**Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report**

**New lease - Palm Beach Golf Club**

Impact level: Four

Report date: 15 January 2021

**Contents**

[1. Summary 2](#_Toc62638998)

[1.1. Who we engaged 2](#_Toc62638999)

[1.2. How we engaged 2](#_Toc62639000)

[2. Background 3](#_Toc62639001)

[3. Engagement approach 3](#_Toc62639002)

[4. Key findings 3](#_Toc62639003)

[5. Appendix A: Verbatim community and stakeholder responses 4](#_Toc62639004)

# Summary

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| **Project description** | |
| Impact Level | 4 |
| Stage(s) | 1 of 1 |
| Report Period | 13 November to 13 December 2020 |
| Version | 1.0 |
| Status | Final |

## Who we engaged

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Group of people  Total engaged | 434 | Laptop  Total submissions received | 22 |

## How we engaged

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monitor  Have Your Say | | Visitors: 434 | Visits: 477 |
| Newspaper  Print media and collateral | | Notification letters to residents: 1  Onsite signage: Yes | Distribution: 85  Number of signs erected: 1 |
| Email  Electronic direct mail (EDM) | | Community Engagement e-newsletter: Inclusion in two editions | Distribution: 20,000 |
| Gender  Gender |  | | |
| Group  Age groups |  | | |
| Marker  Postcodes |  | | |

# Background

In accordance with Section 3.22 of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 and Section 47 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council must give public notice of its intention to grant the Palm Beach Golf Cluba 20-year lease to continue to operate the golf course at 1193 Barrenjoey Road Palm Beach.

# Engagement approach

The intent of the engagement was to understand the community’s sentiment on the proposal to grant the Palm Beach Golf Cluba 20-year lease to continue to operate the golf course and to provide an opportunity for people to comment.

Community engagement for the new lease for Palm Beach Golf Club was conducted 13 November to 13 December 2020. The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council’s [Community Engagement Matrix](https://files.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/policies-register/community-engagement/community-engagement-policy/community-engagement-matrix-nbc.pdf) (2017)

Notification details, lease plan and submission form were included on the Council’s [Have Your Say page.](https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/2020-leases-and-licenses/palm-beach-golf-club)

The project was promoted in the Community Engagement e-newsletter to increase awareness of the project and drive interest community members to the project page.

A notification letters was sent to 85 adjacent property owners. A sign was also placed onsite.

# Key findings

There was a total of 434 visitors to the Your Say project page and 22 submissions received during the exhibition period.

Submissions indicated overwhelming support for granting Palm Beach Golf Club a 20-year lease to continue operating as a golf course.

Requests for further details including the lease terms and conditions as well as information regarding the financial viability and future plans for the golf course was present across a couple of submissions.

Many respondents mentioned how well the land has been managed over the long history of the golf club and that maintaining the land as a golf course is an appropriate and environmentally sustainable land use for the location.

One submission voiced the opinion that 20 years was too long and golf club leases should be renewed every 5 years.

# Appendix A: Verbatim community and stakeholder responses[[1]](#footnote-1)\*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Number** | **Submission** |
| 1 | I/We support the lease for the Palm Beach Golf course lease in principle. However, from a transparency point of view, we require an inspection of the proposed lease and essential terms and conditions, as well as recent financial statements of the golf course. Please make these documents available asap. The community needs to understand the financial viability of the golf course, what financial support is required from Council. Other important issues are: i. what are the plans for parking (paid or otherwise) as Palm Beach becomes more popular, and cars are pushed into surrounding streets including Waratah Rd; ii. what are the environmental sustainability plans of the golf course, and fairway erosion on to Station Beach; iii. does the golf course manage the area to the mean high water mark of Station Beach? iv. what are the planned major capital works and how they will be funded; v. strategic vision / plans for the golf course over the next 20 years? vi. any plans to share the golf course in any capacity? Any support for the new lease requires the above questions to be addressed openly. Thank you. |
| 2 | Twenty year is too long to alienate community access to public land. The lease should have to be renewed every 5 years. This should be adopted by council as a policy applying to all golf course leases. |
| 3 | I fully support the 20 year lease for Palm Beach Golf Club. Golf is a terrific sport for both social and club play as has been evident during the Covid crisis where the game was one of the few activities able to be played. The Club has for many years provided a well maintained recreation area. |
| 4 | Good morning NBC person. Would you please place this, my response, in the SUPPORT your intention to grant a further 20 year lease to the Palm Beach Golf club. It is a lovely little 9 hole course, well maintained and provides yet another MOST IMPORTANT avenue for those of us who are retired to get a bit of directed, out in the open air, exercise. As (apart from time on the Tee and Green) you are virtually never within metres of each other, and in full sunlight (killing viruses), it is potentially one of the safest COVID Safe activities (playing golf). We live in Collaroy but have chosen to go up to Palm Beach for a game and a drink afterwards many times. |
| 5 | Yes, I agree. Maintaining that area as a golf course retains the character of the area and environmentally a good use of the land plus good for locals and attracting visitors to the area in a sustainable way. |
| 6 | I fully support the resigning of the lease. |
| 7 | I fully support the granting of a 20 year lease to the Palm Beach Golf Club. |
| 8 | I wholeheartedly support the new lease for the Palm Beach Golf Club. It is a tremendous asset to our community. |
| 9 | This 100 year old golf course has been an integral part of the Palm Beach community for generations. It would a tragedy for it not to continue for many more. |
| 10 | Support lease. Attractive & good community use of the and. Currently very popular & cheap golf course - must be retained |
| 11 | Glad to see the lease continuing, the course enhances the good feeling of the area. |
| 12 | Absolutely support this lease, provided it means no development or building construction permitted on this land and it is retained as a Golf Course only. Would be great to see some further native tree and bush plantings to encourage & support more native wildlife in the area. |
| 13 | I agree |
| 14 | A wonderful use of the land. |
| 15 | While not being opposed to renewing the lease, it is impossible for me or for anyone to provide useful comment without any details whatsoever of the proposal, other than the length of the lease. We can draw some conclusions from the way the course is looked after but we are not allowed even to know whether the new lease is on similar terms to the existing lease. This consultation is therefore not an exercise in transparency - it is a farce. |
| 16 | I fully support the renewal of the lease. Active open spaces such as these are important to both the physical and mental well being of the wider community. |
| 17 | This should be approved. The club has looked after the land for many years. There are not enough golf courses as shown by COVID increased patronage. |
| 18 | This is an excellent use of public space and is strongly supported. |
| 19 | I support fully the granting of a lease for a further 20 years. |
| 20 | I’m 100% in support of this. Public golf courses such as this provide access to affordable sport, exercise along with huge social benefits to both players & the community. It ensures that cool green space (not hard pan) is preserved for the benefit of all whether golfers or not. I’d support a 100 year lease! |
| 21 | As a Senior member of a Palm Beach Golf Club for over 40 years and a former employee in the office at the Club for 19 years from 1981 and 2000, I feel I am entitled to support the current lease for the next 20 years be granted to Palm Beach Golf Club. The Club has an unblemished record in the Maintenance of the course, without any support from the Council, according to the Leases granted over many, many years, and has been an excellent custodian of this wonderful asset in Palm Beach for all to enjoy. Palm Beach Golf Club has never had any agenda for this beautiful public course other than maintaining it to a high standard for it’s many long-standing members and the public, while honouring it’s wonderful history since it’s inception in 1925. I have every faith in the Council to grant the Club another 20 year lease without hesitation. |

1. \* *Personal details have been redacted where possible. Spelling, grammatical and formatting errors have only been amended where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)