

Council Reference: 3665E (D26/111465)

19/03/2026

Mr Chris Hayes
President
Red Head Villages Association Inc
PO Box 2015
BENDALONG NSW 2539

By email only: rhva.secretary@gmail.com

Dear Mr Hayes

Request – All-Ability Access – Washerwoman’s Beach

Thank you for your letter to Mayor White on 10 February 2026 highlighting the need for all-ability beach access in your area, specifically Washerwoman’s Beach.

Works are not currently budgeted for the investigation or construction of all-ability access at Washerwoman’s Beach or nearby areas such as Bendalong Boat Harbour within the 2025/2026 Delivery Program Operational Plan (DPOP). Potential works in future DPOP budgets will be considered alongside other coastal management priorities across the Shoalhaven, as guided by the Shoalhaven Open Coast and Jervis Bay Coastal Management Program (CMP).

Council has been actively investigating opportunities to provide all-ability access to Council-managed beaches for several years. In October 2023, Council completed a feasibility study assessing potential locations for all-ability beach access ramps across the Shoalhaven local government area. Bendalong Boat Harbour was included in this assessment and was identified as a potentially suitable location pending further detailed investigation.

Determining an appropriate location for all-ability access within the coastal environment requires consideration of several factors, including:

- coastal hazards affecting the site
- geotechnical conditions
- the required orientation of the structure
- suitable materials and design
- survey information to determine feasible ramp grades (to meet Australian Standards for all-ability access, where possible)
- constructability options as part of design development

These assessments represent a substantial body of work necessary to ensure that any all-ability access meets engineering standards, provides long-term community value, and addresses Council’s risk management requirements.

Council has submitted a grant application under the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Coast & Estuary 2025-2026 Grant Funding Round. If successful, this funding would support the design and investigation of improved beach access at

Bendalong Boat Harbour, building on the recommendations of the 2023 feasibility study. It should be noted that these investigations would determine whether full all-ability access is feasible at this location. If constraints such as grade, orientation, or site conditions limit compliance with accessibility standards, the funding may instead deliver general access upgrades (e.g. stairs or a ramp that improves access but does not meet all-ability grade requirements).

As part of this potential project, Council would also undertake further analysis comparing the suitability of all-ability access at Bendalong Boat Harbour versus Washerwoman's Beach.

The outcome of the grant application is still pending, with Council expecting notification by mid-2026.

If you need further information about this matter, please contact Robyn Batman, City Services on (02) 4429 3325. Please quote Council's reference 3665E (D26/111465).

Yours faithfully



Craig Exton
Manager – Technical Services