



Coffs Harbour Fisherman's Co-operative

Access and Traffic Management Plan

7 December 2018

1.1 Overview

The Coffs Harbour Fisherman's Co-operative (Co-op) is located within the Port of Coffs Harbour (refer Figure 1). The port is Crown land reserved for port facilities and services (known as a working waterfront), The port contains a range of commercial, tourism and visitor facilities including an international marina, slipway, boat maintenance area, restaurants, retail outlets, public car parking and pedestrian boardwalk to Muttonbird Island.



Figure 1 Coffs Harbor Fisherman's Co-op - view from Marina Drive

1.1.1 Site operations and access arrangements

The Co-op supports local commercial fishers to land and market their fresh seafood products and operates under a lease agreement from the Crown. The Co-op is accessed from Marina Drive and located adjacent to the international marina at the far eastern end of the port. The Co-op lease area includes a single storey building for retail and wholesale sales, and an operational wharf area containing commercial moorings and unloading facilities for the fishing fleet. The sale of diesel fuel for commercial and other vessels is also provided.

The operations of the Co-operative require access for trucks, delivery vehicles and the use of powered mobile plant equipment such as forklifts in the wharf area adjacent to the moorings by staff and vessel operators in the loading and unloading of commercial fishing vessels.

Currently public access to the wharf area adjacent to the commercial fishing fleet moorings and unloading area is unrestricted. This causes numerous daily conflicts between private vehicles and pedestrians and working waterfront activities.

1.1.2 Safety and risk issues

Consultations between Safework NSW, the Co-op, the Coffs Harbour International Marina and the NSW Department of Industry – Lands and Water (as the land owner) have identified that the area is classified as high risk for public health and safety, and public access to the waterfront area should be restricted during commercial operations in order to avoid the risk of injury or death.

1.1.3 Planned changes

In order to avoid public safety risks and implement safe work practices for Co-op employees, commercial vessel operator and workers a proposed adjustment of the lease area for the Co-op is planned. This will include an expanded operational wharf area for loading, unloading and deliveries and restricted public access during normal working hours. During these times, vehicular access to the wharf area will be controlled by a fence, and access only allowed to authorised vehicles. A pedestrian gate will allow access after-hours for recreational activities such as wharf fishing.

The expanded area will enable a safe working environment for Co-op employees and the commercial fishing fleet, and allow for improved access and movement for transport and logistics vehicles servicing the Co-op. Access for the public will be maintained outside business hours and at other times at the discretion of the Co-op.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this Traffic Management Plan (TMP) is to outline how the Coffs Harbour Fisherman's Co-operative will implement actions to manage vehicular and pedestrian access to the working waterfront area. The Plan outlines the key issues and provides recommended actions for the ongoing management of the area.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of this plan are to:

- Manage the risks to the walking or driving general public when the Fisherman's Co-operative is being used as an active commercial space by restricting access during these times.
- Separate Fisherman's Co-operative commercial activities, such as the loading and unloading of delivery trucks and vessels, from the use of other parts of the marina precinct for use by the general public.
- Maintain access to the area for commercial fishers, which is occasionally reduced if the general public use the parking areas and otherwise occupy the area
- Improve existing environmental safety.

1.4 Scope

This TMP applies to Coffs Harbour Fisherman's Co-operative Wharf and surrounds within the proposed lease area. It does not apply to the area outside the proposed lease area.

1.5 Background - lease adjustments

In order to better manage public safety risks at the Coffs Harbour Fisherman's Co-operative a proposed adjustment to the leasing arrangement is planned.

The adjusted lease for the Co-op will expand the lease area of the Co-op adjacent to the commercial moorings and unloading area. Public access (light vehicles and pedestrians) to the area will be restricted during normal business hours (7am-5pm weekdays). To allow this, some land at the southern loading wharf currently leased by the International Marina is proposed to be transferred to the Co-op. In addition, some land adjacent to the Marina boardwalk leased by the Co-op will be transferred to the Marina to provide for a wider Marina boardwalk and vessel loading pontoon (illustrated in purple in Figure 2).

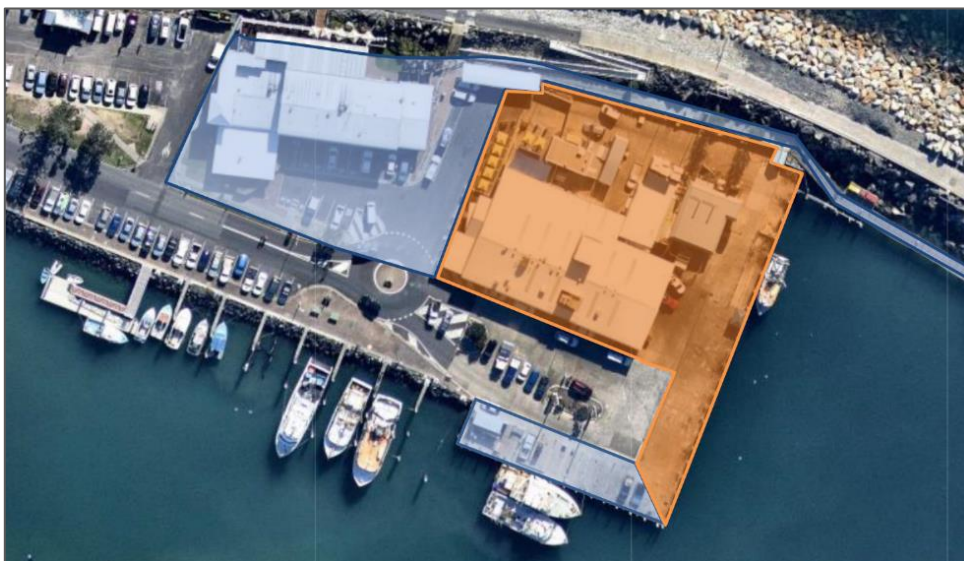


Figure 2 Current leasing arrangement for the Marina (blue) and Co-op (orange)

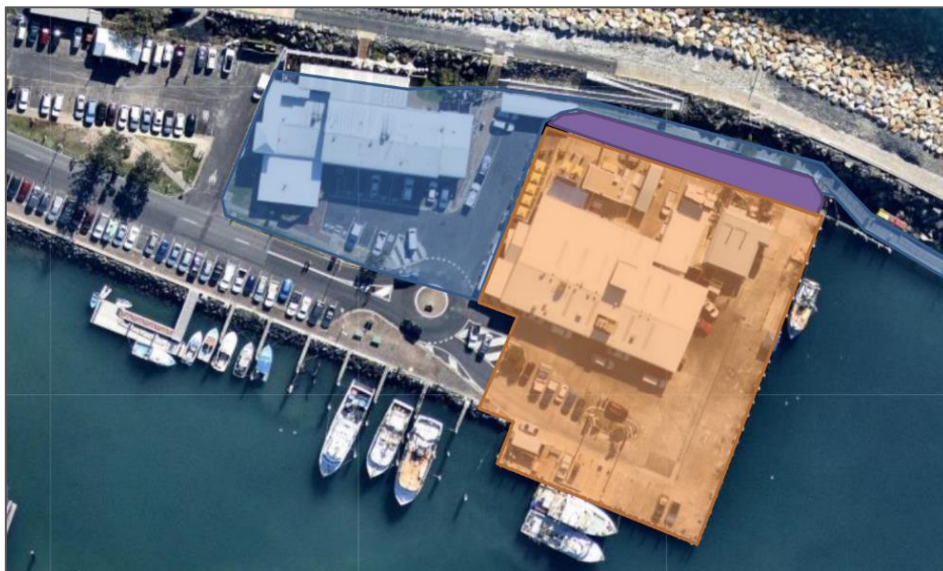


Figure 3 Proposed new lease arrangement with expanded Co-op lease area (orange) and expanded Marina boardwalk and vessel loading pontoon (purple)

The planned lease changes and restriction of public access during working hours will provide a safer operating environment for the Co-op.

In particular there will be a reduced risk of collision between vehicles and powered mobile plant equipment such as forklifts and the general public. This approach is consistent with the Guide for Workplace Traffic Management produced by Safework Australia and enable the Co-op to better meet legislative obligations under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and Regulations.

1.6 Key Issues

The identified issues relating to access and traffic management at the wharf are as follows:

- Public safety, particularly during loading and unloading times on the wharf
- Site security and asset management
- Uncontrolled parking of vehicles
- Limited signage
- Unlawful activity particularly at night
- Environmental management and litter

1.7 Working waterfront - existing arrangements

1.7.1 Pedestrian access

The wharf is accessed from Marina Drive. Informal pedestrian access is available to all parts of the wharf during most times of the day and night. Most pedestrian activity is during weekends but it is not uncommon for large crowds to gather when the tuna boats come in to unload their catch. The wharf is also utilised for locals and tourists alike for recreational fishing activities.



Figure 4 Example of people gathering during the unloading of vessels on the wharf

Co-operative staff monitor the area for potential safety concerns during the loading and unloading of delivery trucks whilst on the wharf. A concertina barrier has been used in the past to limit traffic during loading and unloading times however more formalised approach is required.

1.7.2 Uncontrolled parking

- Parking at the wharf is currently uncontrolled and is subject to sporadic use parking by local fisherman and visitors alike.
- Six line marked car spaces are located within the central island on the wharf and are bound by garden medians at either end.
- A further three (3) car parking spaces are available adjacent to the Fisherman's Co-operative building.
- On any given day, cars and light trucks can be parked directly adjacent to the eastern and southern edge of the wharf in an uncontrolled manner (refer Figure 5 below).



Figure 5 Example of uncontrolled parking

1.7.3 Signage

A number of signs are located on the wharf that relate to traffic control and management.

- 'Danger Forklift Operating Area' signs are located at the entrance driveway to the wharf.
- A 'No Access to Tour Boats' sign is located at the entrance driveway to the wharf.
- '30 minute Parking on Wharf' signs are located within the central parking area on the wharf.
- A 'No Standing' sign is situated on the southern side of the landscaped median

'No Entry Exit Only' sign is located at the exit driveway to the wharf



Figure 6 Example of signage

The signs are largely ineffective in controlling parking and access and violations are subject to limited enforcement or action.

1.7.4 Delivery and operational vehicles

Delivery vehicles including large trucks regularly service the Fisherman's Co-operative. Deliveries include seafood for the Co-op, fuel, collection of catches for transport to markets as well as service vehicles and Co-op staff.

Co-operative staff monitor the area for potential safety concerns during the loading and unloading of deliveries whilst on the wharf. In particular irregularly parked and moving vehicles cause difficulties in establishing safe reversing and turning circles for larger delivery and logistics vehicles. Public risk to pedestrians and onlookers is also high at these times.

A concertina barrier has been used in the past to limit traffic during loading and unloading times however given the risks involved a more formalised approach is required as the barrier does not restrict pedestrian access.

A swept path analysis (refer Figure 7) has been undertaken to show the area required for the turning movements of a typical 19m semi-trailer associated with transport and logistics or diesel tanker. The analysis shows a significant clearance area is required, and uncontrolled parked vehicles are a significant obstruction to safe and efficient movements.

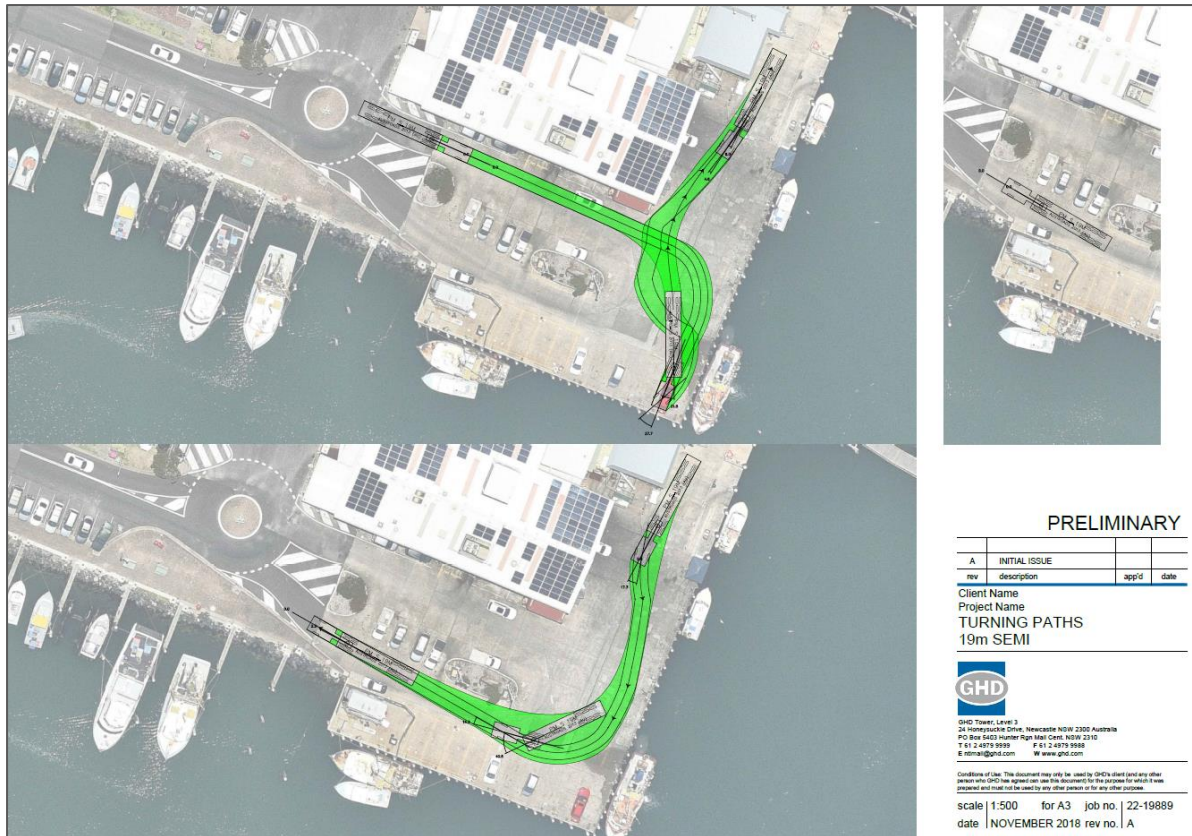


Figure 7 Swept path analysis

1.8 Consideration for public access outside operational times

Given peak wharf operations are generally limited to business hours, it is considered that some public pedestrian access can still be permitted when considered safe and outside of operational hours.

To cater for public and tourism interest during peak periods the Co-op has also proposed to run organised tours to experience the working waterfront particularly during the unloading of tuna and other large catches. All visitors will be controlled and subject to a site induction.

The Co-op will also cater for supervised school groups or other groups who seek access to the wharves (eg fishing) during business hours if it is safe to do so and subject to site induction.

1.9 Recommendations

Currently public access to the wharf area adjacent to the commercial fishing fleet moorings and unloading area is unrestricted. This causes numerous daily conflicts between private vehicles and pedestrians and working waterfront activities. In order to ensure a safe working environment for operational users a restriction of unauthorised vehicular and pedestrian access to the working wharf during business hours is recommended. Safework NSW has notified the Co-op and the Marina of its concerns for public safety given the unrestricted public access. Current negotiation of new leases for the Co-op and Marina has identified a better arrangement for management and control of the working waterfront.

A fence and gate arrangement is recommended such that authorised vehicles would be equipped with a swipe card, or be ushered through after check-in with the Co-op management. Co-op operational staff will be permitted to park vehicles within authorised areas, freeing up spaces currently occupied by staff within the public parking areas within the marina.

A pedestrian gate would be closed during normal business hours but otherwise open for recreational fishing and sightseeing when considered safe.

The Co-op would have authority to change these arrangements, acting reasonably, as circumstances dictate for example during extreme weather events or other unforeseen situations where the public should be excluded for limited periods for public safety or security.

Visiting vessels (including non-Co-op fishers) will continue to have access for loading and unloading subject to authority by the Co-op which must act reasonably in setting rules and fees.

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