
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Draft Community Safety Plan (Stage 3 of 3)

Impact level: 3

Consultation period: 1 June 2021 – 20 July 2021

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1. Summary

This report outlines stage 3 of the community and stakeholder engagement process for the Community Safety Plan project. Stage 3 involved the public exhibition of the draft Community Safety Plan (the draft Plan).

The public exhibition followed extensive engagement with more than 1162 community members and stakeholders who provided comments and insights to assist the development of the draft Plan.

A further 520 people engaged in the public exhibition process and 19 submissions were made during this stage of engagement.

The feedback received during public exhibition of the draft plan indicated a high level of support for the draft Plan with 74% of respondents supporting the plan outright or with some changes.

The range of submissions in response to the draft Plan was diverse and included suggestions for safe active transport, response to youth, attention to bushfire management, and the inclusion of implementation and accountability planning.

This report should be read in conjunction with the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Stages 1 and 2 (Attachment 3 of the Council Report on the outcome of the Public Exhibition of draft Community Safety Plan 2021-2026 (2021/534751)).

1.1. Key outcomes

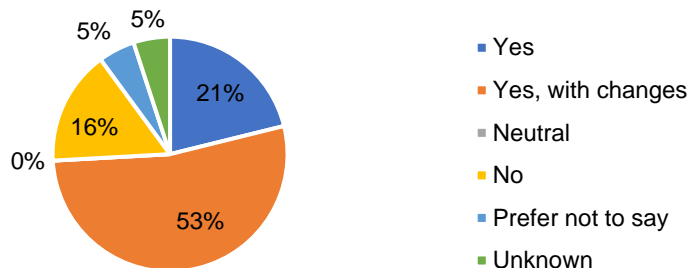


Total submissions received

19



Overall, do you support the Draft Community Safety Plan



Feedback themes

Attention to youth programs and facilities

Infrastructure to support safe active transport

Support for affordable housing

Protect community from bushfires

Include accountability measures in the Plan

Vandalism

Liquor licensing/restrictions

1.2. How we engaged



Have Your Say

Visitors: 520

Visits: 670

Av. time onsite: 1m



Social media

Post: 2 (Facebook)

Reach: 15,000

Clicks: 62



Print media and collateral

Manly Daily: 1 article

Peninsula Living: 1 ad

Peninsula Living (south ed.): 1 ad

Northern Beaches Review: 1 ad

Distribution: 236,000

Distribution: 87,000

Distribution: 57,000

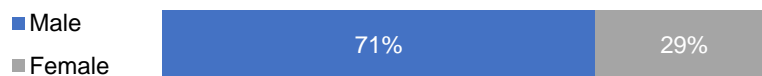
Distribution: 65,000

 Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 1	Distribution: 20,000 subscribers
	Council (weekly) e-News: 1	Distribution: 152,000 subscribers
	Religious and Cultural Leaders News: 1	Distribution 208
	Disability Newsletter: 1	Distribution: 1362

1.3. Who responded¹



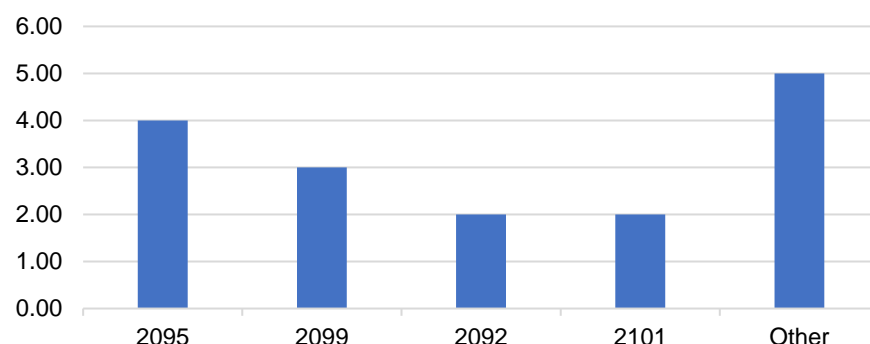
Gender



Age groups²



Suburbs



2. Background

The Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the Community Safety Plan project involved a three-stage community consultation approach.

Stages 1 and 2 were conducted between September 2019 and April 2021 and were designed to identify and prioritise key issues for future action. This included the conduct of community surveys and focus group sessions to identify crime and safety issues that impact the community and targeted interviews with key stakeholders to refine the development of proposed actions. Outcomes of stages 1 and 2 can be viewed at Attachment 3 of the Council

¹ Demographic data only includes those respondents who voluntarily answered these questions.

² Age groups not provided were zero.

Report on the outcome of the Public Exhibition of draft Community Safety Plan 2021-2026 (2021/534751).

The information gathered during the engagement process was considered alongside crime trends, information from service providers and a comprehensive program of research. The development of the draft Plan also benefitted from consultations undertaken in the development of the broader Better Together Social Sustainability Strategy 2040 on community safety related issues.

A draft Community Safety Plan was developed to help realise Council's vision of 'a safe, inclusive and connected community that lives in balance with our extraordinary coastal and bushland environment' (Community Strategic Plan 2018) and to activate the Safe pillar of the draft Better Together Social Sustainability Strategy 2040.

The draft Plan outlines the actions that Council has identified to build on our responsiveness to community safety issues over the next five years. 10 Priority Areas and a range of Actions have been identified to achieve the outcomes of Safe Places and Safe People.

This current report outlines the community and stakeholder engagement conducted as part of stage 3 of the project.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement across all stages aimed to:

- understand actual and perceived safety in public spaces
- facilitate collaboration on social issues that contribute to safety
- identify our most vulnerable citizens
- understand what it takes to build a resilient and safe community
- engage with community and industry stakeholders who work with vulnerable groups
- understand the broader community perceptions on safety to confirm or compliment current data
- understand contributing factors to crime
- develop ongoing relationships with those who influence behaviour.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for stage 3 of the draft Community Safety Plan was conducted over a seven-week period, from 1 June 2021 to 20 July 2021. The consultation provided opportunities for community and stakeholders to review the draft Plan and provide feedback.

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

A project page was established on Council's Your Say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format. The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletter (EDM) channels.

Feedback was captured through an online comment form embedded onto the 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.

Email and written comments were also invited.

We 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.

Council liaison teams provided use of their networks and communication channels to increase likelihood of exposure and promote awareness of the project particularly to youth and culturally and linguistically diverse audiences.

5. Findings

Throughout the engagement process results indicated that the Northern Beaches is a very safe place to live and perceptions of personal safety overall are high.

Key themes identified for attention, across all stages of engagement, included:

- Community incidence of alcohol and other drug use, domestic and family violence, and homelessness
- Need for safe spaces including online, active transport and the night-time economy
- Concern for young people related to drug and alcohol use, anti-social behaviour, mental health, recreation activities and their feelings of safety in the community
- Concerns for seniors including elder abuse, frauds and scams
- Desire for safe design including Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- Desire to build resilient and connected communities to increase safety and address social isolation
- Emergency response management including community preparedness.

Key findings of Stage 3 community engagement

The low level of submissions received in response to stage 3 of this process, and the nature of the submissions received, may indicate that the community continues to perceive the Northern Beaches to be a very safe place to live and/or that the lengthy engagement process for this project has been successful in integrating community sentiment into the Plan.







74% of respondents indicated support for the draft Plan either entirely or with some suggested improvements or additions, such as the inclusion of separate and more detailed attention to youth and increased detail regarding Council activities and intentions. 15% indicated they did not support the draft Plan, citing reasons including attention to bush fire management, safety walking at night and feeling that proposed actions are outside the scope of Council.

Submissions received during the stage 3 engagement process canvassed a wide range of issues. Few common themes were apparent, with 16 of the 19 submissions being disparate in nature.

In light of this, a response to each submission received in the online form is attached for information at Appendix 1. A response to each of the recommendations made in submissions received separately to the online form is attached at Appendix 2 (with full copies of those submissions attached at Appendix 3).

All submissions received have been considered and the resulting amendments made to the Plan are as follows:

Page	Amendment
23	Added statement: <i>and the youth and senior population groups have been identified for priority attention in the implementation of actions.</i>
25	Added: <i>Key Outcome Indicator: % of residents who say they are able to participate in community life.</i>
25	Added to list of other key Council strategies and plans supporting Safe Places: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Bushfire Management Policy 2021</i>
25	Added to list of other key Council strategies and plans supporting Safe Places: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Resilience Strategy (under development)</i>
29	Added statement that Council will continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>protect life and reduce the negative impact of bush fire on property, infrastructure and the environment through effective bush fire risk management and location based bush fire management.</i>
33	Added statement that Council will continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>install lights along key pedestrian pathways in parks to help encourage active transport and greater uptake of running, jogging and walking to help build a healthier community.</i>
47	Added: <i>Key Outcome Indicator: % of residents who say they know where to get 'help' when they need it.</i>
51	Added statement that Council will continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Build the collective resilience of our community from a range of shocks and stressors that affect the Northern Beaches.</i>
56	Included statement: <i>The full extent of this situation is unknown as many incidents of domestic, family and sexual violence go unreported.</i>
59	Under partnerships for the action to 'promote awareness of elder abuse', added: <i>Northern Beaches Multicultural Network</i>

60	<p>Under issues of importance to the community, replaced 'attention to engagement of priority groups such as seniors and youth' with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>priority attention to engagement and support of young people</i> • <i>safe, supported and connected seniors</i> 						
63	<p>Included an additional action to:</p> <p><i>Develop a Youth Discussion Paper to identify youth specific needs and challenges and to inform the delivery of youth programs.</i></p>						
63	<p>Added statement that Council will continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>develop and review youth facilities and programs in consultation with service providers and young people</i> 						
67	<p>Added statement that Council will continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>work with local services to increase access to mental health services for young people.</i> 						
68	<p>Added statement:</p> <p><i>Implementation of the Plan will be supported by detailed action planning and outcome measurement.</i></p>						
68	<p>Added section:</p> <p>Financial implications</p> <p><i>The implementation of the Plan will have financial implications in relation to actions identified over the next 5 years.</i></p> <p><i>The actions and outcomes within the Plan will be allocated to the relevant department and delivered within operational budgets, which are set annually by Council.</i></p>						
69	<p>Added section:</p> <p>Key Outcome Indicators</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Outcomes</th><th>Indicator</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>  Safe Places Our community is safe in public, at home and online </td><td>% of residents who say they are able to participate in community life.</td></tr> <tr> <td>  Safe People Our community has access to people, organisations and information that can help when they need assistance </td><td>% of residents who say they know where to get 'help' when they need it.</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>The key indicators identified for each outcome will be measured and reported every two years through a Community Wellbeing Survey.</i></p>	Outcomes	Indicator	 Safe Places Our community is safe in public, at home and online	% of residents who say they are able to participate in community life.	 Safe People Our community has access to people, organisations and information that can help when they need assistance	% of residents who say they know where to get 'help' when they need it.
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In addition to the above, the following amendments have also been made in order to update the draft Plan:

Page	Amendment
14	Added: <i>The draft Plan was placed on public exhibition during June and July 2021, during which time the community was invited to review the Plan and make submissions. All submissions received were considered and amendments made to the Plan as appropriate.</i>
15	Updated number of community members and stakeholders engaged with during the development of the Plan following public exhibition.
30	Added: <i>The community values the sense of neighbourhood safety experienced in the Northern Beaches (8% above the national average for safety from crime, traffic, pollution etc). 2021 Australian Liveability Census</i>
60	Added: <i>The community values the sense of safety experienced in the Northern Beaches (10% above the national average for all ages, genders, day or night). Australian Liveability Census</i>
67	Added partner to first Action to collaborate with mental health services: <i>NSW Health</i>

Appendix 1 Verbatim online submissions and Council response

	Submission	Theme/s	Council Response
1	<p>I support the principles of the Plan.</p> <p>But the Plan will be more informative if you can link the range of proposed initiatives back to Council budgets, e.g. the cost of the proposed safety infrastructure</p>	Financial implications	<p>The implementation of the Plan, once adopted, will have financial implications in relation to actions identified over the next five years. The actions and outcomes within the Plan will be allocated to the relevant department and delivered within operational budgets, which are set annually by Council.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>New section regarding financial implications added at page 68 of the Plan.</p>
2	<p>The largest threat to our safety is from bush fires and yet the council is not taking action in line with the findings of the Final-Report-of-the-NSW-Bushfire-Inquiry. Nor is it taking steps to create a safety buffer between residential property and bushland. In fact the council is actively planting vegetation alongside property in what is classified as extreme bush fire risk zones.</p> <p>Council has a conflict of interest when the department in charge of protection of property from bush fires is also in charge Bushland & Biodiversity.</p> <p>I would like to see more detail in this plan on how Council intends to take action in response to the growing threat of bush fires due to climate change.</p> <p>If that is not possible then please direct me to the relevant area of Council responsible for addressing the safety issues regarding bush fire.</p>	Bush fire management	<p>The Bush Fire Management Policy (2021) sets out our approach to effective bush fire risk management and location based bush fire management throughout the LGA, in order to protect life and reduce the negative impact of bush fire on property, infrastructure and the environment. We consulted with the community in 2020 in the development of this policy and have adopted relevant legislation and inquiry recommendations wherever possible.</p> <p>We are also a partner agency on the Northern Beaches Bush Fire Risk Management Committee (BFMC). Each BFMC around the state prepares a Bush Fire Risk Management Plan that assesses and prioritises assets at risk of bush fire and assigns tenure blind treatments for agencies and land holders to implement to reduce the risks. The BFMC is currently undertaking the review and consolidation of Bush Fire Risk Management planning across the Northern Beaches.</p> <p>More detailed Fire Management Plans outline more specific fire management planning for some of our reserves. These are subject to review in the near future following review of the BFMC risk plan.</p>

			<p>Under the Companion Animals Act, both dog owners and local councils have responsibilities. Pet owners are legally required to microchip a dog (at 12 weeks of age), register their dog before it is six months old and ensure their contact details are kept up to date. Owners are encouraged to have their dog desexed prior to registration to reduce straying, fighting, aggression and anti-social behaviour with discounted registration fees for desexed dogs.</p> <p>Our Rangers and Animal Management Officers monitor and regulate concerns relating to companion animals and patrol known locations throughout the council area to regulate responsible pet ownership. Off-leash dog exercise areas are also patrolled.</p> <p>All reported dog attacks are thoroughly investigated by Council Rangers, and in cases where serious incidents occur and/or involve dogs which are declared as menacing or dangerous, prosecution action is pursued.</p> <p>Awareness and enforcement campaigns are conducted in response to identified trends and in partnership with other stakeholders such as the RSPCA and Police.</p> <p>Property owners are welcome to plant gardens within their property boundary. Council encourages the use of native plants that attract birds, bees, butterflies and other native species and create wildlife corridors for our native animals to move safely between our bushland reserves.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>No change required to the Plan.</p>
4	There is a huge scope-creep for the NBC going on here. Where in the constitution of the Council does it say that the NBC can take over the roles & responsibilities of the Law, the Police & Federal agencies such as OH & S? There are many useful rules & regulations that already exist within State & Federal law that cover the areas that the NBC are now proposing to either take over or become a secondary authority. This is a waste to	Role of Council	<p>Council functions are conferred or imposed on it by or under the Local Government Act 1993 or under any other Act or law.</p> <p>Local Councils are concerned with matters close to our homes, such as building regulations and development, public health, local roads and footpaths, parks and playing fields, libraries, local</p>

<p>reviews? Has NBC or Manly before it? What can we learn from them? What recommendations do/did they make and why or why weren't these implemented? The issue of alcohol related violence and other anti-social behaviours in this area, including at the Office, have been around for ages. Are we really saying we're going to do another review?</p> <p>Consulting on an action is not doing anything. Considering an action is not an action. This "action" planning approach (consider, review, reflect, postulate, etc) is emblematic of NBC Strategy documents. They may be verbs but they are definitely not actions.</p> <p>Priority Area 3:</p> <p>This has similar vagueness. Provide Post-COVID Support. What support? Engage with the Business Community to build crime prevention capacity....what does that even mean?</p> <p>Strategic Plans need actions which are specific (including clear), measurable, achievable, relevant and time based. There are literally no actions in this plan that meet these. Work with STA to reduce ASB....how? What are the metrics you will use for this (noting not all ASB is strictly criminal and therefore likely to be captured in BOCSAR – customer complaints might be a useful metric)? The year column is ambiguous – is this starting in year 1 or finishing in year 1? If starting, how long will it take? How will we know if you achieved it?</p> <p>Priority Area 6:</p> <p>Strong on graffiti removal (which is appropriate, but again, quite ambiguous on targets/SLAs). Where are the initiatives to improve detection of graffiti vandals (and illegal waste dumping)? Other councils use covert cameras at hot spots in conjunction with targeted communications into areas which are criminogenic....our Council has vague statements like "improve the actual and perceived safety of residents by monitoring crime trends" and "develop crime prevention strategies to address</p>	<p>Alcohol restricted zones</p> <p>Business Support</p> <p>Antisocial behaviour</p> <p>Graffiti</p>	<p>can be reported through Council's website. If the matter is urgent or dangerous it may be reported to Council on 1300 434 434, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</p> <p>We have a program of alcohol restricted areas throughout the LGA. A review of Alcohol Prohibited Areas is currently underway with a view to consolidating these areas following the amalgamation of the previous three Councils. Alcohol Free Zones (AFZs) are put in place to prevent disorderly behaviour caused by the consumption of alcohol in public areas in order to improve public safety. AFZs are established for up to 4 years and we will review a large number of these zones during 2021/22 in consultation with police and the community and re-establish them if appropriate.</p> <p>Council has provided substantial support to the business community during COVID-19, along with other levels of government. The impact on businesses is a recurring and constantly evolving situation and the nature of post COVID support must remain fluid in order to meet these changing needs. It is not unreasonable to anticipate that with closed businesses, increased unemployment, deepening financial stress in the community and altered business practices, new approaches to crime prevention support will be required. Council has indicated a preparedness to engage with businesses and police and assist in this.</p> <p>The community has indicated concerns about feelings of safety when travelling on public transport. We will consult stakeholders and available data, and with the State Transit Authority to identify strategies to address identified issues.</p> <p>Illegal graffiti should be reported to police. We are committed to removing illegal graffiti in public areas and walls or fences adjoining public land. An online booking process can be accessed via Council's website. We undertake a range of activities to deter, detect and remove graffiti. The Community</p>
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	risks.” I thought this document was supposed to be a crime prevention strategy? But the action is to develop one?	<p>Implementation</p> <p>Crime prevention</p>	<p>Safety Plan does not include full detail on current service provision.</p> <p>The years indicated against each Action reference the schedule for completion of actions. For example, Year 1 indicates an Action will be completed in the 12 months following endorsement of the Plan.</p> <p>The Community Safety Plan outlines the actions Council currently undertakes to ensure the general safety of the Northern Beaches community, and its priorities and actions for improvement over the coming five years. Crime prevention is one part of this.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>Statement added to page 68 of the Plan.</p> <p><i>‘Implementation of the Plan will be supported by detailed action planning and outcome measurement.’</i></p> <p>New section on Key Outcome Indicators added to page 69 of the Plan and reference to Indicators made at pages 25 and 27.</p>
6	I think we already have too much signage. It almost makes the community more unsafe. There needs to be a complete review and important issues only. There needs to be a higher bar within Council to accept a mew sign. For example when walking along an ocean path in rough weather with the noise of crashing waves, it is more than apparent that ‘waves may break on path’. Also ‘please hold onto the hands of your children’ - really?! The 30km/hr speed limit throughout Manly is unprecedentedly and unjustifiably too low and therefore largely not adhered to. If you have seen any reduction in incidences, it can’t be due to this due to public non compliance. Introducing unrealistic rules makes the community untrustworthy of councils reasoning. I think around the school it should be the standard school limit that is the federal standard and otherwise the streets should be 50km/hr.	<p>Signage</p> <p>Speed limits</p>	<p>The use of warning signage is an important tool in our management of known hazards and community risk. While hazards may be obvious to residents who are familiar with the area, the LGA has high visitor numbers and signs have been installed for the safety of all who use these areas. For example, we have installed signage on the Manly to Shelly Beach walkway due the wave overtopping and unpredictable waves that occur in that area.</p> <p>The 30km/h speed limit in the Manly town centre has been introduced by Transport for NSW who are trialling the introduction of the lower speed limit in high pedestrian activity areas. We are supportive of the lower speed limit, particularly in town centre areas for a number of road safety reasons including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fatal injury to a pedestrian is at least twice as likely to occur in a crash at 40km/h than at 30km/h

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction in speed limits in urban areas has minimal impact on travel time • We want to create streets that everyone can enjoy - whether they are walking, driving or riding - to create a safer neighbourhood feel • The streets within the Manly town centre have a mix of cyclists, pedestrians, cars and buses and the lower speed limit creates a safer environment for all road users. <p>We are working with Transport for NSW to monitor the effectiveness of the 30km/h trial and we have collected speed data in streets throughout the 30km/h zone before and after implementation of the reduced speed limit. The speed monitoring is being used to identify locations where additional traffic calming measures are needed to make the speed limit more self enforcing. At these locations, in line with available funding, and following consultation and Traffic Committee approval, these traffic calming measures are being introduced.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>No change required to the Plan.</p>
7	In relation to safe places, I would like to suggest a footpath be placed on Victor Road, Narraweena between Parr Parade and McIntosh Road. This fits in the transport area. This is a busy road that is used as a cut through road by vehicles. It is also a walking route to access to Dee Why and to public bus transport in McIntosh Road. The current unpaved nature strips are very uneven and dangerous in poor light. One side of the road is very high due to sandstone and the other is very uneven. One is inclined to walk on the road but this is dangerous due the constant traffic flow through this road,	Footpath	<p>A footpath in Victor Road, between Parr Parade and McIntosh Road has been included in the current program of new footpaths for construction. At this stage it is scheduled to be completed in the 2022/23 financial year, however this is dependent on the funding allocated to new footpaths in the Annual Delivery Program and Budget.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>No change to the Plan required.</p>
8	<p>I note the crime figures do not address vandalism which remains very high.</p> <p>Education helps but if community assets are not secure they will be damaged and destroyed by late night mainly teenagers</p>	Vandalism	<p>The issue of vandalism is included in the crime figures within the category of <i>malicious damage to property</i> on page 21 of the Plan.</p> <p>We regularly consult with Police and the community on locations experiencing vandalism. Where vandalism is an ongoing issue</p>

	on drugs and alcohol Schools do not have as bigot problem since they were all fenced about 15 years ago		<p>Council and Police consider and apply appropriate security strategies to deter ongoing damage and provide advice to the community on minimising the opportunity for vandalism.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>No change to the Plan required.</p>
9	<p>I am disappointed to see the Draft Community Safety Plan does not include actions to improve night access to parks and walkways - for example, through improved lighting.</p> <p>As a woman I frequently feel unsafe walking in the Northern Beaches at night and on winter evenings. Key walkways used to access public transport and exercise are very dark - for example the Balgowlah end of the North Harbour Walk. On busy work days my opportunities to access our lovely parks and walkways are limited because I feel unable to access these areas safely in the evening.</p> <p>With 1 in 5 Australian women having experienced sexual assault, it is critical that our public spaces are safe - and feel safe - for women.</p> <p>I ask you to include in the Community Safety Plan an action item to improve night access to parks and walkways, including through improved lighting.</p>	Night access to parks and walkways	<p>We support the installation of lights along key pedestrian pathways in parks to help encourage active transport and greater uptake of running, jogging and walking to help build a healthier community. Decisions regarding the installation of lighting are made after an assessment of individual locations and may need to be balanced with other factors such as environmental and safety issues.</p> <p>There are no current plans to install lighting in this specific area, however we will consider it for inclusion in the future Capital Works program.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>Statement added on page 33 of the Plan noting Council will continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>install lights along key pedestrian pathways in parks to help encourage active transport and greater uptake of running, jogging and walking to help build a healthier community.</i>
10	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to feedback on Council's draft Community Safety Plan 2021-2026.</p> <p>The Women's Housing Company broadly welcomes measures set out in the draft document with particular reference to plans over the next five years to develop an Affordable Housing Action Plan to accommodate the developing community in partnership with community housing providers and to continue to advocate for increased access to safe and affordable housing with wrap around support services.</p>	Affordable housing	<p>Noted.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>No change to the Plan required.</p>

	We also welcome your action to identify partnerships and investigate ways the community can work together to reduce social isolation.		
11	I really like this plan. The only thing that I'd point out that transport is not just about commuting to work, but also getting around the area, going to local activities, taking kids to school/day care, etc. Many people might drive to work as it's far away, but for many of those local activities other modes of transport have likely higher usage. And with cycling in particular there's always a chicken-and-egg problem, i.e., not many people might cycle because of limited cycling infrastructure. It would be great to have improved or extended cycle lanes mentioned in the 5-year plan.	Cycleways	<p>We recently adopted the Northern Beaches Bike Plan that sets out the priority schedule for the expansion of the cycling network. In the current financial year, we will be constructing over \$1 million in shared paths and upgrading nominated pedestrian crossings to include a green cycle connection.</p> <p>Council action is already underway.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>No change to the Plan required.</p>
12	I am concerned that some parts of Australia have Unisex public toilets, or shared entries to toilets/ changerooms. As an adult woman I find this unsafe and feel it is even more inappropriate for children who may be unaccompanied by a parent.	Unisex amenities	<p>This submission does not specifically refer to the Northern Beaches and the issue of public amenities design is not addressed in the Plan.</p> <p>When undertaking construction and upgrades to public amenities, we are required to abide by relevant building codes. We also review the needs of all members of the community and accommodate these needs where practicable.</p> <p>Unisex facilities allow for parents of any gender to supervise or change young children. Unisex facilities are also required to ensure that a person with a disability can be assisted by a carer or person of any gender, if required.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>No change to the Plan required.</p>
13	My Safety Circle is a new App launching July 2021 which ensures teenagers, women and vulnerable people can travel throughout our cities and feel protected, no matter the place or time of the day. The App provides multiple options to connect to help and assistance from your Personal Safety Circle in situations of distress.	My Safety Circle	<p>Noted.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>No change to the Plan required.</p>

	<p>My Safety Circle provides multiple options to connect to help and assistance from your Personal Safety Circle in situations of distress.</p> <p>Demographics most likely to engage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tweens, teenagers and young adults - public and private safety, assisted Independence development, family support, anti-bullying • Elders - health, elder abuse, getting help, assisted living, family support • University Students - Campus Safety • LGBTQ - public and private safety, anti-bullying • Women and Men - public and private safety, anti-bullying • Persons at risk of Suicide or Self-harm - emotional and psychological support • Alzheimer's/Dementia sufferers - Poor short term memory, may have a history of wandering 		
14	<p>Yes, the idea of safe and accessible places is great. The best example would be the opening up of East Esplanade in Manly. There is a small minority groups trying to close and restrict access to this wonderful that gives enjoyment to very many people in Manly. For the good of the community, the park needs to be always open. Especially so on beautiful sunny evenings watching the sunset.</p> <p>It is such a wonderful community facility/park full of great and happy people and should be kept that way (and not closed off or blocked by a small minority view point)</p>	East Esplanade	<p>East Esplanade Reserve is available for all community members to enjoy and is not closed to the public, unless in line with NSW Health Public Health Orders during COVID, nor is access restricted to that area.</p> <p>The reserve is currently declared an Alcohol Prohibited Area from 8pm to 8am each day in order to address community concerns of alcohol related antisocial behaviour. This restriction applies only to the consumption of alcohol and does not impede public access. This zoning is enforced by Police and Council Rangers to ensure that the East Esplanade Reserve remains a safe and inclusive area for the community to come together and enjoy this public amenity.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>No change to the Plan required.</p>
15	<p>CCTV should be mandatory for all existing and any future Public Housing developments on the Northern Beaches. Low rise density and above should have CCTV within each</p>	CCTV Community housing	<p>The Northern Beaches is a desirable place to live. Housing affordability has become an increasing issue across this region,</p>

<p>development's boundaries, and detached Public Housing could rely on nearby CCTV in the streets.</p> <p>Most Public Housing residents on the Northern Beaches seem nice. But there needs to be more of a deterrent to address the portion who engage in criminal and antisocial behaviour, otherwise these persons should be relocated. Adopting CCTV at these locations would therefore be a beneficial part of this deterrent. Once the Public Housing members are aware of the possibility of being relocated elsewhere, this will help reinforce their appreciation of living on the Northern Beaches. This will lead to better community safety and harmony.</p> <p>The above thoughts relate to the 11-June-2021 incident where police were attacked outside of a Public Housing complex in Narraweena. Onlookers in the street mentioned that evening a CCTV/RMS attendant on-site had confirmed that the nearby CCTV cameras in the street were not working at the time of the incident for some reason (faulty or vandalised). Having CCTV installed is one thing, but if these systems can knowingly be disabled (or just stop working) and go unnoticed for an extended period of time, then this is not an acceptable outcome for community safety. CCTV is listed as being in partnership with the police, please pass on these concerns for their consideration. We do not want to see any more young police officers attacked or discharge their weapon, so this approach with more CCTV at Public Housing complexes should help reduce drug and alcohol related issues.</p> <p>The other aspects is CPTED and the mention of passive security. I agree with the passive surveillance benefits of a public open space area, where the surrounding developments support long-term residents/families who help contribute and develop the local community spirit towards this safety outcome. But I question whether these safety benefits will be properly realised if Boarding Houses (transient 3 month stays) or Public Housing (often having resentment towards home owners). I believe these types of developments are not appropriate nearby</p>		<p>with many households being under considerable rent or mortgage stress, putting them at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>We are committed to increasing the range and supply of affordable housing to meet the growing and changing needs of its community.</p> <p>We support the provision of community housing in the Northern Beaches, the residents of community housing and the network of services which provide support to residents.</p> <p>Northern Beaches Council has established 10% affordable rental housing targets for all new development in support of our residents and in anticipation of future needs.</p> <p>It is a matter for providers of community housing as to whether they include CCTV in housing developments to improve the safety and wellbeing of tenants.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>No change to the Plan required.</p>
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	Public Open space for the benefit of community safety. The CPTED passive security/surveillance requirements therefore need to be clarified alongside the type of developments that will best ensure these outcomes are achieved.		
16	<p>My comments on shared pathways :</p> <p>I am a pedestrian, I do not drive (never have) and walk everywhere - to the shops, the library, the beach, Stoney Range Botanical Garden, Dee Why Wetlands and wherever I get off the bus in other areas. It is my experience that pedestrians get zero consideration in this "sharing" concept. The rot set in in 2018 with the Howard Avenue Shared Path proposal and I wrote with my objections at that time. I sent a follow up letter in November 2020, in which I pointed out that cyclists were using any and every pathway in the area even the quiet side streets where the footpaths are 1.5m wide (barely wide enough for 2 people to walk side by side or pass one another if going in opposite directions) and they could safely ride on the road even though cars, are parked there. I quite understand that parents would not want their young children to ride on the road. This means of course riding on the footpath. They should not peddle as fast as they can however, expecting people to get out of their way by stepping on to the nature strip. Very young children should not race away from the parent with them and, at some time, every child should be taught to ride safely and considerately, whether it be on a shared pathway or on the road. I did read in one of Council's Newsletters it is proposed that a 10km speed limit be imposed on shared pathways (for cyclists I presume). Actually this is too fast for supposedly pedestrian areas and I wonder who is going to "police" this. Currently in the central part of Dee Why some cyclists "coast" on downhill sections (Stony Range Reserve, Kingsway just 2 examples) It is unnerving to have someone behind me speed past barely 12 inches from my shoulder as they do. Cyclists are not the only speedsters on the FOOTpaths, scooters, skateboarders (including motorised scooters and skateboards) are another impediment to safe walking for pedestrians in Dee Why town centre and elsewhere.</p>	Shared pathways	<p>We acknowledge that some residents have concerns over safety on shared paths. Transport for NSW Centre for Road Safety released a discussion paper on shared paths in 2015 based on extensive research and evidence. The concluding remarks stated that shared paths represent a relatively low safety risk.</p> <p>One of the directions of Council's Transport Strategy is to encourage the use of bicycles for transport and provide safe cycling infrastructure. Separation cannot always be achieved due to competing land uses and hence in many instances a shared path is the most suitable treatment.</p> <p>We will continue to monitor safety and aim to provide more separation between people riding bicycles and walking where possible in future projects.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>No change to the Plan required.</p>

Appendix 2 Verbatim recommendations of mailed/uploaded submissions and Council response

	Recommendations		Council Response
17	'Safe Youth' should be a section of its own in the Community Safety Plan.	Youth	<p>We recognise the breadth and depth of youth needs across the Northern Beaches LGA.</p> <p>In the development of our Better Together Social Sustainability Strategy 2040, young people were consulted on what a safe, inclusive and connected community means to them. On the recommendation of the Social Sustainability Strategy, we will undertake development of a Youth Discussion Paper in the next year, and young people will have significant input into that process. Better Together has made recommendations for progressions of youth related issues and the Community Safety Plan should be read in conjunction with that Strategy.</p> <p>The Community Safety Plan has indicated that young people are a priority population in terms of community safety and all actions will be implemented with that in mind. The Youth Discussion Paper however, will be the tool to drill down on those issues in consultation with young people, to develop a youth specific strategy. In the interim we will continue to pay significant attention to youth and we have included the action of 'Explore opportunities to extend youth outreach activities throughout the Northern Beaches' (page 63) to facilitate any additional support services that are required during this unique time.</p> <p>The Plan has been designed as an inclusive document organised around community issues rather than population groups. There are a number of priority populations within the Northern Beaches and the community and service providers have identified youth and the elderly as requiring heightened attention over the next five years. In implementing actions under the Plan it is intended that we will ensure the needs of young people are identified and addressed within the sphere of a safe, inclusive and supported community.</p>

			<p>A broad overview of our current community safety related activities has been included in the Plan as an indication of the breadth of Council's current work in this arena, rather than a detailed list. Each of the issues raised as a concern by the community has been addressed in the Plan.</p> <p>We currently deliver significant attention to youth through a dedicated Youth Development Team. It is not the intention of the Community Safety Plan to reiterate the detail of current service delivery but to indicate priority focus areas and actions for the next five years. The details of youth needs across the Northern Beaches will be examined in the development of the Youth Discussion Paper and more specific Actions to support youth will be determined through that process.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>Maintain existing Plan format and ensure attention to youth across all aspects of community safety as a priority population group.</p> <p>Included an additional action at page 63 of the Plan:</p> <p><i>'Develop a Youth Discussion Paper to identify youth specific needs and challenges and to inform the delivery of youth programs'</i></p> <p>Strengthened reference to work currently being undertaken by Council, including addition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>develop and review youth facilities and programs in consultation with service providers and young people (page 63)</i> • <i>work with local services to increase access to mental health services for young people (page 67).</i>
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	This area of the plan should include clear, measurable actions that address the youth issues of concern and that they include the delivery of a planned program of suitable, structured diversionary activities across a range of locations that also engages appropriate youth outreach service providers.	Accountability	Any actions arising out of the Plan and the Youth Discussion Paper will have measurable actions. <u>Action:</u> Additional information has been added to page 68 of the Plan in this regard: <i>Implementation of the Plan will be supported by detailed action planning and outcome measurement.</i>
18	As part of safety audits, consider the greening of vacant lots to reduce antisocial behaviour and improve perceptions of overall community safety	Vacant lots	Private or commercially owned vacant lots in the Northern Beaches are usually intended for development in the short term. Greening of private land is a matter for property owners. Under section 124 of the Local Government Act 1993 Council can serve Notices and Orders to owners or occupiers, requiring them to maintain property in a safe and healthy condition. Unhealthy conditions may include issues such as overgrown residential properties, vermin, hoarding, slippery/unsafe conditions, damaged sewer / on-site sewage management system, mosquitos / unhealthy swimming pool water. Non-compliance with notices and orders may result in fine, prosecution and/or Council arranging clean up. <u>Action:</u> No change required to the Plan.
	Under Safe Neighbourhoods, provide more emphasis on youth facilities and programs	Youth	The Safe Neighbourhood section of the Plan addresses place based actions. The proposed action 'to ensure community facilities that are accessible, flexible and functional shared spaces for the community' is broadly inclusive of the intention to provide facilities suitable for youth activities. Outdoor recreation options for the community are referred to under Safe Open Spaces. The programs and services referred to under Safe Relationships, Safe Communities and Safe Supports are available for youth.

		<p>We currently deliver significant attention to youth through a dedicated Youth Development Team and delivers, consults with and supports a significant amount of ongoing youth programs across the LGA. The Community Development Grants process for 2021/2022 is currently underway, with funding priorities being developed from the Better Together Social Sustainability Strategy 2040, associated actions, consultation and research. Funding will be preferenced to projects that address the targeted actions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health and wellbeing • Building community connections <p>It is not the intention of the Community Safety Plan to reiterate the detail of current service delivery but to indicate priority focus areas and actions for the next five years. The details of youth needs across the Northern Beaches will be examined in the development of the Youth Discussion Paper and more specific Actions to support youth will be determined through that process.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>Included an additional action at page 63 of the Plan:</p> <p><i>‘Develop a Youth Discussion Paper to identify youth specific needs and challenges and to inform the delivery of youth programs’.</i></p> <p>Strengthened reference to work currently being undertaken by Council, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>develop and review youth facilities and programs in consultation with service providers and young people (page 63)</i> • <i>work with local services to increase access to mental health services for young people (page 67).</i>
Identify hotspots for antisocial behaviour and review the effectiveness of existing Council facilities in meeting the needs of local young people e.g. Collaroy Plateau Oval Community youth centre	Youth	<p>We regularly consult with Police and youth service providers in the identification of areas experiencing issues with antisocial behaviour. We consult with service providers and young people in the development and review of youth facilities and programs,</p>

		Council facilities	<p>for example through its Youth Advisory Group and KALOF youth platforms.</p> <p>We are committed to delivering inclusive community centres that embrace diversity and are available and inviting to all ages, cultures and abilities. These unstaffed multi-use facilities are available to all services and individuals in the community to hire for a variety of activities and serve to connect community members. Between 2018 and 2021 we undertook a review of all Community Centre facilities and developed the Community Centres Strategy to guide future management of these facilities.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>No change required to the Plan.</p>
	Prioritise the above hotspots and engage young people in the co-design of facilities and programs which encourage constructive activities	Youth	<p>Our staff are part of the Northern Beaches Youth Interagency (NBYI). NBYI is the local youth interagency network for services supporting young people aged 12 - 25 years. The NBYI covers services in the Northern Beaches area. The Executive Team supports advocacy, professional development, and connectivity within the youth services sector. NBYI provides a forum for information exchange, investigation, lobbying, providing advice, and linking services. Several organisations within NBYI collaborate on youth related projects, programs and events and will continue to do so. Examples of this have included Youth Week activations, All About Youth Forum and associated workshops held within local high schools and night time activations.</p> <p>Each year we receive funding from Department of Community and Justice for diversionary events, activities and programs designed by young people for young people. During the past year 14 activations took place across the Northern Beaches with a number of local youth service organisations supporting Council in the delivery of these programs.</p> <p>All capital works projects that have a youth focus undergo extensive consultation with young people and the broader community, through a range of strategies, including the our Youth</p>

		Advisory Group, NBYI, local services, targeted workshops and general community engagement. <u>Action:</u> No change required to the Plan.
Co-locate youth facilities such as skate parks and basketball courts with other social infrastructure such as libraries, playgrounds and youth hubs, to enhance social cohesion rather than separation.	Youth facilities	We currently optimise the development of community facilities for multigenerational use. Social cohesion and the encouragement of connectedness across community and intergenerational groups is a priority for Council. The priority of social cohesion is stated in Priority Area 9: Safe Communities (page 60) and is also reflected at page 33 of the Plan with the inclusion of the Action to 'Ensure community facilities are accessible and functional shared spaces for the community'. <u>Action:</u> No change required to the Plan.
Design out graffiti by using resistant materials and finishes where possible in community facilities e.g. skate parks	Graffiti	We utilise the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) in the design and management of community facilities. As part of this process we consider the use of graffiti resistant materials and finishes where possible in community facilities, as well as applying deterrents such as strategic planting and lighting. Where graffiti does occur, we are committed to removing illegal graffiti in public areas and walls or fences joining public land. Our Graffiti Rapid Removal Program involves regular cleaning from specified sites and Council buildings. <u>Action:</u> No change to the Plan required.
Council to re-establish a process for reviewing liquor licence applications within the Northern Beaches LGA and respond to those presenting an unacceptable level of risk to the community.	Liquor licenses	We respond to all referrals received from Local Government NSW (LGNSW) concerning formal applications for liquor licenses. A response is provided to LGNSW concerning the existence of a

		<p>relevant development consent and consistency or otherwise of the liquor application with that approval.</p> <p>The Community Safety Coordinator is a member of the Northern Beaches Community Drug Action Team and is responsible, along with the representative from Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD) for coordinating the Committee's response to Liquor License applications in the Northern Beaches.</p> <p>The Community Safety Coordinator monitors the Liquor & Gaming NSW website for new applications.</p> <p>We also consult with Police regularly on a range of local safety issues, including liquor license applications.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>No change to the Plan required.</p>
<p>The Community Safety Committee and Community Safety Coordinator to form partnerships with State and local stakeholders (including NSLHD Health Promotion) to ensure coordinated and collaborative responses.</p>	Collaboration	<p>The function of the Community Safety Committee is to act in an advisory role to Council to collaborate, consider and advise Council on ways to maintain, improve, resolve and progress issues that impact on community safety, crime prevention across the Northern Beaches.</p> <p>The Community Safety Committee has representatives from Federal, State and local stakeholders including Health. A representative from NSLHD Health Promotion is a current Committee member.</p> <p>The Community Safety Coordinator ensures collaborative responses to community safety issues through the Community Safety Committee and through direct contact with stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>No change to the Plan required.</p>
<p>Council to extend its Alcohol Prohibited Areas to include playgrounds including the equipment and the area in the immediate vicinity e.g. soft fall surfaces.</p>	Alcohol restrictions	<p>Most playgrounds across the Northern Beaches have signage installed which informs the community of a range of rules including no alcohol and no smoking or dogs within 10 metres of the area.</p>

		<p>Playgrounds located in parks and reserves are already declared Alcohol Prohibited Areas (APAs). Alcohol is prohibited in APAs between the hours of 8pm and 8am, or 24 hours a day, depending on the location.</p> <p>We are currently undertaking a review of APAs with a view to consolidating restrictions across the LGA. This recommendation has been referred to for consideration as part of review of the APAs.</p> <p>Non-Council owned playgrounds and play equipment are the responsibility of property owners.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>Recommendation referred for consideration in Council's review of APAs.</p> <p>No change to the Plan required.</p>
Include Multicultural Networks/Organisations under partnerships for action 'promote awareness of elder abuse'.	Elder abuse	<p>Agree</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>Under partnerships for the action to 'promote awareness of elder abuse', added:</p> <p><i>Northern Beaches Multicultural Network</i></p>
When referring to assault statistics, acknowledge that the full extent of the problem is unknown as many incidents of domestic, family and sexual violence go unreported.	Domestic, family and sexual violence	<p>Agree</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>Included statement regarding at page 56 of the Plan:</p> <p><i>'The full extent of this situation is unknown as many incidents of domestic, family and sexual violence go unreported.'</i></p>



Submission 2 (uploaded attachment accompanying online submission)

Northern Beaches Draft Community Safety Plan –Feedback

Having had close involvement in the development of this plan prior to this draft version I wish to provide the following feedback that primarily relates to youth related concerns.

The number one issue of community safety concern that emerged during the research and consultation stages of this plan related to Young People including:

- a) their concerns about feeling safe - especially for young women at night and on public transport;
- b) their mental health; parenting issues and a general increased vulnerability being experienced
- c) their involvement in drug and alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour. Illicit drug and alcohol use in public spaces.

The level of concern around these youth related issues has not been duly reflected in the draft NB Community Safety plan. It is a serious priority issue that was consistently and clearly identified and agreed on during the development of this plan.

References to Youth issues in the Draft Plan

In the seventy page draft plan the references to this most serious of issues are difficult to locate. In the ten 'Safe' priority issues the only specific reference to young people is hidden under the broad headings 'Safe Relationships' and 'Safe Communities'. The following excerpts are those that relate to safe youth issues:

Page 22 *What our community told us states:*

You are concerned about: • our young people and their future • alcohol related behaviour in community places • personal safety when walking and using public transport at night • members of the community with alcohol and other drug issues etc.

You want Council to prioritise: • safe futures for young people....

Page 56 'Safe Relationships' together with Elder issues and Domestic Violence.

*The issues most important to you are:
Attention to adolescent violence towards parents –*

And the related action is:

Examine the prevalence and causes of adolescent violence towards parents across the NB.

Page 60 contains a brief youth reference under 'Safe Communities', where the issue is once again diluted by including it with senior's issues:

*The issues most important to you are:
Attention to engagement of priority groups such as seniors and youth*

Page 63 Your proposed Action is to:

Explore opportunities to extend youth outreach activities throughout the NB

It also states that:

we will also continue to improve youth engagement in the Northern Beaches community by ensuring that youth programs are diverse and accessible

and

Collaborate with local services to reduce the impact of alcohol and other drug use on the community.

Actions

The plan does not contain adequate actions to address the issue and does not illustrate detail around the concerns. It is a vague and inadequate response to the issues around youth that was identified as being of most concern raised by both stakeholders and community. The actions that relate to this most important of issues must be far more concrete and meaningful and deliver measurable results.

These could include Council's youth development team and partner agencies targeting disengaged youth, conducting outreach and developing programs that build relationships and trust. Council leading the programming and delivery of range of suitable diversionary activities on weekend nights and holiday periods. These should be planned in public spaces such as skate parks, basketball courts in a variety of locations where young people gather across the NB. In addition, community centres could be dedicated at certain times as youth drop in centres.

Covid-19 notwithstanding, a massive LGA such as Northern Beaches needs to do more than hold occasional band nights in one location – this type of youth event planning activity could be outsourced as an opportunity for local youth business entrepreneurs. This would free up the skills of the experienced youth development officers to better target the more dysfunctional issues across the area. Council youth development staff resources can then be utilised in the planning and delivery of structured, diversionary activities that target disengaged youth using innovative ideas and situated in places where young people gather. They can also work more closely with police and drug and alcohol agencies and parents/carers to better understand why this issue is the most important of all to reduce the destructive behaviours that manifest in an entitled, advantaged area such as the NB.

An Action Plan needs an evaluation plan that can show measurable results rather than broad, vague intentions. The plan in its current form is also unlikely to attract any crime prevention grant funding opportunity due to its broad scope and vague actions.

Recommendation:

- 'Safe Youth' should be a section of its own in the Community Safety Plan.
- This area of the plan should include clear, measurable actions that address the youth issues of concern and that they include the delivery of a planned program of suitable, structured diversionary activities across a range of locations that also engages appropriate youth outreach service providers.

It is not expected that Council can solve these complex societal issues on their own however the community could expect more strength and leadership in the actions contained in this draft plan to help address the concerns the community has clearly expressed around the vulnerabilities that are emerging in youth welfare, crime and safety issues.

Thank you for your consideration

[Redacted signature]

Submission 3 (received via email)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 22 June 2021 10:32 PM
To: Council Mailbox <council@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Draft Community Safety Plan 2021-2026

My comments on shared pathways:

I am a pedestrian, I do not drive (never have) and walk everywhere - to the shops, the library, the beach, Stoney Range Botanical Garden, Dee Why Wetlands and wherever I get off the bus in other areas. It is my experience that pedestrians get **zero consideration** in this "sharing" concept. The rot set in 2018 with the Howard Avenue Shared Path proposal and I wrote with my objections at that time. I sent a follow up letter in November 2020, in which I pointed out that cyclists were using any and every pathway in the area even the quiet side streets where the footpaths are 1.5m wide (barely wide enough for 2 people to walk side by side or pass one another if going in opposite directions) and they could safely ride on the road even though cars, are parked there. I quite understand that parents would not want their young children to ride on the road. This means of course riding on the footpath. They should not peddle as fast as they can however, expecting people to get out of their way by stepping on to the nature strip. Very young children should not race away from the parent with them and, at some time, every child should be taught to ride **safely and considerately**, whether it be on a shared pathway or on the road. I did read in one of Council's Newsletters it is proposed that a 10km speed limit be imposed on shared pathways (for cyclists I presume). Actually this is too fast for supposedly pedestrian areas and I wonder who is going to "police" this. Currently in the central part of Dee Why some cyclists "coast" on downhill sections (Stony Range Reserve, Kingsway just 2 examples) It is unnerving to have someone behind me speed past barely 12 inches from my shoulder as they do. Cyclists are not the only speedsters on the FOOTpaths, scooters, skateboarders (including motorised scooters and skateboards) are another impediment to safe walking for pedestrians in Dee Why town centre and elsewhere.

Mr Ray Brownlee
Chief Executive officer
Northern Beaches Council
council@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au



29th June 2021

Dear Mr Brownlee,

Re: Draft Northern Beaches Community Safety Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Northern Beaches Community Safety Plan. Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD) Health Promotion is committed to keeping our population healthy and out of hospital. Our key priorities include healthy built environments, preventing alcohol related harm and improving social wellbeing through the prevention of domestic and family violence, gambling-related harm and social isolation.

We commend Northern Beaches Council for addressing community safety through a range of perspectives including physical environment and social policies. Our Health Promotion team would like to provide further comment on the draft plan.

Built Environment and Urban Planning

We congratulate the Council on the inclusion of safe open spaces and travel networks in the community safety plan and the adoption of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles in designing safer spaces.

A key recommendation is for a greater emphasis on the needs of young people. As indicated by the Council's community surveys and community safety committees, youth engaging in antisocial behaviour in public spaces is an ongoing issue in the Northern Beaches. This is particularly evident during school holidays where more frequent gathering of young people which can be problematic, especially at night time.

Recommendations:

- As part of safety audits, consider the greening of vacant lots to reduce antisocial behaviour and improve perceptions of overall community safety¹
- Under Safe Neighbourhoods, provide more emphasis on youth facilities and programs
- Identify hotspots for antisocial behaviour and review the effectiveness of existing Council facilities in meeting the needs of local young people e.g. Collaroy Plateau Oval Community youth centre
- Prioritise the above hotspots and engage young people in the co-design of facilities and programs which encourage constructive activities
- Co-locate youth facilities such as skate parks and basketball courts with other social infrastructure such as libraries, playgrounds and youth hubs, to enhance social cohesion rather than separation.
- Design out graffiti by using resistant materials and finishes where possible in community facilities e.g. skate parks

Alcohol Related Safety Strategies

Alcohol and Liquor licensing

Regulating and restricting alcohol supply is recognised globally as an effective measure to reduce alcohol-related harm². As a mandatory stakeholder required to be notified of all Category A and Category B liquor licence applications, Northern Beaches Council is well placed to act on behalf of the community to raise

¹ NSW Health (2020) Healthy Built Environment Checklist (2020) <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/urbanhealth/Pages/healthy-built-enviro-check.aspx>

² Miller P, et al., Interventions for reducing alcohol supply, alcohol demand and alcohol-related harm - Final Report, National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund Research Bulletin no. 3, 2015, Available at: <https://www.nic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/monograph37.pdf> (Accessed 23 June 2021)

concerns regarding proposed licences and oppose those that are likely to negatively impact residents' health, safety and amenity.

Historically, the former Manly Council played an active role in the liquor licensing process, regularly providing submissions in response to applications that presented an unacceptable level of risk to the community. However, this vital Council input into the decision making process has reduced markedly since the amalgamation of the three former Councils. The Authority often considers a lack of Council response as implicit support for the proposed licence. With Council currently disengaged from the liquor licensing process, there is the genuine potential for problematic licences to be granted, thus jeopardising the health and safety of the Northern Beaches community.

Increased alcohol outlet density is associated with alcohol related harms including malicious damage, interpersonal violence, increased alcohol-related presentations to emergency departments, poor health outcomes and alcohol-related chronic illnesses³. According to the Australian Urban Observatory, the average distance to the closest off-licence alcohol outlet (bottle shop) across the Northern Beaches is just 685.1m and only 632.8m to the nearest on-premises licence (pubs, clubs, restaurants etc.). This demonstrates that the Northern Beaches is a poor performing LGA across all Australian Major Cities (26th percentile) in terms of excessive alcohol access. Furthermore, particular suburbs within the LGA such as Manly, Balgowlah, Freshwater and Dee Why, provide residents with especially high access to licensed premises (see appendix 1 for a full list of alcohol access across the Northern Beaches).⁴

This excessive alcohol access is already having an adverse impact on the Northern Beaches community. Longitudinal evidence from 2001 to 2019 indicates that the Northern Beaches LGA has had a consistently higher rate of alcohol-attributable hospitalisations than the NSW state average (see image 1)⁵. The most recent health data from 2017-2019 highlights that the Northern Beaches LGA has an alcohol-attributable hospitalisation rate 39.2% higher than the NSW average.

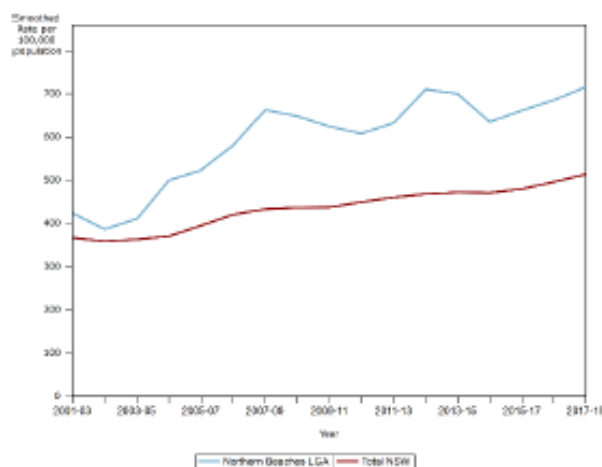


Fig 1: Northern Beaches LGA Alcohol Attributable Hospitalisation Rate

As the local health authority, we have made the following data available to provide further context to the health-related harms currently experienced by the local community. The most recently available data indicates that there were 612 Emergency Department alcohol-related visits to the Northern Beaches Hospital

³ Livingston M, Wilkinson C, Room R. Community impact of liquor licences: an Evidence Check rapid review brokered by the Sax Institute (www.saxinstitute.org.au) for the NSW Ministry of Health, 2013

⁴ Australian Urban Observatory website, Available at: www.auo.org.au (Accessed 25/06/2021)

⁵ NSW Ministry of Health (Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence), HealthStats NSW, Available at: <http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au> (Accessed 25/06/2021)

between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019. The rate of alcohol visits per 1,000 unplanned ED visits at the Northern Beaches Hospital was 67% higher than the state average.

The crime impacts attributable to alcohol also remain a significant concern locally. There were 209 alcohol-related non-domestic assaults in the year to March 2021, which is consistent with the NSW average. Furthermore, this rate was considerably higher in suburbs such as Manly and Brookvale (412% and 152% higher respectively).⁶

There is strong evidence linking domestic violence with increasing density of packaged liquor outlets³. 329 domestic assaults were recorded by Police in the last 12 months, with specific hotspots identified in the suburbs of Manly, Dee Why, Brookvale, Narrabeen, Beacon Hill, Freshwater, Manly Vale, Queenscliff, Cromer, Collaroy, Bayview, Newport and Avalon. This indicates that a higher proportion of these offences are occurring in these locations. The granting of additional packaged liquor licences in these zones would present an increased risk of domestic assaults in the local area.

Whilst the Northern Beaches LGA has a high SEIFA score (100th percentile), this doesn't preclude residents from experiencing the harms associated with alcohol⁷. According to an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare web report on risk factors to health, adults living in the least disadvantaged areas are 1.3 times as likely to exceed alcohol consumption guidelines as those living in the most disadvantaged areas. Healthstats NSW data also confirms that the most advantaged (ie least disadvantaged) population are more likely to drink daily than the rest of the population, with the Northern Sydney population (incorporating the Northern Beaches) amongst the highest daily drinkers across the state⁸.

Priority 2 of the National Alcohol Strategy 2019-2028 aims to reduce opportunities for availability, promotion and pricing contributing to risky alcohol consumption⁹. As outlined above, the availability of alcohol is already excessive in many suburbs across the Northern Beaches LGA with the current number of existing liquor licences. The National Alcohol Strategy suggests that in an area with such high alcohol access and a demographic known to engage in frequent and risky drinking behaviours, Northern Beaches Council should play an active role in reducing the availability of alcohol in the local community.

Recommendation:

- Council to re-establish a process for reviewing liquor licence applications within the Northern Beaches LGA and respond to those presenting an unacceptable level of risk to the community.
- The Community Safety Committee and Community Safety Coordinator to form partnerships with State and local stakeholders (including NSW Health Promotion) to ensure coordinated and collaborative responses.

Safe Places and Alcohol Prohibited Areas

The Draft Northern Beaches Community Safety Plan is 'committed to ensuring that Council managed open spaces are high quality, safe, accessible and facilitate the healthy and active lifestyle that is important to the Northern Beaches community'. To facilitate this commitment, Council has identified that the establishment of alcohol restricted zones is one of its strategy areas.

The Northern Sydney Local Health District 'Drink Less. Live More.' research project explored the role that alcohol plays in the lives of Northern Beaches women aged 35 – 59 years. As part of the research, we conducted both a series of focus groups and a quantitative survey with Northern Beaches women. Of the 583

⁶ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Crime Maps, Available at: <http://crimemap.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/bocsar> (Accessed 25 June 2021)

⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, IRSD Interactive Map, Available at:

<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/2033.0.55.001~2016~Main%20Features~IRSD%20Interactive%20Map~16> (Accessed 1/4/2021)

⁸ Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Health), National Alcohol Strategy 2019-2028, 2019. Available at:

<https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/05/national-alcohol-strategy-2019-2028.pdf> (Accessed 25 June 2021)

eligible survey respondents, 60% reported that all child-orientated gatherings they attended had alcohol present.

The *First 2000 Days Framework* outlines that the first 2000 days (0-5 years) of life is a critical time for physical, cognitive, social and emotional health. Early life experiences are linked to increased risk of drug and alcohol misuse⁹.

Studies show that parents play a significant and powerful role in shaping their child's beliefs and attitudes about alcohol, through their role-modelling of alcohol-related behaviours¹⁰. Parental role modelling of alcohol use is known to influence alcohol consumption in adolescence and in later life¹¹.

One of the key strategies of the 'Drink Less. Live More.' project is to reduce alcohol availability in child oriented gatherings by highlighting the importance of positive parent role modelling. Parents and adults can positively shape a young person's understanding of the role alcohol may, or may not, play in their life. At a child oriented gathering, this can be achieved simply by hosting an event without alcohol. This demonstrates that alcohol does not have to play a key role in all social gatherings.

Playgrounds have been identified as a popular environment to host parties for young children. In an attempt to address this finding, Council can support NSLHD by auditing its existing Alcohol Prohibited Areas to ensure that playgrounds are considered an 'alcohol restricted zone'. This would assist with addressing two of the five priority areas – safe open spaces and safe neighbourhoods.

Recommendation:

- Council to extend its Alcohol Prohibited Areas to include playgrounds including the equipment and the area in the immediate vicinity e.g. soft fall surfaces.

Safe People

NSLHD Health Promotion aims to address social factors that impact the health and wellbeing of the Northern Sydney population, in partnership with local organisations including Council. Current priorities include preventing domestic and family violence, gambling-related harm and social isolation. Therefore we strongly support the five priority areas identified by Council to achieve your outcome of Safe Places, as well as welcome opportunities for collaboration.

Recommendations

- Include Multicultural Networks/Organisations under partnerships for action 'promote awareness of elder abuse'. For example, older people from Chinese backgrounds are known to face additional risks of abuse.
- When referring to assault statistics, acknowledge that the full extent of the problem is unknown as many incidents of domestic, family and sexual violence go unreported.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Northern Beaches Draft Community Safety Plan. Should you have any queries about this submission please contact me at the NSLHD Health Promotion (RNS unit) on 9462 9569 or Andrew.wheeler@health.nsw.gov.au. We look forward to continuing our work with the Northern Beaches Council to support projects that benefit the health, wellbeing and safety of the community.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Wheeler
Manager – Healthy Built Environments
On behalf of the Northern Sydney Local Health District Health
Health Promotion Unit

⁹ NSW Ministry of Health. The First 2000 Days Framework. February 2019. Available at www.health.nsw.gov.au. Accessed 22nd June 2021.

¹⁰ Bowden, J. A., Delfabbro, P., Room, R., Miller, C. & Wilson, C. (2019). Parental drinking in Australia: Does the age of children in the home matter? *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 38(3): 306-15.

APPENDIX 1 –Northern Beaches Suburbs Access to Alcohol

Avg number of on-licences within 400m (# of licences)			Avg number of off-licences within 800m (# of licences)			Avg distance to closest off-licence alcohol outlet (m)			Avg distance to closest on-licence alcohol outlet (m)		
Suburb	Value	Percentile	Suburb	Value	Percentile	Suburb	Value	Percentile	Suburb	Value	Percentile
Manly	13.7	1	Manly	6.1	4	North Curl Curl	367.5	5	Manly	270.2	4
Dee Why	4.4	5	Brookvale	3.8	6	Manly	376.8	5	Balgowlah	327.9	7
Balgowlah	3.1	6	Freshwater	2.8	8	Collaroy Plateau	391.8	6	Narrabeen	329.3	7
Narrabeen	3	6	Dee Why	2.8	8	Balgowlah	414.9	7	Dee Why	335.6	7
Newport	2.2	8	Manly Vale	2.6	9	Freshwater	427.3	7	Queenscliff	404	11
Avalon Beach	1.4	12	Balgowlah	2.6	9	Manly Vale	430.6	8	Billgola Beach	430.6	12
Collaroy	1.3	12	Newport	2.5	9	Brookvale	444.1	8	Collaroy Plateau	453.2	14
Freshwater	1.2	13	Queenscliff	2.4	10	North Balgowlah	477.9	10	Whale Beach	481.7	16
Mona Vale	1.1	14	North Manly	2.3	10	Billgola Beach	487	11	Collaroy	488.7	16
Queenscliff	1	15	Collaroy Plateau	2	12	Fairlight	487.9	11	Cromer	505	18
Seaford	0.8	18	Narrabeena	1.8	14	North Manly	514	13	Mona Vale	512.4	19
Whale Beach	0.7	20	North Balgowlah	1.8	14	Dee Why	517.6	13	Manly Vale	533.1	20
Elanora Heights	0.7	21	North Curl Curl	1.7	15	Narrabeena	553.6	15	Palm Beach	537.5	20
Palm Beach	0.6	22	Mona Vale	1.5	17	Queenscliff	567.5	16	Newport	548.8	21
Church Point	0.6	22	Collaroy	1.4	19	Forestville	569.7	17	Clontarf	557.1	22
Billgola Beach	0.5	26	Wheeler Heights	1.3	20	Wheeler Heights	571.6	17	Freshwater	569.5	23
North Narrabeen	0.5	26	Forestville	1.1	23	Newport	593.6	18	Elanora Heights	576.9	23
Brookvale	0.5	27	Killarney Heights	1.1	25	Clontarf	607.9	20	Brookvale	586.9	24
Collaroy Plateau	0.4	28	Fairlight	1.1	25	Narrabeen	626.2	21	Balgowlah Heights	586.9	24
Cromer	0.4	30	Cromer	1	27	Collaroy	636.3	22	Warriewood	642	29
Oxford Falls	0.3	32	Billgola Beach	1	28	Cromer	643.8	23	North Curl Curl	653.9	31
Balgowlah Heights	0.3	34	Narrabeen	1	29	Balgowlah Heights	694.7	28	Curl Curl	675	32
Manly Vale	0.3	38	Elanora Heights	0.9	30	Killarney Heights	739.7	32	Killarney Heights	702.4	34
Curl Curl	0.2	40	Seaford	0.9	30	Seaford	754	33	North Balgowlah	721.7	36
Terrey Hills	0.2	41	Clontarf	0.8	35	Belrose	765.7	34	Clareville	731.6	36
Belrose	0.2	41	Belrose	0.8	37	Billgola Plateau	772	34	North Narrabeen	752.4	37

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North Curl Curl	0.2	43	Avalon Beach	0.7	39	Mona Vale	787.2	36	Fairlight	768.7	38
Clareville	0.2	44	Curl Curl	0.7	41	Avalon Beach	787.8	36	Wheeler Heights	778.4	39
Warriewood	0.2	46	Frenchs Forest	0.7	42	Terrey Hills	833.5	40	Church Point	784.3	40
Wheeler Heights	0.2	46	Balgowlah Heights	0.7	42	Curl Curl	848.4	42	Belrose	799.4	41
Frenchs Forest	0.2	46	North Narrabeen	0.6	43	Elanora Heights	879.1	44	Avalon Beach	815.4	42
Clontarf	0.2	46	Terrey Hills	0.6	47	Davidson	884.8	45	Frenchs Forest	864.2	45
Forestville	0.1	50	Palm Beach	0.5	52	North Narrabeen	890.3	45	Forestville	871.2	46
Killarney Heights	0.1	51	Billgola Plateau	0.5	52	Frenchs Forest	899.5	46	Seaford	886.1	47
Allambie Heights	0.1	52	Allambie Heights	0.5	54	Warriewood	953.2	50	Terrey Hills	919.9	50
North Balgowlah	0.1	52	Davidson	0.4	55	Allambie Heights	964.5	51	North Manly	923	50
Billgola Plateau	0.1	55	Church Point	0.4	62	Palm Beach	1044.8	57	Allambie Heights	950.4	52
Narrabeena	0.1	55	Warriewood	0.3	63	Church Point	1188.3	66	Narrabeena	950.6	52
Fairlight	0.1	64	Clareville	0.2	70	Clareville	1277.7	71	Billgola Plateau	950.9	52
Bayview	0	66	Duffys Forest	0.1	77	Beacon Hill	1309.2	72	Bayview	1289.4	69
Duffys Forest	0	68	Beacon Hill	0.1	78	Oxford Falls	1678.2	83	Oxford Falls	1332.1	70
Inglestone	0	69	Inglestone	0.1	80	Duffys Forest	1735.3	84	Beacon Hill	1336.1	71
North Manly	0	77	Bayview	0	87	Whale Beach	2157.4	89	Inglestone	1667.9	80
Scotland Island	0	100	Whale Beach	0	100	Bayview	2265.5	90	Duffys Forest	1735.3	81
Davidson	0	100	Scotland Island	0	100	Inglestone	2554.3	92	Davidson	1840.9	83
Beacon Hill	0	100	Oxford Falls	0	100	Scotland Island	N/A	100	Scotland Island	N/A	100

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