

# **TOMAKIN BEACH ACCESS SURVEY RESULTS APRIL 2023**

## **Presentation to the Eurobodalla Shire Council**

**By**

**Tomakin Community Association Inc.**

Mayor Hatcher, Councillors,

My name is Megan Kelly and I am the President of the Tomakin Community Association and my associate with me is Anne Kenney, a member of the TCA Committee, and author of the Tomakin Beach Access Survey Results document. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this document.

We are here to present the results and subsequent actions arising from this survey as deemed most significant. All councillors were provided with a copy of this report on Wednesday 16th August at the ESC "Time to chat – Tomakin"

The TCA has spent considerable time and effort in compiling and developing this document by way of extensive community consultation through general meetings, an online and written survey and face to face consultation with the community. In finalising this document we have participated in the ESC's Draft Coastal Management Programme, consulted the ESC's Draft Disability Plan and reviewed the NSW State Dept of Environmental Planning Coastal Management Policy. All these plans and policies actively encourage the maintenance and improvement of public access and amenity and use of beaches, providing a healthy and resilient open coast for Eurobodalla in ways that benefit **all** locals, visitors and traditional owners of the land, and not just in the three major towns of the shire.

The Beach Access survey was developed to gain a better understanding of the needs of the Tomakin Community and their expectations for the beaches of Tomakin and allowed us to provide considered input into the ESC's Draft Coastal Management Programme. It is worth noting that TCA delayed publishing the results of the survey to allow our participation in the Draft CMP.

Tomakin has grown substantially over the past seven years and with the new development at West Rosedale and future planned developments, our beaches and river will continue to be popular with swimmers, dog walkers, surfers, kayakers, paddle boarders, fishermen and families.

Tomakin's amenities such as toilet facilities, picnic tables and seats, the Rivermouth General store and Café, Jack Buckley Park and the Club as well as the boat ramp will draw more visitors and locals from the extended area. There is some parking available, although insufficient at present. The calmness of Tomakin Cove beach is well known and attracts many young families, the elderly, disabled and those undergoing rehabilitation as a preferred swimming spot. The economic and social value of these assets should be considered to be significant.

With an ageing population, more children in the suburb, more visitors and more traffic, the issues raised in this document need to be addressed and remedial actions planned for and carried out as a matter of urgency within the proposed 5 year time frame.

The seven proposed actions are, in no particular order:

- 1) Better access via a ramp to at least one beach access point.
- 2) Vegetation to be kept trimmed around all the pathways.
- 3) Improved car parking.
- 4) Kerbing and guttering in Kingston Parade, Kingston Place and Reid Streets.
- 5) A toilet and wash off facility at the Melville Point end of Tomakin Cove.
- 6) Upgrading or replacing the tap in Reid Street.

7) Better defined access points across the spit.

These proposed actions have been arrived at from the results achieved in the online and written survey, the results of which are in the document.

To Summarise:

TCA received 151 responses to the survey – 141 on Survey Monkey and 10 paper based. 97 people took the time to make comments. We have included the comments in Attachment B of the document. The comments have been collated verbatim into the following categories:- Do Nothing, Beach Access, Toilets, and Parking. In addition a few unsolicited comments regarding dogs, Melville Point and pathways were received.

The results and comments are all in the document for you to peruse at your leisure.

The photos on pages 8-15 clearly show the state of the various access points which may or may not look like that as they change constantly. The photos on pages 21-23 show potential solutions for the beach access ramp and designated pathways over the spit. The photos on pages 24-28 show the haphazard and dangerous parking that takes place around the suburb.

We invite you to visit Tomakin during the summer period and see for yourself how this beautiful village is transformed.

Make no mistake, TCA clearly understands that funds and capabilities are limited but council MUST also realise that by doing nothing the dunes will continue to be eroded by those who choose to make their own pathways, traffic accidents will occur due to the increased volume of traffic as well as the haphazard parking due the lack of designated parking spaces. The potential for accident or injury is heightened by the uneven and often overgrown tracks to the beaches which also harbour snakes and ticks as well as the need to walk on the roads in competition with the traffic.

The TCA does not take lightly the actions proposed in this submission nor does the TCA expect the improvements overnight. However, we request that the Council seriously consider our document and start the consultation and planning processes to implement these recommendations as quickly as possible. The TCA also makes the offer to partner with the ESC in whatever way we can to make these recommendations a reality within the 5 year timeline.

Megan Kelly

President

Tomakin Community Association

October 2023