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# Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

## Clontarf Tidal Pool (Stage 1 of 1)

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## 1. Summary




This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of a proposal to upgrade Clontarf Tidal Pool which is at the end of its life and needs to be completely re-built.

The feedback received during consultation indicated a high level of support for the proposed pool upgrade and recognition of the facility's heritage significance. Comments included support for the proposed increase in size to the pool area and the choice of construction materials that reflects the current heritage structure.

Feedback also suggested that Council should consider some additional inclusions such as a boardwalk and disabled access.

Some concerns were raised about risks to marine ecology and the impact on traffic and parking once the pool is upgraded.

### 1.1. Key outcomes

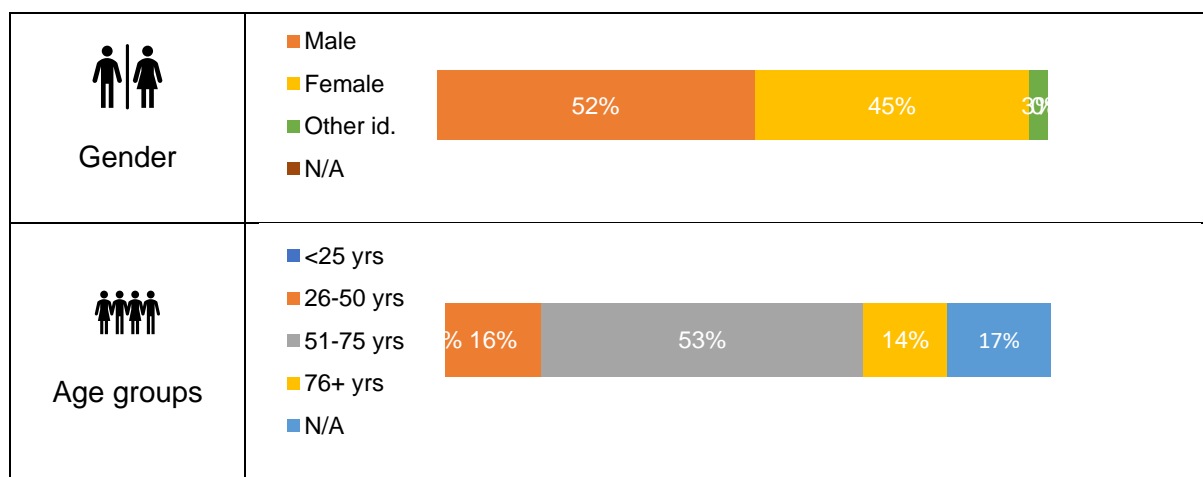
 Total unique responses	66	
 How responses were received	Comment form Written responses (email/letter)	Completions: 63 Number received: 3
 Feedback themes	Support for a boardwalk Inclusion of disabled access Protection of seahorses	Increased traffic and lack of parking Support for structure for kids to jump off

### 1.2. How we engaged

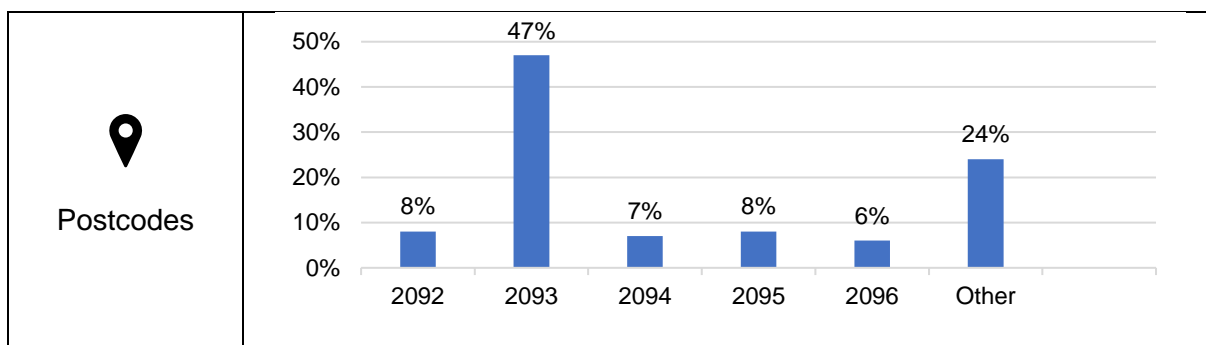
 Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 2047	Visits: 2350	Average time onsite: 0mins 45secs
 Site signs			Number of signs: 4

Print media and collateral		
 Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2 editions  Council (weekly) e-News: 2 editions  Stakeholder email: Balgowlah Heights Public School Parents and Citizens Association (BHP&C)  BHP&C private Facebook  BHP&C public Facebook  Clontarf Community Forum (CCF)	Distribution: 22,000 subscribers  Distribution: 180,000 subscribers  Distribution: 350  277  276
 Face-to-face sessions	Pop up / Drop in: 2	Attendance: 15
 Key stakeholder engagement	Clontarf Community Forum Meetings: 7  Clontarf Marina: 1	Attendance: 12  Attendance: 4

### 1.3. Who responded<sup>1</sup>



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



## 2. Background

Clontarf Tidal Pool is the most heavily used tidal enclosure in the Northern Beaches LGA. Popular with Sydney locals and tourists alike, the pool has widespread appeal and excellent accessibility, with adjacent facilities including a large carpark, café, restaurant and playground.

Built in the 1940s, the current structure is at the end of its life and needs to be completely re-built. This represents an opportunity to improve and future proof a popular Council asset.

Council has received grant funding under the NSW State Government Public Spaces Legacy Program for the improved connectivity, inclusivity and accessibility to recreational spaces and activities. The grant recognises the pool as a valuable outdoor space which has many benefits for the community.

We asked the community for their comments on the concept plan for the new pool.

## 3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- Objective 1: build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities (inform)
- Objective 2: provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way (inform)
- Objective 3: identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values (consult)

## 4. Engagement approach

The project's impact level four Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan was devised to identify the level of community support for the proposal.

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Clontarf Tidal Pool was conducted between 3 August to 31 August 2022, providing opportunities for community and stakeholders to contribute.

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

A project page was established on our have your say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletter (EDM) channels and on-site signage.

Feedback was captured through an online comment form embedded onto the have your say project page where community members could explain and elaborate on their comments about the concept plan.

Email and written comments were also invited.

## 5. Findings

The feedback received from local residents and users of the tidal pool indicated a majority level of support for the proposed pool upgrade. Comments included support for the increase in size to the pool, the choice of construction materials proposed and the proposal's consideration of the heritage significance of the pool. Some respondents also expressed support for the masterplan for the area.

Many respondents suggested additional elements for the proposed structure such as a boardwalk and disabled access.

Some concerns were raised about increased traffic and the impact on parking once the pool is upgraded.

**Table 1: Issues, change requests and other considerations**

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Support for a boardwalk	Requests for some form of walking arrangement around the pool.	Advice from Council's heritage consultants indicated that an attached boardwalk to the pool structure would be a poor heritage outcome due to the unique aspect of the pool having no boardwalk. Council is also concerned that a boardwalk would attract fishers and result in safety issues with swimmers as is being experienced at Forty Baskets tidal pool. After extensive community consultation over a two year period the approved Council Masterplan for Clontarf Reserve excluded a boardwalk.

Inclusion of disabled access	Requests for some increase in disabled access. Responses varied and included S/S handrail and ramp to sand as well as a rubber mat over sand.	The tidal pool is not considered an appropriate asset to provide disabled access infrastructure due to the increased risk of submerged objects inside the pool. The pool is not currently staffed so any access mat that is required to be rolled out daily and pulled in at night for storage cannot be managed. A short accessible ramp has been included as part of the bleachers construction to allow ramped access to the sand at the pool. This gradient is considered slight and therefore a stainless steel handrail has been deemed as not required. Council provides accessible pool facilities at its Aquatic Centres and beach rock pools.
Protection of seahorses	Concerns around management of the seahorses and marine life during construction.	Seahorses and aquatic life are being managed through a Review of Environmental Factors which includes relocation plans approved by the Fisheries Department.
Increased traffic and lack of parking	Concerns about increases in traffic and lack of parking spaces.	These concerns fall outside the scope of the project and are dealt with by the Clontarf Reserve Masterplan. Council is aware of the concerns and they were noted as issues to consider as part of the development and future implementation of the Masterplan.
Support for structure for kids to jump off	Requests for a structure to support kids jumping from the side walls into the pool.	A structure that permits an activity which might result in a significant consequences/injury to a user is considered an unacceptable risk and cannot be supported by Council.  Council also received responses from swimmers raising concerns about children jumping from the walers onto swimmers.

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

**Table 2:** Questions raised and Council's answers

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
Why are you building the pool in March during the swimming season?	Grant conditions require the pool to be constructed by June. In addition, environmental constraints also dictate the available construction schedule. As such, work must commence in March to achieve this timeframe and meet environmental constraints.

## Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses\*

1	I am right behind Council at improving this pool as per the concept.
2	I am a long-term resident of Balgowlah Heights. I am really pleased the pool will be upgraded and have no objections to the proposed plan. However I would like consideration to be given to adding a footway along one side of the pool to allow pick-up or drop-off for small boat users. This need was made clear to us last weekend when we had visitors staying with us who were invited to be shown over the harbour by other friends in a 35 foot cruiser. There was nowhere locally where they could board so we had to drive them to Mosman to allow them to meet up. Public access of this nature is sorely needed and access alongside the renovated pool would be of minimal cost when compared with construction of a separate jetty.
3	I support and agree with the Clontarf tidal pool upgrade as proposed by council. It improves the ability of people to do more exercise and be able to swim safely in an enclosed pool.
4	This looks like a great plan. Well done.
5	Great idea!
6	Great ideas in the proposal! Fantastic to use the opportunity of upgrading the current infrastructure to expand the Clontarf tidal pool and surrounding facilities for the future. I fully support the proposal.
7	Fully support this upgrade and the underlying principles, as set out in the concept plan
8	I think this is a wonderful initiative for a well loved and used asset. I am a big fan of. What you did at little manly and any design should include a wide enough timber surround to walk around as this is one of the main drawcards of a great traditional tidal pool in Sydney harbour. It would be great if one corner could have a triangular section like little manly as the area is very popular for fishing as well as swimming and a great safe place to teach young kids to swim and fish. Well done council on this great worthy project
9	I support the proposal to extend and upgrade Clontarf pool. I'd like to see many of our harbour pools enlarged/extended to allow greater use of the harbour by swimmers because of the safety provided by the nets.
10	Very used by local families and Day trippers best to keep families safe in a safe tidal pool. Many younger children and new mothers have there mothers groups at Clontarf and use this tidal pool Daily
11	I support the project. Would be good to be able to walk out on it like north harbour
12	I think the plan is good. Both the pool and the reserve are loved to death. The increased size ( at least the increased distance from shore for deeper water at mid / low tide) makes sense. Perhaps as it is so busy the widening is also justified. The old Manly LGA only had three tidal pools (Clontarf, Forty Baskets and Gurney / Pickering Point Seaforth). There used to be four but when the Sangradoo spool also known as Seaforth Pool was damaged about 15 years back they did not repair / replace it. The shore end 40% of the structure is intact. Perhaps some grant funding should be used or applied to rebuilding Seaforth Pool as well.
13	Thank you for upgrading Clontarf tidal pool. It is a great asset and much used space. I think it is wonderful that it is being extended, both in length and width. I really enjoy being able to swim in the pool at high tide, and look forward to more deep water being available. I am not in favour of a walk way or making it easier for fishermen to use the pool. I think fishing and kids playing and swimming is not compatible. My husband and his family have used Clontarf pool and the park since 1950 and we now enjoy it with our grandchildren and many extended family. It was a great opportunity and very informative to be able to meet and talk to the councilors at the pool on Wednesday 10 August.

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

14	Is there any way for disabled users to get on to the sand without steps? A ramp? Also any more seats close to the sand so elderly can be close by? Sailed sun protection possible near some seats? Thank you.
15	Please remember the needs of the disabled to access the pool. The Pool at Chowder Bay in Mosman includes a ramp and aluminium rail to make access and leaving the water a safe and seamless exercise. (See photo)
16	It is mentioned that the seahorse population is planned to be relocated. If this is to occur, it will impact the water ecology in the area. This may be covered in the environmental study but is the plan to reinstate the seahorse population following completion of the tidal pool works?
17	The upgrade looks good. As long as the kids can still walk along & jump off the wall I'm happy with a bigger pool.
18	Long overdue for improvement. It appears that, especially given it's popularity, Clontarf is always the last to get improvements??? Why? When will phase 2 of the Mater Plan be implemented? I would add a walkway on one side as at Forty Baskets. Why if it can be provided there then not also at Clontarf? This would be a great addition for many.
19	WHAT A WONDERFUL AND LONG DELAYED UPGRADE TO A VERY POPULAR AND VALUABLE ASSET WE HAVE IN MANLY AREA
20	Support the plans. Does get crowded
21	The increased area of the deep water zone will be a major benefit. A great asset which can be enjoyed by the whole community.
22	This looks like a reasonable way forward.
23	I take my grandchildren to this pool and playground, I think its a great idea to enlarge and upgrade the pool. Even in its current state its very popular, so it will be a wonderful improvement when its completed.
24	Hi, I'm a 71 yr old who lived in Allenby St until age of 17. Life spent at Clontarf was magical & couldn't have wished for better place for growing up & adventures. I still visualise extreme low tides as well as beloved king tides. Learning to dive and actually swim the distance is still so vivid. I agree enlargement is necessary and keeping it natural is so important. Hope the next generations enjoy as much as I did. Ps Give my regards to Candy Bingham (my old friend from Kindy)
25	It looks great! Fully support the work.
26	As repair is badly needed, a good idea to provide greater lap pool opportunities through enlargement, and less susceptible to needing frequent dredging. The current facilities are fine for little ones, but offer nothing like the utility of Balmoral for example.
27	Could you please ensure this facility has disabled access, for people in wheelchairs or other mobility devices.
28	Area is absolutely not feasible- to make bigger - seriously- - being made bigger (using not dredging as a \$ saver - insulting to locals intelligence) - it's a bottle neck as it is down there - fancy even thinking of enlarging pool - except for those who can crowd up the harbour more with their boats and yachts ☐
29	Is disabled access being included in the plan for Clontarf tidal pool? I used to swim regularly at Clontarf in summer but now I cannot access the water as I use a mobility device that cannot traverse sand. Swimming is my only form of exercise now but even with assistance, my only option would be to crawl across the sand to the water which concerns other people. Could you please include even something inexpensive such as a roll-up beach track to traverse the few metres from the retaining wall to the water? Then someone could put my mobility device on the track and I could slide onto it from the retaining wall. Alternatively the track could be available further down the beach where there is no retaining wall. I'm sure that this would be well used by people with a disability and allow participation in social activities at Clontarf as provide opportunities for exercise in our marine environment..



30	How about making it likectge Forty Baskets Pool - larger walkway & jumping platform for the children. They love to jump in. Regards [REDACTED]
31	I think the plan looks great. I'm assuming that you have already checked the full surface of the net to see if, like on Manly Cove's net, there was marine life established there like Sea Horses, etc. The new anti-fouling nets, prevent attachment of marine life, so the old net should be inspected for marine habitats and either fully removed if unused, or could have a section relocated close by to retain habitats.
32	Looks great! Can I just add a bit of local family history (that should make you smile): My motherXXX is a born & bred Balgowlah girl. She met her English husband where they both worked in the city. He was very slow to propose to her so in 1951 she threatened to push him into Clontarf pool as they were there, or she would head overseas by herself! He got the message & gave her a sapphire ring on the beach very soon after. Our dad XXX learned to love the area too; they bought the family home in King Ave Balgowlah overlooking North Harbour & other lovely tidal pools, & he went on to write local histories that are in eg the Manly Library. They were both known by their middle names hence the details above. Mum is still alive at 93 & still loves her Clontarf Pool story as does our family. All the best in your care of this beautiful part of the world. XXX.
33	Why was this work not co-ordinate with the recent work on the shore. It would have been cheaper to do it all at once and would cause less inconvenience to users. Can a timber walk way be included at each end. Children access the pool via the existing timber top member. The proposal creates the same problem of an inappropriate top member that people and children will walk out on.
34	Fully support the proposed concept
35	Fully support proposal and ask that action be taken to work with Sydney Water to address constant issues of sewerage overflow
36	This looks like an excellent proposal. Increased swimming area, improved safety and maintenance of the current character. Well done Northern Beaches Council and NSW Government.
37	I object to this plan because will diminish environmental values by extending a made made structure and eyesore into the harbour. The plan should remove the existing pool and return the area to its natural state. This would have no maintenance costs and the current plan is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and storms.
38	As background, I have grown up swimming in this pool, still use this pool occasionally, and currently work for Council. I believe making the pool larger is a great idea. The space is there and the pool receives many visitors. I understand that heritage would like to maintain the style of the pool but I believe safety should take precedence over that and the timber whalers should not be reinstated i.e., just piles and nets would be best. My safety concerns are children diving or falling off into shallow water, and also for them falling onto people in the pool. It's also my understanding that the pool nets will need to be serviced from time to time and that they provide habitat for the white's seahorse among other creatures. If not already present, please consider whether a permanent habitat could be constructed to transfer the seahorses onto during net servicing periods. I am fully supportive of this project. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
39	These proposed plans are excellent and I fully support them. My experience has been that the existing pool can be grossly overcrowded, particularly on weekends and it is impossible to swim any laps in the deep end without swimming into people. I hope Council proceeds with these plans.
40	Whatever the final form takes why is the proposed rebuild commencing when there are 3 swimming months left. ie., March, April, May. The warmest water is February and the coldest August (16C). Several years ago Manly Council upgraded Fairlight Pool over an entire summer. Given Clontarf Pool has been in disrepair for 5 years why not wait until June to commence the necessary works.

41	This is an excellent initiative and long overdue. I fully support making the pool wider and deeper as it is simply too small and no good for swimming laps.
42	Excellent proposal.
43	This is wonderful news. I can only praise Council for this initiative.
44	Let the kids walk around it again and add a jump ledge and a pontoon. We went from the best boardwalk in Manly to absolutely nothing on our beaches. Previous generation of council had much better ideas. Boy Charlton pool should have had a water slide. Manly offers nothing for teenage water play other than jump rock, Get it sorted Thanks
45	The plan looks to be a great improvement on the failing structure of the present pool It will allow for much better swimming for dedicated swimmers
46	It looks good and great that the pool will be wider and deeper.
47	I grew up regularly swimming at Northbridge Baths and Roseville tidal pools. I also swam at Clive Park which became impossible to swim in due to oyster shells and poor maintenance. Willoughby Primary School and Willoughby Girls High help all their swimming lessons and training for awards in these pools. Very cost effective for parents and great for practising swimming. So I am very happy with the extra size of Clontarf Pool. It will be great for a lot more ages and maybe schools can use the facility more than they do. Too many children today do not learn to swim as the cost of lessons and pool costs are prohibitive. Hopefully Clontarf pool can cater for this.  The pool definitely needs an area where children can safely jump into the water. This is a regular past time of the older children. Forty Baskets is a good example of this. Please check out the best tidal pools across Sydney so we can get the majority of all ages being able to use the pool.  Lastly, the boats and other craft have been coming so near the pool. Please can there be a clear area where no craft can go for the safety of all.
48	Waste of money and only benefits multimillionaire local residents whose lobby outclasses the average working family who would only support such funds in place going to where they are really needed, eg more social housing for the poor and needy. Bottom line: very few, other than the local millionaires, go to this beach, and 99 percent of the lower northern beaches residents don't know where it is, let alone that it exists.
49	Clontarf reserve and particularly the pool are popular in school holidays. Could consideration be given that work begins after the school holidays finish and students start 2nd term on 10th April 2023April
50	Wow what a great idea. I look forward to 2023
51	re Contarf Tidal Pool Upgrade - I am happy with the concept of the proposal however have one serious concern in relation to the heavy use of the area during summer and peak periods. As you no doubt are aware there is traffic chaos and too many families trying to vey for spots. It is a difficult issue trying to balance such a lovely spot with excess usage. I'm not sure what the answer is. It would be lovely to restrict use to locals but I understand that this is problematic. Additional parking is not the answer given the natural surrounding bushland which is important to preserve.
52	The proposed new tidal pool for Clontarf is a great improvement over the old pool and will serve the community well for many years with less maintenance. I look forward to when the project is finished.
53	I also grew up in Clontarf as a child. We haven't had any consultation on the changes to the pool being a very close neighbor. Will the pool change in size? Just thought it it might be nice to be included in your considerations. Further communication...Hi [REDACTED], it was really nice to meet with you yesterday. We enjoyed the discussion with you and could find no negative aspects of your proposed plan. In fact we think it will be great and hope that things go as smoothly as possible for you.

54	It is great that the Council is finally going to upgrade the pool infrastructure - it has particularly suffered damage in the last few years of storm and heavy rainfall events. The concept notes don't include any consideration of how existing marine flora and fauna will be managed and sympathetically removed if needed and re-established. This area has amazing marine wildlife and it should be protected and nurtured as much as possible.
55	I fully support the proposed upgrade. Especially taking the depth further out into the harbour.
56	Why wouldn't you do it in the middle of winter when no one wants to use it? March is still peak swimming season
57	The new plan for the Clontarf pool is a positive improvement to the area and will benefit the community. Is it possible to be also include a ramp to allow floating wheelchair access?
58	Hi Northern Beaches Council, We have reviewed design for Clontarf tidal pool and agree with construction concept except for one glaring omission! There is NO small vessel unloading wharf attached in pool design! NOTE: There is now NO public unloading/loading facility available in Clontarf/Middle Harbour any longer as nearby marina is now private access only and clubs are members only. We suggest adding 2m wide wood decking running the length of pool southern side to shore side with tidal steps (or ladder) built on seaward/western end for small vessel landing needs. Construction can be wood planking/steel as is rest of pool design. A public, small vessel, loading and unloading wharf is much needed for our community and new pool is the obvious choice for location. As new pool is further to seaward tide heights are acceptable for small vessel use - should be no need for dredging.
59	Love the idea of an upgrade and am sure that safety will be a main issue to be discussed. On many occasions that I have winced as a nurse and scolded as a parent, as I witnessed 'near miss' injuries to children (and irresponsible adults) jumping and (somersaulting) into low tidal waters. The risk of severe spinal damage, is real, but despite the signage this behaviour occurs daily. It is of course impossible to monitor or 'police' 24/7. A 'dobbing number' on any 'prohibiting signage' may be a useful deterrent. OR a pointed gable topped capping to surrounding pool borders to prevent little children imitating poor role models and dangerous dive-bombing activity!
60	Please try and retain some of the original pylons that are still in good condition and keep it as close to its heritage look as possible.
61	I am in agreement with the extension of the swimming but I would like to see a walk way around the swimming enclosure the same style as done at 40 baskets. Many fishermen and children walk around the current enclosure at Clontarf beach.
62	Tidal pool concept is great, and much needed. It would be great to have a platform and ladder on outside so bigger kids can jump off the pool edge.
63	Hi. I own Clontarf Marina. I also grew up in Clontarf as a child. We haven't had any consultation on the changes to the pool being a very close neighbor. Will the pool change in size? Just thought it it might be nice to be included in your considerations
64	Email - from Marina after a meeting based on YourSay comment Hi [REDACTED], it was really nice to meet with you yesterday. We (XXXX - Owner/Director of Clontarf Marina, XXXX and myself, XXXX) enjoyed the discussion with you and could find no negative aspects of your proposed plan. In fact we think it will be great and hope that things go as smoothly as possible for you.

65	<p>Email</p> <p>To whom this may concern ,</p> <p>As much as I think the upgrade to the pool is a great idea, I do have major concerns .</p> <p>I live in Monash Ave, over the last few years the park and pool have become a very popular destination with the renovations of the playground up to date has attracted more people to the park which is the intended purpose of a park but no consideration to the impact it would have on the adjacent streets has been considered .</p> <p>For us living in Monash and Allenby streets .. the bumper to bumper traffic in our streets is unbearable and it is only a matter of time before disaster strikes . Beach and picnic goers looking for parking get stuck in the cul da sac and it becomes a two way disaster for them, then you have residents trying to get on with daily life which becomes a very long and frustrating process of getting out of your street . Clontarf has become a popular park and beach location . With this proposed tidal pool upgrade, Monash and Allenby streets need to be considered in the upgrade with the pool in order for it to be an area for public and residence to all enjoy in harmony. A new pool will attach more people and we have seen this with the upgrade of the playground more people, council car parks are full traffic snakes up and down Perone as Holmes turns into a bottle next with all the cars stuck in Monash and Allenby streets ..</p> <p>Solution to the problem is part of a upgrade.</p>
66	<p>Email</p> <p>To Whom it may concern.</p> <p>I am a resident of Clontarf living on Monash Crescent and whilst I support the improvement being made to the public park and more recently an upgrade to the Clontarf tidal pool, I am concerned about the flow on effects this will have on the surrounding residents. It is great to see improvements being made, although the more pressing issues surrounding traffic and parking should be at the forefront, and resolved prior to cosmetic changes.</p> <p>Traffic is already a major issue for resident of Clontarf, with minimal parking availability already. The parking issues has been evident for some time, once the carpark at Clontarf reserve is full, the cars then park in the surrounding streets making it virtually impossible for residents to get in and out with ease. In summer it can take up to 20 mins to simply make it to the top of Holmes Ave and sometimes the traffic snakes all the wake up to Seaforth. The boats taking up much of the parking along Holmes avenue also exacerbates the issue. Not only is the issue of overcrowding from cars entering the Clontarf residential area a disturbance, but it is also a safety concern as any emergency services would find it extremely difficult to access the houses as well as the beach.</p> <p>Whilst I do support the ongoing renovations and cosmetic changes to the amenities at Clontarf, I think action needs to be taken in order to resolve the ongoing traffic and parking issues that are continuing to worsen. We have lived in Clontarf for 5 years and each year the traffic and parking issues have worsened. We will see the issue resume in the months ahead as the warmer weather returns. It would be great if the council puts some thought into how to remedy this as they continue to improve the public amenities in the area.</p>

Document administration	
Version	1.0
Date	27 September 2022
Approval	Content provided and approved by Transport and Civil Infrastructure Assets Team. Responsible manager: Stephen Watson
Status	Final
Related Projects	Clontarf Masterplan
Notes	Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.