

Timed parking proposal - Ferry Landing Wharf Car Park and The Esplanade, Whitianga

TO Mercury Bay Community Board
FROM Heather Bruce - Community Manager
DATE 24 July 2018
SUBJECT **Timed parking proposal - Ferry Landing Wharf Car Park and The Esplanade, Whitianga**

1 Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is for the Mercury Bay Community Board to consider the results of the community engagement undertaken during May 2018 on the subject of timed parking for the Ferry Landing Wharf car park and part of The Esplanade, Whitianga and consider recommending changes to the parking bylaw schedule.

2 Background

At the 7 March 2018 Mercury Bay Community Board meeting, the Board was asked to consider amendments to the local parking controls in the Mercury Bay Community Board area.

The report (**Attachment A**) included a recommendation to implement time restricted parking of 240 minutes at Ferry Landing Wharf car park and 120 mins on parts of The Esplanade, Whitianga.

The recommendation for timed parking to be considered was raised as a response to concerns from staff and members of the public regarding limited parking in the two areas, with people noting that vehicles are often parked for long periods, including multi-day, thereby not allowing for revolving short term parking.

At the 7 March 2018 meeting, the Board resolved as follows:

04/18
MBCB

Resolved

That the Mercury Bay Community Board:

- 1. Receives the 'Parking Control Bylaw Schedule A Amendments' report, dated 14 February 2018.*
- 2. Approves the recommended amendments to Schedule A of Council's Parking Control Bylaw 2014 for Mercury Bay as set out in Tables 2 and 3 of 'Parking Control Bylaw Schedule A Amendments' report, dated 14 February 2018 (see **Attachment A**).*
- 3. Recommends to Council to amend Schedule A of Council's Parking Control Bylaw 2014 as set out in Tables 2 and 3 of 'Parking Control Bylaw Schedule A amendments' report, dated 14 February 2018 (see **Attachment A**).*

Moved/seconded by: MMcLean/Connell

The Mercury Bay Community Board's recommendations for The Esplanade and Ferry Landing parking amendments were not put forward for Council ratification at the 3 April 2018 Council meeting, as a greater level of engagement with the community was required before adoption.

Community engagement was undertaken during May 2018 with information (**Attachment B**) on the proposed changes circulated to the community in the following manner:

- Posted to 632 Cooks Beach ratepayers and 11 Whitianga Wharf commercial users
- Emailed to 249 Cooks Beach ratepayers and 22 Whitianga Wharf commercial users
- Emailed to Mercury Bay South, Hot Water Beach and Hahei Ratepayers Associations
- Promoted on TCDC website
- Posted twice on Thames-Coromandel District Council Facebook
- Article on *The Informer* webpage posted on 1 May 2018 and information on the consultation included in the Our Coromandel section of *The Informer* issue dated 16 May 2018.

An informal survey was undertaken of Whitianga Ferry passengers for three weeks from 26 June 2018 to 14 July 2018.

3 Issue

The Board is asked to determine whether to continue the process of recommending timed parking, based on the results of the community engagement undertaken on the subject of timed parking for the Ferry Landing Wharf car park and part of The Esplanade, Whitianga.

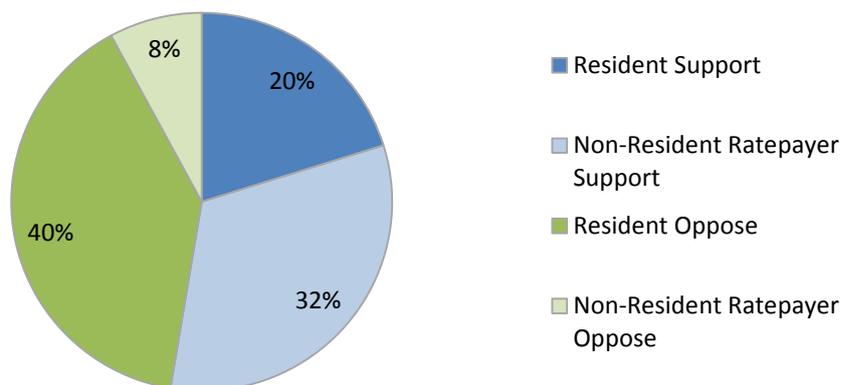
4 Discussion

A tally of the consultation responses, including two late submissions, is shown in the pie graphs below.

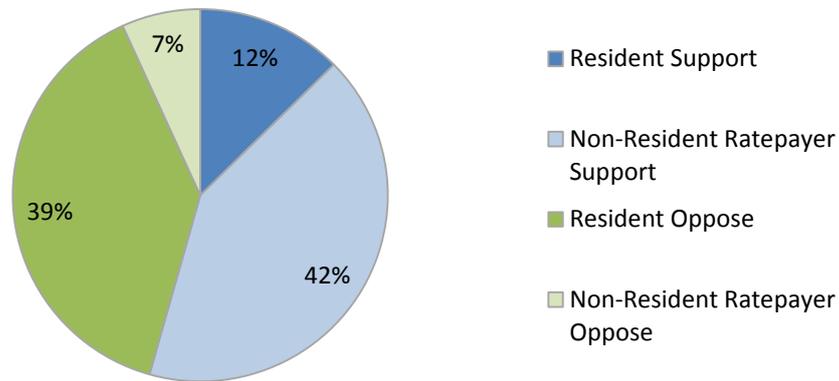
The resident responses came from a mixture of commercial tour operators, commercial fishermen, resident non-ratepayers and resident ratepayers.

Percentage amounts are an approximate indication of the consultation outcome as submitters often indicated support or opposition for only one car park. Comments give a clearer picture of which parking area was being referred to.

Ferry Landing Wharf Car Park



The Esplanade, Whitianga



Information on the proposed timed parking posted on Council's Facebook page on 1 May 2018 and 22 May 2018 reached a total of 11,187, with "post clicks" of 2,800. There were a total of 183 likes, comments or shares.

Council's timed parking website link was accessed 174 times with average viewing of 7:47 minutes, indicating that people were reading the information.

The informal survey undertaken on the Whitianga Ferry was completed by 319 people, including eight school students, based on one ferry trip (one way). Of those completing the survey, 21 were non-residents and the remainder were from the Mercury Bay area with the majority living in Mercury Bay South.

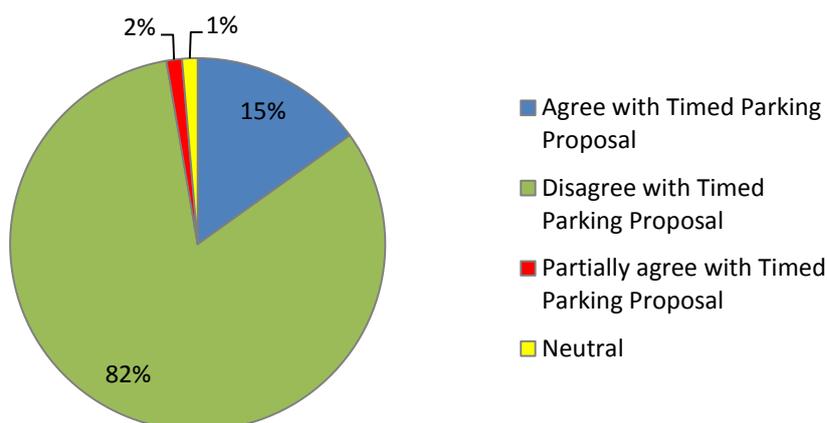
The survey provided some additional detail on the use of the car parks and whether respondents agreed or disagreed with the timed parking proposal.

Responses to the question of the reason for travel on the Ferry, showed that there were many different reasons for using the Ferry, including but not limited to; work, leisure, medical, social, sightseeing; and based on the information provided the "expected time on the other side" varied between 0.5 hours and 78 hours, with the average expected time being 4.5 hours.

Of the 319 respondents to the Ferry survey, 53 did not use any of the carparks. There is not enough information from the survey to give clear numbers on users of each car park.

Results on agreement or disagreement with timed parking in both locations are indicated on the graph below:

Whitianga Ferry Survey Results



Consistent themes noted in comments from all feedback received were:

- Requests for additional disabled car parks at Ferry Landing Wharf car park.
- Impact on elderly, disabled and parents with small children if having to use the top carpark at Ferry Landing.
- A need to consider people who work on both sides for 8 to 10 hours a day.
- Do not allow any campervan parking at Ferry Landing Wharf car park.
- Fishermen require overnight or multi day parking.
- Proposed time limit, particularly at Ferry Landing is not adequate for people to complete their activities in Whitianga Township.

Full details of the submissions and Facebook comments (**Attachment C**) have been supplied separately.

Formal consultation results were closely split between resident opposition and non-resident support, with the informal survey and comments indicating a marked disagreement to timed parking from resident respondents.

In considering this matter there is a need to weigh-up what the issue is that needs to be solved. Whilst acknowledging that the feedback highlights that there may not be enough available parking, particularly at Ferry Landing Wharf car park over peak periods, the feedback also indicates that the introduction of timed parking could adversely affect workers and people using the ferry for all day activities in both Whitianga and Mercury Bay South.

Alternative unlimited parking is available within 100 to 200 metres of the proposed timed parking areas.

Any decision also needs to take into account whether a bylaw change is the best mechanism to use for an issue that appears to largely be of concern during peak periods.

Council's Compliance and Licensing Manager noted that a time restricting parking regime could be implemented in these two areas, but they would support a recommendation to not make any changes.

Alternative options for improving parking at Ferry Landing could look at the viability of a future park and ride service operating from the Mercury Bay South area to the Ferry Landing Wharf during peak periods or banning overnight parking to remove the multi-day parking concerns.

Options for the Board to consider include:

1. Continue with the proposal for timed parking (contrary to results from the informal feedback responses, and significantly impact residents who use the Ferry on a regular basis).
2. Keep the status quo - aligns with the resident responses.
3. Consider implementing a set number of timed parking areas at each car park - provides for all users' needs.
4. Ban overnight parking at each location - responds to some of the feedback.
5. Consider adding more disabled car parks - responds to some of the feedback.

5 Suggested resolution(s)

That the Mercury Bay Community Board:

1. Receives the 'Timed parking proposal - Ferry Landing and The Esplanade Whitianga' report, dated 24 July 2018.
2. Retains the status quo at both car parks.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A *Parking Control Bylaw Schedule A amendments report dated 14 February 2018*

Attachment B *Consultation documents - timed parking*

Attachment C *Full details of the submissions and Facebook comments - to be distributed separately*

Attachment A

Attachment A - Parking Control Bylaw Schedule A Amendments Report Date...

Attachment B
Attachment B - Consultation Documents - Timed Parking