

## **Public Forum Question – Response**

**Subject:** Oaks Avenue, Dee Why – Unsafe Footpath

**Question From:** Mr Vincent De Luca

**Meeting Date:** 26 August 2003

**Question:** Is Council aware of several injuries to people that have occurred due to the uneven footpath along Oaks Avenue Dee Why particularly outside the TAB and Café on Oaks as well as potholes in the parking area adjacent to the chicken shop, bakery and cheese cake shop. While Council has placed some asphalt on the ground, the area is still uneven and people are still tripping. Could Council please lay proper paving similar to the paving on the Strand Dee Why as well as fill all potholes to prevent further accidents?

### **Response:**

A review of Council's insurance records indicates that since 1 July 1999 Council has received 7 claims relating to trips/falls on the footpath in Oaks Avenue. Four of these claims were subsequently successful. Dee Why is considered Council's highest profile area and as such has received the highest inspection regime. Our staff inspect the area every month and defects or hazards are recorded and then prioritised using our risk management procedures. Action is then taken based on priority within available funding. The responsibilities for the maintenance of footpaths in Oaks Avenue is complicated by the extent of private land included and the set-back on some buildings. In regards the specific examples quoted, the majority of the footpath and carparks are actually located on private land. It should be noted that this complexity and the request for upgrading the footpath will be addressed as part of the Dee Why town Centre Streetscaping project. Although it should be noted that Oaks Avenue is not programmed to be undertaken until 2007/2008.