
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Palm Beach Headland Urban Night Sky Place (Stage 3 of 3)

Impact level: 4

Report date: March 2021

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1. Summary¹

This report outlines the third stage of community and stakeholder engagement conducted as part of the Palm Beach Headland Urban Night Sky Place project between 6 November and 6 December 2020.

The report's content reflects the insights of participating community members and stakeholders who represent special interest groups and organisations, businesses, land owners and the general public, expressed through workshops, meetings and 370 submissions to Council during public exhibition.

A majority of the comments received during consultation were supportive of the project. Some of the benefits highlighted by community members included:

- improved lighting
- an alternate activity for families and young people under 18 years old
- positive environmental impacts.

Concerns raised were about:

- impacts on safety of the area
- overuse of the area
- the lighthouse remaining in operation and/or affecting designation.

1.1. Engagement snapshot



Total contributions
received

370



Have Your Say

Visitors: 1561

Visits: 2027

Av. time onsite: 1m40s



Social media

Facebook post: 2

1 Council Facebook posts

Reach: 5346

1 KALOF Facebook post

Reach: 314



Print media and
collateral







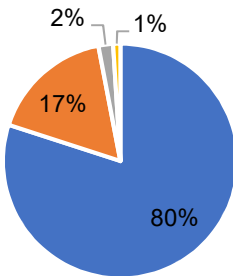

Letterdrop to postcode 2108

Site signs: Yes

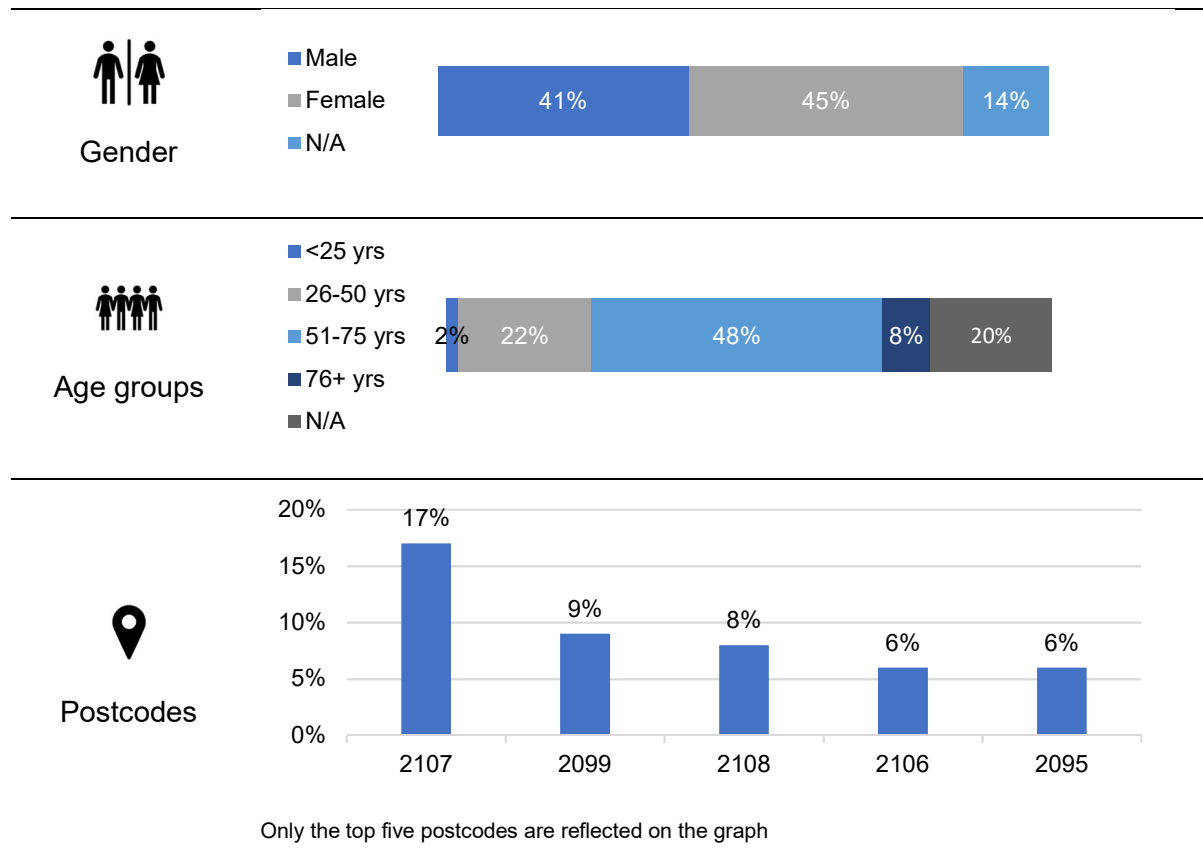
Number: 200

Number: 18

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.

	Community Engagement newsletter: 2 editions	Distribution: 20,000 per edition
Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Council eNews: 3 editions	Distribution: 150,000 per edition
	Stakeholder email: 1 edition	Distribution: 18 per edition
	Promotional video: 1	Views: 48
Videos		
	Online information session (Teams): 1	Attendance: 12
Face-to-face		
	Meetings: 3 (mix of online and Teams)	Attendance: 66
Key stakeholder engagement		
	Your Say Comment Form	Your Say and email contributors: 360
Survey and form	Email comments	Your Say and email contributions: 370
		
Sentiment	<div><div>Favourable</div><div>Unfavourable</div><div>Neutral</div><div>N/A</div></div>	
	Social	Access
	Environmental	Safety
	Visual	Traffic
	Amenity	Parking
	Economic	Noise
Feedback themes		

1.2. Who responded²



2. Background

On 16 April 2019, Council resolved to prepare an application for Palm Beach Headland to be designated as an Urban Night Sky Place (UNSP). The benefits expected from this project include:

- The demonstration that sustainable lighting principles can reduce light pollution to the night sky.
- Education and community engagement on the benefits of sustainable lighting principles.
- An upgrade of existing lighting with the benefits of increased efficiency, reduced costs and carbon emissions and reduction of upward light spill to the night sky.
- An alignment with the NSW Department of Planning & Environment who actively support the concept of Dark Night Sky Planning and promote education programs including 'Dark Sky for Teachers' and 'Dark Sky for Kids'.

To assist with the preparation of the application a project working group was established with key stakeholder membership including local residents, businesses, interest groups and government agencies.

The designating body, International Dark Sky Association (IDA), requires the application for an UNSP to include evidence of community outreach activities and demonstrate community

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

support for the project. Further, the Council report from April 2019 identified that consultation with the community is necessary to determine the level of support for preparing an application for an UNSP at Palm Beach Headland. To gauge the level of support Council undertook this stage three community and stakeholder engagement.

The Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan was devised on a three-stage approach. Stage 1 has been completed, Stage 2 is ongoing and this report outlines the process and findings of Stage 3.

- Stage 1: Council informed the community about the project and asked for Expressions of Interest from community members for the Project Working Group.
- Stage 2: Council convened a Project Working Group to help review the application process and act as a sounding board for the community. This stage is ongoing.
- Stage 3: Council undertook broad community consultation to gauge community support for this project and address questions and concerns.

Related projects include the Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Open Space and Recreation Strategy, Community Safety Plan and Destination Management Plan.

3. Engagement objectives

- Objective 1: build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities (inform)
 - The project was promoted via onsite signage, stakeholder postcard notifications, as well as our Council E-News and Have Your Say community engagement newsletter.
- Objective 2: provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way (inform)
 - Information was provided online via the Your Say project page³, including frequently asked questions and links to documents and websites relevant to the UNSP application process.
- Objective 3: identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values (consult)
 - Feedback was collected through an online comment form on the Your Say project page, with email and written comments also accepted. Contact details for the project manager were provided should anyone have a question.

4. Engagement approach

Stage 3 community and stakeholder engagement for this project was conducted over a 4 week period, from 6 November to 6 December 2020, and consisted of a series of activities that informed the public about the project and provided opportunities and platforms for community and stakeholders to provide feedback.

The goal was to gauge the general support of the local and broader community for the idea of having an Urban Night Sky Place at Palm Beach Headland, before undertaking any works on site or progressing with the preparation of an application. It was also an opportunity to

³ <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/urban-night-sky-place>

address any concerns or questions people may have and provided useful information to be used in the development of the application.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's [Community Engagement Matrix](#) (2017). A documented engagement approach is outlined in the Urban Night Sky Place Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (September 2019).

A project page 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 onsite signage, social media and our regular email newsletter (EDM) channels.

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

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

Council ran an information session to provide an opportunity for interested community members to find out further project details and ask questions. The session was held online via the Microsoft Teams platform in order to meet relevant COVID guidelines at the time.

During the consultation period, Council staff attended three relevant stakeholder meetings: the Community Safety Committee (26 November 2020), Youth Advisory Committee (16 November 2020) and the Palm Beach UNSP Project Working Group (2 December 2020). Feedback from these meetings is captured in Section 5. Staff also attended the Palm Beach and Whale Beach Residents Association meeting on 8 March 2021 to seek further comment and clarification on their submission received during the consultation period.

Results show responses were provided from a spectrum of demographics, expertise, experience and understanding of our local government area.

This report represents what Council has heard as accurately and transparently as possible by using consistent quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques.

4.1. Engaging with diverse communities

Lack of access to information is a key barrier in engaging our diverse communities. This project's approach took engagement to community, rather than expecting community to come to Council.

We worked with our Youth and Community Development teams (liaisons to our young people, multicultural communities and not-for-profit organisations/community services) and utilised their platforms and networks to share information, increase project exposure and awareness, and reach a diverse audience. With the Youth Development team's support, we ran a consultation session with Council's Youth Advisory Group whose members shared their views on the project.

5. Findings⁴

Overall, 80 percent of comments received on Your Say and via email were in support of the project. Many people's comments showed a sense of enthusiasm and pride in their Council for such an initiative. In their submissions, many outlined what they felt would be the benefits of this project, including reducing light pollution and promoting an appreciation of the night sky and providing an alternate activity for families and young people under 18 years old.

17 percent of Your Say and email respondents indicated they were not in support of the proposal. The reasons they identified included concerns about overuse of the area and ability of the facilities to meet additional use, safety concerns relating accessing the area and paths at night, and the potential impact on the lighthouse. Clarification was also sought over the inclusion of Barrenjoey Headland in the project considering it is not under Council jurisdiction.

Council heard different perspectives on each feedback theme throughout the consultation regarding the potential impacts of an UNSP designation. For example, where some believed that the lighting changes would benefit fauna and flora in the area, others worried about the potential negative impacts to nocturnal animals as a result of increased visitation. While some felt the activation in the area for this project had the potential to decrease undesirable behaviour, others worried that the lighting changes would promote anti-social behaviour. From a financial and economic standpoint, some were concerned about the associated costs of the project, while others felt the project would be beneficial in that it could increase revenue from tourism in the area and boost the local economy.

The UNSP application is a long and complex process and some people suggest that they would have liked further detailed information for this stage of the process, to assist in deciding whether to support the application or not. This could mean that people did not access the additional information provided on the project webpage, including through links to the International Dark Sky Association website and the UNSP guidelines and in the FAQ section. It also likely meant that for some people, further site specific information around the implementation of the UNSP was required. It is worth noting that the community engagement process has allowed the community itself to provide Council with a list of benefits and areas of concern to consider in preparing the application and associated supporting material.

This community engagement stage also provided an opportunity to guide the development of certain aspects of the UNSP, including event management and safety considerations, to reduce any impact a designation could have. Further information was requested regarding the scale and frequency of proposed UNSP events and also confirmation that the lights in the area were not being removed, rather improved.

Council acknowledges that many comments received indicated support for an UNSP at Palm Beach. The top reasons people had for supporting the project are presented and discussed in Table 1:

Table 1: Key comments received in favour of the UNSP at Palm Beach.

Theme	What we heard
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educational opportunities afforded to the community as part of the engagement to be delivered as part of the project• An UNSP in this location will provide benefits to overall community

⁴ Note: This analysis does not include any 'late' feedback received after the advertised closing date for consultation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential designation and protection will result in the creation of a place that can be enjoyed by families and future generations • Dark sky viewing opportunities provide and alternate activity for families and under 18's • The passive recreation and engagement with the environment has the potential to have a positive impact on physical and mental health • Increased engagement/connection of community to the natural environment which would be encouraged through the project will enhance the enjoyment of the area
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activation in the area with this type of recreation has the potential to decrease undesirable behaviour through increased passive surveillance • The modifications propose to the lighting (improving direction and reducing light spill) has the potential to improve visibility in the area
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise for Councils' efforts to reduce light pollution • Suggestion of potential additional sites across the LGA to be considered for future expansion of the program • Support for the benefits and enhancements expected to the natural environment, including to the plants and animals • Benefits to nocturnal wildlife due to the reduction in light pollution • Preservation of the natural environment, including the National Park • The project would be something to be celebrated
Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive impact on visual amenity in area as a result of reduced light pollution
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for increased revenue from tourism in the area • Need to use area for social and commercial activity to boost local economy

The top concerns raised about the project are presented and discussed in Table 2:

Table 2: Key concerns raised in submissions

Theme	What we heard	Council response
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that increased visitation and reduction in lighting could lead to rise in anti-social behaviour in the area (vandalism, loud groups of people etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff discussed this concern with the Community Safety Committee who met on 26 November 2020. It was noted that the intention of the project is not to reduce lighting, rather to improve the lighting and reduce upward light spill to the night sky. The Safety Committee commented that improved lighting could result in being able to see people in the area more clearly and activation of the areas for this type of passive recreation or events would be expected to deter unwanted behaviour.

Theme	What we heard	Council response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern that this project is being driven by a tourism operator Questions as to whether the project is necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council is progressing the application in line with the Council resolution of 16 April 2019. The benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the lighting in the area, to reduce light spill into areas not intending to be lit. The area will remain lit for safety and access. Reduce the upward light spill from current lighting to allow for better viewing of the night sky. For example upgrading old street lights can reduce upward light spill by about 90%. Reduce light impact on biodiversity. Supporting local business. The LMP will be developed in consultation with the businesses operating in the project area to ensure the conditions are suitable for them. This will likely include allowances for weddings, other events and filming for 'Home & Away' etc. NPWS stated that the project may be a "mutually beneficial promotional opportunity for education, community aesthetics and tourism for local land managers and commercial operators" Reducing light spill is also consistent with the recommendations within the recently released National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife Including Marine Turtles, Seabirds and Migratory Birds https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/publications/national-light-pollution-guidelineswildlife It aligns with Council's strategic directions for Places for People, Protection of the Environment and Environmental Sustainability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places for People - Goal 9 Protection of the Environment – Goal 1,3 Environmental Sustainability – Goals 4,5,6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for adverse impacts of the project on local residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project working group includes local residents as well as local resident association groups. It is worth noting all these types of activities are already being undertaken within the park and within the LGA.
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential negative impacts to nocturnal animals as a result of increased visitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We do not envisage there to be a significant increase in events at the location due to its designation. The Plan of Management for the area requires regular and commercial activities to seek a permit from Council to run events.

Theme	What we heard	Council response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern about potential for over development of the area 	<p>This will allow Council to assess any regular and/or commercial proposals on their merits and potential impacts, receive applicable fees and charges and ensure the level of use is appropriate for the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The improvements to lighting in the area and education on good lighting design are expected to be beneficial to local wildlife.
Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of local amenity and lighting Concern regarding maintenance of area and who would be responsible for this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that the intention of the project is not to reduce lighting, rather to improve the lighting and reduce light spill. Council is working with experienced lighting consultants and engaging with key stakeholders to prepare a plan for future lighting in the area. As it is not envisaged there will be a significant increase in events at the location due to its designation the maintenance should be able to be undertaken within the current maintenance resource allocation
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for further studies into the safety of regular night-time users of the area Safety of the community and stargazers (access paths and lighting) Monitoring of the site to prevent vandalism Need for more lighting in this area Concern for safety of lone females in area Impacts on Barrenjoey Lighthouse and its importance as a maritime navigation aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each event, as is currently required, will need to consider equal and safe access in their planning. Staff consulted the Community Safety Committee to seek feedback on current issues and envisaged issues with the proposal. Council will continue to assess incidents in the area to identify if issues are arising due to increased night-time use The lighthouse can continue to operate in the current manner The current access times to the NSW NPWS headland area will remain, being closed between dusk and dawn.
Traffic and Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased traffic and congestion in the area due to increase in visitation Impacts on parking as a result of increased visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is expected that visitors coming to view the night sky will be coming at times outside of the current peak usage times for beach use, markets, Surf Life Saving Club activities, picnicking, fishing etc.

Theme	What we heard	Council response
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern regarding increased noise and impacts on residents as a result of increased visitors to the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not expected this type of passive recreation activity to result in impactful noise, however Council will monitor issues being reported during implementation
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern regarding associated costs of the project Potential for associated costs with proposed events Council expenditure during recession 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019 Council allocated \$50,000 to progressing the project application. Further detail on costs associated with lighting changes and signage requirement will be known following the light audit and development of the LMP. Engagement activities are expected to be able to be undertaken within current resource allocations.

Appendix 1 Community and stakeholder responses (Verbatim)*

ID No.	Response to "Do you support Council progressing with an application to have Palm Beach Headland designated as an Urban Night Sky Place?"					Comments/Submission
	Yes	Unsure	No	Neutral	Prefer not to say	
1	1					Absolutely ! Great for kids to explore the universe with their parents
2	1					Absolutely think this is the right thing to do. We need spaces where we can appreciate the night sky. The Southern Hemisphere is witness to so much amazing astronomy and the view from palm beach is spectacular - please please please do this!!!!
3			1			Palm Beach Headland Urban Night Sky Proposal Many years and thousands of dollars have been spent on trying to protect Palm Beach Headland from all manner of intrusion and adverse environmental impact. Night time after 11pm is the now the only time that both local wild life and residents have a chance to recover from the barrage of visitors that we suffer traipsing through this environmentally threatened and protected area of Kuring-gai Chase National Park. The sections of Coastal Escarpment Littoral Rainforest and the Coastal Sand Tea-tree Banksia scrub on the coastal fore dune are both endangered. NBC has just fenced off an area on the north west end of the carpark, all the way around the barbecue and picnic area below to protect it from desecration. The area on the original sand dune has been fenced for many years to facilitate the preservation of the area for native bird and animal wildlife. There has been huge community support since 1938 and 1947 against using Barrenjoey Headland for excessive recreational activity and commercialisation. Later, in 2013, The Palm Beach & Whale Beach Association collected over 9000 signatures for "leaving

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

ID No.	Response to "Do you support Council progressing with an application to have Palm Beach Headland designated as an Urban Night Sky Place?"					Comments/Submission
	Yes	Unsure	No	Neutral	Prefer not to say	
						<p>Barrenjoey as it is". A large rally was held resulting in a media release on 7 August 2013 which included, inter alia, comments from the Hon Rob Stokes, local State Member: - "The NSW Government is committed to retaining Barrenjoey's character, heritage buildings and natural environment." - "National Parks and Wildlife will prepare a detailed concept for Barrenjoey headland in close consultation with the community to guide how the area will be managed." In 2014, National Parks and Wildlife took account of this strong opposition, supporting: - "conservation management planning in guiding and limiting development at Barrenjoey Headland". - "Management of Barrenjoey Headland will be guided by the policies of the Barrenjoey Headland Conservation Management Plan 2012, the Heritage Landscape Plan for Barrenjoey Headland, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park 2003 and the provisions of the NSW Heritage Act." (Extract from http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/KuRingGaiChaseAndIslandsMgmtplan.htm Page last updated: 24 October 2014). In 2016, local community groups were, again, on the case, being against renting out the light house keepers' cottages. A park entry fee of \$5 to visit the headland was proposed but rejected. Some \$3.5 million has been spent since then on improvements, including paved access up to the light house and new toilet facilities in Governor Phillip Park. This year, 2020, Jay Evans of Jaydid Photo advertised two astrophoto shoot tours/ workshops on 15 and 19 June at Barrenjoey Headland. Mr. Evans is a licensed commercial tour operator, with relevant accreditations from National Parks and Wildlife Eco Pass, running astro events in dark sky locations around NSW. These shoots were advertised with a 5pm depart from the car park below, up to Barrenjoey Light House. The return was for 11pm with departure at 11.30pm. To be fair, the group size was limited to 5 people. Presumably permits were obtained and fees paid? ISSUES - Increased nocturnal activity by human beings in a National Park defeats the precise objectives which formulated the development of the parks originally. - Monitoring the numbers and movement of people. Covid-19. - Securing environmental protection: No Toilets or Water at Lighthouse. - Excessive late night activity, distressing wildlife and residents. * Dunes Restaurant is already open until 11pm and the rear is constantly awash with litter, mess, rats and rabbits. (Photos available since new owners took over.) - Advertising as an "Urban Night Sky Place" will encourage even more 'hoon' type visitors to come, to stop and rest before continuing their anti-social behaviour. This is already an issue for the police. - Vandalism at Barrenjoey Headland has been documented since 1947. When people are wandering around in the middle of the night, such incidents are likely to increase. Burglaries in the local area are already on the rise currently. - Safety is a serious issue. The headland is a cliff face on all sides. The waters can be dangerous, especially at night and rescue facilities will not be easily available. - Commercialisation means larger and more groups on a regular basis. How will it be regulated? Where will the 'line in the sand' be drawn? How is exploitation of the public to be stopped? - Lighting. "It will help</p>

ID No.	Response to "Do you support Council progressing with an application to have Palm Beach Headland designated as an Urban Night Sky Place?"					Comments/Submission
	Yes	Unsure	No	Neutral	Prefer not to say	
						raise awareness of the benefits of good outdoor lighting design that ensures public safety while protecting the natural night time environment". * The lighting at Palm Beach Headland is perfectly adequate as is for safety purposes whilst not being obtrusive. - Costs. The Urban Night Sky Designation requirements are a completely unnecessary expense and indulgence. Palm Beach doesn't even properly qualify according to the specifications. There is no Visitor Centre. The prospect of future activities is alarming. The need for a management agency not an essential community service. CONCLUSION There is nothing to stop interested individuals from coming to Palm Beach Headland at night to observe and enjoy the night sky (when you can see it with the glare from Gosford). Creating and advertising nocturnal activities in a small area protected as a National Park will bring all sorts of trouble. Money should be spent on more immediate social priorities. The 2002 Plan of Management for Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park notes that it is particularly important in conserving a large area of relatively undisturbed vegetation of the type which gives Sydney bushland its distinctive character. It is also important for conserving vegetation types which are significant in a regional and local context (see Figure 4.1). The littoral rainforest and the Themeda grassland which occur on the Barrenjoey Headland are listed as endangered ecological communities under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995. Open heath dominates the headland which is exposed to strong winds. The two key forms include Allocasurina distyla and Allocasurina disyla/Banksia ericifolia/Hakea teretifolia. Open woodland and littoral rainforest occupies only a small area in sheltered areas of the headland to the south and west. Snow Wood (Pararchidendron pruinosum) and Twining Bamboo (Flagellaria indica) occur in the low closed forest, which is uncommon in the Sydney region, although it is not 48 Two fauna species listed on the schedules of the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 have identified as a community of particular significance in the Park Plan of Management. been found on the headland. They are the Osprey (Pandion haliaetus) and the Sooty Tern (Sterna fuscata).
4			1			
5			1			
6			1			
7			1			
8	1					Great idea!
9			1			
10			1			I would like to see more lighting that actually creates a safer ambience, the opposite of what is proposed here, even if the nocturnal animals are not so happy about it. We have possums and bandicoots in plague proportions already, and the last thing we need is another dreaded bat colony.
11			1			Council could have been more transparent about the fact that this is pushed by a [REDACTED] tour business. It does not feel right to have council calling this "exciting" - says who?

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	Yes	Unsure	No	Neutral	Prefer not to say	
12			1			This idea smacks of crazy green agenda but with benefits to a night tour operator. We all want to look after our environment but this habitat is not natural and is overrun by asparagus fern.
13			1			Not core work for our council.
14	1					This place is amazing for stargazing and anyone seeking a slice of paradise from above and beyond. Please help it to be recognised as the first Urban Night Sky Place in Australia.
15			1			There are other users of the area, not just gazing at the stars.
16			1			As so much of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park falls into the radius to qualify as UNSP, there is no need to alienate other users of the Barrenjoey Crown Land with these proposed rules and regulations. This is unnecessary and not the kind of thing our council should be pushing.
17			1			
18			1			I do not like Council doing the bidding of a private tour operator who stands to profit from rules and costs imposed on others. There is something very concerning about Council's priorities here.
19			1			
20			1			How about fixing the problem of undesirables gathering in the park at night in the gloomy half light? Who is Council listening to with this?
21			1			
22			1			We vote NO twice. Council should concentrate on more important things. [REDACTED]
23			1			
24		1				The devil will be in the details as always. As a local & weekly+ walker up to the lighthouse, I am very interested in this project. In theory sounds good to protect the area from light pollution at night, which in turn gives native fauna protection and peace by ensuring no surrounding artificial lights. However, we fear it may be a further push by Council/tourism groups/business owners to attract more people to the area, which in turn gives an excuse for more development ie. coffee shops, restaurants, toilets, wider roads, which this area does not want or need. We want it to remain a nature based, low key, quiet place, where fauna and flora is protected, encouraged and people enjoy the beautiful headland and beaches just as they are. The Barrenjoey Headland is such a narrow, confined space. A large section of it was destroyed by fire a few years ago and it has recently been bombarded by tourists since Covid has made local travel more appealing - But no protective strategies have been put in place (ie fenced off areas or 'no entry' signs - assume NPWS is mainly responsible- but also NBC) to stop tourists trampling over the native bush to get to the cliffs and other areas on the headland & around the Lighthouse. This is destroying the bushland and disturbing the native fauna. Urgent attention needs to be given to this issue, before NBC/govt starts spending money on other projects that encourage more visitors to the area (whether it's at

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	Yes	Unsure	No	Neutral	Prefer not to say	
						night or during the day), when it just can't cope with any more and will lead to the destruction of the very essence of what makes it so beautiful - the native trees, bushland, filtered water views and the peace & quiet.
25	1					Fantastic!
26			1			The Palm Beach area needs more commercial activity now that more of the houses are homes rather than holiday shacks. The existing commercial venues in Governor Philip Park should be encouraged by Council to offer more evening/night trading and activity, not less, as seems intended by this idea.
27			1			
28			1			We have dark sky already, come to Church Point and see for yourselves.
29			1			The Lighting Management Plan looks like extra work for work's sake. We joke about council workers digging holes and filling them in again in order to look busy. Is it any wonder.
30			1			Please don't tell us this will help the nocturnal animals. The sand spit area is unnatural habitat hosting rabbits, foxes and weeds. It is no place for marsupials as in its natural state it would be bare sand and no vegetation at all.
31	1					
32			1			This will mean more signs and we already have too many signs. If Council has the spare staff to be pursuing this kind of thing, why not get them instead to audit and remove unnecessary signs, an initiative for which there is sure to be wider support. Protecting the "dark sky" with new rules, signs and costs has to be just about the silliest thing I've ever heard a Council wanting to do.
33			1			I am dead against another layer of bureaucracy regulating visitor activity in this area.
34	1					Yes great idea as long as people's health and livelihoods are not affected too much.
35	1					Sydney is getting overrun by light pollution, let's keep places for star gazing!
36			1			

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	Yes	Unsure	No	Neutral	Prefer not to say	
37			1			I would like to see more light that actually brightens the place, not the opposite. Better light would help control the hoon problem.
38			1			There is no need to be imposing any change at all on other users - if enthusiasts want urban sky darker than Barrenjoey currently, they can drive down to West Head.
39			1			Council's enthusiasm for this seems all wrong.
40			1			Council, please stop. The sky is already dark and we don't need a night tour operator making money through quasi control of this area.
41			1			Enjoy it as it is - we don't need outsiders imposing rules and regulations for the sake of it.
42			1			This has the hallmark of a pet project by a staff-member with nothing better to do, or Council doing the bidding of a privateer wanting to have some control over how we use Governor Philip Park. Either way, it is not a good look for Council to be distracted by this unnecessary burden.
43	1					This sounds like a wonderful idea.
44	1					This is precious - we need somewhere close to appreciate our beautiful environment & wonders. Please protect it for generations to come.
45	1					Light pollution in Palm Beach has significantly worsened over the past 5 years and I would love to minimise that light pollution so all can enjoy the night sky.
46	1					There are not enough dark skies in Syd to truly appreciate the wonders of the night sky. I support this initiative and will gladly travel there if it is made Urban Night Sky protected area
47	1					I grew up in a small country town (Renmark SA) and loved seeing the stars at night. I've lived in Sydney for over 30 years now and the stars are the main thing I miss about the country. I even bought a telescope years ago but there was so little to see due to the light pollution that I ended up selling it and feeling very disappointed. We absolutely need to preserve dark areas wherever possible, not just for astronomers, but for everyone. Seeing the stars, the milky way and the planets in a dark sky should be considered one of the natural wonders of the world, and everyone should see it at least once.
48	1					
49	1					
50	1					Opportunity to ensure that this site is a recognized site for future generations to enjoy the night sky within the northern beaches
51	1					This space needs to be protected for an Urban Night Sky Space.
52	1					An excellent idea!!
53	1					This is a fantastic project that will hopefully be treasured by the community and be attractive to visitors. We visited the Dark Sky Project in New Zealand last year and it was an unforgettable experience - educational and mesmerizing.
54	1					Just a wonderful idea!
55	1					

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	Yes	Unsure	No	Neutral	Prefer not to say	
56	1					This is a truly wonderful idea and initiative. I support it wholeheartedly as a way to connect us city dwellers to the natural world. Thank you Northern Beaches Council - I sincerely hope the project proceeds. It will be a magical experience for all to enjoy.
57	1					The one thing missing in our area is access to the stars!
58	1					It's beautiful and we need to move closer to nature. This is a great opportunity for education and enrichment for the areas.
59	1					As pressure on the natural environment increases from the built environment we desperately need to preserve some special places with less than obvious attributes. As a keen but very amateur sky watcher the number of locations here on the northern beaches to observe from effectively are staggeringly few. The trend for increased night lighting almost everywhere is destroying the ability of our kids to spot anything but the most bright and obvious celestial bodies. It is almost impossible to show local kids something as wonderful as the milky way with the naked eye, anywhere but a select few locations with dark-skys. By preserving and recognising Palm Beach headland we could become a destination for visitors from other parts of Sydney and NSW. It could be an education opportunity for organised groups. We have the opportunity to help people extend a visit our backyard into the evening and early night to observe, and perhaps boost our local night economy. To me its a 'no brainer'
60	1					This is the perfect locale for such activity which normally requires trip to the central west. Great way to use the land for 24/7 activity not just daytime trippers and ones that are not likely to leave behind such a trail of mess.
61	1					Pittwater Natural Heritage Association is supporting the Urban Night Sky Place Project wholeheartedly as we have become increasingly aware of the importance of the night sky and the effects of poor lighting on the natural world. Research has shown that excessive lighting disturbs habitat, sleep patterns and reproduction rates. It causes disorientation in migratory birds and turtles for example and pollination rates suffer. Recent studies in Australia have shown sleep deprivation in our own magpies due to unnecessarily bright artificial light. The American Medical Association has documented the deleterious effects on human circadian rhythms and the importance of dark skies and quality lighting. PNHA hopes that this project will increase public awareness of the beauty and importance of the dark sky as community involvement, engagement and education is an essential part of the working party's agenda. We hope also that Council itself will work to improve public lighting and encourage households to turn off lights at night.

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						<p>The Audubon Society in the United States ran a very successful LIGHTS OUT program to save their migratory birds which has excellent ideas to reduce the damaging effects of artificial lighting and could be useful for Council in the future.</p> <p>We congratulate NBC on the UNSPP and are delighted to be involved with the working party.</p>
62	1					Yes, as long as dogs are allowed off leash at palm Beach.
63	1					great idea
64	1					<p>I suggest council connects with Coonabarabran Shire Council to get case studies to articulate benefits and alleviate potential fears from local residents. There are also good community information materials at the ANU Siding Springs Observatory between Coonabarabran and the Warrumbungles National Park, so they are also worth a call/visit from the team.</p> <p>ANU reported that the council received a good payback from installing downward-facing LED street lights, reducing energy usage whilst reducing upwards light leakage, and show that ground level lighting is if anything brighter than with traditional street lights. Perhaps we could consider extending the use of these lights beyond the designated Urban Night Sky area to reduce Northern Beaches light pollution, save money and reduce our energy footprint!</p> <p>These guys may also have some case studies of how local businesses have benefited and got involved. For example, some Coonabarabran shops seem to have adopted star systems in their signage, and a real estate agent emphasised "local properties come with a view of Alpha Centauri!".</p> <p>The comments from one participant of the recent online feedback session were surprising, as I have not heard any newspaper reporting of "the recent spate of house invasions in the Palm Beach area" she referred to. Perhaps some actual police stats on reported incidents could confirm if there is any truth behind this assertion, but regardless of the trend, information from Coonabarabran Council confirming illumination at street level does not reduce would alleviate this concern.</p> <p>At Siding Springs, there were also display materials which spoke to the damage done to night birds such as owls and tawny frogmouths by bright sky at night, which would enable you to engage with environmentally-focused residents to get their buy-in.</p> <p>I also believe that the designation would be favourable for the entire Northern Beaches area from an inbound tourism perspective: marketing materials could reinforce the feel-good vibe of our area being so clean/environmentally-friendly/away-from-it-all that even though we are close to Sydney CBD we have Urban Night Sky designation (and allow for favourable</p>

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						<p>comparisons against the higher-density/urban beach-areas around Bondi...).</p> <p>Finally, I wonder if there is an option to engage the NSW Education Department. For example, telescopes capable of giving HSC students views of nearby galaxies and the planets in our solar system cost less than \$2000 (as used by the Coonabarabran astronomer who hosts night shows under the name "Donna the Astronomer"). Perhaps, Avalon High School could become a designated field trip destination for HSC Physics students from across Sydney, and put on an astronomy road show. Or perhaps an entrepreneur could be encouraged to set this up as a new business.</p>
65	1					
66	1					I believe we need to do more to protect the environment through controlling light pollution. As an urban night sky place, it'll teach people that it's important to respect the environment and have measures in place to sustain night life health!
67	1					Great idea
68	1					Thinking this would be positive place for our community
69	1					
70	1					Conserving our dark skies is important for environmental conservation; therefore, it is great to see more efforts towards creating IDA certified dark sky places here in Australia!
71	1					<p>Thank you for looking after the Northern Beaches and thank you for the opportunity to comment on having an Urban Night Sky Place in our community.</p> <p>We think it would be a great idea to protect a portion of our night sky from light pollution. This would mean that we could see our beautiful night sky more clearly.</p> <p>It would be a free family activity that would be both educational and entertaining. We think this is particularly important after Covid19 when many families would like low cost activities.</p> <p>To many people, learning from a textbook isn't enough. They need to see things firsthand. The urban Night Sky Place is perfect for these people. Also, scientists and astronomers like to study the big universe that God has created. This would really help them advance their knowledge.</p> <p>Of course, we believe that any changes should strive not to have negative impacts on surrounding urban areas.</p> <p>If this plan is put into action, we would like to suggest the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coin operated telescopes for people who don't own one so that everyone has equal access; • Extra animal shelters and protection in case more nocturnal

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						<p>animals appear in the area;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety lighting for paths and toilets; • Extra bins so that there is not more litter left behind; • Wide, smooth footpaths and park benches for people with limited mobility and possibly a drive through area or carpark where they could view the sky without leaving their car; • Educational signs on light pollution and how we can all help reduce it; • Educational signs on the Indigenous use of the night sky eg the Emu constellation; and • No smoking for the health of all visitors and people living in the area. <p>Thank you for reading through and considering all our ideas. We really appreciate the way that Northern Beaches Council listens to people who would like to have their say.</p> <p>██████████</p> <p>Covenant Christian School, Belrose</p>
72	1					Can you imagine what our aboriginal ancestors and even the first European settlers got to see in the night sky above Sydney? This is such a special place during the daytime. Let's make it a special place at night too.
73	1					
74	1					<p>Yes please! I have two teenagers and it would be a wonderful local asset for us as a family to visit and discuss the ideas and issues.</p> <p>And what a fantastic place for our local schools to have as a site to access.</p> <p>We have attended the Astronomical Open Night at Macquarie University and I can see how they and other like groups would be able to host events in the UNSP.</p> <p>Not every day you get to be a 'first' in anything, so please let's say Yes.</p>
75			1			
76	1					
77	1					A progressive idea that demonstrates hospitable inclinations to all interested people and a worthy plan for all.
78	1					This is a great idea. An Urban Night Sky Place for Sydney would be ideally situated at Palm Beach headland. We have visited the Dark Sky Park at the Warrambungles and gained so much from the experience. Dark skies are a valuable and diminishing resource and it would be so good to have this reserve here for the public to appreciate.
79	1					<p>I've experienced one of these areas in Banff Canada</p> <p>They're extremely proud of it and lead guided tours at night to show off the sky to tourists and locals alike</p> <p>I think it would be a tremendous thing for the Northern Beaches and Palm Beach headland a great site</p>
80	1					

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81	1					<p>Having read, and I think understood, your description of and rationale for designating P /B Headland as an UNSP, I think it is an excellent idea.</p> <p>And if my understanding is correct, it should have significant benefits for wildlife, too?</p> <p>I would be really interested to to hear if you are planning to apply for any other UNSPs.</p> <p>I wonder if North Head would qualify, or if the area is too big?</p> <p>I wonder if Beacon Hill Lookout, Warringah Road, would qualify?</p> <p>It does have heritage value, it is small, and whilst it is surrounded by light, it is not garishly illuminated and it just might return some local civic pride to the area.</p> <p>Thank you for keeping me informed.</p>
82	1					
83	1					<p>Great idea. The night sky is to be cherished, looking up at the stars and wonder of the celestial dome is something precious and akin to gazing on the beauty of natural wilderness. Let's preserve this and create an educational experience for urban children. I've been to Hong Kong and all you see in the sky at night is a blue haze. No stars. People are disconnected there from this natural wonder we take for granted.</p>
84	1					<p>What an exciting proposal and a significant opportunity for the Palm Beach Headland</p>
85	1					<p>My family are avid stargazers. That's how I grew up as a child, looking up at the stars in wonder.</p> <p>I don't understand why we waste so much energy lighting at night with floodlights and poor lighting design. What this dark sky area represents is a start which I hope in years to come becomes legacy that grows to join with more areas just like this. The beauty of the Milky Way need not be something that you need to travel great distances to see. Could council take this a step further and come up with a street light design that reduces light pollution and limits the envelope of the beam. I would really like this considered for my own street.</p>
86	1					
87	1					<p>I believe it will be a special site for locals and tourists to visit to achieve knowledge about the night sky.</p>
88	1					
89	1					
90	1					<p>It would be wonderful go there to chill out from everything urban. Unique and would be a blessing for our community</p>
91	1					<p>Another interesting, positive, caring way to appreciate Barrenjoey. The inclusion of the "International Dark Sky Association" must add quality.</p> <p>Great idea for our locals of all ages to get out and learn more about our sky, especially the Southern Hemisphere Sky that we take for granted.</p>
92	1					
93	1					
94	1					

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95	1					<p>A great idea, as previously I had to drive up to Winmalee if I wanted to view a meteor shower or see a trace of the Milky Way etc. as the light pollution within the Sydney basin is horrendous (compared to Australian country regions - it's not too bad compared to the 'night sky' in Shanghai). Palm Beach Headland has great potential as an UNSP for Sydney, as it has open ocean to the east, a reasonable 'buffer' of Pittwater and National Park areas to the SW/West/NW which is less developed and prone to light pollution than most urban areas of Sydney. So, modification of local lighting will enhance this areas potential as an UNSP.</p> <p>HOWEVER, one of the requirements for an UNSP is "Allow for regular, night time public access to the site with or without supervision". Last time I walked to the top of Palm Beach headland to look at the Barrenjoey lighthouse area it was a difficult walk (no proper stairs/sealed footpath) from the nearest parking area (Governor Phillip car park). So even in broad daylight it had trip hazards and would be difficult to cart my 10" Meade telescope up there. Or for young children, elderly or handicapped to have staff access.</p> <p>According to SydneyCoastWalks.com "Track Conditions: Marked track. Some uneven natural stone steps. Grade: The track goes straight up the side of the headland. Steep in sections, some people may find this tough." (even when not carrying a telescope!)</p> <p>So, while designating this area as an UNSP and STARTING improvements with controlling/reducing the local light pollution will be a great start, to make it a useable UNSP will require better access in the longer term (eg. a broad, sealed (or at least gravel) stairway/path with red led route markers along the sides of the track, and some reflective tape on all step edges). Smugglers track can probably be left as a difficult, semi-natural bush walk, but at least the longer, gentler 'access track' (Barenjoey track) would need to be improved considerably to make this a really useful UNSP.</p> <p>Perhaps a ten year plan of gradual track improvements?</p> <p>But even then, access will not be ideal.</p> <p>West Head Lookout or the grassed area south of the Resolute Picnic Area car park would be better suited as a UNSP (much better access as you could drive there with a telescope in the boot), but they are within the National Park, so access isn't free and also restricted to daylight hours (!). And getting anything done to create an UNSP there would be difficult (NPWS tends to treat public use of National Parks as a nuisance to be minimized, not the main reason National Parks exist).</p>

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96			1			Subdued lighting or otherwise will spoil the desired viewing of starry skies. Even on the water around Lion Island there is too much light to enjoy the heavens. Its nonsense to suggest otherwise.
97	1					I would like to be able to go there and experience the wonder of seeing stars and darkness.
98	1					I think this is a great idea.
99	1					this sounds like a great idea to allow people of the northern beaches to see the night sky in all its glory
100	1					At last, a decision to preserve that beautiful, unique, irreplaceable area.
101	1					I think this is a fantastic idea. I would also love to see the council adopt a policy to reduce light pollution from street lights across the northern beaches. There are street lights that don't use sodium lamps, and only project light down, not up. More info here: https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/public-policy/
102	1					I think that protecting the night sky to be enjoyed by all, while protecting public safety is a fantastic initiative. It concerns me greatly how much light pollution is generated in urban areas such as the Northern Beaches and Sydney in general. As well as the environmental and aesthetic benefits of Palm Beach Headland being an UNSP, I also think that controlled tourism could be a fantastic revenue generator that would help make the initiative sustainable.
103	1					
104	1					I think it's a great idea, Barrenjoey Headland is a very special place and to have it designated as the first in OZ would be a 'feather in our environmental caps'. I guess it could have a positive outcome for the avian population, permanent and transitory also. We witnessed a pair of powerful owls there near the old customs station sign several years ago.
105	1					I'm certainly in favour of a UNSP in our council area and hope that this is the best place. I haven't been up to the lighthouse area at night but would have thought there is a lot of surrounding light from Palm Beach and from the Central Coast across the water. Is there a darker area within our council boundaries? Having access to a location to view and show off our beautiful stars in natural darkness without having to travel to central NSW will be very exciting. I hope that some telescopes will be made available for the public to use as well, with some able to attach cameras.
106	1					I think this is a wonderful idea and a chance to educate residents and council on lowering or turning off unnecessary lighting which will also save electricity and help migratory and shore birds from being disorientated at night.

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107	1					Sounds like a clever way to preserve the natural environment and at the same time engage people to come and enjoy the peace and quiet and wonder of the night sky.
108			1			The area is in the light path of Gosford lighting so it is not totally dark. By making the park dark with no lighting it takes away local amenity for the local rate payers and residents. It would also encourage more traffic and parking congestion severely affecting the local residents. There are major problems in the area now especially on weekends and holidays and this proposal will only add more serious problems.
109			1			The area is in lights of Ettalong, Gosford, across from Lion Island. Totally dark making area dangerous. Takes away from our local amenities. Traffic is already impossible- traffic congestion.
110			1			Why are you wasting money on this? The headland already has no lights, in fact can it even be called an "Urban Sky"? Its basically bushland.... There is no significant artificial light there... How is having it designated achieving anything? This has got to be a joke.
111	1					More of this, light affects so much of our nocturnal wildlife and it's a small thing we can do that should be greatly extended. Wish many of our suburbs could be less bright at night also, and the new street lighting helps.
112	1					I love the idea of the urban night sky being recognized in Palm Beach. What a progressive council. I am looking forward to attending a tour.
113	1					Love this proposal, thank you!!
114	1					
115	1					It is exciting that Council is prepared to act to protect one of the great sights of our area: the starry night. Thank you for taking steps to ensure this view will be available for future generations, when so much of the world has lost it.
116	1					I strongly support the application for Barrenjoey headland to become an Urban Night Sky Place. Furthermore I urge Council to institute a policy to encourage the reduction all sources of light that interferes with star-gazing anywhere and however possible. The sight of buildings and landscaping, public and private, is usually a attractive sight but I think that the loss of the sight of the night sky should be balanced against the use of so much lighting. It would take a long time to achieve change but starting to developing a policy would raise awareness of the issue.
117	1					I think cities as such are lit up at night far too much. It is not necessary to have such brightness. Whole highrise office buildings keep their lights on, with nobody inside. Why? Less light also saves on electricity. We know now, that animals get confused with light at night, and it seems even trees and plants react. My son bought a good telescope some time ago, but has almost given up the sky search, because the dome of light over Sydney is too bright. At the very outside, at Palm Beach, we may have a chance to see the stars. Please help.

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118	1					
119	1					As a family we have regularly gone up to palm beach lighthouse to see the southern sky, and have spent many happy hours taking photos whilst enjoying a midnight picnic with others. My children still recall viewing the arc of the Milky Way whilst spotting satellites and meteors. I would be very sad to see this privilege lost to my (Hopefully one day) grandchildren.
120	1					I work with youth from the Kimberley staying in Sydney for weeks at a time. They miss their dark skies and speak of the benefits so strongly. Let's give our northern beaches youth and us all the opportunity to see all the beauty and specialness of dark night skies - our mental well-being as individuals and a community would benefit.
121			1			Please, no more traffic being directed to palm beach. There is only one road in and out which is already horrendously congested with visitors. This will only encourage more traffic - with more car noise, fumes and ironically, lights.
122	1					Why just Palm Beach? What about the whole of the council area??
123	1					It would be an excellent addition to the Northern Beaches area and will inform the kids about the beauty of the night sky!
124	1					Make it into an attraction ! . Some people are specialists at night time sky photography . Light pollution is a major issue.
125	1					
126	1					Many people no longer know what a starry sky looks like which is very sad. Let's have at least one area where we can enjoy the thrill of a night sky unpolluted by lots of glaring and often unnecessary lights. Hopefully this idea may take off and lead to other locations with dark nights or even just a bit darker,
127	1					I live at palm beach and treasure the amazing night sky we still see. I understand the importance of the night sky for native fauna and believe we have a responsibility to preserve it. So much of the natural world is being taken away from us: increasing size of houses, more builds, more 'streetscaping' all mean brighter lights and it is essential to slow this process down and know the night sky needs protection. Please pass this proposal and allow nature to preserve over man for once.
128	1					It is very healthy for the community and visitors to be able to enjoy and be part of the nature.
129	1					Palm Beach has the easiest access dark skies near Sydney. I frequently photograph the Milky Way there but am hampered by the street lights spilling over into the photo. Making it a designated Urban Night Sky Place would make a huge difference.
130	1					I would appreciate initiatives to do what we can to lower the light pollution at night. Palm Beach allocation would be wonderful. I'd also like to see simple things like streetlights that focus light down, not side wards. Easy to do, but it has to be thought of before commissioning of new lighting.

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131	1					It would be great to add another place to the very short list of places in Sydney that are suitable for astrophotography.
132	1					
133	1					Coming from a rural area I really miss seeing the night sky with no interference from lights. I think having such a place in Sydney would be fantastic. It is a part of getting back to nature most people never know.
134	1					After my family member returned to Sydney Australia, I visited Palm Beach in 2019. It is beautiful and one of a kind place, so close to city and yet so remote. This is the place I would go to watch night sky and enjoy sea breeze, fresh air and away from the crowd in day light. This is amazing place that deserves to be kept as such.
135	1					Yes please! I guess all we need is a safe walkway to get up and down without creating too much light!
136			1			<p>There are nocturnal native animals that will be further disturbed. There is already too much traffic in the Headland, too many people are loving it to death.</p> <p>Upkeep of the park is not being kept up to standards at the moment. There are cars and motor bikes that disturb the headland and Governor Phillips Park already at night. the safety concerns have not been addressed. More people will mean more safety issues.</p> <p>Is this a not for profit project? If not, I oppose commercial activity in community parks.</p>
137	1					<p>This will be a wonderful opportunity for young and old alike to enjoy the wonders of the night sky so close to Sydney. Make use of this great resource for night time viewing.</p> <p>This is a rare patch of dark sky.</p> <p>Losing it will be detrimental to the future of the area, which is known globally as a calm oasis and this includes its dark skies.</p>
138	1					I stumbled upon Palm Beach as a dark sky site last year. I was amazed at the clarity of the sky. I TOOK THIS IMAGE THERE [image supplied as attachment]
139	1					The value of Not Losing a dark sky in this area can not be gained via commercial means. Its a natural phenomenon given to us freely. To lose that would cost the council more than any other revenue raising initiatives. Once its gone, its gone. In fact, its currently globally famous as a dark sky oasis of Sydney. Only heaven knows what would happen if that was lost? I myself gaze at the stars there and take astro images with peace comfort and joy knowing im not far from home.
140	1					
141	1					
142	1					
143	1					Yes and this should be applied to as many places as possible.
144	1					Encourage people to appreciate the beauty of natural environment available to them in their surroundings.

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145	1					I'd like to see light pollution reduced across the northern beaches as much as possible, not just at Palm Beach.
146	1					The night sky has guided humans since ancient history. It is awe-inspiring, soothing, and comforting. In our modern world, we tend to lose contact with nature. All the lights around our big cities leave us unaware even of moon phases. The few remaining pockets of dark sky must be preserved for generations to come!
147			1			The headland is a beautiful peaceful natural sanctuary , a breath of fresh air at the outskirts of urbanism , a last vestige of natural tranquility . Leave it alone .. no lighting required or wanted .we don't want to encourage more and more people stomping their way up to the light house at all hours of the day and night. Sun rise does a great job. LEAVE IT ALONE !!!
148	1					Sydney would be a much nicer night time place to live and sleep with street lights that light up the pavement and not the night sky.
149	1					
150	1					I think it would be such a privilege to have a night sky viewing place so accessible to city dwellers
151	1					Such a wonderful idea. Urban kids have not experienced the stars like their country counterparts
152	1					We need more natural places in the world, where we can go and relax, be one iwth nature and meditate for stillness and mindfulness.
153	1					Having enjoyed the magic experience of a Night Sky Place in New Zealand, it would be very special to have such an environment so close to public access on the northern beaches. It will be of even greater value as the population grows and it becomes more difficult to find somewhere dark enough to enjoy the stars. We need to encourage our residents to stand outside in the dark and follow the constellations and satellites as they move across the sky. So easy now with computer programmes to assist with identification. A magic experience that costs us nothing and gives the utmost pleasure.
154	1					Wonderful idea and initiative by Northern Beaches Council. How exciting to be part of an urban dark sky park! Inspirational looking at our universe and also about learning how important it is for animals and insects to have dark skies at night. Us too. Just such a great plan.
155	1					

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156			1			What on earth is wrong with a head torch or torch? Lighting the track will create light pollution in this last little spot on the peninsula that has not been suburbanised. It already has new steps, a road and a toilet block, next will be another dreaded proposal for a coffee shop! Please do not continue to whittle away at this LAST super special place - lighting the path with the proposed 35 lighting fixtures would completely ruin this beautiful walk at night not to mention the blinking of lights on and off through the night (noting some are movement activated).
157	1					Both my husband and son are very keen amateur astronomers. It would be so convenient and wonderful for them if they could do their star watching locally rather than to travel outside of Sydney to get a dark sky. Hopefully this would also encourage the younger generation to have an interest and learn about the universe that we live in.
158	1					What a favourite idea, of benefit across everyone in the whole community now and into the future
159	1					This a great idea - congratulations to all concerned. For one thing, the excessively bright party lights [REDACTED] have long been an intrusive blot on the otherwise relatively natural landscape (particularly in winter); hopefully they will get rid of them.
160	1					Definitely support the UNSP application. The last time I visited Barrenjoey for a lunar eclipse the lights [REDACTED] were full on and could not see the moon at all, so I hope that residents and businesses in the area come on board.
161	1					
162	1					It's a start! Council should endeavour to limit light pollution all over the Northern Beaches.
163	1					
164	1					More attention should be given to light pollution generally. There is no need for large advertising signs after dusk such as Woolworth at Mona Vale. We need to call it out as pollution.
165	1					
166	1					We see so few stars now. It would be great for everyone including children to see this.
167	1					We live in a very special place - so let's keep it special by having Palm Beach Urban Night Sky deemed a reserve for viewing, - but DON'T TURN THE LIGHT OFF !!
168	1					
169	1					We are very fortunate to have these night sky views so close to a city. Sensitive night time use of the headland would wonderful for both locals and visitors. Access should be balanced with the need to maintain environmental values and amenity for local residents. Use of guides and organised groups could be considered to manage visitor numbers and impact.

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	Yes	Unsure	No	Neutral	Prefer not to say	
170			1			There is no information provided upon which to make a decision. Thus the default is the status quo. Specifically, there will be significant costs to bring this area up to Dark Sky standards, including potentially changing lighting in community, residential and commercial settings. Safety of the community and stargazers has not been addressed (or even mentioned). And there is the commercial aspect. The proposer runs an events business based on dark sky gazing, but there is no mention of that aspect, or a possible fee accruing to Council which might subsidise businesses and residents for additional costs etc. This is a conflict of interest.
171	1					I think it's a brilliant idea that absolutely needs to be pursued!! The opportunity to be the first in Australia to have something like this cannot be passed up and must be taken. It would be a great claim for the council and it would be incredibly popular amongst teens as stargazing is a much desired but scarcely available thing.
172	1					
173	1					It is a wonderful idea and more able to access a darker sky at Palm Beach. People of all ages are enchanted by the stars
174	1					I feel this is a fantastic initiative that will allow many more people to enjoy the incredible experience of astronomy. I expect to visit and use the UNSP at least monthly.
175	1					For the people who are interested in astronomy, there are very few places closer to Sydney. With the geographical setup, Palm Beach is one of the best and easiest places to protect the dark sky as it is already dark to some extent. Considering the lighthouse area where people get 360 uninterrupted open views to the sky make this place so special. Then considering the population, density, and traffic that makes more sense as well.
176	1					Gazing at the night sky is an awe inspiring experience. It takes us out of ourselves, opens our minds to the vastness of the natural world and is incredibly beautiful. When I visit the Central West of NSW I star gaze. It would be fantastic to cut out enough artificial light so we could star gaze at Palm Beach. I really hope this project is successful.
177	1					
178	1					
179	1					Yes, I support this but would like to see some additional development at the headland to create more than just the name of a site of interest and preserved light viability

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180			1			Are you opening a visitors centre and putting lighting all the way up to the lighthouse. It is unclear. it is a national park and I would expect protected. I live in PB and am a frequent visitor to the lighthouse. There is beauty in not having those first world elements pushed into such a place as it is there for all to enjoy that beautiful freedom. Walk up with a torch as many people do. I feel it is a folly to sell the idea of night sky tourism when you are looking up to the sky through the vast lumens of a lighthouse. Inevitably that sense of adventure it still holds for future adventurers will lessen the more we inflict upon it. Is it all about a visitors centre and why. Create a star gazer app mapping both skies and landforms from that location blended with a strong indigenous perspective which Pittwater urgently needs.
181	1					
182	1					It will be great to have a dedicated place. Thank you for initiation.
183	1					This is an outstanding initiative and will allow Sydneysiders to enjoy the night sky close to home. The tourism opportunities are huge, and I know I would visit much more often if this proposal is implemented.
184	1					Have always lived close to Palm Beach and wish to remain so, with the beautiful night sky never changing as the surroundings continuously do.
185	1					I think it is a fantastic idea.
186	1					Having a reserved dark sky location is important to avoid the ever increasing light pollution.
187	1					I support and encourage 'dark sky' lighting design across the whole LGA
188	1					Fully support the application
189				1		before I start, I disagree with my last comment that I made like a few mins before. I think Palm Beach should be designated as an Urban Night Sky place because I think it would really cool and interesting.
190				1		I think that I would agree with this idea but because there is a lighthouse, which I think pays respect to someone who died, I wouldn't go with this idea. Also, the lighthouse majorly helps boats go where it should go.
191	1					Been to Uluru and the sky blew me away and struck home the city light pollution.
192			1			We already have far too many tourist in the area and this will only increase this. It would require further development of the headland, which is unnecessary and increase noise at night time.
193	1					
194	1					
195	1					<p>We refuse to understand the effect of too much lighting, in urban areas, on our unique flora and fauna! The effect is huge, in a negative way!!</p> <p>I'm all for public safety, but council and citizens can do much better!!! And by doing so, investing in smarter and environmental friendly solutions, every living thing benefits!!!!</p>

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196	1					I love this plan and would look forward to its implementation
197	1					Sounds amazing perfect location
198	1					We have a good size telescope which we had to relocate to rural NSW because it was too bright to see anything in Sydney. Out there we can see the moon so clearly, and the moons of Jupiter! We would love to have a place in the Northern Beaches to go and view these amazing sights.
199	1					That would be a wonderful place to take my telescope to and view the sky with minimal light pollution.
200	1					Great idea!! Glad that you are thinking about different ways to engage the community and make use of public space. Especially through COVID, the night sky has become clearer than ever which provides a wealth of discovery for people of all ages.
201	1					
202			1			This seems an unnecessary thing for our council to be doing - I'd rather they fix the pathway there instead of reduce the lighting. Who sets these priorities?
203			1			Are you serious? The park needs more light not less. Personal security should not be brushed aside as a token consideration. We also need to promote commercial and social activity here, like evening celebrations and outdoor cinema. This proposal would quash all of that.
204	1					I think this is an amazing initiative!
205	1					
206			1			This kind of thing makes people angry. We are in the beginning of a deep recession with high unemployment and many on reduced income, and here is Council wasting time and effort on something completely unnecessary. If someone wants low-light conditions why not go over the other side to West Head? There is no need to cause inconvenience to other users of the Palm Beach spit area with all this new red tape.
207	1					great idea. highly supportive.
208	1					Reducing light pollution by introducing lower-power properly directed street lights is a great initiative across the council area. Having been in Coonabarabran recently, the wonders of the night sky are well worth pursuing.
209	1					I would very much like to learn more about the proposal, it sounds exciting.
210	1					I think this is a fantastic idea. Supposedly at Duffys Forest we too should see a fantastic night sky. And we did 42 years when we first moved here! But we have progressively noticed the relative weakening of the starry starry night sky due to light contamination from the Belrose, St Ives, Hornsby areas.

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211	1					I've watched the moonrise many time from the north end of palm Beach and . I've even filmed it as part of my "Minutes by the Sea" project. To know that designers, administrators and others are conspicuously aware of the value of seeing the night sky is encouraging. I certainly support any efforts to preserve access to the night sky as part of any effort to ensure public safety.
212	1					This is great idea. How about installing a cable car for older people who can not reach the headland by foot.??
213	1					
214	1					What a great initiative, We will love to see it!
215	1					Some study needs to be done regarding the safety of regular night-time users of the area - single women are particularly vulnerable in underlit areas, but in principle I do support Council's position.
216	1					At the moment we have to travel a long way to be able to see any kind of stars properly. This would be a fantastic option.
217	1					A wonderful and inspiring venture for all ages. Yes please, I fully support assigning this area for night sky watching.
218			1			Oh please, can council just stop with all these distractions? Amalgamation was meant to see cost-savings, not new excuses to spend money. If staff have time to be pushing this kind of thing it tells me we have too many staff.
219	1					Not sure status of introducing toilet facilities on the headland also. But I strongly object to any toilets here and sadly, would imagine required security lighting at night would interfere with night sky concepts
220	1					
221	1					I think it sounds great! Would you still have to walk up to view?
222	1					I regularly take my kids outside to see the space station, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn when in close orbit. They love it. We recently drove 5 hours to find a dark zone to view the stars, why not Locally? Amazing idea I fully endorse
223	1					A fantastic idea! Thanks to everyone involved for making this happen.
224	1					Sounds amazing, please make this happen!!!
225	1					This is a great initiative to get people to appreciate the World Beyond Netflix.
226	1					What a great opportunity. I do hope this will be successful
227	1					As a keen amateur photographer people are often amazed at the night sky shots taken around this area. The quality of the dark sky here is impressive and should be preserved for everyone to enjoy that sense of wonder seeing the night sky so close to a major city.
228	1					As part of the [REDACTED] Cromer Campus are devising a program to be implemented in 2021 around the Dark Skies Project initiated in the junior school program by Dubbo Distance Education. Cromer will be extending this program into the High School context for other schools to

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						use. Having a resource so close to us is wonderful and we hope to include it into our program.
229	1					The one thing I miss is to look up into the night sky and see a multitude of stars that make up the milky way. It will be difficult to find a dark night around Sydney sky to achieve this but probably this spot is the best we can do. So I support this initiative.
230			1			Anything to make Governor Phillip Park darker at night is madness. There is a well known issue with rev-heads coming here at night. Increased lighting, so as to promote a greater feeling of safety to other users of the space, is what Council should be prioritising instead. Increased use by others is a proven solution to driving off antisocial behaviour, and this is more important than what appears to be nothing more than costly symbolism proposed here.
231	1					We have gone up there a few times to look at meteor showers etc it would be fantastic to have a clearer view.
232	1					Fully supported - a necessary and valuable step for amateur and scientific communities.
233			1			PB is OK as it is - there's no need for management plans, rules and expense just for the sake of it. This is not what we're wanting from our local council. The benefit of this proposal looks like it is more symbolic than anything, but it is not a core function of council and is sure to involve cost and complication down the track.
234	1					I believe the proposed UNSP for Palm Beach headland is a brilliant idea. All you have outlined in the proposal makes so much sense and another first for our wonderful City of Sydney.
235	1					My only concern is the Barrenjoey Lighthouse. This light is important for navigation, and presumably cannot be turned off; so what impact does that have on sky visibility? But if it works with the lighthouse , then its a great plan.
236	1					Even better if we could drive up to it in daylight and then watch sunset and do out stargazing. It will be a bit difficult for some to walk up the hill carrying telescopes and then set up. We will probably be bringing picnic baskets as well as telescopes and chairs!
237	1					This proposal sounds great - a very useful contribution to keeping our natural environment connected to the people of the Northern Beaches and the wide area of the Sydney basin as well as visitors to our wonderful part of the world.
238	1					A wonderful development.

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239		1				I am dubious of the practicalities of the headland being suitable for such a site. By nature significant access pathway lighting would be required for night time visitors to safely access the site. This lighting would of course be designed to be minimal and therefor may leave council exposed to litigation should a visitor suffer injury and claim insufficient lighting as a primary reason. I believe a site which is shielded by natural escarpment from surrounding residential light would be more suitable. For example; Somewhere near the Telstra Satellite Earth Station at Oxford Falls.
240	1					
241	1					Great idea, but I'm not sure how feasible it is given proximity to population centres - presumably real experts have been consulted and advised that this is feasible?
242	1					Excellent idea.
243	1					A great initiative to help our community get re-connected with the natural world!
244		1				Wonderful idea in principle but not made clear what the cost would be; both fiscal and practical eg replacing street lighting. Seems hard to understand how people can give educated responses. Those living nearby will worry about direct impact whereas those living further away will probably like the idea (I do), but maybe less so if they think it would divert fewer funds to elsewhere if the costs are high. Transparency please.
245	1					I have been privileged to see the night sky in the desert and miles out to sea. What an awesome experience. Great to enable those who live in the city to share that sight.
246	1					brilliant idea. most people living in cities never get to see the wonder of the night sky.
247	1					Light pollution has adverse consequences for many species so reduction of unnecessary lighting is helpful where possible. Encouraging people to appreciate the night sky is positive for those able to enjoy the experience. Consideration should be given to lighting throughout the local government area, in terms of type, intensity and the direction of illumination.
248			1			What a hair brained scheme this is!!! Northern Beaches Council has been noted as having the highest level of debt in the state. What Rate payers need is a Council working to address the poor roads, maintaining the parks we already have and every other measure that they are employed to do e.g. reducing debt. I hope Council will reconsider this outrageous waste of money and throw the idea in the waste bin where it belongs and get back to the real work in the real world.
249	1					
250	1					A fantastic idea if the council can pull it off, with so much artificial lighting around . Moffat ... Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, UK was the first there and very successful. VISIT MOFFAT is on Facebook , if you wanted to get in touch.

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251	1					Beautiful step towards embracing our environment more openly and lovingly xx
252	1					
253	1					
254	1					
255	1					
256	1					
257	1					Combating light pollution is a worthwhile objective
258	1					
259	1					
260	1					
261	1					What a great idea! A wonderful addition to the natural environment on the Northern Beaches.
262	1					
263	1					So fabulous to think that our council might finally support something like this. I last took an urban night sky photo in the late 1980's in the Northern Beaches (still have the photo; everyone loves and learns a lot from it) but would struggle to take such a photo in the last few decades here.
264	1					I think it is a good idea. As the area is very isolated, what arrangements will there be for transport and parking? Will the facility be staffed permanently? If people want to go there without supervision I would be concerned about vandalism and safety.
265	1					Astronomy is gaining momentum with space race so it would be important to facilitate understand in community by having an accessible Urban Night Space.
266	1					
267			1			I do not agree with this project where it is being suggested, at Palm Beach? I checked the Blue Marble glare site and Palm Beach is right in the middle of the glare map! Try Terrey Hills/West Head, according to the Glare map they would be a better chance to go through the rigorous application process and be successful.
268	1					
269	1					I think this is a brilliant idea. I look forward to seeing how it progresses. Good thinking!
270	1					Having lived some time in the bush in areas without artificial light I can appreciate the idea of seeing the stars unhindered.
271	1					With so much development on the northern beaches, what a great way to share nature with our children and visitors.
272	1					Excellent idea , fabulous for children to learn the wonders of the sky
273	1					

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274			1			Council are falling behind on their basic responsibilities, kerb and guttering, illegal car parking, street cleaning etc etc, this proposal does nothing to promote promote basic rate payers services.
275	1					A great idea to preserve natural night sky in urban area
276	1					Omit the Barrenjoey headland as the light can't be turned off. Also too dangerous going up there at night.
277	1					It's progressive, trail blazing and essential. Some people will never have the opportunity to see the sky free from artificial light. This is a step in the right direction to broaden this opportunity.
278	1					Star watching is wonderful on that isthmus. The idea of reducing unnecessary night light to support nocturnal creatures is most welcome. I applaud this initiative!
279	1					Wonderful idea whilst we still can
280			1			People will just leave the place an absolute garbage dump.
281	1					This is the perfect location for something that is becoming more and more popular around the world.
282	1					This is a very exciting project in our area. Having a long time interest in the night sky and attending StarFest in Coonabarabran I can't wait to have Palm Beach Headland designated as an Urban Night Sky Place! It will be a wonderful opportunity to observe the Sydney night sky in the best possible environment. Thank you for making this application.
283	1					What a fabulous education opportunity!
284	1					A perfect spot . But I would not like to see any changes to the old buildings and bush.
285	1					Sounds like a fantastic idea! Be great to see more projects like this across the whole council area :) Be great to generally reduce night-time light pollution in populated areas too - help the wildlife, better energy efficiency.
286		1				Would entry be restricted.; would cars be allowed in the area; what about use of Car lights?
287	1					This sounds like a great opportunity for students to consider the effect of light pollution on animals and astronomers alike! I'd love to see some education initiatives associated with this proposal.
288	1					Absolutely a BONZA idea. I'm all for it. Bit far for me at my age, but will try to get there and encourage others. [REDACTED]
289	1					
290	1					I think it's a great initiative for the area and for the community to enjoy. Further down the track it would be great to look at looking to do another in an area more central
291	1					

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292	1					yes that would be fantastic... i think council should be doing more to protect night skies as many new developments seem to have much more dazzling lights than they used to... eg the refurbished warringah Mall and car parks from our house are much more bright than they used to be. I think that street lighting should be toned down as much as possible too
293	1					
294	1					Sounds very interesting and novel
295	1					I am so glad ! It would be good to encourage the rest of the peninsula to do likewise. As for all those skyscrapers in the CBD where thousands of empty offices are lit up all night, how stupid is that !
296	1					
297	1					Based on the information contained in this article and the FAQ's I am in support of this project.
298			1			IVE LIVED ON THE NORTHERN BEACHES ALL MY LIFE I AM 65 YEARS OLD . DUE TO SEA SPRAY AND MIST IT IS ONLY A FEW TIMES A YEAR THAT THE ATMOSPHERE IS VERY CLEAR AROUND HERE ,MANILY ON CRISP AUTUMN NIGHTS. SUMMER IS PARTICULARLY BAD DUE TO ONSHORE NORTH EAST WINDS LIKE WISE WINTER WITH THE SOUTHERLIES. GREAT IDEA BUT NOT THE RIGHT PLACE .
299	1					Brilliant idea deserving of 5 stars! Seriously such an excellent idea to aid urban dwellers in better understanding their natural environment.
300	1					Fantastic idea. Could then use the accommodation for star gazing experiences and education.
301	1					Would be great if it is actually dark enough to see the milky way. Never seeing a star-filled sky is a downside of city life!
302	1					I am someone who really enjoys astronomy and wants to get further involved (and am planning to buy a better telescope in the next few weeks). Having a dark sky reserve near by house would be fantastic.
303	1					Interesting issue. It would be good to see how it went in an urban environment; as long as there are no major impediments for the locals (I am in the Manly area). I assume that this is a trial activity?? If it is seen as a good idea, then the approach to implement should be strategic, i.e. don't simply toss a lot of our \$ at the project, by un-necessarily replacing good existing infrastructure. Replacing existing lighting when existing infrastructure fails is OK.
304	1					It will be great for locals and Sydneysiders especially city kids to not have to leave the city just to be able to see the stars in all their brilliance without the city lights bouncing all around to dull them. In the country the night sky is really so much clearer and brighter and being able to see it so close to home will help create an increased awareness and appreciation of our environment and world.

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305	1					I think this is a brilliant idea!
306	1					I suggest engaging with university or CSIRO researchers to design and undertake a study into how the reduced light impacts wildlife both at the location and nearby vicinity. I would be happy to assist in contacting researchers as I am well connected into the research sector.
307	1					I've heard of this concept overseas. It sounds wonderful that people could enjoy the night sky so close to the city.
308	1					
309	1					
310	1					It's hard to find anywhere in urban areas to stargaze at night - would be great to be able to do this without having to travel far.
311	1					I think it would be a suitable site. It is hard to find a site in the suburbs. Do you envisage people gathering at the lighthouse or along the paths? Maybe they would have to assemble before sunset and then close it off.
312	1					Great spot for night time photography.
313		1				Provided comments with application to attend online session.
314	1					Great initiative. I am pretty sure we will use it.
315		1				I'm finding it difficult to understand exactly what it is. Lighting or a Night Telescope or both? What is the estimated cost of this and why is it needed and how does it benefit the area at night. The whole thing sounds a bit frivolous and expensive.
316	1					Great idea - when and where can we see more details such as site details, what support amenities will be included. Is it possible to expand the project eg daytime or twilight activities for the families with YOUNGER children that will lead them to be more interested in the Night Sky - eg mini dinosaur park linked to meteorites, large video screen describing cloud formations etc etc
317	1					Yes, definitely. It would be a very interesting place to visit for both locals and tourists. Something a little bit different to bring people to the area and support local business.
318	1					Far too much light pollution around. Commercial buildings still leave lights on all night.
319	1					If that is Barrenjoey Headland then that would be about the best option with council land. Anything else would be a bit closer to skyglow (Longreef Headland) or out of council control (North Head, National Park).
320	1					
321	1					
322	1					Congratulations to all those involved in this exciting and intelligent project. It is an initiative to be proud of. I feel massively positive that your hard work will manifest the perfect outcome and our precious Palm Beach Headland will be recognised as a unique and important night sky area. Thank you, thank you.

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323	1					
324	1					Great initiative
325	1					Brilliant initiative. Can't wait - I bet the animals and insects are looking forward to it, too.
326			1			Seems like a folly sitting b/w Sydney and Central Coast when so much of Aust better positioned
327	1					
328	1					
329	1					This would be fantastic!
330	1					
331			1			I strenuously object to the proposal to list our Governor Phillip Park and surrounding area as an "Urban Night Sky". Northern Beaches Council area, and the former Pittwater part in particular, is facing increasing pressure to have our limited open space meet the needs of the community. Recently there has been the proposal to transform half of Warringah Golf Course into multi-purpose fields, and closer to home we have had netball courts built on green space in the centre of Avalon. The "Lighting Management Plan" is objectionable in terms of "Regulation of visitor activities with respect to the introduction of unnecessary artificial light at night" (direct quote) and giving preference to those who might take part in star-gazing, or making money from those who choose to do so. Council cannot be alienating other uses from this Crown Land on the basis that such uses might require artificial light, fireworks displays etc. We have businesses in the park already struggling to survive and the option to host night-time events (with artificial light) should not be cut off. There are future uses of the park that we might not have yet thought of. The whole project looks like unnecessary cost for my rates to be going to and only serves to create more red/green tape down the track, resulting in less-flexible land use which runs against the pressures Council is facing. If a handful of individuals are bent on declaring a "night sky", let them have West Head, or somewhere else on the Lambert Peninsula. This way they get what they are wanting without the alienation of others.
332	1					
333	1					
334			1			If Governor Phillip Park is attractive for viewing the "night sky" (which it already is), this is because the existing lighting is not a problem. Please consider the wider community, for example, the Palm Beach Progress Association has been at wits end trying to solve the problem of hoons gathering in GPP at night. Making it darker will only make that problem worse. There are stronger arguments for increasing the ambient light in accessible areas to improve the diversity of use at night so that it is not just a place for hoons to gather in the dark.

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335			1			This proposal talks a lot about "authentic night time environment", but the authentic environment here, apart from the grassy golf course area, is a bare sand dune without any of the scrub that was planted back in the late 1980's when Council did not think things through properly. As I walk there now I see masses of dreaded asparagus fern and other weeds providing home for rabbits and the foxes who presumably feed on them and any bandicoots that might have found their way there. Making the place darker than it already is, which seems to be the point, seems wholly unnecessary for the reasons listed in the proposal. Is this more paperwork for paperwork's sake?
336			1			Even if the cost of doing this is modest, in terms of adjustment to existing lighting, new signage, council staff time assisting with "Lighting Management Plan" and regular reporting, it would seem to be a wholly unnecessary cost coming at a time when council is under unprecedented pressure to avoid wasteful spending. We are in a recession with council revenues well down - our council should not be directing any resources to something like this, especially when the listed "benefits" look slim and include yet more signage, which always detracts from the natural environment the proposal seeks to celebrate. Please don't waste time on things like this.
337	1					So much of the universe has been obscured from our vision by light pollution. When sailing off shore at night a whole new vision appears above and it never fails to excite me. A place on land to share some of that vision would be of great value
338	1					The mystery and majesty of the worlds of the stars can allow new perspective.s, even inspire imaginationsbut not if the are a few milky tiny spots due to the ever-presence of light pollution. This a great initiative Thank you
339	1					
340	1					
341	1					
342	1					Having been to Coonabarabran in October and seem a truly dark sky, anything that we can do to improve the darkness for an area close to a city would be fabulous. For the council to work specifically on lighting at Palm Beach headland and the council area in general would be worth while. And in that planning to use new and improved lighting technology to save energy with be a real win-win.
343		1				I feel that North Head might be a better place as it would be accessible to greater numbers of people. A Palm Beach site would attract far fewer.

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344	1					Brilliant initiative! As a parent, we take great delight in educating our kids about the night's sky. There's such a huge contrast from the northern beaches compared with somewhere like the Flinders Ranges in terms of the visible stars. Having somewhere local where we can conveniently travel for our astronomy lessons is fantastic. Benefits also extend beyond astronomy—a dark sky is better for our wildlife but studies have also shown that it's beneficial for our sleep and therefore broader health. I'd love to see this proposal succeed. After it's a proven success I'd like to see the area extended down the northern beaches (covering the Pittwater area) which already benefits from the dark over the National Park. Businesses like Royal Motor Yacht Club should be encouraged and assisted to reduce their lighting to support the urban night's sky initiative.
345	1					Being able to see the stars and moon without lights is a wonderful experience. This is best away from human light sources. The less light, the more stars that can be seen. Here in Palm Beach we certainly have a better night sky than many other suburbs. I am not sure how this would work at Barrenjoey when we have a lighthouse and venues that host evening events. Or what would be required as part of this proposal. Definitely worth exploring
346		1				It might be a better proposal if some plan of the area was included in the PDF. Where is Palm Beach Headland? There is a photo of Barrenjoey Head lighthouse but Palm Beach Headland would be near the swimming pool or possibly Observation Point. Some clarity would help my understanding.
347	1					This would be an amazing addition to the natural wonders the Northern Beaches has to offer its residents and visitors alike. I cannot endorse this initiative enough!
348	1					I think it is a wonderful idea. What better way to show our children and grandchildren the night sky which is now obliterated in most of Sydney's suburbs. It would also be advantageous to teach people the ramifications of over lighting on our native nocturnal critters and birds.
349	1					We have enjoyed getting into astronomy as a family during COVID and would support the designation of Palm Beach Headland as an Urban Night Sky Place. It is a good family activity and one that can be done locally.
350	1					There are few places available in Sydney where we have this opportunity. What a beautiful place to forever show off our region, nature and protect our climate. Great idea make it so!
351	1					Is a great idea. The Sky to the east and west of Barrenjoey had very little in the way of human light. Only question is about nighttime access. Will it be open for use at night? Npws would have to allow access The current access would not be suitable at night unless you had a torch or if low level lighting is provided.

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352	1					Urban lofty pollution is so widespread. If there's a local opportunity for protected viewing let's grab it, how amazing it will be.
353	1					Absolutely brilliant cant wait
354			1			<p>Dark skies is where there is no artificial light which is why astronomical observatories are in remote locations where there is no artificial lights.</p> <p>you are planning to have a big light in the light house which defeats the purpose of night sky gazing. It's absurd. Won't see any stars.</p> <p>how much is it going to cost? where is the money coming from? And is it going to bring any revenue - except a lot of traffic and wear and tear of the natural strip.</p> <p>more money needs to be spent on getting the roads fixed and thinking of future infrastructure - hard to walk on roads around PB - no footpaths and the traffic from out of town is starting to become excessive - parking difficult - trees constantly being cut down for views and dual homes in a single block more common now - more flats being built - airB&B's and week-end rentals - all adding to more cars on the roads and the bends - that should be a priority - we must think of the future- this area could become a nightmare with traffic and pollution- so why not try and solve that instead of adding attraction to bring in more traffic, and litter left behind.</p> <p>you won't get older people walking up at night so only groups of young people probably on party mode will want to use it and enjoy it.</p> <p>I suggest council asks the general residents what they think first - a letter with information to all residents.</p> <p>feels like it will benefit only a group of party people out for a good time - And how will the lights effect residents? you will need cops keeping an eye on things as there will be drunk brawls - this project if filled with headaches AND YOU CANT SEE STARS FROM A LIGHTHOUSE RIDICULOUS</p>
355	1					Great initiative
356	1					I think its a wonderfull idea.
357	1					This is a great idea. I think back to my youth on Collaroy Plateau when you easily see the Magellanic clouds and the glory of the Milky Way. It is sad that today's children never experience the wonder and inspiration of the night sky. A Night Sky Place would be a useful contribution towards rectifying this situation.
358	1					Yes absolutely! To experience the nighttime wonder amidst modern life
359	1					That would be magnificent! Went to Warrumbungle National Park in Dubbo and it its spectacular.
360	1					<p>Fabulous idea!</p> <p>Having seen what the sky actually looks like from the outback, I'm very sad how few stars can be seen from suburban Sydney.</p> <p>I hope this is one of many steps to reduce light pollution and reclaim our sky!</p>

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361	1					My husband will love to bring up a telescope and look at a sky without light pollution close to home. I love gazing at galaxies in a full hemisphere. Great place to bring kids too. Yes please to this urban night sky place.
362	1					Fully support Urban Night Sky Place proposal
363			1			Encourages teenage bad behaviour to hang around in unsupervised areas plus increased unwanted traffic to palm beach and surrounding suburbs. Unnecessary Disturbance of natural habitats to wildlife. Money needs to be spent maintaining arterial roads first.
364		1				I love the idea of encouraging and inspiring people to think about the night sky and how to avoid light pollution. As long as the natural environment is not further imposed upon, and the electrical installations are very safe from starting fires.
365						<p><u>Urban Night Sky Membership Application</u></p> <p>Thank you for meeting with us at such short notice today. We appreciate the opportunity to put forward our views in relation to the Council's consideration of an application to the <i>International Dark-Sky</i> (IDA) for Barrenjoey Headland and Governor Phillip Park. We should make the initial point that Barrenjoey Headland is not within the Council's jurisdiction and hence the Council would not be able to include this area in its application; we should also observe that the Headland is not eligible for inclusion because it is not accessible to the public at night - like most national parks, it closes to public access at dusk.</p> <p>There must be some doubt whether Governor Philip Park meets the definition of Urban Night Sky Place in the IDA's guidelines in the first place. It is not "an exceptional dark sky resource because of its situation on the edge of a built-up urban area". It is also not clear that it is within the perimeter extending 50km beyond the edge of the continuously-built area of the municipality. The IDA guidelines also state the location must be "near or surrounded by large urban environs whose planning and design actively promote an authentic nighttime experience in the midst of significant artificial light." Governor Phillip Park is surrounded by sea on three sides - not significant artificial light.</p> <p>Is the Council going to embark on a program to ensure, as per the IDA, that: <i>"The place and/or its partner organizations must engage visitors with direct interpretation of the value of natural nighttime darkness and the importance of quality outdoor lighting practices"</i> and also encourage and involve elected officials, business leaders and residents in promoting the ideals of the IDA?</p> <p>Dealing with the consideration of an application in relation to Governor Phillip Park, and following the Information Session held online by Council Staff on 25th November we have concerns regarding clarity and transparency of information provided to the Community as well as governance issues and make the following observations: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The material released to the public to guide its expression of support or otherwise does not contain any real

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						<p>information about the supposed benefits to the community from a successful application, nor does it contain any guidance on the costs of the application. Nor is it clear who is proposing this. Is this a council initiative or for the benefit of independent commercial operators? The IDA states: <i>"Upon certification, IDA works with certified places to promote their work through media relations, member communications, and social media. An International Dark Sky Place designation helps enhance the visibility of designated locations and foster increased tourism and local economic activity."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the Nominator required under the IDA application regulations? Is this a commercial organisation? • It is not clear what areas of the park are to be utilised. The map shown in the online presentation included the golf course and the National Park and yet the staff said the golf course is not included. Access to the National Park was included by the staff during the online session and our concern is that at night it would attract safety issues, use by other less desirable groups aside from our understanding that it is closed after dusk. It is important to clearly identify the potential area of activity, as Governor Philip Park is already struggling under the weight of visitors and many grassed areas are becoming difficult to maintain. We do not want to see Council announce that maintenance pressures create the need for more hard surfaces in the park, which is the subject of separate conversations that are in process with Council. • It was not clear from the online session how many events would take place each year and whether they would be commercial or otherwise. At one point during the online session it was stated that there would be 3 to 4 events a year, that not all would be held in the park and that there would be no commercial operation. Then later it was stated that commercial operators would need to apply to Council for a licence/permit. What commercial operators are envisaged? What fees would apply? • It was also not clear who would be responsible for coordinating events and acting as a central clearing house for operations by different groups. Simply put, is this a Council run initiative or one being supported by a commercial operator?

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