

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Manly Dam Memorial Shelter and Accessibility Upgrades

Consultation period: Friday 11 August to Sunday 10 September 2023

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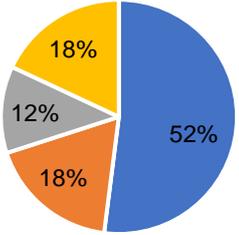
1. Summary

This report outlines the community engagement conducted between 11 August and 10 September 2023 to seek feedback on building a memorial shelter and upgrading pathway connections at Manly Dam.

During the exhibition period 33 people provided submissions. Of the 33 submissions received, 52% stated they were supportive, 18% supported the proposal without the kayak ramp, 12% did not support the proposal and 18% were unsure or did not say.

Submissions supporting the proposal commented on the importance of improved access at Manly Dam, additional shade structures and recognising our service personnel past and present. Submissions not supporting the proposal commented that there was no need to formalise the kayak access to the dam and did not support additional concrete pathways in the section.

Key outcomes

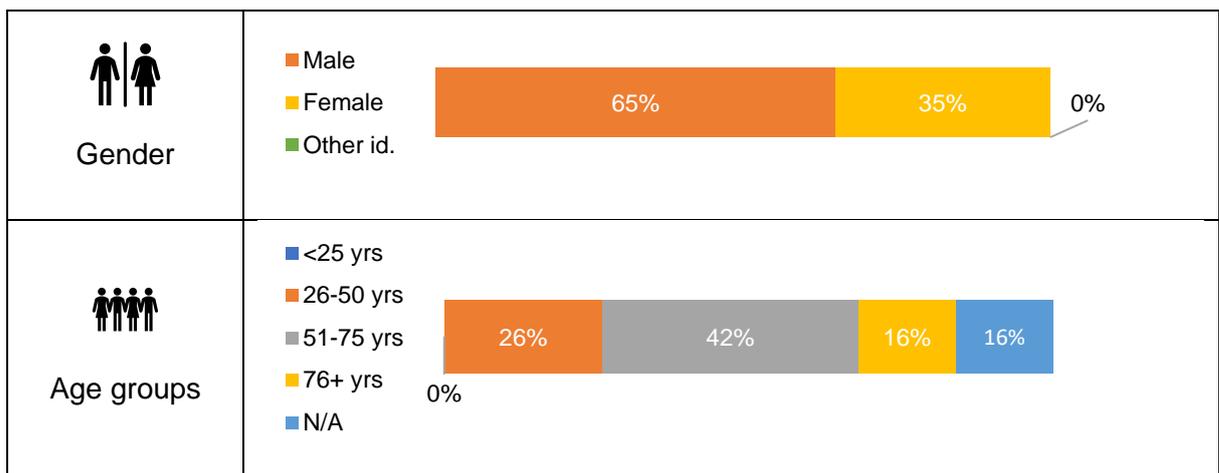
 Total unique responses	Total 33	
 How responses were received	Yoursay with written comments: 25 Yoursay without written comments: 6 Direct (email/letter) with written comments: 2	Total contributors: 33
 Sentiment question: Do you support the proposal?	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Support ■ Support, without kayak ■ Don't support ■ Unsure/Did not say <p>Total submissions = 33</p>	
 Feedback themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive of improved access • Supportive of memorial shelter • Kayak launch ramp unnecessary 	

1.1. How we engaged

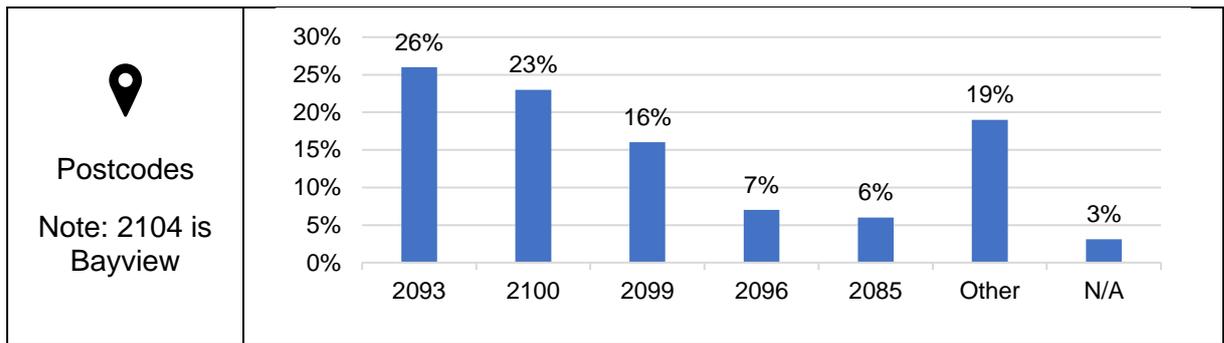
	Visitors: 546	Visits: 690	Average time onsite: 1 min 9 secs
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Have Your Say: visitation stats		
 Print media and collateral	Letterbox drop: 394 residences in neighbouring streets Site signs used: Yes	Distribution: 394 Number of signs: 3
 Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2 editions Council (weekly) e-News: 10 August 2023 The Wave Disability Newsletter 6 September Stakeholder email: 2	Distribution: 23,000 subscribers Distribution: 61,500 subscribers Distribution: subscribers
 Key stakeholder engagement	Meetings in person: 1 Meetings by phone: 2	

1.2. Who responded¹



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



2. Background

The proposal was to provide a shelter and accessible path connections to the water and top of the dam, along with a kayak launching ramp. The shelter will be designed to be in keeping with the look and feel of the park and intends to respectfully sit alongside the war memorial space.

The structure will provide shelter for swimming groups, kayakers, triathlon training and competitions and other swimming clubs and recreational swimmers that utilise Manly Dam/State park for such activities and training.

The inspirational design for the shelter has been jointly developed by representatives of the Manly Warringah War Memorial Trust, the local Warringah RSL and Northern Beaches Council demonstrating the shared vision and commitment of the organisations to improve amenity to diverse user groups and celebrate the importance of the Manly Warringah War Memorial site. The completed project will create new space for the community to enjoy being in and around the water body of Manly Dam and to offer additional recreational amenity to the space for social gatherings, community connection, shelter, rest and reflection

The project's impact is assessed as level 3 – low impact in accordance with the Northern Beaches Council Community Engagement Matrix, resulting in a community engagement process devised on a single staged approach.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- Build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities (inform);
- Identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values (consult);
- Communicate to community and stakeholders how their input was incorporated into the planning and decision-making process (inform).

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Manly Dam Memorial Shelter was conducted over a four-week period, from Friday 11 August to Sunday 10 September 2023.

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

[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. A letterbox drop to 394 neighbouring residences was carried out on 11 August 2023.

Feedback was captured through an online submission form embedded onto the Have 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.

The project manager was available on Friday 18 August and Tuesday 22 August from 9am – 4pm for a 15-minute phone call with anyone who wanted to discuss the project further.

4.1. Reaching diverse audiences

A thorough stakeholder mapping exercise was completed to identify and understand the needs of the whole community.

It was determined for this project that it was particularly important to hear from adjoining residents, The War Memorial Trust, Manly Dam Advisory Committee, Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee, Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park Advisory Committee and Warringah RSL.

5. Findings

During the exhibition period 33 people provided submissions. 31 submissions were received through the Your Say process and 2 submissions were received via email.

Of the 31 submissions received through the Your say process, 52% stated they were supportive, 18% supported the proposal without the kayak ramp, 12% did not support the proposal and 18% were unsure or did not say.

The most prevalent reasons for supporting the proposal were based on improvements to accessibility in the area. Submissions commented on benefits of providing accessible connections to key areas, including shade structures such as the proposed memorial shelter and providing access to the dam wall.

Submissions that did not support the proposal raised concerns including inclusion of additional pathways in the area and the proposed kayak ramp.

Table 1 summarises the key issues raised and Council’s response.

Table 1: Issues raised and responses

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council’s response
Improved access	Support for widening of existing pathways to provide improved access and a boardwalk to the dam wall.	Noted. The widening of the existing pathways is intended to improve access throughout the area.
Additional shelter	Support for additional shelter which also recognises our past and present service men and women.	Support noted. The recognition of past and present service men and women while providing additional shelter for the users of the area is a key aspect of the project.

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Kayak launch ramp and pathway	Concern that the kayak launch ramp and pathway will detract from the general amenity of the area and will not be used by people launching kayaks and will instead be used to jump into the water.	Council has taken into consideration the comments relating to the kayak launch ramp and have removed this element from the design.

Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Number	Comment/submission
1	Ticked "no" to support the proposal
2	Excellent idea and plan
3	I think the accessible path to the dam wall and the kayak launching ramp are both a particularly great idea, provided of course that run off & rubble from construction is appropriately managed during the works.
4	I welcome any improved access to the different areas. As I now use a Walker the access to some areas is very difficult. Also during the hotter weather shelter is very important and in high demand, especially at weekends. I'm sure more shelters would be welcomed by family groups.
5	Now that I have become a 'senior cit.' I welcome easier access and more shelter in the great Manly Dam area! Thank you, NBC !! [REDACTED]
6	Suggest the kayak launch platform be located in the "inlet" area to the left of the proposed rotunda when facing the water with steps down to it through the trees. This platform will inevitably be used not only to launch kayaks but by kids for swimming and jumping off. It will be a popular and well utilised amenity. This area would be safer and more convenient for swimming and kayak launching and more easily accessed by users from the grassed areas in front of and to the west of the area 1 carpark. The current proposed location is close to the dam wall, which I note has warning signs all over it to keep clear from the propellers and outlets in the wall etc., and would also involve manoeuvring kayaks past the BBQ shelter which would be a pinch point.
7	Ticked "yes" to support the proposal
8	Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is Australia's only war memorial created by conserving native bushland. The undisturbed beauty of the park IS the memorial. Because of this factor I feel there is no need to build more and more "infrastructure" on top of what has already been created in recent years. Surely at least we don't need more concrete pathways to despoil the natural values.
9	Ticked "yes" to support the proposal
10	I am a local resident and regular user of the Manly Dam Section 1 area. The proposed path and rotunda upgrades seem reasonable, however I do not agree with the kayak launch ramp. The launch ramp is unnecessary as there is no problem launching off the beach, and detracts from the general amenity of the area. Additionally, the BBQ area adjacent (that is booked by paying users) would become a thoroughfare.
11	Would prefer to see Indigenous information included in the shelter
12	This project is a good start but more needs to be done to provide safe pedestrian access to the dam - the road in is narrow and has no designated footpath, despite being very popular and at certain times there being cars entering and exiting the road.

*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.

Number	Comment/submission
	Surely a footpath could be built along side the road to provide safe access and discourage car usage.
13	Although the plans are short in detail, it would appear that the installation of the kayak launch area will require removal of some trees. I kayak on the dam and do not see the need for this additional development.
14	<p>In my humble opinion, these proposed structures around the Manly Dam region will be very ECO System friendly additions to what is a very unique area of the Northern Beaches region.</p> <p>Council staff and elected Councillors are to be congratulated on having the initiative to propose improving the Manly Dam area and one can only hope that Council ignores any objections from so called Greenies who should be told to visit either the Snowy mountains or the area around the Olympic area and see the benefits of having dedicated raised walkways for nature lovers to view a healthy eco system.</p>
15	<p>10 September 2023</p> <p>Re Manly Dam Memorial Shelter and Accessibility Upgrades</p> <p>I support the Memorial Shelter (Rotunda) and Accessibility Upgrades for existing pathways.</p> <p>However, I have some concerns re the Kayak Launch (pathway and ramp).</p> <p>Re KAYAK LAUNCH: PATHWAY and RAMP</p> <p>Concrete pathway encroaches on grassed area</p> <p>Pedestrian traffic alongside existing picnic hut.</p> <p>Potential conflict with passive use of open space.</p> <p>Pathway intrudes upon recreation use of grassed area and hut.</p> <p>Children are likely to use ramp extending out into water.</p> <p>Potential safety issue if difficult to supervise.</p> <p>Potential barrier for ducks and wildlife.</p> <p>Re KAYAK LAUNCH: PATHWAY and RAMP</p> <p>Pathway will result in a thoroughfare of pedestrian traffic next to picnic hut.</p> <p>Potential safety risk for children due to deeper water and proximity to Dam wall.</p> <p>If the reservoir height increases the ramp could be inundated.</p> <p>The paved access path would intercept the grassed area which is well used for passive recreation.</p> <p>Children like to play near to the water's edge in this location and will be attracted to ramp.</p> <p>Ducks and other water birds congregate in this area near to the dam wall.</p> <p>Kayaks currently launch from the water's edge in this location.</p> <p>Avoid concrete paths and thoroughfares that would intercept this space.</p> <p>The grassed area has a panoramic view of Manly Dam and surrounds to the west.</p>

Number	Comment/submission
	<p>The concrete path will stop at the top of the embankment; it will not be in an area that tends to flood.</p> <p>The ramp will extend out into the water. The water level will rise up to the walkway.</p> <p>Intention for the ramp is to extend into the water so someone can step into the water at the end.</p> <p>A section will be under the water line.</p> <p>Depth fluctuates at end of ramp. Not going out to where it is a metre deep – only to a point where a kayak can float.</p> <p>The pathway and ramp will provide a safe way to get down to and into the water.</p> <p>Trying to formalise what people currently do – with kayak launch.</p> <p>Manly Dam is used by a lot of groups with people in wheelchairs.</p> <p>Safe for children to use? It is the responsibility of parents to watch their children. Can enter water from existing water's edge.</p> <p>Re concrete path next to existing hut: Do not think there will be a conflict of use. People can already walk around hut.</p> <p>Intention is to formalise the use.</p> <p>To improve accessibility in the area.</p> <p>Some exposed tree roots as go down.</p> <p>Impact on ducks and wildlife? Used but not so intensively that it will deter them.</p> <p>Can sit underneath as it will be raised.</p> <p>Note: Re access for wheelchairs</p> <p>An alternative location near playground is a lot steeper.</p> <p>Extensive pathway would be required to get compliant pathway to water's edge.</p> <p>Proposed location requires less concrete to access water.</p> <p>Want to know if the community want this and other changes.</p>
16	<p>It is great that you are improving accessibility within the park. However, there never seems to be any attention to the major accessibility issue of gaining safe pedestrian and cycling access into the park. Currently the assumption seems to be that all users will drive into the park. Pedestrians and cyclists are forced to walk about 400m along King St/Sir Roden Cutler VC Memorial Drive dodging traffic to enter the park. At popular times the traffic along this road is quite significant and drivers are not always as attentive as they should be.</p> <p>It is a fundamentally poor strategy to have a facility for outdoor activity that is cut off from the cyclepaths and footpath networks that the council has been creating to encourage active transportation.</p>
17	<p>Great idea, this will make this area more accessible to all</p>
18	<p>The covered shed is OK, but seems a bit small to be useful. The idea of a path and a kayak ramp in the war memorial area is ridiculous and extremely inappropriate and disrespectful. it would make more sense to move this path and ramp down away from the memorial area (the area used for Anzac Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies)</p>

Number	Comment/submission
	on the other side of the playground - this area also aligns with one of the carparks, that makes sense for unloading/loading boats.
19	It will be enormously helpful for kayak users to have a purpose-built and environmentally-appropriate kayak launching area. Parking close by would be worthwhile and helpful.
20	I think it's a great idea and will attract more people to use the park and to do bush walks around the dam. We can never do enough for our soldiers who died in war, like my grandfather.
21	<p>I hereby express my support to the proposed upgrade plans, as I feel it is important to make the park enjoyable to everyone including those with limited mobility and kids.</p> <p>However, I do request a review of the prohibition of dogs in the park. The park is very large and I believe there is plenty of space for an unleash dog area. Moreover, it could be considered early morning and late afternoon as well as winter unrestricted circulation of off-leash animals.</p>
22	<p>Feedback</p> <p>Do you support the proposal?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Please provide any further comments on the proposal below</p> <p>I do not support the kayak launching wharf.</p> <p>I suggest it is not needed at all to launch a kayak. many are launched now without any trouble.</p> <p>I suggest it would become a diving platform for swimmers. The water level at Manly Dam has a rise and fall in excess of 3 metres. This makes proper securing of it reasonably difficult and, depending how it's done, potentially dangerous. The variations in water height would make its angle dangerous at times and, finally, diving off or from it would be very hazardous as the water is not deep for much of its length and, when the water level is low, diving from it into the shallow water would be extremely hazardous.</p> <p>I know Manly Dam very well. I have been swimming and water skiing there for over 60 years and have been very involved with anchoring and securing the water ski infrastructure.</p>
23	<p>The rotunda and path to the dam wall are good ideas.</p> <p>The kayak launch area is unnecessary and will detract from the almost natural shoreline, the use of FRP (fibre reinforced plastic) would be an eyesore and also sharp when accessing the water with bare feet, it would detract from the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>Also the path from the picnic shelter to the rotunda will take away more of the grass area, which is enjoyed by children and families (and isn't that what our servicemen and women fought for, freedom for their families)</p>
24	I believe that building a new shelter which will also serve to memorialise our former and existing defence force members is very desirable and upgrading pathway connections to key areas including an accessible connection to the dam wall is desired and well needed, as it will enhance the accessibility to this area.

Number	Comment/submission
	<p>Building a kayak ramp in this location will only increase the foot and car traffic in this already congested entrance area to the Dam. Parking in this area is difficult at the best of times, and installing a kayak ramp will only increase the traffic movement in this bottleneck as paddlers seek to park as close as possible and walk they kayak through a public open space.</p> <p>I believe it would be of great benefit to install a kayak ramp, however the location being proposed is not beneficial to the general public, or to paddlers. A location that offers more parking and easier access would be more appropriate</p>
25	<p>Opposed to this construction.</p> <p>I would proper the council to review street pathways to and from Allambie Heights Public School where the children are walking on the road as there are no pathways down Churchill Avenue. There are very few pathways in the back streets of Allambie Heights and all pedestrians including adults to children and parents with prams. Spend rate payers money please on essential everyday projects that many will use, not just a few. I would also support more bus shelters up Allambie Road where children catch buses to school everyday - again a project for many, 365 days of the week. Thank you and feel free to contact me directly.</p>
26	<p>Excellent and well needed to allow more ready access.</p>
27	<p>Paths should be wider for shared spaces</p>
28	<p>Gratuitous concreting which is entirely unnecessary and a further council contribution to global boiling. A total waste of ratepayers money. Plant more trees native to the area and increase the tree canopy instead. This would be a much greater contribution to the park amenity.</p>

SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED OUTSIDE YOUR SAY

1	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm not really in favour of there being kayaking at Manly Dam. The wetland birds, gracious swans and such that call this beautiful place home really do not need us invading their waters. We already invade the bush land and people bbq with lots of screaming kids. Can there not be one area left for the animals to retreat to?</p> <p>I know trails will be done, and that's safe. People walk them anyhow. A place to honor the fallen so long as no land is cleared to do so I admire. But let us leave as much untouched as possible.</p>
2	<p>[REDACTED] (Council has a zero tolerance approach to discrimination and abuse of any kind and has redacted this comment as it contains content which is discriminatory, hateful or which may defame, offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate)</p>

Document administration	
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Related Projects	
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.