
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Proposed amendments to Cultural Collections Management and Gifts Policy

Impact level: three

Consultation period: 8 March to 11 April 2021

Contents

1.	Summary.....	2
1.1.	Key outcomes	2
1.2.	How we engaged	2
1.3.	Who responded.....	3
2.	Background.....	3
3.	Engagement objectives	3
4.	Engagement approach	4
5.	Findings	4
	Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses	5

1. Summary¹



This report outlines the community and stakeholder engagement conducted as part of the Proposed amendments to the Cultural Collections Management and Gifts Policy project conducted from 8 March to 11 April 2021.

Two submissions were received via the project's Your Say page and feedback demonstrated a high level of support for the policy's principles and application. Key themes raised in the submissions included requests for:


- the use of definitions reflecting sector standards
- clarity around scope of policy
- future amendments to the guidelines to be made through expert advice to staff.

As a result of submissions received and internal feedback, some amendments and minor wording corrections are proposed to the policy.

1.1. Key outcomes

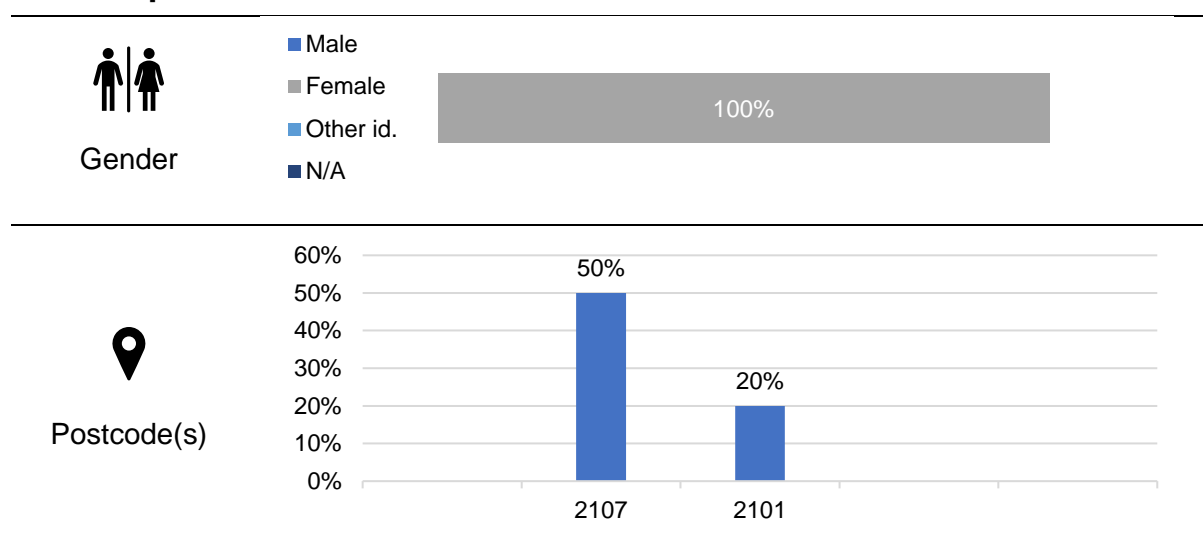
		2	
Total submissions received			
	Definitions	Local Studies Collection	
	Scope	Manly Art Gallery & Museum staff	
	Guidelines		
Feedback themes			

1.2. How we engaged

	Visitors: 417	Visits: 491	Av. time onsite: 32s
	Have Your Say		
	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2		Distribution: 20,000 subscribers
	Council (weekly) e-News: 2		Distribution: 150,000 subscribers
	Stakeholder email: 2		Distribution: 2
Electronic direct mail (EDM)			

¹ 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.

1.3. Who responded²



2. Background

This report outlines the community and stakeholder engagement conducted as part of the Proposed amendments to Cultural Collections Management and Gifts Policy project.

Research was undertaken by Council regarding fundraising to support the implementation of the Coast Walk Public Art Strategic Plan, and the steps required to collect and manage donations for this purpose.

As part of this process, Council reviewed and proposed amendments to the Cultural Collections Management and Gifts Policy to improve governance in receiving and managing cash donations and gifts. The amendments would permit Council to:

- develop and maintain public art through fundraising and donations, received through the gallery
- utilise funds raised from public art donations to support the implementation of the Coast Walk Public Art Strategic Plan.

3. Engagement objectives

- Objective 1: build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities (inform)
- Objective 2: provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way (inform)
- Objective 3: identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values (consult)

² Demographic data was gathered by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Proposed amendments to Cultural Collections Management and Gifts Policy was conducted over a five-week period, from 8 March to 11 April 2021, and consisted of a series of activities that provided opportunities and platforms for community and stakeholders to contribute.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's [Community Engagement Matrix](#) (2017).

A project page³ 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 Council's E-News and our Have Your Say community engagement newsletter. Emails were also sent directly to the Manly Art Gallery and Museum and to the Manly Community Forum.

Feedback was captured through an online submission form embedded onto the have your say project page.

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. Contact details for the project manager were provided should anyone have a question.

5. Findings

Two submissions were received via the project page and both indicated a high level of support for the policy's principles and application. Key themes raised in the submissions included requests for:

- the use of definitions reflecting sector standards
- clarity around scope of policy
- future amendments to the guidelines to be made through expert advice to staff.

Table 1: Feedback and key changes proposed to the draft policy.

Theme	Summary of what we heard	Proposed policy changes
General definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a general definition of 'cultural collections' based on industry standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided a definition in the Introduction conforming to industry standards
Scope of Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scope of Policy requested on first page	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added Scope of Policy on Page 1
Local Studies Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarify dot point 4 on page 3 regarding items of significance in Local Studies Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarified and amended on advice from Team Leader, Local Studies and Family History

³ <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/cultural-collections-management-and-gifts-policy>

Theme	Summary of what we heard	Proposed policy changes
Amendments to Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify process of future amendments to the Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amended as per submission, to further specify that future amendments must be based on expert advice to senior management
Involvement of Manly Art Gallery & Museum staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of involvement of Manly Art Gallery & Museum staff in decisions on public art and evaluating donations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manly Art Gallery and Museum are part of the Arts and Culture team and are involved in internal selection panels and public art evaluations.

Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Number	Comment/submission
1	<p>I would suggest that the staff of the Manly Art Gallery should be the decision makers on what is deemed good public art and art work, in the Northern Beaches. So much of what I see around is just decorative art, with little value long term. Decorative art has very little depth to it and dates very quickly. The art chosen for any coastal walk should be the responsibility of Manly Art Gallery and their expertise on all matters of art in the Northern Beaches, should be directly sought and listened to. Generally, I would suggest, Councillors and council staff have very little informed art appreciation! Public monies should be spent wisely on good art. The Manly Art Gallery should advise on and decide what art donations made over 100 years should also be kept.</p> <p>More Council encouragement for donations to purchase art or receive good art, yes, should be encouraged. Tax deductions are an incentive! Streamlining the process is useful.</p>
2	<p>The Barrenjoey Alliance for Arts and Culture (BAAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the amended Cultural Collections and Gifts Policy. Overall the Alliance (BAAC) commends the Council on these policy amendments which will contribute to enriching the cultural life and wellbeing of the Northern Beaches community. The Policy generally provides a rigorous framework for managing and very importantly, resourcing these collections.</p> <p>The Policy generally provides a rigorous framework for managing and very importantly, resourcing these collections.</p> <p>We provide the following comments with an eye to strengthening the Policy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It would be useful to provide context to this Policy upfront by presenting a general definition of 'cultural collections' based on widely available cultural sector standards. This statement would provide a context for the detailed descriptions of each sub collections listed in the Table on Page 3 of the Policy. This would complement the Definitions provided later in the Policy. 2. A Scope of Policy statement would also be useful up front on Page 1, as it relates to Cultural Collections Scope. This is in addition to the sub-Section Scope and Application (Page 4) which references administrative processes. 3. Page 3 Table Local Studies Collection. Please clarify/re-word Dot point 4: 'Items that demonstrate rarity or outstanding representativeness of a particular type of object'. Are these items that have been assessed by experts as local, State or national significance. Is this an additional point anyway? 4. Page 4 The Collection Management and Gifts Guidelines (Line 3) should be revised to note that The Guidelines 'can be amended through internal processes by senior management based on advice from Council's professional cultural officers'. In other words, amendments can only happen based on expert advice to senior management.

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

Document administration	
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