

# Improving Drainage and Public Spaces at Avoca Beach Engagement Summary

Central  
Coast  
Council

Between 20 May and 15 June 2026, Central Coast Council invited community feedback on the draft concept design for the Avoca Beach Drainage Upgrade and Place Improvements project.

The project aims to improve drainage capacity near the Avoca Beach surf club and reduce localised flooding in the surrounding area. The draft design also includes place improvements such as formalising the existing gravel car park off Burns Street, accessible parking, bus stop improvements, road pavement works, lighting, landscaping and improved pedestrian and footpath connections.

The community could provide feedback by completing the online survey on Your Voice Our Coast, attending a drop-in session, or making a written submission by email.

## What we heard

Respondents provided positive feedback on the overall concept, with comments supporting the intent of the design, formalised parking, drainage and pedestrian improvements, and acknowledging the project as a long-awaited improvement for the area.

*"The overall concept plan is good. Well done and thanks for the proposed improvements."*

Online survey respondents were asked to indicate what they liked best about the design, responses in Figure 1 below.

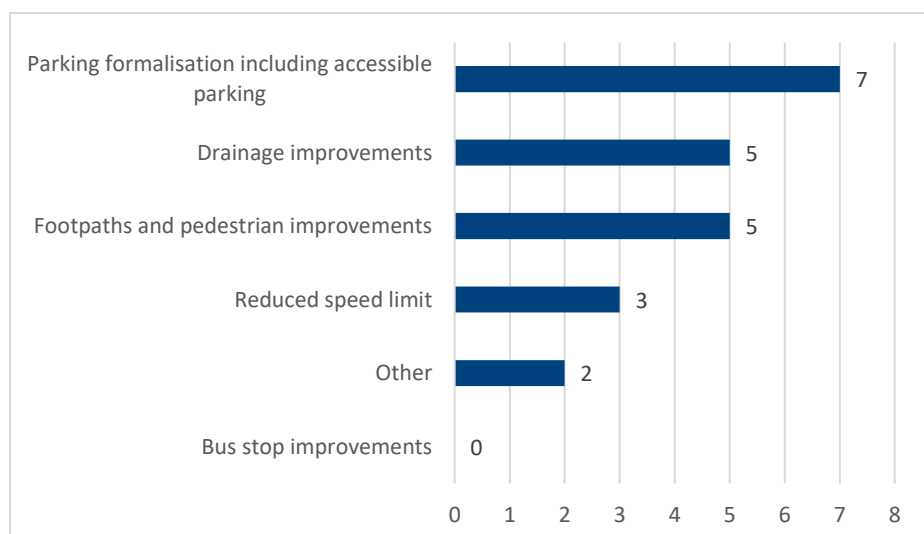


Figure 1: What do you like best about the design?, Online survey on Your Voice Our Coast, 20 May to 15 June 2026, 22 responses.

## How you connected



A total of **37** submissions received, **28** online surveys and **9** emails



**1** drop-in session in Avoca with **19** attendees



Targeted stakeholder email - Delivered to **159** community groups with registered interest in Avoca, Drainage and flooding and Roads, pathways and cycleways.



Your Voice Our Coast **1,447** views



The draft designs were downloaded from YVOC **761** times



Facebook – **34,070** people were reached, generating **108** reactions



Instagram – **9,172** people were reached, generating **81** reactions



eNews - Delivered to **22,313** people



Coast Connect Print - Delivered to **62,000** readers

## Feedback summary

Feedback showed support for the draft design with praise for well-thought-out design, support for formalised parking, appreciation of proposed improvements, enthusiasm for the project proceeding, and acknowledgment of good planning. However, many community members also raised concerns about the potential loss of green space and mature trees, the amount of hard surface proposed, parking arrangements, accessible parking, pedestrian connections and the need to protect Avoca Beach's coastal village character. Overall, the feedback highlighted the community's strong interest in finding the right balance between improving drainage, safety and access, while retaining green space, tree canopy and the natural character of the South End Park precinct.

The key themes below are presented in order of how frequently they were raised by community members. Example quotes have been included to illustrate the feedback received.

### Pedestrian safety and access



This was the most common theme raised, with community members highlighting the importance of safer and more accessible pedestrian connections. Feedback included requests for more pedestrian crossings (Vale St, Vine St), wider footpaths, shared zones, safer links for families, older people and people with disability, and clearer pedestrian markings through car parks and addressing dangerous crossing points.

*"Adequate footpaths to and from the surf club are imperative. At present many young families and the elderly egress through the car parking areas."*

### Preserving green space and trees



Community members raised concerns about protecting existing trees and green space. Feedback focused on retaining mature trees, requests for more tree planting, keeping replacement trees in the local area, maintaining Avoca Beach's leafy coastal character and protecting green space for passive recreation and dog walking.

*"Please don't override what we love about Avoca, that it's a leafy oasis which rolls into the ocean."*

### Parking capacity and provision



Community members commented on parking capacity and how parking should be provided. Some asked for more formal parking spaces, while others wanted the existing green overflow parking retained for peak periods. Feedback also raised concerns about the loss of parking near the theatre and the need to balance beach access with open space.

*"Avoca Beach is first and foremost a beach suburb, reducing car spaces for beachgoers should not occur."*

## Traffic and road safety



Community members raised concerns and support for traffic and road safety, which specifically included support for the proposed 40 km/h speed environment, requests for a mini-roundabout, concerns about blind spots from parked cars, separate car park entry and exit points, improved road conditions, clearer signage and e-bike speed management.

*"I would hope that No Parking signs are put up and enforced on Burn Street/ out the front of the movie theatre. Having people park on corners creates a blind spot and we have had many near misses. This is extremely dangerous especially for my husband who rides a motorbike."*

*"Love the concept. You have my support. Slowing and enforcing traffic to 40 is absolutely needed."*

## Opposition to concrete and over-development



Community members were concerned about the use of hard surfaces such as concrete, asphalt and bitumen. Feedback suggested the design should avoid making Avoca Beach feel over-developed, reduce heat impacts, consider permeable or more natural surface treatments and protect the area's natural coastal character.

*"Why is there a need to cover everything in concrete? Why not leave well enough alone? The danger is we are turning Avoca Beach into a place just like everywhere else."*

*"Loss of green space. Suggest greener carpark to replace asphalt and further tree planting / greening."*

## Drainage as a priority



Community members support the drainage improvements, calling out how essential and long overdue they are. Feedback supported flood protection, noting history of failed drainage attempts, emphasising drainage must come before other works, acknowledging the area's natural swamp conditions, and supporting Council's drainage plans.

*"An efficient drainage and maintenance design/plan must be a priority before the car park and other amenities are considered."*

*"We welcome Council's plan to proceed to the next stage of drainage development to secure good flood protection at the bottom end of the "bowl" catchment. Flash flooding of these parts has been a problem for many years."*

## Accessible and disabled parking



Community members raised concerns about inadequate provision for people with disabilities. This was further explained by insufficient disabled parking spaces, spaces located too far from beach/amenities, suggestions to convert lifesaving spaces to disabled after hours, and accessibility for elderly residents.

*"Again disabled parking is forgotten. 2 spaces only, which brings to a total of approx. 6 spaces in and around the beach. Having elderly in laws who live local and want to come to the beach, the lack of disabled car spacing is a poor planning decision."*

## Additional amenities requested



Some community members had requests that are currently beyond the current scope of the project. Requests include ocean swimming pool, more toilets and showers, better lighting at night, street furniture and shade shelters, landscaping with coastal-themed trees like Norfolk Island Pines.

*"I can't see what lighting would be provided at night in the Burns St Carpark. I often park here late afternoon to attend the AB Theatre and walk back at night. Improving lighting would be great as it is currently inadequate."*

*"Lighting of carpark... Picnic tables / seats... Rubbish bins... BBQ"*

## Project timeline concerns



Some members of the community expressed their frustration about delays and uncertainty around project timing. Those who raised this concern expressed urgency given tourism importance, and the long-awaited nature of the project.

*"I was a little disappointed to learn that the project may be delayed even further. This is a huge tourism draw point and a highly utilised area. I would be extremely disappointed if works don't commence next year in the quite season"*

## Council's response

This phase of engagement sought feedback on the draft design, to identify where clarification, refinement or improvement may be appropriate prior to finalisation. All feedback has been reviewed by the project team and considered in the development of recommendations to be presented to Council for consideration. The final decision is made by the elected Councillors at a formal Council meeting and may also be influenced by available funding, priorities and delivery programs.

| Theme                                              | Theme summary                                                                                                                    | Council's response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Pedestrian safety and access</b>                | Requests for more pedestrian crossings, wider footpaths, and safer paths for families, elderly, and disabled residents.          | These requests are reflected in the proposed design and will be further investigated and refined during the detailed design phase, where appropriate.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Preserving green space and trees</b>            | Strong concern about protecting existing trees and green spaces, with opposition to tree removal and requests for more planting. | Tree removal will be limited to where it is unavoidable. Any trees removed will be replaced at a 3:1 ratio.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Parking capacity and provision</b>              | Concerns about adequate parking numbers, with requests for more spaces and preservation of overflow parking areas.               | The upgraded car park will provide as many parking spaces as possible, while maintaining access to the grass overflow parking area during peak holiday periods.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Traffic and road safety</b>                     | Support for 40km/h speed limits, requests for mini-roundabouts, and concerns about road conditions and blind spots.              | The expanded 40km/h speed limit on Avoca Drive and Burns Street will improve pedestrian safety. The extension of the 40km/h speed zone which is part of a high pedestrian activity area is subject to Transport for NSW approval. Proposed road upgrades and traffic calming measures will further improve safety for all road users. Regulatory parking restrictions will be implemented to reinforce statutory road rules at intersections and improve road user safety. |
| <b>Opposition to concrete and over-development</b> | Objection to excessive concrete and asphalt, with preference for permeable surfaces and maintaining natural beauty.              | Permeable paving for the proposed car park upgrade opposite the Theatre is being considered as part of the detailed design. While concrete and asphalt are required for durable, all-weather infrastructure, selective tree replanting will help reduce their visual impact.                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Drainage as a priority</b>                      | Support for drainage improvements as essential and long-overdue, emphasising it must be prioritised before other works.          | A key objective of the project is to upgrade the stormwater drainage system at this location to better manage overland flows and remove stormwater ponding from the road network. These drainage works will be completed before the road and car park upgrades begin.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Accessible and disabled parking</b>             | Concerns about insufficient disabled parking spaces and their location being too far from beach and amenities.                   | The project area will provide nine accessible parking spaces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two spaces in the proposed formal car park;</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

|                                       |                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                       |                                                                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One on-street space for a small van or minibus on southwestern Avoca Drive;</li> <li>• Four existing spaces on northwestern Avoca Drive;</li> <li>• Two existing spaces on Vine Street.</li> </ul> <p>Further investigation into opportunities to increase accessible car parking will be considered in the final design.</p> |
| <b>Additional amenities requested</b> | Requests for additional facilities including ocean pool, more toilets and showers, better lighting, and shade shelters. | Council will investigate these requests further to determine whether the proposed amenity improvements can be addressed through this project or other Council planning and maintenance programs. Motion-activated, dimmable solar lighting is proposed for a section of the upgraded car park opposite the Theatre to enhance safety and security.                     |
| <b>Project timeline concerns</b>      | Frustration about project delays and uncertainty around timing, with urgency given tourism importance.                  | The project's complexity requires several technical investigations to inform and refine the engineering design before works can proceed. This process will ensure the final design appropriately addresses site constraints, community feedback and project objectives.                                                                                                |

## What's next?

Detailed design work is continuing and is currently about 50% complete. Council is refining the design in response to site constraints and considering the key matters raised through community feedback. Further updates will be provided as the design is developed and the project progresses toward the next stage.

Find out more and stay up to date at

**[www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/improving-drainage-and-public-spaces-avoca-beach](http://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/improving-drainage-and-public-spaces-avoca-beach)**

September 2026