
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Paradise Beach Jetty and Tidal Pool Renewal (Stage 1 of 1)

Consultation period: 1 May to 28 May 2023

Contents

1.	Summary.....	2
1.1.	Key outcomes	2
1.2.	How we engaged	2
1.3.	Who responded.....	3
2.	Background.....	4
3.	Engagement objectives	4
4.	Engagement approach	4
4.1.	Reaching diverse audiences	Error! Bookmark not defined.
5.	Findings	5
	Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses	8




1. Summary

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of a proposal for the renewal of the Paradise Beach jetty and tidal pool at Paradise Beach, Clareville / Avalon Beach.



The feedback collected during consultation indicated a high level of support for the proposal, citing their overall fondness and enjoyment of the pool and wishing to guarantee its longevity.




The small number of respondents who were not supportive (5) raised concerns that the location is not optimal for this style of infrastructure.

1.1. Key outcomes



 Total unique responses	41	
 How responses were received	Submission form Written responses (email/letter)	Completions: 37 Number received: 4
 Feedback themes	Suitability of the location. Polarisation of viewpoints around the provision of a shower and drinking water. Parking spaces, accessibility, and inclusivity. Impacts to residents.	General management of the beach and parking area including sand loss, waste management, toilets, cleaning, dogs, kayak storage, stormwater and anti-social behaviour.

1.2. How we engaged

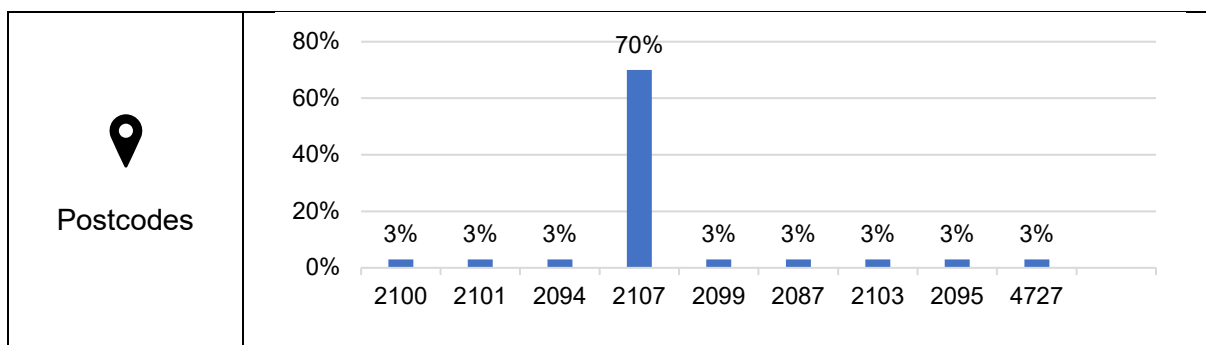
 Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 1598	Visits: 1889	Average time onsite: 1 mins 6 secs
 Print media and collateral	Letterbox drop: 2107 Paradise Ave and Riverview Road		Distribution: 150 Number of signs: 2

 Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 3 editions Council (weekly) e-News: 1 edition Stakeholder email: 3	Distribution: 24,000 subscribers Distribution: 61,500 subscribers Distribution: 30
 Key stakeholder engagement	TfNSW – Boating Now Round 3 grant program Avalon Preservation Association (APA) Clareville and Bilgola Plateau Residents Association (CABPRA) Selected local residents – 4 1 meeting for APA and CABPRA each and 1 combined meeting. Total meetings: 3 Onsite meeting with long term residents - 2	Attendance: 14
 Direct engagement	Onsite community drop-in session: 13 May 2023	Attendance: 9

1.3. Who responded¹

 Gender	<div> <div>Male</div> <div>Female</div> <div>Other id.</div> <div>N/A</div> </div> <div> <div>62%</div> <div>14%</div> <div>0</div> <div>0</div> </div>
 Age groups	<div> <div><25 yrs</div> <div>25-49 yrs</div> <div>50-74 yrs</div> <div>74-84 yrs</div> <div>85 yrs or over</div> </div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>8%</div> <div>65%</div> <div>19%</div> <div>0</div> </div>

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



2. Background

The Paradise Beach wharf and pool is a much loved community facility. Built in the 1940's, the current structure is at the end of its life and requires a complete rebuild. The proposal to rebuild the structure presents an opportunity for Council to improve the amenity further to include beach shower and foot tap.

Due to the heritage listing and surrounding seagrasses, the footprint and aesthetic of the structure will be retained with some improvements. The proposed design also incorporates a living sea wall which has been shown to significantly increase the ecological biodiversity of artificial structures in a marine environment.

The structure has deteriorated, and this continues to pose increased risks, hazards, and challenges for Council. Further to this, the structure is too low and goes completely underwater in higher tides. A complete re-build is considered the most appropriate option to appropriately address increasing safety concerns and accelerating maintenance costs.

In line with Transport for NSW's (TfNSW) Boating Now program the jetty/wharf will see some improvements for access to the waterway for users. Council has received some funding for the design of the jetty/wharf through this program.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities.
- provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way.
- provide balanced and objective information to assist in understanding the problem, alternatives and/or solutions.
- identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge, and values.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Paradise Beach Jetty and Tidal Pool Renewal was conducted between 8 June 2021 and 28 May 2023 and consisted of a series of activities that provided opportunities for community and stakeholders to contribute.

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

Avalon Preservation Association (APA) and Clareville and Bilgola Residents Association (CABPRA) were involved early on to assist with the development of concepts and optioneering. This was in the form of in person and online presentations followed by discussions. Some long term residents living adjacent the pool were consulted in person on a range of issues, helping to inform concept planning and scope.

A final presentation and discussion forum for the resident associations was held at the Avalon Community Centre on 9th March 2023 prior to the Your Say web engagement to the wider community.

A project page was established on our have your say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format. The Your Say engagement ran from 1 May 2023 to 28 May 2023.

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

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

Email and written comments were also invited with (4) four submissions made via this platform.

5. Findings

97% of the respondents were in favour of the proposal. 70% were in favour with no comment and 27% suggested some changes. 3% of respondents were not in favour.

The results indicate a strong community viewpoint that the pool and wharf be renewed generally as per the proposal.

Most of the feedback involved comment on the current management of the beach and surrounding parking areas which was outside the scope of the consultation. The consultation report will be forwarded to the Parks and Coastal Teams for review and consideration.

Of the small amount of feedback received relating directly to the design of the pool, wharf and groyne, concerns were raised about disabled access to the pool, the reduction in the size of the groyne length and increasing the width of the wharf and groyne. A couple of responses indicated they did not want the wharf lifted in height.

54% of respondents were in support of a shower as proposed with 11% against and 35% unsure. There was a polarisation of views amongst residents residing near or adjacent the beach and those who did not. The nearby residents expressed concern about the shower location impeding sight lines, the provision of water encouraging anti-social behaviour, excessive dog presence, nudity, and other issues. Those in support also requested toilets.

As the provision of a shower is outside the scope of this work, the findings will be provided to the Parks team for consideration as to whether the shower would be funded or not. Final decision on this issue will be by the Parks team as the asset owner and manager of the area.

Based on the feedback it is not proposed to alter the proposed design of the wharf/pool and jetty. Council will seek costings in the tender process to keep the groyne the same length. A decision will be made in the post tender review phase whether to maintain the current groyne design or extend it to its current length.

Table 1: Issues, change requests and other considerations

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Beach and Carpark Management	Sand loss, waste management, toilets, cleaning, dogs, kayak storage, better stormwater drainage and reducing anti-social behaviour.	Whilst outside the scope of the consultation, significant feedback was received relating to a range of beach and coastal management issues. We will provide this to the Parks and Coastal teams for their consideration.
Shower	A shower will attract more people and create problems for residents. The location of the shower will affect sight lines.	The results of the feedback will be referred to the Parks team for final consideration on this issue.
Location Suitability	The location is unsuitable, and the money could be best spent elsewhere	Whilst these concerns are not without merit, the location is a historical one with significant long standing social and cultural activities such as swimming and boating tied to the structure. The permanent decommissioning of the structure is therefore not a consideration.
Groyne	The groyne should not be reduced in size	The reduction of the groyne is proposed to reduce construction cost without affecting the sand. Council has received expert advice that reduction of the groyne as planned will not affect sand movement on the beach. We note the concerns and will review the options and cost for maintaining the groyne length in the tender process.

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

Table 2: Questions raised and Council's answers.

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
Where is the REF?	The Review of Environmental Factors (REF) reviews the impact of the design. When the design is finalised, the REF can be completed. Parts of the REF including seagrass mapping have already been completed as they were necessary in the optioneering process. Some consultation has already occurred with the Fisheries Department, for example, the pool cannot be made deeper due to the presence of Posidonia seagrass.
Where is the ramp and disabled access to the pool?	A tidal ramp is not recommended in current standards for marine structures. Accessibility was considered in the concept optioneering process with considerable barriers identified. We note the feedback and will consider further investigation of options for inclusivity in the design.
Where are you relocating the seahorses?	Any seahorses found prior to the works will be relocated as per the NSW Department of Fisheries permit conditions. This may include relocation to nearby Posidonia sea grass beds or artificial sea horse hotels installed prior to the construction works. The REF and seahorse relocation plan are yet to be completed. They will be finalised when the design is complete.

Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Number	Comment/submission
1	The proposal seeks to replace the existing access ramp with stairs. Can the ramp please be retained to ensure existing access isn't compromised for those in the community who aren't able to climb stairs. The proposal does not address accessibility and inclusivity.
2	Where is the REF? Why has this not been made available as part of this submission and where are you moving the seahorses to? Please do not use any plastic or artificial products of any kind in this renewal - our environment cannot take it any longer.
3	Think it is a great idea.
4	Yes would love to see improvements if you can add a few more parking places near it, very hard to park anywhere near it, if you don't live there. Something like that at Clareville which is used by so many people would be a lot more practical.
5	Provide garbage bins. Also reinstate the parking up the hill as not enough parking. If the old parking which has been used for ever is dangerous and unstable, then allow cars to park on the opposite side of the road facing uphill. Supply water tap and even the shower on the wharf which would be able to use by boating community.
6	No comment made
7	I would suggest also putting in a public waste bin down at Paradise Beach. Many people do not take their rubbish with them.
8	Wrong place. There are more opportunities around manly.
9	Don't support the shower, will just encourage more backpackers to sleep there. Keep rock groyne the same length not shorter. New width and height is good.
10	I think a small toilet (porta loo?) would also be appreciated by visitors who do not live close by, but realise the immediate residents will not like this. A recycling bin and large red-lid rubbish bin is essential for beach visitors. There has never been one in 30 years that I can remember. Does the jetty have to be yellow? why not hardwood planks like we have always had? I am not very keen on the black piles, but perhaps they will eventually be covered with barnacles and oysters?
11	No comment made
12	Is there going to be disabled access to the pool or are we not going to be able to enjoy this. Most people with disabilities can not climb up & down vertical metal ladders. If you are installing a shower and tap could we please also have drinking water access? It will be very awkward to fill up water bottles by the foot tap, not to mention a little dirty. I'm guessing there is no way a public toilet could be included? I do however support the improvements with these changes.
13	If you are installing a shower and tap could we please also have drinking water access? It will be very awkward to fill up water bottles by the foot tap, not to mention a little dirty. I'm guessing there is no way a public toilet could be included? I do however support the improvements with these changes.
14	Hi there - we live in Riverview Rd and are regular users of Paradise Beach. We are delighted the council is upgrading the wharf and amenities and believe the shower will be a great addition, so thank you very much for the proposed activation. Lots of people use the groyne so its great to see that is being retained in some form. My only 'suggestion' would be consideration of a few more kayak storage racks at the southern end of the current facilities as kayaking has grown in popularity and another 6-8 spots would i am sure make an enormous difference. For transparency, I have been on the waiting list for some years (4) and do get frustrated to see the same kayaks sitting there and never being moved or used. Many thanks again.XXXXXX
15	<p>This is a submission by the Avalon Preservation Association (APA). APA has attended two briefings by staff of the Northern Beaches Council, in 2002 and again in March 2023.</p> <p>The Association is in general agreement with the need for renewal of the wharf, especially for the maintenance of its heritage values.</p> <p>APA would prefer that the length of the present groyne be maintained.</p>

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

	The Association is also in general agreement with the proposal to install a beach shower above the beach, conditional on any water outfalls being contained and not allowed to erode Paradise Beach and that the shower is plumbed to the sewer system.
16	I fully support the proposed Paradise beach wharf and jetty renewal.
17	Please note. XXXXX, we are in favour of a tap only at the base of the stairs with no shower.
18	Concept looks nice but what is the expected cost? Will it be used by swimmers? The first question should allow for comments and a 'not sure' answer. I am not sure rather than 'yes'.
19	One of the joys of Paradise beach jetty is at hi tide when the whole thing is submerged. I don't believe it causes any hazards. I would agree that certain elements needs replacing. And adding a shower when we don't even have a bin is ridiculous. And why 600mm? With the forecast of climate change being somewhat more severe it seems a waste. So don't do it. I'm not sure that my concerns will be addressed. For some reason whatever the council plans to do, it does.
20	XXXXXXX we must express our continuing concerns on the direct impacts upon our privacy, property access and general amenity, predominately arising from increasing traffic and parking issues prevailing at the "dead end bitumen track" that was and is historically no more than a RIGHT OF WAY access for Paradise Avenue residents. We experience increasing non patrolled, illegal, unsavory, anti social behaviour as a constant threat to our health and wellbeing, security and general amenity, caused by increasing notoriety and popularity as a "party" location. Activity including after work drinking sessions, bad language excessively loud music, camper vans and backpackers, which result in personal hygiene and toiletry issues, etc which have previously lead to verbal and physical confrontations and is totally offensive to us and others, particularly our children and grandchildren. This separate proposal for a beach shower as an isolated "leading the jury" question is disgraceful, let alone the superimposed graphic location on the kerbside within only metres of our boundary and front bedroom and living rooms is totally offensive. It will create more nude and unsavory behaviour, further exacerbate the parking and traffic demand problems itemised above, but unbelievably the provision of a "dog wash" will [legitimize] invite even more illegal dog presence into a DOG PROHIBITED ZONE...Go figure ? A similar proposal arose about 5 years ago, "in response to one older lady who wanted to wash off after swimming every day" had a contract issued for \$7000 but failed when the contractor realised that no immediate water supply exists. Of necessity it will require any future appointed contractor to open the road and connect to mains supply, the total job we estimate at over \$30,000++ ? We would appreciate being advised of current costing for same as I'm sure Paradise Residents would much prefer that street drainage and road and property flooding and a negative impact on our property, was prioritised in lieu of a shower at behest of "one older lady WHO DOES NOT SWIM EVERY DAY, if at all.
21	Beach shower and foot level water tap is not required. Carparking and pedestrian accessibility is not large enough to necessitate this level of infrastructure. Beach is largely local use only. Residents of Paradise Avenue have their own showers.
22	1. The Shower if it is to be erected should only be at the bottom of the stairs not in the car park and where does it DRAIN ?? I vote for no shower . 2. The groin should be extended not reduced in length as it is the only thing holding the existing sand on the beach since i have lived here 25 years the beach has dropped at least 2 metres caused by many things but mainly by a boat dispersing wakes. Also the massive amount of storm water coming down Paradise Ave. and Riverview Road through all the storm water pipes.
23	No Comment made
24	To my opinion the most significant upgrade will be the beach shower. Please do not raise the jetty too high. I am aware that the existing jetty is submerged 3-4 times per year at king tides, but the kids love it and the relatively low jetty is a part of the Paradise Beach appearance we all love.
25	great idea, desperately in need of repair and get wharf above high tide to minimize wear hopefully plan maximizes habitat for sea horse and fish preservation.
26	More parking and a public bin for recycling and general waste is needed. A public toilet would be nice.
27	Why isn't a toilet being constructed? I belong to a sketching group but we can't relax there because we have to drive back to Avalon to use a toilet.
28	I look forward to seeing these improvements as it is beautiful pool and it is time this was done.

29	Shower good idea for swimmers. But from my experience this pool is hardly used for swimming. Its too short for laps and there are a lot of other better places.
30	looking good
31	It would be interesting to know how many people use this pool. The access is difficult and the parking is almost non-existent . If only a small number of people use the pool then I don't think the cost can be justified. The living sea wall is a great idea.
32	Does the works includes any changes , additional or modifications to the vehicles public car parking spaces? There was a survey/proposal by the council 5 months ago to add two public car parking spaces which are illegal and unsafe in accordance with the applicable traffic regulations and also there are no provision for disabled parking.
33	The present construction has real character and my concern is that by widening the jetty it will loose some of the charm here. It has the feel of a secret hideaway beach at the moment which is good and safe for people with small children. Please don't change it too much.
34	<p>I do not want the sandstone groin shortened in length , or widened that much Unless the length is causing erosion problems ? although I would think that widening it could cause more erosion ?? and more people to fish off it .</p> <p>I enjoy sitting on that groin , especially when there are a lot of people on the wharf , it is nice to have some solitude on the groin , I don't think it needs to be wider and shorter , please .</p> <p>And no beach shower , it is such a waste of our precious resource , water , especially when water restrictions are in place , at least turn these off .and it is an eyesore .</p>
35	Great facility.
36	Paradise Beach is a very special place - enjoyed by all of us for fishing and swimming. Really good concept for updating.
37	No comment made.
38	<p>Thankyou for the notification re the renewal of Paradise Beach pool etc.</p> <p>My husband and I agree it is a great plan the only comment we would like to make : The possibility of making the length of the pool 50 meters to cater for the serious lap swimmers ALSO.... Could there be a great big sign saying NO DOGS !!! And also someone to police it! This summer we have been unable to use the pool/beach in the holidays because of the number of dogs and aggressive owners (the sign is constantly vandalised!)</p> <p>We have small grandchildren and our concern is the sand is very polluted with dog urine and worse and this summer it was impossible to have a swim Without having to share it with a dog or two or three! I realise this complaint has not much to do with the proposed renewal....but maybe a sign would help !</p>
39	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>I have a property XXX doors up from the pool xxxx Paradise Avenue and the pool is a huge part of my families life. All 7 grandchildren have learned to swim in the old pool and spend hours playing on the beach in rain hail or shine.</p> <p>I understand the old pool has reached the end of its life but what concerns me is the shower. I think it will be used as an every day facility for people who live on their boats and by people who spend overnight in vans at the beach. Where will the run off from the shower go?? Could it be built closer to the beach not where it is planned??</p>
40	<p>-line of sight shower location will interrupt -Rest of cul-de-sac have own parking access and beach access</p> <p>-Don't support plan for a shower</p> <p>-Concerned added amenities will attract anti-social behaviour</p> <p>- Concerned it will increase parking</p> <p>- Doesn't support renewal of tidal pool and thinks it should be maintained</p> <p>-Area is not maintained - reserve grass etc, beach debris</p> <p>- Beach can't be cleaned due to gradient of the ramp. Equipment can't access.</p>
41	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Sorry I just missed the closing time for comments as I am overseas in a different time zone, but hope you will accept this.</p> <p>Paradise Beach tidal pool is my nearest Pittwater pool, I live in Cabarita Road, Avalon, and I love the pool. However I rarely go there as it is so difficult to park, there are only about 5 parking spaces, so I usually carry on and go to Clareville or Taylor's Point pool instead- thank you for</p>

	<p>maintaining the latter which I also love.</p> <p>I don't think you can add more parking at Paradise Beach, but could you please consider giving the existing spaces a time limit? And regularly enforcing the time limit? I used the pool a lot in mid-May for doing rehab after hamstring surgery, and every day there was the same green painter's van parked in the same space there, whatever time I came, effectively taking up 20% of the parking spaces every day. The owner may have been working at the house being built/renovated further up the hill. Any development or work like that on properties up the hill also means the few parking spots on the hill are also taken each and all day by numerous trades' vehicles, as at present, making it hard to park there for the beach, wharf and pool. I know in an ideal world we should all park on Riverview Road and walk down the hill, but in reality not everyone can do that. I certainly couldn't recently after surgery as am not allowed and couldn't walk up or down slopes. Anyone elderly or with mobility issues would also find that difficult, and the days I went, there were a couple of young mums with toddlers who also would have found the hill difficult.</p> <p>Anyone parking at Paradise Beach and going out on a boat or kayak also takes up one of the few spaces for potentially hours or a whole day, but maybe with restricted time limit parking they could drop off gear at the wharf, and then park up the hill to encourage turnover and make the pool and beach more available to others in their absence out on the water?</p> <p>I am a kayaker, so know limiting parking periods will not be popular, but it would make the most of Council's investment in the pool and wharf, otherwise it is really only going to be genuinely accessible to those that live very close to it and can walk there, and are fit enough to walk up and down the hill with beach or boating gear.</p> <p>On the subject of kayaks, could you also please consider having more kayak storage at Paradise Beach, and other Pittwater areas? I often scour Council's listings of available kayak storage and there is so little, and as a middle-aged woman, although I am normally fit, I am not strong enough to get my kayak on an off a roof rack on my own to take it to Paradise Beach or other Pittwater Beaches. Being able to store my kayak somewhere on Pittwater would make a great difference.</p> <p>Also, could you please remove some of the weed growing at the far side, the deep side, of Paradise Beach pool. The water is often very shallow in the pool, meaning often it is really only possible to swim in the deep end, but that is hampered by so much really thick weed growing there.</p> <p>Finally, going back a few steps, much as I love Paradise pool, is Council sure the usage of the pool and wharf merit the cost of the upgrade? I have never seen anyone launch a kayak or boat there, and I am usually the only person in the pool, particularly on weekdays, and in off-season. With such limited parking, this is never going to improve much. Would the funds be better spent putting in a netted pool at Clareville, where at least there are definitely a lot of visitors and swimmers. Or at Sandy Beach at Palm Beach, or the adjacent beach leading to Palm Beach ferry wharf. I swim at all of these, but never feel very comfortable knowing there are sharks often spotted in the deep channel between Sandy Point and The Basin side of Pittwater.</p> <p>Many thanks for your consideration. I am happy to give feedback by phone when I am back.</p>
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Document administration	
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Approval	Content provided and approved by Transport and Civil Infrastructure Team. Responsible manager: Stephen Watson
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Related Projects	None
Notes	Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.