



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Western Foreshore Parking Permits – Fees and Charges

Fees and Charges (Stage 1 of 1)

Impact level: Four

Report date: February 2020

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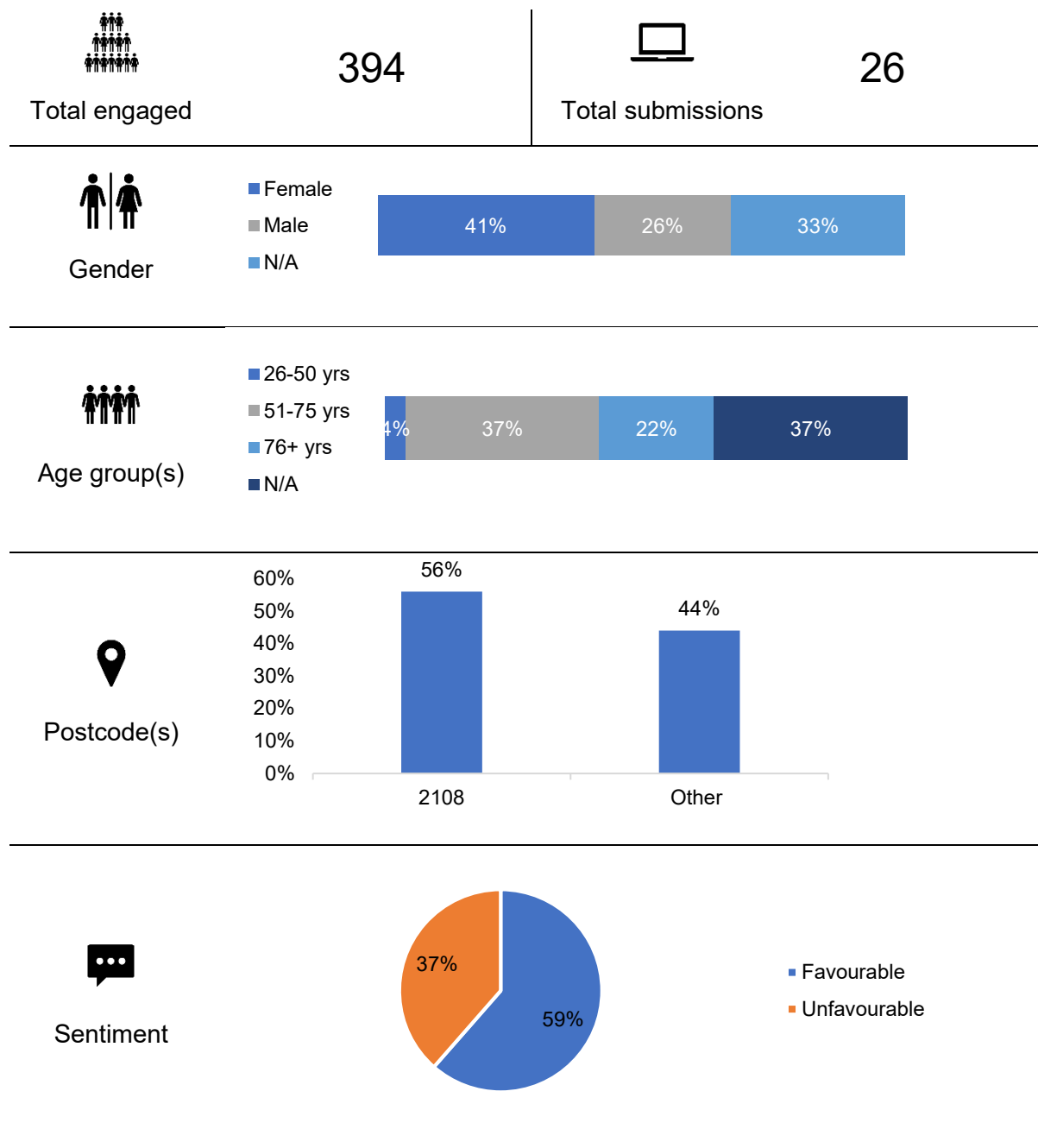
1. Summary¹

This report outlines the community and stakeholder engagement conducted as part of the Western Foreshore Parking Permits Fees and Charges project.


1.1. Engagement date

Wednesday 15 January to Wednesday 12 February 2020.


1.2. Who we engaged²





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.

 Feedback themes	1. Fee should be included as part of the annual rates.
	2. Increased enforcement.
	3. Improved signage in the carpark to prevent other users from parking.
	4. Support for Western Foreshore Parking Permit fee.
	5. Limited space in the Pittwater Park (north) carpark.

a. How we engaged

 Your Say	Visitors: 327	Visits: 394	Av. time onsite: 1m50s
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 Print media and collateral	Manly Daily: Northern Beaches Weekly News	Distribution: 236,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday 18 January 2020 • Saturday 25 January 2020 • Saturday 1 February 2020 • Saturday 8 February 2020 	

 EDM(s) ³	Community Engagement Enewsletter: 2	Distribution: 20,672
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Friday 24 Jan 2020 ○ Friday 7 Feb 2020 	
	Stakeholder email: 1	Distribution: 103

6. Background

The Pittwater Park, Palm Beach Parking Demand Management Strategies was adopted at the Council Meeting held in November 2017.

The fees and chargers for the Western Foreshore parking permit have been considered through the following strategies details in the Palm Beach Parking Demand Management Strategy:

³ Electronic direct mail

STRATEGY ONE Improve accessibility through high turnover parking

- 1.1 Implement 12-month trial of Western Foreshore Parking Permit for residents and ratepayers from Coasters Retreat and Great Mackerel Beach valid only for Pittwater Park (north), pending approval from Department of Industry – Lands. Subject to development of Northern Beaches Parking Strategy and review of parking permits schemes currently in operation.
- 1.2 Introduce annual parking fee for Western Foreshore Parking Permit if implemented permanently after 12-month trial. Fee to be determined with funding allocated to management of permit scheme and commuter infrastructure improvements. 1.2.4 Council to establish criteria for issuing of Western Foreshore Parking Permit through consultation with the community. Note: - One permit per property - Permit not transferable between vehicles - Permit linked to vehicle registration - Vehicle must not occupy the same car parking space for more than 21 consecutive days

7. Engagement approach

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

The engagement approach gave consistent and accessible information and asked a uniform set of questions of participants in all activities. Results provide responses across a spectrum of demographics, expertise, experience and understanding of our local government area.

7.1 Engagement objective(s)

- Build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities (inform)
- Provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way (inform)
- Identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values (consult)

8. Findings⁴

Theme	Commentary
Fee should be included as part of the annual rates.	<p>Rates are calculated on land value by the Valuer General every three years.</p> <p>As all Northern Beaches residents are not eligible to apply for a Western Foreshore parking permit, the fee cannot be applied directly to the annual Rates and must be covered by a standalone fee paid by those that require the service.</p> <p>This is consistent with all other parking and coupon schemes in place across the LGA, such as Church Point, Manly parking permit scheme (following consideration of Council) and the boat trailer parking permit schemes.</p>

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

Increased enforcement.	<p>Council's enforcement team monitor and enforce parking on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Signs in the Pittwater Park carpark (north) have recently been replaced with No Parking Western Foreshore Permit Holders Excepted.</p>
Improved signage in the carpark to prevent other users from parking.	<p>Signs in the Pittwater Park carpark (north) have recently been replaced with No Parking Western Foreshore Permit Holders Excepted.</p>
Support for Western Foreshore Parking Permit fee.	<p>It is an adopted position of Council that a fee will be established for the Western Foreshore Parking Permit.</p> <p>The proposed fee of \$47 for the parking permit will allow council to manage the parking permit scheme and ensure that cost recovery is established relating to systems, administration, resources and enforcement.</p>
Limited space in the Pittwater Park (north) carpark and Pittwater Park carpark (south) restrictions.	<p>Council recognises that there is limited space within the Pittwater Park carpark (north) for Western Foreshore residents.</p> <p>The Pittwater Park carpark (south) is situated on Crown Land therefore parking must be made available to everyone.</p> <p>Due to the high demand for parking on weekends for recreational use and to support local business, it is not possible to provide parking for vehicles displaying a Western Foreshore parking permit.</p>

9. Data limitations

In total, 26 people engaged during the consultation period. While this is not a statistically representative sample of the overall Northern Beaches community, actions were undertaken to gather feedback from across a spectrum of our community and ensure as balanced a sample as possible across the demographic range.

10. Next steps

- Report to Council seeking adoption of the Western Foreshore Parking Permit Fees and Charges at the Council Meeting to be held in March.

11. Appendices

11.1 Full summary of community and stakeholder responses

Submission	
Comments received through Northern Beaches Council Your Say Community Engagement Portal	
Note: 1. Some identifying and personal information has been redacted to maintain privacy. 2. The comments displayed are as submitted by the community member therefore not all content may be grammatically correct and may contain spelling errors.	
1	The Western Foreshores residents pay rates within which is a charge for two Northern Beaches Parking Permits. The reason the special Western Foreshores Permits were introduced was essentially because residents outside the Northern Beaches Council (NBC) area were purchasing NBC Permits and parking overnight at Palm Beach whilst they commuted from Patonga and other suburbs north of the NBC area. There is no justification whatsoever to penalise the Western Foreshores Residents for the illegal acts of these non residents. I am totally opposed to ant additional fee being levied.
2	I am happy to pay, provided the fees raised are used to ensure daily checks of northern car park for compliance. I hate paying for something and getting nothing in return. The northern car Park is regularly filled with non WFR stickers cars. Charge us, but enforce what you are selling!
3	I think it is a very good idea to charge the nominal fee of \$47 per annum, which I consider quite reasonable. Fortunately, I am an Aged Pensioner, so my ticket will be free, for that I am extremely grateful. Thank you, please keep this system.
4	I am a full time resident ratepayer at Mackerel Beach and I am ok with a charge for the Western Foreshores permit to cover printing, administration and allocation costs but expect that better signage is installed. Signage that clearly shows that the area is for Western Foreshore residents only and what fines are applicable. The current temporary signage is ambiguous and is not appropriately positioned.
5	<p>This has been an improvement for Western Foreshore Users. The restriction to one car per household remains onerous for families and shared properties.</p> <p>Our new sticker arrived with both car regos on it (thanks for taking this feedback into consideration) BUT as it needs to be stuck on the windscreen, how do we change vehicles? Its too big to fit in the removable holder provided last year.</p> <p>At peak times during Xmas holidays, Easter, weekends etc the carpark is frequently used by people waiting to pick up passengers. This is very frustrating as the carpark is usually full and they usually don't leave until AFTER the ferry has departed adding one hour to our travel time. More frequent policing of those illegally parking would be welcomed and a good additional source of revenue for council! Maybe cameras that can read regos?</p>
6	Council provided this Northern car park which is basically on-beach parking (have they not realised there is no protection from wave action especially at very high tides), and then in bad taste or ignorance wants to charge a fee. Where is the fair go in Northern Beaches.
7	we pay our rates as do other members of the northern beaches community. we are not allowed to park overnight on weekends in the main car park, which has been wonderful for residents at peak times when there is nothing available in the northern car park. most people in our council area, can park outside their home. this car park is the same ie. outside our home. why should we have to pay?
8	We are happy to have this parking area but often non permit holders take spaces regardless of the fines and we are having to drive around searching for a park missing the ferry to return home. A boom gate here would be the only solution. Central coast and Patonga visitors have little regard for the western foreshore residents .
9	The yearly fee should be a lot higher. Parking everywhere else is so much more expensive than this. It should be at least \$2000 per year and there should be a fee for pensioners as well. This is council land that has been usurped by a privileged minority that have chosen to live off shore.
10	The additional vehicle conditions do not allow for a family members car to be included unless the property owner is the registered owner of the second vehicle.
11	<p>Firstly I would like to thank council for the effort to implement a parking system to create access for offshore residents, whilst also acknowledging the requirements to support businesses and visitors. The addition this year to share the parking permit between two vehicles is helpful, and the clearer signage is another improvement.</p> <p>With regard to the fees, the proposed fees are in my opinion a reasonable administration fee.</p> <p>However, accessing parking spots in the northern carpark on weekends and at peak periods remains an issue - and it would be good to improve this, particularly if introducing fees for the parking permits. Suggested improvements to the current system which could ameliorate this are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased monitoring and fining of vehicles parked in the northern carpark without a permit; and 2. Having an overflow system whereby offshore residents could access some spaces in the southern carpark as needed. <p>Thank you once again for council's efforts to assist local offshore residents with parking access and for the opportunity to provide feedback.</p>
12	We already pay our rates, why do we need to now pay for our parking????? Who else in the NBs has to pay for 1 car for residential parking??

13	<p>I do not support fees due to the inadequacy of the number of spaces available for residents of the upper western foreshores and the lack of availability of alternative parking for residents in Pittwater Park South Carpark, particularly at peak times including every weekend.</p> <p>I would support fees if there were sufficient spaces, but not while current allocations only support 25% of the resident population.</p>
14	There have never been fees. We have nowhere else to park near the ferry as the huge carpark we previously parked in lies almost empty overnight.
15	Would like consideration that permit is linked to owner rather than car rego as we have two vehicles and dependant on what we are bringing we alternate cars. Happy with only one permit per household but if it can be linked to more than one vehicle it would be good
16	A second fee option for non western foreshore residents should be made available for northern beaches residents who own businesses or regularly use the western foreshore for recreation
17	why are these parking Permits less expensive than the Manly Residential Parking Permits?
18	<p>With parking at Pittwater Park always in high demand, the Western Foreshore communities are indeed fortunate to be offered exclusive, permanent parking, in an absolutely prime position in Pittwater Park (north). Pittwater Park (south) must be shared by both residents and visitors, however the designated parking for the Western Foreshores (Pittwater Park North) is not allowed to be shared with any other residents or visitors. In the circumstances, I consider \$47 per annum per vehicle, ridiculously inadequate for such a luxury. After all, each resident already receives 2 x NBC stickers per rateable property. I consider \$200/pa more in the realm of what should be charged. These residents have exclusive use of CROWN LAND which is gazetted to be used by all. By what means does Council calculate the figure of \$47/pa? Visitors without NBC parking permits pay \$10 PER HOUR for the privilege of parking in Palm Beach! Ratepayers pay \$200 for an extra permit. This is a matter which should be discussed.</p> <p>Quote from Council Report Executive Summary - "Recent consultation confirmed that this system was working as desired and the community would like it implemented as a permanent solution with some minor modifications".</p> <p>WHEN AND HOW did consultation with the Palm Beach (on-shore) Community take place? Why did consultation only take place with the off-shore community? Surely consultation should have been held with ALL stakeholders as it was in the original Palm Beach Parking Demand Study? What are the minor modifications referred to?</p> <p>In the interests of transparency and accountability, these issues need to be further discussed.</p> <p>I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed \$47 per annum fee.</p>
19	As residents of the western foreshore I believe we shouldn't have to pay for the basic right to a car park. Please charge the business's that have benefit of the high carpark turnover. On numerous occasions patrons of the boathouse patonga and Palm beach take the western foreshore spaces. The fine should be increased fourfold to discourage overstayers. Thank you.