**Submission on Draft Kiama Harbour Revitalisation Proposal**

From: Mark Way

Kiama Councillor and President Kiama Game Fishing Club Inc.

1. The proposal to move the boat ramp is ridiculous and should be dumped immediately. “The Boat Ramp must stay in its current position”! For over 30 years I have been involved in getting the Ramp supported with ancillary infrastructure that makes it work as a maritime facility and in particular the last 8 1/2 years as a Councillor. Changing the position as indicated on the Draft is “daft” and a waste of public funds. A few points supporting the current position as follows:

* **Close access to trailer parking with 3 areas** (lower-early bird snapper spots; main area (back of Scout hall) and adjacent cabins plus 3 wash bays.
* **Two Wharves** (North and South-either side of ramp)
* Cleaning tables and lighting
* **Disabled access** to boats (currently needs to be fixed)-Southern wharf where urgent action must be undertaken.
* **Calmer area off Boat Ramp and Wharves** where boats can wait to launch and retrieve off the ramp-safety first.
* **Boats have easy access to and from the ramp for retrieval and launching**
* **Minimum disruption to pedestrian and vehicular traffic near the ramp**-The Kiama Harbour Committee action and subsequent Master Plan in first 4 years I was on Council significantly upgraded the access to the “Jewel in the Crown” via paths for pedestrians and the “one way” around the harbour increased traffic flow. Disabled access all around Harbour and Headland coupled with toilet facilities has seen this area become very popular.
* Boats launching and retrieving has also become somewhat of a **spectator attraction for tourists.**
* **Surf Club Rescue boat** has direct and fast access to Ramp and this has saved lives, another vital feature.
* \*The **Scouts** have indicated they will not move and as I understand it, recently affirmed that position. As you are no doubt aware legally they cannot be forced to move. That would of course mean the area now referred to in the plan as **“Corso” building cannot be built in current format.**
* **# The** **“promenade” on Corso strip** obviously is in need of urgent attention and as previously advised I support a “layered” system of different levels where spectators could sit anywhere along that length facing Black Beach, watching boats and other events as organised or approved by Council.
* **Plainly and simply put, the overwhelming majority of locals and tourists have expressed a view that any upgrades do not affect the overall appearance of Kiama Harbour!**
* The **Shellharbour Marina** will have all of that commercialisation that is embellished in current draft and Kiama remains the same.

1. Relocation to proposed site is totally inappropriate and accordingly must not occur, some points to consider as follows:

* The site **does not have enough trailer parking** area in a position close to where the proposed ramp would be located.
* \* **The Rock Pool parking uses** all that area and is busy with both locals and tourists. Obviously severely underestimated in draft plan. I have been inundated with “unhappy” swimmers who will no doubt express their dissatisfaction now they are aware of the Draft. There are a lot of elderly residents who get there exercise in the pool and need close parking to facilitate access. Also popular area for lunch and relaxation.
* Where the boats would be required to wait in the ocean for retrieval and launching would be **dangerous** from swell and location in the main traffic boating lane for entry to and from Harbour for larger vessels.
* The proposed **Breakwall** (No 1 page 43) is right across the main access and entry channel to Kiama Harbour and also obstructs “Lead lights”.
* To use existing Trailer parking area adjacent cabins and main parking area opposite Harbour also with the wash bays is in practice much too far to boats and trailers and would lead to **unnecessary delays** with drivers on a marathon walk n run.
* Accordingly, with no adjacent parking to Ramp would lead to **massive delays and traffic “gridlock” around the Harbour** of cars n trailers also affecting the Blowhole and Rock Pool, as well as Harbour moorings.

1. **Shellharbour Marina will attract most of the larger vessels**, as expressed to me by members of Kiama GFC with big boats in excess of 40’ and costing big dollars.

* Other boat owners who live in locally and in Sydney have also indicated they will move their boats and in **particular those in excess of 50” to Shellharbour Marina.**
* **Business that support Marine works** such as ships chandleries will be established in that Marina.

1. The **Slipway** does need to be upgraded urgently and will service vessels from not only Kiama but across the Illawarra with no other facility available and I strongly support this upgrade and **any funding that can be allocated.**
2. The **“Promenade** on Corso” as previously mentioned and referred to in Draft plan is urgently in need of repair and I **support a “layered” type of decki**ng along its length ASAP.
3. My previous proposal to have a **“Mini Break wal**l” of approx. 20 metres off the northern wharf would **protect the “Corso”, both wharves, Ramp and would be cost** **effective with no adverse effects on marine environment**. I did have a diver check the bottom where the mini break wall would be located.

Check my Website: [www.markway.net.au](http://www.markway.net.au)

1. **Pedestrian Access** was improved by a pathway around the Harbour and steps leading down to that pathway and direct to boat ramp and toilets.
2. The **one way traffic** around the Harbour also improved vehicle access and if you had seen the situation before this action say several years ago, it was verging on “gridlock”. The initial Kiama Harbour and Blowhole project team (Master Plan) got it right and this plan should be referred to in the course of reviewing this Draft.
3. **Generally, Kiama people like the Harbour the way it is and Tourists I have spoken to also agree** and that’s the drawcard, they don’t want over commercialisation. Obviously the Kiama History society has also expressed that view.
4. **The Rock Pool at the Harbour is undervalued and besides locals who use this facility to improve health outcomes, both physically and mentally** it has become a drawcard with tourists through social media. Many Tourists from Europe have said to me they know about the rock pool and this has drawn them to Kiama.
5. The **proposed Break wall would also block swell to the Black beach (Continental) rock pool** that currently and like the Harbour Rock pool requires replenishment from tide and swell.
6. It is **only in a North East or Ground swell that affects the current Boat Ramp, Wharves and Corso-Promenade.** In a southerly swell the waves smash onto where the proposed ramp in the draft but do not affect the current boat ramp etc.
7. **CCTV** has been installed overlooking the harbour as phase one and still requires phase 2 that would be located near Scout Hall.
8. **Fisherman’s shed** are of course very important for Commercial and other maritime uses.
9. **Whilst the current Trailer parking (3 sites) caters for most of boat trailers, on busy days with good weather and fishing, it is not unusual for over 70 Boat Trailers to be seen with later arrival having to park on grass.**

Thanks,

Mark Way

**My Background (Mark Way) and involvement with Kiama Harbour include**:

* Have been working on projects around the Kiama harbour for over 30 years
* Two terms on Kiama Council as a Councillor and the go to person/Councillor for harbour issues
* Founder and President of Kiama GFC

www.kiamagfc.com.au

* Tournament Director-Blowhole Big Fish Classic

Projects that I have driven include:

* Both Wharves at Boat Ramp
* Fenders and Lights
* Fish Cleaning tables
* Gantry at Kiama Harbour and lease
* Kiama Harbour and Blowhole Project team (Master Plan) as a Councillor
* Kiama representative for anchoring of Carnival ship off Bombo and transfer of passengers
* Paths around Kiama Harbour and Blowhole Headland
* Upgrade of Kiama Rock pool and amenities facilities
* Placement of “anchor” near Rock Pool-Tourist attraction
* Other Historical identification with signage-still awaiting finance for more
* Additional Trailer Parking
* Additional Wash Bays to facilitate quicker turnaround of boats
* Toilets at Boat Ramp
* Disabled access on southern wharf
* CCTV
* Proposal for Mini Break wall on end of Northern wharf