



WE ASKED

We asked the community for feedback on our draft Blacksmiths Dune Management Plan.

The draft plan recommended several actions to improve management of the dunes including encouraging growth of low-lying native plant species to help prevent erosion, managing invasive weeds like bitou bush, supporting the dunes with physical barriers like mesh fencing and straw bales, and closing three of the existing 22 beach access points to help strengthen the dunes.

The community was encouraged to make a submission about the draft plan. An online submission tool also asked stakeholders what sorts of activities they participated in at Blacksmiths Beach.

WE REACHED



1,772 visits to our Shape Lake Mac project webpage



6,513 Shape Lake Mac and Eco Advocate e-newsletter subscribers received a link to the project webpage



14 corflute signs, with QR code link to project webpage, placed around Blacksmiths



Most submitters (**93%**) told us they enjoyed walking or running at Blacksmiths Beach, while **83%** sat or relaxed at the beach, **71%** swam, **50%** fished or appreciated nature, **36%** participated in surf club events or activities, and **21%** were 4WD users.

WE HEARD

Of the 17 submissions received:



eight provided feedback on how dune vegetation was proposed to be managed in the draft plan – feedback was mixed, with four submissions calling for the planting of more native species to enhance habitat, another calling on Council to prioritise the removal of bitou bush, and three calling for a more ‘hands-off’ approach or removal of larger trees and shrubs to encourage movement of sand that could improve surfing amenity.



seven shared feedback against the closure of existing beach access points.



three suggested pedestrian accessibility improvements to beach access points or along Gommera Street.



four suggested restricting 4WD access to the beach.



two suggested introducing a sand replenishment system to address dune erosion.



two were critical of other proposed management actions including the use of fencing and straw bales.

WHAT'S NEXT

Your feedback will help inform our Blacksmiths Dune Management Plan, which we expect to share with our community in July 2025.

You can stay up to date with the progress the plan at shape.lakemac.com.au.