



13 February 2024

NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)

Provided by email to Councillor Adam Shultz:

ashultz@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Subject: Support for Hunter Water upgrade of Black Neds Bay Walking Trail

Lake Macquarie City Council's Walking, Cycling and Better Streets Strategy 2031 aims to create a city where walking and cycling is easy, safe and appealing for everyone. Walking connections are designed to foster connections between people and places, taking residents and visitors safely to local shops, schools, workplaces, parks, playgrounds and public transport.

The Black Neds Bay Walking Trail is a critical connection between Swansea Heads, Caves Beach and Swansea town centre. The walking trail is identified as an important active transport and recreation link in Council's Strategy, and Council is supportive of working with Hunter Water to investigate options to upgrade and improve the trail.

Lake Macquarie City Council is currently constructing the Fernleigh Awabakal Shared Track (FAST) project, the missing link to create a 27km continuous shared pathway linking Adamstown with Murrays Beach. The project is funded by all levels of government, with the NSW and Australian Governments awarding total grants of \$9.4M, and Council contributing the remaining funds. FAST will link the end of the Fernleigh Track with Blacksmiths and on to the Pirrita Island, Swansea Coastline Cycleway.

Hunter Water funding for improvements to the Black Neds Bay Walking Trail will compliment Council's FAST project and deliver an important component of the Walking, Cycling and Better Streets Strategy. Upgrading this recreational trail will significantly benefit both residents of east Lake Macquarie and visitors to the city.

I am pleased to support Councillor Shultz's request that Hunter Water fund an upgrade to the Black Neds Bay Walking Trail. Should you require further information, please contact me on 4921 0539.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Hughes".

David Hughes
Director Built and Natural Assets

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