

Paving report

Little Manly Precinct



Background:

Residents within the Little Manly Precinct, as part of the Manly Community Forum, have expressed concerns over the state of the footpaths and paved areas. On close inspection it becomes apparent that within this part of the Eastern Hill, it is unusual to find a stretch of footpath more than 200 metres in length that doesn't show some degree of damage or deterioration. Anecdotal evidence indicates that in one street the deterioration is bad enough to limit the mobility of an elderly resident who relies on a walking frame to get around and we have actual incidents of serious injury that have been reported to Council. Some of the damage appears related to tree roots lifting paving slabs, some is related to inadequately maintained utility covers or new installations and some is as a result of poorly repaired sections by Council. Whatever the cause, the Community Forum seeks to alert Council to areas where the damage or deterioration seems sufficient to present a potential hazard. In some instances the hazard may be compounded when occurring in an area away from street lighting or where the light is substantially muffled by trees.

Given the demographics of the area and the ever-increasing pedestrian traffic associated with Little Manly Beach, Little Manly Point and the Skiff Club, we believe it is sensible to act before any further preventable injury occurs.

It is with these factors in mind that the Forum has developed this report, not as a criticism but rather as our community's contribution to the maintenance and restoration process. It is evident that, even since collation of the photographs for this report began, Council has commenced remediation in some areas, notably Darley Rd near Marshall St and Osborne Rd near number 48. We ask Council to take our comments on board and extend the remediation to a substantial program of restoration of the footpaths that residents and visitors use every day.

Scope:

It is beyond the capacity of the report to record every area of damage, so the focus is on areas where we consider the trip hazard to be significant or falls and/or injury have already occurred.

Included is a special mention of the extremely dangerous state of the boat launching ramp foundations in Craig Avenue. Along both sides of the ramp the wire cages which originally held stabilising rocks are now exposed, with sharp wire protruding from the sand in several places. The danger is heightened by the exposed wire only being visible at low tide.

The resident who drew this to our attention informed us that injuries have occurred. Council has previously acted to rectify the situation - sandbags were brought to the beach to cover the exposed wires, however only one of these bags remains in place and it is perforated, with the wire sticking through it. We are informed that the remaining bags were washed away during an east coast low pressure system storm, and have never been replaced.

We are not aware of exactly what remedial work you have in the pipeline, with budget allocated. We are aware of your acceptance of the need for the boat ramp repairs and monies have been allocated. However, a walk around this area is sufficient to highlight just how dangerous the paths are to the majority of our residents, and the injuries we are aware of have been sustained not only by the elderly but also by young active users.

Please don't think that we are being petty and critical beyond reason. We do know that most of the problems have existed for many years, in fact before the Council amalgamated, however, now being aware of the concerns it would be prudent to put a program in place for suitable rectification.

We believe that the detail and illustrations are self-explanatory, but if you require a Committee representative to accompany you on an audit we would be very happy to assist.

Your response and follow up will be much appreciated,

Regards,

Ray Mathieson

Co Chairman Manly Community Forum

26th November 2020.