

ATTACHMENT BOOKLET

NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 13 AUGUST 2024

NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL MEETING - 13 AUGUST 2024

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MINUTES

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

held in the Flannel Flower, Civic Centre, Dee Why on

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024

Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) held on Wednesday 13 March 2024 in the Flannel Flower, Civic Centre, Dee Why Commencing at 2pm

ATTENDANCE:

Voting Members of the Committee

Chair Stephen Horne (Chair) Member Mark McCoy Member Julie Walton Member Robert Lagaida Member Cr Sarah Grattan

Apologies

Member Cr Bianca Crvelin

Council Officers (non-voting)

Scott Phillips Chief Executive Officer

Eskil Julliard Acting Director Corporate & Legal
Mark Jones Acting Director Workforce & Technology

David Walsh Chief Financial Officer

Caroline Foley Executive Manager Financial Planning & Systems

Sally Hall Executive Manager Internal Audit & Complaints Resolution

Amy Noakes Executive Manager Human Resources (item 6.2)

Glen Quince Team Leader – WHS (item 6.2)

Lisa Donohoe Workers Compensation Team Leader (item 6.2)

Michael McDermid A/Executive Manager Strategy & Performance (item 7.1)

Kristie Debney A/Executive Manager Property (item 11.1)

Andrew Ward-Harvey Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing (item 9.1)

Kristie Debney A/Executive Manager Property (item 9.1)

Todd Dickinson Director Environment & Climate Change (item 9.1)

Grant Tighe Manager Construction & Maintenance (item 7.1)

Emily Carson A/Executive Manager Transport & Civil Infrastructure (item 7.1)

Sarah Dunstan Executive Manager Governance & Risk

Aline Fernandes Internal Auditor
Lesley Milbourne Manager Governance
Lauren Reti Senior Advisor - Governance

Council Auditors (non-voting)

Hugh Wilson Audit Leader Financial Audit, Audit Office of NSW

Visitors (non-voting)

Cr Sue Heins Mayor (joined the meeting at 2:16pm and left at 4:33pm)

Quorum

A majority of voting committee members.

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1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cr Bianca Crvelin.

2.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mark McCoy disclosed a not significant non-pecuniary interest – he has been working with Forever Living in Vietnam.

Stephen Horne disclosed that he is now a member of the City of Sydney's Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC).

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 MINUTES OF ARIC MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2023

OUTCOME

That the minutes of the ARIC meeting held on 12 December 2023, copies of which were previously circulated to all members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

4.0 ITEMS RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

OUTCOME

No items were dealt with by exception.

5.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM MINUTES

5.1 ACTION ITEMS UPDATE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the ARIC with a progress update on the actions arising from the minutes of previous meetings of the ARIC and those actions completed since the previous meeting.

OUTCOME

The ARIC noted the progress on actions arising from the minutes of previous meetings.

6.0 STANDING ITEMS

6.1 VERBAL UPDATE BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the ARIC with a brief update on current issues, particularly those relating to areas of potential risk for Council.

DISCUSSION

Scott Phillips, Chief Executive Officer advised that Councillors will attend a strategic planning workshop on 23 and 24 March. The Chair noted that this workshop and subsequent planning will be useful context for ARIC when developing its 4-year strategic workplan. This plan must be developed in consultation with the governing body, as required by the Office of Local Government's Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit.

ACTIONS

Scott Phillips to provide feedback to ARIC on the strategic planning weekend outcomes in preparation for ARIC's discussions with the governing body on ARIC's 4-year strategic workplan.

Governance to facilitate consultation between the governing body and ARIC to inform the development of ARIC's 4-year strategic workplan.

OUTCOME

The ARIC noted the Chief Executive Officer's verbal update.

6.2 SAFETY, WELLBEING AND INJURY MANAGEMENT REPORT

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide ARIC with an update on Work Health & Safety, Workers Compensation and Wellbeing during the period July 2023 to December 2023.

DISCUSSION

Amy Noakes, Executive Manager Human Resources, Glenn Quince, Team Leader WHS and Lisa Donohoe, Workers Compensation Team Leader joined the meeting.

Discussion included claims, trends, metrics and forecasting as ARIC members shared their experiences, particularly regarding psycho-social risks and how organisations can design jobs and environments for better outcomes. The CEO reported that Council is preparing a discussion paper on flexible work and how such arrangements could work for Council given the complexity of such a workplace. The discussion paper will inform a position paper and consultation to help Council develop a workplace agreement by the end of the year.

ACTIONS

A report is to be provided to the ARIC on actions Council is taking to be proactive and preventive in managing psycho-social risks, reflective of the intent of the relevant legislation. The report should identify the hazards relevant to psycho-social risks and discuss actions Council is taking to be proactive in managing them.

OUTCOME

The ARIC noted the update on Work Health & Safety, Workers Compensation and Wellbeing as of 31 December 2023.

6.3 ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING PROJECT (ERP) UPDATE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the ARIC with an update on Council's Enterprise Resource Planning Project (ERP).

DISCUSSION

Mark Jones, A/Director Workforce and Technology, spoke to the item, advising a new program director has been appointed and business unit subject matter experts and key personnel will be nominated soon. Following staff communications and a competition, the program has been renamed COSMO - Core Operating System Modernisation and Optimisation. Programming is now underway and the risk register is live.

ACTIONS

Mark Jones to confirm details of budget contingency and how the risks of running dual systems during the two-phase process will be managed.

A report is to be provided to the ARIC on the governance arrangements for the project. The Chair suggested asking Wollongong Council about their learnings during implementation of TechOne's OneCouncil.

OUTCOME

The ARIC noted the report.

7.0 IMPROVEMENT

7.1 SERVICE REVIEW - ROAD MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the findings and recommendations of the Service Review of Road Maintenance. (Service 15 – Road and Transport Infrastructure).

DISCUSSION

Michael McDermid, A/Executive Manager, Strategy & Performance; Grant Tighe, Manager Construction & Maintenance; and Emily Carson, A/Executive Manager Transport & Civil Infrastructure attended for the discussion.

The ARIC members provided their observations on this report and the service review framework in the context of the upcoming Councillor strategy workshop and suggested Council may consider preparing a short report to the governing body on the review.

ACTIONS

That:

 A further report be prepared for ARIC to provide additional information on the service funding gap (renewal and maintenance) identified in the Roads Asset Management Plan, and how

service and satisfaction levels with the service are expected to improve.

- Consideration be given to reviewing the Council's Service Review Framework including the objectives which guide the service review program.
- Consideration be given to how the outcome of service reviews can succinctly be communicated to Councillors.

OUTCOME

The ARIC noted the findings and recommendations of the Service Review for Road Maintenance.

9.0 SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS

9.1 MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS - KIMBRIKI ENVIRONMENTAL ENTERPRISES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to discuss how Council manages conflicts of interest that may arise in relation to Kimbriki Environmental Enterprises Pty Ltd.

DISCUSSION

Todd Dickinson, Director Environment & Sustainability; Kristie Debney, A/Executive Manager Property; and Andrew Ward-Harvey, Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing, attended for the discussion.

The ARIC thanked the team for an excellent paper.

ACTIONS

Nil

OUTCOME

That the ARIC note the report.

9.2 UPDATE ON WASTE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the ARIC on direct negotiations with Council's waste collection contractor, URM Environmental Services Pty Ltd (URM).

Todd Dickinson, Director Environment & Sustainability; and Andrew Ward-Harvey, Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing, attended for the discussion.

ACTIONS

Nil

OUTCOME

The ARIC noted the information in the report.

10.0 EXTERNAL AUDIT

10.1 PLANNING FOR AUDIT OF 2023/24 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Audit Office of NSW's Annual Engagement Plan for the audit of Northern Beaches Council's financial statements for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 to the ARIC.

DISCUSSION

Caroline Foley, Executive Manager Financial Planning and Systems and David Walsh, Chief Financial Officer joined the meeting.

Hugh Wilson, Council's Audit Office engagement manager, provided an overview of the audit plan.

Due to Council elections, Council's 2023/24 financial statements are expected to be presented as a draft to the ARIC the week before the audit begins in mid-September 2024.

ACTIONS

Nil

OUTCOME

That the ARIC note the Audit Office of NSW's Annual Engagement Plan for the audit of the financial statements for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

11.0 INTERNAL AUDIT

11.1 INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE REPORT

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the ARIC on all aspects of Internal Audit work since the last ARIC meeting.

DISCUSSION

Sally Hall, Executive Manager Internal Audit and Complaints Resolution introduced the report.

Kristie Debney, A/Executive Manager Property attended regarding the small plant audit and building access management.

ACTIONS

Sally Hall will check with David Walsh about the process for validating ABNs – is validation done for each invoice or the company?

A report will be prepared for the ARIC's next meeting on the recommendations from the KPMG fraud and corruption risk assessment.

A report will be prepared for the ARIC's next meeting on how the key risks from the small plant audit are mitigated.

OUTCOME

The ARIC noted:

- 1. The status of the current 2023-24 and previous 2022-23 internal audit plans
- 2. The status of internal audit recommendations and actions
- 3. The update to the 2019 Fraud and Corruption Risk Assessment open actions
- 4. The outcome of the CEO Expenses audit
- 5. The recommendations of the Chief Executive Team, to manage the outcomes of the Small Plant audit, including management of other Council plant
- 6. The development of the 4-year (2024-28) strategic internal audit plan.

11.2 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE POLICY - IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS UPDATE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update the members of the ARIC on Council's implementation of the new requirements of the *Public Interest Disclosure (PID) Act 2022*.

DISCUSSION

Sally Hall, Executive Manager, Internal Audit & Complaints Resolution, spoke to the report.

ACTIONS

Nil.

OUTCOME

The ARIC noted the report on the implementation of the requirements of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2022*.

11.3 FRAUD AND CORRUPTION CONTROL POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Fraud and Corruption Control Policy which is based on the Independent Commission Against Corruption's (ICAC's) Sample Fraud and Corruption Control Policy.

DISCUSSION

Sally Hall spoke to the report.

The ARIC provided input on the policy. It was noted the KPMG Fraud and corruption control risk assessment was reported to the December 2023 ARIC.

ACTIONS

NIL

OUTCOME

The ARIC noted the draft Fraud and Corruption Control Policy.

13.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

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13.1 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to the ARIC the proposed agenda items for the June 2024 meeting.

ACTIONS

Nil

OUTCOME

The ARIC noted the forward agenda for the June 2024 meeting.

The meeting closed at 4:38pm.

Committee members remained for an in-camera meeting with the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Manager Internal Audit and Complaints Resolution.

14.0 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 11 June 2024

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Annual Report 2023

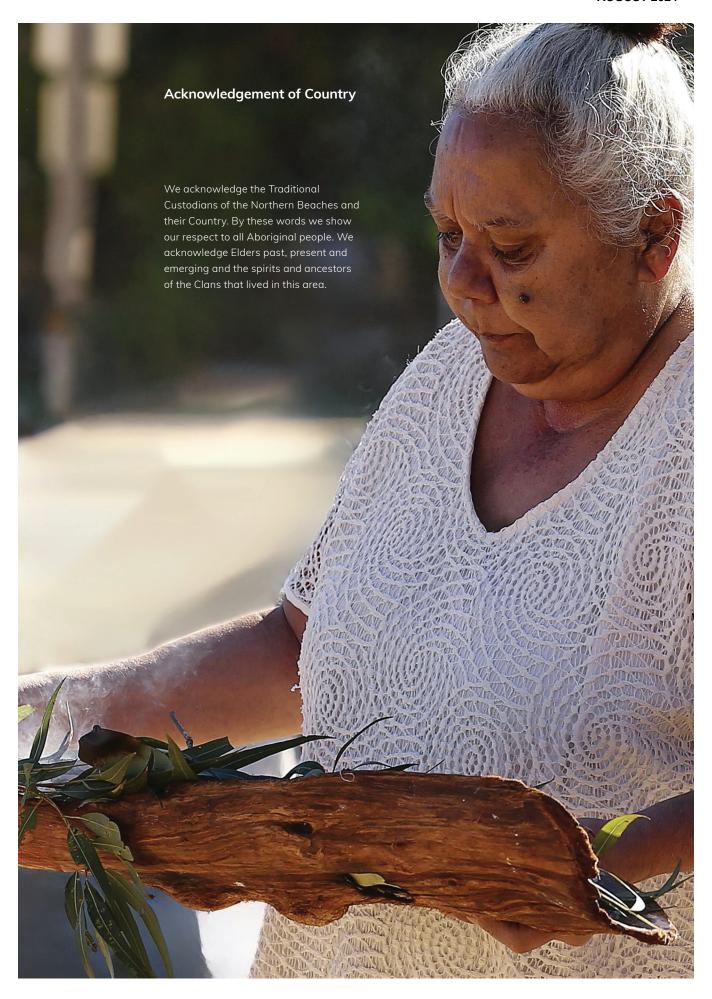


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Northern Beaches Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee



About this report

This annual report documents the operation and activities of Northern Beaches Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee from 1 January to 31 December 2023.

The Northern Beaches Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) was established to promote good corporate governance at Northern Beaches Council (Council). Good corporate governance supports Council's vision of delivering the highest quality service, valued and trusted by the community in an effective and efficient manner and with transparency and accountability.

The ARIC provides independent assurance and assessment to Council on risk management, internal control, governance, internal audits, organisational performance and improvement and external accountability responsibilities.

Membership consists of 4 independent members and 2 Councillors who are nominated by Council.¹

Northern Beaches Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

¹ In the spirit of the impending Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government, councillor membership was reduced from 3 to 2 when a Councillor member became the Mayor in May 2023.

Chair's message 5

I would like to thank the ARIC members, management and staff, and the internal and external auditors for their commitment to the work of the ARIC. During the year we farewelled Sarah Richardson, independent member; Ray Brownlee, CEO; Jeff Smith, Director Corporate & Legal; and Karen Twitchett, Director Workforce & Technology; and welcomed Robert Lagaida, independent member; and Scott Phillips as CEO. During a time of change, the ARIC was well supported and has functioned effectively during 2023. The ARIC has been satisfied with management's responses to the areas under ARIC's remit.

The ARIC commended management for its commitment to continuous improvement. In particular, Council is maturing and developing its approaches to:

- interconnections between the performance reporting, business excellence and continuous improvement, and service level frameworks
- risk management by refining mandatory
 risk descriptions for effective application
 to operational risk areas, reviewing risk
 matrices, and updating business continuity
 plans and planning for stress testing with
 the Chief Information Security Officer
- insurance via Council's insurance strategy and membership of the Statewide Mutual scheme

- policies and procedures through a revision of Council's policy framework
- fraud control, including seeking ARIC's review of its Fraud and Corruption Control Policy and Public Interest Disclosures Policy
- internal audit by monitoring progress towards the Three Year Strategic Internal Audit Plan and Annual Plan.

The ARIC appreciated focussed reports and presentations on cyber security preparedness, the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system project, waste management, including a presentation by Kimbriki Environmental Enterprises, an incident review of the March 2022 flood event, Work Health & Safety and Workers Compensation, and of course, preparation of the draft 2022/23 Financial Statements prior to submission to Council.

The ARIC looks forward to working collaboratively with management and staff, and the internal and external auditors in 2024.

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The ARIC

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The Committee has an important role in the governance framework by providing Council with:

- independent oversight
- objective assurance and monitoring of Council's audit processes
- internal controls including fraud and corruption control
- external reporting
- risk management activities
- compliance of and with Council's policies and procedures
- governance processes
- continuous improvement activities.

Pursuant to section 428A of the Local Government Act 1993, the ARIC must keep under review the following aspects of the Council's operations

- (a) compliance
- (b) risk management
- (c) fraud control
- (d) financial management
- (e) governance
- **(f)** implementation of the strategic plan, delivery program and strategies
- (g) service reviews
- **(h)** collection of performance measurement data by Council
- (i) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

As part of this objective, the ARIC will assess and advise whether there are adequate and effective systems of internal control in place throughout Council and will assist in the implementation of the internal and external audit plans. The ARIC is also to provide information to Council for the purpose of improving Council's performance of its functions.

Since Guidelines were first issued in draft form by the Office of Local Government for the operation of ARICs, internal audit and risk management, the ARIC has been attentive to developing and maturing each of those designated areas towards best practice. With those Guidelines formalised very close to the end of this reporting period, the ARIC notes that this Council is already compliant with the mandatory requirements that are to take effect from 1 July 2024. We will commission a gap analysis during 2024 to map out any areas of practice that we believe could be further matured towards best practice.

Northern Beaches Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

ARIC profiles 7



Stephen Horne

Committee Chair

PFIIA-Aus, CIA, CGAP, CRMA, FGIA, GAICD, BBus, GradCertMgtComm, GradCertFraudControl, CertPublicAdmin, MIPAA,

Stephen had a 38-year career in the NSW public sector. His executive roles included Assistant Auditor-General for NSW, looking after performance audits, and Chief Executive of IAB, a Government Trading Enterprise undertaking internal audits and misconduct investigations for NSW State Government and Local Government bodies.

In 2015 Stephen established himself as a professional non-executive director, trainer and probity adviser. In that role Stephen has developed extensive experience serving on many Local Government and State Government Audit Risk & Improvement Committees and running ARIC training across NSW.

Stephen was Australian President of the Institute of Internal Auditors 2013-2015; Australia's delegate on the IIA Global Board 2015-2019, and Global Chair of the IIA's Public Sector Guidance Committee 2016-2019.

Mark McCoy

Independent Member

BCom MBA FCA FFin FGIA FCIS FAICD

Mark is a business, governance and investment advisor, an experienced non-executive director in the banking, hospital, aged care and software sectors, an experienced chair of board committees and author. His career includes auditing (for over a decade with KPMG) and risk management experience (Chief Manager, Risk Management for a major bank for 6 years), and Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer roles in other organisations.

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Sarah Richardson

Independent Member (until March 2023)

BA, BCA, MBA (Hons) GAICD

Sarah brings strategic, financial and corporate governance skills from 3 decades of board and executive experience in not-for-profits, small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) and multinationals in Australia, France and the US. She has served on 15 health / infrastructure / education / sport / agrifoods boards in the last decade and is director of her own SME consultancy.

Sarah holds a BA, BCA, MBA (Hons) and GAICD and has received multiple awards for her not-for-profit, consultancy and corporate work. She is a member of Governance Institute (Fellow), Australian Marketing Institute (Fellow, CPM, Awards Head Judge), Women on Boards, Australian Fulbright Alumni Association, Victoria University of Wellington Alumni Association (Regional Ambassador – Sydney) and University of Chicago Alumni Association (Founder and former Chair, Perth Branch).



Julie Walton

Independent Member

Julie has qualifications in both law and urban planning. During her career she has held senior positions in the fields of probity, governance and corruption prevention. She has board level experience in the areas of public transport, property services, museum governance and consumer protection, and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors NSW. She has a background in local government and is a former councillor of the City of Sydney.

She is the author of "The Ways of the World: implications of political donations for planning systems", published by the Henry Halloran Trust (University of Sydney) in November 2015.



Robert Lagaida PSM

Independent Member (from September 2023)

Bec, MComm, FCPA, GAICD PSM

Robert previously worked as a senior executive within NSW Health. He currently serves as board member, chair or member of audit and risk management committees for government agencies, local government councils and not-for-profit organisations. Robert was awarded a Public Service Medal and holds degrees in economics, commerce and information systems. He is a fellow with CPA Australia, and a graduate and member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors

Northern Beaches Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee





Cr Sarah Grattan

Councillor Member

Sarah is a Manly Ward councillor who previously chaired Council's Transport and Travel Strategic Reference Group (SRG) and has been an active member of the ARIC since 2018.

In November 2023 Sarah was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Lifeline Northern Beaches. Previously, she was the Chief Operating Officer of UNICEF Australia responsible for finance, legal, risk, governance, strategy, IT, cyber-security and operations. She was also appointed to UNICEF's global committee on good governance and its National Committee - Finance & Operations Community.

Sarah ran a strategic and management consultancy after a number of years working with LEK Consulting and Sydney Airport.

Sarah is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and graduated from UNSW with a Bachelor of Economics (Hons) with the University Medal and a Bachelor of Laws.



Cr Sue Heins

Councillor Member (until March 2023)

Sue is a Councillor for Curl Curl Ward, former Deputy Mayor, and since May 2023 Mayor of Northern Beaches Council. On becoming Mayor, Sue became a visitor to the ARIC, in anticipation of new guidelines for ARICs, commencing on 1 July 2024.

Sue has chaired Council's Partnership & Participation Strategic Reference Group, co-chaired the Economic & Smart Communities Strategic Reference Group and the Bushfire Management Committee. She is an active member of the Northern Beaches Safety Committee and Northern Beaches Flood Management Committee.

In 2015 Sue received the Minister's Award for Women in Local Government in recognition of her outstanding contributions to Council and the community.

Sue has lived on the Northern Beaches for over 20 years and is a past President of Warringah Chamber of Commerce & Industries, a past Director of Business Education Network and is currently Chairperson of Women and Children First.



Bianca Crvelin

Councillor Member

Bianca is Northern Beaches born and bred. The Beaches have been her home for over 40 years. Bianca is a wife, and mother of 2 boys and she has a career in financial services which spans over 20 years. Being a qualified accountant, she brings a wealth of knowledge from the corporate sector.

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Report Card 10

ARIC Charter	Compliance	Status
Committee meetings	The ARIC met 5 times, including an additional meeting to review the draft 2022/23 financial statements and support them as suitable for consideration by Council for referral to external audit. A quorum was maintained at every meeting.	⊘
Composition	Four (4) independent members Two (2) Councillor members ²	Ø
Broad range of personal qualities, skills and experience	ARIC members have a diverse skill set, with extensive experience across local government, financial management, audit, risk management, legal, governance, business management and performance improvement.	Ø
Functional separation	The ARIC is established in accordance with section 355 of the Local Government Act (Act). The Committee has no executive powers and recognises that at all times primary responsibility for management of Council rests with the Council and the Chief Executive Officer, in accordance with the Act.	Ø
Responsibilities per the requirements of Part 4A (428A) of the Act	Pursuant to the requirements of the Act, the ARIC kept under review the following aspects of Council's operations, as further detailed on pages 12-14 compliance risk management fraud control financial management governance implementation of the strategic plan, delivery program and strategies service reviews collection of performance measurement data by Council implementation of internal and external audit plans performance improvement.	Ø
Code of Conduct	Members comply with the Northern Beaches Council Code of Conduct and declare any conflicts of interest as/if they arise.	⊘
-camera meetings The ARIC met, in-camera, during the following sessions: March 2023 – with the CEO December 2023 – with the CEO, and Executive Manager Internal Audit & Complaints Resolution		Ø
Charter Review and Performance Assessment	The ARIC assessed its performance as required by the Charter (every 2 years) in December 2022. In November 2023 the Office of Local Government issued Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW (which incorporate a Model Charter) pending supporting regulation changes.	⊘
Action items register	The ARIC monitored management's progress with addressing and closing off action items raised by the Committee in a timely manner.	Ø

Item on track



Northern Beaches Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

 $^{^{\}rm 2}$ In the spirit of the impending Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government, councillor membership was reduced from 3 to 2 when a councillor member became the Mayor in May 2023.

Performance

Committee members' participation in 2023 meetings

The ARIC's charter requires the committee to meet at least 4 times per year (quarterly). If necessary, an additional meeting may be held to review and endorse the annual audited financial reports and external audit opinion.

Five meetings were held in 2023, including an additional meeting to review the financial statements. Meeting attendance for the 2023 calendar year was as follows:

* Sarah Richardson resigned from the Committee effective 15 March 2023

** Robert Lagaida was appointed to the Committee effective 12 September 2023

^{***} Cr Heins became Mayor effective 16 May 2023. In the spirit of the impending Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government, Cr Heins became a visitor to the meetings rather than a voting member.

Name	Role	Eligible	Attended
Stephen Horne	Chair	5	5
Mark McCoy	Independent external member	5	5
Sarah Richardson*	Independent external member	1	1
Julianna Walton	Independent external member	5	5
Robert Lagaida**	Independent external member	3	3
Cr Sue Heins***	Councillor	5	5
Cr Sarah Grattan	Councillor	5	5
Cr Bianca Crevlin	Councillor	5	4

Committee business, special and standing reports

Business report: Information presented to the ARIC pertaining to the ARIC's address of its responsibilities as outlined in the Local Government Act 1993.

Special report: Where the ARIC or management sought to provide the ARIC with additional information on

a particular activity or process for assessment and advice by the ARIC.

Standing report: Information presented to the ARIC at each full meeting (e.g progress on action items, finance update, implementation of internal and external audit recommendations, and risk status update on major projects).

Meeting date	Number of business reports	Number of special reports	Number of standing reports
14 March 2023	1	7	5
13 June 2023	3	4	5
12 September 2023	3	8	3
10 October 2023*	-	1	-
12 December 2023	3	4	5

^{*} The extraordinary meeting of 10 October 2023 was to review the financial statements only.

Activities of the Committee

ARIC membership

In March 2023 the ARIC thanked outgoing member, Sarah Richardson for her contribution to the committee during her tenure.

At an extraordinary meeting of Council held on 16 May 2023, Cr Sue Heins was elected Mayor. In the spirit of the impending Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government, Cr Heins became a visitor to future meetings, no longer a voting member.

In September 2023 the Committee welcomed new independent member, Robert Lagaida.

Risk management

The ARIC reviewed reports on the Enterprise Risk and Opportunity Management Framework action status, including reporting against measures in Council's Risk Appetite Statement, delivery plan activities and strategic and operational risk registers. The ARIC also assessed and provided advice on management's strategic risk management plans for major projects, contracts and undertakings.

Reports were reviewed on insurance claims from 2022-23 and Council's insurance program for 2023-24, Council's newly adopted Policy Framework, and the update of business continuity plans by all business units.

The ARIC assessed and provided advice on the adequacy and effectiveness of Council's processes and controls for managing its activities and risks, with targeted reporting provided to the ARIC on Work Health & Safety management and cybersecurity.

Compliance

The legislative compliance program and legislative compliance policy was monitored by the ARIC and biannual reports on Council's compliance with Office of Local Government obligations were considered.

The ARIC reviewed and provided advice on compliance reviews undertaken as part of the scope of internal audit projects, which included, where applicable, a review of Council's compliance with applicable standards, laws and legislation.

Fraud control

The ARIC reviewed and commented on reports in relation to complaints received, including alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct, complaints made under the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022 (PID), and referrals to or from the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and the NSW Ombudsman.

The ARIC assessed and provided advice on the revised Public Interest Disclosure Policy and Fraud and Corruption Control Policy prior to adoption by Council.

Assessment and advice was provided by the ARIC on Council's complaints management and resolution process and improvement opportunities identified and undertaken by management.

Governance

Robert Lagaida joined the ARIC in September 2023 following Sarah Richardson's resignation. When Councillor Sue Heins (who was one of 3 councillor members of the ARIC) became the Mayor in May 2023, the ARIC took the opportunity to start the transition to the membership requirements of the Office of Local Government's Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government. Under these guidelines, which commence on 1 July 2024, an ARIC can only have one non-voting councillor member, who cannot be the mayor. The Mayor therefore became a visitor to the meetings rather than a voting member. The ARIC will confirm new terms of reference to replace its current charter in 2024.

The ARIC also reviewed and commented on management's progress on policy harmonisation to establish an integrated policy environment for Council and received reports on Council's full review of delegations.

Work continued to mature the ARIC's processes, including implementing forward planning for special agenda items on its agenda.

Financial management

The ARIC reviewed and provided advice on Council's financial and investment performance, including the annual financial statements. Discussions were had on the impact on the organisation, including cashflow, of managing multiple natural disaster events.

13

An update on management's implementation of recommendations raised by the Audit Office of NSW was provided and the ARIC considered the appropriateness of actions undertaken.

The ARIC received an update on the lease and licence register, the replacement of the Council's core operating systems, and Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre.

The Investment Policy and Fraud and Corruption Control Policy and the 2021/22 Benchmarking Report on Finances, Workforce and Operations were reviewed by the ARIC.

Annual Report - 2023

External audit

The ARIC reviewed and commented on the Audit Office of NSW's 2022/23 Annual Work Program which contained the financial and performance audit plan for the year ahead.

Management's progress with the implementation of external audit recommendations was reported at each ARIC meeting; the committee assessed these updates and provided advice.

The ARIC reviewed and commented on the NSW Audit Office's Annual Engagement Plan for the audit of the Northern Beaches Council Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2023. A report was also provided on the Audit Office's Closing Report and Management Letter for the 2022/23 Financial Year. The ARIC assessed and provided advice on the appropriateness of management's response to recommendations raised and timeframes for completion.

The ARIC reviewed and commented on the draft 2022/23 Financial Statements, and following feedback provided by management, supported these as suitable for consideration by Council for referral to external audit.

A report was provided for the ARIC's review which provided an update on the Auditor-General's report on the local government sector in NSW, covering 2021/22 financial audits of councils and joint organisations. The ARIC also reviewed and commented on the Auditor-General's performance audit report on 'Financial Management and Governance' in local government and the gap analysis undertaken by management to assess the recommendations against Council's financial management arrangements.

Internal audit

The ARIC monitored the status of internal audit activity undertaken in relation to the approved Three Year Strategic Internal Audit Plan and Annual Internal Audit Plan. It reviewed and commented on internal audit findings and recommendations presented in completed internal audit reports and assessed the appropriateness of agreed management actions and timeframes for completion.

Management's progress implementing internal audit recommendations (reported at each ARIC meeting) was assessed and advice provided.

Continuous improvement

The ARIC assessed and provided advice on Council's continuous improvement programs including IGNITE (Inspiring Great New Ideas Towards Excellence), the Service Review Program and improvement implementation plans and the benchmarking program.

With respect to continuous improvement, the ARIC reviewed Council's ongoing training programs for staff to identify and implement improvement opportunities including the registration and celebration of ongoing improvements within the IGNITE improvement register.

The ARIC also reviewed ongoing progress of Council's service review program, reviewing both the Building Maintenance Service Review and Road Maintenance Service Review which together resulted in 38 improvement recommendations.

The ARIC continued to assess and provided feedback on Council's benchmarking program which includes a core set of measures.

15

Integrated Planning Framework

The ARIC has a key role in monitoring implementation of the Operational Plan. Regular progress reports on measures in the Operational Plan were provided to the ARIC to consider the robustness, effectiveness and progress against the measures. This included a report on the 68 performance measures in the Annual Report 2022/23 and a separate quarterly progress report as at December 2022 on 37 performance measures in the Operational Plan 2022/23.

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

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northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Naming proposal – Fig Tree Lane, Seaforth (Stage 2)

Consultation period: 23 February to 24 March 2024

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1. Summary

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of a proposal to name the currently unnamed laneway adjacent to Kempbridge Avenue, Seaforth. The proposal to name the laneway Fig Tree Lane was exhibited between 23 February 2024 and 24 March 2024.

Feedback collected during the consultation indicated a high level of support for this naming proposal with comments citing that it reflected a local species in the area.

Respondents who were not supportive of the proposal felt that an alternative name should be used.

1.1. Key outcomes

Total unique responses	44*		
How responses were received	Comment form Written responses (email/letter)		Completions: 43 Number received: 1
Online sentiment question: Do you support the naming proposal - Fig Tree Lane?	16% 7%	■ Sup ■ Do	oport oport with changes n't support al responses = 43
Feedback themes	Proposed name Alternative naming proposal	Aboriginal na	ming

^{*}Not every respondent made a comment in addition to answering the sentiment question

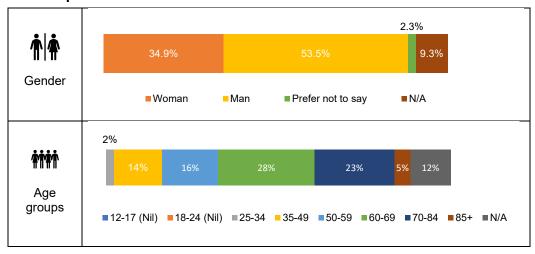


Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Naming proposal – Fig Tree Lane, Seaforth (Stage 2)

1.2. How we engaged

Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 509	Visits: 579	Average time onsite: 58 seconds
	Letterbox drop: 2092 Site signs used:		Distribution: 101 Number of signs: 1
Print media and collateral	Council News Story: 26 February 2024		-
\$	Community Engagem newsletter: 2 editions	ent (fortnightly)	Distribution: 22,300 subscribers
Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Council (weekly) e-Ne	ews: 1 edition	Distribution: 61,500 subscribers
	Beaches Biz News (monthly): 1 edition:		Distribution: 7,900 subscribers
	Stakeholder email: 1		Distribution: 175

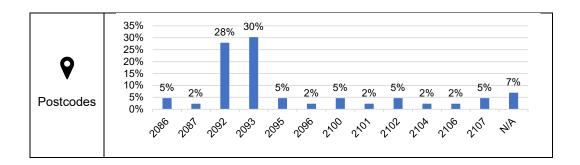
1.3. Who responded¹



¹ Demographic data was gathered via the online form by request only.



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Naming proposal – Fig Tree Lane, Seaforth (Stage 2)



2. Background

The laneway adjacent to Kempbridge Avenue, Seaforth is currently unnamed and provides access to the private carpark which services the building at 538-540 Sydney Road, Seaforth. We received a request to name the laneway to help locals and visitors identify the area and improve wayfinding for businesses.

At the Council Meeting on Tuesday 19 December 2023, it was resolved to exhibit a proposal to name this laneway Fig Tree Lane. This name was proposed as there is a large fig tree growing nearby. We have previously consulted on a proposal to name the lane Dyarrhi Lane. The Aboriginal Languages Trust (ALT) has recommended Council consider forgoing the use of Aboriginal Languages until there is clear direction from the Local Aboriginal Community on which Aboriginal Language(s) belong to our area.

As such, we exhibited a proposal to name the laneway, Fig Tree Lane.

The naming proposal has been pre-approved by the Geographical Names Board (GNB) of NSW. It is being carried out in line with the guidelines of both the GNB of NSW and Council's Policy for the Naming of our Reserves, Facilities and Roads.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities
- provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way
- identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Naming proposal – Fig Tree Lane, Seaforth (Stage 2) was conducted between 23 February and 24 March 2024, and consisted of a series of activities that provided opportunities for community and stakeholders to contribute.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Strategy (2022).



A project page² was established on our have your say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletters (EDM) and signage at the location to reach those frequenting the area. Local residents received notification letters requesting feedback on the proposal.

Feedback was captured through an online comment form embedded onto the have your say project page. The form included a question that directly asked respondents for their level of support on the proposal.

An open-field comments box provided community members a space to explain or elaborate on their support, not support or neutral sentiment as well as any other feedback they wished to contribute.

Email and written comments were also invited.

5. Findings

Feedback collected during the consultation indicated 77 percent of respondents supported this naming proposal. Respondents who chose to provide additional comment cited that it reflected a local species in the area. Many respondents who supported the naming proposal made no additional comment.

Of those who specified they did not support the proposed name change, (or supported it with change), the prominent theme was an alternative name should be used. Alternative suggestions put forward included using an indigenous name for Fig Tree, Dairy Farm Lane, or another flora related name local to the area.

Table 1: Issues, change requests and other considerations

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Alternative naming proposal	Several alternative suggestions were put forward by the respondents, including Dairy Farm Lane and Banksia Lane, or naming after a prominent member from the community	This laneway has a Ficus Benjamina hanging over it from a neighbouring garden. It is appropriate to use a name that represents the existing street flora. Local residents already refer to this lane as Fig tree Lane because of this.
Aboriginal naming	A number of respondents expressed support for an Aboriginal name such as the local (indigenous) name for fig tree. This is in line with Council's Policy on Naming Places.	The Aboriginal Languages Trust (ALT) has recommended Council consider forgoing the use of Aboriginal languages for naming proposals until there is clear direction from the Local Aboriginal Community on which Aboriginal language(s) belong to our area.

² https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/naming-proposal-fig-tree-lane-seaforth



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Naming proposal – Fig Tree Lane, Seaforth (Stage 2)

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Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Number	Comment
1	There are not a lot of fig trees in Seaforth. There are however lots of Banksia. Therefore Banksia Lane would be a more suitable name in Seaforth.
2	No comment provided.
3	Most appropriate
4	I prefer Figtree, one word.
5	Great suggested name and appreciate you liaising with Indigenous groups for their input.
6	No comment provided.
7	No comment provided.
8	No comment provided.
9	No comment provided.
10	No comment provided.
11	No comment provided.
12	Brilliant!
13	If it's always been referred to by that name then it should be named such. It's a nice name & being in English, one everyone can pronounce.
14	You asked this before (October 21) but the suggested name was (allegedly) the local Kayeymay word for "short" - Dyarrhi. Please go back to the Aboriginal Languages Trust for another suggestion. An indigenous name is far better than the ubiquitous Fig Tree Lane. There are 4 within 15 km from here, let alone the other Fig Tree streets, avenues and drives - and that's only Sydney. You can do better than this 2
15	Good idea. Great name.
16	No It should be named after prominent person from the district.
17	I live close by and I think this is an appropriate name
18	No comment provided.
19	Surely we can find an indigenous name. There must be scores of Fig Tree lanes/streets around Sydney. Please ask the local indigenous people for a name.
20	No comment provided.
21	What about "Dairy Farm Lane" as a shout out to what the area was before being transformed into housing. It was dairy farms that the school was built on :)
	https://seaforth-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/our-history.html
	Alternatively " Gayemagal Lane" as a shout out to local aboriginal clans (although maybe better opportunities in future to honour this name!)
22	Comment 1: The name should be an Aboriginal name as per council policy for name changes

^{*}Personal details and inappropriate language have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.



Number	Comment
	Comment 2:
	Name should be an Aboriginal name in line with council policy
23	No comment provided.
24	Where possible Indigenous names should be used. Think harder please
25	A pleasant name, and will help clarity of direction
26	It seems a logical fit
27	No comment provided.
28	No comment provided.
29	No comment provided.
30	It's a great name
31	its a lane. it has a fig tree on it. seems like a good name!
32	No comment provided.
33	A most apt name for the Lane with the fig tree close by. I do not support the proposed aboriginal naming of this Lane.
34	No comment provided.
35	Locals use it already
36	No comment provided.
37	No comment provided.
38	No comment provided.
39	Local tree names, nice!
40	Yes great name well done.
41	Is there a suitable indigenous name that would mean the same or similar?
42	The "Fig Tree" that is supposedly growing nearby is actually a lilly pily tree (syzygium luehmannii). I would like to propose naming the laneway "Lilly Pilly Lane".
	Thank you
43	No comment provided.
44	Seaforth naming lane Fig tree lane
	I agree on name.



Document administration	
Version	1.0
Date	12 July 2024
Approval	Content provided and approved by Transport & Civil Infrastructure Assets Team.
	Responsible manager: Simon Gray
Status	Final
Related Projects	Naming proposal – Hibiscus Lane, Collaroy
	Naming proposal – Spotted Gum Lane, Avalon Beach
	Naming proposal – Syncarpia Court, Newport
Notes	Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.





Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Naming proposal - Hibiscus Lane, Collaroy

Consultation period: 23 February to 24 March 2024

Contents

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1. Summary

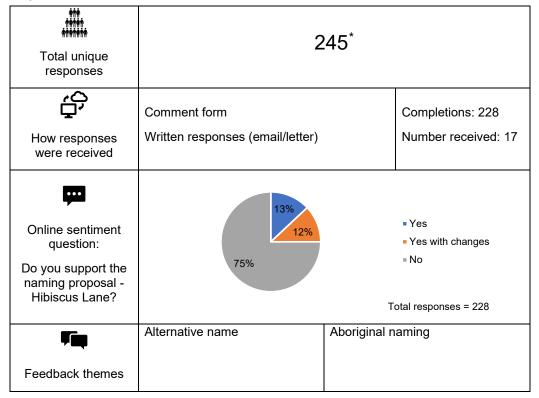
This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of a proposal to name an unnamed laneway adjacent to Alexander Street, Collaroy which provides business access to the rear of properties.

The feedback collected during consultation revealed a high level (84 percent) of support for renaming the laneway, Wicks Lane rather than Hibiscus Lane. Respondents who were not supportive of the proposal to name the laneway Hibiscus Lane cited that it should instead reflect a local icon in Collaroy.

Of those that did support the proposal to name it Hibiscus Lane (12 percent), they indicated that it was a suitable name due to the Hibiscus in the nearby area. Others commented that Hibiscus trees nearby have recently been removed by a development and were no longer relevant.

There is general support for renaming the laneway. According to the Geographical Names Board (GNB) of NSW's Place Name Policy, a current business name cannot be used for naming purposes. Therefore, we are not able to name the laneway, Wicks Lane.

1.1. Key outcomes



^{*}Not every respondent made a comment in addition to answering the sentiment question

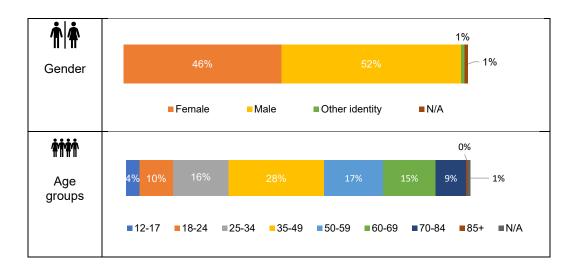


Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Naming proposal – Hibiscus Lane, Collaroy

1.2. How we engaged

Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 672	Visits: 771	Average time onsite: 1 min 23 secs
	Letterbox drop: 2097 Site signs used: 1		Distribution: 11 Number of signs: 1
Print media and collateral	Council News Story: 2	26 February 2024	
Ŕ	Community Engagem newsletter: 2 editions	ent (fortnightly)	Distribution: 22,300 subscribers
Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Council (weekly) e-Ne	ews: 1 edition	Distribution: 61,500 subscribers
	Beaches Biz News (m	nonthly): 1 edition:	Distribution: 7,900 subscribers
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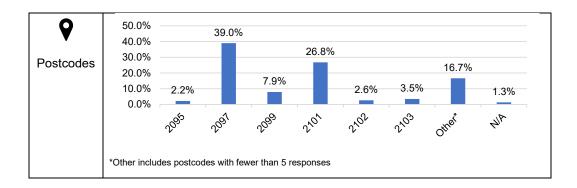
1.3. Who responded¹



¹ Demographic data was gathered by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail.



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Naming proposal – Hibiscus Lane, Collaroy



2. Background

The laneway adjacent to Alexander Street, Collaroy is currently unnamed and provides business access to the rear of properties from 1101-1119 Pittwater Road, Collaroy. We received a request to name the laneway to help locals and visitors identify the area and improve wayfinding for businesses.

At the Council Meeting on Tuesday 19 December 2023, it was resolved to exhibit a proposal to name this laneway from Alexander Street (adj. No.1) to end, Hibiscus Lane, referencing the prominent Hibiscus growing nearby. We exhibited a proposal to name the laneway Hibiscus Lane in accordance with Section 162 of the Roads Act 1993 and Section 7 of the Roads Regulation 2018.

The naming proposal has been pre-approved by the Geographical Names Board (GNB) of NSW. It is being carried out in line with guidelines of both the GNB of NSW and Council's Policy for the Naming of our Reserves, Facilities and Roads.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities
- provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way
- identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Naming proposal – Hibiscus Lane, Collaroy was conducted between 23 February and 24 March 2024, and consisted of a series of activities that provided opportunities for community and stakeholders to contribute.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Strategy (2022).

A project page² was established on our have your say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

² https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/naming-proposal-hibiscus-lane-collaroy



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Naming proposal – Hibiscus Lane, Collaroy

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The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletters (EDM) and signage at the location to reach those frequenting the area.

Local residents and businesses received notification letters requesting feedback on the proposal.

Feedback was captured through an online comment form embedded onto the have your say project page. The form included a question that directly asked respondents for their level of support on the proposal.

An open-field comments box provided community members a space to explain or elaborate on their support, not support or neutral sentiment as well as any other feedback they wished to contribute.

Email and written comments were also invited.

5. Findings

Feedback collected during the consultation indicated the vast majority of respondents (84 percent) did support the naming of the laneway but did not support the proposed name, Hibiscus Lane. Many of these respondents suggested Wicks Lane, in honour of the surf shop that has backed onto the lane for more than four decades and is an important part of local history. The building on the corner of the laneway has been there since 1940s and started as a butcher's shop. It has been Wicks Surf since 1975.

However, according to the GNB Place Naming Policy the following applies:

"Commercial and business names shall not be used for geographical names, particularly where the name can be construed to be promoting a business. However, business names no longer in use which promote the heritage of an area are acceptable."

Therefore, we are not able to name the laneway, Wicks Lane.

Of those that did support the proposal to name it Hibiscus Lane (12 percent), they indicated that it was a good name due to the Hibiscus in the nearby area. Others commented that Hibiscus trees nearby have recently been removed by a development and were no longer relevant.

Some alternative suggestions were put forward such as an indigenous name like Marrang or a different native tree, or Rennie Bartle Lane (after the cinema building architect).





Photo from 1939

Table 1: Issues, change requests and other considerations

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Alternative name	Respondents supported the naming of the laneway but would like it called 'Wicks Lane' in honour of the local surf shop backing onto the laneway since 1975. Locals refer to it as Wicks Lane. Many respondents indicated the iconic shop, its part in Collaroy's history and the community support the business has given over the years.	Support for the alternative name is noted, however this is does not meet the GNB naming policy.
Aboriginal naming	Three respondents commented the laneway name should be an Aboriginal name in line with Council's policy for name changes.	The Aboriginal Languages Trust (ALT) has recommended Council consider forgoing the use of Aboriginal languages until there is clear direction from the Local Aboriginal Community on which Aboriginal language(s) belong to our area.



During the consultation/exhibition, Council received a number of questions either through direct contact or within feedback received.

Table 2: Questions raised and Council's answers

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
Is there any chance to place a few potted Hibiscus trees/plants along the laneway, considering local specimens have recently been removed during the adjoining development?	As part of the neighbouring development, adjacent to the laneway, the local specimens of Hibiscus have been affected by the development. Council will consider addition of plants once completion of the neighbouring development has occurred.
Why Hibiscus lane - what is the relevance?	Hibiscus Lane was chosen as a local native flower found in the area.



Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Number	Comment
1	It's a lovely name and a great choice.
2	I don't believe the Aboriginal Languages Trust would advise to name it this over and above an alternative indigenous name that was nothing to do with hibiscus. I do believe they would advise to stick with hibiscus over the specific indigenous language alternative (gh-gung) for this anglicised name. Can we please reconsider and start to really behave in a way that embraces our indigenous history? Tired of the superficial narrative
3	No comment provided.
4	Seems to fit well with the location
5	Rather a native tree name.
6	No comment provided.
7	Yes, it's about time we stopped naming everything after people. Why doesn't Qantas name their aircraft after people? Because they said, when I joined, that "dead men do tell tales" and they would not risk reputational damage. (Alan Joyce recently named a couple of aircraft after people but the old Qantas never would). So can we stop naming everything after people? There's nothing wrong with "Palm Beach Surf Club", Bayview Dog Park", etc. Hibiscus Lane is delightful.
8	The developers of the abomination called Bathers cut the hibiscus down - so the name makes no sense.
9	Any chance to place a few potted ones along the laneway?
10	Sounds great- Hibiscus Lane
11	Beautiful name!
12	Great to have non indigenous names.
13	Beautiful name & appropriate considering the hibiscus nearby. It's also easy to pronounce being in English.
14	No comment provided.
15	No comment provided.
16	There are lots of Hibiscus trees growing in and around Collaroy. Hibiscus Lane sounds very pretty and embodies the village feel in and around Collaroy.
17	Given the fact that Wicks Surf Shop has been on the corner of this lane for 40 years, and is a community icon, I would like to propose the lane be called Wicks Lane. The Wicks building has existed for over 100 years and there is no longer a hibiscus tree in or near the laneway. Wicks Ln

^{*}Personal details and inappropriate language have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.



Number	Comment
18	I would like the laneway to be called Wicks Lane. Wicks is an institution in Collaroy and has been there for 4 decades.
19	Wicks Lane
20	Wicks Lane
21	Should be call wicks lane!! There are already enough streets named after Aussie native flowers
22	Make it Wicks Lane
23	Please call it Wicks LN Thank you
24	I think Wicks Lane is a better choice as the iconic Wicks surf shop is on the corner and has been for generations.
25	It should be named "wicks lane"
26	Would love it to be named wicks lane , lived in the area all my life and frequented the shops for all that time . Wicks Is and icon and the building is very old too . Rename it Wicks lane .
27	A vote for Wicks Lane
28	Wicks Lane would be more appropriate for the name. Since, the shop has been there for 50 years or more.
29	I would like to support the change to Wicks Lane
30	Wicks Lane
31	Call it wicks lane
32	Because of the iconic surf shop WICKS should be called Wicks lane
33	Wicks Lane is a much better option. I sincerely hope the local constituents views about this are duly noted.
34	Call it Wicks Ln, Suitable to support the Location and match the iconic store that has supported the community for over 50 years.
35	It should be called Wicks Lane as the Wicks Surf shop has been there forever and it's an Icon
36	Call it wicks lane!
37	Should be Wicks Lane given the significance of local community businesses presence
38	Change to Wicks Lane in support of long standing Wicks business. Both amazing in business and community.
39	Should be called "WICKS" lane. It would be nice to see Northern beaches council support long term small local business for a change
40	All Northern Beaches residents who have resided in the area for any length of time recognise the immense community contribution made by Wicks surf shop. They are an institution that have been in place over 50 years and the amount of local projects and charities they have supported during this time is incredible. It seems only fitting that the proposed Hibiscus lane should be named "Wicks Lane" to honour these local legends.
41	It's commonly referred to as Wicks Lane by locals. I think that would be a better name (and easier to say and spell)
42	It should be called Wicks Lane



Number	Comment
43	I think it should be named Wicks Lane after Wicks surf shop. As someone born and raised on the northern beaches and bought her first board and wetsuit from Wicks. It would be a fitting tribute as it is part of northern beaches heritage and history.
44	Call it WICKS LANE!!!!
45	Wicks has been adjoining the lane for as long as I can remember. I support naming the unnamed laneway Wicks Lane.
46	Wicks Lane
47	I think it should be named "Wicks Lane," in homage to one of the most well known and recognised shopfronts in the Northern Beaches
48	Change the proposed name from Hibiscus to Wicks Lane
49	Surely that name could be better served elsewhere. Wicks has a fair and just claim to the naming rights.
50	Should be named 'Wick's Lane" in recognition of the store and their long service to the community.
51	Should be called Wicks lane
52	I think the community would absolutely love the street to be called "wicks lane". The shop has been on that corner for what feels like forever and I feel the name "wicks lane" is very fitting!!
53	I think it should be called Wicks Lane in view of the iconic surf shop that has sat on this lane for many years. Seems more appropriate than a plant name.
54	Should be named Wicks Lane!
55	Absolutely should be called 'Wicks Lane' they have been there for 60 years
56	Wicks Lane
57	Wicks Lane
58	Should be named Wicks Lane
59	Should be named "Wicks lane" after the surf store that has been there for almost 50 years.
60	I believe it would be more appropriate to name the lane Wicks Lane after the Surf Shop that has been there for over 50 years. The shop is a local institution for the beach and surf community of Collaroy and greater Northern Beaches. It would be very pleasing if this was approved for Wicks and the greater community as recognition of their place in Collaroy.
61	Would prefer it to be called Wicks Lane. We already know that area via the long-standing surf shop.
62	Great local suggestion Wicks Lane. Local surfer 'Wicka' original owner and the surf shop are a great icon of Collaroy
63	I believe that it would bring the community much joy and pleasure if the name changes to Wicks Lane
64	Wicks lane would be great name as the business has been there for fifty odd years. The building fox a much greater period.
65	Wicks lane please



Number	Comment
	Please do this great draw card of the beaches the community the honour of naming it Wicks Lane.
68	Wicks Lane!
69	Wicks lane
70	Should be called Wicks Lane, obvious choice given the iconic store on the corner.
71	Hibiscus lane makes zero sense. It should be wicks lane.
72	It should be called WICKS LANE !! If anyone asked or questioned the local community, 99% would agree that Wicks is such an iconic place & deserves to have their rear lawn named after them !!!
73	It should be called WICKS LANE to celebrate a local business that has been there for almost 50 years.
74	I believe Wicks lane a better option. Awesome local family business who have been there so long! Iconic!
75	Call it wicks lane much more suited to the area and history
76	It should be Wicks lane
77	Given the history of the council naming streets and parks after local identities, I would like to see the lane name "Wicks" lane in honour of a local business who have been in the historical location for over 50 years.
78	Should be called "Wicks Lane"
79	I think it should be called Wicks Lane given that Wicks Surf has been on this corner for almost 50 years and is a community icon.
80	Support local and call it Wicks Lane
81	It should be called Wicks Lane
82	Give it Wicks Lane
83	Can you share the relevance of Hibiscus and why this name is being proposed?
	Wicks Lane, recognition for its history and acknowledgement of years of hard work should be considered and perhaps put to a community vote.
84	Wicks Lane is a much better name as Wicks Surf Shop has been there for 50+ years
85	I think Wicks Lane is a far more appropriate choice as a nod to the business Wicks Surf that has operated on that corner for 50years.
86	Prefer Wicks lane instead
87	It needs to be named Wicks lane after the surf shop that has sat on the corner for nearly 50years and has served as the backbone of local surfers for decades. It'd be a damn shame if it was called anything else.
88	Name it Wicks Lane instead. The surf shop has been in the area for ages and is an iconic small business in Collaroy that represents everything the Australian dream is about.
89	Should be called wicks lane after the surf shop.
90	I believe it should be called Wicks Lane due to how much wicks do for the community.
91	it should be named Wicks lane as the surf shop reflects our links to the ocean and life on the beaches.
92	Wick's Lane is unique and fitting.



Number	Comment
93	"Wicks lane" is a better name, more inclusive and will keep the backbone of community strong.
94	I feel it should be called wicks lane in reference to the surf shop that has operated there for some time
95	Support our community & call it Wicks Lane
96	I think the name should be Wicks Lane as wicks has been in that spot for many years and will continue to be and is a well known staple for beach/surf clothing and boards.
97	Call it Wicks Lane
98	Should be Wicks lane.
99	Wicks Lane
100	Call it Wicks Ln! What a great way to add a bit of history to the area for good!
101	I believe this laneway should be names Wicks Lane in recognition of the business that has been a staple of Northern Beaches life for many decades.
102	In support of Wicks Lane
103	Call it WICKS lane For someone who's born and breed on the NB it's an iconic shop. Every local knows it, every local has shopped in there and so will future generations of NB kids. Get with the locals and support local by naming the lane right behind this land mark WICKS.
104	Should be named Wicks Lane to celebrate our local business and surf culture.
105	Wicks Lane not Hibiscus Lane
106	The name should be "Wicks Lane"- I support small business that has been going strong 50 years!
107	Wicks Lane
108	It should be called Wicks lane. Significant local business who do a lot for the local community. Hibiscus has no meaning. Why not recognise a long standing business owned by a great local family
109	It should be Wicks Lane, referencing Wicks Sirf shop which had been a local icon for over 50yrs
110	I think the laneway should be called Wicks Lane in reference to Wicks Surf Shop that has been there for almost 50 years and is an iconic surfing shop in the area.
111	Let's call it after a local institution. WICKS LANE
112	Please name it Wicks Lane.
113	Wicks Lane
114	Wicks lane
115	I would like to add my support for the suggestion to name the lane "Wicks Lane"
	There's nothing in the council's "Naming our Reserves, Facilities and Roads Policy " which prohibits naming a street after a business. I wouldn't want to see a street called "Warriewood Maccas Avenue". Wicks Surf Shop is a significant enough part of Collaroy history to warrant this idea, especially as the lane is right behind the shop.
	And Hibiscus Lane is a pretty generic name. Hibiscuses are hardly an iconic feature of the Collaroy beach front.
	There's also a Hibiscus Parade in North Narrabeen, and lanes often share a name with a road



Number	Comment
	they run parallel with. This creates a potential for confusion for navigation if people aren't familiar with the area, which is something that the naming policy does try to avoid.
	The nearest road with Wicks in the title is Wicks Lane in Kogarah, so the odds of someone getting confused are minimal.
116	Suggest that Wicks Lane or similar would be more suitable. This place is known by generations of Beaches surfers and beach lovers.
117	I think naming it 'Wicks Lane' instead of 'Hibiscus Lane' is so fitting and what a lovely tribute to a local icon that is the Wicks surf shop.
118	I would prefer to see it named Wicks Lane, after the surf shop that has been there for approx. 50 years and is a well known local business. Hibiscus is a nice name for a street lined with gardens/flowers. Not so much for this laneway. Thanks
119	Surely the best name is what it's already known as 'Wick's Lane'. Wicks has been there for decades, and is part of the Collaroy community, it is one of the last remaining independent surf shops on the Northern Beaches. Recognize the contribution this business has made to the local area and officially give the lane the name it is known as by the locals - Wick's Lane. Tony Hall
120	I think it should be Wicks Lane after the incredible shop that has served the community there for half a century.
121	Wicks Lane is the perfect option! Lots of local history & connections. Deserved. Meaningful. Lovely tribute.
	It's what the locals say anyway!
	Where is this famous Hibiscus Tree??
122	I think it should be called Wicks Lane to recognise the almost half century of service to the community that the shop and it's staff have provided.
123	Wicks lane
124	Call it Wicks Lane. Wicks has been an iconic surfshop on the northern beaches for years. It's obvious the laneways behind it should be Wicks.
125	I think it should be named Wicks Lane not Hibiscus Lane.
126	Please call it wicks lane
127	Wicks lane
128	The lane backs in to Wicks surf shop which has been there for decades. Wicks is an iconic part of Colloroy history. Over the years, Wicks has supported many young people to pursue their passion, and has been a substantial employer to many. It would be more fitting to recognise the contribution of an amazing family that has established a legacy.
129	It should be named "Wicks Lane" due to the lane being behind Wicks. Wicks has been on the corner of Alexandra street for 50 years and is a 100-year-old building and is a community icon around the local area. The locals would be very proud and would love to have the name changed to "Wicks Lane" to show the significance of the shop wicks.
130	Hibiscus lane should be changed to "Wicks Lane"
131	Should be named WICKS LANE
	I



Number	Comment
132	Why Hibiscus lane what is the relevance??
102	More appropriate to call it Wicks Lane as it part of history and land mark in Collaroy
133	Wicks lane
134	Please call it wicks lane
135	Should be called Wicks Lane, there's no hibiscus' around for anyone to make an association
136	The lane way should be called Wicks Lane
137	I would like the lane to be called wicks lane
138	Should be Wicks Lane
139	Prefer Wicks lane
140	It should be called Wicks lane.
141	More appropriate to name it Wicks lane, after Wicks Surf shop which is an iconic surf shop known by thousands of surfers from the Northern Beaches!!!
142	It should be called Wicks Lane!
143	I believe that the lane should be called Wicks Lane. Wicks Surf has been part of the Northern Beaches for over 30 years and continues to grow as the best surf shop on the beaches.
144	Can the lane behind wicks surf shop please be renamed "Wicks Lane" as it has been part of Collaroy history for almost 50 years
145	It should be named Wicks Lane
146	Call it Wicks lane after a community icon- I proudly did my work experience there in yr 9, 2006!
147	Prefer Wicks lane as a name
148	I feel the name should be Wicks lane after the iconic surfshop that is on the corner
149	It should be called Wicks Lane
150	We would like to see Wicks Lane please
151	Please call it Wicks Lane! Wicks is well regarded as a community institution that has given back so much over its many years of existence at this spot!
152	As a 79 years young Northern Beaches ratepayer resident, (for 56 years), I would strongly suggest the name be given some local flavour. I would much prefer Wicks Lane. Seems totally logical to me!! Thanks.
153	Wicks lane
154	Comment 1: There is no longer a hibiscus opposite! Either Frangipanni lane or cinema lane
	Comment 2: There is no hibiscus anywhere near the lane only a large frangipani
155	Wicks Lane is far more appropriate and logical name to be used
156	No comment provided.
157	Comment 1: It should be an Aboriginal name in line with council policy for name changes. Why do you never do this????
	Comment 2:



Number	Comment
	The name should be an Aboriginal name in line with council policy. You never do this???
	Comment 3:
	Name should be an Aboriginal name in line with council policy
158	Wicks Lane is the appropriate name
159	I vote for Wicks Lane. The place is a Collaroy institution. Also, the only hibiscus in Collaroy are the non-native, highly problematic Norfolk Island Hibiscus, which drop painful fibres everywhere.
160	Wicks lane
161	Should be named Wicks Lane
162	Wicks Lane
163	I think it should be called Wicks Lane after the local surf shop that has been nearby for all my life.
164	The laneway should be named 'Wicks Lane' in recognition of the adjoining surf shop that has been part of the Collaroy landscape since 1975. The original owner Anthony 'Wicka' Hardwick was a pioneer of the surf retail industry with conections to the original 'Brookvale five'. The proposed name of Hibiscus Lane, is definitely not as old as the shop and arguably was probably planted by Wicka.
165	Would like it to be called wicks lane
166	I want it to be called Wicks Lane
167	No comment provided.
168	We have lived in Alexander st for 27 years and favour the proposal to call it Wicks lane given the history of the association of that business with the local area.
169	Wicks Lane
170	Call it Wicks lane
171	Wicks Lane
172	Please call it wicks lane
173	I would love the lane to be called Wicks Lane as it has been a prominent fixture in Collaroy ever since I can remember. My mother would pick me up from the bottom of Alexander Strett every day after school and we have always called this lane Wicks Lane. I would simply text her from Dee Why and say "leaving DY, meet me at Wicks Lane". Hopefully this will now become a permanent name ♥
174	We would like it to be called Wicks lane
175	Wicks lane is what it should be called. Consider the community and the association that wicks surf shop has had for such a long time.
176	It should be called wicks lane
177	I support the name change to Wicks Lane to promote local history with Wicks being located on the corner for the past 50 years and the overall building being over 100 years old. It is a truly cherished and memorable spot for the local community.
178	I think it should be known as "Wicks Lane" as Wicks have been in Collaroy Community for so long and it would be nice to recognise a loyal business.
179	It should be called Wicks lane. Wicks surf shop is an icon of Collaroy and the Northern beaches more broadly and has been there serving the community for 50 years!



Number	Comment	
180	I would like to propose the name of the laneway to be "Wicks Lane" and NOT Hibiscus lane.	
	Kind regards	
181	I agree with Wicks shop owner, that the street could be named Wicks street. There is a long history of ownership of this local shop that has served our surfing community for many years. The actual shop it self is 100 years old.	
182	No comment provided.	
183	should be called wicks lane	
184	Should be Wicks Lane, Hibiscus not relevant, Wicks has been operating for over 50 years and is a local icon.	
185	No comment provided.	
186	Hibiscus growing in the area!!?? I've worked and lived in Collaroy for over thirty years and never noticed any large display of hibiscus adjacent to this narrow laneway giving access to the back of shops (which by the way is not publicly accessible throughout its length)!! I would prefer Wicks Lane. Wicks surf shop has been on the corner of this lane, Alexander Street and Pittwater Road for decades. Road names frequently reflect the names of local people and this is more meaningful than the suggested name.	
187	This lane has been synonymous with the store on the corner for as long as I've lived. Please name it Wicks Lane instead of the generic Hibiscus lane (I do doubt a Hibiscus has grown there in the last 50 years). Appeal to the nostalgia of surf kids hanging out at Wicks, getting their first board, carefully choosing the coolest school shorts, stocking up on wax when no one else was open. Wicks is as much a part of the Northern beaches as any store I can think of and should be forever associated with that location. Wicks Lane, for the beaches?	
188	WICKS LANE	
189	No comment provided.	
190	No comment provided.	
191	110% support hibiscus lane. Do NOT support Wicks lane or any other aligned naming.	
192	Wicks land	
193	I haved lived in Collaroy for over 60 years and can't quite remember where all these hibiscus's are grown. A better name would be Wicks Lane acknowledging the surf shop which has operated for many years	
194	I would prefer that the lane is named after a person, namely Wicks Lane in recognition of the long standing history of Wicks Surf Shop in this locale.	
195	I have seen the suggestion to name after the iconic Collaroy surf shop, Wicks. This would have more meaning if the business supports it	
196	No comment provided.	
197	Should be called Wicks Lane due to the history of the spot.	
198	Called Wicks Lane	
199	Thanks for consulting residents. I think it should be named a Gai-mariagal word, or at least a local threatend species of flora or Fauna. Some types of Hibiscus are native to northern Australia, but most are Asian or Pacific Is. None of them need raising in our consciousness as the plant is already very popular.	



Number	Comment	
200	There is no significance of Hibiscus to that particular street or even the suburb.	
	I'd prefer to see a nod to something with a connection to the area. I support the proposal to rename it Wicks Lane given the long standing community tie. I would also support any naming reflecting First Nations local people of significance or local place names.	
201	Wicks Lane	
202	No comment provided.	
203	No comment provided.	
204	I support the naming of the currently unnamed lane way in Collaroy. However, I think Wicks Lane is appropriate due to the history of Wicks Surf adjoining the lane way, operating on the corner for 50 years, and is a community icon in Collaroy and the Northern Beaches. The building Wicks operates from is also over 100 years old.	
205	No comment provided.	
206	Rather than a boring, generic name of a non-indigenous plant, it would be better to reflect the history of the area and the long-standing association with the Wicks surfshop. I therefore propose that the lane be named Wicks lane	
207	No comment provided.	
208	Most appropriate name without fail.	
209	There is no objection to this proposal	
210	Wicks lane	
211	Sounds nice.	
212	No comment provided.	
213	Thinks it's great. Always a messy lane so maybe now it will represent it name	
214	Would like the lane to be called Wicks Lane.	
215	It should be called Wicks Lane	
216	Wicks lane	
217	I think that a more appropriate name would be Wicks Lane as the business has been a part of the Collaroy community for many years.	
218	Should be named wicks lane!	
219	Marrang lane - what about a word in the local Indigenous language? Marrang means beach.	
220	What is the relevance of hibiscus? Should be called wicks lane, wicks being a local icon for 50 years	
221	It should be called Wicks Lane - they are a local institution	
222	I believe it should be called Wicks Lane after the surf shop that has been there for many years and is part of the Collaroy history	
223	I propose the lane should be named Wicks Lane in honour of the long-standing Wicks Surf shop that operates on front of this lane. It is a Collaroy institution and has supported the area with its retail outlet for almost 50 years. This deserves to be celebrated.	
224	Given the presence & fame of Wicks surf shop backing on to lane it would be more appropriate to name the lane Wicks lane	
225	Wicks lane	
226	It should be called Wicks Lane.	



Number	Comment
227	Please name it Wicks Lane
228	Should be wicks lane
229	Dear Council,
	I disagree with the proposal to name the lane Hibiscus Lane.
	The only hibiscus in the area is a very mangy looking specimen at the back of the theatre – not actually in the lane.
	I support the proposal to name the thoroughfare as Wicks Lane – recognising that Wicks have been backed onto that lane for many decades.
	Kind regards,
230	To Northern Beaches Council,
	Naming the rear lane after a local small business would do wonders for your image and buy in from locals. We should promote more local business achievements, and if this iconic Collaroy surf shop has been in operation for half a century then they deserve to be recognised and preserved. I'm sure it could be turned into an event, like an unveiling, sponsored by council. Alternatively name it after the cinema that's been there since 1938, designed by Rennie Bartle (Rennie Bartle Lane).
	It would be so much better to name it after Collaroys history.
	Just my two bobs
231	Dear Council members,
	I would like to suggest that the Lane off Alexander street should be called WICKS Lane.
	Wicks Surf has served the community for nearly 50 years and the building it is in, on the corner, is an iconic old building.
	It would be fitting for the Lane to be named after the shop - WICKS Lane
	Yours Sincerely.
232	The laneway should be named 'WICKS LANE' to acknowledge the local community icon that Wicks is. 50 years supporting the local community is something to celebrate.
233	To whom it may concern,
	I would like to see the lane in Collaroy proposed to be called Hibiscus Lane to be called Wicks Lane.
	Wicks is an icon of Collaroy and has been there for as long as I can remember. What a fantastic way to honour this significant place.
	Thank you,
234	Dear Council,
	There are no Hibiscus present in this lane.
	I believe it should be named 'Wicks Lane' in recognition of Wicks Surf which is on the corner of this lane. Wicks have been part of the community for close to 50 years and this would greatly recognise their contributions to the Local community.
	Regards,
235	This st should be wicks lane and for a good reason! They have been there for over 50 years and are the best local surf shop and well known.
236	Hi there,
	Long time surfer and resident of the northern beaches.



Number	Comment	
	I vote simply for the lane to be called "wicks lane".	
	You know it makes sense.	
	Warm regards	
237	I would like to propose the name of the laneway behind wicks surfshop should be 'Wicks Lane' and NOT 'Hibiscus Lane'. Thank you.	
238	I have lived in Collaroy almost 50 years Given the iconic status of the building it backs and heritage I think appropriate name for the lane is 'WICKS Lane' Collaroy Not Hibiscus Lane	
239	Hello , I would like to propose that the laneway be named "Wicks Lane" and not "Hibiscus Lane". Thank you.	
240	In reference to the proposed naming of the lane behind Wicks Surf Shop, please give serious consideration to naming it "Wicks Lane" not "Hibiscus Lane" as proposed.	
	Wicks Surf Shop, as any long-standing local will attest, is a much-loved local business that has been in existence at that location for 50 years.	
	Rather than name the lane some meaningless name with no connection to the area, let's recognise and acknowledge a local institution by naming the lane "Wicks Lane".	
	It's a no-brainer!	
	Thanks for your consideration.	
	Yours sincerely,	
241	I propose the name of the laneway be 'Wicks Lane' and NOT 'Hibiscus Lane'.	
	Thank you,	
242	Good afternoon,	
	I would like to submit my support for the name of this lane to be changed to Wicks Lane based upon the tenure of the surf shop and the great customer experience it gives Collaroy locals.	
	Kind regards	
243	After long time owner of Wicks Surf Centre Anthony Hardwick Australian Team representative in 1972 World titles and runnerup in Australia's first World Professional Surfing event at the Rip Curl Bells Beach Easter Pro.	
	Should you need any more info please don't hesitate to contact the writer.	
244	Dear Council,	
	This should be called 'Wicks Lane', given the fact that Wicks Surf has been on this corner for almost 50 years and is a community icon.	
	Come on, support a local business that's brought happiness to the community for so many years!	
	Cheers,	
245	To whom it may concern	
	In regards to the above naming proposal I would like to propose the name Wicks Lane NOT Hibiscus Lane given that wicks has a historical & current meaning.	
	Thanks for your consideration	
	Kind Regards	



Document adminis	tration
Version	1.0
Date	12 July 2024
Approval	Content provided and approved by Transport & Civil Infrastructure Assets Team.
	Responsible manager: Simon Gray
Status	Final
Related Projects	Naming proposal – Fig Tree Lane, Seaforth
	Naming proposal – Spotted Gum Lane, Avalon Beach
	Naming proposal – Syncarpia Court, Newport
Notes	Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.





Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Naming proposal – Spotted Gum Lane, Avalon Beach (Stage 2)

Consultation period: 23 February to 24 March 2024

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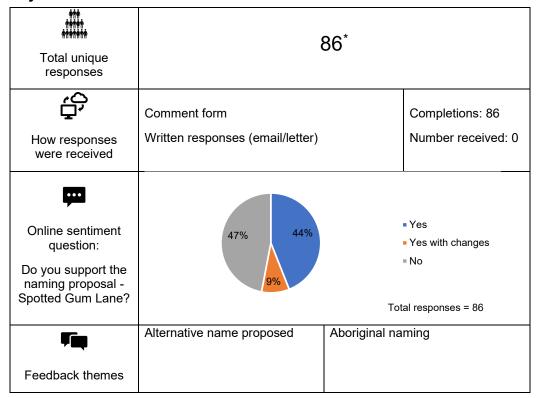
1. Summary

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of a proposal name an unnamed laneway adjacent to Bellevue Avenue, Avalon Beach, which provides access to the driveway of the residential property at 47 Bellevue Avenue, Avalon Beach, access to Chakana Day Spa at the rear of 45A Avalon Parade, and is used by businesses from 47-55 Avalon Parade as a loading zone.

The feedback collected during consultation revealed a high level of support for renaming the laneway with almost half supporting the name Johnson Lane (or similar) rather than Spotted Gum Lane to recognise a local family's contribution to the area. Johnson Bros Mitre 10 also backs onto the laneway.

There is general support for renaming the laneway. According to the Geographical Names Board (GNB) of NSW's Place Name Policy, a current business name cannot be used for naming purposes. Therefore, we are not able to name the laneway, Johnson Lane (or similar).

1.1. Key outcomes



^{*}Not every respondent made a comment in addition to answering the sentiment question

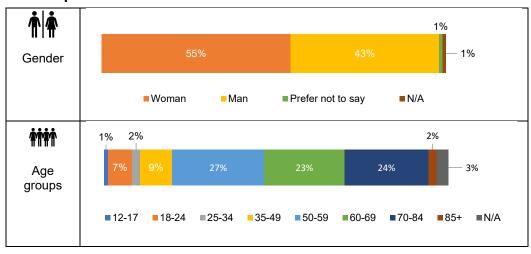


Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Naming proposal – Spotted Gum Lane, Avalon Beach

1.2. How we engaged

Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 532	Visits: 602	Average time onsite: 1 min 14 secs
	Letterbox drop: 2107 Site signs used: yes		Distribution: 11 Number of signs: 1
Print media and collateral	Council News Story: 2	26 February 2024	J
Ŕ	Community Engagem newsletter: 2 editions	ent (fortnightly)	Distribution: 22,300 subscribers
Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Council (weekly) e-Ne	ews: 1 edition	Distribution: 61,500 subscribers
	Beaches Biz News (m	onthly): 1 edition:	Distribution: 7,900 subscribers
	Stakeholder email: 1		Distribution: 175

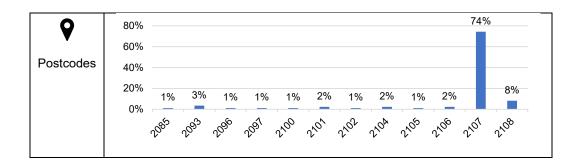
1.3. Who responded¹



¹ Demographic data was gathered by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail.



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Naming proposal – Spotted Gum Lane, Avalon Beach



2. Background

The laneway adjacent to Bellevue Avenue, Avalon is currently unnamed and provides access to the driveway of the residential property at 47 Bellevue Avenue, Avalon; access to Chakana Day Spa at the rear of 45A Avalon Parade; and is used by businesses from 47-55 Avalon Parade as a loading zone.

We received a request to name the laneway to help locals and visitors identify the area and improve wayfinding. We have previously consulted on a proposal to name the lane Murradjulbi Lane. During this first round of community engagement, half the respondents supported the name. Those who did not support the name cited that it was too difficult to pronounce and spell, or was the incorrect Aboriginal word for the indigenous local language. The Aboriginal Languages Trust (ALT) has recommended Council consider forgoing the use of Aboriginal Languages until there is clear direction from the Local Aboriginal Community on which Aboriginal Language(s) belong to our area.

At the Council Meeting on Tuesday 19 December 2023, it was resolved to exhibit the proposal to name this laneway 'Spotted Gum Lane', referencing the spotted gum trees common in the area. The naming proposal has been pre-approved by the Geographical Names Board (GNB) of NSW. It is being carried out in line with the guidelines of both the GNB of NSW and Council's Policy for the Naming of our Reserves, Facilities and Roads.

Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities
- provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way
- identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Naming proposal – Spotted Gum Lane, Avalon Beach was conducted between 23 February and24 March 2024, and consisted of a series of activities that provided opportunities for community and stakeholders to contribute.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Strategy (2022).



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Naming proposal – Spotted Gum Lane, Avalon Beach

Page 4 of 11

A project page² was established on our have your say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletters (EDM) and signage at the location to reach those frequenting the area.

Local residents and businesses received notification letters requesting feedback on the proposal.

Feedback was captured through an online comment form embedded onto the have your say project page. The form included a question that directly asked respondents for their level of support on the proposal.

An open-field comments box provided community members a space to explain or elaborate on their support, not support or neutral sentiment as well as any other feedback they wished to contribute.

Email and written comments were also invited.

5. Findings

Feedback on this proposal indicated general support for naming the laneway. However, the community's response was split on what name to use. Feedback collected during the consultation indicated less than half of the respondents (44 percent) supported this naming proposal of 'Spotted Gum Lane'. Some respondents cited the proposed name reflected an important local species in the area. Many respondents who supported the naming proposal provided no additional comment.

Of those who specified they did not support the proposed name change, (or supported it with change), the prominent theme was that naming the lane could be an opportunity to recognise an iconic local family that has contributed to the Avalon community. A suggestion to use 'Johnson Lane' (or a name similarly connected to the Johnson Family) was put forward by 47 percent of respondents. Johnson Bros Mitre 10 backs onto the laneway.

According to the GNB Place Naming Policy the following applies:

"Commercial and business names shall not be used for geographical names, particularly where the name can be construed to be promoting a business. However, business names no longer in use which promote the heritage of an area are acceptable."

Therefore, we are not able to name the laneway, Johnson Lane or any similar derivative.

Others commented that Aboriginal names should be used, such as the indigenous translation of Spotted Gum, or suggested using Bellevue Lane as the laneway adjoins Bellevue Avenue.

² https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/naming-proposal-Spotted-Gum-Lane-Avalon



Table 1: Issues, change requests and other considerations

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Alternative name proposed	Support for naming the lane, but using a more meaningful name to the local residents, such as something to do with a significant contribution by a local family, the Johnson's, who have done lots for the community of Avalon.	Support for the alternative name is noted, however this is does not meet the GNB naming policy.
Aboriginal naming	Support for Aboriginal names such as the local (indigenous) name for spotted gum. This is in line with Council Policy on Naming Places.	The Aboriginal Languages Trust (ALT) has recommended Council consider forgoing the use of Aboriginal languages until there is clear direction from the Local Aboriginal Community on which Aboriginal language(s) belong to our area.

During the consultation/exhibition, Council received a number of questions either through direct contact or within feedback received.

Table 2: Questions raised and Council's answers

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
Are there actually lots of Spotted gums there?	The Spotted Gum is a local species tree that is prominent in the locality.



Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Number	Submission	
1	No comment provided.	
2	Wonderful nameI totally support that name.	
3	Lovely name	
4	No comment provided.	
5	It would be nice to include NIGHT flowering plants too in future streets	
6	A much better and more memorable name than the previous suggestion which I had objected to. Very few residents could pronounce it or would have remembered it and it would have been impossible to direct someone looking to visit a premises in the lane as to where to go. Spotted Gum Lane is a name people will remember.	
7	No comment provided.	
8	No comment provided.	
9	No comment provided.	
10	No comment provided.	
11	Love the name (and love our spotted gums!) but it's a bit long, don't you think? I can see it shortened to spotty or gum lane by locals. If it could be shortened in some way (gumtree lane for instance) it would probably roll easier off the tongue. Happy for it to remain spotted gum lane - just thinking out loud here.	
12	No comment provided.	
13	The lane should be named after the family they have been in Avalon for generations and whose presence is closely connected to that lane. It should be named Johnson Lane. Spotted Gum lane is a lovely name, but there's no connection between that name and the lane	
	in question.	
14	Please call it Johnstone lane after the brothers that opened mitre 10 decades before in laneways	
15	Johnson lane	
16	Johnson Bros Lane	
17	Johnson Lane	
18	Johnsonbros lane	
19	No comment provided.	
20	Really think it should be named after the Johnson's. Amazing family who have been in our community for decades. Naming it Johnson Lane means so much more to our community in Avalon and makes more sense. Are there actually lots of spotted gums there? Will have to check out.	
21	Johnson Lane Avalon Beach would be more fitting	
22	No comment provided.	
	I.	

^{*}Personal details and inappropriate language have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.



Number	Submission	
23	It should be Johnsons Lane. Johnson Bros have been there since 1957. They have supported the community in so many ways over the decades and continue to do so. It is a fitting tribute and legacy to Avalon.	
24	Johnson Lane would be a fitting name as Johnson bros is one of the longest running businesses in Avalon.	
25	It should be called Johnson's lane in honour of the Mitre 10 local business which has been a feature of that location for over 40 years	
26	Johnson Lane	
27	Bellevue Lane would make it easiest in terms of way-finding, as that would indicate that it runs of Bellevue Ave.	
28	I think it should be named Johnson Lane. The family is an integral part of our community- from 1957 and continuing now.	
29	10 Metre Lane	
30	Should be Johnson Lane. The Johnson's have owned that shop since 1957 and have supported the community and sports clubs for decades. The second of the two brothers (Bob) died last year	
31	In a nod to the heritage of the village and Avalon's past, let's call it Johnson('s) Lane. Many of the locals know it as that already.	
32	Great idea. Recognises local flora. Lived in Avalon just over 70 years and never knew that lane didn't have a name!	
33	The spotted gum is a very important tree in our area. It is a type of spotted gum which grows nowhere else and a magnificent tree. It is important for residents of Pittwater to value it. Making the name familiar might help. Thank you for choosing this name.	
34	A better name would be "Johnson's Lane"	
35	No comment provided.	
36	Our local community in Avalon Beach would like to recognise active contributors to our community in the naming of this lane. The Johnson family (Johnson Bros Mitre 10) have been here for decades and are significant contributors to many community events and groups through their generous sponsorship and support. I and many in our community would prefer the name "Johnson Lane" to be considered by Council. This is what our community are strongly in favour of and the proximity makes a lot of sense.	
37	I support the alternative proposal to call it Johnson lane in recognition of the contribution of the Johnson family to Avalon community	
38	Would be better to recognise the Johnson family (mitre 10 avalon since 1957) as significant contributors of our community. JOHNSON LANE.	
39	I would love it to be called JOHNSON LANE.	
	Thank you	
40	There are no Spotted Gums near the lane, all commercial buildings. Name it Johsons lane, after the family business that has outlasted all others, supports all the community, sport's & rec clubs for decades	
41	It should be call Johnson Lane to recognise Johnson Bros who have been there for a very long time, are a pillar of the Avalon community and always willing to give to the local community when it comes to donating time and money in support. NBC please reconsider this - Spotted	



Number	Submission	
	Gum Lane is very generic and while we all love Spotted Gums in this case it really is meaningless. let's acknowledge a local hero.	
42	Prefer to name it Johnson Lane after the long serving Johnson Family of Mitre 10	
43	It should be called Johnson Lane	
44	It should be Johnson's lane	
45	It should be Johnson lane.	
	Look at Brennan lane in Newtown, same thing, a family buildings that employed many in the community.	
46	Johnson's lane - honours family	
47	No comment provided.	
48	No comment provided.	
49	This is a wonderful opportunity to recognise a iconic local family that have contributed so much to the Avalon community. Please consider naming this lane after the Johnson family.	
50	Recognize a family business that has been in that location and contributing to the community for decades. JOHNSON LANE	
51	Johnsons lane	
52	Johnson Lane is a great name for this lane	
53	I also think Murradjulbi Lane is a good name as it honours First Nations people's.	
54	If you look at the voluntary work that the Johnson family have contributed to this area since the 50's you would understand why most of the people that have lived here (and not 'blow ins') would all agree that this family deserve recognition. IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT, PLEASE SEND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNCIL TO THE UPCOMING AVALON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT 8pm on the 12th. March. 2024 being held in the hall in Dunbar park.	
55	Nice name , well done	
56	No comment provided.	
57	No comment provided.	
58	No comment provided.	
59	No comment provided.	
60	It's hardly a major thoroughfare and doesn't warrant the time and effort spent on it. Just call it Bellevue Lane. Better to preserve the trees than their name.	
61	Name it Johnson lane The Johnson have been in Avalon since 1957 and have been serving and volunteering the community all this time and think it would be fitting to have something named in there honour	
62	Spotted Gum Lane is an appropriate name because of the trees in this area.	
63	I think it is a lovely name & appropriate with all the spotted gums in that area. So meaningful.	
64	No comment provided.	
65	As an owner of a business that's access is via this lane way, we are thrilled that this is underway.	
66	A mural of spotted gums on any bare walls would be a nice addition.	
67	Johnson Lane	



Number	Submission		
68	It's fickle and mawkish to fall back on naming infrastructure after Australian natives. Avalon's heritage should be celebrated and projects like this are a small opportunity to rectify the 'forgotten' stalwart characters who laid our community's foundations. It would be much more enriching for the neighbourhood to do some research and select a name that highlights local history in some way. I say this from the perspective of someone born and bred in Avalon; my parents braved dirt roads around the 'bends', treacherous in the rain, to buy a block of land in the mid-60's, and the home they built was the first permanent residence in our street.		
69	Comment 1: The name should be an Aboriginal name as per council policy on name changes.		
	Comment 2: Should be an Aboriginal name in line with council policy		
70	Can you find the local (indigenous) name for spotted gum? I'd be happy to support that. An explainer on why the Aboriginal Languages Trust keeps knocking back council suggestions would be handy. Each consultation process costs resources and delays the project. Is it because they weren't asked first?		
71	This lane should be named to honour the Johnson family of Avalon Beach who have given and given and given to the community over decades. Additionally, their premises here was the original fire station for Avalon Beach and had the bell to call out the volunteers - see the Pittwater Online News Profile on Bob and John Johnson.		
72	Prefer to call Johnson Lane. The Johnson family have and are such a big part of the Avalon community		
73	No comment provided.		
74	No comment provided.		
75	Nice using local tree names		
76	Spotted gum is too generic. Use the botanical name. Or better still go back to the previous proposal Murradjulbi Lane.		
77	No comment provided.		
78	The proposed name sounds like a mouthful - how about "Livistona Lane" or "Lomandra Lane" something that involves a local plant starting with the letter "L" - rolls off the tounge better in my opinion.		
79	If anything, it should reflect the Johnson name, a locally respected family and business which assists its community.		
80	No comment provided.		
81	No comment provided.		
82	Johnsons Lane		
83	Great use to acknowledge local species, also helps clarify directions.		
84	I prefer Johnson Lane because Johnson Brothers Hardware have employed local people of all abilities from 1957. They are part of Avalon and will seemingly live on for many years to come. I have never seen a business grow and become a part of the community like they have. This article mentions surf clubs and sporting clubs but really they sponsor an amzing amount of community endeavours all over the peninsular. https://avalonnews.com.au/the-johnsons-mitre-10/		
85	Great name, love it!		
86	No comment provided.		



Document administration					
Version	1.0				
Date	12 July 2024				
Approval	Content provided and approved by Transport & Civil Infrastructure Assets Team.				
	Responsible manager: Simon Gray				
Status	Final				
Related Projects	Naming proposal – Fig Tree Lane, Seaforth				
	Naming proposal – Hibiscus Lane, Collaroy				
	Naming proposal – Syncarpia Court, Newport				
Notes	Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.				





Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Naming proposal – Syncarpia Court, Newport (Stage 2)

Consultation period: 23 February to 24 March 2024

Contents

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Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses			

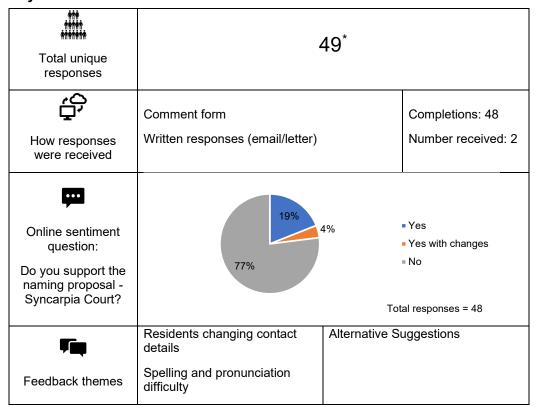
1. Summary

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of a proposal to rename Walworth Court in Newport as 'Syncarpia Court'. The feedback during consultation revealed a high level of respondents (77 percent) do not support renaming this street to 'Syncarpia Court'.

Of those who specified they did not support the proposed name change, the prominent theme was the name was difficult to spell and pronounce. Other feedback indicated it would be an inconvenience to change the contact details for residents in the street.

Those that did support the use of Syncarpia Court (19 percent) cited it was a good name as it represented a local tree species midway along the lane.

1.1. Key outcomes



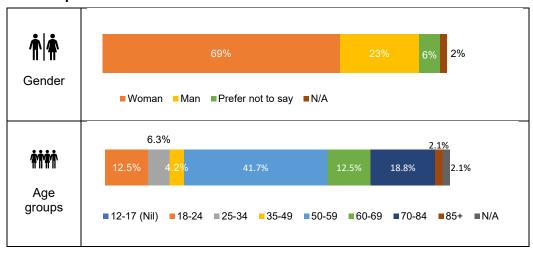
^{*}Not every respondent made a comment in addition to answering the sentiment question. Where a respondent completes the online form more than once, or emails a contribution in addition to completing the online form, all comments are considered, however they are counted as one unique response



1.2. How we engaged

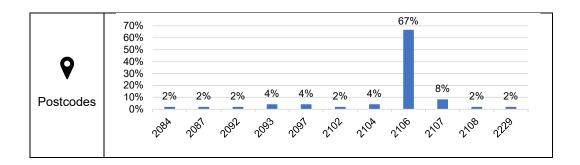
Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 413	Visits: 488	Average time onsite: 1 minute
	Letterbox drop: 2106 Site signs used: 1		Distribution: 6 Number of signs: 1
Print media and collateral	Council News Story: 26 February 2024		
\$	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2 editions		Distribution: 22,300 subscribers
Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Council (weekly) e-News: 1 edition		Distribution: 61,500 subscribers
	Beaches Biz News (monthly): 1 edition:		Distribution: 7,900 subscribers
	Stakeholder email: 1		Distribution: 175

1.3. Who responded¹



¹ Demographic data was gathered by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail.





2. Background

In 2021 we consulted with the community on a proposal to rename Walworth Court in Newport as 'Guru Court'. The renaming was to address concerns about the 'Walworth Court' street name being too similar to the adjoining 'Walworth Avenue' and impacting deliveries and general wayfinding. We exhibited the proposal between 1 and 31 October 2021, and received 25 responses, with a slight majority (60 percent) supporting the proposal.

The outcome of this consultation was reported back to Council in February 2022, but the matter was deferred to ensure the correct local Aboriginal language was used. We sought advice from the Aboriginal Languages Trust (ALT). The ALT recommended Council consider forgoing the use of Aboriginal Languages until there is clear direction from the Local Aboriginal Community on which Aboriginal language(s) belong to our area.

To address the original concerns impacting deliveries and wayfinding, we subsequently proposed to rename Walworth Court as 'Syncarpia Court'. The Turpentine tree *Syncarpia Glomulifera* is endemic to the area and a large Turpentine tree is located midway down this lane. At the Council Meeting on Tuesday 19 December 2023, it was resolved to exhibit the proposal.

The naming proposal has been pre-approved by the Geographical Names Board (GNB) of NSW. It is being carried out in line with the guidelines of both the GNB of NSW and Council's Policy for the Naming of our Reserves, Facilities and Roads.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities
- provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way
- identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Naming Proposal – Syncarpia Court was conducted between 23 February and 24 March 2024, and consisted of a series of activities that provided opportunities for community and stakeholders to contribute.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Strategy (2022).



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Naming proposal – Syncarpia Court, Newport

Page 4 of 11

A project page² was established on our have your say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletters (EDM) and signage at the location to reach those frequenting the area.

Feedback was captured through an online comment form embedded onto the have your say project page. The form included a question that directly asked respondents for their level of support on the proposal.

An open-field comments box provided community members a space to explain or elaborate on their support, not support or neutral sentiment as well as any other feedback they wished to contribute.

Email and written comments were also invited.

5. Findings

Feedback collected as part of this consultation showed a low level of support for the proposal to rename the street. Of those who specified they did not support the proposed name change, (77 percent), the prominent theme was the name was difficult to spell and pronounce. Other feedback indicated it would be an inconvenience to change the contact details for residents in the street.

Those that did support the use of Syncarpia Court (19 percent) cited it was a suitable name as it represented a local tree species midway along the lane. Other feedback reflected a preference for the name Turpentine Lane as an alternative to use the common name for the tree species, and instead of the original Aboriginal name, Guru Lane.

Table 1: Issues, change requests and other considerations

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Residents changing contact details	Changing the name of the street would be time consuming for its residents. The logistics of changing contact details on all accounts and paperwork would be overwhelming, exhausting and costly.	It has been noted that changing the street name would incur some paperwork and costs by the residents of the street. The original proposal to rename this street came from a request from a resident of the street due to delivery issues.
Alternative suggestions	A suggested alternative is Turpentine Lane, which is a simple and pleasant name, or the original proposed Aboriginal name, Guru Lane.	Council will take this option into consideration in any future naming proposals.

² https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/proposal-rename-syncarpia-court-newport



Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Spelling and pronunciation difficulty	Many respondents indicated the name was difficult to pronounce. Other comments reflected the spelling was also difficult. Feedback suggested using the common botanical name, Turpentine Lane, would be easier to spell.	Comments in relation to spelling and pronunciation are noted and will be one of the considerations in future naming proposals.

During the consultation/exhibition, Council received the following question within feedback received.

Table 2: Questions raised and Council's answers

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
Who will pay for the time and inconvenience bound to fall on residents in relation to updating contact details across numerous platforms, and suppliers?	Costs for updating contact details would be the responsibility of residents.



Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Number	Comment	
1	Oh that's an awful name!	
2	No need for a difficult to pronounce but think it's up to the residents of the lane	
3	I think Turpentine Court sounds nicer, more recognisable as the tree and easier to remember than Syncarpia Court.	
4	The name is a joke, I was born in Taiyul rd Narrabeen North was hell on earth then I moved to the end of hilltop rd, there were only 2 houses in the street, the neighbour wanted it changed to his company name Yeramba estate, that was stopped then council wanted to change it to Illangi place, we refused as was another Taiyul rd! There was nothing wrong with Wandeen place as it was 2 houses off Wandeen rd, eventually council offered 3 names and Mia place was the easiest and sanest option	
5	Great idea!	
6	Please keep it as Walworth court, As it was originally named and fits with the enclosure of the court, The new name proposed Syncarpia sounds boring, strange you are not Naming (Boorea) the aboriginal name for Turpentine tree. Please consider the above for thought.	
7	The name is difficult to ponounce. I can also see problems with spelling the word as well	
8	Too hard for most people to spell correctly and having to spell it via phone to various businesses. Life is hard enough without this annoyance. There must be something more appropriate.	
9	No comment provided.	
10	It is a difficult name to remember and spell- especially in view of the NBC comment that it has been difficult for deliveries. Why not just simply Turpentine Lane, which is as simple and pleasant a name as all the other proposed renamed laneways.	
11	No comment provided.	
12	No comment provided.	
13	Who is coming up with this name? Why is it anyone's business to decide to make this change? More importantly why haven't the people that live in the street been consulted? Who is going to change driver's licence, bills, bank statements, and a we run from home with this street name. What alot of work involved! The answer is NO!	
14	WHY THE CHANGE? What a headache this will be for the current residents with their paperwork!	
15	No comment provided.	
16	No comment provided.	
17	Comment 1 I live and own and believe it to be a waste of time and expense that could be put to other items. We have been asking for our road to be fixed for 2 years yet you have time and money for this. Absolutely ridiculous	

^{*}Personal details and inappropriate language have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.



Number	Comment
	Comment 2
	Good afternoon,
	As residents of the control of the c
	Kind regards
18	No comment provided.
19	No comment provided.
20	No comment provided.
21	No comment provided.
22	No comment provided.
23	No comment provided.
24	No comment provided.
25	No comment provided.
26	No comment provided.
27	Please leave it as is. A waste of money and time.
28	As residents of Walworth Court we do not want our street name to change.
29	Silliest name ever. Who is going to be able to spell that when you say it to someone.
30	No comment provided.
31	No comment provided.
32	No comment provided.
33	Too difficult a name to propose
34	No comment provided.
35	Excellent idea. The more native plant names the better!
36	Absolute waste of time, energy and money.
37	I find this a waste of time and resources, And disregarding the history of Walworth Court.
	Who will pay for the time and inconvenience bound to fall on residents in relation to updating contact details across numerous platforms, and suppliers.
	This is a waste of time and energy for all involved, including the council involved.
38	This is an appropriate name and hopefully it will serve to protect the tree midway down the lane which it is to be named after. Syncarpia glomulifera (only the genus should be capitalised, not the species) is often multi-trunked, like the one in this lane way, but the tree has already been severely reduced by the removal of one of it trunks some time between 2013 & 2018.
39	Comment 1: It should be an Aboriginal name as per council policy for name changes.
	Comment 2: Name should be an Aboriginal name in line with council policy
40	It's a difficult name to pronounce



Number	Comment
41	Loving using local tree names
42	It's known as WALWORTH COURT. So STOP complicating life. KISS (Keep it simple stupid). The cost of change for something no one will remember is not warranted. Most people will not know what kind of tree you are talking about let lone remember it.
43	Great idea to acknowledge local special he, and if it helps with navigation extra good readin
44	Since the existing Walworth Court leads directly off Walworth Avenue, it can be located easily by following Walworth Avenue. . Syncarpia is not widely used by the public when referencing a native turpentine tree. Some would not recognise the Botanic name of the turpentine. . The existing tree may one day die, then where is the reference point 'Syncarpia'? No connection! . My preference, retain the geographical connection through the name Walworth.
45	No comment provided.
46	There's nothing wrong with the current name and it will be too difficult for residents to update all their mailing addresses
47	Re Renaming Walworth Court Newport - WHY?
	I spoke to 5 of the residents in Walworth Court on Saturday 12th March 2022.
	As were not home, I left some information in their door. They texted me that afternoon and thanked me for what I was trying to do and said that they did not want the name changed. said the same. They told me there had been on community meets to take about the name change,
	the word GURU because it's easy to spell. She is sick and tired of people spelling it Woolworth Court! She has lived there for 30 years. Never complained. (for 38 years and we have never meet). But I got the feeling she did really care about the name change.
	, Husband has a plumbing business she tells me and he has had timber and other things delivered to don't tell the delivery people it's the wrong address. And her husband had to pick it up.
	As it happens, I am friendly with the people phone. A different story . The flowers, going to the wrong address. What a story that is. But the timber wrongly delivered was 8 years ago. the delivery man had to reload the timber, then deliver it is a constant. The lady in Walworth Ave often taking letters, that have been delivered to the wrong address and putting them in knowing. Since I spoke to the residents , She has gone around to but no one was home.
	I felt the consensus by the residents is they do not want the name to be changed.
	To save all the paperwork that the residents will need to change for what.
	The council should look at the parking in Walworth Court. Wow!! The lady in has one car. have from what I could see 4 cars. 2 in carport. had 3 cars and there is also a boat in the street. 2 cars in driveway, off the road. not home - big driveway could fit 3 cars off the road. 1 Car in driveway, off the road.



Number	Comment		
	at the end of the cul-de-sac for his driveway. Another 2 cars + using the little street. At least 12 cars at the end of the narrow cul-de-sac.		
	All the people I spoke to were friendly, I said I would stand up in Council and say what I had said to them and the replies I had received. Kind regards		
48	I don't see the point in changing it especially to a name that will be difficult to pronounce and hard to spell not to mention there are 5 of us in the family and running a business. The logistics of changing paperwork would be overwhelming and exhausting and costly.		
	There are 6 houses in the street and I don't think anyone is keen for the change that lives in this street. How does it make it ok for the public to be involved in this vote when they won't be affected. They won't be affected changing their personal documentation and business contacts suppliers and clients etc. Just a huge headache for what purpose? Who is even coming up with these names? We were given a list of names and it was squashed. Why is this coming up again? Find another project to put your energy into.		
49	Dear Council		
	I am responding to your letter of 23 February 2024 providing notice of a naming proposal to change the name of Walworth Court in Newport to Syncarpia Court.		
	I am one of the 6 residents in the street impacted by the name change as I live in and own the property at		
	I am strongly opposed to the name change as I understand most of the other 5 residents also are. This would cause significant work in changing address details for a very large number of contacts, and I believe would impact adversely on deliveries and other contacts who need to find the residents in the street.		
	Walworth Court is also easily recognised in all search engines that I have used including Maps.		
	I have not experienced anything other than minor inconvenience with deliveries in my 8 years of living here and the similarly named Walworth Avenue is in very close proximity.		
	I hope this matter can be closed.		
	Kind regards		



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Version	1.0	
Date	11 July 2024	
Approval	Content provided and approved by Transport & Civil Infrastructure Assets Team.	
	Responsible manager: Simon Gray	
Status	Final	
Related Projects	Naming proposal – Fig Tree Lane, Seaforth	
	Naming proposal – Hibiscus Lane, Collaroy	
	Naming proposal – Spotted Gum Lane, Avalon Beach	
Notes	Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.	





Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Streets as shared spaces - Avalon Beach

Consultation period: 3 April 2023 to 28 February 2024

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1. Summary

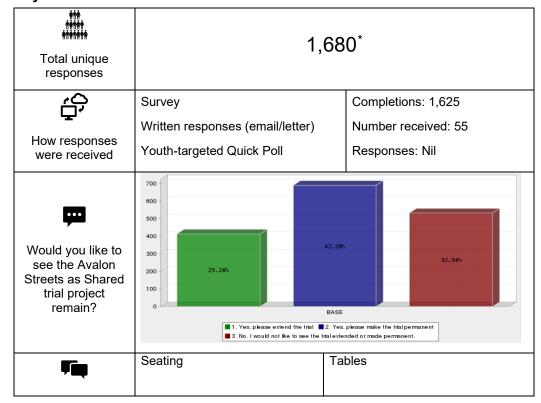
This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of the assessment of the implementation of the Avalon Streets as Shared Spaces to inform the ongoing management of the trial area and how this will potentially inform future decisions related to this public space initiative.

The feedback collected during consultation indicated a high level of support for the trial to either be extended or made permanent with 25.26 percent and 42.2 percent respectively. Questions were asked on a range of key deliverables in the project, including the furniture, safety, traffic changes, and parking to determine the community sentiment on the interventions and any improvements that could be included in the future.

This project was part of a broader program of work that was undertaken simultaneously to reduce the impact on the community. These works included the Streets as Shared Spaces project, a pedestrian crossing safety upgrade at the corner of Old Barrenjoey Road and Avalon Parade, and a pedestrian safety upgrade project on Barrenjoey Road (funded by TfNSW and delivered by Council). Unfortunately, this approach resulted in uncertainty for the community as to what was provided in the Streets as Shared Spaces project.

The online survey collected verbatim comments in free text fields and written submissions were also received by the project team.

1.1. Key outcomes



^{*}Not every respondent made a comment in addition to answering the sentiment question



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Streets as Shared Spaces - Avalon Beach

Feedback themes	Traffic changes	Parking
	Shade	Footpath space
	Landscaping	Community usage
	Safety	

1.2. How we engaged

_	Visitors: 5,144	Visits: 6,325	Average time onsite: 34 seconds
Have Your Say: visitation stats			
e 2	Post: 3 (2 Facebook	and 1 LinkedIn)	Reach: 22,000 views
l fe			Clicks: 345
Social media			
	Letterbox drop: 2107	•	Distribution: 230
	Site signs used:		Number of signs: 6
Print media and collateral			
Ŕ	Community Engagement newsletter (fortnightly): 14 editions		Distribution: 22,300
Electronic direct mail	Council e-News (weekly): 3 editions		Distribution: 61,500
(EDM)	Beaches BIZ News (monthly): 1 edition		Distribution: 7,980
	KALOF newsletter: 1 edition		Distribution: 1,761
	The Wave Disability newsletter (monthly): 1 edition		Distribution: 1,346
	Stakeholder email: 3		Distribution: 705
	Pop up / Drop in: 1		Attendance: 56
	Book a Call (offered))	Attendance: 0
Face-to-face sessions			
***	Interview: 5		Attendance: 12
	Meeting: 10		Attendance: 25
Key stakeholder engagement			







2. Background

The Streets as Shared Spaces project was endorsed by Council at the July 2022 meeting as part of the adoption of the Avalon Place Plan (Action 10) to be implemented as a trial. The aim of the trial is to determine the feasibility of the options raised to improve amenity of the space and monitor the impact on traffic, pedestrians, and the broader community.

The project was funded by the NSW Government under the Places for People program (Streets as Shared Spaces) with work commencing in October 2022 and being completed in March 2023.

The current survey and feedback opportunity during the trial opened on 3 April 2023 and closed for comments on the 28 February 2024. This provided the opportunity for the local community, visitors, and businesses to provide feedback on the trial.

¹ Demographic data was gathered by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail.



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Streets as Shared Spaces - Avalon Beach

The Transport Network and Place Teams have also conducted business interviews with more specific questions to the business owners to determine the success or impact on the retail premises nearby.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- seek community feedback on how the space has been used, how the community has benefited (or not) from the change
- seek feedback on how this installation could be improved
- see whether the community saw value in this trial continuing or becoming permanent should Council wish to continue along this path
- provide verification of community desire for Avalon Village and the actions under the adopted place plan.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Streets as Shared Spaces - Avalon Beach was conducted between 3 April 2023 and 28 February 2024, and consisted of a series of activities that provided opportunities for community and stakeholders to contribute.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Strategy (2022).

A project page² was established on our have your say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletter (EDM) channels.

Feedback was captured through an online survey form linked to the have your say project page. The form included a question that directly asked respondents whether they would like to see the trial, extended, made permanent or neither extended nor made permanent.

Open-field comment boxes provided community members a space to explain or elaborate on their survey responses as well as any other feedback they wished to contribute.

Email and written comments were also invited.

5. Findings

The community was given the opportunity to provide feedback on the trial through a series of questions as well as written feedback in either free text boxes in the online survey tool accessed by QR code or website link, or through the usual contact channels via email to Council.

Staff also undertook a specific business survey in mid-June 2024 to capture the benefits, impacts, and any improvements that the business community (individual businesses) would like to see if the project were to continue or be made permanent.

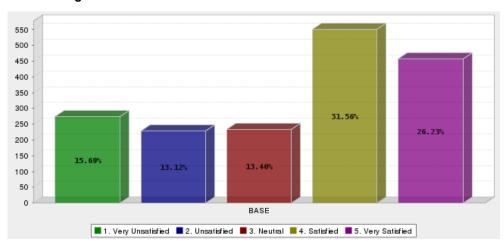
² https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/streets-shared-spaces-avalon-beach



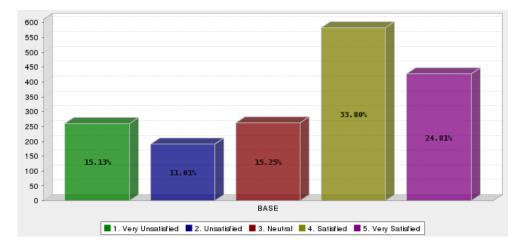
The components of the installation and the changes made were the subject of the survey questions with the results shown below and any specific comments included in the verbatim comments in the appendix.

Staff requested responses on key items as detailed below:

New Seating

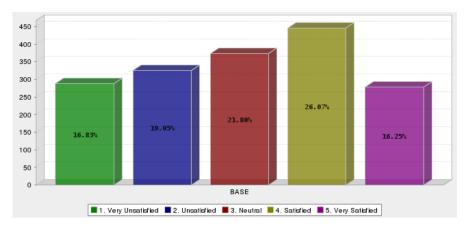


New Tables

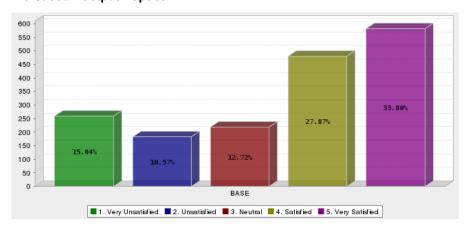




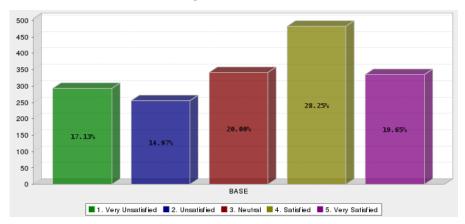
Increased Shade



Increased Footpath Space



Increased Planter Pots with Vegetation

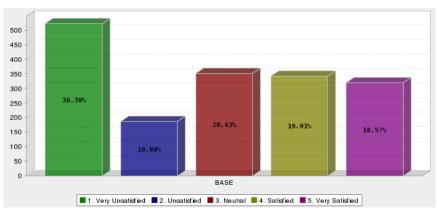




Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Streets as Shared Spaces - Avalon Beach

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All general written comments received, whether it was as part of the survey process or as a separate written submission, have been included in the verbatim comments in Appendix 2.

In contrast to the community survey, which was primarily positive as previously mentioned, the written comments were mostly negative and focused on the effects of parking and traffic congestion.

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Seating The seating is not in keeping with the village feel of Avalon.		The seating provided is standard Council street furniture.
	The seating provided favours some businesses over others.	The seating was installed in the available space and not provided for
	There needs to be more seating to address the peak demand.	exclusive use of any business. Seating provided strikes a balance between need and available space.
Tables	The tables don't suit the Avalon village feel, and do not provide a benefit to the businesses.	The tables provided are standard Council street furniture and are provided for the community to use.
	There need to be more tables install to meet peak need of the adjoining businesses.	The tables provided strike a balance between need and available space, and test different configurations.
	The tables need more shade.	Additional umbrellas have been provided.
Traffic Changes	The traffic changes have caused longer delays in the village.	The traffic changes have improved safety at the pedestrian crossings, adding only a small additional delay to the travel time of motorists.



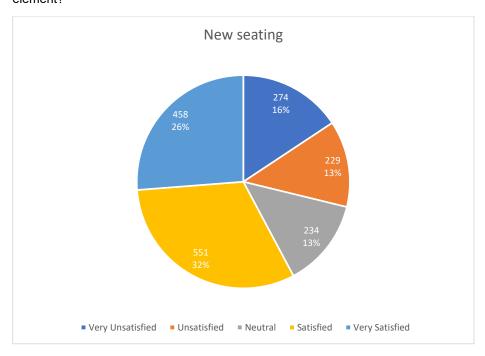
Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
	The traffic changes have created an unsafe combination of vehicles and pedestrians.	The shared zone has been reviewed and additional measures installed (e.g. line markings).
Parking	The project has removed valuable parking in the village.	Whilst seven parking spaces have been removed, the parking study undertaken as part of the Place Plan indicated additional parking capacity was available in the village.
Shade	More shade is required to allow full use of the area in summer.	Additional umbrellas have been provided, with the option of installing additional structures should the installation become permanent.
Footpath space	The footpath is cluttered with furniture. The space created has improved	The street furniture provided strikes a balance between need and available space.
	the atmosphere in the area.	That was one of the intended outcomes of the project.
Landscaping	The landscaping is substandard and needs improvement.	The landscape elements needed to be incorporated in planters and if the trial is made permanent larger landscape elements could be used.
Community usage	The space is not used by anyone and is a waste of money.	The usage of the space is time of day and weather dependant. In peak
	The space needs to be adapted and a closure considered.	summer and on weekends the space is heavily used in the mornings and during the lunch period.
		Other options to increase usage can be investigated in the longer term.
Safety	The remaining pedestrian crossings are safer; however, two crossings have been removed.	The three pedestrian crossings at the intersection are safer, and the two pedestrian crossings removed in the trial space are not required in a shared zone where vehicles must give way to pedestrians using the road space.



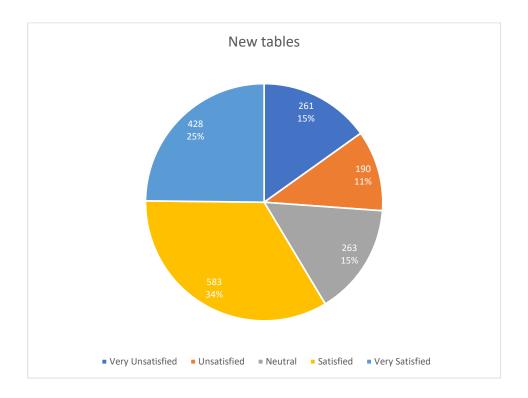
Appendix 1: Alternate and additional graphs

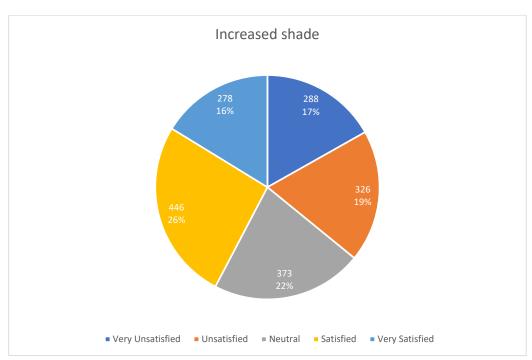
Survey questions:

Streets as Shared Spaces is about putting people first by providing public space that makes it easier and more enjoyable to use. To achieve this, we have extended the footpath space and provided new seating, tables, shade and planter pots with vegetation in Old Barrenjoey Road. We have also extended a portion of the footpath space in Avalon Parade. How satisfied are you with each element?

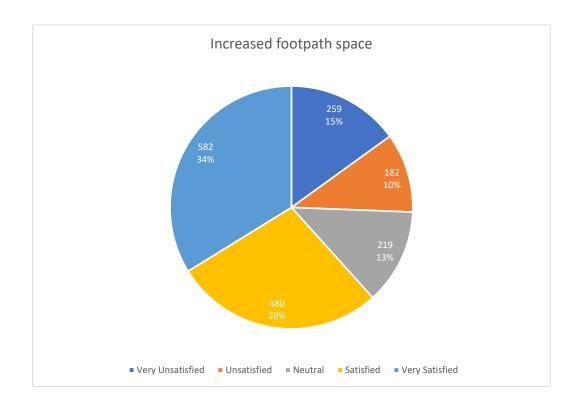


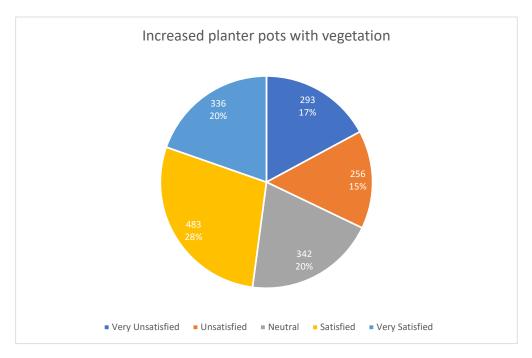




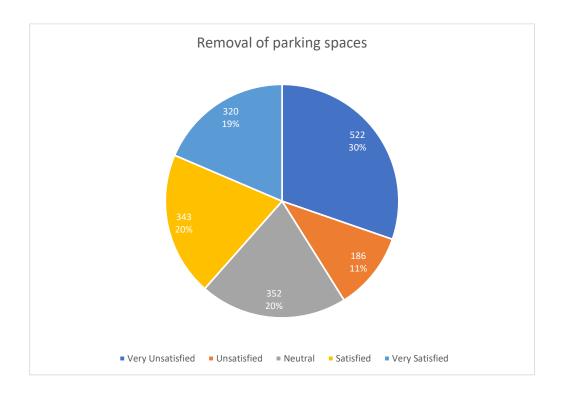


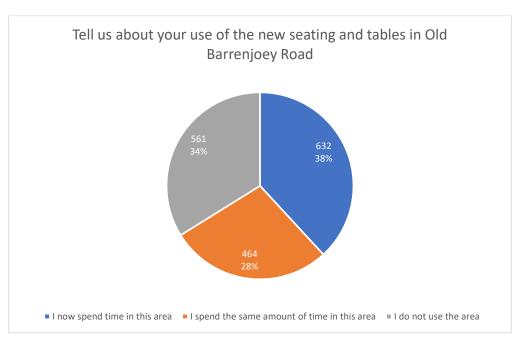




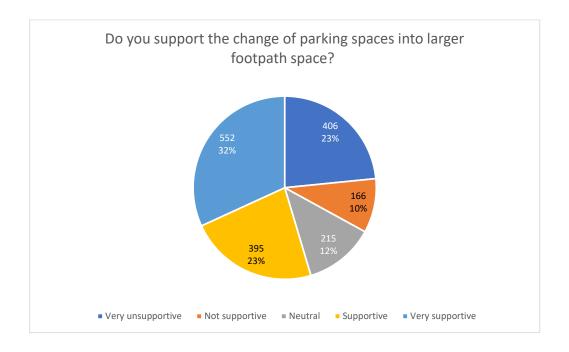


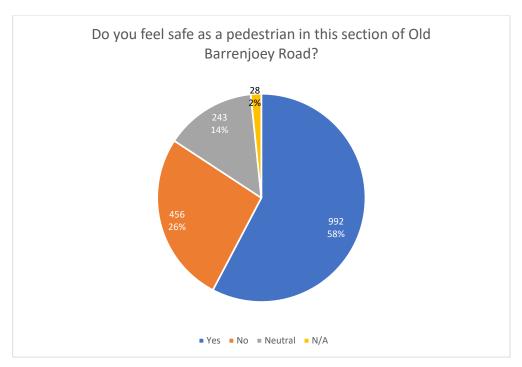




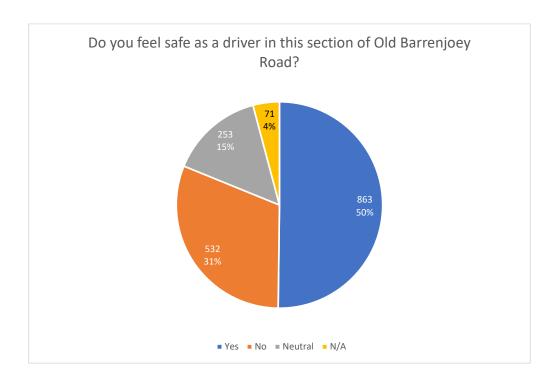


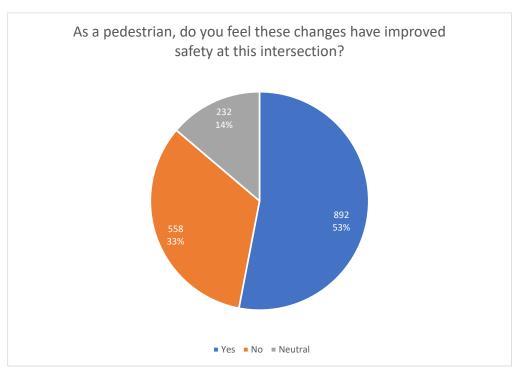




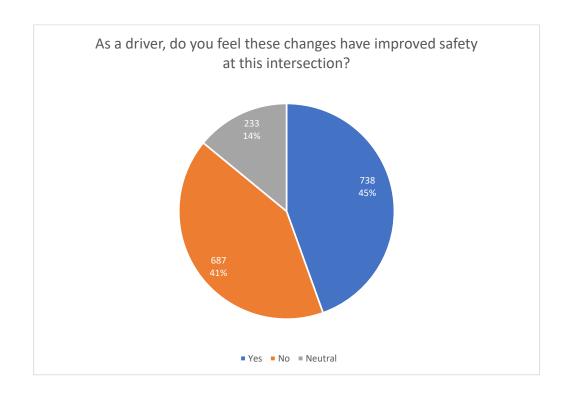


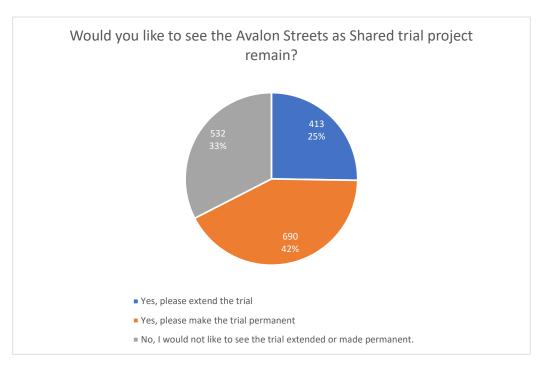




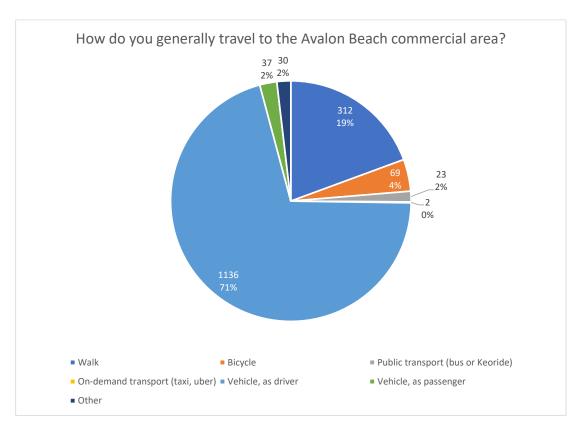












Appendix 2: Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Verbatim responses to the survey questions and all responses received via email can be viewed by clicking the link below.

If clicking the link does not work, copy and paste the link into your internet browser.

https://eservices.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/ePlanning/live/Common/Output/Document.aspx?t=webdoc&id=hlbbaFNbd2sV0A60ki4OEq==

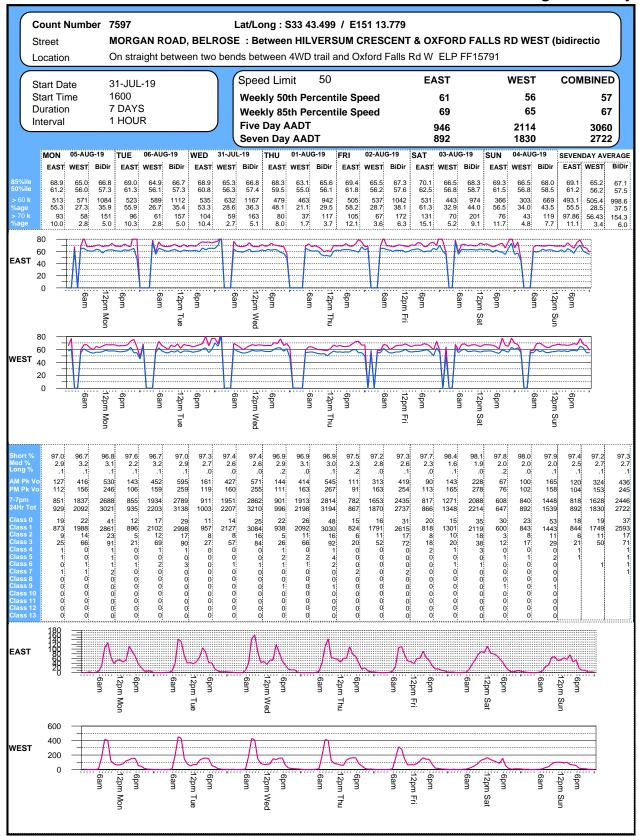
^{*}Personal details and inappropriate language have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.



Document administration	
Version	1.0
Date	18 July 2024
Approval	Content provided and approved by Transport Network Team.
	Responsible manager: Phillip Devon
Status	Final
Related Projects	Avalon Place Plan
Notes	Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.

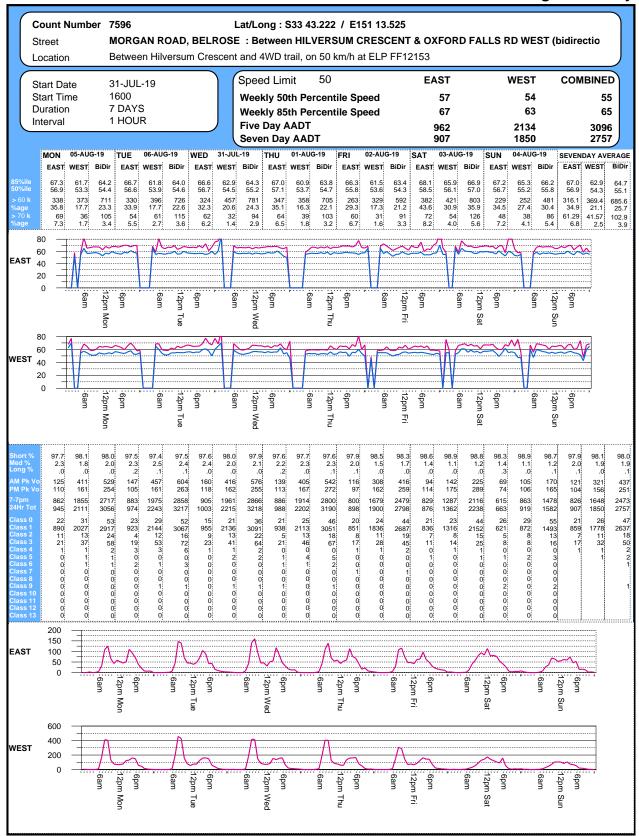


One Page Summary



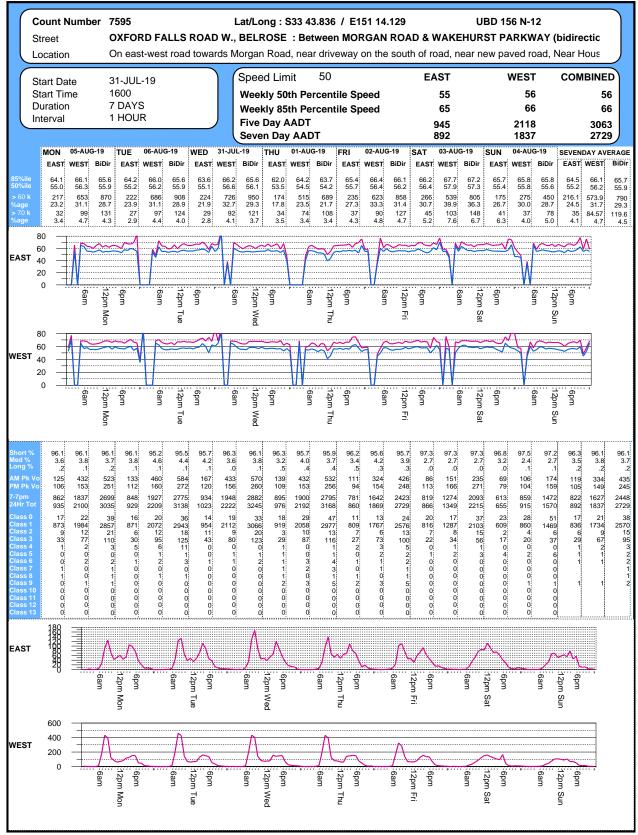
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One Page Summary



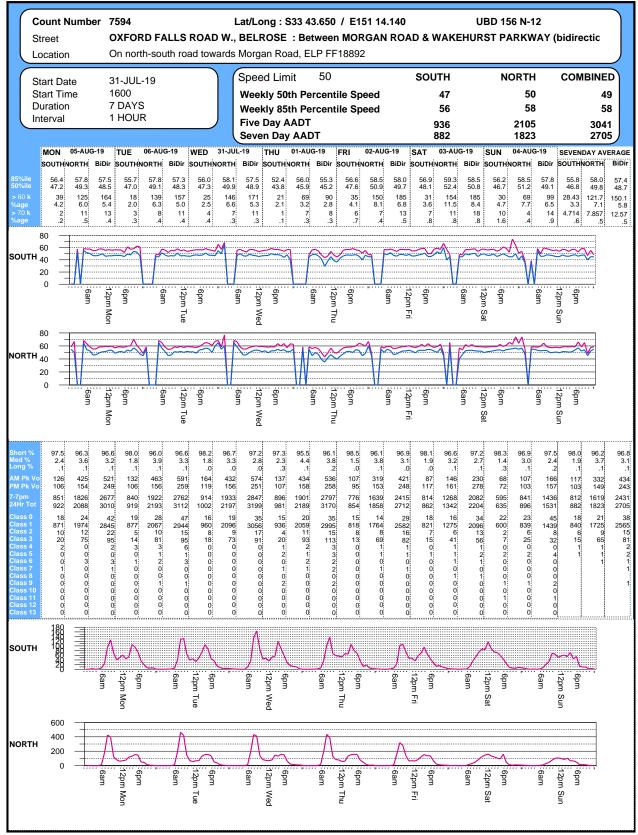
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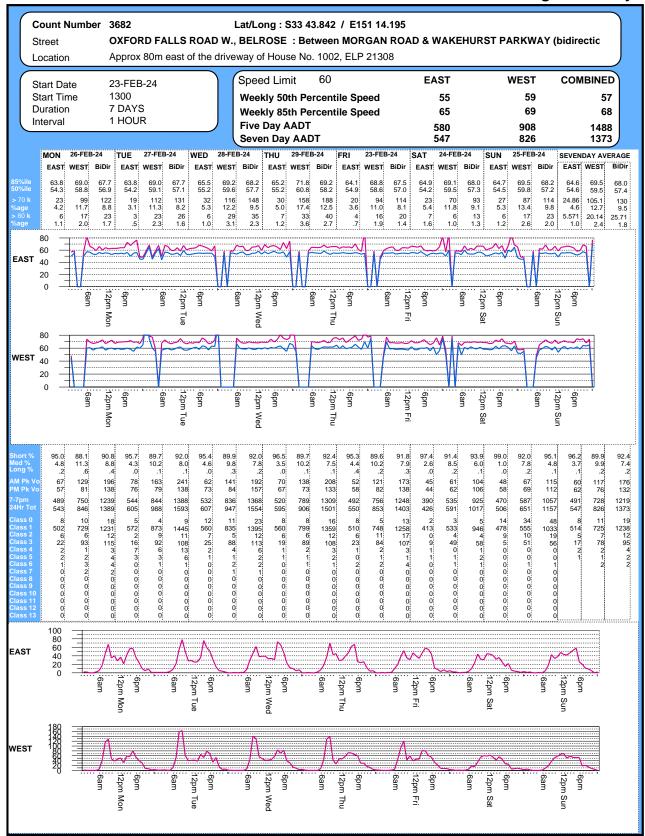
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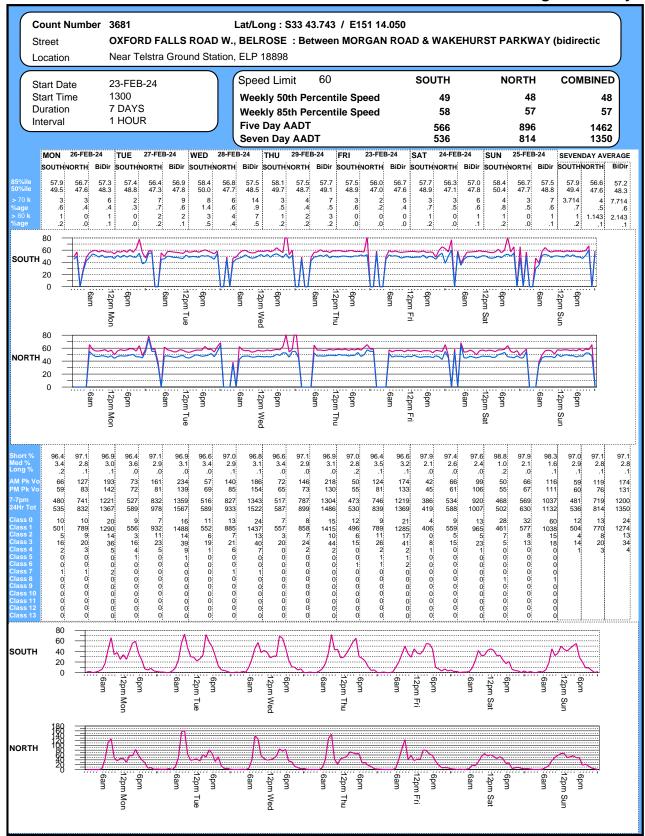
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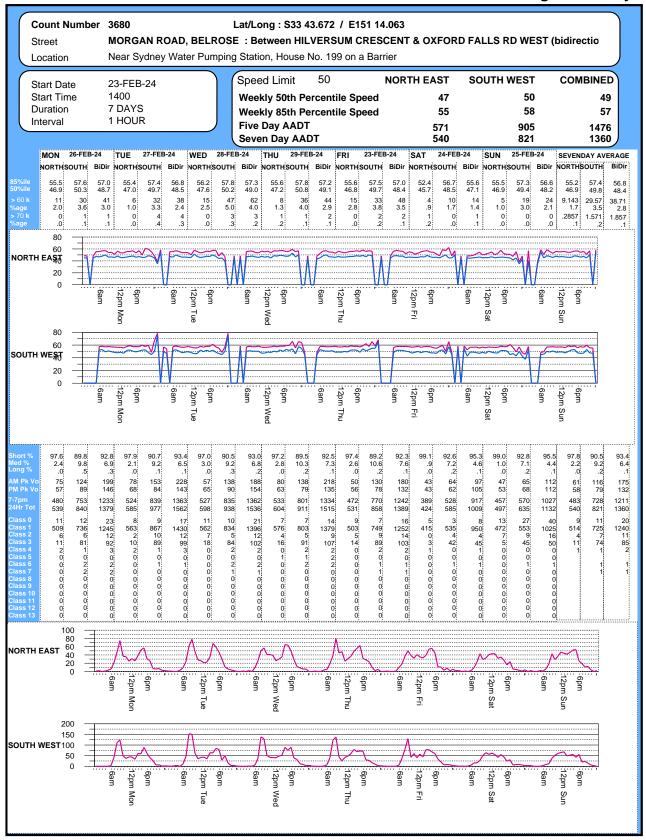
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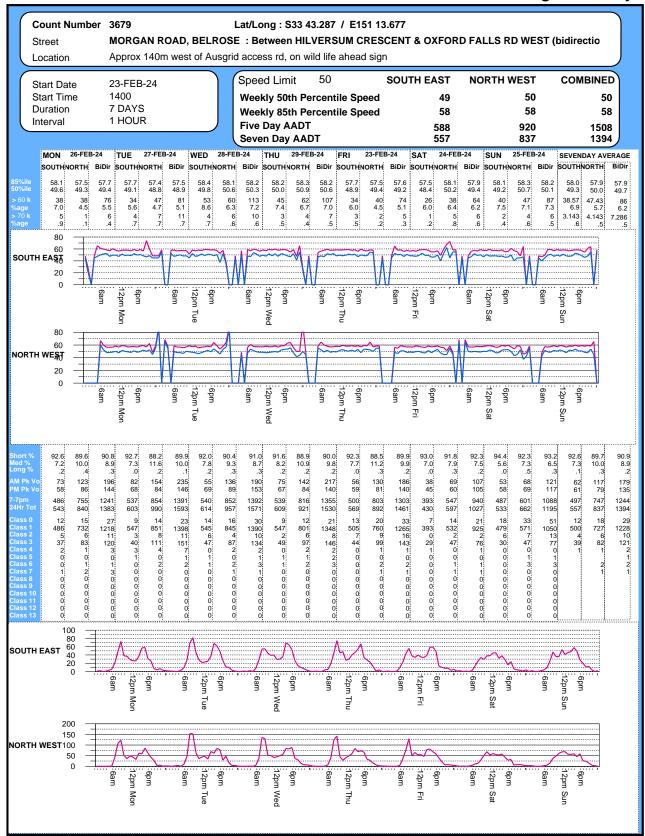
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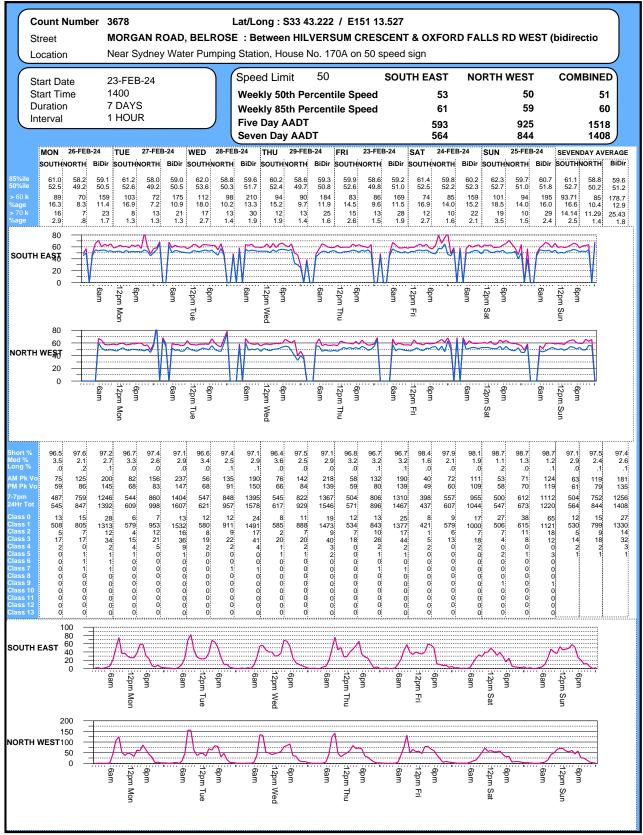
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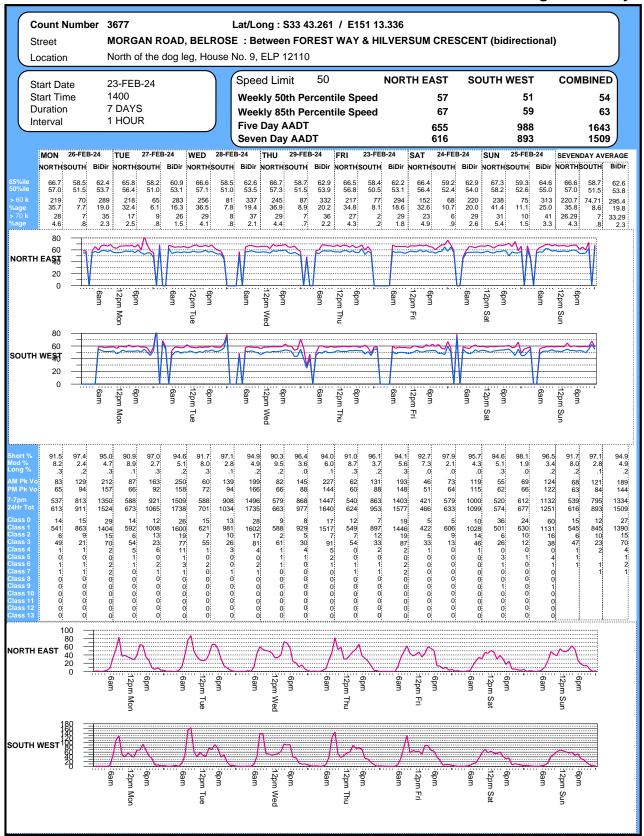
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NSW Health

\$11.4 million to boost Northern Beaches youth mental health services

23 June 2022

Children and young people in the Northern Beaches will benefit from significantly enhanced mental health services with a \$11.4 million investment under the 2022-23 NSW Budget.

Health Minister Brad Hazzard said the funding will be used to expand hospital and community services, including establishing acute paediatric specialist mental health beds at Northern Beaches Hospital and supporting local community mental health and drug and alcohol treatment services.

"This significant additional funding for child and youth mental health services on the Beaches will help ensure the appropriate treatment and support is available to young people and their families in a more timely manner," Mr Hazzard said.

"This will significantly increase capacity and reduce wait times by enabling a comprehensive child and youth mental health service to operate on the Beaches seven days a week as well as the establishment of a new youth drug and alcohol treatment service."

The \$11.4 million for child and youth mental health services in the Northern Beaches includes:

- \$7.5 million to establish four dedicated acute paediatric specialist mental health beds at Northern Beaches Hospital, which will provide for the establishment and operation of the beds
- \$1.4 million to employ additional staff, including senior multi-disciplinary clinicians, to support Northern Beaches Child Youth Mental Health Service in the Brookvale Community Health Centre.
- \$1.1 million to recruit additional staff, including peer workers and clinicians, to support and operate the Northern Beaches Youth Response Team service out of Mona Vale Community Health Centre seven days a week.
- \$1 million to develop a new youth drug and alcohol community treatment service in Northern Sydney Local Health District, including employing senior medical, nursing and allied health clinicians to operate the service.
- \$365,000 to provide a full-time child and youth psychiatrist at Northern Beaches Hospital.

The Youth Response Team (YRT) is based at Macquarie Hospital in North Ryde and provides outreach services to young people across the region, including the Northern Beaches, which is one of the highest users of the service, comprising about 40 per cent of referrals to the outreach service. The YRT has a 97 per cent success rate of diverting young people from emergency departments.

ATTACHMENT 1 : EXPLANATORY ATTACHMENTS - ITEM 14.3 - NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL MEETING - 13 AUGUST 2024

6/18/24, 12:25 PM

\$11.4 million to boost Northern Beaches youth mental health services - News

Minister for Mental Health Bronnie Taylor said youth mental health and suicide prevention is a high priority for the NSW Government as demand for support has been increasing over the past couple of years.

"We have seen a significant increase in mental health and self-harm presentations for young people to emergency departments across NSW," Mrs Taylor said.

"In response, the NSW Government has been investing significantly in improving child and youth mental health services and supports to reduce the number of mental health presentations.

"This includes the establishment of 25 'Safeguards' Child and Adolescent Mental Health Response Teams, which will provide rapid, short-term acute care for children and adolescents, a much-needed alternative to hospital and one that will reduce repeated emergency department attendances, with at least one team currently operating in Northern Sydney LHD."

The NSW Government is investing \$2.9 billion to provide mental health services and support for people across NSW as part of the 2022-2023 NSW Budget.

Wednesday 28 February 2024

Legislative Council

Page 74

CORRECTED

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Do you have any updates on phase two of the Town Water Risk Reduction Program, which believe is underway this year.

AMANDA JONES: The Town Water Risk Reduction Program?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Yes.

AMANDA JONES: Yes, that program is a mix of things. One of the key challenges in regional towns is actually not having skilled staff to actually do the water operations piece. We have seen that in Walgett and other towns. We have provided 900 free training places that are certified training places through the Training Services NSW. I think that of those places, we have had 465 places that have been taken up. The department also provides training, which is not accredited, but it's skills-based development training. We hold 12 sessions a year and they are always over-booked. We also are looking at dam safety work for local water utilities. I think, probably the most sought-after assistance is that we are providing additional operational support to local water utilities. We have been doing that in Yass, Walgett and other places. We are using things like virtual headsets too, so that we can have remote support. Someone in a treatment plant can actually wear the headsets, they can walk around, and our engineers can give them advice. That's the second phase of the program. It's \$23 million over two years, and we are into the next financial year of that program. That's what we are rolling out.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I might begin with a couple of questions following on from questions to Ms Campbell before about SHS recommissioning. Have you started the process of engaging with the sector?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Yes, we have—very early days, obviously. You asked a question earlier today about the EY SHS evaluation report. We have sent a draft of that to the peaks. We are actually consulting with them at the moment and then we will prepare a report for the Minister.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: What's the time frame for consultation with the sector in relation to recommissioning and the deadline of when contracts will be sent out?

ANNE CAMPBELL: We want to have contracts in place by 1 July 2026. You talked earlier about the homelessness strategy, because that's sort of linked to the SHS recommissioning. There will be a final of that by July this year, and consultation with the sector is happening in March and April this year.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: In relation to the NHHA, which expires 30 June this year, how are discussions with the Commonwealth going in relation to finalising a new agreement?

ANNE CAMPBELL: They're progressing, Ms Maclaren-Jones. There was, as I think the Minister said earlier this morning, a meeting last Friday. Certainly, we have seen a bit of a draft of the plan, but not a lot of detail at this point.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: The other two questions are in relation to the funding that was provided. I understand \$1.7 billion was given to the States and Territories for the extension. How much of that went to New South Wales?

ANNE CAMPBELL: About \$516 million.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: And then, in relation to the 187.5 that the Australian Government provided to States and Territories through national partnership payments for housing and essential services and remote housing programs, how much was set aside for New South Wales?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'd need to take that on notice. I don't think we get much on remote housing in New South Wales. There used to be what was called the NPARIH many years ago, but about eight years ago or nine years ago New South Wales cashed out on that and that went into the Murdi Paaki agreement that was signed by the then Government.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: In relation to mental health, the Minister recently announced \$7.5 million, I think it was, for mental health support for young people on the northern beaches. Previously it was budgeted for \$11.4 million. What's happening to the \$4.5 million that had been originally marked for adolescent mental health in that area?

DEB WILLCOX: Thanks Ms Maclaren-Jones. The period of time we've been working with Healthscope and the Northern Beaches Hospital and with Northern Sydney Local Health District to try to get the best configuration of services, in the main, didn't require much in the way of capital. The Northern Beaches Hospital has four beds available for admission for young people who require admission, but we have enhanced significantly our community-based mental health services at Brookvale in their child and adolescent mental health service there.

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2 - HEALTH

Wednesday 28 February 2024

Legislative Council

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CORRECTED

Part of the announcement that you've mentioned looked at some increasing in terms of a Safe Haven at Brookvale Community Health Centre, as well as some enhancements to the Northern Beaches PACER team, which has been a very effective police and health co-response, that you would be aware of. So at the moment there is some remaining capital funding. We're working with Northern Sydney Local Health District just to see what other options we may have that could go directly to child and adolescent mental health services. But at the moment we've just gone this far with the recurrent expenditure, which is largely community based, as well as the four inpatient beds at Northern Beaches Hospital that are available for admission.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Those four beds are currently interim beds. Will they become permanent?

DEB WILLCOX: No, they're permanent.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: They're permanent?

DEB WILLCOX: Yes, they are permanent. The initial announcement looked for a capital solution to create a pod. That wasn't possible just within the designs of the hospital itself, but they have allocated four available beds for young people who may require admission. Any young person that is extremely unwell and would require beyond a couple of days, they would probably be transferred to the Brolga unit, which is the child and adolescent mental health unit at Hornsby, because northern beaches is part of Northern Sydney Local Health District and access to all of those networked services is available.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: You mentioned you are talking with Healthscope about the additional funding, the \$4.5 million. Will there be broader consultation with the community and particularly with the local members of Parliament, State and Federal?

DEB WILLCOX: The consultation at the moment is actually with the local health district, just to look at and work in, because they have the contract with Northern Beaches Hospital. There will be a joined-up discussion to see just what would be a helpful and useful use of those additional funds. In terms of consultation, there has been a fair amount of consultation with the community around the child and adolescent services. It's obviously a big issue for the community up there in the northern beaches. Certainly, if there is going to be further investment around the capital, we would be very happy to engage with the community and the youth up there who engage with the mental health service.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: You said that there's been consultation—that it has occurred. Is that in the past 12 months, in relation to this recent decision?

DEB WILLCOX: Yes. I haven't been directly involved in it, but the local health district has. I would have to take on notice, in terms of Minister Jackson has some engagement with members of Parliament and some families who had a direct interest.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: If you can also take on notice who organised that consultation and why the State Liberal members were not consulted or invited to be part of that consultation process.

DEB WILLCOX: I'm certainly happy to do that.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: In relation to the Eurobodalla family practice, which is one of the specialist homelessness providers in the area, in response to a question that was given we were advised that their funding is until 30 June this year. What has been put in place to ensure that they have additional funding moving forward?

ANNE CAMPBELL: I'll need to take that on notice.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: My final question is in relation to the Together Home program. This morning the Minister didn't commit to extending the funding. I'm just wondering what the process would be to engage with the sector moving forward, considering there is some concern that the program won't continue from 1 July.

ANNE CAMPBELL: Look, we're actively engaging with the sector. Obviously, we are going through a budget process at the moment. We will want to be able to notify those services as soon as possible, as well as the people that are impacted by it. But I know the Minister is very keenly advocating for that program.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Is there a time frame of when the providers will know?

ANNE CAMPBELL: Not at this stage, but happy to see if we can provide that on notice.

The Sydney Morning Herald

Maternity, mental health staff cut as unrest swirls at Northern Beaches Hospital



Northern Beaches Hospital is cutting staff from its mental health and maternity units as it searches for a new chief executive, and the multibillion-dollar company running it restructures about \$1.6 billion in debt owed to overseas investors.

The changes to staffing levels come two months after the state government <u>abandoned plans to invest \$7.5 million in mental health services at the hospital</u>, saying the previous government had promised the funding without guaranteeing the hospital could deliver the promised youth mental health beds.



Healthscope has a contract with the NSW government to run the public wing of Northern Beaches Hospital until 2038. *CREDIT: NICK MOIR*

Hospital management on Monday informed nursing staff of a proposed restructure of staffing levels across its public, private and short-stay mental health units.

Under the plan, the number of full-time nurse unit managers would be halved, with the remaining two managers receiving a pay rise to oversee 61 mental health beds across four specialist wards.

The hospital is also proposing to cut one 12-hour day shift in the hospital's private mental health unit, reducing the ward to three nurses.

Some shifts will also be cut from the hospital's private maternity services, including an antenatal liaison nurse role.

One nurse working at the hospital, who was not authorised to speak publicly, said staff cuts and shortages meant nurses were frequently asked to work in areas outside their scope of practice.

"We feel burnt out, unappreciated and deeply concerned for the care we can provide to local families when staffing levels and skills mix is so poor," they said. "Cut after cut has left morale in the gutter."

In a statement, a spokesman for the hospital's operating company, Healthscope, said consultation had begun on "some minor staffing and rostering" changes to its adult mental health services and maternity services.

"The proposed changes will in no way compromise the quality of patient care and will have a minimal impact on existing roles. NBH's child and adolescent mental health services will not be affected by these proposed changes."



Chief executive Andrew Newton is leaving after four-and-a-half years running Northern Beaches Hospital.

Chief executive Andrew Newton last week announced his resignation from the role he has held since 2019 to become chief executive at WentWest, a federal government-funded primary health service run out of the Westmead Health Precinct.

Newton will continue in the role while the search for his replacement takes place, the Healthscope spokesman said.

"Andrew has done an outstanding job over the past four and a half years, and he leaves with our thanks and best wishes."

Last month, the *Australian Financial Review* reported that Healthscope's investors had appointed corporate consultants to help restructure about \$1.6 billion in debt. The company is urgently seeking to address falling revenues by raising the amount private health insurers pay for their services. Chief executive Greg Horan told the paper a "profit pool shift from private hospitals to private health insurers" had affected the company's bottom line.

"The alignment over the past few years has started to get out of kilter," he said.

Dr Sophie Scamps, the federal MP for the northern beaches electorate of Mackellar, said she was concerned Healthscope's well-publicised financial pressures were affecting patient care.

"There are inevitable tensions between the need to be profitable and patient care," she said. "This is not the service the people of the northern beaches

were promised when the former Liberal government embarked on this experiment."

Canadian private equity giant Brookfield acquired Healthscope for \$4.4 billion in 2019 and has a contract with the NSW government to run the hospital's public wing until 2038. ASIC records show the company earned \$186 million from public patients in 2022.

When asked if he was concerned about the staff cuts and financial issues, NSW Health Minister Ryan Park said the government "expects Healthscope to deliver high-quality healthcare to the people of the northern beaches."

Labor went to last year's state election promising to enforce minimum staffing requirements, beginning with at least one nurse to every three patients in emergency departments.

Independent state member for Wakehurst Michael Regan said nurses had a previous agreement that Northern Beaches private hospital would match staffing levels required in NSW public hospitals, but that agreement expired in October.

Regan wrote to Park earlier this month, saying the lapsed agreement meant Northern Beaches Hospital would be left behind the rest of the state.

"At a time when mandated staffing levels are being increased across the public system, the Northern Beaches Hospital is going backwards," he said. "This is unacceptable."

The hospital's performance is mixed. In the emergency department, the median time from arriving to leaving was four hours, 31 minutes longer than the state average for October–December last year.

Patients admitted to the public hospital spent an average of 4.4 days between arriving and leaving, less than the five-day average at comparable hospitals and the six-day average for all NSW hospitals.

Angus Thomson is a reporter covering health at the Sydney Morning Herald. Connect via Twitter or email.

https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/maternity-mental-health-staff-cut-as-unrest-swirls-at-northern-beaches-hospital-20240409-p5fidl.html

Child and adolescent psychiatry: meeting future workforce needs*





Overview of child and adolescent psychiatry workforce

Access to child and adolescent psychiatrist care remains a persistent problem in Australia and New Zealand. There is a shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists as well as a shortage of child and adolescent psychiatry training posts. Coverage is particularly poor in rural and remote areas.

How many children are affected?



People under 20 comprise nearly 25% of the population, whilst child and adolescent psychiatrists represent only 10% of the psychiatry workforce.

In Australia and New Zealand, approximately 15% of children and adolescents experience a mental disorder in a 12-month period; these figures are internationally comparable.



Of approximately

80,000

children with a severe disorder over a 12-month period in Australia,

only 22,000 (27%) had seen a psychiatrist.



Child and adolescent psychiatry workforce gap



In Australia there are approximately 450 child and adolescent psychiatrists, around 35% work exclusively in private practice, 25% work in a public-private mixed settings, 40% work exclusively in public practice.

25%

40%



In New Zealand there are approximately 50 child and adolescent psychiatrists, around 10% work in public-private mix, 90% work exclusively in public practice.

%

It is estimated that there are

1.6 FTE

per 100,000 total population in Australia and

1.0 FTE per 100,000 total population in New Zealand

National and international recommendations range from 2.5 FTE to 18.0 FTE per 100,000 total population

Working collaboratively

Working alongside other psychiatrists and other medical/ health professionals provides a positive impact on the workload and workflow.

- Many children and adolescents are seen by general psychiatrists
- Frequently child and adolescent psychiatrists are involved in perinatal and infant and youth psychiatry services working alongside adult psychiatrists. Approximately 15% of the total psychiatry workforce provides child and adolescent, perinatal and infant, and youth services
- A collaborative approach to child and adolescent

psychiatrists' provision of mental healthcare requires engagement with:

- » other doctors: general psychiatrists, paediatricians, general practitioners
- » nurses
- » allied health professionals: psychologists, social workers, speech therapists, occupational therapists
- » other professionals: education workers, Māori and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers
- Child and adolescent psychiatrists actively engage with family, whānau and carers.

Why more child and adolescent psychiatrists are needed

Many more child and adolescent psychiatrists are needed to meet the basic psychiatry needs of young people, and even more are required to meet specialty needs of high-risk groups, Increasing needs include:

Greater role in service provision and engagement in high-risk groups:

- · child protection, trauma and family violence
- Māori, Pacific Island and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, who have disproportionately poorer mental health and growing youth populations.
- vouth justice
- intellectual disability and neurodevelopmental disorders
- alcohol and substance use disorders
- comorbid severe physical illness including consultation liaison psychiatry in a paediatric setting
- children of parents with mental illness and/or substance use disorder
- · children with suicidal behaviours
- culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) populations, including refugees and asylum seekers
- intensive community care

Changing policy and service models to meet community priorities:

- increased complexity and growing demand for specialist family-centred care
- expansion of child and adolescent mental health services to include youth to age 25 and clinical services for infants and toddlers
- prevention, early intervention and stepped care provision
- · holistic care including physical health needs
- expansion of online interventions, e-health and telehealth
- collaborative practice models requiring complex clinical systems of care knowledge and psychiatry leadership
- addressing high rates of deliberate self-harm and suicide prevention
- increased recognition of the impact of child abuse and neglect on development and mental health
- academic research into treatment effectiveness, implementation, and teaching

Top priorities to increase the child and adolescent psychiatry workforce



Involve child and adolescent psychiatrists in strategic and workforce planning



Improve data availability and quality to inform workforce planning



Explore ways to expand the number of child and adolescent psychiatry training posts



Strengthen links between training in child and adolescent psychiatry and perinatal and infant, youth, intellectual and developmental disability, and forensic psychiatry.



Identify incentives and barriers to recruitment, training and retention



Develop local modelling including for high-risk populations



Encourage trainees to undertake dual certificate training



Develop specific strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Māori, Pacific Island, and rural populations



Promote training and posts for child and adolescent academic careers



Advocate for resources for child and adolescent physical health



Improve clarity of the role of child and adolescent psychiatry in private and public practice



Work in collaboration with other organisations and national mental health workforce strategies being developed in Australia and New Zealand

*Adapted from the Discussion Paper prepared by the Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry - Child and Adolescent psychiatry: meeting future workforce needs (June 2019)

9 in 10 psychiatrists say workforce shortages are risking patient care in Australia | RANZCP



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9 in 10 psychiatrists say workforce shortages are risking patient care in Australia

12 Feb 2024

Media release

Workforce



An alarming report from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) has found 9 in 10 (93%) Australian psychiatrists believe the current workforce crisis negatively impacts patient care.

In December, the RANZCP received responses from 1269 members in their nationwide survey on well-being and job satisfaction amongst psychiatrists.

Respondents reported:

- 9 in 10 felt the workforce shortage negatively impacts patient care.
- 7 in 10 have experienced the symptoms of burnout in the past 3 years.
- Almost 8 in 10 have observed an increase in the symptoms of burnout amongst colleagues in the past three years.
- Over 3 in 10 are considering leaving the profession in the next 5 years.

When asked what factors participants believe are contributing to burnout amongst psychiatrists, the survey found:

9 in 10 psychiatrists say workforce shortages are risking patient care in Australia | RANZCP

- Over 8 in 10 respondents said workforce shortages or inadequate staffing.
- 8 in 10 respondents said an under resourced system.
- 7 in 10 respondents said workloads, including increasing patient load and complexity of presentations.
- Almost 6 in 10 respondents said moral injury and feeling disempowered.

RANZCP President, <u>Dr Elizabeth Moore</u> said workforce shortages were the most critical issue facing the mental health system.

"Australia has a critical and chronic shortage of psychiatrists. Not only are there not enough, but they are also unevenly distributed across the country", said Dr Moore.

"Australians are missing out on essential mental health care, with some more vulnerable than the others. This includes people living in rural and remote areas and First Nations peoples.

"This is devastating to the mental health care workers – the psychiatrists, psychologists, GPs and nurses – who are dedicated to helping Australians when they need it most."

Dr Moore said workforce wellbeing and patient outcomes had a close relationship.

"Research shows the conditions that lead to burnout are also the conditions that negatively impact patient outcomes. It's important we take this seriously."

Last year the Federal Government released the <u>National Mental Health</u> <u>Workforce Strategy</u> which outlined the need to attract, train and retain people to build the mental health workforce, highlighting positive work experiences were critical for the plan's success.

As part of its implementation roadmap, the strategy proposed a two-year timeline for the Federal and state and territory governments, along with training and education providers and peak bodies and colleges to address critical workforce shortages.

9 in 10 psychiatrists say workforce shortages are risking patient care in Australia | RANZCP

RANZCP welcomed the report, stating that frontline workers are desperate to see concrete action from governments.

"Psychiatrists and mental health staff are working around the clock to make up for the shortfalls in the workforce, tackle increased demand for services and provide the best possible care to their patients.

"But the situation we have at the moment with a stretched-out workforce is untenable.

"In the upcoming Federal Budget, we need proactive, targeted and sustainable investment in the workforce so no Australian misses out on life saving and essential mental health services.

"Both Treasurer Jim Chalmers and Minister for Health Mark Butler know that good mental health is good for the economy, as is evidenced by the <u>Productivity</u> Commission," Dr Moore said.

Ahead of the Federal Budget in May, the RANZCP is calling on the Federal Government to:

Attract

• Invest \$7.06 million to fund the Psychiatry Interest Forum program for a further 6.5 years to attract the next generation of psychiatry trainees.

Train

- Invest an additional \$24.85 million to expand the Psychiatry Workforce
 Program to support an additional 45 trainee and training supervisor posts.
- Increase Specialist Trainee Program (STP) funding by \$5.52 million over three
 years to fund additional training placements in private hospital settings in
 2025-2027 to ease pressure on consultant psychiatrists and enable private
 hospital beds to be used to appropriate capacity.
- Invest \$225,000 over three years to support Directors of Training and administration staff to ensure additional training posts have adequate oversight and support.

9 in 10 psychiatrists say workforce shortages are risking patient care in Australia | RANZCP

- Introduce a new funding stream to support the establishment of new psychiatry trainee placements in private psychiatric practices.
- Invest \$6.95 million to extend the Military and Veteran Psychiatry Training Program from 2025 to 2028.

Retain

- Improve working conditions by:
 - Introducing a new psychiatry MBS 'complex care' item for assessment, support, and management of people with complex mental health presentations and/or circumstances
 - 2. Increasing the MBS rebate for psychiatry services to 100% of the schedule fee from the current 85%, and increase the MBS billing provision for psychiatry trainees, so they can bill at 60% of the consultant psychiatrist rate.
- Support collaboration across the mental health workforce by investing \$11 million each year for three years to train nurses to become accredited mental health nurses.

View the RANZCP's full pre-budget submission

About the survey

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) surveyed members across Australia in December 2023 to get their views on the impact of workforce shortages on their wellbeing, job satisfaction and patient care.

The survey received responses from 1269 psychiatrists that highlighted the severity of the workforce shortage crisis. Over 90 per cent of respondents believed psychiatry workforce shortages negatively impact patient care and 82.05 per cent of respondents said workforce shortages are contributing to burnout in the profession.

RANZCP 2024 Workforce Survey Report

ITEM 10.2 RESPONSE TO MAYORAL MINUTE 7/2024 - ENGAGING WITH THE NORTHERN BEACHES ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a response to a Council resolution in respect of Mayoral Minute 7/2024 on engaging with the Northern Beaches Aboriginal community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Resolution 103/24 required that the Chief Executive Officer provide a report back to Council
 within 3 months on establishing an Aboriginal Community Advisory Group to review a range
 of indigenous issues including but not limited to: a Reconciliation Action Plan, culturally
 appropriate protocols /communications, and Council projects and activities.
- Council currently engages with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and stakeholder groups on a project by project basis for a range of topics and Council activities.
- A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is a locally relevant and actionable plan that improves the local context for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples while also supporting the national reconciliation movement.
- Many councils across NSW and Australia have established either Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Groups for ongoing consultation with local First Nations peoples or Reconciliation Action Plan Working Groups/Committees for the specific purpose of developing and implementing a RAP.
- The establishment of an Advisory or Working Group should be designed and planned in a collaborative and co-designed approach with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and stakeholders.
- The coordination of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation Action Plan Working or Advisory Group would require Council to reprioritise projects to enable the allocation of required resources.
- Council liaises with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) as the statutory body under the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 for Aboriginal land, culture and heritage in the area.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the report.

BACKGROUND

At the April 2024 Ordinary Council meeting, Council resolved (Resolution 103/24) as follows in respect of Mayoral Minute 7/2024:

That the Chief Executive Officer provide a report back to Council within 3 months on establishing an Aboriginal Community Advisory Group to review a range of indigenous issues including but not limited to:

- 1. A Reconciliation Action Plan
- 2. Culturally appropriate protocols /communications
- 3. Council projects and activities.

This report provides a summary of the existing engagement mechanisms on the Northern Beaches, current practice across the NSW Local Government sector, potential options for future engagement, Reconciliation Actions Plans (RAPs) and guidance material for establishing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory/Working Groups, and a proposed way forward for Council.

Aboriginal peoples are the traditional custodians of the lands within the Northern Beaches. According to the 2021 Census, there are over 1,700 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living on the Northern Beaches.

The Northern Beaches Council area is one of 20 Local Government Areas (LGAs) included in the lands of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC). Under the *New South Wales Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*, the MLALC has legislative functions in respect of land acquisition, land use and management, promotion and protection of Aboriginal culture and heritage, and provision of financial stewardship. Council consults with the MLALC on a range of topics relating to its legislative functions.

Council is committed to engaging with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in the community. The former Councils facilitated this engagement through a range of plans, events, and opportunities including the:

- Northern Sydney Aboriginal Social Plan 2007-2011 (involvement from three former Councils)
- Reconciliation Action Plan 2008 former Warringah Council
- Manly Council Policy last reviewed in 2014: Reconciliation between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians.

Northern Beaches Council continues to support and engage with the community through:

- Northern Beaches Council Children's Services, in consulation with Narragunnawali Reconciliation in Education, developed a service specific Reconciliation Action Plan in 2019
- consideration of Aboriginal names for public space/ places
- ongoing involvement in the Gai Mariagal Festival, formerly known as the Guringai Festival
- annual NAIDOC and National Sorry Day events and activities.

Community feedback across a range of Council projects and activities has demonstrated a high community desire to understand and connect with Aboriginal history of the Northern Beaches.

Key strategic documents adopted over the past 5 years have all identified the need for greater action in this area, including Towards 2040 Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), Connected through Creativity Arts and Creativity Strategy, Better Together 2040 Social Sustainability Strategy, and Resilience Strategy Withstand Adapt Thrive. These adopted documents state Council's role includes to listen, support, and better connect in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to promote, preserve, celebrate, and protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and culture on the Northern Beaches.

Between June 2019 and February 2021, 9 local Aboriginal community stakeholder meetings brought together local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leaders known to Council, the Mayor and staff from the Aboriginal Heritage Office. Participants determined frequency, locations and physical setting of the meetings that were facilitated by Council staff and led by the Mayor.

The focus of these meetings was to gather feedback from local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on a range of projects. It generated conversations regarding how cultural practices and protocols were being observed within the community.

Attendance varied across meetings, with attendance declining over the 2020 and 2021 period. In addition to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, feedback from participants identified that the allocation of resources and a commitment by Council to ongoing engagement was required for meaningful change and reconciliation to occur.

DISCUSSION

Current State - Existing engagement and advisory mechanisms on the Northern Beaches

There are several primary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholder groups which Council has ongoing consultation with including:

- Targeted engagement with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples known to Council, and through general community engagement for the whole community.
- Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC).
- The Aboriginal Heritage Office (AHO) is a partnership of six local Sydney Councils, including Northern Beaches Council, working to protect Aboriginal sites and promote Aboriginal history and heritage in each of Councils' areas. The AHO focuses on three main activities: site management, Council support, and education.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led organisations/groups including the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) and Manly Warringah Pittwater Aboriginal Support Group (MWP ASG).

Currently, engagement with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community by Council is on specific projects or issues and often as a component of broader stakeholder engagement. Engagement on a project-by-project basis is incorporated into existing workplans and resourcing and has no additional cost to Council.

Engagement examples include Aboriginal heritage advice, cultural practice advice, public art projects and exhibitions or performances curated within Council assets, communications and signage advice (e.g. Northern Beaches entry markers), place naming proposals, land use planning, public events, and other Aboriginal activities and programs delivered through Council services.

Advisory Groups across Local Government

Many councils in NSW and across Australia have established Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Groups aiming to facilitate an ongoing dialogue with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Desktop analysis of 33 Metro Sydney Councils revealed the following*:

- Councils with an Aboriginal Advisory Group/Committee = 15
- Councils with Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group/Committee = 8
- Councils that had an Aboriginal Advisory Group/Committee previously = 2
- Councils with no Aboriginal Advisory Group/Committee or RAP Working Group = 8

*Information collected from council websites and available documents online. Numbers might differ slightly depending on accuracy and currency of information on each website.

The following provides an overview of the main functional components of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory/Working Groups identified through this desktop research.

Purpose and Principles:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Advisory/Working Groups are founded on a clear purpose, set of principles, and Terms of Reference (TOR) that guide delivery and measure success.

Membership and tenure:

The number of members varied from as few as 6 to as many as 18. In some cases, this included Council staff and elected representatives with no voting rights. The tenure of the groups varies between 2 to 4 years, with several aligned with the elected Council term.

Group members are established through an Expression of Interest (EOI) process advertised on Council websites and through relevant local channels. Nominations are assessed by an internal Council panel.

For most of the Groups, members must be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples that live, work or study in the LGA. Designated roles are provided for Traditional Owners, where that is relevant, and representatives from Local Aboriginal Land Councils.

Key functions:

The function of the identified groups can be summarised as:

- Advise on all matters of importance to local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including infrastructure projects, heritage, Council strategies and plans, including the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Promote and increase knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander society, history, and culture in the LGA.
- Develop and maintain relationships and facilitate communication between Council and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Support and promote significant celebrations/events.
- Provide a forum for indigenous and non-indigenous community members to raise and address issues and needs.

Administrative support:

Many of the Councils with an Aboriginal Advisory or Working Group have an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identified staff position that coordinates the group as part of a broader community liaison and capacity building role.

Council does not currently have an Aboriginal Liaison Officer or equivalent to lead the engagement and development aspects of this project. This lived experience is important to lead effective ongoing engagement with the Aboriginal community and deliver actions identified in a Reconciliation Action Plan. Successful delivery of the development of a RAP will be dependent on the engagement of a suitably qualified external specialist, supported by Council staff to conduct engagement with the Working Group and the broader community.

Provision of remuneration through sitting fees per member per meeting and/or reimbursement for transport and other expenses varies across the different Councils. An approach to this would need to be determined for an Advisory/Working Group, impacting on the required budget.

Cultural protocols:

Other councils work with Advisory/Working Groups to develop and implement local cultural protocols which provide the following important guidance for the functioning of the Advisory/Working Groups, more broadly across council practice, and in the community:

- Traditional owners of the area
- First Nations history including history of the local area
- Traditional protocols:
 - Acknowledgment of Elders
 - Gender protocols
 - Welcome to Country
 - Acknowledgement of Country
 - Smoking Ceremonies
- Respecting Culture and Heritage
- Culturally appropriate engagement practices
- Culturally appropriate language
- Important dates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community
- Signage and Flags.

Many cultural protocols from other councils recognise the important role of the Local Aboriginal Land Council as the primary source of information on Aboriginal heritage and culture, and for inclusion when consulting with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Reconciliation Action Plans

The development of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) would advance reconciliation in the Northern Beaches.

Reconciliation Australia has an established and recognised framework which provides organisations with a process and resources to develop a RAP. The Reconciliation Australia RAP framework has 3 core pillars: relationships, respect, and opportunities. Defining a plan for reconciliation around these core pillars enables organisations to establish a locally relevant and actionable plan which improves the local context while also supporting the national reconciliation movement.

The RAP Framework provides a graduated 4-level approach to RAP development – Reflect, Innovate, Stretch and Elevate. This allows organisations to develop a RAP that is consistent with their local context and place on the path to reconciliation with a roadmap for continuously building on this commitment.

It is anticipated that Northern Beaches Council would start by developing a Reflect RAP which would build reconciliation foundations through a set of actions to be delivered over a 12-18 month period. This would likely include actions relating to the development of cultural protocols and a process for ongoing engagement with the community.

Based on advice from Reconciliation Australia, the process to develop a Reflect RAP would take approximately 12-18 months including reporting to Council for public exhibition and adoption.

Options for Northern Beaches Council

Each of the following options would achieve Council's role outlined in adopted Strategic documents to varying degrees, given the depth and breadth of involvement proposed for each.

Option 1: Status Quo

- Council continues to engage with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, MLALC, AHO, and other Aboriginal led community groups and organisations on a project-by-project basis.
- There is no additional funding required for this option as the activities required would be included in existing project workplans.
- The number of people who are reached and participate in consultation is limited and may not be representative of the whole local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- This approach would not facilitate discussion between people with differing views and ideas, which is fundamental to the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and Cultural Protocols.
- Reconciliation Australia is unlikely to endorse a RAP without a Working Group to develop, consistent with its guidelines.

Option 1 will be achieved if Council supports the recommendation and resolves to note the report.

Option 2: Establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group

- Council establishes an ongoing commitment to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
 Advisory Group to review a range of issues as outlined in the Mayoral Minute. This includes
 the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), establishment of Cultural Protocols
 and facilitating ongoing dialogue between Council and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait
 Islander community.
- Clear purpose, principles, and Terms of Reference (TOR) would need to be developed in consultation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples prior to establishing the Advisory Group.
- Membership is limited, which would result in a group that is not wholly representative of the local community, requiring ongoing project specific consultation targeting the community more broadly.
- The tenure of the group should be defined and limited to provide opportunity for a range of community members to participate over time.
- The focus and agenda of the group would need to be determined and agreed to by members. A divergence in participant views and ideas is expected which is likely to impact the time required to reach agreement on priorities and move forward as a group.
- Requirement for expert staff resources, such as an identified position, to manage the
 establishment and implementation of the Advisory Group, development of cultural protocols,
 a RAP and other projects advised by the Group. This staff position would provide
 coordination and support functions for the Advisory Group and not be a participating
- The identified position would need to engage an expert First Nations consultancy to draft and deliver the RAP.
- This option requires additional funding for staffing and program costs associated with the
 coordination of the Advisory Group and delivery of any actions identified by the group and
 endorsed by Council. The funding for this option would be ongoing for the life of the Advisory
 Group.

Should Council seek to adopt Option 2, an appropriate motion would be:

That Council:

- Identify projects that can be delayed or deferred and approve the reallocation of ongoing funding and resources, including establishing an Aboriginal identified position of staff.
- Establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group, in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stakeholders.

Option 3: Establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group

- Council establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander RAP Working Group to inform the development of a RAP, as outlined in Reconciliation Australia RAP Drafting Resource (Attachment 1).
- This option would present clear direction for the role of the group and the resulting RAP would provide strategic direction and tangible actions for Council to pursue reconciliation into the future (subject to Council's adoption).
- Defined scope, timeframe and Terms of Reference (TOR) would need to be developed in consultation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples prior to establishing the Working Group.
- Broad community consultation would be incorporated into the stakeholder engagement for the development of the RAP to provide an opportunity to hear from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living on the Northern Beaches.
- There would still be a need for ongoing project by project consultation for other activities across Council whilst a RAP is under development.
- A RAP would identify actions informed by the community to begin the process of developing cultural protocols and an approach to ongoing consultation and involvement of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and stakeholder groups, including the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- This option would require expert resources and program costs, including the procurement of a suitably qualified First Nations consultant to manage the engagement of the Working Group, stakeholders and broad community and delivery of a RAP.
- The additional funding required for this option would be time bound to the required duration
 of the Working Group. Additional staffing and program costs would be required to deliver the
 actions of a final Council adopted RAP.

Should Council seek to adopt Option 3, an appropriate motion would be:

That Council:

- Identify projects that can be delayed or deferred and approve the reallocation of funding and resources in the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years.
- Establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group to inform the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan for Northern Beaches Council, in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stakeholders.

CONSULTATION

The detail in this report incorporates feedback from local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples known to Council, other individual community members received during development of Council strategies and plans, and the professional knowledge of Council staff involved in ongoing engagement with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples.

If Council resolves to proceed with the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group or Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group, it is recommended that community consultation be conducted prior to its commencement to invite a broad range of views from local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and stakeholder groups. This will provide direction on the most culturally appropriate way to establish and coordinate the group through a clear purpose, principles, and Terms of Reference.

Reconciliation Australia's RAP Drafting Resource (Attachment 1) and Collaborate NSW through its Local government and Aboriginal communities working together website provide guidance that Council can follow to establish a Working Group. There are a range of other guidance materials from Federal and State Government departments that have been sourced and can provide reference material for engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Engagement would also occur with the MLALC and other NSW councils with established Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Groups or RAP Working Groups to learn from their experience.

TIMING

If Council approves funding in the September 2024 Quarterly Review to implement Option 2 or 3, the preliminary consultation process will commence in late 2024 with an Advisory Group or RAP Working Group established in the first half of 2025.

An Advisory Group would be ongoing and have long term timing implications for Council planning and resourcing.

It is expected that the process to establish a Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group, engage a suitably qualified First Nations consultant, and develop a RAP would be a minimum of 2 years. This includes approximately 6 months to establish the Working Group, 3 months to procure a suitable qualified consultant and up to 18 months to develop the RAP and finalise the project.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

To establish Options 2 or 3 to deliver an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group or RAP Working Group would require funding for program costs, requiring reprioritisation of projects and allocation of resources in the 2024/25 Operational Budget.

Option 2, establishing an Advisory Group, requires funding for a new Aboriginal identified staff position and additional program funding for the life of the Advisory Group anticipated at between \$150,000-\$200,000 per annum. This option would also require funding for contract services to engage a suitably qualified First Nations consultant and program funding for other project related costs for the development of a RAP, anticipated to be \$150,000 to deliver the RAP. This option would require Council to identify projects to be delayed or deferred to enable ongoing funding of between \$150,000-\$200,000 per annum and an additional \$150,000 spread across 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years to be redirected for this purpose.

Option 3, establishing a RAP Working Group and delivery of a RAP, requires budget for contract services to engage a suitably qualified First Nations consultant and program funding for other project related costs expected to be approximately \$150,000 to deliver the project. This option would require Council to identify projects to be delayed or deferred to enable funding of \$150,000 spread across 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years to be redirected for this purpose.

Determining program costs relies on several future decisions including; whether the Advisory or Working Group members would be paid sitting fees, be reimbursed for expenses, the size of the group membership, the number and frequency of Advisory or Working Group meetings required, and the scope of other external stakeholder engagement required.

Staff from several areas across Council would be required to effectively deliver the agreed outputs of either an Advisory or Working Group. This would require reprioritisation of existing workplans and resourcing.

The required funding would need to be identified and Council approval sought through the September 2024 Quarterly budget review process to implement either option 2 or 3.

Actions included in a RAP would be subject to Council's normal governance, planning, and budget decision making processes. This would mean program costs for the implementation of a RAP would be determined and approved as part of the adoption of a RAP and ongoing Delivery Program, Operational Plan, and Budget approval process.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The Aboriginal history of the Northern Beaches is unique and complex, and the establishment of an Advisory Group or RAP Working Group would operate within this complexity, with the future development of cultural protocols also influenced by this local context.

As with any community, the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community have different personal experience, knowledge, beliefs, and cultural views. The implementation of an Advisory Group or RAP Working Group will bring together diverse stakeholders and allow dialogue representing a range of viewpoints, however it is unlikely to be seen as wholly representative by the community. As a result, consultation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people would need to be maintained on a project-by-project basis to ensure a broad range of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are captured to inform Council decision making.

Expectations of Advisory Group or RAP Working Group members on the role, functions, and outputs of both the Group and Council staff is a key consideration and has the potential for reputational and political impacts on Council. These expectations would need to be considered and addressed in the preliminary consultation to establish the group, and then managed once established with appropriate resourcing and governance from Council. Regardless of which option is implemented, the Terms of Reference for options 2 or 3 would clearly articulate that the function is advisory only and not directly involved in making decisions of Council.

There is an ongoing reputational risk for Council operating without identified cultural protocols. Consistency and accuracy of Council's and the broader community's approach to recognising and celebrating Aboriginal culture and history is inhibited by the absence of this important guidance material. Developing a RAP in a co-designed approach with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and stakeholder groups presents an opportunity to begin development of this important document and work toward addressing this reputational risk.

It should be noted that given the wide-ranging views of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, the development of cultural protocols is not likely to result in all local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's views being represented. The accuracy and currency of a Cultural Protocols document would need to be continually monitored, reviewed and updated over time.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The subject of this report has no environmental implications for Council.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This report has the potential to deliver enhanced social outcomes for the community, particularly local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are identified as a priority population within the Better Together 2040 Social Sustainability Strategy. Providing opportunities for active participation in consultation and engagement is an essential element of self-determination. Greater commitment to engaging with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples would achieve positive outcomes at the individual and community level.

The development of a RAP would further demonstrate Council's commitment to recognising and celebrating our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and strengthen our relationships with the community and stakeholder groups.

Consideration of this report could impact social outcomes through the consideration and decision making about ongoing consultation and engagement with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Dialogue and debate about how to engage with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples has the potential to cause emotional and psychological harm to the community.

LINK TO STRATEGY

This report relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcomes and Goals:

- Community and belonging Goal 7 Our diverse community is supported to participate in their chosen cultural life.
- Community and belonging Goal 8 Our community feels safe and supported.
- Community and belonging Goal 9 Our community is inclusive and connected.
- Good governance Goal 19 Our Council is transparent and trusted to make decisions that reflect the values of the community.
- Good governance Goal 20 Our Council is proactive, and efficiently and effectively responds to, and delivers on, the evolving needs of the community.
- Partnership and participation Goal 21 Our community is engaged in decision making processes.
- Partnership and participation Goal 22 Our Council builds and maintains strong partnerships and advocates effectively on behalf of the community.

Reporting team	Community, Arts & Culture
TRIM file ref	2024/323839
Attachments	Reconciliation Australia - Establishing and maintaining an effective RAP Working Group (Included In Attachments Booklet)



To:

The Chief Executive Officer Northern Beaches Council

Notice of Motion to Rescind or Alter a Resolution
in accordance with s372(1) of the Local Government Act, 1993.
Passed By Council on 30 7 / 24
We give notice of the following motion to rescind or alter a resolution of Council:
"That Council's resolution relating to Item No, point/s,
adopted at the Council Meeting held on
Notice of Replacement Motion
n accordance with clauses 18.3 to 18.14 of the Northern Beaches Council Code of Meeting Practice.
Should the motion to rescind or alter a resolution be adopted we give notice that it is our intention to move the following motion:
no fether action or
er Walter's original amendment
Kaine Page. 30/7/24
Name of Councillor Signature of Councillor Date
Vicinal General- 30 7. 24
Name of Councillor Signature of Councillor Date
Name of Councillor Signature of Councillor Date

TRIM: 2017/338901