneficial to the town and to business and tourism.

