



northern
beaches
council

ATTACHMENT BOOKLET

NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 15 JULY 2025

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Bicycle NSW

Student Bicycle Licence Council Proposal

Background

Bicycle NSW has been promoting bicycle use, behaviour change and effective bicycle user environments since it was established as a member based organisation in 1976. Since then, Bicycle NSW has been responsible for many active transport infrastructure outcomes and positively supporting thousands of people of all ages to utilise bicycles as active transport and for recreational purposes. It is critical for students to have a basic understanding of road rules, safety measures and bicycle use etiquette in order to ride their bicycle to and from school safely.

At a state level, there is no consistent bicycle education and awareness campaigns or programs for School in NSW. Several Councils are proactively tackling a number of these challenges at a local level including e-bike user behaviour through education and awareness to ensure local e-bike users and the community are safe.

Bicycle NSW is offering to further develop and broaden this outstanding local work by offering a basic testing process to ensure students can demonstrate basic competencies in bicycle safety, road rules and etiquette.

Student Bicycle Licence Scheme

The Student Bicycle Licence Scheme is a digital licence which students would receive on their smart phones once they correctly complete a series of questions. This platform would be provided on the Bicycle NSW website and a direct link provided to Councils to share with their schools. The students would then need to access the link, complete basic information and answer some questions before being eligible for their digital Bicycle Licence (see mocked up licence below). Bicycle NSW could provide all schools and students to Council and the schools for confirmation (a T&C would make this clear to the student). A parent or guardian email address would also be collected to ensure they are notified of the bicycle licence. Schools may or may not wish to make this mandatory for students who ride to school (i.e ban students riding without a licence). Councils could also opt to include the program in their existing schools programs as well as to elevate its status if they undertake bike skills or proficiency courses. For example, a Gold Licence or similar could be included.

The questions would be based around road rules relevant to bicycle riding, bicycle safety and etiquette. This would be approximately 15 questions and Bicycle NSW can provide an initial draft for Council to provide feedback and input into.

Benefits of a student bicycle licence scheme include:

- Strongly addresses a collective and shared duty of care of Schools, students, parents, Councils and Government. NB: Primary duty of care lies with the parents /carers.
- Helps to provide an initial and base level engagement for schools and active travel to schools
- Delivers a state consistent program by a respected and established not for profit peak body. This prevents the risk of each council and or school doing their own thing which is inefficient and inconsistent.
- Helps to create a better bicycle riding environment for all bicycle users which is key objective of Bicycle NSW.



What will Bicycle NSW deliver?

- Input and feedback to the licence questions.
- An online bicycle licence scheme and a link for Council to promote.
- Participation and usage data (likely through an excel spreadsheet)
- Any maintenance, trouble-shooting or technical support as the platform requires.
- General support and promotion of the bicycle licence scheme.
- Council logo and named recognition.
- Potentially additional ideas and suggestions from Council which can easily be achieved by Bicycle NSW within the context of the project's time and resources.

What will Council deliver?

- Input and feedback to Bicycle NSW.
- Ongoing promotion of the licence scheme to their local schools.
- Content and photos for further information and guidance (not essential).
- Payment of invoice.

Investment

The development and implementation of this program isn't cost effective to deliver in one council area. Therefore, Bicycle NSW proposes to develop the program and implement it in at least 3-4 councils initially. As the platform will be integrated into existing Bicycle NSW software, the internal setup and software development and testing is significantly more cost effective and is estimated to be approximately \$14,000.

Bicycle NSW will cover these setup and development costs by proportioning the costs across 4 councils or \$3,500 plus GST per council (or \$2,975 for a council member, \$15 discount). Ongoing maintenance and management fees are estimated at \$600 per annum after year one (or \$500 for a council member).

For transparency, please note that Bicycle NSW would recover staffing and resourcing costs in year two by offering the same program to other Councils to also use. This will ensure the program benefits a number of councils and also remains financially sustainable.

What does success look like after year 1?

- Thousands of students in receipt of a digital bicycle licence.
- Greater understanding and reduced complaints/conflicts in and around school travel environments.
- Test and learn to grow/enhance the scheme into future years and complete a brief report on the achieved outcomes.

Timeline

Bicycle NSW would like to begin rolling this program out in Term 2 2025. We therefore seek support from Councils as soon as possible so we can engage the software developers as soon as possible.

The Future

It continues to be an exciting time for increasing active transport in NSW. With rapidly growing bicycle infrastructure, safer riding environments and growing adoption, we will see a cultural shift in Australia. We want to ensure this shift is safe and we look forward to continuing to work in collaboration with Councils to deliver a safer riding culture.

After feedback, Bicycle NSW would be very pleased to further develop and refine options within this proposal to deliver maximum value and impact for your Council.



northern
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MINUTES

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

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

TUESDAY 4 MARCH 2025

MINUTES OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 4 MARCH 2025

**Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting
held on Tuesday 4 March 2025
in the Flannel Flower Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why
Commencing at 2:09 PM**

ATTENDANCE:

Members of the Committee

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

Council Officers (attendees)

Scott Phillips	Chief Executive Officer
Kelly Loveridge	Chief Operating Officer
Caroline Foley	Chief Financial Officer
Sally Hall	Executive Manager Internal Audit & Complaints Resolution
Aline Fernandes	Internal Auditor
Lesley Milbourne	Manager Governance
Sarah Dunstan	Executive Manager Governance & Risk
Jeremy Smith	Acting Director Environment & Open Space
Leanne Laughton	Executive Manager Environment & Resilience
Ben Fallowfield	Manager Resilience & Natural Hazards
Gareth Birch	Resilience & Emergency Management Coordinator
Michael Turner	Chief Information Officer
Amy Noakes	Executive Manager Human Resources
Glenn Quince	Team Leader WHS
Lisa Donohue	Workers Compensation Team Leader
Mark Jones	Executive Manager Strategy & Performance
Catherine Macfarlane	Manager Organisational Performance
Tracey Bennett	Program Manager Performance
Michelle Arrowsmith	Program Manager Performance
Kristie Debney	Executive Manager Property, Buildings & Beach Services

Council Auditors (non-voting)

Ms Susan Prichard	Director of Financial Audit Services, Audit Office of NSW - attended for all items except S1
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MINUTES OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 4 MARCH 2025

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MINUTES OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 4 MARCH 2025

1.0 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Robert Lagaida disclosed he is now the chair of the Blacktown City Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC).

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2024

OUTCOME

That the minutes of the ARIC meeting held on 3 December 2024, 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

Nil

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 minutes of previous ARIC meetings and those actions completed since the previous meeting.

ACTIONS

Re Item 6.1, point 2 - Governance will schedule consultation between the governing body and ARIC to inform development of ARIC's 4-year strategic workplan in May.

OUTCOME

That the ARIC note the progress on actions arising from the minutes of previous meetings.

MINUTES OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 4 MARCH 2025

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

The Chief Executive Officer provided an update on Council's resolution at its January 2025 meeting to seek a special rate variation with IPART.

The ARIC noted the memo provided prior to Council's decision, to offer some commentary on the proposal to apply for the SRV. The ARIC is mindful that it has a limited role in advising Council on any particular decision that Council might choose, and as such, its advice was deliberately limited to the issue of the relevance and sufficiency of materials and advice provided to Council by management to enable Council to be in a properly informed position from which to make an informed decision, and the reasonable interpretation and use of that information.

The CEO advised of a request from a Councillor about the level of detail in the ARIC minutes concerning financial matters. ARIC agreed that meeting minutes will explicitly document the outcome of discussions at ARIC meetings about Council's financial position and any perceived need for an SRV.

The CEO also raised a question from a Councillor about correspondence from members of the Northern Beaches Community apparently sent to the ARIC Chair about the SRV. The ARIC members noted it was outside the remit of their role to engage with the community on such matters and their usual practice was to refer any correspondence received directly from members of the community to Council.

Councillors resolved to hold a strategic planning weekend on 22 and 23 March at which the Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan will be considered. ARIC will consider the outcomes of this workshop when developing its 4-year plan.

An Expression of Interest is open until 14 March 2025 to fill the vacant independent member position.

ARIC noted that ICAC recently issued its report for Investigation into the awarding of Transport for NSW and Inner West Council contracts (Operation Hector). The Executive Manager Internal Audit & Complaints Management advised a report on relevant issues for Northern Beaches Council will be provided to ARIC at a future meeting.

ACTIONS

A report on relevant issues in ICAC's *Investigation into the awarding of Transport for NSW and Inner West Council contracts (Operation Hector)* will be provided to ARIC at a future meeting.

OUTCOME

That the ARIC note the Chief Executive Officer's verbal update.

NOTE: The order of business was changed and item 10 was moved forward.

MINUTES OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 4 MARCH 2025

10.0 SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM

10.1 SPECIAL INTEREST BRIEFING - CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENT AND ADAPTATION PLAN

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the ARIC with an update on Council's draft Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) and Climate Change Adaptation Plan (AP).

DISCUSSION

Acting Director, Environment & Open Space, Executive Manager Environment & Resilience, Manager Resilience & Natural Hazards and Resilience & Emergency Management Coordinator attended.

Manager Resilience & Natural Hazards and Resilience & Emergency Management Coordinator explained Council's CCRA and AP. The scope for this project is essentially to better understand Council's climate risks to our assets, operations and services. Council has used the NSW government's Climate Risk Ready NSW Guide as a framework to drive the project. The framework provides tools to assess an organisation's maturity managing climate risk. The CCRA identified, assessed, and evaluated risks across a range of climate hazards. Risk ratings were assigned to these risks in accordance with Council's enterprise risk management (ERM) framework. Managing the risks will be embedded into Council's risk management processes and regular day-to-day operations.

The ARIC discussed the span of risks looking as far ahead as 20 to 100 years, and beyond. Significant work is underway to understand these risks using a range of modelling tools to quantify the risks and interconnections with Council's draft climate change policy and mechanisms such as planning controls. The ARIC noted Council is well engaged with the NSW Reconstruction Authority on disaster adaptation and mitigation plans.

The ARIC suggested consideration be given to reviewing contribution plan inclusions once Council has the adaptation plan.

The ARIC noted considerations such as emissions, waste and post-disaster cleanup (engagement with Kimbriki Environmental Enterprises and EPA), climate-related financial disclosure, community engagement, carbon offsets, community vs Council assets (the NSW Reconstruction Authority is working on this with councils and other agencies).

The ARIC thanked and congratulated the team on the important work being undertaken, noting that failure to invest in adaptation would have a significant impact on Council's ability to function. There is a significant financial impact and risk exposure when considered in the context of local government financial sustainability.

OUTCOME

That the ARIC note the information provided in the report and presentation.

MINUTES OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 4 MARCH 2025

6.2 ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP) - PROGRAM COSMO UPDATE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the ARIC an update on Council's Enterprise Resource Planning Project – Program COSMO.

DISCUSSION

The Chief Information Officer provided members with an update that the project is progressing well. The importance of ensuring a smooth transition and addressing issues promptly was discussed. UAT1 was completed last week with a minimal 5% failure rate. A mix of configuration changes or small enhancements will be rolled into UAT2.

Program resourcing was discussed and ARIC noted a member of the KPMG team has taken on the program director role to ensure continuity in lead up to Go-Live of Release 1.

In response to a question from the Chair, Director of Financial Audit Services, Audit Office of NSW advised the Audit Office (AO) is scheduled to review the project's systems implementation next year, according to the engagement plan. This work can be brought forward if requested. The COO will ask the AO to bring this work forward and to sign off on capitalisation of the project, and methodologies on data migration and pre and post transition reconciliations, which will be reported back to the ARIC

ACTIONS

The COO undertook to present the budget rephasing in a different format taking into account being a multi year program (including contingencies) and report improvements along the journey (for potential internal and external communication). The COO will ask the AO to bring forward its review of the project's systems implementation and to sign off on capitalisation of the project, and methodologies on data migration and pre and post transition reconciliations, which will be reported back to the ARIC.

OUTCOME

That the ARIC note the report.

6.3 SAFETY, WELLBEING AND INJURY MANAGEMENT REPORT

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the ARIC with an update on Work Health & Safety, Workers Compensation and Wellbeing during the period July 2024 to December 2024.

DISCUSSION

Executive Manager Human Resources, Team Leader - WHS and Works Compensation Team Leader attended and provided an overview of the report.

Executive Manager Human Resources undertook to look at lead indicators versus lag indicators as a mechanism to determine progress in minimising or preventing injuries.

Psychosocial safety was discussed as an area of current focus for all sectors. Initiatives to increase wellbeing and proactively prevent and minimise psychosocial injury need to be well documented and assessed to provide meaningful data on the value of the initiatives.

MINUTES OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 4 MARCH 2025

The ARIC thanked the team for a good report.

ACTIONS

Executive Manager Human Resources undertook to look at lead indicators, such as training, versus lag indicators, such as lost time injury statistics as a mechanism to determine progress in minimising or preventing injuries.

OUTCOME

That the ARIC note the update on Work Health Safety, Workers Compensation and Wellbeing as at 31 December 2024.

7.0 INTERNAL AUDIT

7.1 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

Executive Manager Internal Audit & Complaints Resolution attended and gave an overview of the audit schedule, noting some further audits are being scoped.

The ARIC asked if Council could replicate the data analytics used in procurement data checks, to provide automated exception reporting. Executive Manager Internal Audit & Complaints Resolution undertook to look at this.

ACTIONS

Executive Manager Internal Audit & Complaints Resolution will liaise with the procurement team regarding data analytics.

OUTCOME

That the ARIC note:

1. The status of the 2024-25 internal audit plans.
 2. The outcomes of the internal audit reports completed.
 3. The status of audit recommendations and opportunities, generated in previous internal audits.
-

MINUTES OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 4 MARCH 2025

8.0 IMPROVEMENT

8.1 NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the ARIC with an update on Council's continuous improvement program.

DISCUSSION

Executive Manager Strategy & Performance and Manager, Organisational Performance attended and provided an update that Council is on track with all the improvements reported.

The ARIC noted a particular value of the program is in the continual small improvements instigated at grassroots level. Staff know where improvements can be made; if the organisation addresses them, morale and function improve; if ignored they can become grievances.

The Ignite program is well embedded and as it deals with smaller improvements, it does not impact on COSMO. Larger scale improvements or service reviews have been planned around COSMO modules roll out.

OUTCOME

That the ARIC note the progress of Council's multifaceted continuous improvement program.

8.2 SERVICE REVIEW PROGRAM PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Council's Service Review Program and progress on the implementation of the improvement recommendations identified from the completed service reviews.

DISCUSSION

Executive Manager Strategy & Performance and Program Manager - Performance attended.

The ARIC noted the value of the service review program to provide evidence on efficiencies and improvements achieved. Celebrating change and incorporating a staff narrative to share, understand and build on the change is valuable to build a culture of positive and continuous improvement. There is value in sharing this narrative with the community too.

OUTCOME

That the ARIC note the progress of Council's Service Review Program and implementation plans.

MINUTES OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 4 MARCH 2025

8.3 SERVICE REVIEW - INFORMATION ACCESS & PRIVACY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the findings and recommendations from the service review of the Information Access and Privacy Service.

DISCUSSION

Executive Manager Strategy & Performance, Program Manager - Performance and Chief Information Officer attended and with the COO, explained the structural changes proposed.

ACTIONS

Executive Manager Strategy & Performance welcomed the ARIC's feedback to include a risk assessment in all service review reports.

The COO undertook to let the ARIC know the results of the self-assessment against the State Government Records Management Assessment Tool which Council completed.

OUTCOME

That the ARIC note the findings and recommendations of the service review for the Information Access & Privacy Service.

8.4 BEACH SERVICES - SERVICE REVIEW

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the findings and recommendations of the service review for Beach Services to the ARIC.

DISCUSSION

Executive Manager Property, Buildings & Beach Services and Program Manager - Performance attended.

Beach services are currently provided to 21 beaches in the local government area, by in-house and contract providers.

OUTCOME

That ARIC note the findings and recommendations of the Service Review for Beach Services.

MINUTES OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 4 MARCH 2025

11.0 EXTERNAL AUDIT

11.1 AUDIT OFFICE ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2025

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 2024 to 30 June 2025 to the ARIC.

DISCUSSION

Director of Financial Audit Services, Audit Office of NSW presented the audit plan.

The Chief Financial Officer attended and clarified the timing in the report - staff will present a draft paper to the ARIC and the Director of Financial Audit Services will speak to the interim audit, prior to the financial statements being submitted to Council.

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 2024 to 30 June 2025.

S.1 QUARTERLY REVIEW - DECEMBER 2024

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the committee with a copy of the Quarterly Review – December 2024 report that was presented to Council at the 18 February 2025 ordinary meeting.

DISCUSSION

The Chief Financial Officer attended.

The ARIC noted this was a well presented document; an observation was made that the additional trend graphs and analysis provided in ARIC reports could be beneficial to include in the reports to Council, although beyond the scope of the IP&R quarterly reporting requirements.

OUTCOME

That the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee note the report.

MINUTES OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 4 MARCH 2025

13.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

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 ordinary June 2025 meeting.

DISCUSSION

The ARIC requested that the draft budget be tabled at the next meeting.

ACTIONS

That the draft budget be an agenda item for the June 2025 agenda.

OUTCOME

That the ARIC discuss the proposed June 2025 agenda.

14.0 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10 June 2025

Meeting ended at 5:10pm

Site Map - Manly Jazz 2025



Map Key	
	Stages: 1. Beachfront 2. Sydney Rd Stage 3. Jazz Stars of the Future Stage 4. St Mathews Church Stage
	Front of house Syd Rd & JSTF use Council marquee
	Back of House
	Information Tent – Event Head quaters
	First Aid
	Permanent bathrooms
	Storage Manly Library/ Rialto Lane and Town Hall
	Jazz Garden
	MANLY letters & Colouring Corner
	Arts & Craft Markets Fresh Food Markets
	Power
	Barriers
	Permanent Water stations
	Performer loading zone: 1. Cnr Raglan St & North Steyne at Road closure point 2. Central Avenue – Sydney Rd 3. The Corso - JSOTF 4. Darley Rd – St Matts



Council Policy **NB-P-41** Legislative Compliance

Purpose

To outline Council's commitment to a legislative compliance management program which provides assurance and builds the capacity of Northern Beaches Council to meet its key compliance obligations, promote a compliance culture and uphold good corporate governance practices.

Northern Beaches Council's legislative compliance policy and legislative compliance program enables the Northern Beaches Council to:

- understand and comply with its legislative obligations
- conduct business and activities in a lawful and responsible way by integrating legislative requirements into the everyday running of Council
- develop, implement and monitor internal controls to manage and provide assurance on legislative compliance obligations
- assign responsibilities for meeting specific compliance obligations
- assess and improve compliance performance.

Policy Principles

The breadth of Council's operations results in a large number of Commonwealth and State legislative compliance obligations. The imposition that this legislation has on the day-to-day activities of Council varies greatly, with some having broad application across Council whilst other legislation only applies to a small number of Council areas.

Recognising the varying scope and impact of legislation on Council's operations, and the risk and severity of the potential impact of non-compliance, Council has taken a risk based approach to managing legislative compliance.

The various components of Council's compliance management system, together promote the importance of compliance to all staff. Key components include:

- legislative compliance policy
- legislative compliance register - a register of key compliance obligations with responsibilities assigned to each obligation
- management sign-off to report against the key compliance obligations
- policy register - lists key Northern Beaches Council policies, policy owners and policy review dates
- regular reporting on legislative compliance obligations and/or exceptions to the Chief Executive Officer and the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee
- **legislative updates circulated to staff and Councillors**
- assurance activities involving regular risk assessments, conducted in accordance with the Northern Beaches Council's Enterprise Risk and Opportunity Management Framework
- an embedded compliance culture led by senior management that is committed, proactive, visible, consistent, and promotes staff awareness

- subscription services made available to senior management to flag changes to compliance obligations
- delegations register
- training and awareness program through Code of Conduct training, timely communication of amended or new obligations, and targeted staff training to ensure they meet obligations within the scope of their roles.

Scope and Application

The Northern Beaches Council Legislative Compliance Policy conforms to international standard AS/ISO 19600:2015 Compliance Management Systems – Guidelines.

This policy applies to all areas of Council and to all staff commensurate with their roles, functions, authority and span of control.

Key roles and responsibilities

All staff must:

- understand and comply with relevant obligations within the scope of their roles. Behaviours that compromise compliance are not tolerated
- be aware of legislation changes which affect their area of work and ensure their work complies with new or modified obligations
- report to their manager or supervisor instances where they consider obligations are not being complied with
- actively identify and seek additional support in understanding their compliance obligations.

Senior managers have responsibility for ensuring compliance with obligations within their teams and within their area of responsibility. Senior managers are required to:

- understand compliance obligations for their area of responsibility
- role model and promote a compliance culture by (i) supporting behaviours that create a compliance environment, (ii) providing resources, support, communication and training so that their teams are able to identify, understand and respond to compliance obligations, (iii) establishing and maintaining procedures and systems to support compliance and allow for better identification, monitoring and reporting on compliance and (iv) encouraging reporting of non-compliance without fear of reprisal
- monitor compliance with relevant codes, practices, laws and directives
- consider compliance risks as part of their operational risk registers
- ensure controls are designed, implemented and are in place to minimise the risk of non-compliance
- support continuous improvement of the compliance management system
- investigate, respond to and report on incidents of non-compliance in a timely manner

The Chief Executive Officer is ultimately operationally responsible for the Northern Beaches Council's legislative compliance program and ensures that adequate resources are allocated to meet compliance obligations.

The Governance and Risk unit:

NB-P-41

Legislative Compliance Policy

TRIM: 2022/326735

Adopted:

- reviews and reports on updates from the Office of Local Government and other pronouncements likely to impact Northern Beaches Council
- maintains a watching brief on selected legislation and updates senior management of any changes
- ensures a relevant subscription service is available to key staff to provide active alerts for changes to legislative compliance obligations
- reports to the Chief Executive Officer and the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee on the effectiveness of the compliance management program
- coordinates the policy register to ensure that policies are monitored and are periodically reviewed and updated
- manages the delegations register to ensure that delegations are periodically reviewed and updated
- provides advice to senior managers and other staff on the compliance management program.

Internal and external audit functions are responsible for auditing compliance with the legislative compliance framework.

The Audit Risk and Improvement Committee independently reviews the legislative compliance program at the Northern Beaches Council, by:

- determining whether management has appropriately considered compliance risks as part of its governance framework
- reviewing the effectiveness of the program for informing and monitoring Council's compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and its policy register
- reviewing and advising on the Legislative Compliance Policy to ensure that it contributes to the risk management processes of Council.

The Council, as the governing body, commits Northern Beaches Council to the Legislative Compliance Policy and sets the expectations, direction and tone of the legislative compliance program. Councillors will do this by:

- supporting a positive compliance culture
- complying with all relevant legislation and policies that are endorsed by Council
- satisfying themselves, through examining appropriate assurance processes and through the advice of its independent committees and the Chief Executive Officer, that the legislative compliance program is effectively managing the risk exposures of non-compliance across the organisation.

References and Related Documents

- [Policy Framework NB-P-01](#)
- AS/ISO 19600:2015 Compliance Management Systems – Guidelines
- AS/ISO 31000:2018 Enterprise Risk Management – Guidelines
- ~~Northern Beaches Council Legislative Compliance Business Rules~~ [Implementation of Legislative Compliance Guideline NB-G-28](#)
- Northern Beaches Council Enterprise Risk Management Policy

- Northern Beaches Council Risk and Opportunity Management Framework
- ~~NSW Treasury Guide for Audit & Risk Committees: Compliance Management (June 2017)~~
- NSW Government's Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW Guidelines for Audit
- Northern Beaches Council Code of Conduct
- Northern Beaches Council Public Interest Disclosures Policy

Community Strategic Plan

This Council policy relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcome of:

- Good governance - Goal 19 Our Council is transparent and trusted to make decisions that reflect the values of the community

Definitions

In the context of this policy and in line with AS/ISO 19600:2015:

<i>Compliance</i>	refers to adhering to the requirements of laws, regulations, government directions, industry and organisational standards and codes, principles of good governance, requirements for certain certifications, accepted community and ethical standards and Northern Beaches Council policies and frameworks.
<i>Compliance culture</i>	refers to the values, ethics and beliefs that exist throughout Council and how they interact with the structures and control systems to produce behavioural norms that are conducive to compliance outcomes.
<i>Compliance management program</i>	refers to the various functions and practices including the roles and responsibilities of key staff or areas, and the activities they undertake which, when combined, are intended to provide assurance that Council complies with its obligations.
<i>Compliance risk</i>	is the effect of uncertainty on compliance objectives. It is characterised by the likelihood of occurrence and the consequence of non-compliance.
<i>Legislative compliance register</i>	is a list of the key legislative compliance obligations of the Northern Beaches Council. Each obligation is assessed and is assigned a responsible manager to ensure compliance to the obligation
<i>Risk Management</i>	is the systematic application of management policies, procedures and practices to the tasks of communication, consultation, establishing the context, and identifying, analysing, evaluating, treating and monitoring and reviewing risk – as outlined in the Northern Beaches Council Enterprise Risk Management Policy.
<i>Staff</i>	refers to a person working at or on behalf of the Northern Beaches Council and includes part-time, full-time, and temporary staff and also includes contractors.
<i>Senior managers</i>	includes the Chief Executive Officer, Directors, Executive Managers, and management positions which may be deemed as senior due to the size, nature or risk profile of the portfolio they manage.

Responsible Officer

NB-P-41

Legislative Compliance Policy

TRIM: 2022/326735

Adopted:

Executive Manager Governance & Risk

Review Date

~~It is intended that this policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier if significant new information, legislative or organisational change warrants an update to this policy.~~

The next review is scheduled for ~~June 2025~~ 2029.

Revision History

Policy number	Date	Detail	TRIM #
1	28 May 2019	Legislative Compliance Policy adopted by Council	2019/027602
2	24 February 2022	Revised draft Legislative Compliance Policy submitted to ARIC.	2021/176041
3	24 May 2022	Legislative Compliance Policy adopted by Council.	2022/326735
4	2 April 2025	Minor updates for currency for review	2022/326735

manly.

B20. Beach Management

Title: Beach Management Policy

Policy No: B20

Keywords: Beach Operations, Beach Management, Lifeguards, Surf Life Saving Clubs, Dogs, Beach First Aid

Responsible Officer: Divisional Manager - Human Services & Facilities

Revoked: All sections except some principles in section 3 revoked by Northern Beaches Council 24 September 2019

1. PRINCIPLES

Kite Flying

Flying of all styles of kites will not be permitted on Manly Beaches or the Beach Reserve.

Beach Events

Only beach related sport, recreation and community based events, with or without sponsorship; corporate functions such as dinners, picnics and volleyball games; documentary radio and television broadcasts may be approved with or without conditions.

The use of the beach or reserve for ongoing commercial activity must be authorized under a license issued by the Council.

Event applications giving sufficient details to enable Council to properly assess the proposal must be submitted in writing to the Council to obtain event approval.

S10. Seawalls - Construction and Replacement

Title: Seawalls – Construction and Replacement Policy

Policy No: S10

Keywords: Seawall, Sandstone

Responsible Officer: Divisional Manager – Civic and Urban Services

1. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The purpose and objective of this policy is to set out Council's considered and adopted policy position with respect to the construction and repair, and outer appearance of, sea walls.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

That Council generally continue to permit walls to be replaced in natural concrete and where treatment of such walls is proposed that it should be in a natural sandstone colour.

*(H.B. 14.10.75)
(Confirmed 20.10.97)*

3. PRINCIPLES

The underlying philosophy behind this policy position is to ensure overall consistency as respects the subject-matter of the policy.

4. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Council officials (including Councillors and Council staff and consultants engaged by Council) who are involved, directly or indirectly, in decision-making (including preparatory and recommendatory decision-making) with respect to the subject-matter of this policy.

Insofar as land is concerned, this policy applies to all land and premises within the Manly local government area that has or may have a sea wall.

5. DEFINITIONS

See the Dictionary at the end of the Local Government Act 1993, as well as section 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, for definitions of various terms and expressions used in this policy.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

This policy will be implemented without delay once adopted by Council. Upon adoption this policy will be entered into Council's policy register, made available online and provided to all staff and any other people directly affected by this policy.

Council and/or the General Manager may, during a civil emergency only, set aside any policy terms to ensure public safety.

7. MONITORING AND BREACHES

Regular monitoring of compliance with this policy, relevant legislation and Manly policies and procedures will be undertaken and documented by the responsible officer for this policy.

Breaches of this policy are considered to be breaches of Manly Council's Code of Conduct and therefore invoke the relevant sanctions outlined in that Code. Persons in breach of any legislation may be subject to relevant criminal action.

8. REPORTING

No specific reporting is required by this policy.

9. POLICY REVIEW

This policy is subject to regular review as required by legislation.

For the purposes of carrying out and giving effect to this policy, the General Manager may from time to time prepare, adopt or vary, and otherwise issue to Council staff, guidelines and directions relating to any aspect of this policy.

Any recognised change to relevant legislation; or directives or guidelines issued by agencies including the NSW Ombudsman and the Division of Local Government; or to Manly Council's related guidelines and procedures will activate an immediate review of this policy to ensure it remains current and aligned to best practice policies.

10. RELEVANT REFERENCES AND LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 1993
Local Government (General) Regulation 2005
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

11. RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

Nil.

12. REVISION SCHEDULE

Minute No	Date of Issue	Action	Author	Checked by
PS53/11	2 May 2011	Periodic Review	Secretariat, Corporate Services	Manager, Administration
	June 2013	Comprehensive Review		General Counsel
PS16/14	3 March 2014	Periodic Review	OM CSS	Manager Governance

F40. Foreshores – Public Right of Way – Ocean and Harbour Policy

Title: Foreshores – Public Right of Way – Ocean and Harbour Policy
Policy No: F40
Keywords: Right of Way, Foreshore
Responsible Officer Deputy General Manager – Land Use and Sustainability

1. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The aim of this policy is to set out Council's adopted objectives with respect to facilitating public access to and use and enjoyment of the Ocean and Harbour foreshores of the Manly local government area.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

That it be a policy objective that the whole of the Ocean and Harbour foreshores of the Municipality be available to the public as of right either as foreshore reserve or public right-of-way over the privately owned land with frontage to the harbour foreshores.

OM 09/12/69

That in regard to Council's policy objective Council adopt a 50ft Foreshore Building Line in the foreshore Building Line in the foreshore area extending from Stuart Street to Little Manly Beach.

OM 22/07/69

3. PRINCIPLES

The underlying principles of this policy are as follows:

- firstly, the public has a basic right to be able to use and enjoy the Ocean and Harbour foreshores of the Manly local government area; and
- secondly, Council decision-making should, whenever possible and feasible, proceed on the basis that every opportunity should be taken so as to facilitate public access to and use and enjoyment of the Ocean and Harbour foreshores of the Manly local government area.

4. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Council officials (including Councillors and Council staff and consultants engaged by Council) who are involved, directly or indirectly, in decision-making (including preparatory and recommendatory decision-making) with respect to the subject-matter of this policy.

5. DEFINITIONS

See the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and instruments made under that Act for the definitions of any relevant terms and expressions.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

This policy will be implemented without delay once adopted by Council. Upon adoption this policy will be entered into Council's policy register, made available online and provided to all staff and any other people directly affected by this policy.

Council and/or the General Manager may, during a civil emergency only, set aside any policy terms to ensure public safety.

7. MONITORING AND BREACHES

Regular monitoring of compliance with this policy, relevant legislation and Manly policies and procedures will be undertaken and documented by the responsible officer for this policy.

Breaches of this policy are considered to be breaches of Manly Council's Code of Conduct and therefore invoke the relevant sanctions outlined in that Code. Persons in breach of any legislation may be subject to relevant criminal action.

8. REPORTING

No specific reporting is required by this policy.

9. POLICY REVIEW

This policy is subject to regular review at a maximum interval of Insert the review period as required by legislation, generally every two (2) years.

For the purposes of carrying out and giving effect to this policy, the General Manager may from time to time prepare, adopt or vary, and otherwise issue to Council staff, guidelines and directions relating to any aspect of this policy.

Any recognised change to relevant legislation; or directives or guidelines issued by agencies including the NSW Ombudsman and the Division of Local Government; or to Manly Council's related guidelines and procedures will activate an immediate review of this policy to ensure it remains current and aligned to best practice policies.

10. RELEVANT REFERENCES AND LEGISLATION

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
State Environmental Planning Policy No 56-Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Tributaries

11. RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

Nil.

12. REVISION SCHEDULE

Minute No	Date of Issue	Action	Author	Checked by
OM	9/12/1969		Manager, Strategic Land Use Planning	
	25/05/2011	Add to Policy Register	DGM-LUS	Manager Administration
	June 2013	Comprehensive Review		General Counsel
PS16/14	3 March 2014	Periodic Review	OM CSS	Manager Governance

Summary of Assessment: Review of Alcohol Free Zones (AFZ)

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1. Avalon AFZ

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

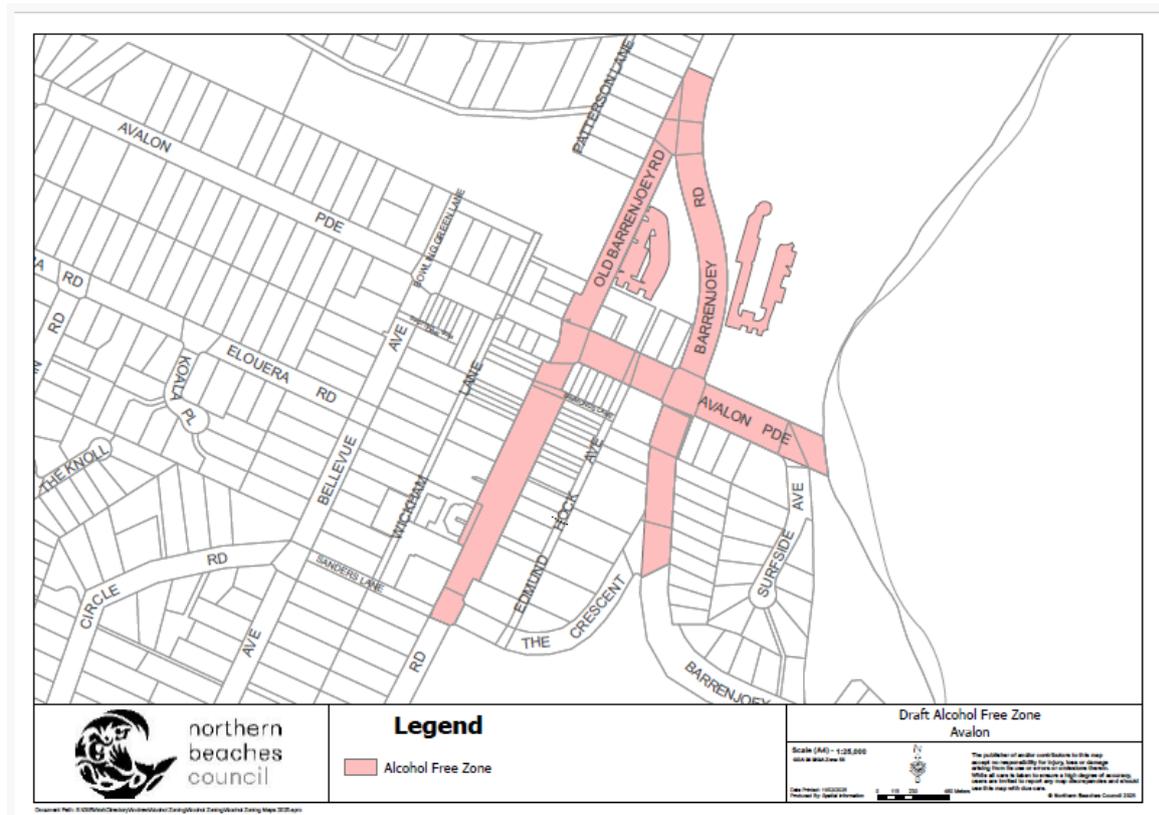
- Location not currently coming to attention of Council as a hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data indicates that public use of some sectors have been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years. In particular, Barrenjoey Rd and near the beach.
- Decreased enforcement action over 3 year period.
- There are areas with no recorded incidents e.g. outlying areas in the north and south of existing AFZ.
- These areas do not meet the criteria for establishment of an AFZ as set out in the guidelines and so are recommended for removal.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 30 November 2025



Proposed Avalon AFZ:



Boundary description for proposed Avalon AFZ:

Old Barrenjoey Road from the junction with The Crescent in the south, along to the intersection with Barrenjoey Road in the north. Then south along Barrenjoey Road down to The Crescent. Avalon Parade from Old Barrenjoey Road to the east. All public carparks, streets and pathways within this area, including Avalon Beach carpark.

Recommend:

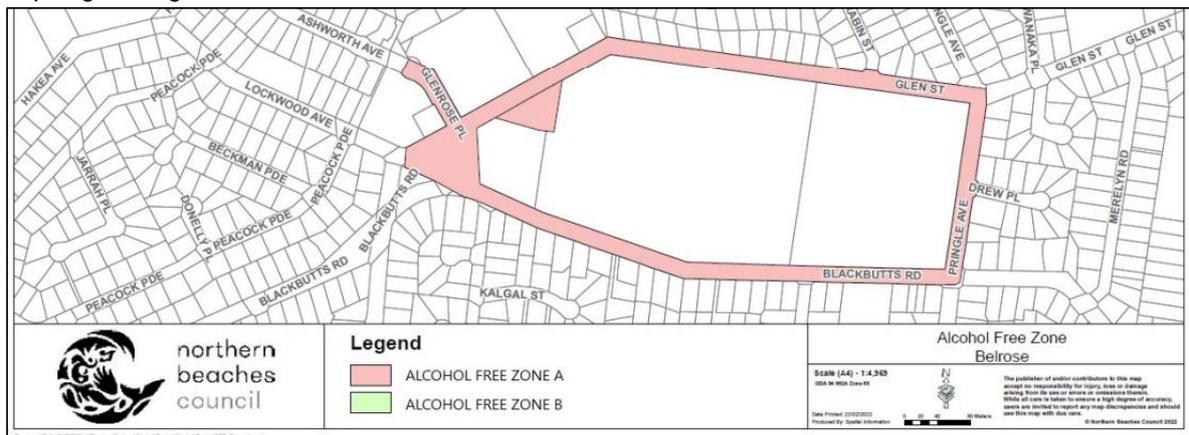
Establish proposed Avalon AFZ, with amended boundaries, for a period of up to 4 years from 1 September 2025.

2. Belrose AFZ – Zone A

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

- Location not currently coming to attention of Council as hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data does not indicate that public use of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years.
- Decreased enforcement action over 3 year period. No activity over past 2 years.
- This area does not meet the criteria for establishment of an AFZ as set out in the guidelines.

Expiring 31 August 2025.



Boundary description:

Bounded by Blackbutts Road to the south, Glen Street and the newly constructed shopping precinct to the north, Glen Street to the west and Pringle Avenue to the east.

Recommend:

Not re-establish Belrose AFZ – Zone A.

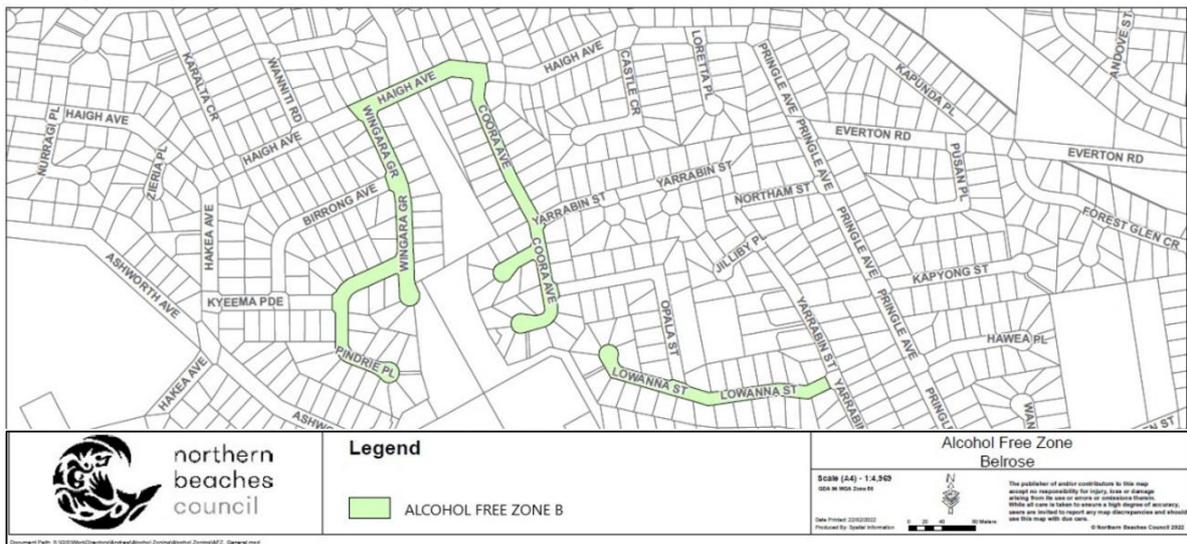
3. Belrose AFZ – Zone B

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

- Location not currently coming to attention of Council as hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Location has been subject to discussions / strategies / Police patrols since 2021.
- Wingara Reserve which was primary point of activity, has been since been made a 24 hour APA.
- Police data does not indicate that public use of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years. No recorded incidents in AFZ.
- There is insufficient evidence to support the re-establishment of this AFZ in this location.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 31 August 2025.



Boundary description:

Pindrie Place, Wingara Grove through Haigh Street down Coora Avenue, Marina Place and Lowanna Street.

Recommend:

Not re-establish Belrose AFZ – Zone B.

4. Brookvale AFZ

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

- Location not currently coming to attention of Council as hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Initially assessed as suitable for removal however Police advised that there continues to be a high number of incidents reported at the location.
- Police requested this area be re-established as an AFZ due to concerns for public safety and given the area's high usage by the community.
- Police have provided additional evidence to support this AFZ.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 31 August 2025.



Boundary description:

Bus stops at Warringah Mall, Pittwater Road.

Recommend:

Re-establish Brookvale AFZ for a period of up to 4 years from 1 September 2025.

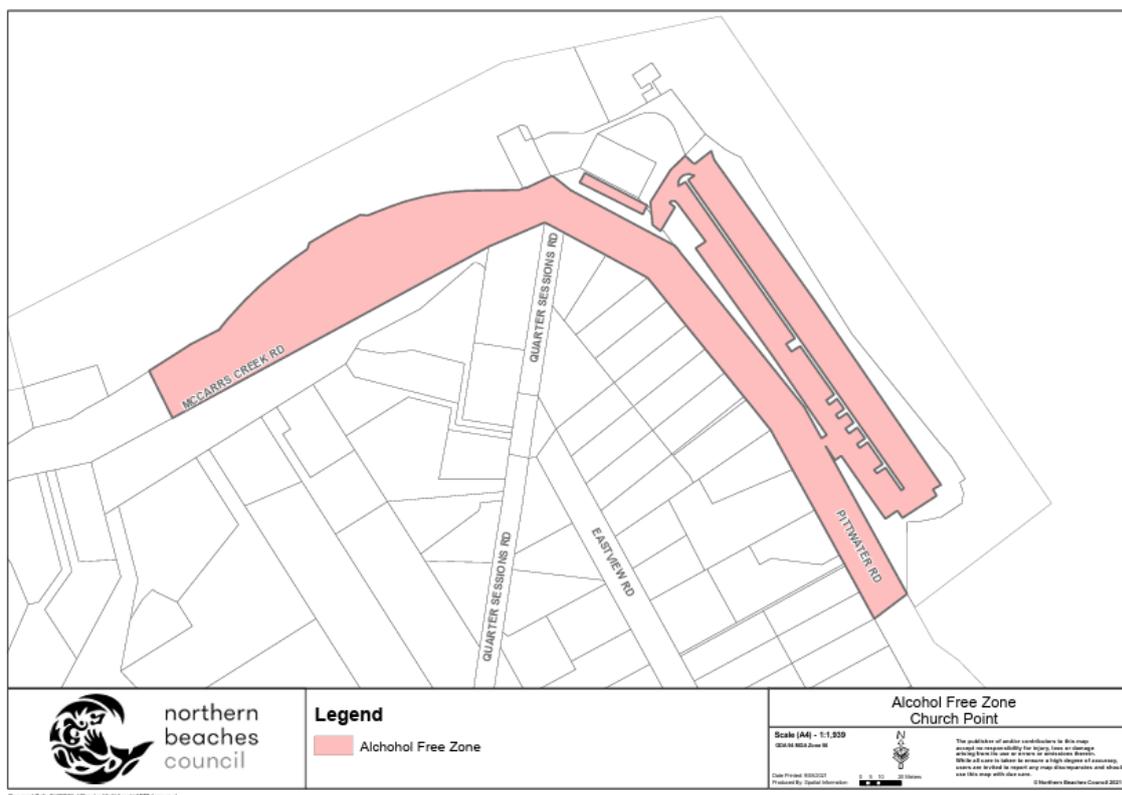
5. Church Point AFZ

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

- Location is known to Council as a hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data does not indicate that public use of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years.
- This area does not meet the criteria for establishment of an AFZ as set out in the guidelines in terms of level of recorded incidents.
- Thomas Stephen Reserve and the Boardwalk areas are subject to long term complaints regarding outdoor drinking and alcohol related antisocial behaviour.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 30 November 2025.



Boundary description:

From the cargo wharf in McCarrs Creek Road to the eastern end of the Church Point carpark; and includes all public carparks, footpaths and streets bounded by this area.

Recommend:

Re-establish Church Point AFZ for a period of up to 4 years from 1 September 2025.

6. Collaroy AFZ

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

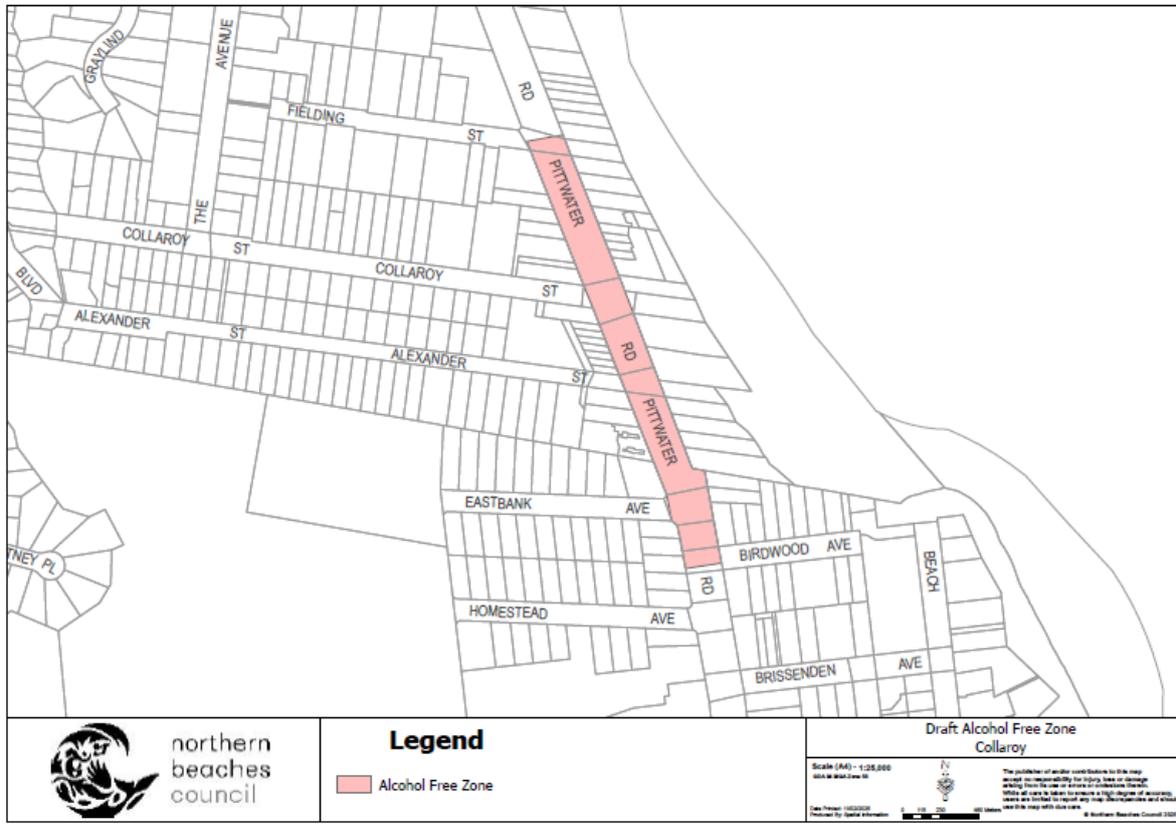
- Location not currently coming to attention of Council as hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data indicates that public use of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the last 3 years.
- It is proposed to establish a new Collaroy AFZ with reduced boundaries.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 31 August 2025.



Proposed Collaroy AFZ:



Boundary description for proposed Collaroy AFZ:
Pittwater Road between Birdwood Avenue and Fielding Street.

Recommend:

Establish proposed Collaroy AFZ, with reduced boundaries, for a period of up to 4 years from 1 September 2025.

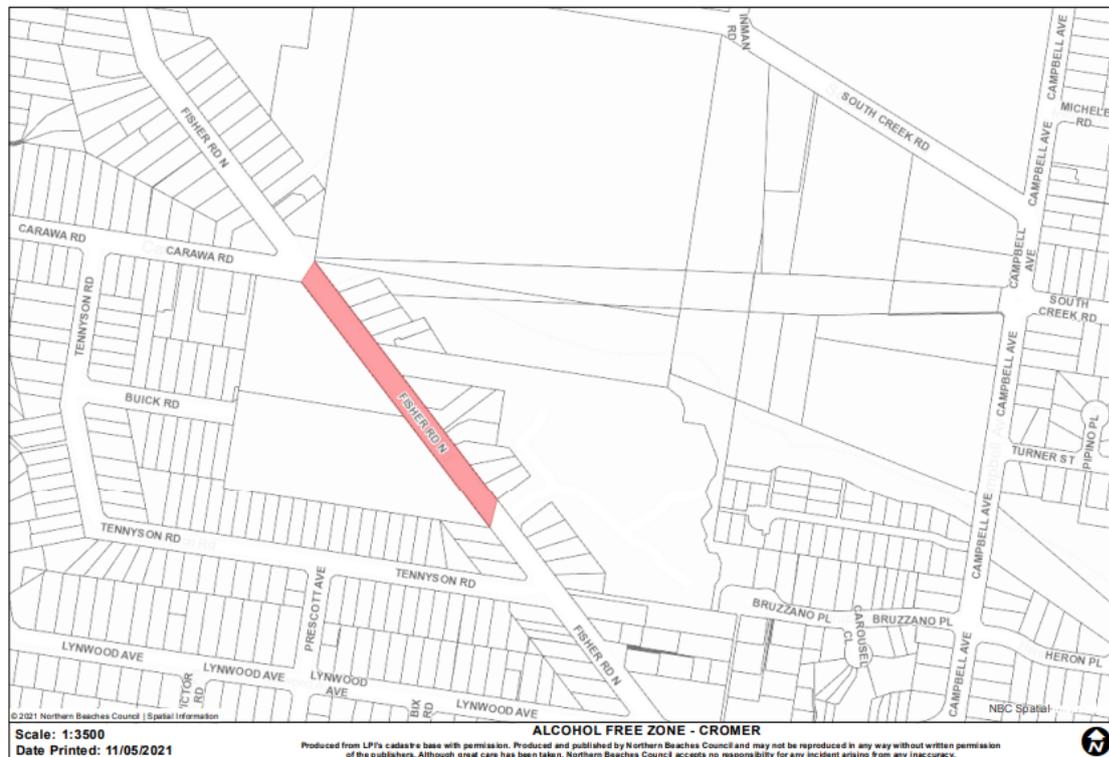
7. Cromer AFZ

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

- Location not currently coming to attention of Council as hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data does not indicate that public use of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years.
- With no recorded incidents this location does not meet the criteria for establishment of an AFZ as set out in the guidelines.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 31 August 2025.



Boundary description:

Fisher Rd North at Cromer Community Centre.

Recommend:

Not re-establish Cromer AFZ.

8. Dee Why AFZ

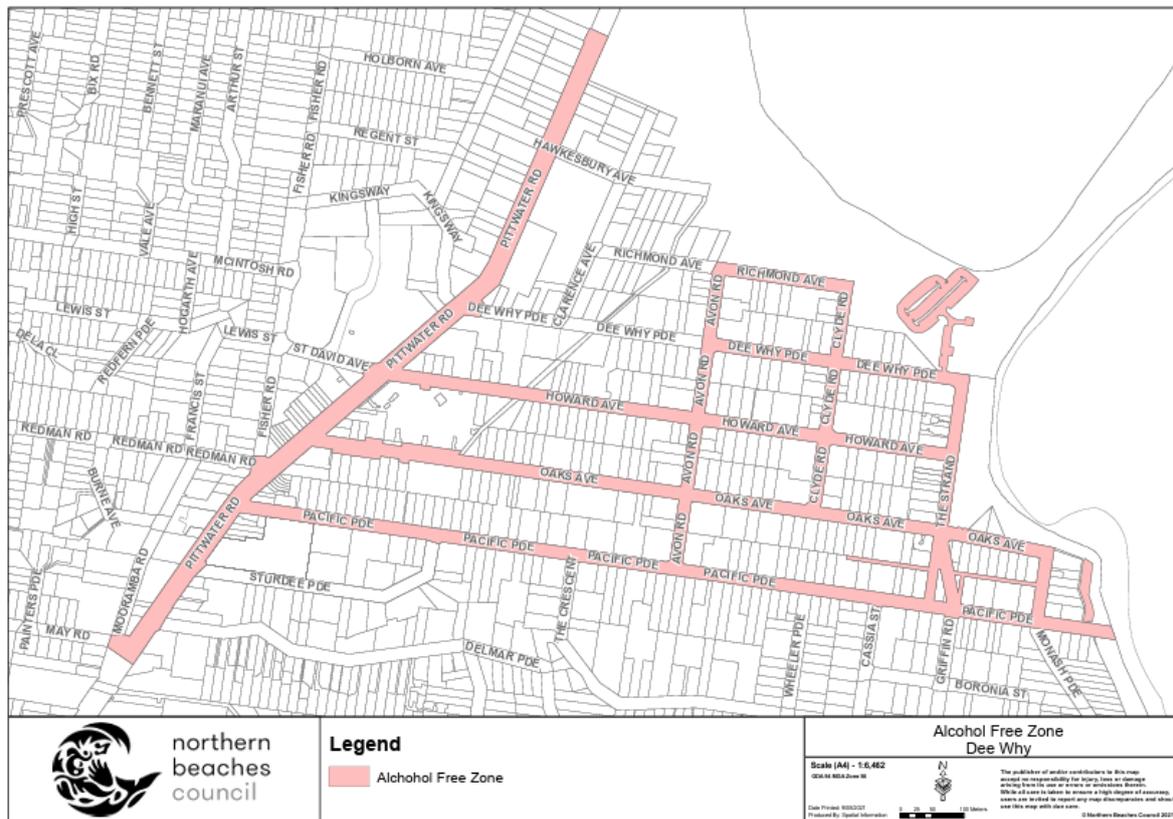
Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

- Location is identified as a hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data indicates that public use of some sectors of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years. In particular Oaks Ave, Howard Ave, The Strand, Pittwater Rd. The areas around Walter Gors Park and the Dee Why B-line bus stop are also indicated.
- Incidents occur throughout most of the existing AFZ.

Police and Council discuss alcohol related antisocial behaviour in this area on a regular basis through Police Council Operational meetings, Community Safety Advisory Committee meetings, Youth Outreach meetings and general collaboration. A range of strategies including Police patrols are in place at this location.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 30 November 2025.



Boundary description:

Pittwater Road in the west, and extends down Pacific Parade, Oaks Avenue and Howard Avenue to Avon Road and bounded by Richmond Road in the north, on the east by The Strand, extending to the Surf Life Saving Club and by Pacific Parade at the south. Includes all public carparks, footpaths and streets bounded by this area.

Recommend:

Re-establish Dee Why AFZ for a period of up to 4 years from 1 September 2025.

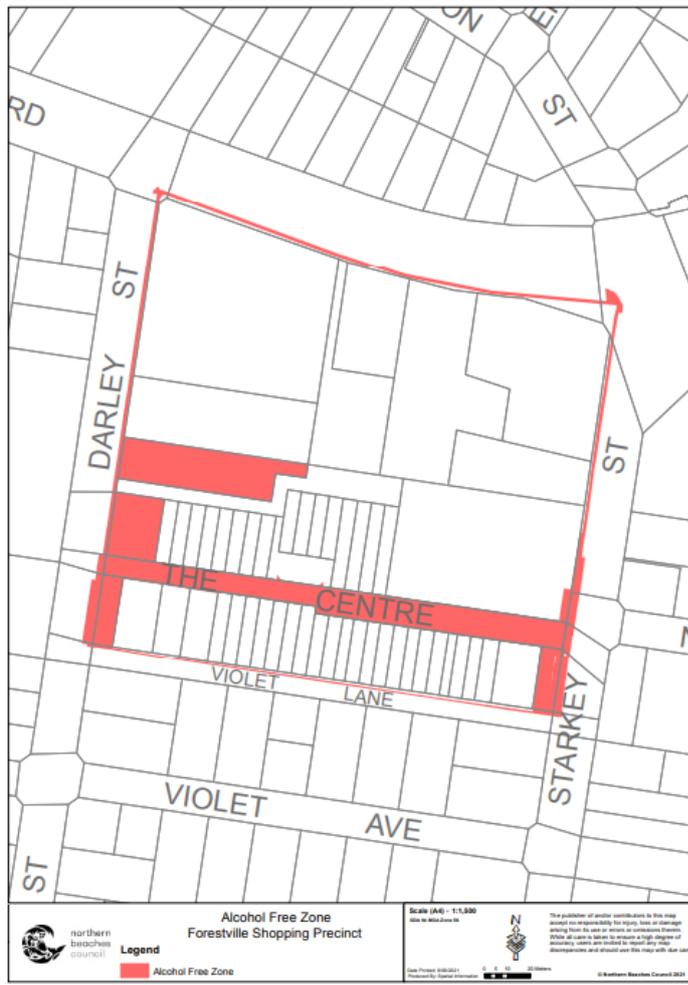
9. Forestville AFZ

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

- Location not currently coming to attention of Council as hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data does not indicate that public use of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years.
- This area does not meet the criteria for establishment of an AFZ as set out in the guidelines.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 31 August 2025



Boundary description:

Shopping Precinct bounded by Starkey St, Violet Lane, Melrose and Warringah Road.

Recommend:

Not re-establish Forestville AFZ.

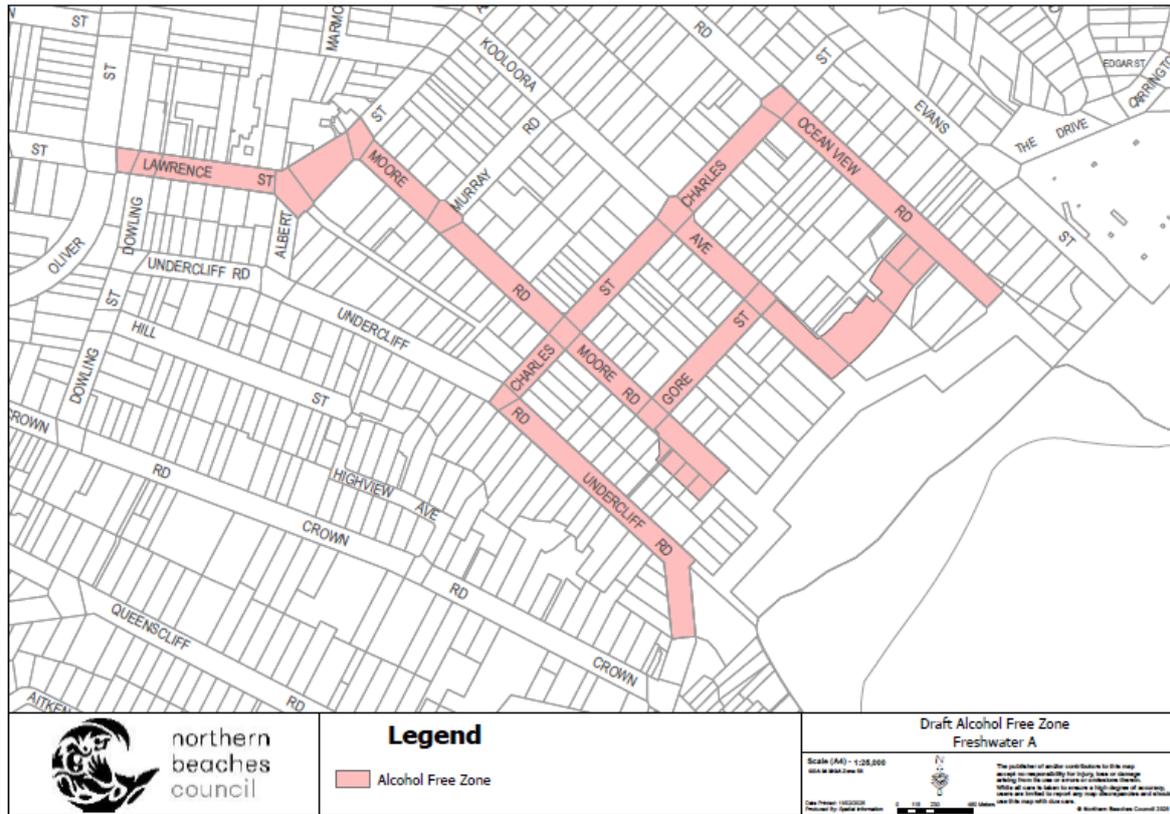
10. Freshwater AFZ – Zone A

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

- Location not currently coming to attention of Council as hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data indicates that public use of some sectors of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years. In particular, the area surrounding Freshwater Reserve.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 30 November 2025.



Boundary description:

Lawrence Street from Oliver Street in the West, Oceanview Road in the north, down to Undercliff Road in the south, including the public carpark adjacent to Freshwater Beach and next to the Freshwater Surf Life Saving Club, and all public carparks, footpaths and streets contained within this area.

Recommend:

Re-establish Freshwater AFZ – Zone A for a period of up to 4 years from 1 September 2025.

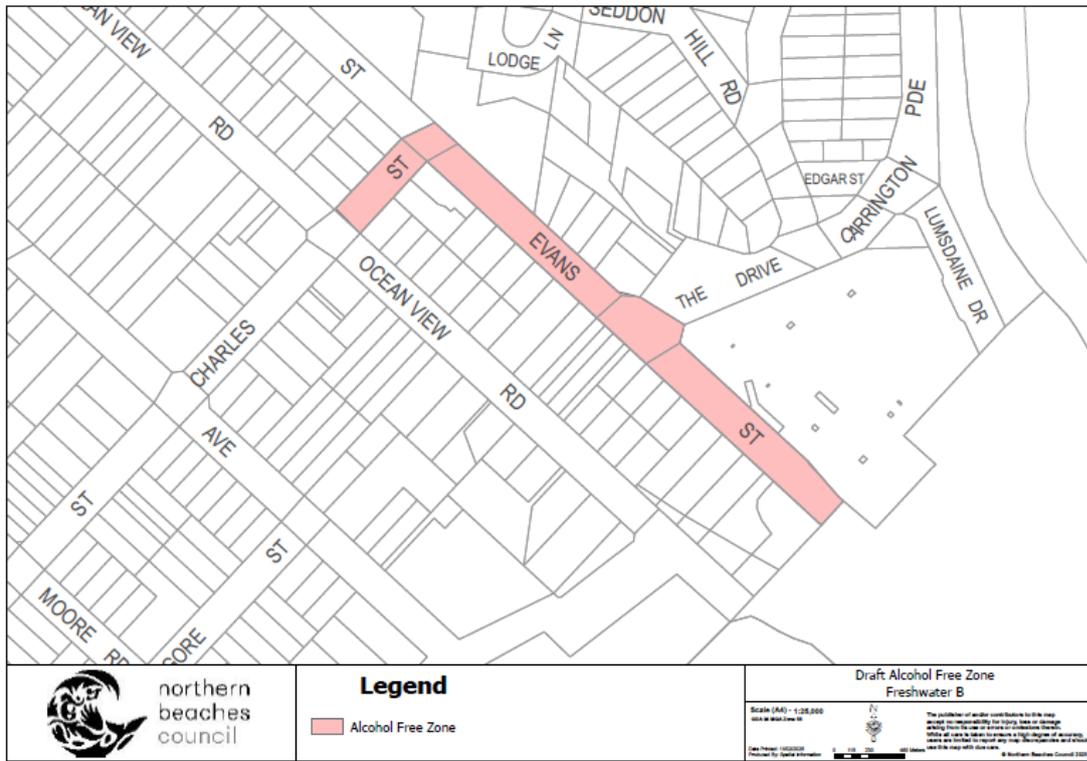
11. Freshwater AFZ – Zone B

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

- Location not currently coming to attention of Council as hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data does not indicate that public use of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years.
- No recorded incidents and as such does not meet the criteria for establishment of an AFZ as set out in the guidelines.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 30 November 2025.



Boundary description:

Charles Street through to Evans Street down to the junction of Lumsdaine Drive.

Recommend:

Not re-establish Freshwater AFZ – Zone B.

12. Manly AFZ

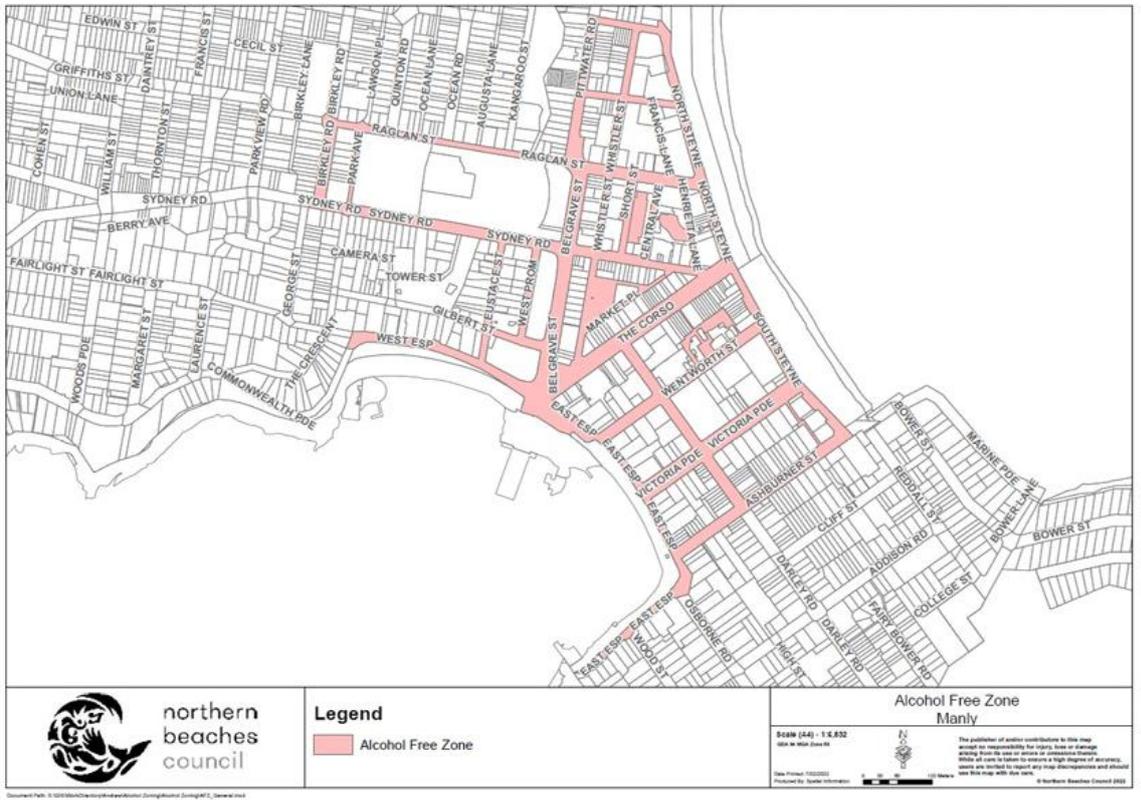
Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

- Location is currently known to Council as a hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data indicates that public use of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years.

Manly has high levels of street drinking and alcohol related antisocial behaviour has been occurring throughout the AFZ. Continued Police and Ranger enforcement occurs with seasonal variations. East Esplanade Management Plan in place to address alcohol related antisocial behaviour at that location. Ongoing consultation with Police, including via Police Council Operational Meetings and Community Safety Advisory Committee.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 30 November 2025.



Boundary description:

Bounded by North Steyne and South Steyne in the east, along Ashburner Street, East and West Esplanade, Eustace Street. West along Sydney Road to Birkley Road and down Raglan to Pittwater Road, to Steinton Street in the north. Includes all public carparks, footpaths and streets bounded by this area.

Recommend:

Re-establish Manly AFZ for a period of up to 4 years from 1 September 2025.

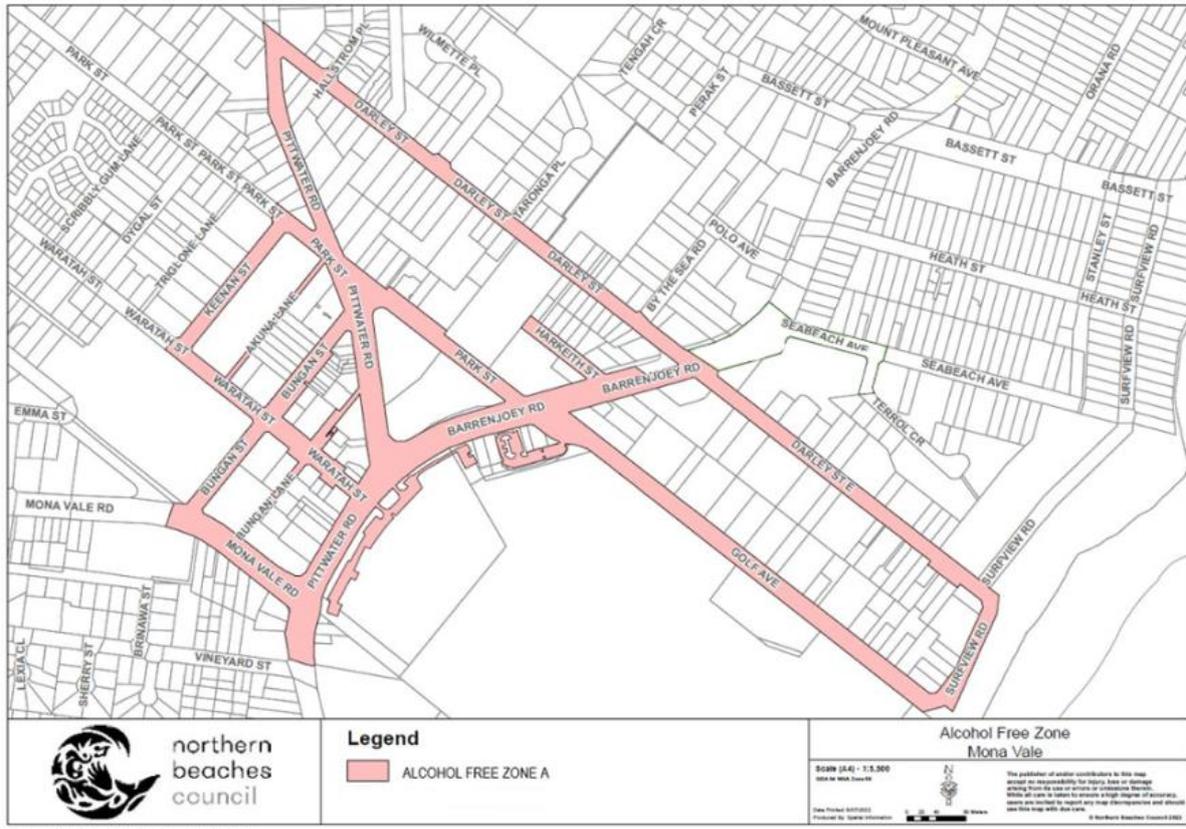
13. Mona Vale AFZ – Zone A

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

- This location is identified as a current hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data indicates that public use of some sectors of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years. In particular the Mona Vale central CBD area and beachfront (Surfview Rd).
- Some areas have no recorded incidents. These pockets do not meet the criteria for establishment of an AFZ as set out in the guidelines. Golf Ave and sections of Pittwater Rd and Darley Street are not recommended for this reason.
- It is proposed to include Surfview Road and Darley St East in this AFZ following analysis of police data.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 30 November 2025.



Recommend:

Establish Mona Vale AFZ - Zone A with altered boundaries for a period of up to 4 years from 1 September 2025.

Combine with Mona Vale AFZ – Zone B to form a single Mona Vale AFZ (refer to page 18 for proposed boundary details).

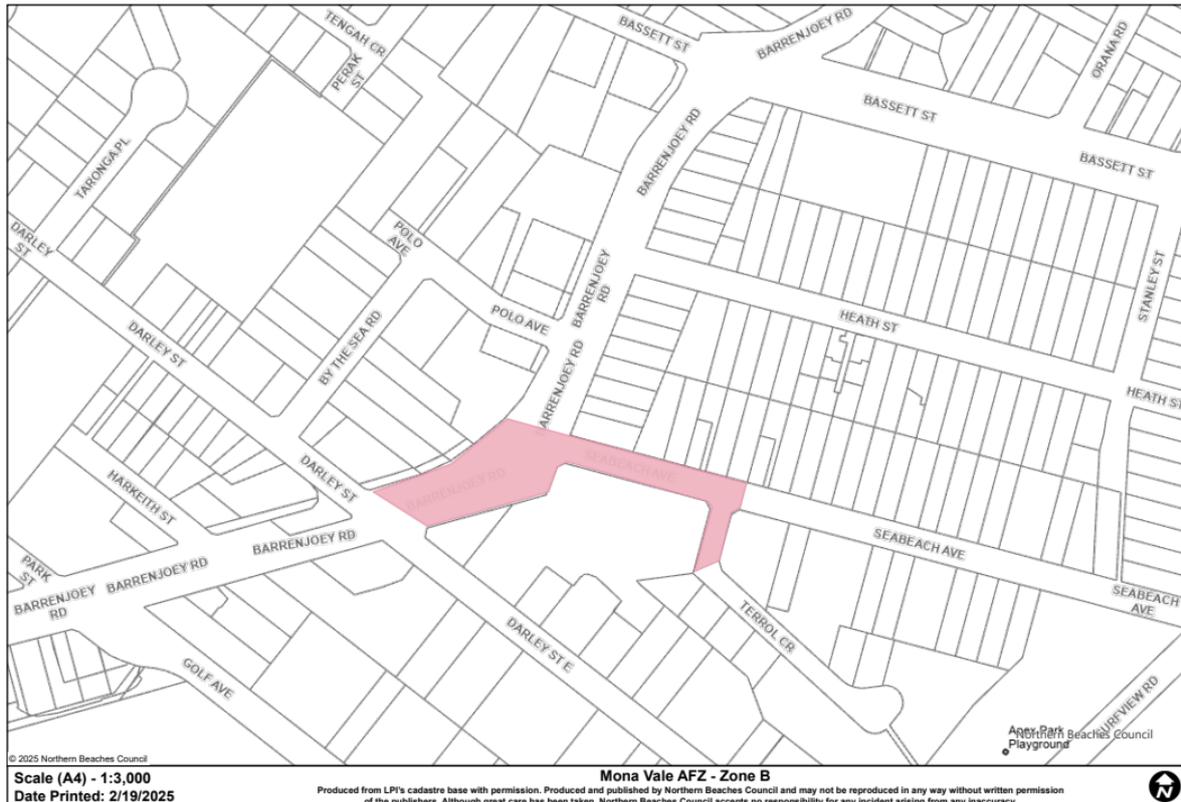
14. Mona Vale AFZ – Zone B

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

- This location is identified as a hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data indicates that public use of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 30 November 2025.



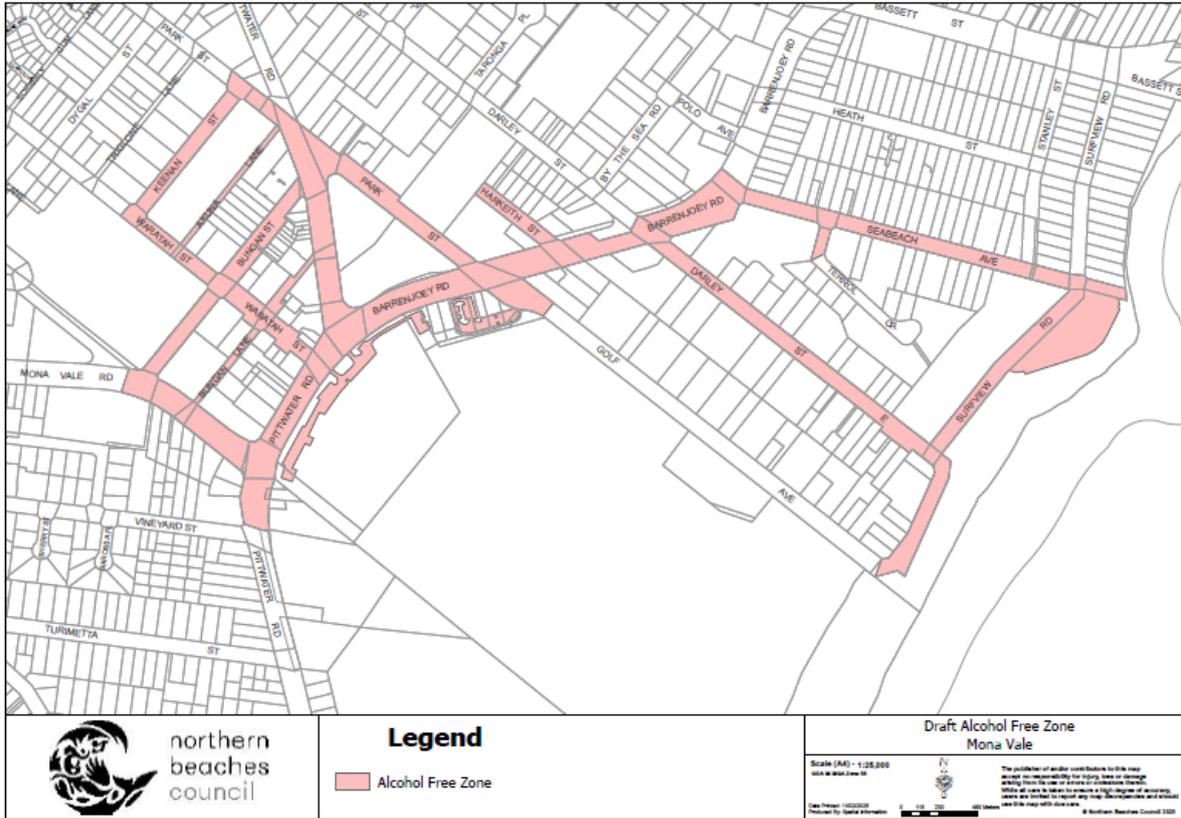
Recommend:

Establish Mona Vale AFZ - Zone B for a period of up to 4 years from 1 September 2025.

Combine with Mona Vale AFZ – Zone A to form a single Mona Vale AFZ (refer to page 18 for proposed boundary details).

Proposed Mona Vale AFZ:

It is proposed to combine the altered Mona Vale AFZ - Zone A and existing Mona Vale AFZ – Zone B into a single Mona Vale AFZ.



Boundary description for proposed Mona Vale AFZ:

The area bounded by Golf Avenue at the Park and Ride carpark, down to the junction of Pittwater and Vineyard St in the south, to the junction of Mona Vale and Bungan Street in the west and the junction of Park Street to Keenan Street in the north. Barrenjoey Road from Park St to Seabeach Avenue and along Seabeach Avenue to Mona Vale Beach. Along Surfview Road to Golf Avenue. Darley Street East, Harkeith Street and Terrol Crescent adjacent to Seabeach Gardens Retirement Village. All public car parks, footpaths and streets contained within this area including Kitchener Park, Mona Vale Park and Ride and Mona Vale Beach carpark.

Recommend:

Establish proposed Mona Vale AFZ for a period of up to 4 years from 1 September 2025.

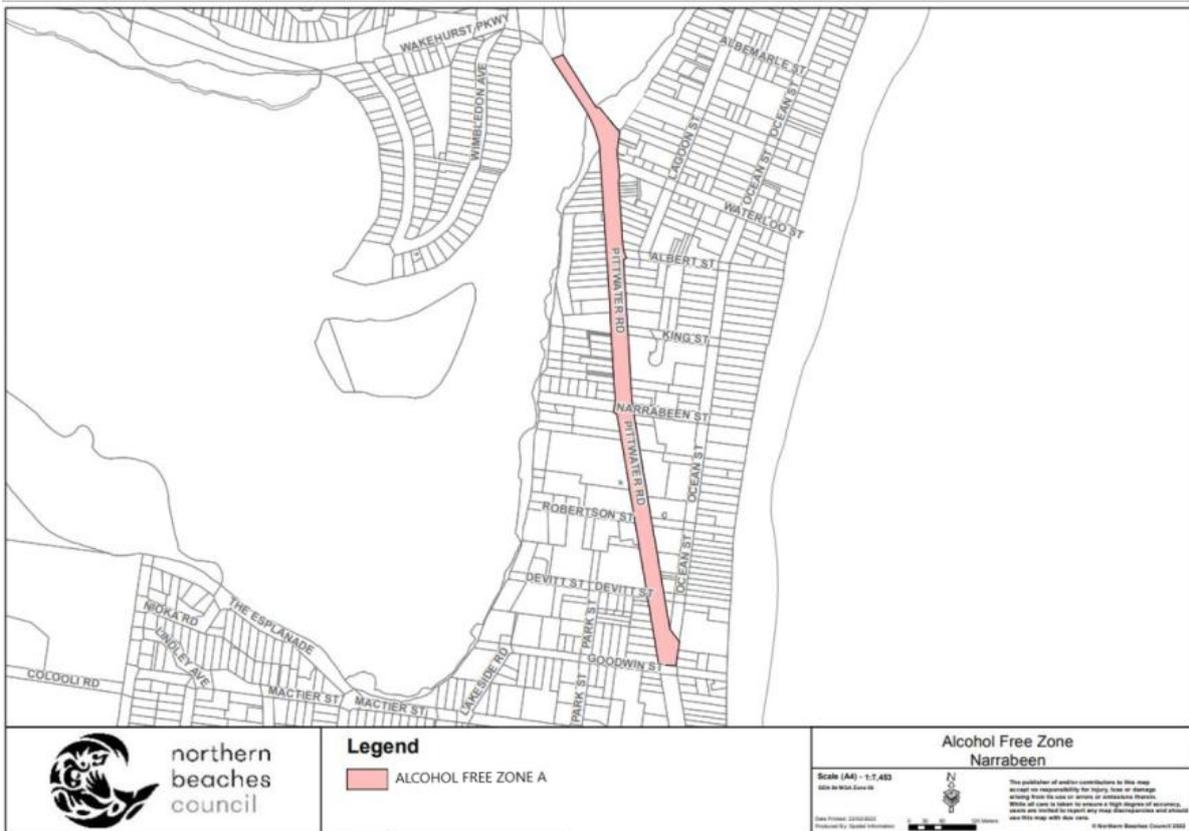
15. Narrabeen AFZ – Zone A

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

- Location not currently coming to attention of Council as hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data indicates that public use of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 31 August 2025.



Boundary description:

Pittwater Road between Ocean Street to the south and the bridge over Narrabeen Lake to the north.

Recommend:

Establish Narrabeen AFZ - Zone A for a period of up to 4 years from 1 September 2025.

Combine with Narrabeen AFZ – Zone B to form a single Narrabeen AFZ (refer to page 21 for proposed boundary details).

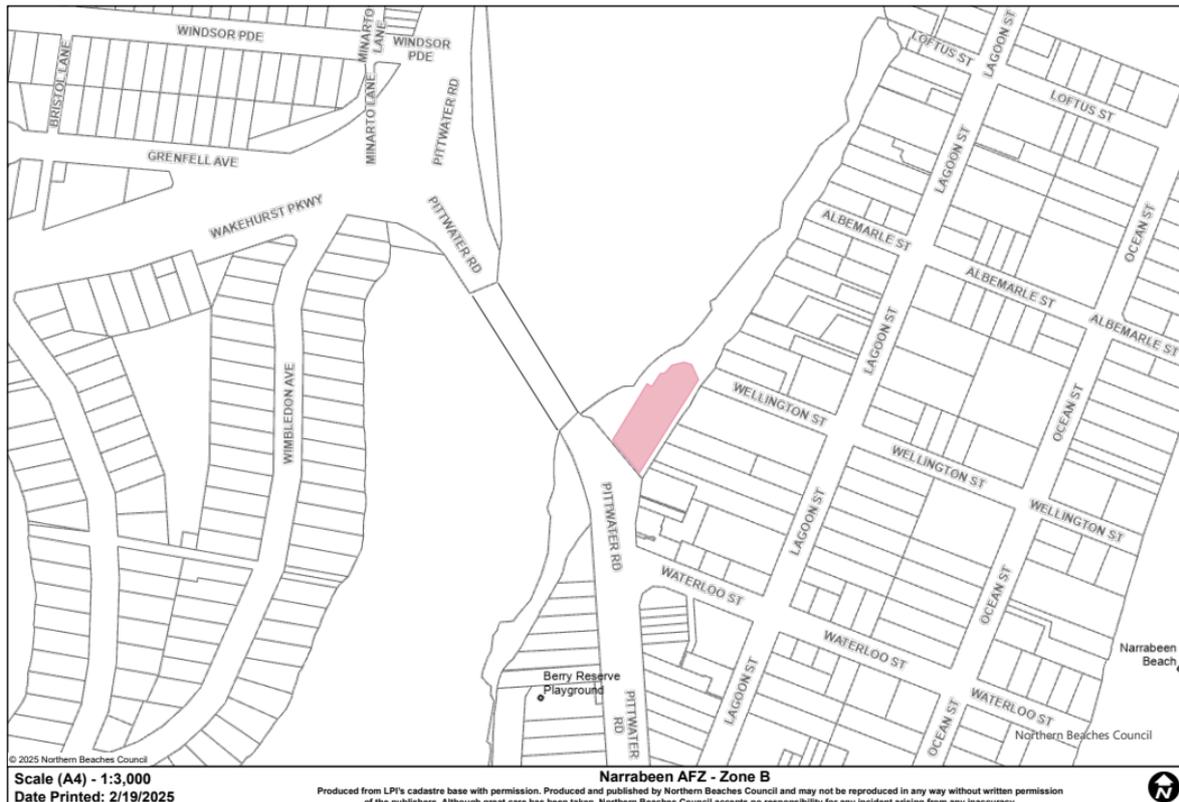
16. Narrabeen AFZ – Zone B

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

- This location is known to Council as hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data indicates that public use of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 31 August 2025.



Boundary description:

Wellington Street carpark.

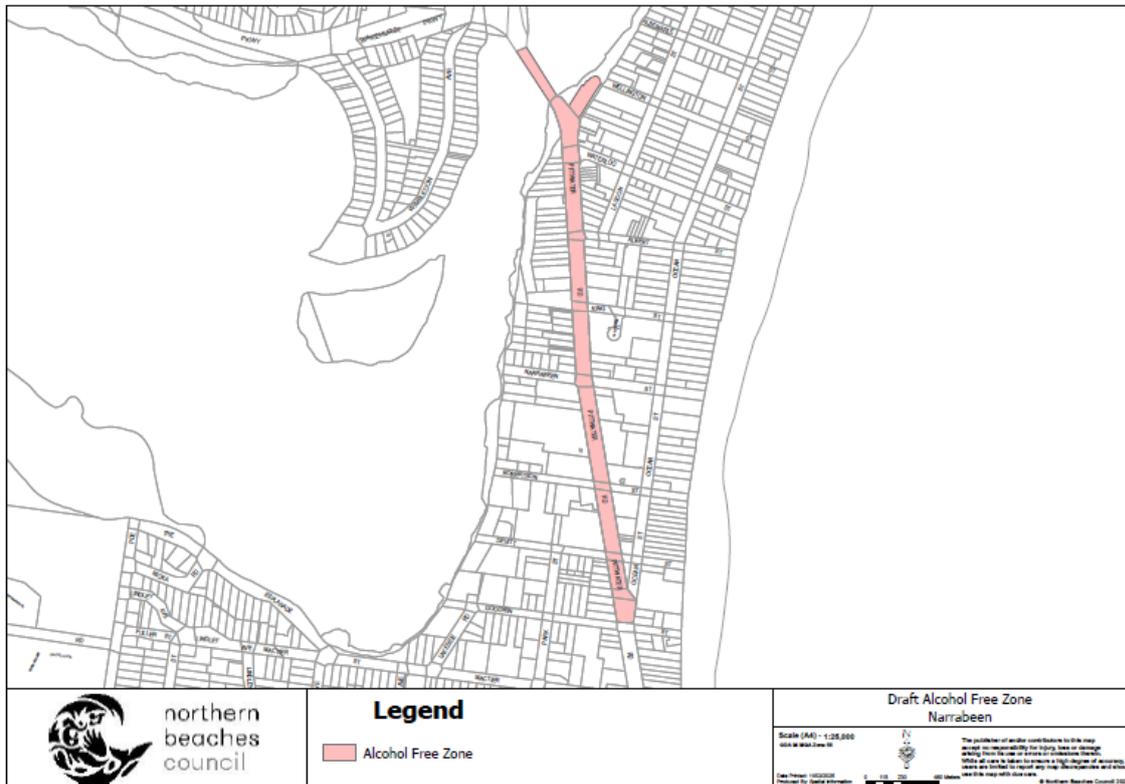
Recommend:

Establish Narrabeen AFZ - Zone B for a period of up to 4 years from 1 September 2025.

Combine with Narrabeen AFZ – Zone A to form a single Narrabeen AFZ (refer to page 21 for proposed boundary details)

Proposed Narrabeen AFZ:

It is proposed to combine the existing Narrabeen AFZ Zone A and existing Narrabeen AFZ – Zone B into a single Narrabeen AFZ.



Boundary description for proposed AFZ:

Pittwater Road between Ocean Street to the south and the bridge over Narrabeen Lake to the north.
Wellington Street carpark.

Recommend:

Re-establish Narrabeen AFZs – Zone A and B as a single AFZ for a period of up to 4 years from 1 September 2025.

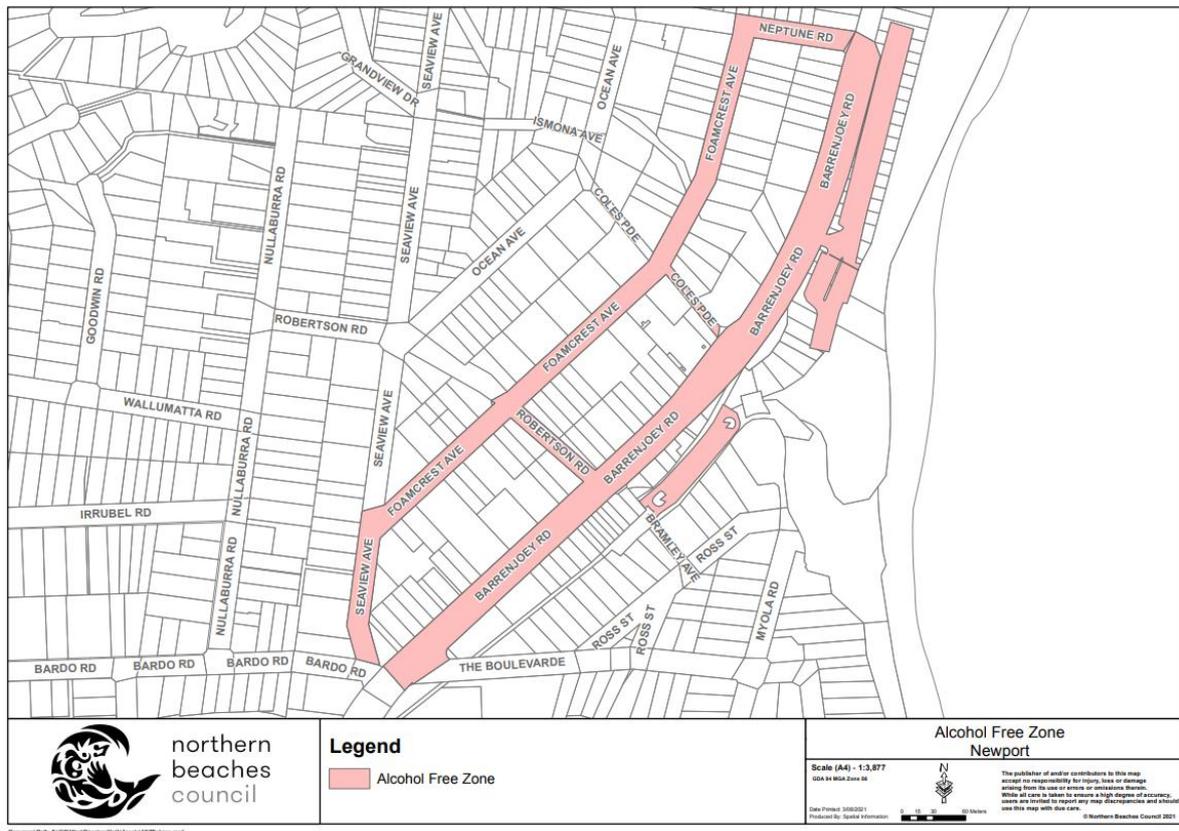
17. Newport Beach AFZ

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

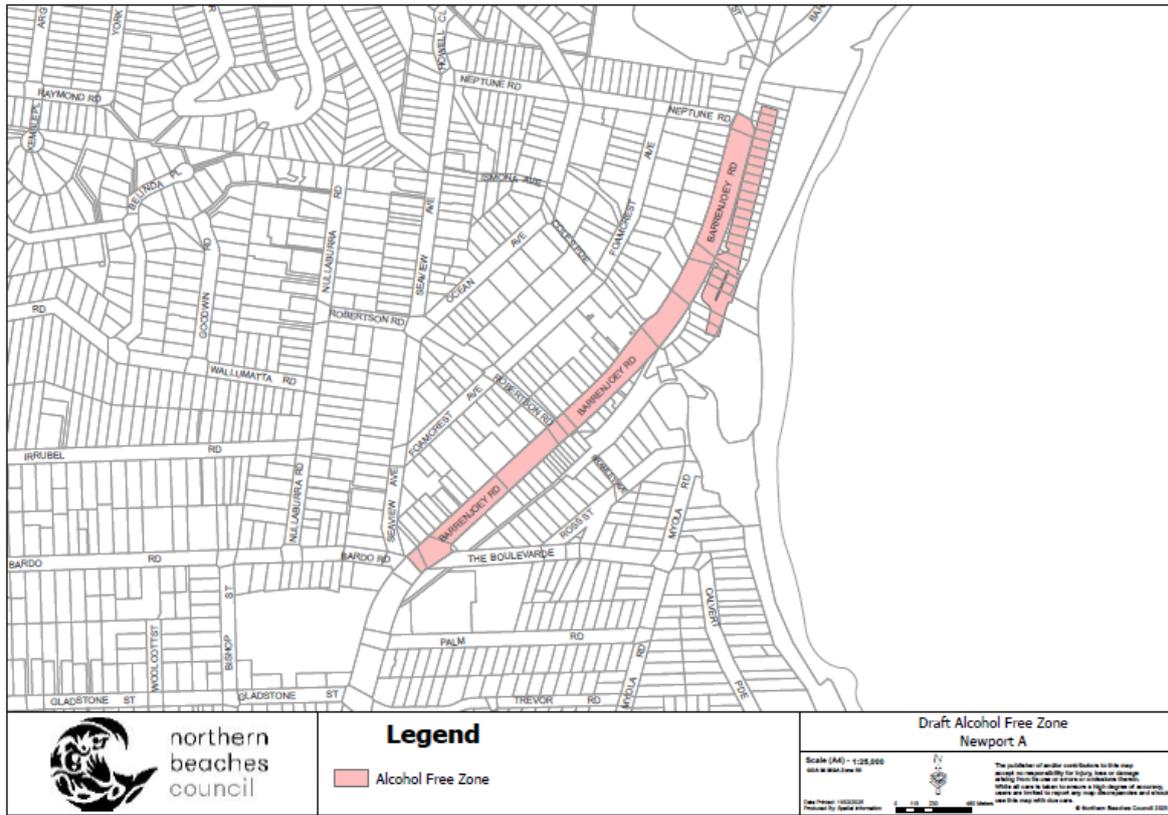
- Location not currently coming to attention of Council as hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data indicates that public use of some sectors of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years. In particular Barrenjoey Rd.
- This AFZ has areas with no recorded incidents. These pockets do not meet the criteria for establishment of an AFZ as set out in the guidelines. Areas excluding Barrenjoey Rd are not recommended for this reason.
- It is proposed to establish a new Newport AFZ – Zone A with reduced boundaries.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 30 November 2025



Proposed Newport AFZ – Zone A:



Boundary description for proposed AFZ:

Barrenjoey Road from The Boulevard to Neptune Rd and Newport Beach carpark. Includes all public carparks, footpaths and streets bounded by this area.

Recommend:

Establish proposed Newport AFZ – Zone A, with reduced boundaries, for a period of up to 4 years from 1 September 2025.

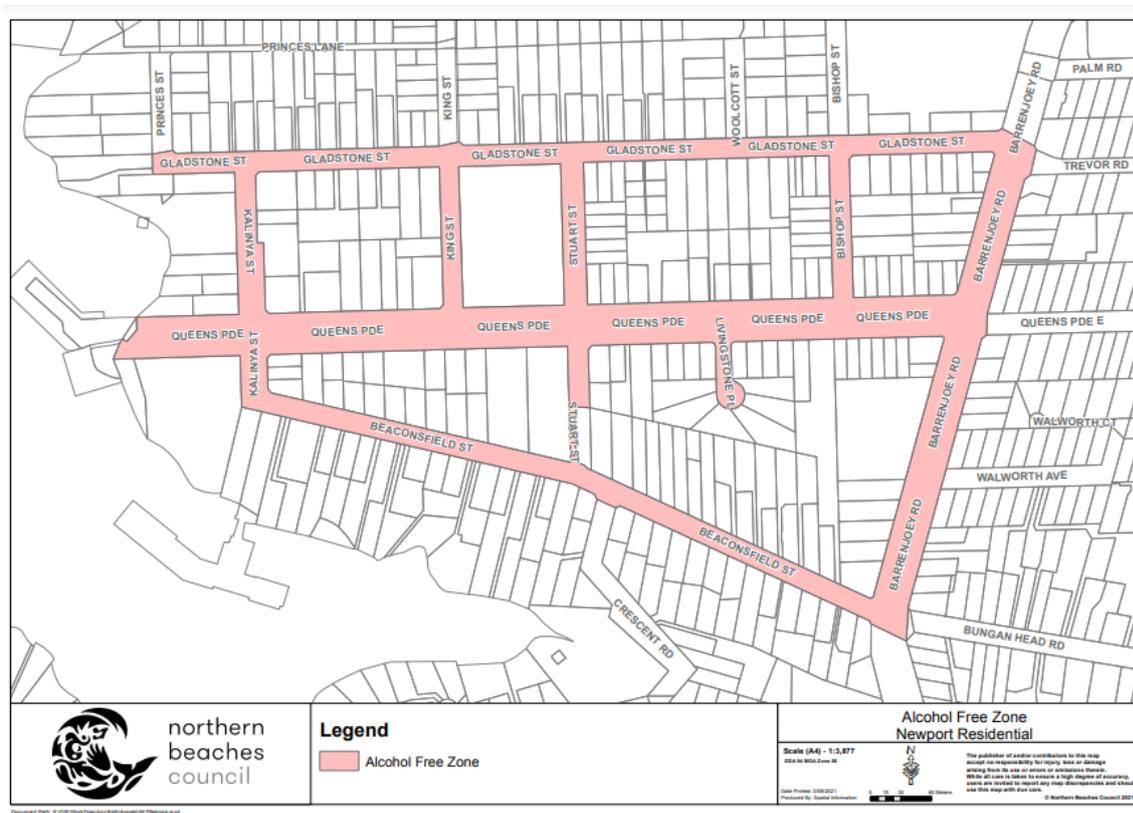
18. Newport Residential AFZ

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

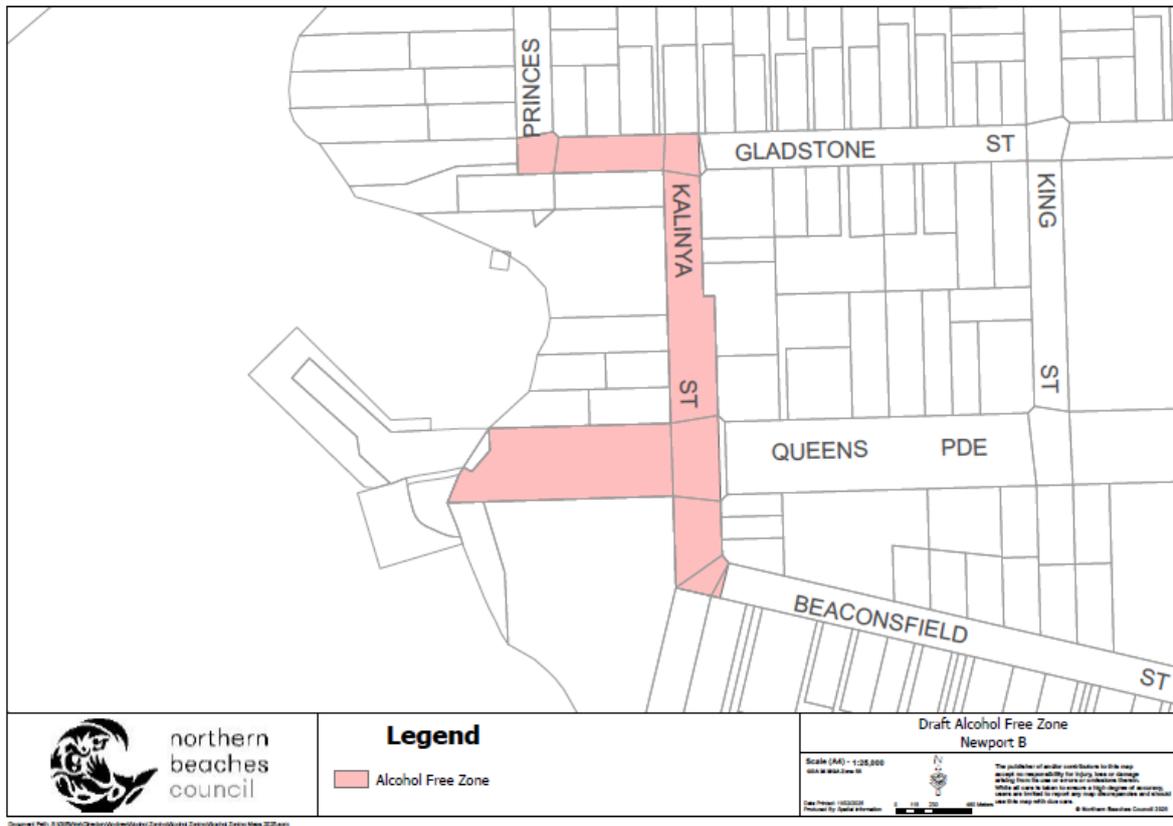
- Location not currently coming to attention of Council as hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data indicates that public use of some sectors of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years. In particular Kalinya St.
- Some areas have minimal recorded incidents. These areas do not meet the criteria for establishment of an AFZ as set out in the guidelines. Beaconsfield Street, Queens Parade and Gladstone Street not recommended for this reason.
- It is proposed to establish a new Newport AFZ – Zone B with reduced boundaries.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 30 November 2025.



Proposed Newport AFZ – Zone B:



Boundary description for proposed AFZ:

Kalinya Street Newport. Gladstone Street between Kalinya and Princes Street. Queens Parade west of Kalinya Street. Includes all public carparks, footpaths and streets bounded by this area.

Recommend:

Establish proposed Newport AFZ – Zone B, with reduced boundaries, for a period of up to 4 years from 1 September 2025.

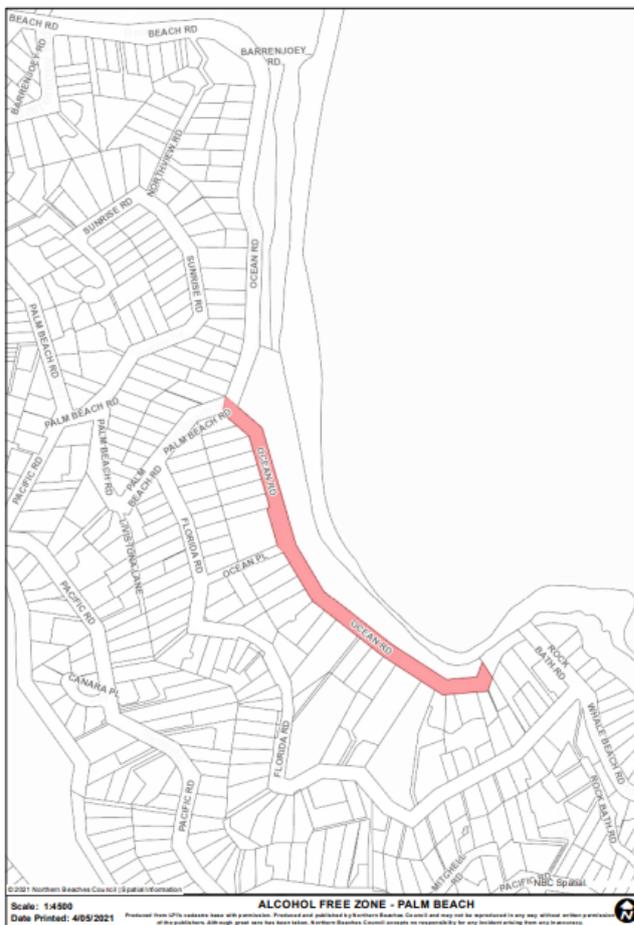
19. Palm Beach AFZ

Summary of assessment of existing AFZ:

- Location not currently coming to attention of Council as hotspot for inappropriate street drinking.
- Police data does not indicate that public use of the existing AFZ has been compromised by street drinkers over the 3 years.
- There is insufficient evidence to support the re-establishment of this AFZ in this location.

Existing AFZ:

Expiring 30 November 2025.



Boundary description:

Ocean Road from the rock pool end, through to the junction with Palm Beach Road; and all public carparks, streets and pathways contained within this area.

Recommend:

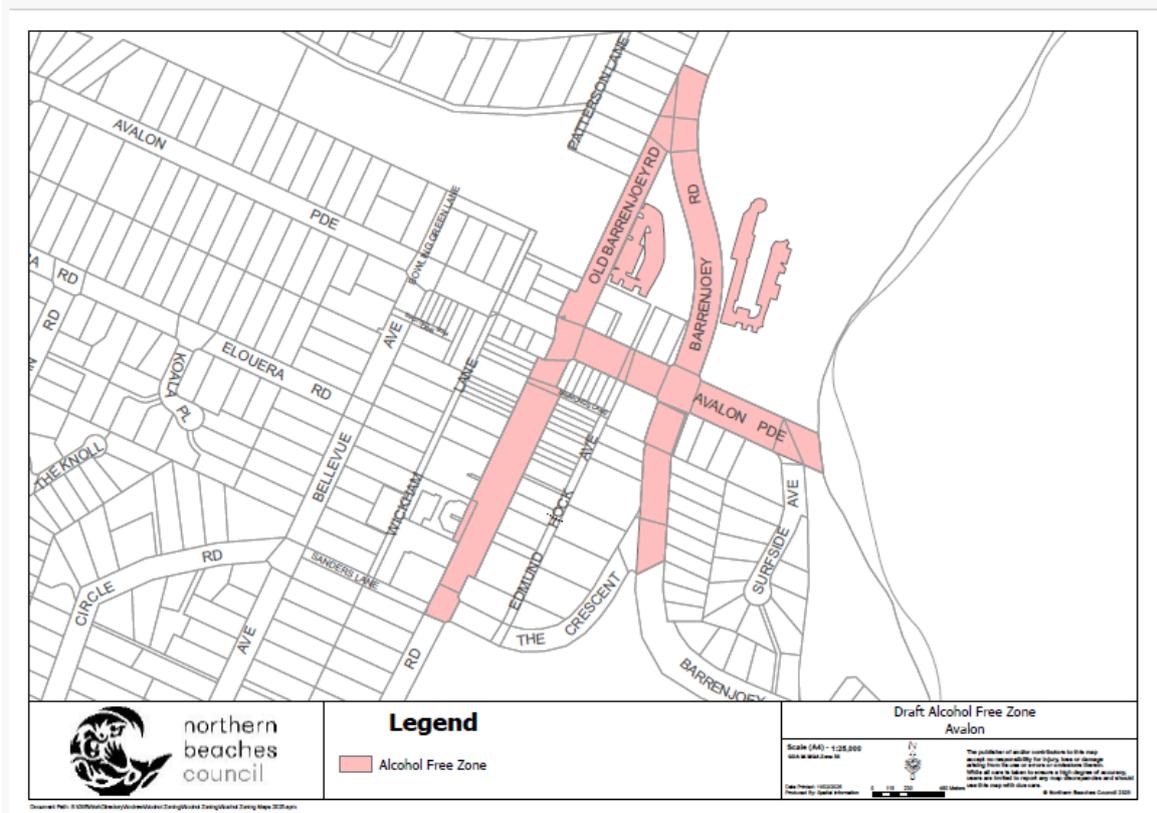
Not re-establish Palm Beach AFZ.

Proposed Alcohol Free Zones (AFZ)

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1. Avalon AFZ



Boundary description for proposed Avalon AFZ:

Old Barrenjoey Road from the junction with The Crescent in the south, along to the intersection with Barrenjoey Road in the north. Then south along Barrenjoey Road down to The Crescent. Avalon Parade from Old Barrenjoey Road to the east. All public carparks, streets and pathways within this area, including Avalon Beach carpark.

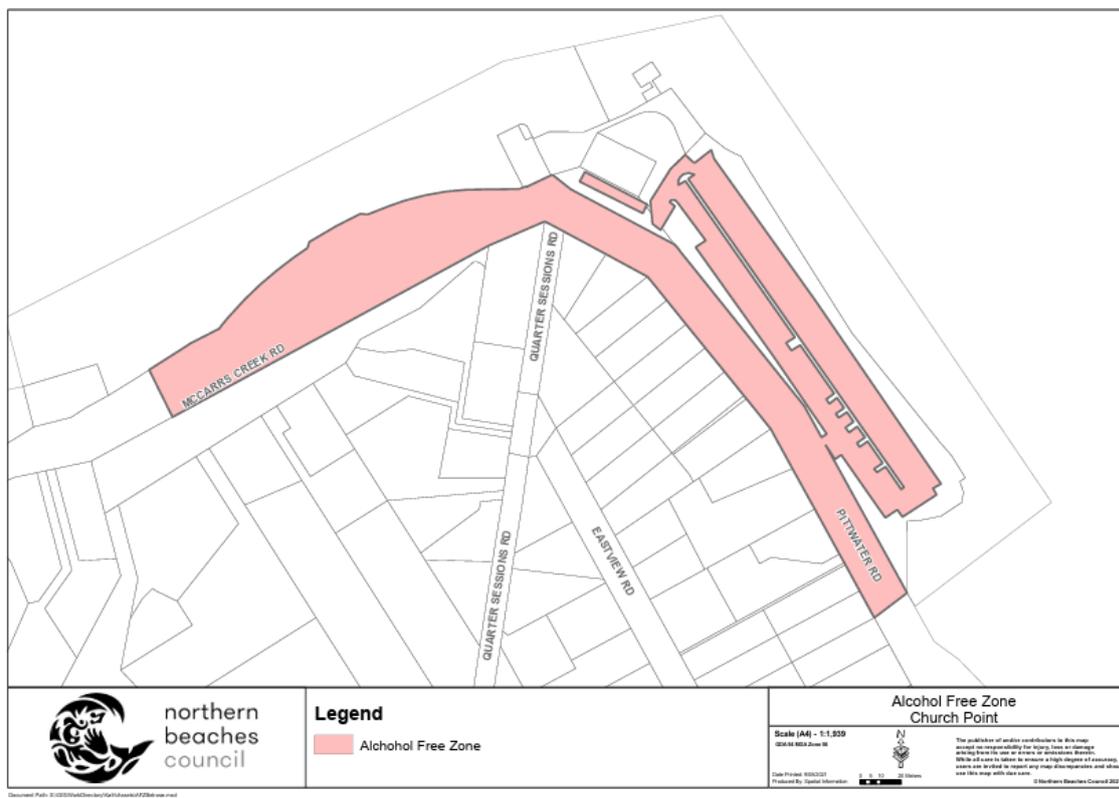
2. Brookvale AFZ



Boundary description:

Bus stops at Warringah Mall, Pittwater Road.

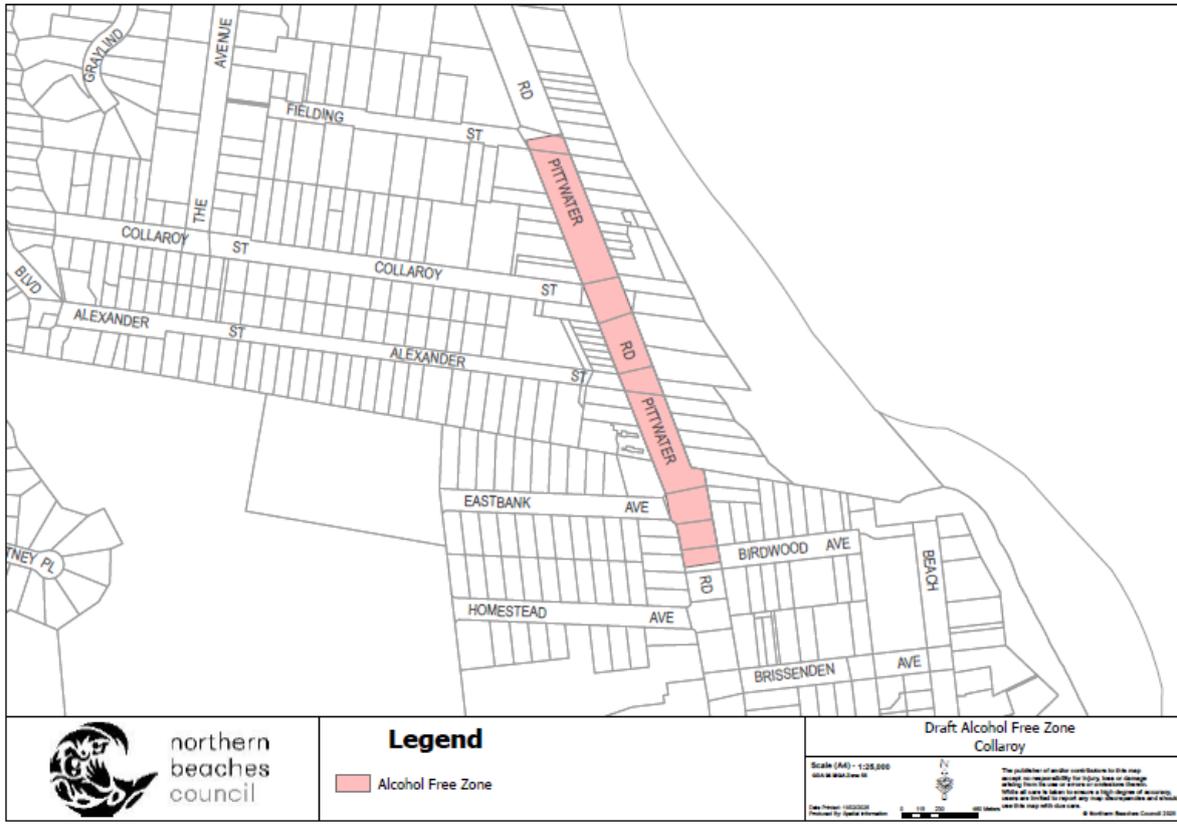
3. Church Point AFZ



Boundary description:

From the cargo wharf in McCarrs Creek Road to the eastern end of the Church Point carpark; and includes all public carparks, footpaths and streets bounded by this area.

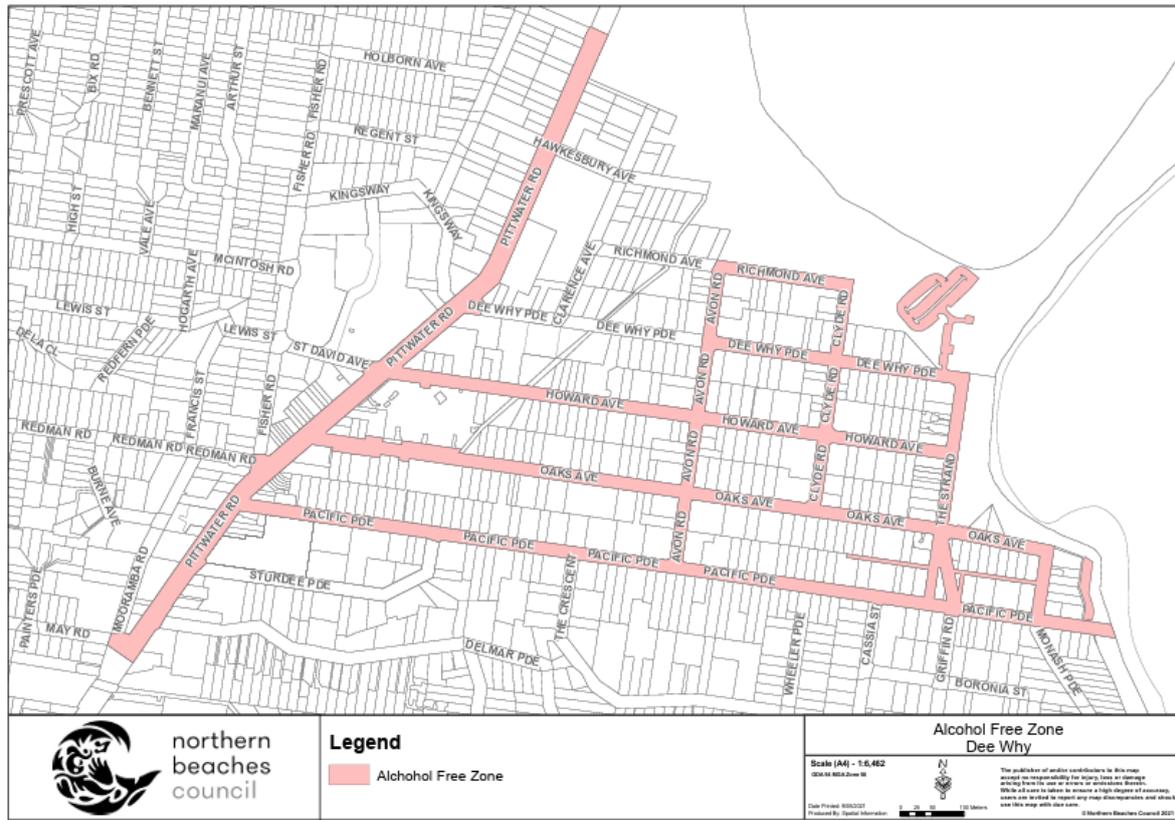
4. Collaroy AFZ



Boundary description for proposed Collaroy AFZ:

Pittwater Road between Birdwood Avenue and Fielding Street.

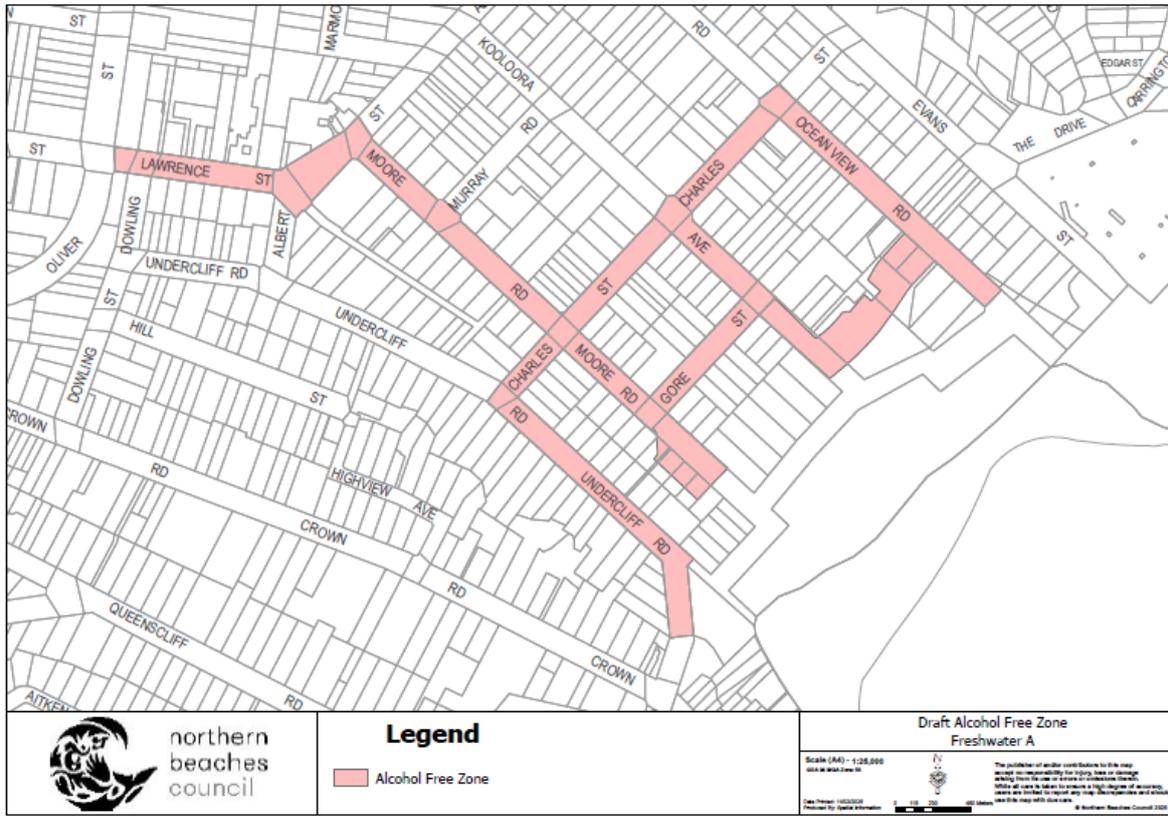
5. Dee Why AFZ



Boundary description:

Pittwater Road in the west, and extends down Pacific Parade, Oaks Avenue and Howard Avenue to Avon Road and bounded by Richmond Road in the north, on the east by The Strand, extending to the Surf Life Saving Club and by Pacific Parade at the south. Includes all public carparks, footpaths and streets bounded by this area.

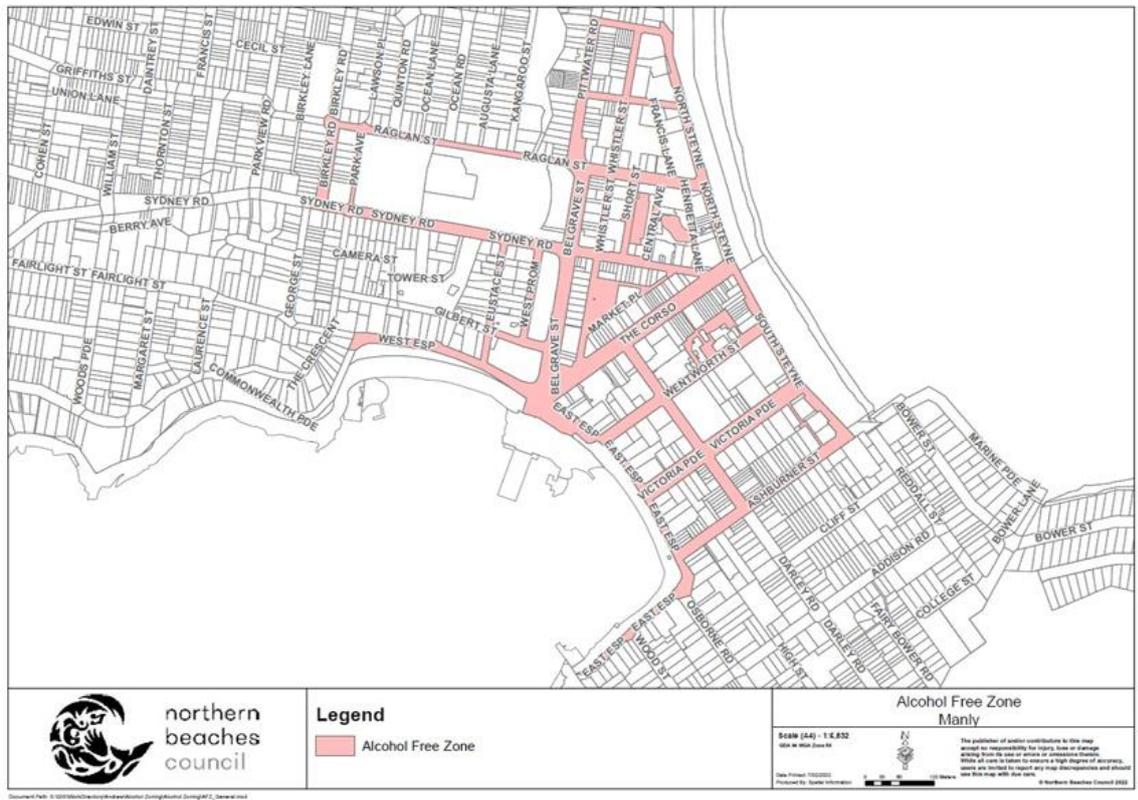
6. Freshwater AFZ



Boundary description:

Lawrence Street from Oliver Street in the West, Oceanview Road in the north, down to Undercliff Road in the south, including the public carpark adjacent to Freshwater Beach and next to the Freshwater Surf Life Saving Club, and all public carparks, footpaths and streets contained within this area.

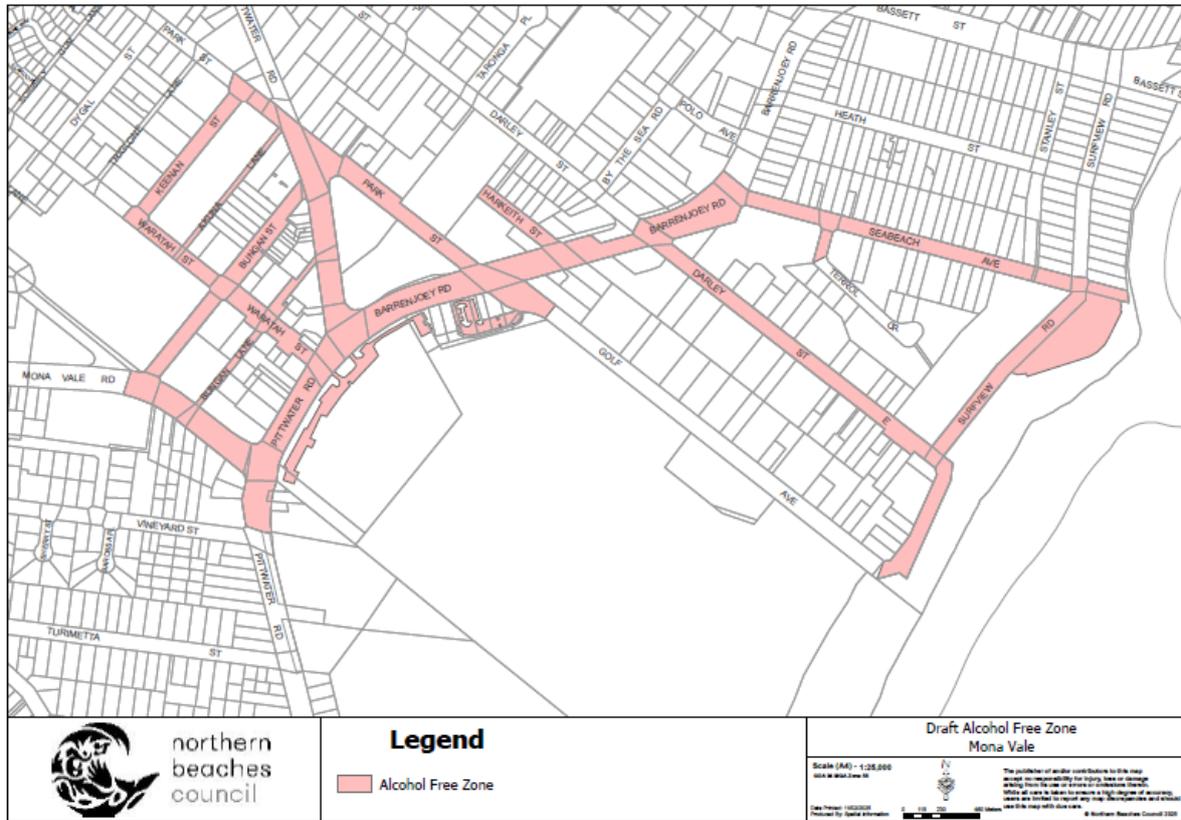
7. Manly AFZ



Boundary description:

Bounded by North Steyne and South Steyne in the east, along Ashburner Street, East and West Esplanade, Eustace Street. West along Sydney Road to Birkeley Road and down Raglan to Pittwater Road, to Steinton Street in the north. Includes all public carparks, footpaths and streets bounded by this area.

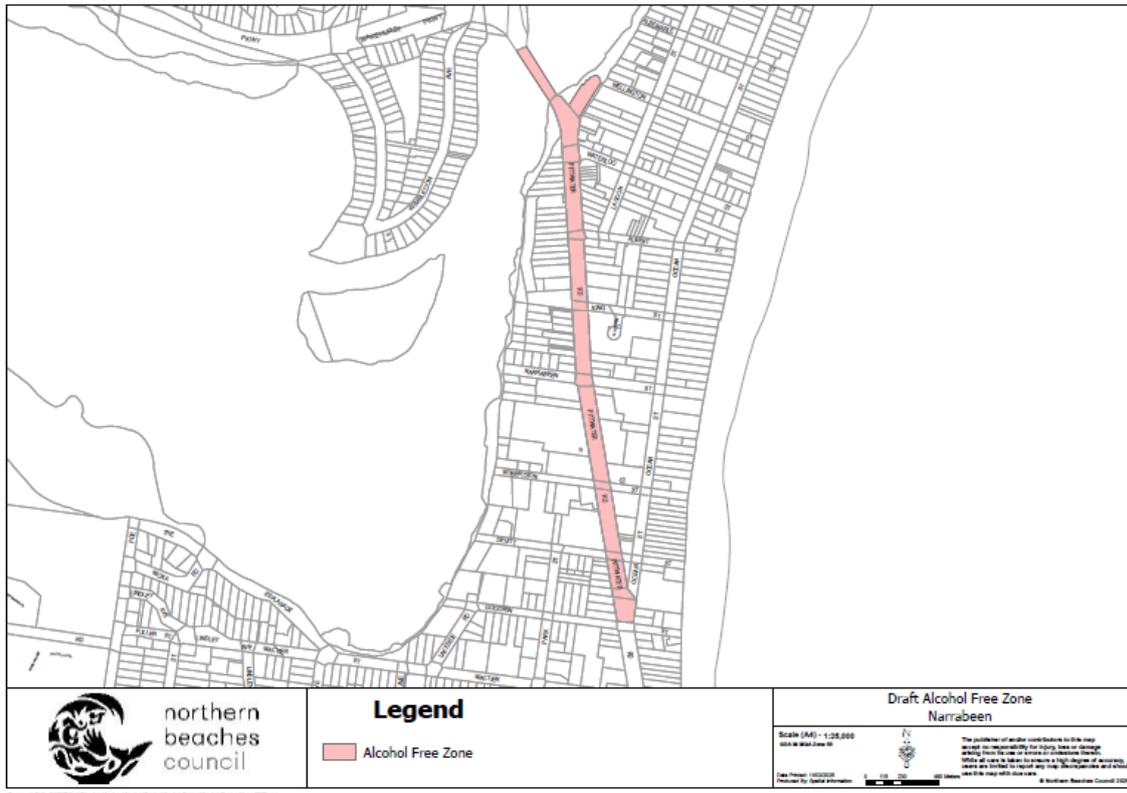
8. Mona Vale AFZ



Boundary description for proposed Mona Vale AFZ:

The area bounded by Golf Avenue at the Park and Ride carpark, down to the junction of Pittwater and Vineyard St in the south, to the junction of Mona Vale and Bungan Street in the west and the junction of Park Street to Keenan Street in the north. Barrenjoey Road from Park St to Seabeach Avenue and along Seabeach Avenue to Mona Vale Beach. Along Surfview Road to Golf Avenue. Darley Street East, Harkeith Street and Terrol Crescent adjacent to Seabeach Gardens Retirement Village. All public carparks, footpaths and streets contained within this area including Kitchener Park, Mona Vale Park and Ride and Mona Vale Beach carpark.

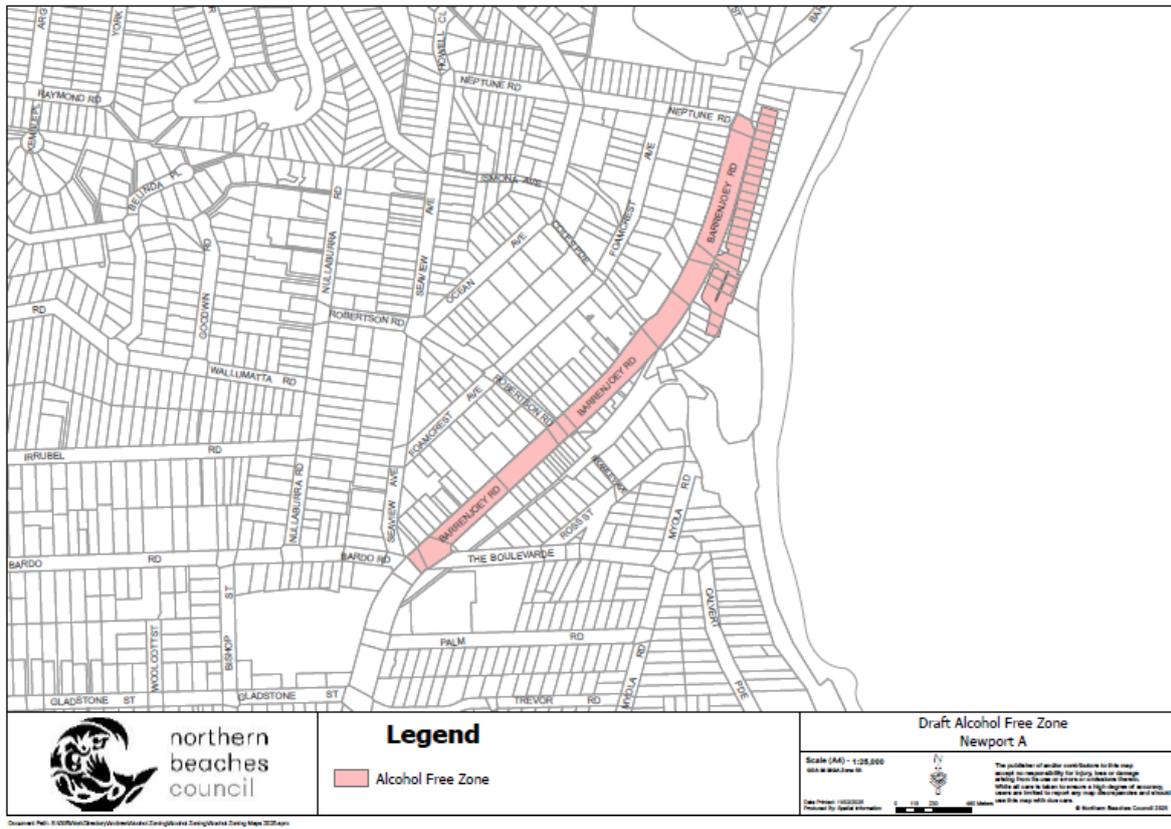
9. Narrabeen AFZ



Boundary description for proposed AFZ:

Pittwater Road between Ocean Street to the south and the bridge over Narrabeen Lake to the north. Wellington Street carpark.

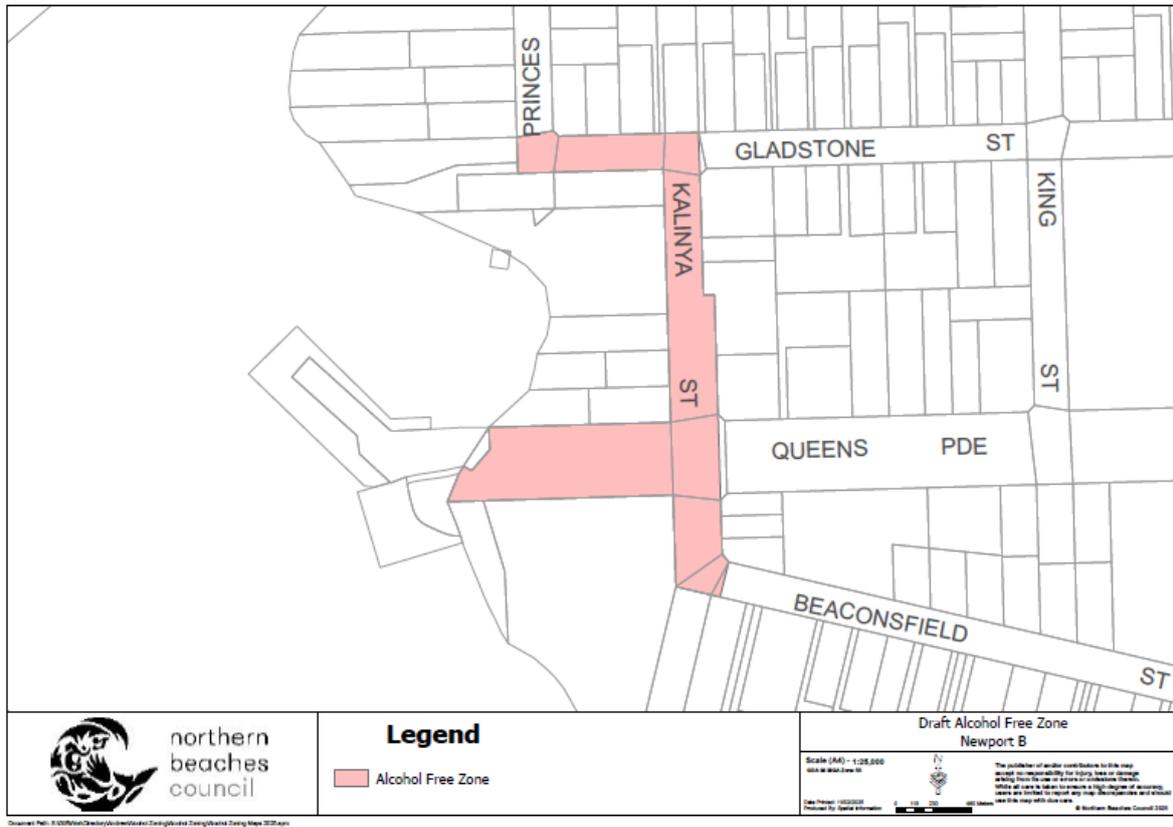
10. Newport AFZ – Zone A



Boundary description for proposed AFZ:

Barrenjoey Road from The Boulevard to Neptune Rd and Newport Beach carpark. Includes all public carparks, footpaths and streets bounded by this area.

11. Newport AFZ – Zone B



Boundary description for proposed AFZ:

Kalinya Street Newport. Gladstone Street between Kalinya and Princes Street. Queens Parade west of Kalinya Street. Includes all public carparks, footpaths and streets bounded by this area.



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Review of Alcohol Free Zones 2025

Consultation period: 21 March to 27 April 2025

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1. Summary

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement conducted from 21 March to 27 April 2025 as part of the proposal to re-establish existing Alcohol Free Zones (AFZs) in Brookvale, Church Point, Dee Why, Freshwater, Manly and Narrabeen, and to establish new AFZs with altered boundaries in Avalon Beach, Collaroy, Mona Vale and Newport.

These proposals were based on analysis of NSW Police and Council data, and consultation with NSW Police to assess current needs. AFZs support NSW Police and Council Rangers in their response to alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in road related public spaces.

The overall feedback collected during consultation indicated a mixed response with individual community member experiences and expectations in the same space differing. Some respondents identified feeling significant impact of alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in the proposed areas. Other respondents reported no awareness of alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in the same proposed zones.

Respondents who were supportive of the proposed AFZs generally indicated an issue with alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in the community, seeing the role AFZs play in supporting their safety in the community, and improving the community's ability to enjoy public spaces.

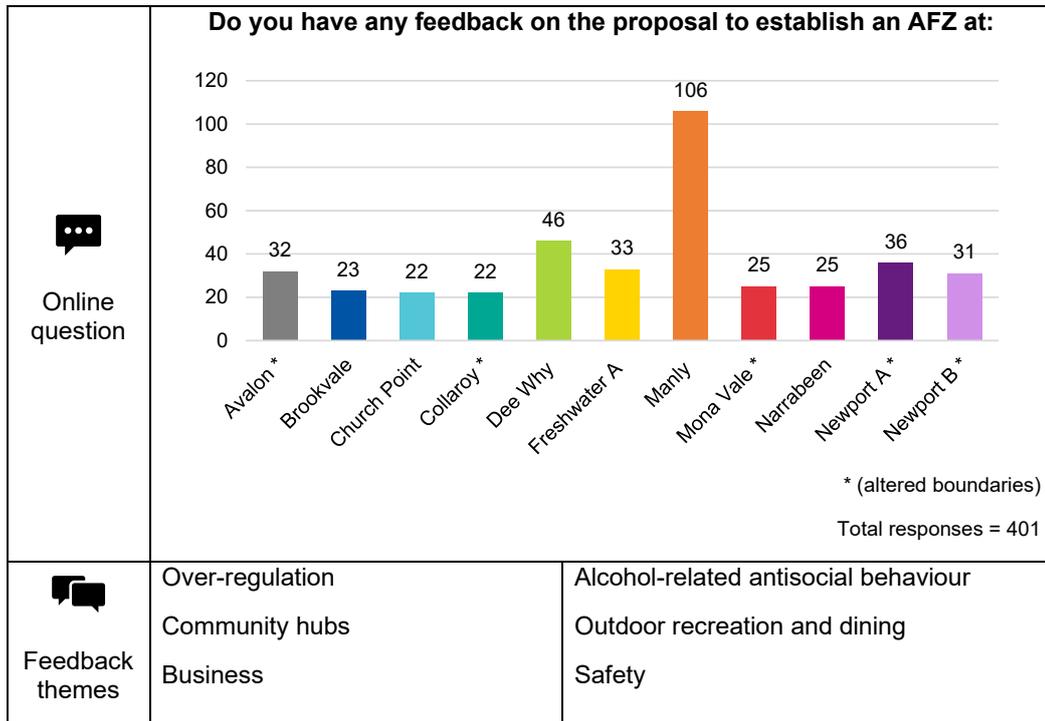
Respondents who were not supportive of the proposed AFZs generally indicated that there was insufficient need for the AFZ and considered the proposal an over-regulation and infringement on community rights to use public space.

A large number of general comments were received during the consultation that expressed the sentiment that community members are averse to having Council impose restrictions on their social activities.

1.1. Key outcomes

 Total unique responses	193*	
 How responses were received	Submission form Written responses (email/letter)	Completions: 191 Number received: 3

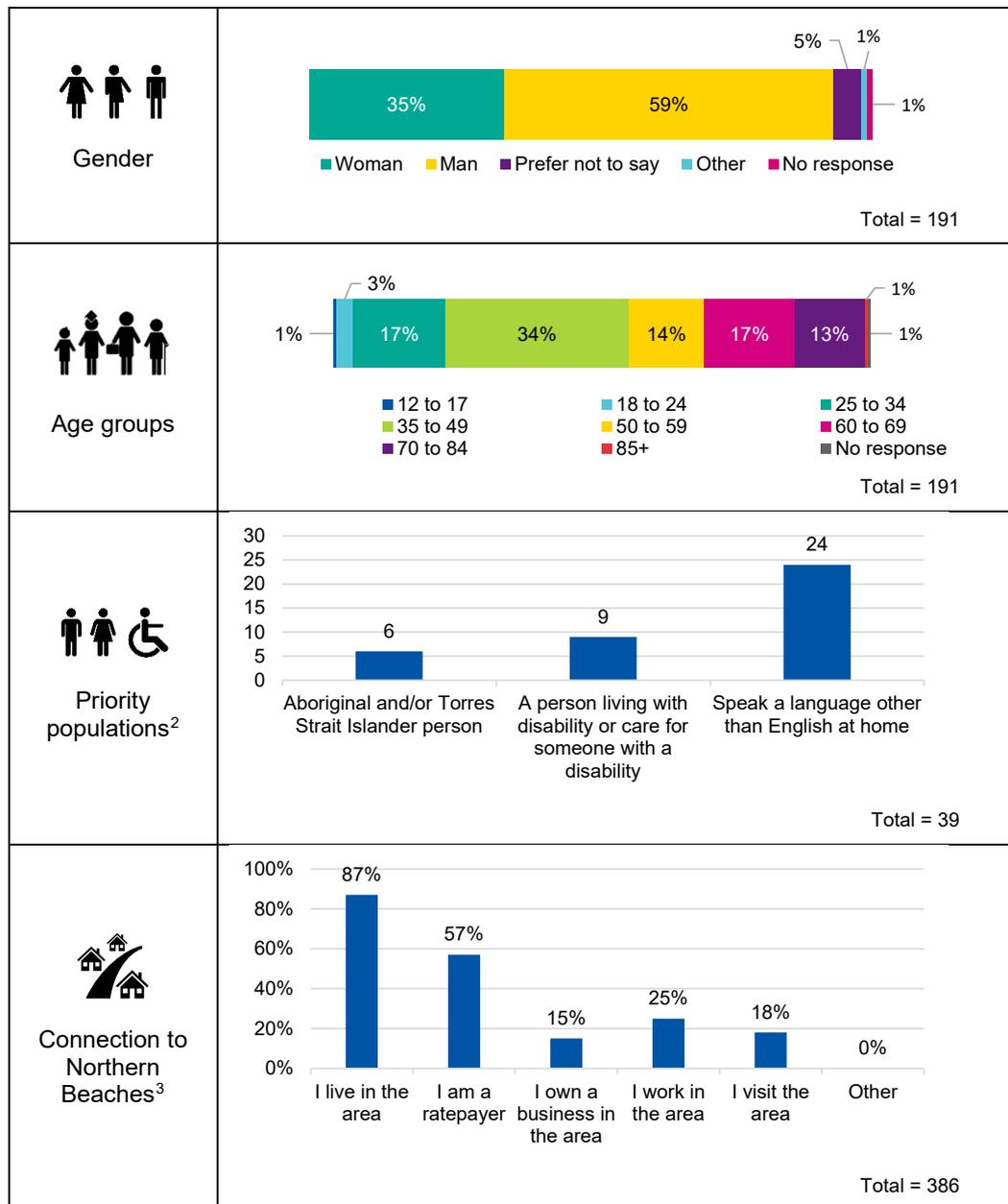
* One respondent made a submission via email in addition to completing the online form – this has been counted as 1 unique submission, with comments from both the email and form included in Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses.



1.2. How we engaged

 <p>Have Your Say: visitation stats</p>	<p>Visitors: 1,271</p>	<p>Visits: 1,725</p>	<p>Average time onsite: 2 minutes 5 seconds</p>
 <p>Print media and collateral</p>	<p>Letters to all Liquor licensees and schools within the proposed AFZs Site signs used: Yes</p>		<p>Distribution: 279 Number of signs: 33</p>
 <p>Electronic direct mail (EDM)</p>	<p>Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 1 edition Council (weekly) e-News: 2 editions Beaches Biz News (monthly): 1 edition Manly Mainstreet News Stakeholder emails</p>		<p>Distribution: 22,433 subscribers Distribution: 57,260 & 59,494 subscribers Distribution: 7,686 Distribution: 533 Distribution: 12</p>

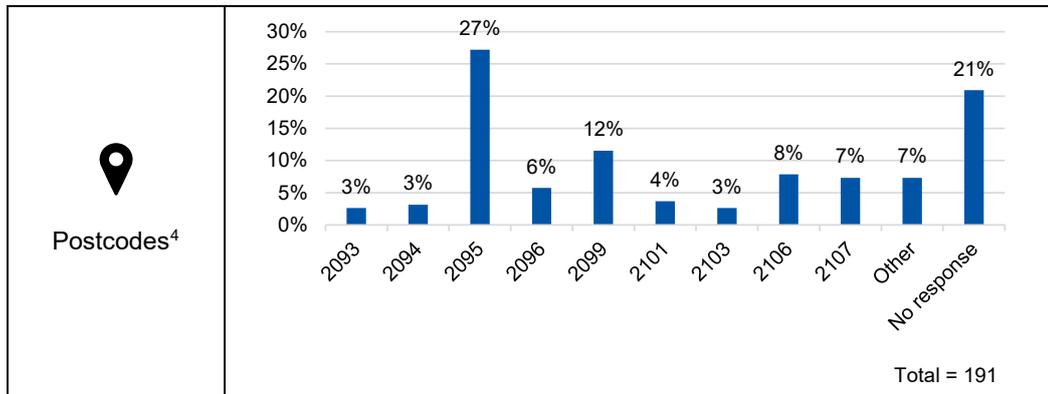
1.3. Who responded¹



¹ Demographic data was gathered by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail. Some totals may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

² Respondents could select more than one option

³ Respondents could select more than one option. Percentages are based on 191 online survey respondents.



2. Background

An Alcohol Free Zone (AFZ) is used to prevent disorderly behaviour caused by the consumption of alcohol in road related public areas in order to improve public safety. AFZs apply to public roads, footpaths, carparks and laneways in designated areas and are in force 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Once designated, AFZs are in place for up to 4 years and on expiry can be reviewed in consultation with NSW Police and the community per the [Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones 2009](#). If appropriate, Council can determine to re-establish the AFZ or establish with altered boundaries to meet community needs.

We have undertaken a comprehensive assessment of all existing AFZs in consultation with NSW Police. Assessment considered NSW Police and Council data as well as ongoing consultations on areas experiencing issues with alcohol-related antisocial behaviour.

The following existing AFZs have been assessed as meeting the criteria for re-establishment: Brookvale, Church Point, Dee Why, Freshwater, Manly and Narrabeen.

There are 2 existing adjacent AFZs located in Narrabeen (Zones A and B) that are due to expire on 31 August 2025. We are proposing to re-establish the existing zones as a single Narrabeen AFZ.

Assessment of alcohol-related behaviour in public spaces in Avalon Beach, Collaroy, Mona Vale and Newport indicated a change in local behaviour since the establishment of the existing AFZs. As a result, it has been proposed to establish AFZs with altered boundaries in these areas to meet changing community needs.

It is proposed to establish and re-establish each of these zones for a period of 4 years, from 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2029.

We are not proposing to re-establish existing AFZs in Belrose, Cromer, Forestville or Freshwater Zone B as these areas do not meet the criteria for establishment of an AFZ as set out in the Ministerial Guidelines.

The establishment and re-establishment of AFZs require community consultation as per Sections 644, 644A, 644B, 644C and 646 of the Local Government Act 1993, and the associated Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones 2009.

On 18 March 2025, Council endorsed the public exhibition of the proposed AFZs. We consider submissions from the community and NSW Police in determining the suitability of these AFZs.

⁴ Other refers to postcodes with 5 or few responses (2065, 2085, 2089, 2092, 2086, 2087, 2097, 2100 and 2105)

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities by notifying them of the consultation period regarding the re-establishment of Alcohol Free Zones (AFZ)s and establishment of AFZs with altered boundaries
- provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way and share feedback on the proposed establishment/re-establishment of AFZs
- identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values regarding AFZs in their local area
- communicate to community and stakeholders how their input was incorporated into the planning and decision making process with regards to altering, reinstating and revoking AFZs.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Review of Alcohol Free Zones 2025 was conducted between 21 March to 27 April 2025, 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 page⁵ was established on our engagement platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletter (EDM) channels, on-site signage and letters to businesses in or near the proposed AFZs.

Feedback was captured through an online submission form embedded onto the project page. The form included a question that asked respondents which of the proposed AFZs they wished to comment on, and an open-field comment box for each location selected.

An open-field comments box provided community members a space to provide any other feedback they wished to contribute.

Email and written submissions were also invited.

⁵ <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/review-alcohol-free-zones-2025>

5. Findings

The overall feedback collected during consultation indicated a mixed response with individual community member experiences and expectations in the same space differing. Some respondents identified feeling the significant impact of alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in the proposed areas, noting their loss of amenity and increased feelings of vulnerability in these areas. The general sentiment among these respondents was that they welcome the proposed AFZs to address alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in the community, seeing the role AFZs play in support their safety in the community, and to improving the community's ability to enjoy public spaces. Other respondents reported no awareness of alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in the same proposed zones.

The primary position of respondents who replied with negative sentiment was that there is insufficient need for the proposed AFZ. Submissions indicated that the ability to drink alcohol in public spaces is highly valued and connected with the beach culture, the Australian lifestyle, social connection, village atmosphere and provided an affordable outing option. They considered the proposal an over-regulation and infringement on community rights to use public space. Seventy-three submissions expressed the sentiment that some community members are averse to having Council impose restrictions on their social activities.

Overall, each of the proposed AFZs received a relatively small amount of feedback and the majority of feedback received was general in nature and not site specific. Comments specific to each zone were considered, however no changes to the proposals are recommended.

5.1 General themes expressed in submissions across all zones

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
Alcohol-related antisocial behaviour	41 submissions mentioned ongoing issues of alcohol-related antisocial behaviour across all proposed AFZs.	We acknowledge these issues and will forward a summary of advice to Northern Beaches Police Area Command and Council staff regarding areas of concern raised by the community. Council, NSW Police and local service providers collaborate to identify alcohol-related antisocial behaviour across the Northern Beaches and implement strategies to address these matters.
Over-regulation	46 submissions observed no or occasional alcohol-related behaviour and do not consider that AFZs are required. 73 submissions expressed a negative sentiment that AFZs are an over-regulation and impinge on community rights to use public space.	We consult with NSW Police in the establishment and re-establishment of AFZs. Each of the proposed AFZs was determined in consultation with NSW Police and in response to evidence of street drinking incidents. AFZs are designed to improve public safety by preventing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> disorderly behaviour caused by the consumption of alcohol in public areas

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the escalation of irresponsible street drinking to incidents involving serious crime. <p>AFZs can be an effective public space management tool to address community concern for alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in specific locations.</p> <p>We acknowledge that some community members feel that AFZs are an over-regulation of the community and have recommended AFZs be established and re-established only where benefits to the broader community are indicated.</p> <p>Overall, a reduction in AFZs has been recommended in this review, with 5 AFZs not recommended to be re-established and 4 AFZs reduced in size.</p>
	1 submission called for review of legislation to reflect Australia's changing drinking habits.	<p>This is not within the scope of this review.</p> <p>It is noted that the Alcohol Consumption in Public Places (Liberalisation) Bill 2024 sought to remove restrictions on the consumption of alcohol in public places.</p> <p>The Legislative Council voted against this Bill in October 2024.</p>
Outdoor dining	<p>15 submissions raised concerns that AFZs would impact their ability to enjoy a drink with their meal at outdoor dining facilities.</p> <p>17 submissions raised concerns regarding the impact of AFZs on local businesses and a vibrant late -night economy.</p>	<p>Establishing and re-establishing the proposed AFZs will not restrict existing liquor licences within approved outdoor dining areas. If the café/restaurant has a liquor licence for the outdoor dining area and community members are currently enjoying outdoor dining in this location, this will not change.</p> <p>When determining new applications for outdoor dining, we consider many factors including existing or planned AFZs. AFZs do not impact the ability to apply for a liquor licence for this area or preclude an outdoor dining application from being approved.</p> <p>When council issues a licence for the use of public footpaths for outdoor dining use in an AFZ, it must impose conditions on the licensee (e.g. restaurant operator) about the requirements of the zone, including clear delineation and control of the licensed area from the alcohol-free zone.</p>

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
Outdoor recreation	66 respondents conflated their feedback regarding the proposed AFZs with alcohol restrictions in parks, reserves and beaches declared as Alcohol Prohibited Areas (APA).	<p>AFZs only apply to roads, pathways and carparks in the areas indicated in the proposals.</p> <p>AFZs do not apply to parks, reserves or beaches.</p> <p>Parks, reserves and beaches across the Northern Beaches are declared as Alcohol Prohibited Areas (APA) under Section 632A of the Local Government Act. Most parks and reserves are an APA between 8pm and 8am daily, excepting those listed as 24 hour APAs on Council's website. All beaches are 24 hour APAs. APAs are not the subject of this review.</p> <p>Any information provided in submissions relating to antisocial behaviour in parks, reserves and beaches, however, will be forwarded to Northern Beaches Police Area Command for their information.</p>
Safety	12 submissions associated AFZs with safety in the community.	We are committed to providing a safe environment for community members and visitors.
Enforcement	31 submissions commented that enforcement of AFZs is key to their effectiveness.	<p>NSW Police and Council Rangers are able to respond to alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in AFZs.</p> <p>AFZs provide NSW Police with an additional tool to use in 'hot spot' locations. AFZs also provide a legislative base under which Rangers can take action in these areas.</p> <p>AFZs allow the NSW Police and Rangers to confiscate and dispose of alcohol if a person is drinking, if there is reasonable cause to believe the person is about to drink or has recently been drinking in a designated AFZ.</p>
	1 submission requested enforcement of alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in additional areas.	<p>Community members are encouraged to report any antisocial behaviour in that area related to street drinking to NSW Police to support a timely response. These reports form intelligence which informs NSW Police patrols.</p> <p>These concerns will be forwarded for information of NSW Police.</p>
	1 submission queried whether NSW Police have the	NSW Police are consulted on the proposed AFZs and support their establishment.

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
	resources to enforce the proposals.	
Assessment process	8 submissions queried the assessment process involved in the review of AFZs.	<p>AFZs can be established in response to evidence of alcohol-related antisocial behaviour relating to street drinking.</p> <p>We undertook a comprehensive assessment process based on evidence of alcohol-related street offences since the AFZs were established, via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • data provided by NSW Police on each AFZ and surrounding streets • recorded complaints to Council relating to these areas • location of liquor licenses in the AFZs • ongoing consultation with the NSW Police, Council operational meetings and Community Safety Advisory Committee on areas experiencing issues with alcohol-related antisocial behaviour. <p>The Summary of Assessment is included on the project page.</p> <p>The assessment process meets the requirements of the Ministerial Guidelines.</p> <p>Consultation has occurred with NSW Police in relation to the assessment and it has been confirmed that an AFZ in the proposed areas would assist their enforcement of street drinking.</p>
	1 submission queried the absence of detailed NSW Police data in the Summary of Assessment report.	<p>The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOSCAR) has crime statistics by LGA.</p> <p>The data has been thoroughly assessed by Council and reviewed by NSW Police to ensure the proposed AFZs are warranted and meet the establishment criteria set by legislation and the Ministerial Guidelines.</p>
Signage	1 submission requested clear signage of alcohol restrictions on beaches.	All beaches are signposted as APAs.
Administrative processes	1 submission enquired whether all AFZs are discussed in NSW Police and Council meetings.	NSW Police and Council have considered all AFZ areas in operational meetings and Community Safety Advisory Committee meetings.

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
	1 submission queried whether the areas where AFZs have not been re-established, will be reviewed by Council in future.	The Ministerial Guidelines state that AFZs are intended only as a short term strategy. NSW Police and Council regularly discuss areas across the Northern Beaches and the emergence of any hot spots will be consulted on and appropriate strategies considered, including assessment of whether establishment of an AFZ is warranted.
	1 submission commented that Council has no mandate to put these restrictions in place.	Council has authority to establish AFZs under Section 644B of the Local Government Act 1993.
	5 submissions requested a variation in AFZ hours.	The Ministerial Guidelines require AFZs to operate 24 hours a day.

5.2 Breakdown of the findings for each of the proposed AFZs.

Note:

- 1) Some respondents made multiple submissions across zones, and some made general comments that mentioned a zone. As a result, totals may not match the number of unique submissions.
- 2) Not all submissions provided positive or negative sentiment toward the proposed AFZs. 30 submissions made general comments on AFZs or other issues.
- 3) 14 general comments were duplicated against all proposed zones. The sentiment has been considered along with direct feedback for each zone however the general themes have been addressed at section 5.1 of this report. Four of these comments (28.6%) expressed a positive sentiment with broad general support for AFZs. Ten of these submissions (71.4%) expressed negative sentiment, either in relation to over-regulation by government or general opposition to AFZs.

5.2.1 Avalon AFZ

Of the 33 responses that referenced the proposed Avalon AFZ, 10 expressed positive sentiment and 23 negative sentiment. Fourteen of those submissions provided general comments which were duplicated across all proposed AFZs (4 positive sentiment / 10 negative). Themes relating to those general comments are addressed at section 5.1 of this report.

Of the 19 online submissions received that related directly to Avalon, 13 expressed a negative sentiment (68.4%) and 6 expressed positive sentiment (31.6%) for the establishment of the AFZ in this area.

Positive sentiments related to ongoing alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in the area (2), the impact of this behaviour on other community members including young children and seniors (2).

Negative sentiments related to AFZs being an over-regulation of the community (6) and observations that the zone is not needed (5). Two submissions requested the AFZ be extended beyond the proposed boundaries.

One submission negative conflated their negative feedback with alcohol restrictions on beaches.

Feedback themes directly related to the proposed Avalon AFZ:

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
Boundary	1 submission requested an extension of the AFZ boundary to include the parking area of North Avalon.	There are no recorded incidents of alcohol-related crime related to street drinking in these areas during the 3-year assessment period.
	1 submission requested an extension of the AFZ boundary to include Bellevue Avenue, Bowling Green Lane, Avalon Beach, Ruskin Road to Avalon Parade, all of Avalon Parade, all of Palmgrove Road.	These concerns will be forwarded for information of NSW Police. Community members are encouraged to report any antisocial behaviour in that area related to street drinking to NSW Police to support a timely response.
Enforcement	1 submission queried the impact on community members carrying alcohol in public spaces.	AFZs allow the NSW Police and Rangers to confiscate and dispose of alcohol if a person is drinking, if there is reasonable cause to believe the person is about to drink or has recently been drinking in a designated AFZ. Community members carrying alcohol to and from retail premises are not impacted.
Alcohol strategy	1 submission requested an improved alcohol strategy in relation to bottle shops in Avalon and Careel Bay.	There are no planning controls with respect to the number of any one specific type of retail premises within a locality, and the existence of other similar premises in the vicinity does not prevent application for (and granting of consent for) additional such premises. Provision (or prevention) of specific food or drink types is not a planning matter for consideration under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Bottle shops require a packaged liquor licence which permits the sale of alcohol to be consumed away from the premises. Liquor licenses are obtained from Liquor & Gaming NSW. The liquor licence application process involves public consultation ⁶ and approval of any

⁶ <https://www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/community-and-stakeholders/have-your-say/community-consultations>

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
		application for a liquor licence considers any submission made.

5.2.2 Brookvale AFZ

Of the 23 responses that referenced the proposed Brookvale AFZ, 11 expressed positive sentiment and 12 negative sentiment. Fourteen of those submissions provided general comments which were duplicated across all proposed AFZs (4 positive sentiment / 10 negative). Themes relating to those general comments are addressed at section 5.1 of this report.

Of the 9 online submissions received that related directly to Brookvale, 2 expressed negative sentiment (22.2%) and 7 expressed positive sentiment (77.8%) for the establishment of the AFZ in this area.

Positive sentiments related to a desire for bus stops to be safe places which are alcohol free (2).

Negative sentiments related to a perceived lack of need (1).

Feedback themes directly related to the proposed Brookvale AFZ:

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
CCTV	1 submission requested CCTV be installed for the bicycle racks at Brookvale.	This is outside the scope of this review. The bike racks referred to are immediately adjacent to the B1 bus stops. CCTV is a standard feature of Transport for NSW's B1 bus stops including the Brookvale B1 bus stops. There is also CCTV present on the Brookvale Community Health Centre adjacent to the south bound bike racks. Transport for NSW has a secure bicycle storage facility at the corner of Pittwater Road and William Street.

5.2.3 Church Point AFZ

Of the 21 responses that referenced the proposed Church Point AFZ, 5 expressed positive sentiment, 13 negative sentiment, and 4 comments were neutral or general in nature. Fourteen of those submissions provided general comments which were duplicated across all proposed AFZs (4 positive sentiment / 10 negative). Themes relating to those general comments are addressed at section 5.1 of this report.

Of the 8 online submissions received that related directly to Church Point, 3 expressed negative sentiment (37.5%) and 1 expressed positive sentiment (12.5%) for the establishment of the AFZ in this area. The remaining 4 submissions were neutral or general in nature.

Positive sentiments related to ongoing drinking in road related areas in the proposed AFZ (1) and the impact of this behaviour on other community members including young children (1).

Negative sentiments related to the area being used as a community hub for socialising (2).

One submission conflated their general feedback with alcohol restrictions in parks.

Feedback themes directly related to the proposed Church Point AFZ:

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
Increased restrictions	1 submission expressed the perception that the proposal would mean increased restrictions on community freedom in Church Point.	There is no increase in restrictions in the Church Point area. The existing AFZ was re-established at this location on 1 December 2021. The current proposal seeks to re-establish the AFZ and continue to respond to alcohol related antisocial behaviour in this location.
Enforcement	1 submission requested increased enforcement of Church Point AFZ to address ongoing consumption of alcohol in that area.	Thomas Stephens Reserve Church Point is a 24-hour Alcohol Prohibited Area (APA). Community members are encouraged to report any antisocial behaviour in that area related to street drinking to NSW Police to support a timely response. These concerns will be forwarded for information of NSW Police.
Assessment process	1 submission queried the difference between Council's knowledge and the NSW Police data for Church Point.	The assessment considered NSW Police and Council data. While NSW Police data did not record any incidents in the road related areas at this location during the assessment period, community members and business owners communicated concerns to Council regarding alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in open public spaces in Church Point particularly in the vicinity of Thomas Stephens Reserve and adjacent to licensed premises at that location. The inclusion of an AFZ bounding this area serves to support and reinforce the strategies already in place to address alcohol-related antisocial behaviour at this location. Sufficient merit was seen to meet the criteria of the Ministerial Guidelines.

5.2.4 Collaroy AFZ

Of the 23 responses that referenced the proposed Collaroy AFZ, 8 expressed positive sentiment and 15 negative sentiment. Fourteen of those submissions provided general comments which were duplicated across all proposed AFZs (4 positive sentiment / 10 negative). Themes relating to those general comments are addressed at section 5.1 of this report.

Of the 9 online submissions received that related directly to Collaroy, 5 expressed a negative sentiment (55.6%) and 4 expressed positive sentiment (44.4%) for the establishment of the AFZ in this area.

Positive sentiments related to ongoing alcohol-related antisocial behaviour near the bus stop and its impact on bus drivers (1).

Negative sentiments related to the area being used as a social hub (1) and the perception of over-regulation (2).

One submission conflated their negative feedback with alcohol restrictions in parks and beaches.

Feedback themes directly related to the proposed Collaroy AFZ:

No additional themes raised.

5.2.5 Dee Why AFZ

Of the 47 responses that referenced the proposed Dee Why AFZ, 15 expressed positive sentiment, 31 negative sentiment and 1 comment was general in nature. Fourteen of those submissions provided general comments which were duplicated across all proposed AFZs (4 positive sentiment / 10 negative). Themes relating to those general comments are addressed at section 5.1 of this report.

Of the 33 online submissions received that related directly to Dee Why, 21 expressed a negative sentiment (63.6%), 11 expressed positive sentiment (33.3%) for the establishment of the AFZ in this area. and 1 comment was general in nature (3.0%).

Positive sentiments related to ongoing alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in the area (6).

Negative sentiments related to the perception of over-regulation (10) and that the AFZ is not needed (8).

10 comments were conflated with Alcohol Prohibited Areas (APAs), with 7 of those contributing to negative sentiment.

The importance of enforcement was raised in 5 submissions.

Feedback themes directly related to the proposed Dee Why AFZ:

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
Special events	1 submission queried whether AFZs apply during the New Years Eve fireworks event at Dee Why.	The annual 9pm New Year's Eve family fireworks event at Dee Why is held at Ted Jackson Reserve which is an Alcohol Prohibited Area. Having opened containers of alcohol in this reserve is banned between 8pm and 8am every day. The adjacent streets are also designated as an Alcohol Free Zone, where the consumption of alcohol is prohibited on the streets and footpaths and public carparks 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
		We are committed to ensuring that our public spaces and events are safe and accessible to all members of the community.
Boundary	1 submission identified that the proposed Dee Why AFZ does not include the area surrounding Dee Why RSL.	The area surrounding Dee Why RSL was previously part of the AFZ however was removed in 2017. The area surrounding the RSL was again assessed in the current review and was found to not have sufficient evidence to support establishment of an AFZ.
	1 submission queried the large size of the Dee Why AFZ.	Due to the large number of incidents in Dee Why during the assessment period and the mobile nature of these offences, no changes have been recommended at this time. There are sufficient incidents recorded in each of the streets proposed to warrant inclusion in the proposed AFZ. We are working with key stakeholders to address alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in Dee Why with a view to improving community safety and reducing the AFZ in future.

5.2.6 Freshwater AFZ

Of the 33 responses that referenced the proposed Freshwater AFZ, 6 expressed positive sentiment and 25 expressed negative sentiment, and 2 comments were general in nature. Fourteen of those submissions provided general comments which were duplicated across all proposed AFZs (4 positive sentiment / 10 negative). Themes relating to those general comments are addressed at section 5.1 of this report.

Of the 19 online submissions received that related directly to Freshwater, 15 expressed a negative sentiment (78.9%) and 2 expressed positive sentiment (10.5%) for the establishment of the AFZ in this area. Two comments were general in nature (10.5%).

Positive sentiments were not supported with explanatory comments. 1 positive comment requested the re-establishment of Freshwater B area (addressed at section 5.3 of this report).

Negative sentiments related to a perception of over-regulation (7), the area being used as a community hub (4), and the AFZ not being needed (6). Four negative submissions conflated the AFZ with the ability to drink in parks and beaches. The majority of negative feedback was centred around the desire to have the freedom to drink in public spaces and the importance of community social hubs.

Feedback themes directly related to the proposed Freshwater AFZ:

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
Local business	1 submission expressed concern that the AFZ would impact local businesses and events such as food markets.	<p>The proposal to re-establish this AFZ does not alter any arrangements already in place in Freshwater.</p> <p>The proposed AFZ will not restrict existing liquor licences within approved outdoor dining areas. If a café/restaurant has a liquor licence for the outdoor dining area and community members are currently enjoying outdoor dining in this location, this will not change.</p> <p>Food markets are held in Freshwater Beach Park which is not impacted by the AFZ.</p>

5.2.7 Manly AFZ

Of the 110 responses that referenced the proposed Manly AFZ, 48 expressed positive sentiment, 56 negative sentiment and 6 comments were general in nature. Fourteen of those submissions provided general comments which were duplicated across all proposed AFZs (4 positive sentiment / 10 negative). Themes relating to those general comments are addressed at section 5.1 of this report.

Of the 96 online and emailed submissions received that related directly to Manly, 46 expressed a negative sentiment (47.9%) and 44 expressed positive sentiment (45.8%) for the establishment of the AFZ in this area. The other 6 comments were general in nature (6.3%).

Positive sentiments related to ongoing alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in the area (18) and the area being used as a community hub (2).

Negative sentiments related to a perception of over-regulation (16), that the AFZ is not needed (12), the area being used as a community hub (8) and concern for the impact on local business (3).

38 submissions (20 positive and 18 negative) conflated their comments with the restriction of drinking in parks, reserves and beaches.

Feedback themes directly related to the proposed Manly AFZ:

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
Alcohol-related antisocial behaviour	14 submissions referred to alcohol-related antisocial behaviour, including incidents of public urination in Manly, particularly at East Esplanade.	<p>Manly is an area of high visitation from residents across the LGA, visitors from across Australia and international tourists. We are aware of alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in Manly related to the consumption of alcohol in private and public spaces.</p> <p>Council Rangers and NSW Police patrol a range of locations including East</p>

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
		<p>Esplanade, West Esplanade, including the area known as "The Office" year-round, with heightened attention over the warmer months when this location is a popular destination.</p> <p>We consult with a range of key stakeholders on the management of this location and strategies to reduce alcohol-related antisocial behaviour.</p>
	<p>1 submission suggested public toilets be open 24 hours a day to minimise public urination.</p>	<p>The following public toilets are open 24 hours from Friday to Sunday only to meet demand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whistler Street multi-story carpark amenities • Manly Beach amenities, North Steyne • Manly Life Saving Club amenities • Manly Peninsula carpark, Rialto Lane amenities • Manly Bus Stop, Belgrave Street. <p>Additional public amenities are located further afield on the promenades at North Steyne and Queenscliff, as well as on the East and West Esplanades Harbourside, with varied opening hours⁷.</p> <p>24-hour amenities are established in high-traffic areas only, with community safety in mind. Other amenities are closed overnight to deter vandalism, loitering and to allow for proper cleaning without concerns for staff safety.</p> <p>It is important to note that despite the provision of public amenities in close proximity to popular public spaces, public urination continues to occur.</p>
Enforcement	<p>1 submission queried the enforcement of alcohol restrictions in Manly and at "The Office" (an APA).</p>	<p>Council Rangers and NSW Police patrol a range of locations including East Esplanade and the area known as "The Office" year-round, with heightened attention over the warmer months when this location is a popular destination for residents and visitors to the area.</p> <p>We consult with a range of key stakeholders on the management of this</p>

⁷ <https://toiletmap.gov.au/>

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
		location and strategies to reduce alcohol-related antisocial behaviour.
	1 submission requested increased patrols of West Esplanade.	West Esplanade Park is a 24-hour APA and is subject of NSW Police and Council Ranger patrols, with increased attention over the summer months.
Alcohol strategies	1 submission referred to Council's alcohol management strategy in Manly.	<p>We consult regularly with NSW Police on public spaces experiencing issues relating to the consumption of alcohol.</p> <p>We also consult with a range of key stakeholders on strategies to address ongoing and emerging issues of alcohol-related crime and antisocial behaviour in public spaces.</p> <p>The proposed re-establishment of this AFZ forms a part of the strategy to address alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in public spaces and supports NSW Police and Council Rangers to address any issues as they arise.</p>
	2 submissions enquired about strategies to support young people drinking alcohol in Manly.	<p>We work with NSW Police and key youth service stakeholders to support the safety of young people across the Northern Beaches, including the Manly area.</p> <p>In particular the Community Drug Action Team and Local Drug Action Team undertake projects relating to alcohol use by young people, and the Youth Outreach Group discuss the support of young people in these situations.</p> <p>NSW Police and local youth outreach services attend to young people consuming alcohol in Manly.</p> <p>Council Rangers and NSW Police patrol a range of hot spot locations in Manly. Community members are encouraged to report concerns for the safety of young people as they occur, to assist a timely response.</p>
Signage	1 submission requested improved signage for public toilet facilities.	We undertake signage audits to ensure appropriate wayfinding is in place across the Northern Beaches. East Esplanade Park, for example, was recently audited and signage was upgraded and increased in relation to the location of public toilets.

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
	1 submission requested increased AFZ signage at West Esplanade	AFZ signage is currently in place at West Esplanade, with 3 signs in place across approximately 300m. West Esplanade Park is also signposted as an Alcohol Prohibited Area. Information on all alcohol restrictions across the Northern Beaches is available on Council's website .
Boundary	1 submission requested the beaches and parks at East Esplanade and West Esplanade be made an APA.	East Esplanade Park Manly is an APA 8pm to 8am, excepting the Promenade which is a 24-hour APA. West Esplanade Park is a 24-hour APA.
	1 submission requested the Manly AFZ be extended to include Kangaroo Lane and Kangaroo Park.	Kangaroo Lane was considered as part of the review AFZ review process however as no incidents of antisocial behaviour related to street drinking were recorded in the assessment period it did not meet the requirements of the Ministerial Guidelines for establishing an AFZ. All parks and reserves across the Northern Beaches area are APAs. Kangaroo Park is a designated 24-hour APA.
	1 submission requested that Manly AFZ be extended to include Tower Hill and Gilbert Park.	All parks and reserves across the Northern Beaches area are APAs. Gilbert Park, Manly is designated a 24-hour APA. Tower Hill Park is an APA from 8pm to 8am. During the assessment period there were no reported incidents of antisocial behaviour related to street drinking in Tower Road Manly. As such Tower Road does not meet the requirements for establishing an AFZ under the Ministerial Guidelines.
Cleansing	1 submission noted that the provision of more waste bins would benefit the community.	Requests for placement of public place litter bins can be made directly with our Customer Service Team on 1300 434 434 or online via Council's website . Our Public Waste & Cleansing Team will assess each request based on location and litter data.

5.2.8 Mona Vale AFZ

Of the 27 responses that referenced the proposed Mona Vale AFZ, 7 expressed positive sentiment, 18 negative sentiment and one comment was general in nature. Fourteen of those submissions provided general comments which were duplicated across all proposed AFZs (4

positive sentiment / 10 negative). Themes relating to those general comments are addressed at section 5.1 of this report.

Of the 13 online submissions received that related directly to Mona Vale, 9 expressed a negative sentiment (69.2%) and 3 expressed positive sentiment (23.1%) for the establishment of the AFZ in this area. One comment was general in nature (7.7%).

Positive sentiments were not supported with relevant explanatory comments.

Negative sentiments related to the perception of over-regulation (4) and concerns for the impact on outdoor dining (2). Two submissions conflated their negative feedback with alcohol restrictions in parks and beaches.

Feedback themes directly related to the proposed Mona Vale AFZ:

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
Over regulation in order to raise revenue	1 submission stated AFZs appear to be an attempt at revenue raising.	There is no income associated with enforcement of AFZs.
Impact on business	1 submission stated AFZs should be able to be removed temporarily for economic enhancing events.	We are able to consider the temporary suspension of an AFZ, or part of an AFZ, for special events with a resolution of the elected Councillors. During any period of suspension additional strategies would be implemented to manage alcohol consumption and any alcohol-related antisocial behaviour.
Altered boundary	2 submissions expressed negative feedback on the proposal to alter the existing AFZ boundary, with 1 specifying they considered the AFZ to be too large.	We aim to minimise the area proposed for establishment as an AFZ. All streets proposed for inclusion in the AFZ have experienced issues with alcohol-related antisocial behaviour related to street drinking during the assessment period. Assessment of the Mona Vale area did not indicate any street drinking leading to antisocial behaviour in some streets in the existing AFZ and those streets have not been recommended for inclusion in the proposed AFZ, in line with requirements under the Ministerial Guidelines. The inclusion of additional streets in the proposed AFZ is in response to an increase of reported incidents in those areas. The proposed AFZ boundaries have been altered to meet these changing needs.

5.2.9 Narrabeen AFZ

Of the 26 responses that referenced the proposed Narrabeen AFZ, 13 expressed positive sentiment and 13 negative sentiment. Fourteen of those submissions provided general comments which were duplicated across all proposed AFZs (4 positive sentiment / 10 negative). Themes relating to those general comments are addressed at section 5.1 of this report.

Of the 12 online submissions received that related directly to Narrabeen, 3 expressed a negative sentiment (25%) and 9 expressed positive sentiment (75%) for the establishment of the AFZ in this area.

Positive sentiments related to ongoing alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in the area (4) including reference to the impact on young children (3). One submission noted that an AFZ would allow residents to feel safer.

Negative sentiments were not supported with relevant explanatory comments.

Of the general comments received, 3 referred to groups of people regularly consuming alcohol in public spaces in the Narrabeen area, with mixed opinion on whether this should be permitted. 2 submissions conflated their feedback with alcohol restrictions in parks and beaches (1 negative, 1 positive).

Feedback themes directly related to the proposed Narrabeen AFZ:

No additional themes raised.

5.2.10 Newport A AFZ

Of the 38 responses that referenced the proposed Newport A AFZ, 13 expressed positive sentiment, 22 negative sentiment and 3 comments were general in nature. Fourteen of those submissions provided general comments which were duplicated across all proposed AFZs (4 positive sentiment / 10 negative). Themes relating to those general comments are addressed at section 5.1 of this report.

Of the 24 online and emailed submissions received that related directly to Newport A, 12 expressed a negative sentiment (50%) and 9 expressed positive sentiment (37.5%) for the establishment of the AFZ in this area. Three comments were general in nature (12.5%)

Positive sentiments related to ongoing alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in the area (1). One submission supported the reduction in the AFZ size.

Negative sentiments related to the perception of over-regulation (8) and that the AFZ is not needed (5).

One submission conflated their negative feedback with alcohol restrictions on beaches.

There was particular reference to outdoor dining in Robertson and Barrenjoey Roads with 5 comments questioning whether the AFZ would impact outdoor dining, 6 expressing their enjoyment of the social outdoor atmosphere that outdoor dining zones provide in this area, and 2 noting the impact of patrons leaving this area on local residents.

Feedback themes directly related to the proposed Newport A AFZ:

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
Boundary	1 submission requested the proposed Newport A AFZ be enlarged to include Robertson Road.	<p>Assessment of NSW Police data did not provide sufficient evidence to support the re-establishment of an AFZ in Robertson Road.</p> <p>These concerns will be forwarded for information of NSW Police.</p> <p>Community members are encouraged to report any antisocial behaviour in that area related to street drinking to NSW Police to support a timely response.</p>

5.2.11 Newport B AFZ

Of the 32 responses that referenced the proposed Newport B AFZ, 10 expressed positive sentiment and 17 negative sentiment. Fourteen of those submissions provided general comments which were duplicated across all proposed AFZs (4 positive sentiment / 10 negative). Themes relating to those general comments are addressed at section 5.1 of this report.

Of the 18 online and emailed submissions received that related directly to Newport B AFZ, 9 expressed a negative sentiment (50%) and 7 expressed positive sentiment (38.9%) for the establishment of the AFZ in this area. Two comments were general in nature (11.1%)

Positive sentiments related to ongoing alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in the area (3).

Negative sentiments related to the perception of over-regulation (5), that the AFZ is not needed (3), and concern for maintaining business and a vibrant night time economy (3).

Two submissions conflated their feedback with alcohol restrictions in parks and beaches (1 negative, 1 positive).

Feedback themes directly related to the proposed Newport B AFZ:

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
Boundary	1 submission requested the proposed Newport B AFZ be extended to include all of Kalinya Street, Dearin Reserve and all roads leading to Barrenjoey Road.	<p>The proposed AFZ covers the entirety of Kalinya Street. AFZs are only able to be applied to roads, pathways and carparks.</p> <p>All parks and reserves across the Northern Beaches area are APAs. Dearin Reserve is an APA, with the consumption of alcohol prohibited between 8pm and 8am.</p> <p>The roads leading to Barrenjoey Road are in the existing AFZ however there is no evidence to support their continuation in the proposed AFZ.</p>
	1 submission requested the proposed AFZ be extended to	Assessment of NSW Police data did not provide sufficient evidence to support the

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
	include the western end of Roberston Road.	re-establishment of an AFZ in Robertson Road. These concerns will be forwarded for information of NSW Police. Community members are encouraged to report any antisocial behaviour in that area related to street drinking to NSW Police to support a timely response.
Alcohol-related antisocial behaviour	2 submissions and 1 email provided an insight into and evidence of alcohol-related antisocial behaviour impacting residents in Kalinya Road.	These concerns will be forwarded for information of NSW Police. Council will consult with NSW Police on strategies to address this matter.

5.3 Comments on AFZs not proposed to be established:

After providing comments in relation to a specific AFZ, respondents were provided the opportunity for additional general comments in relation to AFZs. Comments were received against the following themes which were not specific to any of the proposed AFZs.

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
AFZs not proposed to be re-established	1 submission commented on the proposal to not re-establish the Belrose and Palm Beach AFZs.	The areas currently proposed for establishment and re-establishment of AFZs were identified through analysis of NSW Police and Council data. Assessment of this data did not provide sufficient evidence to support the re-establishment of an AFZ in Belrose or Palm Beach, with no incidents of antisocial behaviour related to street drinking recorded during the assessment period.
	2 submissions provided comments on Forestville not being proposed for re-establishment.	Assessment of NSW Police and Council data did not provide sufficient evidence to support the re-establishment of an AFZ in Forestville with no incidents of antisocial behaviour related to street drinking recorded since early 2022. The concerns raised will be forwarded for information of NSW Police.

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
		Community members are encouraged to report any antisocial behaviour in that area related to street drinking to NSW Police to support a timely response.
	1 submission requested the Freshwater AFZ B be re-established.	At this time there is insufficient evidence to support the establishment of an AFZ in the Freshwater B area. There was one recorded NSW Police action relating to street drinking in this area in each year 2021-22 and 2022-23, and no incidents in 2023-24. Community members are encouraged to report incidents of antisocial behaviour relating to street drinking to NSW Police to enable a timely response and recording of the necessary evidence to support the establishment of an AFZ.

Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

To view all verbatim comments, please click the link below:

https://eservices.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/ePlanning/live/Common/Output/Document.aspx?t=w_ebdoc&id=uJ5YQVR2zxMV0A60ki4OEg==

* All comments in their entirety are included. Personal identifying information, and content which is discriminatory, hateful or which may defame, offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate has 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	10 June 2025
Approval	Content provided and approved by Community Development Team. Responsible manager: Will Wrathall
Status	Final
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.

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13th June 2025

Police Ref: D/2025/113973

Kath YOUNG
Community Safety Coordinator
NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL
Email: Kath.Young@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Dear Kath,

AFZ Review 2025 – Revised Police Response - Post Community Sentiment

Further to my comments provided in February 2025 (Police Ref: D/2025/113973) and in light of the recent community feedback on Alcohol Free Zones (AFZ) across the Northern Beaches LGA, I make the following observations.

Many of the nominated AFZs surround the concentration of licensed premises. Regulations place considerable responsibility on licensees and their staff to minimise their impact on local residents and businesses. They have a duty not to unduly disturb the quiet and good order of the neighbourhood (*Div. 3, Disturbance of quiet and good order of neighbourhood, Liquor Act, 2007*). Street drinking in proximity to licensed premises can hamper the ability of licensees to adhere to their statutory responsibilities and lead to persistent antisocial behaviour and violence.

Northern Beaches Police have in the past dealt with violence and antisocial behaviour in public places stemming from alcohol abuse. Malicious damage, offensive noise, street urination, littering and obstruction of traffic often coincide with some of these nuisance complaints that generate public concern. We appreciate AFZs are one avenue that assists in the prevention of these activities whilst also offering some protection to vulnerable community members who fear being victimised.

In 2024, the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research released a review of the effectiveness of liquor licensing policy on violent crime in Sydney CBD. They studied nearly 20 years of crime data against policy, finding safety measures have a positive impact on reducing violent crime. A copy of the one page summary is attached for reference.

Whilst specific research on the effectiveness of AFZs is scarce, anecdotal experience suggests it is both preventative, and allows for early intervention. Many people take heed of an AFZ in accordance with the signage. Police do not need a crime to have occurred before intervening and with a 'tip out' intervention, there is no need for collecting personal data. Thus, intervention very rarely leads to criminal sanctions but it does allow for Police and Rangers to act on community concerns early. A person does not commit an offence by consuming alcohol in an AFZ, rather the power allows for disposal and the opportunity for a warning. Nor does an AFZ infringe on people's rights to purchase or carry sealed liquor.

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Lastly, with many competing priorities, Police tend to use the AFZ option when responding to a call from the community about some concerning behaviours. Local Police take a tempered approach to enforcement, unless it forms part of an enforcement strategy to curb antisocial or violent behaviour from breaking out in a specific area; based on intelligence, community concerns or operational demands. New Years Eve and Australia Day are days where the AFZs are enforced to prevent public disorder and violence.

However, I appreciate Council has the challenge of balancing community sentiment and safety and make the following observations in light of the community feedback.

Avalon: Has generally seen a low number of recorded police interventions and thus Police will be guided by Councillors who have a good appreciation of their community needs and concerns.

Freshwater: Has generally seen a low number of police interventions though there were some ongoing community frustrations over summer around alcohol related behaviour. Again, we will be guided by Council who know and understand the local community.

Dee Why: Generally one of the busier locations for Police interventions with large concentrations of licensed premises on the eastern and western boundaries and many areas for street drinking in between. There were nearly 70 incidents recorded in that area in the last financial year indicating a need for Council to maintain this AFZ.

Mona Vale: With some 40 incidents over the last financial year and a concentration of licensed premises accompanied by opportune places for antisocial behaviour, it would be wise to maintain this AFZ.

Newport Residential (ref: Newport B). Whilst the community sentiment appeared balanced, I appreciate this AFZ was being substantially reduced to the vicinity of the licensed venues (map 18B). As this area adjoins the concentration of licensed premises in that area and I would encourage Council to maintain that area as an AFZ.

In summary, the Alcohol Free Zone is a preventative strategy that offers opportunities for early intervention, and with due discretion by Police. The benefit comes from the longevity of the application, with the community appreciating the limits around some activities in selected areas over time. It is understood that not all will appreciate place restrictions however the vulnerable and often the wider, but silent community, benefit from the amenity offered through this strategy.

Yours faithfully,


John P Duncan
Detective Superintendent
Commander Northern Beaches PAC

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The impact of changes to liquor licensing policy on violent crime in NSW, 2000-2019

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SUMMARY

CRIME AND JUSTICE BULLETIN
NUMBER 263 | DECEMBER 2023

BACKGROUND

Between 2008 and 2018, the NSW Government implemented a series of reforms to reduce violence related to licensed premises, including both state-wide and local area strategies. This study aims to quantify the effects of these licensing policies on rates of violent crime in New South Wales (NSW).

Given that the liquor licensing policies were applied to different geographical areas, we first quantify the effects of each individual statewide alcohol policy for the rest of NSW (RNSW; defined as all of NSW excluding the Sydney Local Government Area), and then the effects of each localised set of additional policies in the Sydney Central Business District Entertainment Precinct (CBD) and Kings Cross Entertainment Precinct (KCP).

We use related time series data from Victoria (and areas near the CBD and KCP) to guide understanding on what assaults may have been reported in NSW if the liquor licensing policies had not been introduced. We then identify and quantify the effect of those state-wide and area-specific policies that had a statistically significant impact on reported assaults, both instantaneous and gradually over time, both individually and as a cumulation of all previous policies.

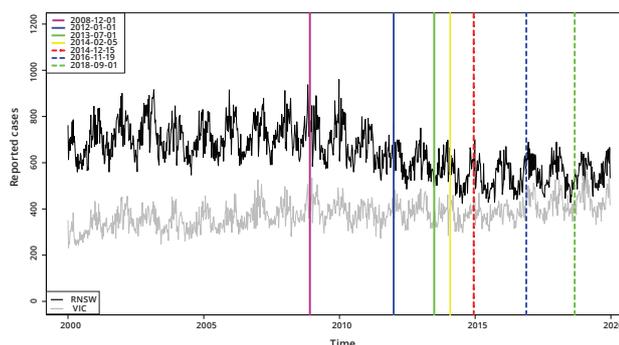
KEYWORDS

Alcohol non-domestic assaults
counterfactual proxy data
intervention model

KEY FINDINGS

The suite of public safety measures introduced in the last decade by the NSW Government have contributed to a significant decline in non-domestic assaults both in Sydney and across NSW. By the end of 2019, the number of non-domestic violence-related assaults in NSW had reduced by an estimated 19% (56,695 cases) from levels that would have been achieved had no alcohol control policies been introduced.

Figure 1. Aggregated weekly counts of reported non-domestic assaults in RNSW (black line) and Victoria (grey line) between 1st January 2000 and 31st December 2019



Note: vertical lines indicate promulgation times of the 7 statewide policy interventions

Our results also suggest a significant decline in violent crime in the Sydney CBD, with a 45% (7,677 cases) reduction due to the controls implemented since 2008. Much larger effects were observed in the KCP, though primarily due to lower overall assault numbers, with an estimated 84% (3,117 cases) decline in the number of non-domestic assaults above what would be expected if no policy changes had occurred.

Policies restricting late night (or 24-hour) trading of licensed premises and targeting enforcement toward the highest risk venues contributed most to these declines.

CONCLUSION

Restricting trading hours can substantially reduce the risks associated with acute alcohol intoxication and can be an effective crime reduction strategy when combined with enforcement that targets the small number of premises that account for most of the harm.



Social Sustainability Policy NB-P-17

Policy Statement

Northern Beaches Council acts principally as a facilitator and enabler of social sustainability in order to build the capacity and resilience of the community to achieve individual and collective wellbeing. Community development activities are carried out in collaboration with individuals and service providers, including community groups, charitable organisations, government and non-government agencies and neighbouring Councils.

Council provides leadership and advocacy, promotes safe, inclusive and connected communities, supports community capacity building, provides referral and information services and essential infrastructure, including social infrastructure. Through these activities Council will work strategically with local services to maximise the efficiency and quality of service delivery to the Northern Beaches community.

Council encourages, enables and assists local groups and organisations to provide relevant services and activities for residents of the Northern Beaches and will consider providing services directly when there is an identified priority and where no other organisation has the capacity or ability to provide the priority service.

Principles

Social Sustainability is critical for a community's wellbeing and longevity. It is about creating inclusive and resilient communities that have the required skills, services, people and infrastructure to respond to and recover from social, political, environmental and economic change. With collaborative planning and commitment from the community we can ensure the Northern Beaches is a place that people want to live and work in the long term.

Community development activities will support community wellbeing and build community capacity and resilience. They will be conducted in accordance with the following foundational social justice and sustainability principles outlined in Council's Community Strategic Plan 2040 (Shape 2028):

Equity

There should be fairness in decision making, prioritising, and allocation of resources, particularly for those in need. Everyone should have a fair opportunity to participate in the future of the community. The planning process should take particular care to involve and protect the interests of people in vulnerable circumstances

Intergenerational Equity

Planning and decision making should ensure short term solutions do not compromise long term conditions and opportunities. The health, diversity and productivity of the environment must be maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.

Precautionary Principle

Lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent any risks of serious harm to people or the environment.

Access

Everyone should have equitable and fair access to services, resources and opportunities to improve their quality of life.

Participation

Everyone should have the maximum opportunity to genuinely participate in decisions which affect their lives.



Rights

Equal rights should be established and promoted, with opportunities for people from diverse linguistic, cultural and religious backgrounds to participate in community life.

Scope and application

The Social Sustainability Policy provides a clear framework for Council and the local community to maximise the quality and effectiveness of community development services that respond to community outcomes and contribute to the vision of the Community Strategic Plan 2040 (Shape 2028):

'A safe, diverse, inclusive and connected community that lives in balance with our extraordinary coastal and bushland environment.'

The implementation of this Policy includes the following activities:

1. Leadership and Advocacy

Through social planning, Council investigates and documents community challenges and outcomes, in consultation with the social service sector and local residents, and provides research and planning information to assist the effective planning of social services and programs. Council advocates for the community to State and Federal Governments on issues that are under their remit, such as housing, transport and health.

2. Promoting safe, inclusive and connected communities.

Council supports the implementation of the Social Sustainability Strategy and encourages, supports and facilitates a range of community and cultural events and recreational activities that build resilience, encourages social cohesion and support people to feel safe, included and connected with community life. Council supports volunteering within Council and acts as an advocate for volunteering in the broader community.

3. Community capacity building

Council builds the capacity of the community and helps the community to determine and achieve its own outcomes, through partnerships and support with community, not-for-profit and charitable organisations. Council supports the building of connections, encourages collaboration and facilitates knowledge sharing across the social sector and other levels of government to enable program and service delivery that achieves collective outcomes. Community grants are provided to organisations delivering programs that build capacity in the community to address current issues.

4. Referral and information services

Council provides referrals and information that will help to connect people to the information they need to access services and participate in community life. This is provided through Council's website, libraries, community centres and customer service centres, e-newsletters, a range of media, poster, banners, brochures and by word of mouth.

5. Delivering Infrastructure

Council delivers critical infrastructure that enable people to be safe, connected and included in community life. This includes roads, parks, recreation facilities, town centres, sporting fields and social infrastructure such as community buildings, libraries, arts and culture facilities. Social infrastructure is available, affordable and accessible to the whole community, with subsidised accommodation provided to community groups and organisations. To maximise the use of community buildings and the sustainability of the social services sector, Council facilitates the co-location of services and the provision of community service hubs.



6. Delivering programs and services

Council partners with community organisations to deliver support services that respond to the changing needs of our community. Consideration will be given to the direct provision of community services that are responsive to community outcomes where there is a gap, and work to access a provider to deliver this service to the community.

This policy covers all activities undertaken in the area of community services, with the exception of children's services, governed by the **Children (Education and Care Services) National Law (NSW) Act 2010** and library services, governed by the Library Act 1939.

References and related documents

- NSW Office of Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework ~~(2009)~~
- Local Government Act 1993, Chapter 3, Section 8 & Chapter 6
- Northern Beaches Council Community Strategic Plan **2040** ~~(Shape 2028)~~ **2018-2028**
- Northern Beaches Council Delivery Program and Operational Plan **2020-2024 - 2028**
- Northern Beaches Council Better Together Social Sustainability Strategy – 2040 ~~(under development)~~
- Northern Beaches Council Arts & Creativity Strategy – Connected through Creativity 2029
- Northern Beaches Council Community Centres Strategy 2021
- Northern Beaches Council Social Infrastructure Study ~~(under development)~~
- Northern Beaches Council Policy Framework

~~Previous Council Strategies:~~

- ~~Warringah Youth Strategy 2013-2023 – Warringah Council~~

Definitions

Social Sustainability: The OECD definition of social sustainability blends traditional social policy areas and principles, such as equity and health, with emerging issues concerning participation, needs, social capital, the economy, the environment, and more recently, with the notions of happiness, wellbeing and quality of life.

Community Development: working with communities to enhance well-being and build a stronger and more connected community. Community development principles include inclusion, empowerment, social justice, human rights, self-determination and collective action. Community development activities are aimed at reducing social isolation and empowering individuals to live within a supported community.

Community Services: are direct services that are provided to the most vulnerable in our community, including services for seniors, youth, children and families, people with disabilities and carers, communities and in the areas of mental health, housing support, legal aid, migrant support



and domestic violence. Direct services are generally funded and within the remit of the NSW Department of **Communities and Justice Family & Community Services (FaCS)** and the Federal Department of Social Services and **Federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing**.

- Capacity Building:** The process by which individuals, groups and organisations, institutions and countries develop, enhance and organise their systems, resources and knowledge; all reflected in their abilities, individually and collectively, to perform functions, solve problems and achieve objectives
- Resilience:** The ability of communities to respond positively to unexpected social, political, environmental and economic events.
- Wellbeing:** A complex combination of a person’s physical, mental, emotional and social health factors. Wellbeing is strongly linked to happiness and life satisfaction. In short, wellbeing could be described as how you feel about yourself and your life.
- Social Cohesion:** A socially cohesive society is one that works towards the wellbeing of all its members, fights exclusion and marginalisation, creates a sense of belonging, promotes trust and offers its members the opportunity of upward mobility.

Community Strategic Plan

This Council policy relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcomes of:

- 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

Responsible Officer

Executive Manager Community, Arts & Culture

Review Date

~~July 2025~~ July 2029

Revision History

Revision	Date	Status	TRIM Ref
1	1 May 2021	First draft Social Sustainability policy	
2	3 Aug 2021	Final policy	2021/307349
3	24 Aug 2021	Adopted by Council – Version 1 created (effective date 24/8/2021)	2021/307349
4	26 Mar 2024	Policy reference NB-P-17 added	2021/307349
5	02 June 2025	Draft policy reviewed for Council consideration	



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Tree Management Policy – draft (Stage 1 of 1)

Consultation period: 24 February to 30 March 2025

Contents

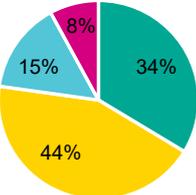
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1. Summary

At its meeting of 18 February 2025 Council resolved to place the draft Tree Management Policy (draft Policy) on public exhibition. In response, the draft Policy was publicly exhibited for community feedback between 24 February 2025 and 30 March 2025. During the public exhibition period 130 submissions were received. The majority of submissions (and comments) were very supportive or somewhat supportive of the draft Policy. Some respondents who were not supportive indicated the draft Policy needed to be strengthened and was too vague and subjective.

This report provides details about the public exhibition of the draft Policy, analysis of the feedback received, responses to key matters arising from the feedback and includes the verbatim responses (Appendix 1).

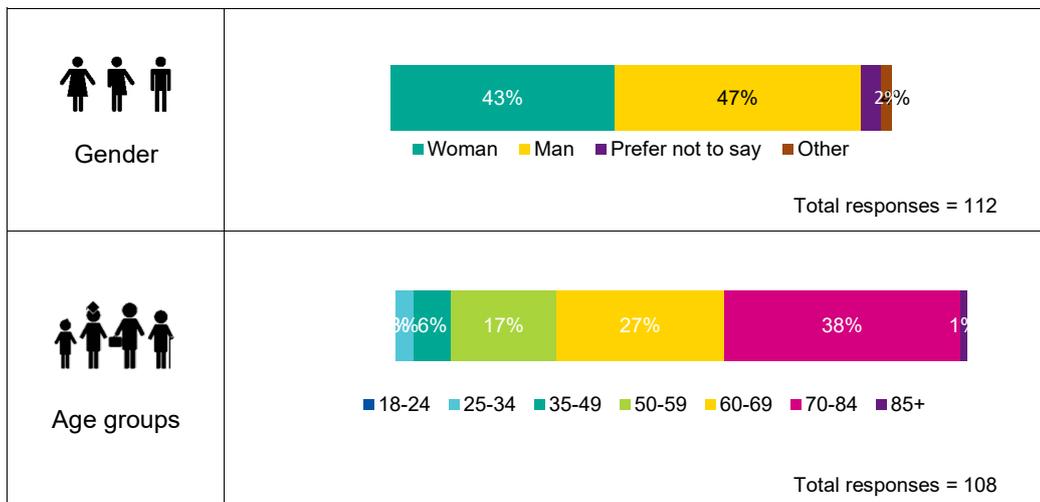
1.1. Key outcomes

 Total unique responses	<h1>130</h1>	
 How responses were received	Submission form Written responses (email/letter)	Completions: 116 Number received: 14
 Online sentiment question: How supportive of the draft policy are you?	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Very supportive ■ Somewhat supportive ■ Not very supportive ■ Not supportive at all <p>Total responses = 116</p> </div>	
 Feedback themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draft Policy and processes should be strengthened • tree management • compliance management • tree selection and replanting • environmental and community benefits • education, community engagement, and advocacy 	

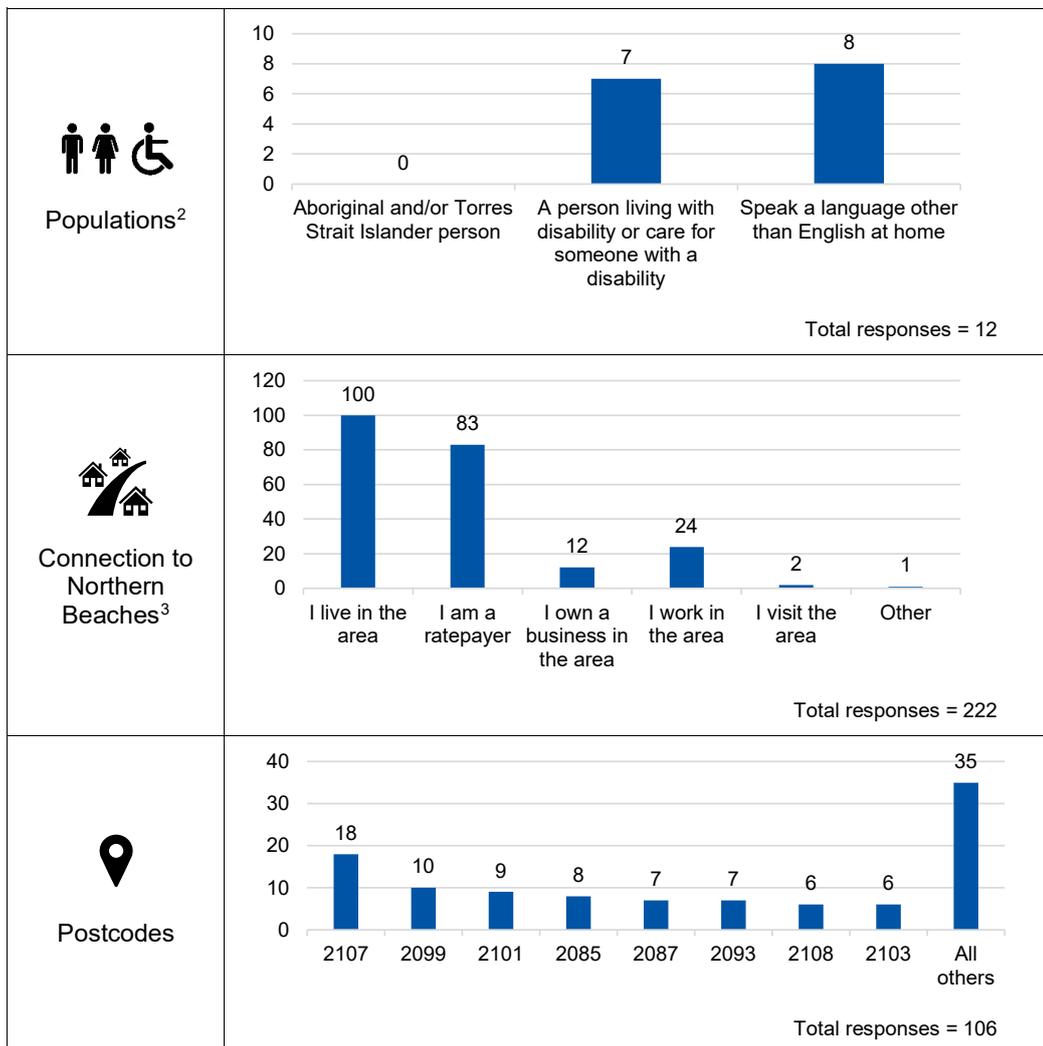
1.2. How we engaged

 Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 1,996	Visits: 2,617	Time onsite: 2 days, 14 hours 8 mins Avg: 1 min 45 sec
 Media and collateral	Pittwater Life: 1 story, 1 editorial Peninsula Living: 1 story		Distribution: 32,000 Distribution: 87,000
 Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2 editions Council (weekly) e-News: 2 editions Stakeholder email: All resident association groups via Community Liaison		Distribution: 22,424 subscribers Distribution: 57,260 subscribers Distribution: 51

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

Five tree related policies from the former councils remain in force, and there is a need to harmonise these policies to reflect a common approach to managing trees across the Northern Beaches Local Government Area (LGA).

A draft Tree Policy has been prepared which reflects the intent of the former policies, is consistent with the Northern Beaches Tree Canopy Plan (TCP), adopted in 2023, and strengthens tree assessment and protection requirements. The purpose of the engagement on the draft Policy was to inform the community and to seek feedback. The intentions are to consider the communities feedback and where appropriate amend the draft Policy.

² Respondents could select more than one option

³ Respondents could select more than one option

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values in relation to the draft policy
- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities
- provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way
- provide balanced and objective information to assist in understanding the problem, alternatives and/or solutions, in relation to protection of the environment, and environmental sustainability
- ensure public feedback is representative of the population.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the draft Policy was conducted between 24 February and 30 March 2025 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 & Policy.

A project page⁴ 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. All resident association and key stakeholder groups were emailed directly to advise them of the consultation.

Feedback was captured through an online submission 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 proposed draft policy.

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

The feedback received indicated positive support for the draft Policy's objectives and principles. Many respondents reiterated the value of trees to the Northern Beaches, highlighting the environmental, community and aesthetic benefits of trees and the importance of improving the tree canopy. The importance of tree selection of both native and non-native trees was also highlighted in some submissions. The feedback received also indicated support for the harmonisation of the existing 5 tree-related policies.

Key themes arising from a review of the submissions and comments received and staff responses is set out in Table 1 below.

<https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/tree-management-policy-draft>

Table 1: Public Exhibition of the draft Tree Management Policy - Summary of issues, suggestions, requests, other considerations and responses

Theme	Issues, suggestions, requests and other considerations raised	Responses
<p>Draft Policy and processes should be strengthened</p>	<p>Draft Policy wording:</p> <p>Considered too vague and needs to be strengthened.</p> <p>Draft Policy needs to be strengthened and / or, remove subjective words / terms.</p> <p>Definitions and further information needs to be provided for <i>stakeholders, tree retention measures, reasonable justification</i> and what constitutes <i>healthy trees</i>.</p>	<p>The draft Policy will be implemented in conjunction with all relevant legislation, guidelines, Australian standards and Council's policies, strategies and directions, the draft Policy is deemed to be suitable for its purpose. It is not the purpose of the draft Policy to replicate or replace relevant legislation, planning instruments, guidelines, Australian standards or Council's policies, strategies and directions. Rather the draft Policy sets out the objectives and key principles for the sustainable and strategic management of trees on public and private land. Additional references have been added to the draft Policy for completeness including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 No 63 (NSW)</i> • <i>Biosecurity Act 2015 No 24 (NSW)</i> • Northern Beaches Compliance and Enforcement Policy NB-P-2025 • Northern Beaches Enterprise Risk and Opportunity Management Policy NB-P-05 • Northern Beaches Policy Framework NB-P-01 • Standards Australia (2007) Australian Standard Pruning of amenity trees (AS4373:2007) • Standards Australia (2015) Tree stock for landscape use (AS2303:2015) <p>Stakeholders are identified and defined specifically for each community engagement project undertaken (for projects including those related to trees) in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and Strategy. The draft Policy will operate in keeping with the Community Engagement Policy and Strategy. No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p> <p>Tree retention measures and justification are as per Council's tree and risk assessment framework. Council's internal risk assessment framework has been developed in accordance with the Enterprise Risk and Opportunity Management Policy NB-P-05. It is proposed to review the risk framework in</p>

Theme	Issues, suggestions, requests and other considerations raised	Responses
		<p>relation to trees and consider if it can be strengthened.</p> <p>A definition of a healthy tree has been added to the draft Policy.</p>
	<p>Iconic tree register: Reword to 'Tree Register' or 'Significant tree register' and provide criteria / definition.</p>	<p>The establishment of an Iconic Tree Register is a commitment in the TCP and is planned to be launched on Council's website in late 2025. Criteria and definitions will be included in the information on Council's website for the Register. No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p>
	<p>Comments on draft Policy specifics:</p> <p>Draft Policy should specify that Council will investigate and pursue the rehabilitation of a tree and that the removal of a tree will be a last resort.</p> <p>Needs to allow for flexibility and consider the needs of the surrounding area and wildlife.</p> <p>Expand on and increase the Advocacy and Education actions/ section.</p> <p>Draft Policy should detail best practice for tree management on private land.</p>	<p>The draft Policy provides the principles under which we propose to carry out tree management. The retention of trees and the improvement of the Northern Beaches tree canopy is a key principle of the draft Policy and the TCP.</p> <p>Opportunities to rehabilitate a tree is a usual consideration during tree assessment. The draft Policy has been amended to refer to tree rehabilitation to confirm that rehabilitation will be considered where practicable.</p> <p>Where required the impacts on 'surrounding areas' and wildlife are considered in tree management. No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p> <p>Information regarding 'best practice' for managing trees on private land can be found on Council's website. No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p> <p>There are a range of actions in the TCP regarding raising community awareness about trees, involving volunteers and education initiatives. These actions are implemented when funds and resources are available. No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p>

Theme	Issues, suggestions, requests and other considerations raised	Responses
Tree Management	<p>Private Land:</p> <p>Property owners and individuals should not be restricted on private land particularly regarding removal of non-native trees.</p> <p>Landowners should be able to prune imposing trees from neighbouring land as they see fit.</p> <p>The draft Policy does not go far enough to protect trees on private land.</p> <p>Permits should be required for trees 3m and above, not 5m and above.</p> <p>Existing trees should not be allowed to be removed and should be incorporated into new developments.</p> <p>Process to remove trees for development should be easier.</p>	<p>Management of trees on private land is governed by relevant legislation particularly the State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 NSW (SEPP) and relevant Development Control Plans, for example regarding pruning neighbours trees, height of trees and removals in relation to development. No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p> <p>An Exempt Species list is available on Council's website – the tree species listed are suitable for removal without consent unless identified as a heritage item or within a heritage area.</p> <p>No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p>
	<p>Removal and/or pruning of trees on Council land:</p> <p>If a tree is dangerous, damaging private or public property or creating mess it should be easy to apply for it to be removed or pruned.</p> <p>Improved notification to the community when a tree on Council land is to be removed.</p> <p>Trees should be allowed to be pruned to improve views.</p> <p>Trees need to be protected from pruning for improved views.</p>	<p>Trees are assessed in accordance with all relevant legislation, Council policies and directions including the Enterprise Risk and Opportunity Management Policy NB-P-05 and Framework and action is taken accordingly.</p> <p>The removal of trees will generally not be supported to reduce normal leaf, flower, or fruit drop.</p> <p>The draft Policy sets out the community notification to be implemented as part of our tree management processes. Based on our experience this is deemed to be suitable. Noting that prior notification is not required to remove trees identified as high risk, where there is immediate danger and / or in emergency situations.</p> <p>Public trees are protected and it is our position that trees are not to be pruned for private views. When planting on Council land, views are a consideration during species selection.</p> <p>No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p>

Theme	Issues, suggestions, requests and other considerations raised	Responses
	<p>Iconic Tree Register:</p> <p>Criteria for who should be able to nominate a tree on private land should be broader and not needing landowners permission.</p> <p>Any tree 35years or over old should be included.</p> <p>Should include a section for iconic trees of the future.</p> <p>A section for notable streets should be included.</p> <p>Unnecessary as trees are protected by this policy and Planning Controls.</p> <p>All trees should be considered iconic as a part of an ecosystem.</p> <p>A photographic database of iconic trees should be kept and made public.</p>	<p>The establishment of an Iconic Tree Register is a commitment in the TCP and is planned to be launched on Council's website in late 2025. Criteria and definitions will be included in the information on Council's website for the Register.</p> <p>Permission needs to be provided by private landowners to register a tree on the Iconic Tree Register.</p> <p>A photographic database will be included with the Iconic Tree register.</p> <p>Notable street trees are captured by the street heritage register, town centre planning and location / structure plans.</p> <p>No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p>
Compliance Management	<p>Recourse for illegal removal or vandalism:</p> <p>Draft Policy needs to provide more creative and significant penalties for vandalism and enforcement should occur at all hours.</p> <p>Recourse for illegal removal or vandalism: Council to prosecute offenders at the Land and Environment Court.</p>	<p>As stated in the draft Policy, vandalism and unauthorised tree removal or pruning is managed in accordance with Council's Compliance and Enforcement Policy 2024 and relevant legislation and guidelines including for example the Enforcement Guidelines for Councils (2015), Ombudsman, NSW.</p> <p>Reference to Council's Compliance and Enforcement Guidelines 2018 has been added to the draft Policy.</p>
	<p>Risk Policy:</p> <p>Should be made publicly available and be included as part of the draft Policy.</p>	<p>Council's Enterprise Risk and Opportunity Management Policy is available on Council's website and has been added to the list of reference documents in the draft Policy.</p>
	<p>Tree assessments:</p> <p>Concerns of the validity of privately contracted arborist reports.</p> <p>Concerns over conflicting assessments between Council</p>	<p>We accept and reviews reports received from arborists who are registered and suitably qualified at level 5 or above.</p> <p>No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p>

Theme	Issues, suggestions, requests and other considerations raised	Responses
	<p>and private arborist assessments</p> <p>Compliance: Planting - how will Council's compliance with the draft Policy and Tree Canopy Plan be measured, will there be a quota that needs to be met. Technology, such as mapping, should be used at regular intervals to ensure compliance and this data should be made available to the public. Insufficient number of Rangers to police public compliance with draft Policy. Need a designated Ranger to assess 10:50 clearing.</p> <p>Permits for work on private trees: Exhibited to allow for public review, input & monitoring</p>	<p>The TCP sets out a range of actions which we implement as approved and when funding and resources are available. These actions include planting a minimum of 5,000 trees annually in priority areas (outlined in this Plan) and LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) surveys of the height, density and other characteristics of trees (and vegetation) on the Northern Beaches undertaken every 4 years. The LIDAR data is then used to determine for example canopy height and cover.</p> <p>Council's Rangers manage the full range of compliance matters, including compliance related to trees, across the entire LGA. Resources are allocated according to operational needs at the time. The funding and resourcing of Rangers is considered annually through the development of Council's Delivery Program and budgets.</p> <p>No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p> <p>The approved process requires among other things that a copy of the permit be displayed on a front fence, and then a photo is provided to Council as evidence of replanting.</p> <p>No change proposed to draft Policy.</p>
Tree selection and replanting	<p>Tree selection: Importance of non-native trees. Feedback is critical of historic and current tree selection on Council land (Coastal Banksias should not be planted on nature strips as they cause damage, do not plant gum trees, do not plant Camphor Laurels along creeks).</p> <p>Location: Ensure that Council land is fully utilised, increasing trees on all reserves and nature strips.</p>	<p>The TCP sets out key principles including that we are to - provide a diverse range of species of varying families and genera, prioritising local native tree shrub and ground cover species where possible (non-native trees are included).</p> <p>Due diligence is carried out by us to ensure that the appropriate species is selected for each location.</p> <p>No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p> <p>The TCP states that one of our goals is that the built environment integrates with the natural environment. For example, we consider the potential for improving tree canopy and tree coverage in planning for improvements to Council's parks. The target</p>

Theme	Issues, suggestions, requests and other considerations raised	Responses
		<p>is to plant a minimum of 5,000 trees annually in priority areas.</p> <p>No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p>
Environmental and community benefits	<p>Replanting:</p> <p>Clarify how the location and species selection will be managed.</p>	<p>The TCP sets out a range of actions which we implement as approved and when funding and resources are available. These actions include planting a minimum of 5,000 trees annually in priority areas. Priority locations in the Plan for planting to improve tree canopy include areas that are vulnerable, high heat indexed and low canopy locations e.g. Brookvale, Mona Vale, Dee Why and Narrabeen. Species will be selected in accordance with this Plan and with Council's approval.</p> <p>No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p>
	<p>Climate Change:</p> <p>Trees are important to combat the urban heat island effect.</p> <p>Tree management needs to consider the increase in extreme weather events resulting in increased risks from storms and bushfires.</p> <p>Pruning should be allowed when trees shade solar panels.</p>	<p>Trees play an important role in moderating urban heat and the draft Policy recognises the benefit of trees in urban cooling.</p> <p>Our position in regard to climate change is addressed in more detail in other Council strategies including the Northern Beaches Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040.</p> <p>Exempt tree works can be undertaken in accordance with relevant legislation, regulations and relevant Council policies and directions.</p> <p>No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p>
	<p>Environment:</p> <p>Draft Policy needs to state the importance of tree landscaping to the Northern Beaches.</p>	<p>The importance of trees is reflected in Council's suite of environmental sustainability policies and strategies and Council's Community Strategic Plan.</p> <p>No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p>
	<p>Wildlife:</p> <p>Native trees are important to support biodiversity. Trees of all species and age classes are needed to support local wildlife and need to be protected to ensure the future growth of the tree canopy.</p> <p>Protect, improve and increase wildlife habitat and corridors.</p>	<p>The benefits provided by trees for habitat and local wildlife is mentioned in the objectives of the draft Policy and reflected in Council's suite of environmental sustainability policies and strategies.</p> <p>No change proposed to draft Policy.</p>

Theme	Issues, suggestions, requests and other considerations raised	Responses
	<p>Non-native trees provide essential nesting and roosting for native animals and should be protected.</p>	
<p>Education, community engagement, and advocacy</p>	<p>Education:</p> <p>Educate the community and local businesses that trees are an asset to the community and outline all benefits.</p> <p>Important to communicate to the community regularly and through various methods the importance of trees.</p> <p>Provide a list of recommended trees for small spaces</p> <p>increased education at local schools so the next generation understand the importance of trees.</p> <p>Greater education regarding weeds, invasive and unsuitable plants.</p>	<p>There are a range of actions in the TCP regarding raising community awareness about trees, involving volunteers and education initiatives. These actions are implemented when funds and resources are available. Recent responses include that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's website has been updated with new information about removing and pruning trees on private and public land, a tree guide (with information about What are the best trees to plant? What is the best way to plant a tree?) a tree photo registry and volunteering for tree planting days • A community tree planting day was held at the North Curl Curl sand dunes on 26 April 2025. Community tree planting days are an annual activity undertaken when resources are available and in specific locations. <p>No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p>
	<p>Community engagement:</p> <p>Allow the community to easily provide feedback to Council.</p> <p>Council did not listen to the community regarding the trees on Ruskin Row, Avalon.</p>	<p>We conduct community engagement in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and Strategy. The draft Policy will operate in keeping with this Policy and Strategy.</p> <p>No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p>
	<p>Advocacy:</p> <p>Council needs to continue to advocate for the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice be tightened to greater protect trees</p> <p>LEP needs to be amended to ensure draft Policy is more actionable</p>	<p>We will continue to advocate on behalf of the Northern Beaches community for changes to State policies, legislation and plans that support Council's objectives for tree management.</p> <p>Tree Management matters have been considered in the development of the Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 and the draft Northern Beaches Local Environmental Plan and District Control Plan. This is in keeping with the TCP. No change proposed to the draft Policy.</p>

Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

To view all verbatim comments, please click the link below:

[Community Engagement Report - Tree Management Policy - Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder comments](#)

**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	31 March 2025
Approval	Content provided and approved by Open Space and Recreation Planning Team. Responsible manager: Damian Ham
Status	Draft
Related Projects	Tree Canopy 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.



Council Policy NB-P-TBC

Tree Management

Purpose

This Policy sets out the objectives and key principles for the sustainable and strategic management of trees on public and private land across the Northern Beaches.

Objectives:

The key objectives of the Policy are to:

- Recognise the significant benefit provided by trees to our local community in terms of air quality, soil protection, water quality and quantity, carbon sequestration, energy conservation, noise reduction, urban cooling, and habitat for local wildlife.
- **Maximise** ~~Increase~~ tree cover by enhancing and promoting protection, increasing new or replacement planting, and improving rates of retention and long-term survival where trees are healthy and do not pose unacceptable risks to safety.
- Enhance canopy connectivity within and between natural areas (such as bushland, parks, and road reserves) and urban areas (including residential and commercial property) through the preservation of existing canopy trees, and the planting of trees and other vegetation.

Principles

Council has various responsibilities for the management of trees across the Local Government Area on both public and private land.

In relation to public trees including those in bushland reserves, parks, gardens and road reserves, Council seeks to retain trees and promote tree canopy having regard to environmental values, the management of risk and relevant statutory controls such as State Environmental Planning Policies.

The management of private trees is subject to the relevant statutory requirements and planning instruments and controls. Private tree works are typically authorised through a tree permit application under a planning instrument or control, through an approved development application, or in some cases may be undertaken without the need for approval where the works are considered exempt under a planning instrument or control (depending on the type of work, species, type and condition of the tree).

This tree management policy is founded on the following principles and measures:

Planting and Selection

- Suitable species will be selected for each location having regard to the surrounding built environment, provision of biodiversity habitat, potential damage to utilities, planned future works at or adjacent to the location, and the overall aesthetic appeal of the area.
- A spread of tree age classes will be maintained to minimise the impact of tree removals in a given area.
- Planting will be prioritised in areas of low or poor canopy coverage and where there are opportunities to create green links and connectivity between natural areas.
- Locally occurring native species are preferred unless there is reasonable justification for using other species.

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General tree protection

- Maximising long-term tree retention is a key consideration when making decisions about proposed activities on public and private land.
- Public trees are to be protected as public assets ~~by prescribing appropriate protection measures.~~
- The removal of public trees (including pruning, root removal and total removal) is considered only when it is consistent with Council's policies, planning controls, risk ~~framework~~ **policy and supporting framework**, statutory responsibilities, and after other tree retention measures have been considered.
- Council supports the long term retention of trees on private land noting that tree removals can occur such as when they are an exempt tree species under a planning instrument, through an approved tree permit under a planning instrument or control, or through a development consent.
- Where any tree is proposed to be retained appropriate retention measures shall be put in place and maintained.
- The relevant Australian Standard(s) for the protection of trees (including AS4970:**2009**) shall be applied in relation to works.

Assessment of trees as part of a Development Application

- The assessment of a development application that proposes the removal or other work on trees (including iconic trees) will be guided by the prevailing planning instruments and controls such as a Development Control Plan or State Environmental Planning Policy (**NSW**).
- In the assessment of development applications, Council will consider opportunities for the protection, replacement and/or additional trees on private land where it is not inconsistent with the applicable planning instruments.
- Locally occurring native species are preferred unless there is reasonable justification for using other species.

Tree assessments under a Tree Permit Application or in relation to public trees

- Council's tree assessment methodology and processes will be:
 - mapped and documented.
 - undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced persons.
 - consistent with appropriate standards including AS4970:**2009**, and those of the Australian Institute of Arboriculture, and Arboriculture Australia.
- Where requests for the removal or pruning of trees are made, the supporting arborist assessments must be undertaken in accordance with Council's tree assessment methodology and ~~process~~ **procedures**.
- In considering whether ongoing tree retention **and/or rehabilitation** is appropriate, staff will have regard for the long- term viability of the tree, overall risk, the costs associated with retention/**rehabilitation**, and the impact of deferring more suitable plantings.
- Where an iconic public tree has been recommended for removal, a review of the underlying assessment will be undertaken by a panel of internal subject matter experts, before a final

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instruction is issued for removal. This does not apply in the case of trees that are at imminent risk of failure or in response to an emergency.

- On roads (or road reserves) where Council is the road authority, tree removal or pruning over roads or within road reserves will have regard to among other things the risks associated with the road classification and the use of the road.
- The removal or pruning of trees on public land will generally not be supported where it relates solely to supporting/enhancing advertising, to reducing the extent of normal leaf, flower, or fruit drop, to reducing the impact from any animal waste, noise, solar access, solar panels or for enhancement or restoring views from private or public property.
- The removal or pruning of trees on public land for allergies will only be considered if they can be medically proven and linked by a certified allergist-specialist.
- Council will have regard to its ~~enterprise risk management framework~~ **Enterprise Risk and Opportunity Management Policy and supporting framework** in considering threats to public safety and/or utilities/assets before determining whether a tree should be removed.

Exemptions related to tree management

- In some cases works and types of trees species are exempt (i.e. does not require approval prior to pruning or removal).
- Council will maintain and regularly review a list of trees where approval for pruning and/or removal is not required (i.e. exempt trees). These exemptions will be reflected in Council's Development Control Plan.
- Other planning instruments and statutory controls may also specify exemptions in certain circumstances (such as the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 NSW*, and 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice for New South Wales, *NSW Rural Fire Service*)

Iconic trees

- Trees that Council considers iconic due to their environmental, social or cultural value will be incorporated into an Iconic Tree Register.
- The community can nominate a tree for Council's consideration for inclusion on the Iconic Tree Register.
- Trees on private land nominated for inclusion will require the landowner's consent.

Vandalism and Unauthorised Removal

- **Council will make every reasonable effort to investigate and address unauthorised activities that impact upon the Northern Beaches tree canopy within its authority and resources.**
- All reported acts of vandalism or unauthorised tree removal or pruning will be managed in accordance with **relevant legislation and Council's policies and directions including Council's Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Guidelines.**
- In the event of a tree on public land requiring removal or pruning or any other treatment due to vandalism, the Council will inform surrounding residents of the vandalism via letters and or the erection of a sign in the place of or near to the removed or vandalised tree identifying the reason for the removal or pruning.

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Community Notification

- The community will be informed about public tree removal or mitigation works in their area where Council is satisfied that it poses an unmanageable risk in the context of relevant policies and directions including Council's Enterprise Risk and Opportunity Management Policy and Risk Appetite Statement.
- Feedback from relevant stakeholders will be sought where a proposal for revegetation or replanting of public open space may result in loss of local amenity, changes to public access (via designated trails) and or loss of view lines, and this will be considered as part of the decision-making process.
- Relevant stakeholders will be consulted (as part of the normal project process) where public tree removal is required for the purpose of capital works and maintenance works or where the tree removal is not related to an unmanageable risk to community safety or damage to property or infrastructure.
- Where a permit has been issued for the removal of a tree on private land, a copy of the permit must be displayed on the street frontage of the property for an appropriate period of time before, during and after the approved removal.
- Consultation, notification and other communication with the community and other stakeholders will be undertaken in accordance with relevant Council policies including Council's Community Engagement Policy and Strategy.

Advocacy and Education

- Council will advocate to government and/or industry for improvements to tree protection where it assists in achieving the objectives of a Council policy or strategy.
- Council will produce and publish information that assists the community in understanding the value **and positive benefits** of trees and the various controls that apply to trees in the Northern Beaches Local Government Area.

Scope and application

This Policy applies to:

- All Council staff, contract workers, consultants and all residents and owners when dealing with all trees and bushland on public and private lands.
- Land under Council's care, control and management.

This Policy does not apply to:

- the management of trees for bush fire purposes as this is covered in the Bush Fire Management Policy.
- emergency situations such as storms, bush fires and natural disasters.
- tree management controls established under legislation, regulations, planning instruments and controls (~~e.g. 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice for NSW, State Environmental Planning Policies~~).

References and related documents (including those references updated, repealed and or adopted thereafter)

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 No 63 (NSW)

Biosecurity Act 2015 No 24 (NSW)

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Electricity Supply (General) Regulation 2014 (NSW)
Electricity Supply Act 1995 No 94 (NSW)
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203 (NSW)
Roads Act 1993 No 33 (NSW)
Rural Fires Act 1997 No 65 (NSW)
Sydney Water Act 1994 No 88 (NSW)
Trees (Disputes Between Neighbours) Act 2006 No 126 (NSW)
State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 (NSW)
State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 NSW
Greener Places Framework 2020, Government Architect NSW
Greener Places Design Guide (Draft) 2020, Government Architect NSW
10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice for New South Wales, NSW Rural Fire Service
Northern Beaches Compliance and Enforcement Policy NB-P-2025
Northern Beaches Compliance and Enforcement Guidelines
Northern Beaches Community Engagement Policy and Strategy
Northern Beaches Enterprise Risk and Opportunity Management Policy NB-P-05
Northern Beaches Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040
Northern Beaches Local Strategic Planning Statement - Towards 2040
Northern Beaches Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan
Northern Beaches Policy Framework NB-P-01
Northern Beaches Tree Canopy Plan 2023
Standards Australia (2007) *Australian Standard Pruning of amenity trees (AS4373:2007)*
Standards Australia (2009) *Protection of trees on development sites (AS4970:2009)*
Standards Australia (2015) *Tree stock for landscape use (AS2303:2015)*

Definitions

Public Land: Public land includes Council owned and managed land that has been set aside for open spaces, road reserves, parks and recreational areas, natural areas, and general greenspace.

Canopy coverage: an indicator of the quantity of Urban Canopy often used as a measure of an Urban Canopy's general capacity to provide economic, social, environmental and aesthetic benefits.

Habitat: defined as any tree, living or dead, that provides, or could provide habitat for wildlife.

Healthy tree: A healthy tree has vibrant growth, dense leaves, strong bark, and minimal pests or diseases. It shows annual new growth and a strong root system.

Green Infrastructure: describes the network of green spaces, links and water systems that deliver multiple environmental, economic and social values and benefits to urban communities.

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Iconic tree is a tree that is, in accordance with the defined categories of significance including over 5.0m in height and has visual/aesthetic significance that impacts on the streetscape by virtue of its size, botanic/scientific, ecological, and historical, commemorative, cultural or social significance, appearance, type, age, trees of conservation significance or habitat value.

Risk Appetite Statement: amount of risk an entity is willing to accept or retain in order to achieve its objectives. It is a statement or series of statements that describes the entity's attitude towards risk taking.

Responsible Officer

Executive Manager Parks and Open Space

Review Date

~~At least every four years or as required.~~ June 2029.

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Change	TRIM #
1	18 February 2025	Draft Tree Management Policy – Council resolved to publicly exhibit the draft Policy (Resolution 033/25)	2025/081840
2	11 June 2025	Revised draft for Council consideration following public exhibition	2025/298783
3			

T69. Tree Management Policy

Title:	Tree Management Policy
Policy No:	T69.
Policy Replaces:	T69, T70, T80, T85, T90, T100, and T110
Keywords:	Tree Management, Tree Removal, Root Damage, Ring barking, Trees Maintenance
Responsible Officer:	Divisional Manager – Civic and Urban Services and Deputy General Manger People Place & Infrastructure

1. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY OF THIS POLICY

This policy is intended to be the umbrella for a suite of related documents located under the *Manly Council Tree Management Strategy – Trees for a Sustainable Manly*. Note. This policy is inclusive of former separate policies T70, T80, T85, T90, T100, and T110.

This policy has been authorised by the General Manager and Council and is available to all Council officials, the general public and developers. It has been developed in consultation with staff and has been exhibited and consulted through the community and Precincts. Ownership of the policy rests with the Divisional Manager Civic and Urban Services, and Deputy General Manager, Landuse and Sustainability of Council who is responsible for administering the Council's tree and vegetation preservation regulatory controls or similar instrument under the State legislation requirements.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy directs actions required in respect of trees within the Manly local government area (LGA), within private and public land, and directs actions from the Tree Management Strategy, to be implemented as a process.

This policy supersedes and replaces various former separate tree policies referred to above.

3. PRINCIPLES

1. Establish Manly Council's commitment to, and the future strategic direction for, tree protection, management, planting and maintenance for its streets and parks in the Manly LGA.
2. Provide a rationale for decision making to ensure consistency in the management of park and street trees in the Manly LGA.
3. Address issues related to the park and street tree management and maintenance faced by Manly Council. Provide for a strategy to improve the current 'tree environment' and pass on an improved heritage of trees to the future.
4. Provide direction to support Council's commitment to tree protection, management, planting and maintenance for trees in parks and on streets in the Manly LGA.
5. To consolidate existing tree related policy documents into a directional strategy.
6. Develop a succession planting plan for all Manly's mature tree stock in streets and parks, building on Manly's unique image.

The Strategy documents included in the tree management decision making process are:

- SEPP19- Bushland in Urban Areas;
- Tree Management Strategy;
- Tree Preservation Order;
- Street Tree Master Plan (to be further developed);
- Significant Tree Register (to be further developed);

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- Norfolk Island Pine Management Plan;
 - Trees Removal of “Ficus” Varieties;
 - Trees Ringbarking, Poisoning, Root Damage;
 - Nature Strip Garden Policy (to be developed by Natural Resources);
 - Manly Local Environmental Plan 2013 (cl. 5.9 and 5.9AA);
 - Manly DCP 2013.

Trees and vegetation listed as items of the environmental heritage include the following:

- Street trees;
- Vegetation within parks and reserves (exotic and endemic) and individual trees;
- Species listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (NSW);
- Species listed under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 NSW);
- Endangered ecological communities/Eastern Suburbs banksia scrub/littoral rainforest.

This Policy and the associated Tree Management Strategy’ aim to balance the needs of our trees and our community, so as to:

- optimise the capacity of our urban forest to provide both present and future residents with environmental, economic, and social benefits;
- achieve a balance between minimising risks and liabilities to the community whilst delivering a sustainable urban tree cover;
- achieve target canopy cover, stocking levels and projected life spans for the LGA’s trees, including replacing removed trees and planning for deteriorating and ageing street and park trees;
- achieve efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable management of the LGA’s trees by coordinating efforts across Council and others’ programs;
- minimise tree interference with existing above and below ground services, signage, street lighting, and public and private structures;
- encourage space for street tree planting through design coordination between Council divisions/business units and utility organisations;
- minimise impacts on existing trees by providing clear approval processes and ensuring coordination across Council’s planning guidelines and improvement programs, and between Council and others in infrastructure development and management;
- uphold Council’s duty of care, and commitment to public safety, including a ‘good neighbour’ approach to managing trees adjacent to private property;
- engage the community, provide open and accountable decision making, and encourage stewardship and partnership;
- support sustainable development and management practices;
- preserve and enhance Manly’s tree heritage as it relates to iconic plantings, significant trees, and livability;
- provide shade cover for streets, public parks, and reserves;
- maintain diversity within the different Precincts of Manly;
- provide shade cover for users of our streets and public parks; and
- develop a succession planting plan for all Manly’s significant trees and major plantings in parks, reserves, and streets.

RETAINING TREES

Keeping established trees, particularly in areas undergoing a change in land use, is the most cost-effective way as respects sustainability. Conditions of development consents will be used to ensure that, where appropriate, established trees are protected through all stages of a proposed development (eg *insertion of the 'Protection of trees on development sites' - AS 4970-2009*).

TREE PLANTING

Planting new trees is important in enhancing and renewing urban tree cover. Council is directly involved in planting trees as well as requiring tree planting by others.

Tree species should be selected having special regard to the following matters:

- the purpose of the planting
- the available space
- the conditions of the site (including consideration of climate change effects)
- the related infrastructure.

While endemic tree species are the most appropriate for restoring habitat, some non-native species or exotics (*excluding pest plants*) such as Norfolk Pines are part of the landscape character and botanic history of the Manly ocean beach front, esplanades, streets, and parks.

The planting of street trees should:

- promote tree lined boulevards along arterial roads and major entry roads, including feature tree species iconic to the landscape of Manly;
- contribute to the local streetscape quality, storm water management;
- be guided by existing canopy cover density, urban 'hot-spots', and resident requests;
- favour whole-street plantings or blocks within streets in preference to individual plantings (this being more efficient as respects both establishment and ongoing maintenance);
- favour clear trunked, small to medium shade tree species under power lines in residential streets so as to minimise maintenance requirements;
- encourage high quality vistas;
- encourage community participation in street and park tree planting programs to promote ongoing stewardship;
- take into account and build on the historical and heritage plantings in individual streets and suburbs;
- enhance and protect habitats and walkways;
- promote shade and amenity at picnic areas, pathways, spectator areas, playgrounds, and carparks; and
- conserve historically significant tree plantings and designs and develop a succession of plans for existing heritage plantings to maintain the historic character of Manly.

BUSHLAND FORESHORE AND BROAD SCALE AREAS

Tree planting in bushland and broad scale areas should:

- add to biodiversity by revegetating degraded land;
- assist the natural regeneration of desired species within significant conservation areas;
- favour endemic species so as to provide safe corridors for fauna and flora;
- improve biodiversity value of remnant vegetation by suppressing weeds species;
- contribute to the conservation of Manly's unique biodiversity and waterway health;

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- contribute to a native vegetation cover target;
 - eliminate tree pruning or removal of trees in bushland except for structural integrity or safety reasons; and
 - Discourage and prevent the pruning of trees in foreshore protection zones.

REMOVAL OR PRUNING OF TREES IN BUSHLAND

The removal or pruning of trees in bushland (other than those listed below) is prohibited:

- dangerous trees;
- dead trees (subject to habitat evaluation);
- noxious weeds; and
- exempt species from Council Policies or undesirable trees.

BUSHLAND AND HABITAT CORRIDORS

Bushland corridors are important to our natural areas. These linkages can be by way of natural existing corridors or via streets or private open space where an owner's agreement can be obtained. Council will endeavour to continue to create these corridors through its street tree planting programs, as well as by seeking private agreement to enhance corridor linkages throughout the Manly LGA.

TREE REPLACEMENT

Council is committed to replacing any tree which has been removed, whether it has been removed according to the above guidelines or removed by way of a tree removal permit. Residents will be required to replace a tree on their property if one has been removed.

GOOD NEIGHBOUR APPROACH

Council will adopt a 'good neighbour' approach to managing trees near property boundaries by undertaking tree maintenance works that address genuine 'nuisance' issues to the adjacent property owner. Where possible, significant trees nearing the end of their life expectancy will have succession planting carried out to allow for establishment of a new tree prior to any removal of an existing tree.

DEAD TREES

Dead trees on public land will **not** be notified for removal but will be removed during the course of the cyclic works program, unless any such tree is dangerous in which case it will be removed as soon as possible. Dead trees on private property do not require a permit for removal but must be technically dead (that is, no green vegetation present and not a deciduous species).

COSTS OF TREES IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Trees are major community assets, and considerable sums of public money are invested in their establishment and management, usually through local government or other public funding.

A priority for Council is to identify the mitigation of damage caused by trees to infrastructure and services. A maximum cost (generally around \$10,000) will be outlined in order to keep a tree that is creating infrastructure issues or related claims for damage. *Ficus microcarpa* var. *Hillii* (Hills Weeping Fig) and *Populus* sp. (Poplar) have been identified as species that are particularly problematic within Manly LGA in relation to underground pipelines and surrounding infrastructure damage. Where conflict occurs between trees and infrastructure, the cost of damages to either the tree or infrastructure will be considered carefully by Council. Action will be taken to remove trees causing damage to infrastructure only after careful consideration.

TREE SELECTION CRITERIA

As most trees in the streets and parks of the Manly LGA will occupy their planting sites for a significant length of time, a carefully considered selection of site and appropriate tree species is vital. Established trees within the streetscape will influence the choice of future new trees to be planted, trees which are performing

well will continue to be used within the Council region where appropriate. Trees which perform poorly or are particularly damaging to pavements, kerbs, gutters, or underground services are more likely and eligible to be replaced, taking the opportunity to introduce additional tree species or cultivars.

There is a range of issues that Council will consider when selecting the type of trees to plant across the LGA, including, but not limited to the following:

- climate;
- geology and soils;
- topography;
- wildlife habitat;
- native versus exotic tree selection;
- drought tolerance;
- tolerance of pests and diseases;
- tolerance of atmospheric pollution;
- performance record;
- provision of shade to pavement and road;
- safety and visibility;
- availability at advanced size;
- acceptable leaf and fruit fall characteristics;
- low risk of becoming environmental weed;
- proneness to major limb shear;
- life expectancy;
- capacity to lift pavements and kerbing;
- low maintenance;
- solar access;
- relationship with distinctive landscape characters;
- ultimate size of tree canopy;
- historic and cultural associations;
- form of tree canopy;
- corridor potential and value to natural fauna;
- overhead power lines;
- narrow footpaths;
- related issues with the tree species;
- consistency and visual uniformity for each street;
- reinforcement of major features such as gateways and foreshore areas of Manly; and
- enhancement of key cultural and commercial areas.

TREE MAINTENANCE AND REMOVALS

Tree Maintenance

Council recognises that trees are an important community asset with value to Council. Understanding this value helps Council make decisions about aiming to achieve proactive rather than reactive maintenance activities, including the following:

Inspection

- Council will routinely carry out visual inspections of large trees in high visitation areas of parks (eg over paths, playgrounds, carparks, playing fields, and areas adjacent to private property boundaries).
- Council will prioritise visual inspections of street trees during annual maintenance programs.
- Council will carry out additional visual and technical inspections in response to community concerns or suspicion of a tree's health or safety.
- Where appropriate, Council will prune young trees to encourage strong and functional tree growth patterns, and periodically prune branches to address structural weaknesses and prevent foliage from obstructing street signs, traffic, street lighting, power lines, rooflines, and pedestrians.
- All pruning will be done by suitably trained and qualified staff.
- Removal of any tree is considered an action of last resort. The intention is to maintain or increase the tree canopy of the whole of the LGA. Therefore removal of a tree must be followed by replacement planting.
- Appropriate watering and fertilising of trees will be carried out where trees identified by technical staff as to be in decline.

Tree Removal

Trees will only be removed after careful consideration of a number of factors including, but not limited to, the following:

- Risk to public safety;
- Significance and value;
- Life expectancy and condition (health and structure);
- Damage to structures and or ongoing maintenance costs in relation to surrounding infrastructure and services; and
- Exempt or weed species.

The consideration to remove a tree may be in response to a customer request or routine inspections and maintenance. The decision will be made by a suitably qualified Council officer or contracted arborist.

Trees and Vegetation Preservation Regulatory Controls

The relevantly applicable provisions of *Manly Local Environmental Plan 2013* (see, especially, cl. 5.9 and 5.9AA), together with the relevantly applicable provisions of any development control plan, will constitute the main tool for the regulation and assessment of applications made to Council for permission to prune or remove trees in the Manly LGA.

Trees are also to be provided protection from construction activities and other activities such as major events that are likely to have an adverse effect on their stability, health, long term viability in line with Australian Standard AS 4970/2009 Protection of Tree on Development Sites.

Manly Norfolk Island Pine Management and Conservation Plan

Council has previously identified the significance and heritage value of its *Araucaria sp.* population along the Ocean Beach, East West Esplanade and those within the vicinity of the Manly Lagoon at Queenscliff.

Council is committed in its efforts to continue to maintain, enhance, protect and improve this community asset by way of the *Plan for the Management and Conservation of Coastal Norfolk Island Pines within Manly Council Region*.

Significant Trees on Private or Public Land

Council has previously identified Significant Trees on public land and these identified trees have been listed in the Significant Tree Register. Any new trees or tree stands that develop into Significant Trees will be

included in the future. Council intends to identify Significant Trees within private property and include these within the Significant Trees Register. Council resolution 337/2005 of Ordinary Meeting 15 August 2005 clarified private property owners will be notified but their permission will not be required.

The Significant Tree Register is to be used to record all significant trees or tree stands that should be preserved, detailing their form and character. Generally, permission will be given under Council's regulatory controls on trees and vegetation for what are reasonably considered by Council to constitute remedial maintenance works only.

In determining development applications Council will seek to give priority to the preservation of significant trees. A development, to be acceptable, must aim to maximise the preservation of significant trees, with the development application including strategies for the maintenance of their long term health.

The Significance Criteria for trees listed will be encapsulated on a 'statement of significance' which involves interpretation and analysis of comparative points of importance.

The Significance Criteria are in the opinion of Council that the tree or tree stand are:

- remnant of the indigenous tree cover of the area;
- have visual and/or sensory appeal and/or landmark qualities;
- have a major role contributing in establishing a distinctive and highly valued landscape or townscape within Manly LGA;
- has recognition for, and is, of value for its growth habit or physical features i.e. is a good representation and typical of, its species or has a curious growth habit;
- part of the curtilage of a historic garden or park;
- holds a historical/cultural association or is a Commemorative tree;
- is associated with a public figure and/or ethnic group;
- holds horticultural or scientific value;
- an old/mature specimen that is at the upper scale of longevity and/or size of recognised limits for that species on a regional basis.

Scheduling of significant trees under the provisions of *Manly Local Environmental Plan 2013* (see, in particular, Schedule 5) establishes clear recognition of heritage values and facilitates improved protection, particularly with respect to development. For this reason, **all** scheduled trees (including individuals and groups) in the Significant Tree Register are to be listed as heritage items (trees) in the LEP. Of particular importance is the scheduling of trees assessed as significant at the LGA and/or regional level (i.e. excluding local level listings).

Where possible, significant trees that are nearing their natural life span will be identified in a timely manner and a succession plan developed in consultation with the community.

Council will facilitate the protection of public and private trees through the relevantly applicable tree and vegetation preservation regulatory controls.

A Schedule of Exempt Species is stated under the provisions of *Manly Development Control Plan 2013* identifies undesirable and nuisance species (see in particular Schedule 4, Part A), which are not caught by the tree and vegetation preservation regulatory controls. Furthermore, trees declared as noxious species under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* (NSW) are also excluded from the tree and vegetation preservation regulatory controls.

Permission for removal of trees/pruning of trees will not to be granted in certain cases:

Falling leaves, twigs, fruit and flowers are normal expected tree behaviour and are not, in and of themselves, valid reasons for tree removal or pruning whether under this policy or otherwise. Similarly, it is Council's policy, as well as the law, that no individual exclusively owns a view. Therefore, Council will not give consent to remove a street tree's canopy simply for view enhancement.

Council will not prune trees to create a new view nor will Council prune trees in areas classified (by Council) as 'Bushland' (Note: long-standing view pruning relationships/services on trees in 'Bushland' classified areas may be maintained if not detrimental to a tree's health).

Council will only prune a tree to maintain a previously established view, where the tree, in the opinion of Council:

- has been inspected and has received approval by Council for view pruning within the last two years; OR
- In instances where a growing tree encroaches on a previously uninterrupted view by more than 75 percent or 2/3, the applicant must provide photographic evidence to show the previous existence of a view*;
- The tree is centrally located in the view corridor of the principal living area and within approximately 50 metres of the viewing point. (Note: long-standing view pruning relationships / services on trees not centrally located to the principal living area may be maintained if not detrimental to a tree's health);
- Pruning will not be generally permissible greater than 20 percent of the total live canopy of a tree. Pruning will only be approved if it will not disfigure the tree. The term "disfigure" will generally mean pruning beyond the guidelines of the Australian Standard for the Pruning of Amenity Trees (AS 4373-2007);
- A Tree Permit Application is lodged with Council with the appropriate application fee paid, additionally all costs of view pruning are to be borne by the applicant, the applicant will be notified in writing of the costs. Payment of these monies is required before any works are scheduled;
- View pruning work will only be carried out by Council preferred/approved tree contractors;
- Council will only consider a request to undertake view pruning of a tree once in any 12 month period however fast growing trees should be inspected regularly (e.g. approximately every two years) to avoid harsh pruning.

* Evidence of the previous existence of a view will not be accepted from new owners of a property applying for a view prune if these residents bought the property with the tree of a similar size at application time. An application will only be accepted by property owners of 5 years or more. Council will not consider zoomed or real estate photographs.

Council reserves the right to refuse an application to view prune a tree, even where all the criteria have been met, if the requested pruning would be detrimental to the health or structure of the tree. Refusal on one occasion will not preclude the applicant from making another application up to 2 years from the date of the original refusal.

4. SCOPE

This policy applies to all persons that have any relationship to the management of trees in Manly, including residents, other stakeholders, and developers in the Manly LGA.

Council will use principles and guidelines in this policy as well as those contained in the relevantly applicable tree and vegetation preservation regulatory controls so as to ensure that trees are planted, protected, maintained and ultimately removed or replaced in a way that is sustainable, economically sound, and socially acceptable.

5. DEFINITIONS

Private land - any land **not** owned or controlled by Council or some other public authority.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

This policy will be implemented through Council staff and actions taken with respect to tree preservation and management within the Manly LGA.

Council and/or the General Manager, may during a civil emergency only, set aside any policy terms to ensure public safety.

7. MONITORING AND BREACHES

Penalties apply for breaches under this policy through either the Local Court or the Land and Environment Court. Penalties of up to \$1,100,000 apply in the Land and Environment Court.

In addition, where a person is guilty of an offence involving the destruction of or damage to a tree or vegetation, the Court dealing with the offence may, in addition to or in substitution for any pecuniary penalty imposed or liable to be imposed, direct that person:

- (a) to plant new trees and vegetation and maintain those trees and vegetation to a mature growth, and
- (b) to provide security for the performance of any obligation imposed under paragraph (a).

Council will pay (at its sole discretion) up to \$1'000 as a reward for information leading to a successful prosecution of a person or persons who wilfully damage trees protected by Council's tree and vegetation preservation regulatory controls.

8. REPORTING

NIL

9. POLICY REVIEW

This policy is subject to regular review at a maximum interval of two (2) years.

For the purposes of carrying out and giving effect to this policy, the General Manager may from time to time prepare, adopt or vary, and otherwise issue to Council staff, guidelines and directions relating to any aspect of this policy.

Any recognised change to relevant legislation; or directives or guidelines issued by agencies including the NSW Ombudsman and the Department of Local Government; or to Manly Council's related guidelines and procedures will activate an immediate review of this policy to ensure it remains current and aligned to best practice policies.

10. RELEVANT REFERENCE & LEGISLATION

- Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (NSW)*
- Noxious Weeds Act 1993 (NSW)*
- Australian Standard AS4970/2009*
- Australian Standard for the Pruning of Amenity Trees (AS43737/2007)*

10. REVISION SCHEDULE

Minute No	Date of Issue	Action	Author	Checked by
		Draft Policy prepared	Manager Parks & Reserves	Divisional Manager Civic and Urban Services
119/11	18/07/11	Placed on Public Exhibition for 28 Days.	Manager Parks & Reserves	Divisional Manager Civic and Urban Services
PS128/11	7/11/11	Adopted the draft Tree Management Policy	Council	
	11/11/11	Added Policy to Policy Register	OM Corporate Services	Manager Administration
	September 2013	Comprehensive Policy Review and incorporation of old policies	T70, T80, T85, T90, T100, and T110	Governance and Legal
PS16/14	3 March 2014	Periodic Review	OM CSS	Manager Governance

Tree Preservation Order

1. The purpose of this policy is

- To retain the character and identity of the Council area by maintaining and, where possible, enhancing the soft landscape qualities of the area.
- To ensure that proposed changes to the soft landscape through removal or maintenance of trees are fully justified.

2. Policy statement

2.1 Environment/Landscape

- To preserve the existing environmental amenity by preventing unnecessary damage to limbs and roots, pruning and removal of trees.
- To encourage new tree planting and tree replacement to achieve an adequate tree canopy density.
- To maintain a continuous tree canopy consistent with native vegetation characteristics.
 - To protect the habitat of fauna.
 - To maintain the endemic floristic diversity of the area.

2.2 Administration

- To administer the Warringah Tree Preservation Order through clear and effective guidelines.
- To implement the Warringah Tree Preservation Order which provides for a control over tree felling and pruning, while recognising the need to exclude certain types and categories of trees from the Order.



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- To introduce administrative procedures whereby arboricultural advice is obtained from Council staff or consultants prior to the determination of subdivision and development applications or approval granted for public works. Should Council receive advice prior to any works being carried out on the site that a tree is considered dangerous to persons or property or is likely to cause problems and the Council Officer is not convinced this is the case, then the applicant is required to submit an appropriate report from a suitably qualified practising arboriculturalist. If the Council Officer is still not convinced the tree is dangerous the matter will be referred to the General Manager or his nominee for determination.
- To implement replanting schemes where trees have been or are to be removed.
- To ensure the trees are adequately described in applications to Council.
- To provide a thorough information base comprising information on trees endemic to various parts of Warringah for the benefit of the public.
- To provide guidelines for pruning or removal arising from alleged encroachments or effects on neighbouring properties whereby the owners or occupants of those properties are to be contacted to verify in writing the complaints and concerns.
- To enforce the provisions of the Warringah Tree Preservation Order through replanting and prosecutions where appropriate.

2.3 Education

- To encourage community awareness of the importance of trees particularly those forming a canopy.
- To develop and provide an education program for Warringah residents demonstrating the benefits of an enhanced tree cover for shade, reduced soil erosion, fauna and aesthetic value.
- To provide information and guidelines to prospective developers in order to encourage the provision of an appropriate standard of landscaping and tree protection on all projects.

- To encourage individuals to plant and nurture trees and to replace trees which have been removed.
- To promote community awareness of the individuals' role in preserving the natural soft landscape and habitat of Warringah.
- To encourage appropriate tree care particularly in relation to pruning. This must be carried out to the Australian Standard 4373 – 1996 “Pruning of Amenity Trees”.

3. Principles

3.1 Warringah Tree Presentation Order

The trees to which the Warringah Tree Preservation Order applies and the works that may be carried out with or without the consent of Council are set out in the Warringah Tree Preservation Order adopted by Council.

Approval is not required for any works on exempted trees as detailed in the Warringah Tree Preservation Order.

Those trees which appear on the list of undesirable plants under Section 8 of the Tree Preservation Order, for one or more of the following reasons, are exempt from application under the Warringah Tree Preservation Order:

1. Capable of naturalising in urban and natural bushland in and around Sydney.
2. Capable of competing aggressively against native species.
3. Allergenic (asthma, allergic rhinitis, dermatitis, etc).
4. Poisonous to people and animals.
5. Taints water.
6. Smells offensive.
7. Possesses thorns, spikes, spines or prickles, etc.
8. Allelopathic (inhibits growth of nearby plants through release of chemicals through the root system).
9. Forms thickets of dense growth.
10. Harbours disease organisms.
11. Alters soil chemistry and structure.



ENV-PL 440

12. Shades other plants considerably.
13. Aggressively absorbs water.
14. Expensive to control colonisation.

3.2 Assessment Criteria for the Warringah Tree Preservation Order

1. Considerations

Any proposed works on a tree must be justified. In determining whether the proposed works should be permitted, Council may have regard to the following considerations:-

- Whether a tree is dying, diseased or dangerous. The onus for establishing whether the tree is dying, diseased or dangerous and that it will not recover lies with the owner or nominated applicant (where not the owner).
- Whether a tree is interfering or likely to interfere with the provision of a public utility or road construction, provided that in the design and location of these works all reasonable effort is made and demonstrated to avoid the destruction of trees.
- Whether a tree interferes with or prevents the construction of a building, provided all reasonable effort is made and demonstrated in the location and design of the building to avoid the unnecessary destruction of trees.
- Whether a tree would interfere with the construction of roads or drainage in a subdivision, provided all reasonable effort is made and demonstrated in the subdivision layout to avoid the unnecessary damage or destruction of trees.
- Whether a tree is within 3m of existing buildings, causing or is likely to cause, damage to the buildings, structures or utility services.
- Whether a tree is, in the opinion of Council, out of character with the area by virtue of its species, location and existing number of trees.
- Whether the works to the tree are likely to have an adverse effect on the local soft landscape.

- Whether a tree has significant value to the floristic and faunal diversity of the area.
- Whether the proposed works to the tree will adversely affect any other part of the tree located on other land.
- Whether a tree enhances soft landscape qualities of the natural topography and vegetation of the area.
- Whether a tree or group of trees has significant value by virtue of it being a rare or endangered species, or forms part of an endangered ecological system (as defined in the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995), has cultural, historical, botanical or Aboriginal significance, contributes to soft landscape quality or serves a functional purpose.
- Whether the removal of a tree will affect soil stability, run off, fauna habitats and scenic and aesthetic qualities of the environment.

2. Replacement Trees

Replacement trees are to be endemic to the area, preferably sourced with local native stock. List of suitable trees are available from Council.

4. Amendments

This policy was last amended on 30.8.2000.

5. Authorisation

Government Gazette.

6. Who is responsible for implementing this policy?

Service Unit Manager, Environmental Management

7. Document owner

Director, Services

8. File number

170.002.003
170.003.001



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9. Legislation and references

Government Gazette.

9.1 Definitions

None.



Warringah Council Policy
Policy No. Number PL 416
Street Tree Planting Policy

1 Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish a framework to guide the systematic and planned planting of street trees to enhance the streetscapes and environment of the Warringah Council local government area while providing for the most cost effective management of street trees over the longer term.

2 Policy statement

Council will manage street tree planting in Warringah in accordance with this Policy and the associated plans, policies and strategies.

2.1 Aims

The Street Tree Planting Policy aims to;

- Provide guiding principles for new street tree planting across Warringah;
- Enhance the natural environment through street tree plantings
- Provide consistency in the management of street tree planting;
- Preserve and enhance the existing character of Warringah streets through a rigorous approach to tree selection and planting techniques;

2.2 Desired outcomes

- Create a distinctive and aesthetically pleasing street environment through tree planting.
- Provide a realistic future street tree planting program;
- Provide a list of appropriate trees for planting as well as a breakdown based on location;
- Install and maintain street trees to an agreed standard using best practice.
- Recognise and enhance the role that street trees have in habitat connectivity, particularly in key wildlife corridors.

3 Principles

This policy is intended to provide high level information and guidance for Council staff, contractors, developers and members of the community on the planting of street trees.

3.1 This policy will consider and inform the current broader guidelines "Warringah Design Guidelines – Public Spaces (STR-PR-350)".

3.2 Tree Specification, Selection and Planting

Effective date
27/8/13

Version 1

Street Tree Planting Policy

Link
2013/253437

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The current Street Tree Planting Guidelines (part of the “Warringah Design Guidelines”) will be reviewed and updated to provide a consistent approach to future street tree planting. These guidelines include a list of preferred species based on specific individual location constraints.

The following principles apply to the selection and planting of street trees;

- Street tree planting will be carried out in a planned and integrated manner taking care to consider broader social and environmental issues, ensuring the most suitable species for a location while preserving and enhancing the existing character of Warringah Streets (refer - Street Tree Planting Guidelines);
- Council will avoid the use of unacceptable and high risk species, including;
 - Some Fruit Trees (refer to definition below)
 - Trees listed as Warringah Council environmental or noxious weeds
 - Trees linked to a known health issue
 - Poor performers (refer to definition below)
 - Trees that can likely cause damage to infrastructure
- Council will utilise Indigenous species where appropriate. These species may not be appropriate in some locations i.e. in circumstances where altered nature strip soils are known to influence the successful establishment of particular species or species known to be commonly affected by summer branch drop in high risk zones.
- Council will implement procedures for protection of existing and future tree stock by;
 - using quality nursery stock and proven installation techniques
- Council will use published risk management procedures and practices as part of its tree planting (location) assessments, including;
 - Assessing risk zones, involving
 - Risk to services (all underground and overhead services)
 - Risk to infrastructure (e.g. footpaths, kerbs, road pavements and driveways)
 - Risk to traffic and potential targets

Refer to the “Trees and Tree Root Management Best Practice Manual” (reference below).

The revised Street Tree Planting Guidelines will specify the stakeholders who will be consulted as part of the above assessments.

- Development application assessments will ensure that proposed tree selection for replacement is compatible with Street Tree Planting Guidelines and the existing streetscape.

Effective date
27/8/13

Version 1

Street Tree Planting Policy

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Policy No. PL 416

- Council will ensure that appropriate species diversity is obtained in its street tree replanting programs to reduce the likelihood of catastrophic loss of trees in Warringah.
- Council will inform and consult with the community about new planting proposals.
- Council will consider and assess resident requests for street tree planting. However, Council can remove trees that have been planted without Council consent.
- Council will prioritise the sequence of its planting across Warringah based on its budget allocations and the requirements to renew or increase canopy cover.
- Council will consider the use of volunteer groups undertaking street tree planting only where it can ensure a safe and efficient service and where Council can fulfil its legal obligations.

3.3 Conflicting Policies

The "Warringah Design Guidelines – Public Spaces" (reference below) will be informed by and include reference to this Street Tree Planting Policy and Guidelines.

3.4 Rescinding Policies

A policy can only be rescinded by a formal resolution of Council.

3.5 Owners and Responsible Officers

A policy owner is the General Manager.

The person responsible for implementing this policy is the Manager, Asset Management Parks Reserves and Foreshores.

3.6 Timing of Review

This policy is not driven by specific legislative requirements and thus will be reviewed within four (4) years of the adoption of this latest amendment.

4. Who is responsible for implementing this policy?

This policy will be implemented by the Parks Reserves and Foreshores ('PRF').

5. Document owner

Deputy General Manager, Environment.

6. References

Definitions

The Warringah Public Tree Management Plan is being developed by PRF to control the life cycle management of all public trees in the Warringah local government area, including street trees.



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Street Tree Planting Guidelines (including nominated species to be used for replacement) are currently available on the web site but will be reviewed and enhanced to document Warringah best practice for future tree planting.

Fruit Trees refer to trees that can bear fruit. This includes fruits for human consumption e.g. apple, pear, stone fruits including mangoes, avocados, loquat and any tree whose fruit drop could present a significant health and safety risk.

Poor performers are trees with significant pest and disease susceptibility or trees that have a record of responding poorly to local conditions.

Summer Branch Drop: An unpredictable phenomenon involving the failure of apparently sound branches during calm summer or autumn weather.

Legislation

There is no specific legislation that addresses the issue of Street Tree Planting. The Roads Act (1993) and the NSW Electricity Supply Act (1995) permit the removal or trimming of trees on roads to protect infrastructure. These Acts will be referenced in the Tree Management Policy.

Council

This policy supports Good Governance and Asset Management Practices under Council's Strategic Community Plan and the relevant Tree Management Plan.

Other

Warringah Design Guidelines – Public Space (STR-PR-350, May 2003)

Trees and Tree Root Management Best Practice Manual – Version 2, May 2003 (last edited July 2011) - Statewide

Noxious Weeds Act (1993) and the Noxious Weeds Amendment Act (2005)
Warringah Council environmental weed list -

<http://www.warringah.nsw.gov.au/environment/documents/EnvironmentalWeedList.pdf>

Street Openings Conference

(http://www.streetsopening.com.au/SOC_Guide_2009.pdf) Section 6.7 refers to impact of street trees on public utility services.

7. Review

This policy is to be reviewed within four (4) years of its last amendment.

8. Document History

1.0: ENV-PL 416
November 2006

Effective date
27/8/13

Version 1

Street Tree Planting Policy

Link
2013/253437

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Warringah Council Policy

Policy No. PL 800 Urban Forest

Urban Forest Policy

1 Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish a principle based framework to guide a planned, systematic and integrated approach to managing Warringah's urban forest which will improve the natural and built environment. The policy applies to all land uses in the Warringah local government area, excluding national parks.

2. Context

An urban forest can contribute to a variety of environmental, social and economic benefits such as:

Environmental: improve air quality, prevent soil erosion, improve water quality, increase carbon sequestration, aid storm water retention, increase energy conservation, noise reduction, reduce urban heat island effect and increase habitat and wildlife corridors for local fauna;

Social: increased ability to absorb air pollution and reduce potential health issues, increase in mental well-being, increase in visual amenity and providing shade for skin protection enabling people to have more active lifestyles;

Economic: decreased heating and cooling costs, increase in property values.

Council is committed to establishing a culture of sustainability in relation to tree and shrub management. This includes balancing the protection and enhancement of the urban forest whilst managing risks to infrastructure and personal safety. An Urban Forest Strategy will be developed to implement the following principles.

3 Principles

- 1.1 To recognise Warringah's urban forest as an asset with economic, environmental and social benefits;
- 1.2 To protect and manage Warringah's urban forest via urban forest principles (i.e. Planned, Systematic and Integrated Management) to optimise its health and condition; and to minimise threats by increasing species diversity and establishing a wide age distribution of trees.
- 1.3 To set a financially and environmentally sustainable canopy coverage target through the development of the Urban Forest Strategy.
- 1.4 To manage risk to life, property, public infrastructure and the environment through best practice tree planting and maintenance, in accordance with Council's adopted Enterprise Risk Management Framework;
- 1.5 To promote the retention and planting of trees and shrubs, preferably locally endemic species where appropriate, which will enable plant and animal communities to survive;
- 1.6 To recognise and enhance the role that the urban forest has in habitat connectivity, particularly in wildlife corridors;



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- 1.7 To ensure that public trees that are removed as a result of private development are replaced and maintained through an establishment period of 10 weeks at the expense of the proponent of the development.
- 1.8 To promote the importance of the urban forest to all stakeholders.

2 Authorisation

This Policy was adopted by Council on 15 December 2015.

It is effective from 16 December 2016.

It is due for review on 15 December 2010.

3 Amendments

This Policy was last amended on 15 December 2015.

4 Who is responsible for implementing this Policy?

Group Manager Parks, Reserves and Foreshores

5 Document owner

Deputy General Manager Environment

6 Related Council Policies

- a) Street Tree Planting Policy PL 416.
- b) Removal of private trees threatening Council stormwater pipes. PL 415 to be replaced by Water Management Policy
- c) Bushland Policy ENV – PL 005
- d) Protection of Waterways and Riparian Land Policy PL 740
- e) Environmental Sustainability Policy STR-PL 830
- f) Tree Preservation Order Policy – PL 440
- g) Water Sensitive Urban Design Policy – PR 820 – to be replaced by Water Management Policy
- h) Asset Management Policy – PL550

7 Legislation and references

- a) Warringah Natural Area Survey, August 2005
- b) Warringah Local Environment Plan 2000 and 2011
- c) Development Control Plan 2000 and 2011
- d) Local Government Association Urban Forest Policy 2003

8 Definitions

Effective date
15 December 2015

Version 1

Urban Forest Policy

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Canopy coverage: an indicator of the quantity of urban forest often used as a measure of an urban forest's general capacity to provide economic, social, environmental and aesthetic benefits.

Urban forest: The urban forest is defined as the totality of trees and shrubs on all public and private land in and around urban areas (including bushland, parkland, gardens and street trees) within the Local Government Area (LGA) and is measured as a canopy cover percentage of the total area, and is recognised as a primary component of the urban ecosystem. The Urban Forest Policy applies to all land within the LGA excluding national parks.

Urban Forest Management: A planned, systematic and integrated approach to managing the urban forest. The principles can be broadly broken down into the following:

- Planned Management – An urban forest strategic plan is fundamental to achieving the optimal development and quality of the urban forest.
- Systematic Management – Adequate resourcing is invested and these are managed effectively and efficiently.
- Integrated Management – All relevant stakeholders must work in an integrated manner to achieve the best outcomes for urban areas.

Habitat connectivity: Habitat connectivity is a measure of the degree of interconnection of habitat. It is an important issue for managing remnant native vegetation in a unified manner across different land tenure units.

Wildlife Corridor: means a vegetation feature (preferably remnant bushland, but may include remnant trees, native plantings, weed thickets and gardens) that connects larger areas of remnant bushland and facilitates fauna movement between them. Fauna movement allows dispersal, interbreeding and recolonisation to occur, making fauna populations more viable in the long term. Fauna movement also facilitates pollen and seed dispersal, enhancing the viability of plant populations. Continuous corridors are preferable, but discontinuous corridors still contribute to fauna movement, and can potentially be improved through habitat enhancement.



Council Policy – No 118	Adopted:	OM: 02.06.1997
	Reviewed:	
	Amended:	OM 05.07.1999 OM:17.10.2011 OM: 04.11.2013
	Revoked:	

TITLE: SIGNIFICANT TREE POLICY

STRATEGY: VEGETATION
BIODIVERSITY

BUSINESS UNIT: RESERVES, RECREATION & BUILDING SERVICES

RELEVANT LEGISLATION: NONE

RELATED POLICIES: NONE

Objective

To ensure that significant trees in the Pittwater LGA are suitably protected.

Policy Statement

That a report from a suitably qualified Arborist be submitted to Council with tree applications or development applications that impact on significant trees.

Significant trees are described as:-

1. Mature local endemic trees
2. Significant habitat trees
3. Trees with historical/cultural significance.
4. Large amenity trees with visual significance

When Council receives a request to remove a significant tree, a notification will be placed on the site and the adjoining property owners and councillors will be notified in writing at least 14 days prior to any determination of the application in order to provide the opportunity for comment.

Minutes

Northern Beaches Business & Industry Stakeholder Committee Meeting

Held on Monday 2 June 2025

In the Flannel Flower Room, Dee Why Civic Centre commencing at 6 pm

In attendance:

Committee Members

Gordon Lang	Enterprise Matters Consulting
Phil Jackson	Vale Plastics
Rowan Courtney-O'Connor	ICMS

NSW Government

Kandice Wright (online)	Transport NSW
Deb Kempe	Office of the 24 hour Commissioner
Lucas Hazelton	Service NSW
Sara Yeoman (online)	Transport NSW

Northern Beaches Councillors and staff

Mayor Sue Heins (Chair)	Mayor
Cr Rowie Dillon (online)	Councillor
Cr Mandeep Singh	Councillor
Cr Grattan	Councillor
Mal McDonald	Executive Manager Strategic & Place Planning
Nikki Griffith	Manager Place & Economic Development
Phil Jemison	Manager Strategic & Place Planning
Emily Newman	Economic Development Advisor
Felicity Shonk	Principal Planner
Vienna Muller (Minuting)	Program Support Officer

Apologies:

Louise Kerr	Director Planning & Place
Cr Ethan Hrnjak	Councillor
Christo Hall	Basic Bananas
Mitchell Filby	First Rock Consulting Pty Ltd
Rebecca Mitchell	RAM Marketing
Ben Collis	The Boathouse Group

Meeting commenced at 6 pm

1. **Welcome and apologies** – Mayor Heins
2. **Minutes of meeting held 4 December 2024** – Adopted
Gordon Lang / Rowan Courtney-O'Connor
3. **Brookvale Structure Plan update & Special Entertainment Precinct opportunity for Manly** – Mal McDonald, Phil Jemison & Felicity Shonk
 - Mal and Phil provided an update on the Brookvale Structure Plan, endorsed by Council in November 2023. The plan includes a 15-year framework for growth in the area.
 - The plan aims to deliver 900 jobs, 1350 new homes, a town square, and new community facilities.
 - Extensive traffic and transport studies have been conducted to address traffic constraints and parking issues, costing around \$600,000.
 - The plan includes increased height limits for buildings to encourage development, with feedback indicating that higher buildings may be necessary for feasibility.
 - Requirements for ground floor activation to retain retail and commercial uses were discussed.
 - Concerns were raised about the feasibility of the plan and the need for realistic expectations to ensure implementation.
 - There was strong support for the structure plan from the community, acknowledging the need for growth and opportunities for local workers.
 - State Significant Development: The discussion included the impact of the Scentre Group's proposal for Warringah Mall, proposing 1500 dwellings and 39 stories, which will require significant upgrades to the local and regional road network.

ACTION:

1. Mal to provide SEP update at a later date.

4. **Local economic statistics update** – Emily Newman

Trends

- The group discussed current retail dynamics, noting high consumer spending in department stores and clothing, particularly at Westfield.
- Luxury goods were highlighted as a specialty area, with Brookvale identified as a key retail hub.

Visitor economy

- Notable visitor traffic is coming from Mosman, St Ives, Cremorne, Turramurra, and Wahroonga, with some retail leakage from Wahroonga due to shopping centre upgrades.
- Chatswood remains a strong competitor, though some centres like Chatswood Chase have been closed for extended periods.
- Stockland and other local centres attract visitors but lack large-format retail options.
- The Northern Beaches' visitor economy is driven primarily by Greater Sydney day-trippers due to limited local accommodation.
- 20% of the visitor economy spend comes from outside the LGA.
- Friends and family visits are the largest tourism segment, with limited international overnight tourism due to accommodation constraints.

Business sentiment survey

- NSW Business Survey indicates steady but low business confidence.
- Key challenges include high operational costs (energy, insurance), access to skilled workers, and complex government processes.

- Council is working to support local businesses through buy-local initiatives and streamlined services.

Technology

- Businesses are increasingly adopting AI tools, showing growing confidence but needing support for ethical and effective use.

Industrial & construction spending

- Brookvale's manufacturing and construction sectors were discussed, with interest in capturing more granular data on non-retail spending trends.
- Renovation and construction activity is slowing due to material shortages and builder availability.

ACTION

1. Provide Cr Dillon with Newport statistics presentation.

5. Economic Development Strategy actions update

Strategy Action Progress – Emily Newman

- 17% of strategic actions have been completed. Several actions are ongoing as part of regular operations. 23% of actions remain unstarted.
- Committee input is sought to help prioritise next steps.

Key Strategic Actions for Committee Input – Emily Newman

- Investment Brochure: Develop a brochure to promote the Northern Beaches as a business destination, highlighting innovation and creativity.
- Home-Based Business Support: Provide clear guidelines and support programs for home-based business startups.
- Business Support Services: Expand and promote existing services; further discussion to follow with input from the Small Business Working Group.
- Local Business Networks: Continue supporting and partnering with networks to foster mentoring and collaboration.
- Green Economy: Assess current green jobs and explore opportunities in emerging green industries. Promote circular economy models (repair, reuse, recycle). Address the disconnect between sustainability advocates and the broader business community.

Transport Network Review - Kandice Wright

- Ongoing Northern Beaches Network Review includes key corridors like Pittwater Road.

ACTION

1. Kandice Wright offered to return at a future session to provide a detailed update on the review and potential improvements to bus services.

6. Committee updates:

Small business working group update – Emily Newman

- Conducted an empathy mapping exercise using the "Say, Think, Do, Feel" model to identify small business needs. Focused on two key sectors - Trades and food-based businesses.
- Identified increased demand from construction sector professionals starting their own businesses and home-based food businesses seeking guidance on compliance and setup.
- Two events developed - "Tools of the Trade – Setting Up for Success" (June) and "Tools of the Trade - Stepping Up" (July).

- Rise of grassroots professional networking groups offering flexible, low-cost alternatives to traditional chambers. These groups are proving effective in reaching and supporting local businesses.
- Trades sector is being used as a pilot for tailored support. Additional industries identified for future engagement and program development.

Big picture working group update – Gordon Lang

- Emphasised the importance of attracting and supporting larger businesses to drive employment and economic resilience, beyond just small business support.
- Highlighted the need for businesses that can generate significant employment opportunities, especially for younger generations.
- Brookvale Strategy - noted the opportunity to influence the type of businesses entering Brookvale through strategic planning and advocacy.
- Discussed the mismatch between available large commercial spaces and the needs of small service-based businesses who require smaller, more flexible spaces.
- Acknowledged the growing popularity of co-working and micro-office spaces, particularly in areas like Mona Vale and Warriewood.
- Suggested Council explore best practices from other councils, such as the Gold Coast, which actively support business attraction and relocation.

ACTION

1. Provide link to Tools of the Trade event to committee members.
2. Set up future small and big picture business working group meetings.
3. Share contacts with Gordon for Big Picture working group.
4. Councillor Gratton expressed interest in Big Picture working group, details to be forwarded to Gordon.

7. Year in review and business programming for 2025/26

Business Support Initiatives: Emily Newman

- Business Concierge Service: This service is to assist businesses with navigating Council processes, providing one-on-one support, and holding their hand through the process.
- Library Pop-Ups: Business support pop-ups in Manly, DY, and Mona Vale, offering one-on-one appointments for business advice.
- Two events for trades businesses - "Tools of the Trade".
- Behind Our Businesses: A new initiative featuring local businesses sharing their stories and tips on marketing. Six profiles have been produced so far.
- Go Local Campaign: Highlighting businesses across the northern beaches through an expression of interest process. 98 businesses have been profiled, with 203,000 video views on social media.

Other

- Council is launching a new Business Momentum Survey to benchmark the Northern Beaches against NSW, using the Small Business Commission's model.
- The survey will consist of 5 short questions and run over 8 weeks.
- Council staff will conduct in-person outreach using iPads to collect responses directly from businesses.
- The goal is to significantly increase participation from the previous 99 responses to at least 500.
- Committee members and Councillors are encouraged to share the survey through their networks to support broad distribution and engagement.

ACTION

1. Provide link to survey to the committee to share with their business networks.

8. Expressions of Interest for 4 seats on the Committee

- Mayor Heins
- The committee discussed the need to fill four vacant seats and will go out for expressions of interest.

ACTION

1. Staff to initiate the EOI process for filling the vacant seats on the committee.

9. **General business and next steps – Mayor Heins**

- The committee considered changing the meeting time to business hours to accommodate members' schedules. The committee agreed that this would be a suitable change.

ACTION

1. Staff to coordinate with committee members to finalise the new meeting schedule.

10. **Close – 8.03pm**



Childcare checklist for parents

Recent insight released by the Australian Federal Police regarding Operation Tenterfield demonstrates the urgent need for child-facing organisations to provide stronger safeguards for protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation. Naturally, parents and carers will be concerned in light of hearing these allegations, so what can your child's Early Learning Centre (ELC) or school do to help keep your children safe?

top 5 things you can ask your childcare centre...

-  1 Does the school or ELC have a child protection policy?
-  2 What child protection training do the staff and/or volunteers receive?
-  3 What are the ratios of staff to children?
-  4 Other than Working With Children Checks, what other methods do you use to assess the suitability of staff and volunteers?
-  5 Does the ELC or school have a dedicated person to whom students, staff and parents can speak about concerns?



For more information visit bravehearts.com.au. For help, contact Bravehearts Information and Support Line at 1800 776 235

Other questions you could consider asking...

Did you know that you can ask
your centre for a copy of their
Child Protection and Reporting
Harm Policy at any time?

About the environment:

- Are staff ever alone when attending to a child's personal needs?
- Are there any areas in the centre which are not visible to other staff?
- Do you have security cameras within your centre?
 - Has the centre considered if cameras cover all internal and external areas?
- What happens when there are external workers on site? This could include maintenance staff, photographers & visitors for extra curricular activities.
- Have you ever had an incident/complaint of suspected or confirmed child sexual abuse in this centre involving your staff?

About photography and privacy:

- What is the mobile phone policy for your centre, including the use of personal phones?
- Who takes the daily photos for parents? What is the training around this?
- What are the centre's social media and privacy policies?



For more information about what safety measures you should expect from your centre, visit bravehearts.com.au. To report a child safety issue contact your local police or make a report at accce.gov.au/report.

Bravehearts provides this information as a guide only to encourage discussions for the purpose of assisting to build child safe organisations.