

Planning and Heritage Investigations for Berry Initial Community Survey

Introduction

Council is in the initial stages of gathering community feedback and ideas to inform the preparation of a draft Development Control Plan (DCP) for Berry, east of the Princes Highway, and the possible progression of a new Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) in the vicinity of Princess Street Berry.

The initial boundary of the DCP investigation area is shown on the map below and will be refined through the project process



A brief overview and background to the project (including FAQs) is available on Council's Get Involved page which may assist you further in completing the survey below.

Your input will be used to help inform the future planning and character of this part of Berry.

Part one.

A bit about yourself

1. What is your relationship to the Berry area? (select multiple if applicable)

- Berry resident (East of the Princes Highway)
- Berry resident (West of the Princes Highway)
- Berry property owner (non resident - East of the Princes Highway)
- Berry property owner (non resident - West of the Princes Highway)
- Business owner or operator in Berry
- Resident from surrounding areas (Jaspers Brush, Broughton Vale, Bundewallah, Far Meadow, Meroo Meadow, Back Forest, Woodhill, Bellawongarah, Wattamolla)
- Business owner from surrounding areas (Jaspers Brush, Broughton Vale, Bundewallah, Far Meadow, Meroo Meadow, Back Forest, Woodhill, Bellawongarah, Wattamolla)
- Traditional owner
- Resident of other town or village within Shoalhaven Local Government Area
Resident of an area outside Shoalhaven Local Government Area
- Visitor to the area
- Other (please specify)

2. Age group

- Under 18 years
- 18 - 24 years
- 25 - 34 years
- 35 - 44 years
- 45 - 54 years
- 55 - 64 years
- 65 - 74 years
- 75 - 84 years
- 85 years and over

Part two.

This part aims to confirm what you value about Berry

Council has adopted the Shoalhaven Character Assessment Report (prepared by Roberts Day, February 2020)

The Roberts Day report includes the following “existing character statement” for Berry:

Leafy and surrounded by rolling countryside, Berry is a charming historic town, set within a rural landscape and undulating terrain that oozes sophistication. It is a predominantly residential town with an established retail and commercial core, centered around a vibrant and busy main street. Newer development is located on the settlement edges, to the south and west. Formal and traditional buildings and high quality landscaping contribute to the rural village character of this town. It is highly accessible by road and train and is a destination for visitors. Berry is the gateway to Shoalhaven, and delights and welcomes with its unique and local offer of boutique shops, heritage hotels, cafes, galleries, and restaurants.

The Roberts Day report also includes the following “future character statement” for Berry:

Berry, the ‘Town of Trees’, will continue to be an iconic heritage town that people love to live in and visit. The town values, respects and relies on its unique physical characteristics and rural, boutique character to attract visitors, which underpins its identity and economy. Its historic and leafy setting, showcased through a consistent built form and material palette, will be maintained and reflected in future development, including higher densities. Formal and well maintained trees and landscaping will continue to adorn the streets, and Queen Street will provide a curated, trendy and highly local offer. Berry will invite people to visit, play and stay, but not to the detriment of locals that use the centre every day.

3. To what level do you agree with the “existing character statement”?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

4. Why did you choose the answer above?

5. To what level do you agree with the “future character statement”?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

6. Why did you choose the answer above?

7. What else do you feel is important about Berry’s existing or future character?

8. If you live in Berry, what makes you stay in this area?

9. If you don’t live in Berry, what brings you to the area to visit ?

Part three.

This part aims to identify the planning issues of greatest importance to you

10. When considering the planning related elements that are associated with the part of Berry located east of the Princes Highway, what 5 elements matter most to you?

- advertising/ signage
- built form, architectural design & character
- car parking
- commercial & retail centre
- community facilities
- development opportunities
- environmental elements & sustainability
- facilities for visitors to Berry
- flooding, drainage & stormwater
- heritage - European
- heritage - Aboriginal cultural
- landscaping
- layout of township
- noise mitigation
- pedestrian access & circulation (including pathways/ cycleways)
- precinct planning privacy & views
- public domain (including open space & parks)
- setbacks
- streetscapes
- Other (please specify)

11. With these 5 selected planning elements in mind, please share what makes each of these important to you?

12. When considering the part of Berry that is located east of the Princes Highway, which one of the planning elements do you feel needs the most improvement?

- advertising/ signage
- built form, architectural design & character
- car parking
- commercial & retail centre
- community facilities
- development opportunities
- environmental elements & sustainability
- facilities for visitors to Berry
- flooding, drainage & stormwater
- heritage - European
- heritage - Aboriginal cultural
- landscaping
- layout of township
- noise mitigation
- pedestrian access & circulation (including pathways/ cycleways) precinct planning
- privacy & views
- public domain (including open space & parks)
- setbacks
- streetscapes
- Other (please specify)

13. Building on your answer to Q12 above, how could this planning element be improved?

Part four.

Next steps in the project

This survey is the first stage of our early engagement regarding potential additional planning controls for Berry. The second stage of the consultation process will be in-person and seeks to build upon the initial feedback we receive through this survey.

14. How would you like the in-person engagement activities (second stage of the consultation) to be run?

- Structured workshop or focus groups** – the session will be held over a set time and you will need to register and attend for the whole time. It will involve you working in various sized groups to respond to targeted planning questions in a timed manner. This will involve discussion and written responses. The questions will be based on the results of this survey.
- Drop in community information session** – the session will be held over a set time and you can drop in for as long or as little as you like. It will involve you dropping in to share your thoughts on planning issues in an informal manner. This may be written or verbal. The planning issues will be identified by the results of this survey. It is noted that as there is no registration required for this form of engagement there can be wait times.
- Interactive, activity based workshop** – this session will be held over a set time and you will need to register and attend for the whole time. It will involve you circulating as an individual between various activities that respond to planning issues. This will involve written responses. The planning issues will be identified by the results of this survey.
- Other (please specify)

Part five.

Thank you for completing this survey

The findings of this survey will be made available at the in-person engagement activities being held in March 2024.

15. Please provide your postal address or email address. Your postal address or email address will be used for communications with you about this project only and is required to ensure your survey response is considered.

The survey will be available online and via The Get Involved page until **16 February 2024**.

You can return your completed survey:

- In person
 - Nowra City Administration Centre.
 - Ulladulla Branch Office.
 - Berry Village Pool, Albany Street Berry (during opening hours).
- By mail - P.O. Box 42 Nowra NSW 2541
- By email - council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au