

LORD HOWE ISLAND

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Community Engagement



'What we heard' Summary

JULY 2024

“

*Let's do something
for the whole Island
that benefits the
whole Island and
our children.*

”

— PARTICIPANT,
COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION



LORD HOWE ISLAND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

The Lord Howe Island Critical Infrastructure Program (the Program) is being established by the Lord Howe Island Board and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to deliver upgrades to essential infrastructure that is required to secure the Island’s future.

This summary provides an overview of what we heard from the community and stakeholders as part of the early engagement on the Lord Howe Island Critical Infrastructure Program. Feedback is presented on the three key elements of the Program – marine, biosecurity and waste infrastructure – and in relation to the South Zone and Alternate/Contingency approach. Key actions for the project team are also highlighted that respond to the feedback received.

Feedback indicated general support for an upgrade of the existing waste management facility and procurement of a new vessel, with various ideas about the specific design of these elements of the Program. A key issue raised by members of the community was the viability of the South Zone for locating the marine infrastructure, which will be dependent on relevant technical studies. Further details will be presented as part of the next steps in planning and engagement on the Critical Infrastructure Program.

We thank all those who participated in the early engagement and look forward to meeting with you to further progress work towards the Program later this year.

Beyond the next phase of engagement, members of the community and stakeholders will have a further opportunity to provide feedback on the draft master plan as part of the public exhibition process.

You can stay up to date and get in touch with the project team via the Lord Howe Island Board webpage at

www.lhib.nsw.gov.au/infrastructure/criticalinfrastructure-program.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM



PRECINCT
PLANNING
SERVICES



NEW WASTE
MANAGEMENT
FACILITY



NEW VESSEL
ACCESS
INFRASTRUCTURE



NEW MARINE
VESSEL &
OPERATIONS



NEW
BIOSECURITY
INFRASTRUCTURE

WE HEARD THAT...

MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE

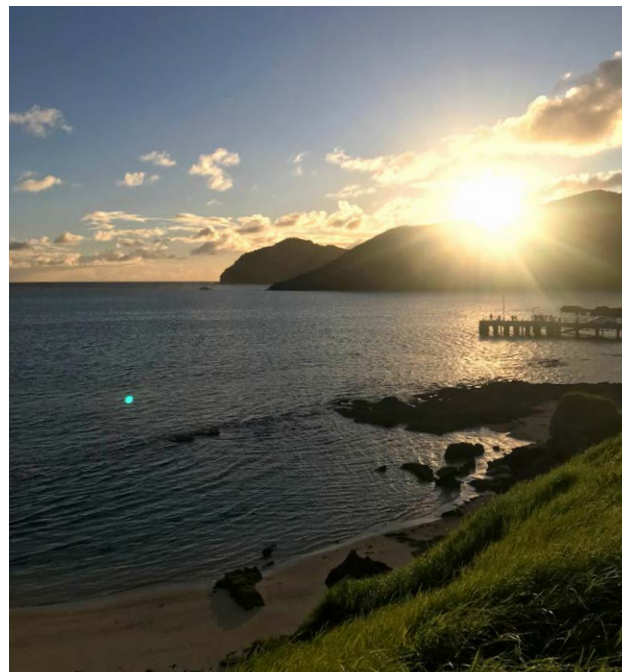
Marine infrastructure including a new vessel attracted the greatest level of feedback, with a primary focus on ensuring that a new fit for purpose vessel is procured to provide continuation of service. Ensuring new marine infrastructure is established in the most appropriate location was also a focus. There was wide recognition that the existing vessel and jetty have a limited lifespan and that upgraded infrastructure is critical to secure a sustainable future for the Island.

Feedback highlighted the importance of:

- Ensuring a seamless interface between the new vessel and related marine infrastructure
- Undertaking appropriate technical studies to ensure the South Zone presents a viable approach
- Securing a new vessel that meets specific design requirements, to ensure access to the relevant channel/lagoon in all weather conditions and to provide the desired functional requirements (including biosecurity measures)
- Design of the marine infrastructure including jetty/ramp to meet the relevant locational and functional requirements (e.g. to potentially incorporate a boat retrieval function), to minimise environmental impacts, to improve on existing operations and to enhance existing levels of service
- Vessel procurement within the identified program, to avoid service disruptions – with a sound contingency plan in place
- Ensuring the Registrations Of Interest (ROI) process for the new vessel is both rigorous and competitive and that governance and contractual arrangements offer ongoing value and security to the Island community
- Considering upgrade of the existing jetty/ ramp rather than undertaking new studies and establishing new infrastructure in the South Zone
- Considering opportunities around the existing jetty if new infrastructure is delivered in the South Zone
- Considering opportunities for innovation – such as use of containers, air freight and future use of drone technology

WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

- ✔ A detailed bathymetric study, plus geotechnical and wave studies will be undertaken and used to inform viability/ planning and design of the new marine infrastructure (including the most advantageous location for jetty/ramp)
- ✔ A contingency plan will be in place to ensure continuation of marine freight service to / from the Island
- ✔ The project team will work closely with relevant government agencies to progress all relevant planning and approvals, in accordance with leading practice and legislation constraints
- ✔ Design of the marine infrastructure will be fit for purpose and considering community feedback/inputs
- ✔ The vessel tender documentation and contract will seek to ensure that the mainland port location and supply chain arrangements are suitable and provide value for money, as well as ongoing security of service



WE HEARD THAT...

WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

There was general recognition that the existing waste management facility requires an upgrade to address current needs and expectations, and to support a compliant approach to waste management and disposal as per Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) standards.

Feedback highlighted the importance of appropriate design of the facility, selection of technologies and related training to ensure that existing and future staff can operate the waste management facility to its full potential and to support ongoing maintenance. Noise, odour, visual amenity and vehicle access were identified as key areas for consideration in design of the new facility.

Further opportunities to upgrade the waste management facility identified by members of the community and stakeholders focused on:

- Considering opportunities to expand the capacity of the septic system at the new waste management facility to receive and process a greater amount of septic waste than at present
- Improving the usability and functionality of the waste management facility
- Increasing opportunities to recycle and reuse waste on the Island (for instance, to create usable products such as compost, to improve the 'tip shop')
- Utilising energy efficient technologies and renewable energy within the new facility
- Maximising community, visitor and supplier education opportunities relating to sustainable waste management practices

WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

The new waste management facility will be designed to minimise noise, odour, visual impacts and energy use, and to maximise reuse and repurposing of waste

- ✔ Traffic flow concepts and a traffic movement analysis will be undertaken and used to inform design for the new infrastructure
- ✔ A program of training will be established for delivery to current and future staff of the waste management facility
- ✔ Opportunities will be explored to improve the area to the north of the South Zone currently used for materials / waste storage
- ✔ The new infrastructure will have asset operation and maintenance plans in place to underpin management and maintenance by the Lord Howe Island Board



WE HEARD THAT...

BIOSECURITY

Feedback suggests that existing biosecurity measures are generally working well, but further improvements to safeguard the Island’s future security from biosecurity risks are critical.

Community members and stakeholders commented that biosecurity initiatives require a prevention approach, with a primary focus on managing potential risks on the mainland, before freight and visitors arrive on Lord Howe Island.

Many expressed a desire for a leading practice approach to design of the new vessel and marine infrastructure to support biosecurity improvements, as well as appropriate systems and processes at the relevant mainland port and on Island.

Feedback also highlighted the importance of carefully considering the interrelationship of the waste management and biosecurity components of the Program to achieve optimal functionality and outcomes. A simple approach and clear information for the community, visitors and partners was regarded as fundamental to successfully managing biosecurity issues.

WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

- ✔ The new biosecurity infrastructure will be designed and operated to minimise risk and maximise opportunities for the Island’s community, businesses and the environment
- ✔ Communications will be developed to support leading practice sustainability among the community, visitors and suppliers



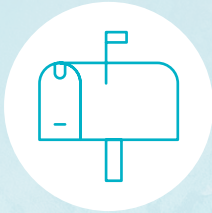
WHAT WE PLAN TO DO - OVERALL

- ✔ The new infrastructure, including biosecurity infrastructure, will be designed to maximise efficiencies and minimise conflicts
- ✔ Consideration will be given to traffic planning and management in relation to peak times for use of the new infrastructure
- ✔ Operational implications for consumers, such as costs, will be key to the tender process and information will be clearly communicated to the Lord Howe Island community and businesses
- ✔ Relevant studies will be undertaken – including geotechnical, marine and terrestrial ecology, bathymetry and lagoon hydrology, and visual amenity studies – to inform decision making
- ✔ The Lord Howe Island Board website will be regularly updated with project information, as well as information about engagement opportunities. A summary of ‘what we heard’ from the recent consultations will be available on the webpage in July 2024
- ✔ Physical copies of the Community Updates will also be distributed throughout the community and posters will be placed around the Island with relevant project and engagement information
- ✔ The Community Consultation Group will be established prior to the next phase of engagement; this group will provide further opportunities for community input to the Program



WHO WE ENGAGED

AS MANY AS ONE IN FOUR MEMBERS OF THE LORD HOWE ISLAND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATED IN THE EARLY ENGAGEMENT*



ALL

households and businesses received the project flyer



4

submissions were received



53

people responded to the community survey



12

people participated in the stakeholder interviews and workshop

including business owners / operators and those with an interest in shipping, weather conditions, the environment and tourism / local business impacts



38

people participated in the two community information sessions

including residents, business owners / operators and those with an interest in community and the environment

* Based on participation by 107 members of the community from a total population of 445

An aerial photograph of a paved road on Lord Howe Island. The road curves through a lush landscape of palm trees and dense greenery. In the background, there is a turquoise bay with a white sandy beach, and a large, dark mountain peak under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The overall scene is a beautiful tropical coastal environment.

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