

## 8. SOUTHSHORE SPIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN OUTCOME



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Corporate Plan Output: Plans and Policy Statements 9.4.39 and Capital Works Foreshores Development 9.4.57	

The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's approval for the Southshore Spit Development Plan.

The plan is the result of previous commitments made by the Council to produce a development for the Southshore Spit.

The plan covers the undeveloped dune area, south of the houses at the end of the spit. Although dominated by introduced plants, the Spit retains considerable natural character and provides excellent opportunities to observe birds roosting at high tides. The Spit is used extensively for recreation, particularly walking along the beach and dog exercising, and this causes some wildlife disturbance.

The Spit is inherently unstable, and the dunes and their vegetation are needed to protect the area from erosion and inundation. It is important to recognise the protective function of the Spit, and to ensure development does not exacerbate its instability. The development options in the plan are intended to maintain and enhance the natural character and protective function of the Spit.

The plan provides for the existing legal road to be closed and amalgamated with the reserve. Recreation facilities will be restricted to further interpretation signs, two walking tracks and a short boardwalk across a small tidal inlet. This will minimise the disturbance to roosting birds at high tide, and increase people's awareness of the wildlife values of the area. Existing planted areas will be enhanced with further plantings, and other low-lying areas will also be planted with native plants. These areas provide the only practical opportunity for restoring the native plant communities that naturally occurred on the Spit.

The plan also incorporates the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board's request that the reserve be gazetted as scenic reserve.

The draft plan was released for public comment in August 1999 and attracted ten submissions.

Overall, the response to the draft plan was favourable with no major changes being sought. Respondents made positive comments regarding the plan's comments. Most of the suggestions were able to be incorporated in to the plan. The Parks Manager submitted a summary of the submissions, together with comments and recommendations on each topic, to the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board/

The staff recommendations were supported by both the Board and the Committee. A final plan incorporating the recommended amendments and changes has now been produced and is tabled.

**Recommendation:** That the Southshore Spit Development Plan be approved.