

Proposed Public Boardwalk and Shared Pathway – Kangaroo Point

Brooklyn Foreshore Area, Brooklyn

Overview

Hornsby Shire Council is proposing to construct a public boardwalk and shared pathway in the suburb of Brooklyn (the **Boardwalk**). The Boardwalk will be approximately 1 kilometre long and will pass through the natural foreshore area which includes the intertidal zone, saltmarsh and mangrove areas.

Brooklyn has great natural views, fresh air, Aboriginal heritage significance and a diverse range of plant and animal species due to its location between the Muogamarra National Park and Brisbane Water National Park. The Boardwalk will provide opportunities for residents to engage with this unique natural setting and encourage physical activity.

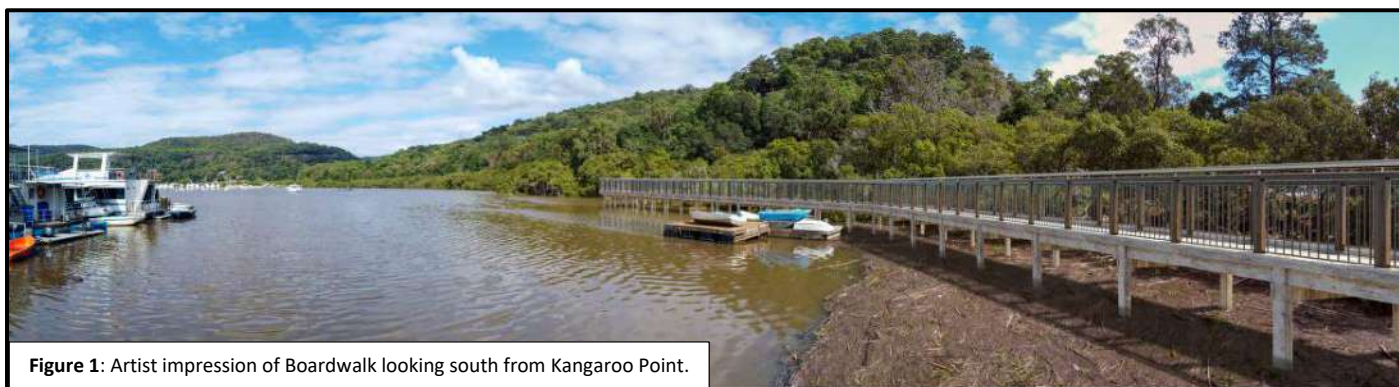


Figure 1: Artist impression of Boardwalk looking south from Kangaroo Point.

Route Description

The Boardwalk will connect Kangaroo Point in the north to Brooklyn Road in the south and is comprised of three main sections as described below (and shown in Figure 2).

Section 1: Approximately 195 m long boardwalk (blue in Figure 2) that will start at Kangaroo Point and proceed along the foreshore area within the intertidal zone, providing views of Sandbrook Inlet and Long Island. It will then proceed into and meander through a grove of mangroves. Section 1 will include a viewing platform adjacent to Kangaroo Point.

Section 2: Approximately 450 m 'on grade' concrete pathway (green in Figure 2) that will be located between the southern point of Section 1 and an existing marina. It is predominantly located on an existing track supported by a rock revetment which runs parallel to the route of Old Pacific Highway and Brooklyn Road. Marked pedestrian crossings are proposed to ensure public safety when walking through the marina. Section 2 will include two landings for resting and viewing opportunities.

Section 3: Approximately 360 m long boardwalk (red in Figure 2) that commences on the southern side of the marina and meanders through mangroves before crossing Seymours Creek and continuing through a wetland area before connecting with the existing footpath at Brooklyn Road.



Figure 2: Overview of the Proposal.

Assessments / Studies

An Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared by Martens and Associates for consideration by the local planning panel. Various environmental assessments are currently being undertaken including:

1. Ecology and biodiversity
2. Bushfire risks
3. Aboriginal heritage and culture
4. Traffic and parking
5. Construction noise
6. Soil and water quality
7. Land contamination
8. Coastal hazards and flooding
9. Visual impact
10. European, environmental and built heritage
11. Construction waste
12. Environmental monitoring and management



Figure 3: Artist impression of Boardwalk looking east from foreshore area to Sandbrook Inlet and Long Island.

Biodiversity

Effort has been taken to minimise impacts to the natural environment as best as possible. The proposed alignment has been designed to utilise existing 'gaps' in between mangroves and trees and is located over weed infested areas rather than high quality remnant bushland, where possible. Required tree removal has been minimised and preference has been given to retaining large, hollow-bearing and feed-trees (e.g. fruiting *Allocasuarina littoralis*). Where the Boardwalk traverses saltmarsh and mangroves, preference has been given to removing smaller mangroves over clearing areas of saltmarsh as saltmarsh is less common in the area and more restricted than mangroves. Where saltmarsh removal is required, the Boardwalk has been relocated to an area of low impact.

Ecology reporting will include an assessment of potential impacts to terrestrial biodiversity on the land as well as the aquatic environment.

Bushfire and Flooding

Given the possibility of bushfires and flooding events, the Boardwalk will be designed and managed to ensure public safety. Council staff shall monitor weather conditions during bushfire and flooding season and any warnings shall result in evacuation and temporary closure of the Boardwalk. The boardwalk is to be constructed of noncombustible material and is to be raised above high tide and the water level of some flood events (approximately up to 1 in 10 year flood events). In addition the entrances to the Boardwalk are to be closed when a flood event or bushfire threat is anticipated. This will prevent anyone from using the boardwalk, ensuring public safety.

Invitation to Comment on the Project

Comments on the proposal are invited via Hornsby Shire Council's "Have Your Say" webpage <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/council/noticeboard/your-say> under 'Kangaroo Point, Brooklyn - Boardwalk and Shared Path'. Comments are invited before close of business **Monday 2 May 2022**. For further information regarding the Proposal please contact Martin Drake at Hornsby Shire Council on 02 9847 6886, or Jason Watkins at Martens on 02 9476 9999.



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