Communities and Justice

Update:

Upgrades & Improvements at Tomaree Lodge

(August 2025)

Katherine Tollner, Executive Director Infrastructure and Assets





NSW Government focus on Tomaree: 2023-2025



July 2023

New Government commences Site Constraints Assessment to confirm which options for future use identified under former government's "Have Your Say" consultation are viable.

Feb to March 2024

DCJ collaborate within Govt on potential master planning activities.

DCJ investigates opportunities for immediate capital works improvements to the site for community benefit.

June 2024

Umwelt "Have Your Say" Report publicly released.

Commenced upgrade planning of Cottage 11.

Data Tarilla and and

Detailed concept research and planning undertaken by SHAC in consultation with: Tomaree CEC; Tomaree SteerCo; Worimi Elders (N.B. recently commenced) & Hunter Circles

Jan to July 2025

Site support officers onboarded and further amenity improvements

\$4.6m allocated in State Budget

Current: August 2025

- Detailed site assessment completed by SHAC
- Preliminary concepts for the future use prepared for release to the community
- Further community engagement to complete the planning
- Full site services and substructure assessments commenced (e.g. sewerage)
- Ongoing site amenity, safety, signage and building upgrades
- Invasive weed eradication program
- Design of foreshore walking track connection to National Park
- Design of upgraded traffic management and parking with Port Stephens Council

Oct 2023 to Dec 2023

Planning Engagement with NSW Govt agencies: NPWS, Planning, Property, & Port Stephens Council (PSC).

27 March 2024

Site "walk through" with community members – test "meanwhile use" concept and options.

Upgrade of signage and wayfinding (DCJ, NPWS and PSC).

July - Oct 2024

EOI released for the Tomaree Lodge Community Engagement Committee (CEC).

29 Nov 2024

community

Community Forum

engagement with

Circles. NSW Govt

agencies & PSC).

held on site - broad

Worimi, THHG, Hunter

NSW Government Tomaree Lodge Steering Committee (SteerCo) established.

CEC and SteerCo meetings commence in October 2024.

Immediate works+ amenity improvements (e.g. beach showers).

December 2024

SHAC engaged by DCJ and commences Concept Planning.

Stage 1 Cottage 11 upgrades completed.

DCJ commences recruitment for two staff as site support officers

Site security assessment completed, and CCTV upgrades commence – savings redirected to site upgrades and staffing

Communities and Justice

Completed Works



Alongside the SHAC assessment and engagement process:

- Information Centre upgrade, staff recruitment and opening
- Amenity and safety upgrades across the site, including creating more public open space
- Defibrillator installed outside Information Centre for public access
- Historic torpedo tube restoration (with Heritage NSW, NSW Soil Conservation Service and Crown Lands NSW)
- Full site security upgrade (including over 30 additional CCTV cameras)

NSW Government Investment



\$4.6m over two years to fund essential maintenance and upgrades to improve Tomaree Lodge for public benefit and enjoyment

Works In Progress



- Full site services and substructure assessments, including sewerage, stormwater, electrical, building condition and heritage assessments
- Ongoing site amenity, safety, signage and building upgrades
- Invasive weed eradication program
- Wall mural and photographic heritage displays at Information Centre
- Design of foreshore walking track connection to National Park track network at Tomaree Headland (in collaboration with NPWS)
- Design of upgraded traffic management and parking solution at Shoal Bay Road entry (in collaboration with Port Stephens Council)

Place Activation Framework



Alongside maintenance and upgrade works, we're taking a Place Planning approach to enable greater community use of the spaces we're creating, ensuring:

- Equitable access for everyone in the community
- Safety for everyone who comes to Tomaree Lodge
- Environmental, historical, cultural, financial and recreational sustainability
- Activity on site aligns with the core goal of public benefit

Planned & Future Works



Over 20 more identified sub-projects in planning phase, including:

- Interpretation planning and wayfinding upgrades
- Foreshore walk upgrade
- Public amenities upgrades
- Site services and sustainability upgrades
- Landscaping upgrades
- Building upgrades, recommissioning and adaptive reuse
- Feasibility assessment for jetty and ocean bath reinstatement

What next?



- Visit the DCJ Tomaree Lodge webpage to view the concepts and tell us what you think
- SHAC will finalise the concept masterplan, which will guide next steps
- DCJ will progress upgrades and maintenance to improve amenity, accessibility and functionality
- Come visit us in person at Tomaree Lodge and subscribe for updates to stay informed

