
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Public Exhibition of the draft Let's Play Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan (stage 2 of 2)

Consultation period: 1 July 2022 to 14 August 2022

Contents




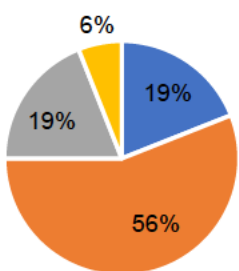

1.	Summary.....	2
1.1.	Key outcomes	2
1.2.	How we engaged	3
1.3.	Who responded.....	4
2.	Background.....	5
3.	Engagement objectives	5
4.	Engagement approach	5
4.1.	Reaching diverse audiences	6
5.	Findings	6
	Appendix - Verbatim community and stakeholder responses	18
1.	Online Your Say submissions.....	18
2.	Submissions Outside of YourSay	68

1. Summary

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of the public exhibition of the draft Let's Play Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan (Strategy) conducted between 1 July 2022 and 14 August 2022.






We received 141 submissions, with the majority of submissions (65%) either supportive of the draft Strategy or supportive with changes. Many of the submissions expressed support for protecting the natural environment, while others requested new or improved facilities for specific recreation groups and activities, including walking, off road cycling, horse riding and tennis. Of the submissions that were not supportive of the draft Strategy, many expressed concern about potential changes to Whitney Reserve in Mona Vale.



1.1. Key outcomes

 <p>Total unique responses</p>	<p>141¹</p>	
 <p>How responses were received</p>	<p>Submission/Comment form</p> <p>Written responses (email/letter)</p>	<p>Completions: 116</p> <p>Number received: 25</p>
 <p>Online sentiment question:</p> <p>Do you support the draft Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy?</p>	<div data-bbox="710 1153 949 1422">  </div> <div data-bbox="1109 1176 1380 1489"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Support with changes Don't support Neutral/Prefer not to say <p>Total responses = 141</p> </div>	
 <p>Feedback themes/ topics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental protection and appreciation Needs of specific groups, e.g. off road cycling, horse riding, tennis, astronomy, walking Access and inclusion Requests for new and improved facilities Needs of older children and youth Maintenance, improvements and supporting facilities Concern about potential changes to Whitney Reserve, Mona Vale Requests for improvements at JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve 	

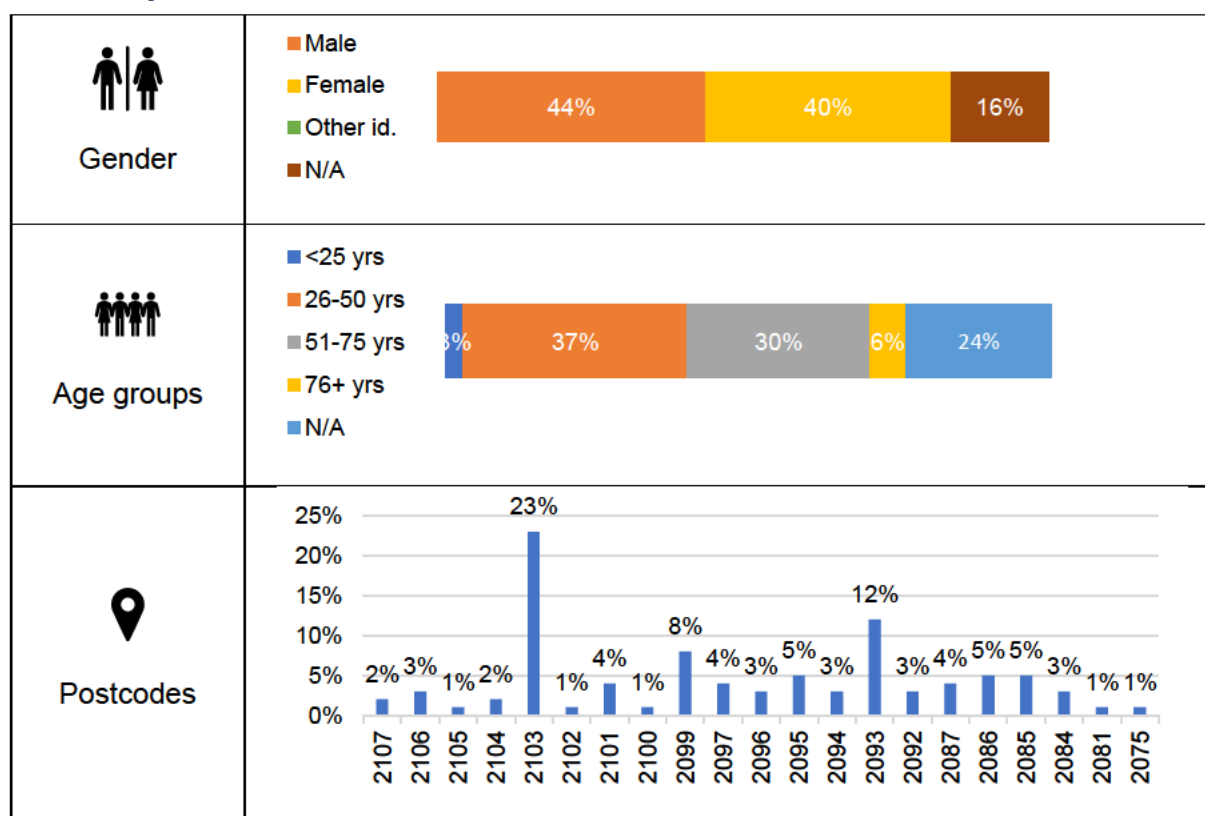
¹ Plus three duplicates

1.2. How we engaged

 Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 2431	Visits: 3193	Average time onsite: 1min4secs
 Social media	1 Facebook organic story		Reach: 2,500
	2 Facebook posts/ads		768 link clicks 64,078 impressions
	KALOF Instagram post KALOF Facebook post		Reach: 238 Reach: 106
 Videos	Overview video: 1		Views: Youtube – 280 Paid social advertising - 33,261 Facebook organic – 709 Total video views – 34,250
 Print media and collateral	Media release: 1 Pittwater Life: 1 ad		
 Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 3 editions		Distribution: Approx. 22,000 subscribers
	Council (weekly) e-News: 3 editions		Distribution: Approx. 160,000 subscribers
	Disability Newsletter: 1 edition		Distribution: Approx.1300 subscribers
	Stakeholder emails: Stage one stakeholders		Distribution: Approx.1300 subscribers

	Resident and special interest groups Off Road Cycling Stakeholder Group Community centre hirers Northern Beaches Council Youth Advisory Group	41 groups 2 x group emails 400 recipients 30 members
 Face-to-face sessions	Phone meetings:	Number: 2
 Key stakeholder engagement	Meetings: Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee Off Road Cycling Stakeholder Group Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park Advisory Committee	Attendance: 4 8 10

1.3. Who responded²



² Demographic data was gathered by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail.

2. Background

The purpose of the Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy is to guide the provision of new and improved open spaces and outdoor recreation facilities across the Northern Beaches into the future,

The project's impact level one Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan was devised on a two-stage stage approach.

Stage one community engagement was conducted between December 2019 and March 2021 and provided Council with an opportunity to better understand the community's interaction with and needs relating to open spaces. It included:

- a Social Pinpoint mapping exercise on Your Say (13 December 2019 – 16 February 2020)
- an online off-road cycling survey (13 December 2019 – 16 February 2020)
- a random stratified recreation telephone survey (June 2020)
- targeted consultation with special interest groups (February 2020 to March 2021).

Stage one feedback helped shape the draft Let's Play! Northern Beaches Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan (Strategy).

This report outlines the results of Stage 2 community engagement, the public exhibition of the draft Strategy to understand level of support and suggestions from the community.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities
- provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way
- identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values
- Provide vulnerable and marginalised groups access to the engagement process (equity).

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the draft Let's Play Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan was conducted between 1 July 2022 and 14 August 2022.

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

An existing project page³ was updated on our Your Say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format. This included an executive summary, an Easy Read version of the draft Strategy and tiles linking straight to the proposed actions contained in the draft Strategy.

The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletter (EDM) channels and social media. An ad about the consultation was also included in a local newspaper.

Feedback was captured through an online submission form embedded onto the Your Say project page. The form included a question that directly asked respondents for their level of support on the draft Strategy.

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 and contact details for the project team provided.

Telephone bookings were offered should people want to speak directly with the project team and ask questions.

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 people with disability and youth. In addition to our regular channels, we included information about the consultation in our Disability Newsletter and posted about it on KALOF and Council's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) Facebook groups.

5. Findings

The majority of submissions were supportive of the draft Strategy or supportive with changes. Some specific feedback has been outlined in Table 1 below along with Council's response. The themes can be summarised as being in relation to following:

- Environmental protection, appreciation and enjoyment
- Needs of specific groups, e.g. off road cycling, horse riding, tennis, astronomy, walking
- Access and inclusion
- Requests for new and improved facilities
- Needs of older children and youth
- Maintenance, improvements and supporting facilities
- Concern about potential changes to Whitney Reserve, Mona Vale
- Requests for improvements at JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve

³ <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/open-space-and-recreation-strategy>

Table 1: Issues, change requests and other considerations

Topic	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Environmental protection	Support for protecting and preserving natural open space in the face of growing pressure from recreation and population growth	Environmental protection and values are reflected in the Principals of the Strategy and Local Strategic Planning Statement
	Support for greener spaces, more trees, increased tree canopy to reduce urban heat and to create a positive influence on improved mental health and wellbeing	A draft Tree Canopy Plan being developed
	Need to plan to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts such as increased extreme events, storms, rainfall, floods, coastal erosion and drought – to protect and improve the resilience of recreation spaces and facilities	Council has a number of documents that plan for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, including the: Environment and Climate Change Strategy; Climate Change Action Plan; Asset Management Plan; and Local Strategic Planning Statement
	Concern about the potential impact of population growth in Frenchs Forest on the Manly Dam catchment	The French Forest Precinct Plan identifies risks and ways to minimise potential impacts
New facilities	<p>Support / requests for new facilities, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional basketball courts in suitable locations, e.g. Belrose and Patanga Reserve in Frenchs Forest 2. Fitness equipment at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flying Fox Park - Reinstate fitness equipment at Frenchs Forest Showground - Passmore Reserve 3. Skate park at Griffith Park 4. Additional facilities at Lindsay Reserve, e.g. basketball, new playground, bike track, dog park 5. New playground at James Wheeler Place 6. Replace playgrounds at Freshwater Beach 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patanga Reserve has been added as a potential location for a future basketball hoop. Basketball is already proposed at Wyatt Ave and Lionel Watts 2. The inclusion of fitness equipment will be considered as park improvements are planned 3. The Griffith Park Plan of Management does not include provision for a skate park. All spaces are allocated to existing activities and facilities 4. To be considered as park improvements are planned 5. James Wheeler Place may be a suitable location for a future playground 6. Planning is underway to replace the playground behind Freshwater Surf Life Saving Club

Topic	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
	<p>7. More playgrounds in Davidson, e.g. MacFarlane so siblings have something to do while others play sport</p> <p>8. Request for more equipment at Bower Reserve, Manly</p> <p>9. Community Garden in Mona Vale Village Park</p> <p>10. New tables and benches near Forest Showground on corner of Glen St and Pringle Ave</p>	<p>7. The Belrose/ Davidson/ Frenchs Forest areas have a high number of playgrounds relative to other parts of the Northern Beaches. The focus is on improving existing playgrounds in this area rather than providing additional playgrounds</p> <p>8. To be considered when the playground is due for renewal</p> <p>9. Council is supportive of the community-led development of community gardens. Council has not received an application for a community garden at Village Park. Applications are assessed according to the Community Gardens Policy and Guidelines which are available on the website</p> <p>10. Council will look into providing additional tables and benches near the Forest Showground</p>
	<p>Objection to new playground at Condover due to concern that lots of visitors would be attracted to the quiet area</p>	<p>There are no playgrounds in the vicinity of Condover Reserve. Local level equipment is proposed to cater for immediate residents, e.g. a swing and/or slide. The scale of the playground would not attract people from outside the area</p>
Older children and Youth	<p>Support for providing play spaces and facilities for older children and youth and encouraging youth participation at existing facilities, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Bouldering equipment *Ninja style *Basketball *Bike parks 	<p>Potential opportunities for providing equipment for older children and young people will be considered as parks are upgraded, in particularly at District and Regional level playgrounds.</p> <p>There are a range of actions in the Strategy related to the provision of outdoor basketball and multiuse courts and outdoor bike parks and trails</p>
Access and inclusion	<p>Requests for braille and other languages in signs</p>	<p>This can be incorporated into open spaces and recreation facilities as warranted</p>

Topic	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
	Support for accessible facilities, beaches, pools, pathways, ramps, supported by accessible bathrooms	Further detail on inclusion projects can be found in the Northern Beaches Disability Inclusion Action Plan. Key funded projects are captured in the Delivery Program (budget)
	More wheelchair accessible park benches at Lionel Watts	Additional wheelchair accessible park benches will be considered for Lionel Watts and other parks
	Spaces for girls. Gender equity	Council will continue to consult inclusively with stakeholders including girls and women about proposed improvements to open spaces, new facilities and delivery of female and family friendly amenities Consultation with Council's Youth Advisory Committee is an important way of obtaining the views of young people including young women
	Provision of off-road wheelchairs for bush tracks	This could potentially be trialled at Stony Range
	Equitable use of space, considering amount of space for exclusive use, e.g. golf courses and beach volleyball	Council encourages shared use of spaces where feasible and many activities have seasonal variability of use. Golf clubs generally have lease arrangements
	Safe trails for seniors, away from bikes and skateboards	It is acknowledged that some trails are busier than others and there may be real or perceived safety concerns for some users
	Need to consider people working from home and foster opportunities for local incidental activity	To be considered during park design, including linkages and facilities
Connections and trails	Requests for - shared pathway around Dee Why Lagoon on Pittwater Road - connection between North Balgowlah/Seaforth to Manly - improve linkages in Mona Vale, e.g. make Cabbage Tree Rd to Winnererremy Bay a shared path	These requests are considered by the transport team through the development of the Bike Plan and Walk Plan

Topic	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - request for pedestrian crossing on Maxwell St so kids can walk/ride safely to the skate park – to get kids who live around Whitney Reserve to Kitchener Park safely 	
Off Road Cycling	Support for additional facilities, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - single track at Manly Dam and Deep Creek - Whitney Reserve bike park - bike parks generally - connections between Manly Dam and Garigal National Park mountain bike trails - request for more beginner to intermediate trails. Many trails are too technical on the Northern Beaches - more cross country style flow trails that aren't too technical - formalising Possums Trail in Bantry Bay Reserve 	The Strategy makes recommendations for new and improved off road cycling facilities at appropriate locations on Council owned and managed land where feasible. These projects will be implemented as funding and resources become available. Partnerships with other land managers are also being pursued
	Strategy falls short of meeting the demand for a mountain bike trail network that meets rider needs	
	Support for further community engagement and environmental reviews prior to implementation	Further community engagement and environmental reviews will be undertaken for individual trail projects as required on a case by case basis
	Concern about unauthorised trail building and environmental impacts, e.g. at Deep Creek	Unauthorised trail building has a significant environmental impact. By providing additional authorised off road cycling trails that better meet rider needs, it is anticipated that unauthorised trail building will decrease. Environmental reviews and trail audits have been undertaken in several areas to help guide decisions regarding which trails may be suitable to formalise and which should be closed. It is anticipated that any further new unauthorised trails built without Council approval will
	Objection to formalising illegally built trails	

Topic	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
		be closed as resources permit. The draft Strategy has been amended to make reference to this
	<p>Objections to formalising bike parks at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whitney Reserve (alternative locations suggested include near the Kitchener Park skatepark or near Winnererremy Bay) 2. North Narrabeen Reserve (suggest Boondah Reserve or near the Kitchener skate park instead) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is support from riders and parents for a bike play area to be retained and formalised at Whitney Reserve 2. There are some small existing jumps at North Narrabeen Reserve. Whether or not to retain them will be considered when the new Masterplan is developed. Boondah Reserve may be a suitable alternate location <p>1. & 2. There is insufficient space near the Kitchener Park skate park for a bike park due to the proximity of the sportsfield surrounds and the golf course grounds</p>
	<p>Objections to new bike parks at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seaforth Oval (1 objection) 2. Opposite Avalon Public School 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council resolution 285/20 (27 October 2020 Council meeting) commits to seeking a location for an advanced bike park in the Seaforth area in consultation with riders. There is strong support from riders for an intermediate to advanced bike park to complement the junior bike park at the Grove. There will be further community engagement regarding the design of the Seaforth Oval Bike Park. 2. Consideration will be given to relocating the proposed Avalon Bike Park to elsewhere in Avalon
	<p>Objection to any new trails at Manly Dam due to impact on biodiversity</p> <p>Objection to improvements and expansion of mountain biking at Manly Dam</p>	<p>Minor realignments may be implemented for improved safety and environmental outcomes where required and as permitted in the plan of management</p> <p>Trails will be maintained as required</p>

Topic	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
	Objections to formalising Nemesis and Quarry trails	<p>An audit of unauthorised off road cycling trails at Manly Dam found that the Nemesis trail provides an important safe linkage that allows bikes to avoid riding through the playspace and the carpark. The audit also found that the Quarry trail provides a high value technical trail for riders as an alternative to the predominately intermediate trail. The Quarry trail is largely constructed on rock which limits the likelihood of erosion and environmental damage.</p> <p>Both trails will be retained until they can be integrated into a future plan of management</p>
	Add improvements and realignments to the Allambie descent. This section has been heavily eroded by this year's rainfall and has issues with overland flow berms intended to protect adjacent properties.	This will be considered along with other necessary trail maintenance and improvements
	Objection and support for annual mountain biking event at Manly Dam	A one-off trial would assist with evaluating whether an annual event is suitable at this location
	Request for bike park near the Mona Vale skatepark	There is insufficient space near the Kitchener Park skate park for a bike park due to the proximity of the sportsfield surrounds and the golf course grounds
	Support more cross tenure partnerships with State Government	Partnerships with neighbouring land managers will continue as opportunities arise
	Bike facilities should be available for commercial training	Hiring of bike facilities for commercial use will be considered on a case by case basis
	Concern about conflict between walkers and mountain bikers on trails that used to just have walkers	Potential conflict between walkers and bike riders can be managed in part through signage, code of conduct guidelines, good line of sight on tracks and by people being generally mindful and respectful of each other

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	Need for more effective compliance to manage unauthorised trail building	It is agreed that unauthorised trail building is an ongoing issue. Compliance is difficult due to limited resources and the low likelihood of catching builders in the act of altering the environment such as removing vegetation.
	Need more education around the rider's code of conduct, e.g. not riding in the wet	Education occurs through a number of means such as via the website, on site signage, fact sheets, videos and is often self managed by other riders championing for the bush and encouraging others to do the right thing
	Concern that the Strategy appears to be written in favour of mountain bikers rather than for other bushland users such as walkers, bird watchers and wildlife photographers	It was important to address the growth in off road cycling and in particular the increase in unauthorised trail development. By providing new and improved trails to better meet rider needs it is anticipated that the prevalence in unauthorised trail development will decrease. At all times the use of a location for other social or recreational purposes was taken into consideration
Walking	Support for recognising high participating in walking and bushwalking as first and third highest participation rates in telephone survey	Noted
	Impacts from informal walking trails, e.g. from private homes to foreshore areas. This can lead to bushland fragmentation and encroachment	Recognition of this has been integrated into the Strategy
Horses	Request detailed analysis of horse riding needs	There is a potential for a future joint project with horse riding groups should there be a business case for it
	Need to protect unique and historic use of open space for horse riding, especially for children and future generations	Actions in the Strategy are aimed at maintaining and improving the horse riding facilities at JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial

Topic	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
	Council needs to protect use of JJ Melbourne Hills for horses and the important unique recreational offering and ensure the important aspect of the Terrey Hills character is not lost	Reserve. This includes the development of a recreation plan and implementation of recommendations of the cross country horse trail audit. Council will continue to discuss options for other improvements such as to the sand arena and the club house building and amenities. Acknowledgment of horse riding at other locations aside from Terrey Hills and Duffys Forest has been added to the Strategy, for example, Warriewood and the National Parks
	Multi-use facilities are good where appropriate but safety of horses and riders, in particular children, should be ensured. At JJ Melbourne Hills separate distinct areas are required, including fencing	
	Request improvements to the sand arena and the cross country horse trail at JJ Melbourne Hills. Bikes are causing ruts on the cross country horse trail	
	Concern the Strategy's focus on off road cycling has an overriding importance over other recreation activities such as horse riding, including in places such as JJ Melbourne Hills and across all catchments off the Northern Beaches. Concern about conflict with horses and bikes	
	Support for a new mountain bike trail head at JJ Melbourne Hills to separate bikes and horses and minimise conflict and prevent bike entry onto the cross country horse trail	Works on a new trail head are to be undertaken following completion of any necessary environmental reviews and approvals and when resources permit
	Objection to proposed dual-use of the cross country horse trail for horses and cyclo-cross riding rendering the track dangerous for use by horses	It is not intended that bikes and horses share the cross country trail simultaneously. Occasional bike use can be managed as a booking as required, e.g. for an event
	Request for some short bush tracks for horses in Duffy Forest, separated from bikes	Most of the bushland in Duffys Forest is National Park and doesn't fall under Council's jurisdiction
Whitney Reserve	Objection to sportsfields, lighting and subsequent increase in cars in the area affecting parking and	Whitney Reserve is a local level park. It is not intended to develop sportsfields with lighting at

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	noise. Desire to keep the park local and for passive use	Whitney Reserve. The Sportsground Strategy does not identify Whitney Reserve for sportsfields. The wording in the Strategy has been amended to clarify that lighting is not proposed for Whitney Reserve The basketball area will be maintained in line with the needs of the local community
	Objection to expanding the basketball facilities. Small and local is good	
	Requests to retain the local level play equipment at Marie Reserve rather than providing a larger alternate playground at Whitney Reserve	Council will continue to consult with community members over any potential changes in facility provision and take feedback into consideration prior to making a decision
	Support and objections to formalising dirt bike jumps	The Strategy identifies the potential to formalise the bike jumps at Whitney Reserve. Retaining the jumps would be dependent on monitoring and ensuring the scale remains small and safe and does not expand into other areas that would impede enjoyment of the park by others or cause unacceptable environmental damage
Trail bikes	Concern about environmental impacts of trail bike riding, e.g. Red Hill. Regulatory sign required	The majority of Red Hill does not fall under Council's jurisdiction and is out of scope of the Strategy
Tennis	Suggestion for a tennis-specific strategy	An action to develop a tennis specific strategy has been added to the Strategy
	Request to consider providing a regional level tennis facility on the Northern Beaches	Council is not a large scale tennis facility provider. This would likely need to be provided by a private entity
	Continue working with Tennis NSW on improvements to tennis facility management models and operations	Agreed. Council will continue to work with Tennis NSW
Astronomy	Improvements at JJ Melbourne Hills for astronomy activities, e.g.	Reference to lighting needs of astronomy activities have been added to the Strategy

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MP 16 recreation plan – add need to minimise light pollution and impacts on flora and fauna - dark night sky lighting based on light pollution study - toilet lights to be red lit - request for observatory to be included in the recreation plan, or elsewhere such as the Valet Trail (Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park) - improve the criterion track for road access – a circuit for entry and exit of astronomy participants - safer access/mown grass from observation area to toilets and storage needs 	Potential for an observatory and potential re-routing of the criterion track can be considered when the recreation plan is developed
Acknowledgment of less mainstream activities	Request for more attention to less mainstream activities, e.g. *trails bikes *rock climbing	Needs for less mainstream activities will be considered as on a case by case basis as required
Supporting facilities	Requests for: *more comfortable seating and picnic tables for relaxing and reading a book, rather than hard benches *free lockers at the beach *better showers at beaches *more taps in parks *BBQs and picnic tables at Freshwater Beach *shade for basketball courts *bins at playgrounds	To be considered for future park upgrades and improvements on a case by case basis
Maintenance and Improvements	Request for more frequent mowing	Council has recently done a review of the mowing services tender. The new tender includes the capability of increasing service frequency, subject to additional funding being available and existing council priorities
	Request to include the Masterplan for the Manly Beach to Shelly	Improvements have been completed. The development of a

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	Beach Walk as per Council resolution 30/2021	full Masterplan was not supported by Sydney Water
	Council's resolution 404/19 Part B to undertake a detailed feasibility study for the boardwalk/harbour pool reinstatement concept as part of the West Esplanade Activation Heritage Plan should also be included	This has been added to the Strategy and is dependent on a determination on the future use of the aquarium site prior to being actioned
	Consideration needs to be given to an enhanced scheduling and booking system, and layout of the beaches, in the same way as the management of sports fields, particularly at Manly Beach	Use of beaches for bookings and events considers other users in the vicinity such as surf clubs and the needs of the general community to also enjoy the space
	Request for Governor Phillip Park and Pittwater Park to be allocated a park hierarchy higher than Local	Governor Phillip Park and Pittwater Park were listed in the draft Strategy as District level parks. The Strategy has been amended to raise Governor Phillip Park to Regional level in recognition of it being a destination that attracts people from outside the area, including providing access to Barrenjoey Lighthouse in Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park and as the home of Summer Bay in the filming of Home and Away
Dogs	Support for more off-leash dog areas including parks and trails and spaces for all kinds of dogs, e.g. big dogs, small dogs and dogs with special needs	A Dogs in Public Places Policy will be developed and will include a review of current dog off-leash areas and opportunities for improvement
	Concern about noise from dogs in off-leash areas and the impact on neighbours and other recreational users	Some dog off-leash areas have timed access which reduces the likelihood that noise from dogs does not occur too early in the morning or late at night. Dog owners are required to manage their dogs to ensure limited impact on other park users and surrounding residents. Complaints to Council about non-compliance are referred to the Ranger team for investigation

Topic	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Road cycling	Various requests regarding improvements to road cycling	On road cycling is out of scope for this project and falls under the Bike Plan
Sportsgrounds	Various requests regarding sportsground use	Sportsground use is out of scope for this project and falls under the Sportsground Strategy

Appendix - Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

1. Online Your Say submissions

While it is pleasing to see the huge demand for mountain bike facilities acknowledged in this plan, it sadly falls short of delivering what the majority of the MTB population are requesting. There is a longstanding disconnect between supply and demand. What needs to be prioritised is a trail network rather than the "easy wins" of "pocket parks" and pump tracks. The vast majority of riders are looking to do a ride of some length (30 to 90 mins) and that gives them an experience in nature. MTB themed "playgrounds" such as the fantastic facility that is Bare Creek, only cater to a small minority of those who ride MTB.

The Mayor promised action, and action is urgently required. Much of the consultation work (indigenous and environmental) has been done but then gets sat on for too long. It is not reasonable to expect the mountain bike community to trust in Council's planning process as too much has been promised and virtually nothing delivered. I do not condone unsanctioned trail building but it is evident that this will continue as demand continues to grow without the need for trails being met. Council's lack of management of its one MTB facility, the Manly Dam MTB track, has unfortunately led to riders disregarding closure notices as they are poorly actioned not to mention a lack of faith in Council (given previous history) acting upon its commitment to upgrading the track.

I'm concerned about the community engagement process for any proposed MTB facilities. In the case of The Grove, it's a widely known fact that the final design was dictated by local residents who were not the user group rather than taking into account the opinions of the majority of the working group. The result is a park that does not meet the brief of upgrading The Grove to a usable standard for the current user group. This cannot be allowed to happen again.

Additionally, I request that Council allows exclusive use of any MTB trail or park to MTB instructors, which they are currently not able to do. If Council is proposing to build facilities such as MTB pocket parks, which are essentially a training facility, then these should be available to be booked for those wishing to upskill with a professional coach. If exclusive use is not possible, then at least some use of the facility, as in the case of Bare Creek, where MTB coaching is not permitted by Council – which is a flawed policy given the nature of the park being able to provide progression in a safe, well maintained, and controlled environment.

*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.

I am concerned at the focus on providing more man made play structures which seems to be box ticking rather than responding to actual need. There are so many natural settings for play in the LGA and your own report states:

“Overall, engagement activities confirmed that residents value and appreciate:

- a diversity of recreation opportunities
- access to nature
- environmental sustainability
- wellbeing benefits and
- proximity to open spaces, nature and views.”

I can't comment on the proposed locations for the other 6 playgrounds, but the plan for a children's playground at Condoover Reserve in North Balgowlah is something I strongly disagree with. This is a beautiful natural setting and is regularly used by dog walkers, people enjoying a quiet place to sit, and children playing ball games. There is only one road into that location and traffic and parking will become dangerous for both visitors and locals. Not to mention the noise bouncing off the natural amphitheatre walls ruining what is currently a tranquil facility where one can enjoy being in nature. There is no natural shade available so more man made structures would be needed in addition to the actual playground. There is surely a better area for a playground which would be closer to a population that actually needs it, i.e. a suburb that has higher density living than North Balgowlah. The report states “While considering the differing needs and interests of residents living in each catchment, there is an opportunity to focus playground upgrades in areas that service a large number of people, while ensuring continued provision in areas with barriers to walkability (e.g. main roads or steep hills) and where alternate recreation opportunities are limited.” North Balgowlah does not fit this criteria.

Having been involved with the community consultation sessions for a mountain bike plan over the past decade, I can say I'm generally happy with the proposed outcomes in this plan. What needs to be prioritised is a trail network rather than the "easy wins" of "pocket parks" and pump tracks. The vast majority of riders are looking to do a ride of some length (30 to 90 mins) and that gives them an experience in nature. Do not treat this sport as an amusement, that can be satisfied by MTB themed "playgrounds".

With my outlook of seeing a good 20 years of inaction on managing the demand for MTB trails and facilities that the timelines set out for project management by Northern Beaches Council are painfully slow. Action is required now and much of the consultation work (indigenous and environmental) has been done but then gets sat on for too long. Get cracking please!

I really like the plans for walking opportunities, especially that allow people to take in our majestic coastlines.

One particular plan I disagree with is the plan for a children's playground at Condoover Reserve in Balgowlah. The addition of a man made play structure in a lovely natural setting is not sympathetic to the environment or the natural outlook that residents enjoy in that locality. Also there's only one road in to that location, so traffic and parking will become chaotic and dangerous the visitors and locals alike.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

NSAS supports the strategy and has made additional suggestions where we believe that NSAS can provide further insight and support to Council achieving the objectives of the Strategy.

I support the council in addressing the need for additional mountain biking facilities but feel Council should be looking to provide more single track tracks in Narrabeen and at Manly Dam to cater for the very broad demographic of mountain bike riders that enjoy nature and being on single track tracks. I also support the skills/jumps parks where the land opportunities are not appropriate for single track loops, but there is a need to provide local facilities for the youth and broader community.

I wish to address the issue of mountain bike tracks in Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park.

Firstly I note from your report the following:

"What the community value and appreciate
Access to nature

Consultation participants indicated they greatly appreciate the natural areas in the LGA, noting that these areas provide peaceful spaces to relax, observe wildlife and connect with nature in an otherwise urban environment.

Environmental sustainability

A common thread through all community consultation was the desire to protect, preserve and use the LGA's natural open space assets in a sustainable way. People valued the existing habitats and wildlife across the LGA's open space network and wanted to see it protected for future generations.

Protect conservation areas and practice sustainable use

Consultation indicated the community highly value natural areas for their conservation role. Some suggested that these areas, particularly at Lakeside Reserve, Nolan Reserve and Manly Dam, should be protected further by increasing conservation areas and restricting the development of hard infrastructure (e.g. courts, cycle paths). "

Manly Warringah War Memorial Park was set aside as a living memorial for quiet contemplation, protection of the environment and for people's enjoyment. The concept of the mountain bike tracks was implemented for families to be able to ride bikes through the bushland and enjoy and appreciate it. It is now been allowed to develop into a racing track for "experienced" riders.

A large proportion of the money council spends on Manly Dam is for the upkeep of existing tracks, some of which are suffering from erosion through misuse. Surely this should be the priority rather than spending money on adding more tracks.

It is a bad sign to send to the public, to legalise tracks that have been illegally carved through the bushland. It says "if you build illegal tracks they will be legalised eventually". This is no way for a responsible custodian to deal with its responsibility.

As a wildlife carer, I have particular interest in the fauna, much of which I have come in contact with over the years in a rescue capacity. New tracks will cause more dislocation of the vulnerable wildlife living in the area, by carving more thoroughfares through areas where they now live and breed in peace.

We live in a wonderfully relaxed area. There are beaches, reserves, bush trails and fields for team sports. If people want it to be different they should considering living where facilities are more structured, more controlled and more sanitised. I truly believe Council needs to focus on roads, footpaths and rubbish. Then, when that's all sorted, and if there is money, we can look at other things. Support the people who live locally. People in close proximity should carry a greater weight in this than others. Even others from broader parts of the LGA. At some point the people will rise and demand the basics be done first.

Feedback re Whitney Reserve

1. Whitney reserve sits between Whitney Street and Suzanne Road, both very quiet streets attracting low traffic numbers creating a quiet and peaceful amenity for the community.
2. Most local residents are attracted to this area because of this amenity and do not want to see this change. Increased traffic to this location would be seen as highly offensive, not in the interests of the community and not called for.
3. Whitney Reserve is ringed by significant gum trees and fig trees These trees take most of the space at the reserve and contribute to the amenity of the area.
4. The park is ideally suited as a passive recreation area, where a diverse range of activities takes place in an informal way which the community values.
4. Families walk here, dogs play, people exercise, families and community groups have picnics, sporting groups gather for informal play and training, yoga teachers practice without interference from council, teenagers play hoops, people ride bikes, trbojevic brothers play cricket and practiced footy skills for years right here just like so many other youngster are doing today.. Cricket is played annually and sometimes more often as the community celebrates Australia Day .
5. No one group ever owned the park, it was always shared in many different ways.
6. Lights would not be well received by the community nor would the installation of any courts that indicate that the park gets given to an exclusive community group or activity that overrides other opportunity for passive recreation
7. Its green recreation space, and the community already knows how to use this space and is doing so.
8. A clear no to any type of development for Whitney Reserve.
9. Maintain Whitney reserve a a passive recreation space!!

Whitney Reserve can not facilitate this strategy.

<p>This would benefit local residents and others travelling afar. It also means we can maximise usage with the installation of lights. Great Idea.</p>
<p>Regarding the playing field in Whitney St, Mona Vale, we strongly object! This will impact the surrounding streets, taking up valuable street parking from private residences. We are in *****, and find with growing families, street parking is already packed. I find it disturbing that there was no notification to surrounding residents of this plan, and it was not easy to find on your website. It seems there was a deliberate strategy by the council to have this hidden to residents.</p>
<p>Turning Whitney Reserve into a sports field with lights will be a disaster for local residents. We will suffer noise, lights, traffic, parking chaos, car doors slamming late at night, cars parked across driveways, Whitney Street just can't cope with this.</p>
<p>There is no infrastructure at Whitney Reserve. Parking is hard enough. Lots of native wildlife will be impacted</p>
<p>I am particularly concerned about Whitney Reserve in Mona Vale being flagged as a potential for basketball or other sporting facilities. The park is surrounded by small streets and houses fronting directly onto the reserve. Suzanne road is a no through road so additional traffic would be totally inappropriate as would lighting in the park that would directly affect local homes. Whitney Reserve could well be utilised as a community garden and open space for families to enjoy from the neighbourhood community who are within walking distance, thereby not creating any traffic congestion, noise or lights disturbing the serenity of the area. I is also ok for open space to be available simply as open space to enjoy the serenity, we don't need to utilise every open space for other activities.</p>
<p>Leave "open spaces" to be open spaces. You don't have to build tennis courts, or skate parks or sporting fields, please allow these spaces to stay open for the whole community to enjoy. Especially don't allow lighting to infringe on neighbours close by during the evening, not to mention the parking.</p>
<p>I appreciate the need for open spaces and sporting facilities for our community However I oppose the idea of using Whitney reserve Mona Vale as a suitable site for sporting fields. The reserve is a well used green open space in a residential area surrounded by family homes. The park is used by numerous children riding bicycles, playing cricket etc...The reserve has lovely shady trees and wonderful bird life. The other major concern is the availability of parking. The local streets around the reserve are already congested with numerous unused boats, trailers and caravans and wouldn't be able to cope with the extra traffic. I believe there are more suitable options such as school grounds or reserves which have the amenities and parking</p>
<p>No formal football fields in Whitney Reserve.</p>
<p>Hi, I live in Manly Vale and I'm a keen mountain biker I'm happy with the draft plans. I think supporting an annual race at Manly Dam is a fantastic idea. It's also good to see a number of trails being formalised whilst it is understandable that others need to be closed. It's impossible to keep all stakeholders completely happy but I think this is a very balanced proposal for bikers, walkers and conservation.</p> <p>Thanks</p>
<p>I oppose larger basketball courts and lighting at Whitney Reserve in Mona Vale as it will encourage teens to congregate there at night. The park is in very close proximity to houses and</p>

the noise will echo through the area and spoil the serenity. There isn't adequate parking for this facility and there is already a fantastic new basketball court facility based in Warriewood.

Whitney reserve is too residential to turn into sports fields. There is not enough parking and Samuel st is busy enough and dangerous enough without adding extra traffic. Plus the lighting and noise will be awful for all the houses surrounding it.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Whitney Reserve

First of all, your lack of exposure for this proposed venture is outrageous. We are ratepayers. You have a duty to write to each resident in the area of Whitney Reserve to advise residents of any proposal as you have done with the good news of our Jeannette Avenue and Marie Crescent road resurfacing.

I have asked a few neighbours and nobody has received any correspondence regarding this Outdoor Recreation proposal. Also, now that we do know, you have not given enough time for everyone to respond.

Your lack of correspondence is extremely frustrating. Your proposal would impact on every resident in the streets surrounding the area of Whitney Reserve, regarding parking, noise, pollution etc. This would also have a negative impact on our wildlife.

To answer your question: Do you support the draft Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy? NO, I DO NOT.

My comments:

Comments on the Northern Beaches Open Spaces and Outdoor Recreation

Several aspects of this plan would have significant negative impacts on the amenity, environment, parking and real estate value of ourselves and other residents of *****, Mona Vale.

The detail of very major changes is hidden in the small print of the plan leading us to believe that the Council hopes to bring in major changes without adequate consultation with affected residents.

The existing uses of both Whitney Reserve and Marie Reserve provide valuable green space and contribute to the healthy and relaxed environment of the area. We should not be doing anything that reduces the area of our low-usage green space. It provides a major contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

The proposals that give us particular concern are within the "Growth and Gaps" section and are: GG17 Provide additional basketball facilities at appropriate locations as parks are reviewed for improvement to better meet need. These may vary from quarter courts to full size and may include some lighting depending on need, available space and compatibility with other use and users and impact on residents.

Potential locations include: • Whitney Reserve, Mona Vale
and

GG15 Reserves where play equipment is ageing and future use could be discussed with residents includes (but is not limited to):

- In the vicinity of Whitney Reserve, Mona Vale

(We believe this refers to Marie Reserve in Marie Crescent.)

The reasons why we believe these proposals are inappropriate for our area are:

GG17

1. Formalised basketball courts or playing fields for other sports, will cause significant parking

problems for residents in all the nearby streets, including Marie Crescent, when either games or training are on. (Marie Crescent is just a 30 second walk from Whitney Reserve through the right of way to Susanne Road.)

2. Facility Lighting will cause light pollution issues for adjacent residents.
3. Public attendance at such playing facilities will cause noise and traffic pollution.
4. The above consequences will reduce the value of our real estate.

GG15

1. The small playground within Marie Reserve is currently used extensively by mothers and their children from nearby streets who can access the playground without having to use a motor vehicle.

2. The playground facilities in Marie Reserve are not old as they were replaced just a couple of years ago.

3. We suspect that this is another attempt to have Marie Reserve designated as a community garden area as such a proposal is mentioned generally elsewhere in the plan. A similar proposal was rejected previously by the nearby residents as it would have significant impact on parking, available amenity and security of the area.

I would like to see proposed changes to the use of Whitney Reserve removed from the plan.

This submission is made for & on behalf of the Greater Manly Resident's Forum Community Group. (GMRF)

We are staggered to read that only 22% of the 12 - 20 year age group are physically active, however that is defined.

We suggest that to increase participation, NBC appoint youth community officers, young people that can relate, to set a programme & motivate young people to get involved. GMRF supports NBC spending money to put this in place.

We are amazed at the participation of walking / dog walking. NBC is under pressure to find more off leash areas for dog walking and are actively investigating areas such as North Palm Beach & Mona Vale. As our comments are confined to the Manly catchment, GMRF suggests that the off leash dog walking area at Lagoon Reserve be extended to continue under the bridge at the east end of the park and utilise a portion of the north end of Queenscliff beach for off leash dog exercise - say a theoretical line from the northern edge of the surf club to waters edge.

GMRF supports the proposal for more basketball / half courts having regard for possible locations that do not disturb residential amenity. Perhaps to better utilise surf club recreation areas & community halls as an indoor basketball court for younger participants.

Whilst on the subject of better utilising the existing community indoor facilities, GMRF suggests more programmes for fitness related activities, yoga, stretching, dancing, martial arts and so on.

In relation to outdoor play / activity areas, GMRF acknowledges the point that the 5 - 12 year are better catered for than the 12- 16 year age group, apart from the skate parks. We can only encourage the concept and hope NBC will take up our suggestion for Community youth workers to develop ideas for the 12 - 16 age group.

Also on the theme of utilising the existing community indoor facilities GMRF believes these facilities can be used for day time, (weekend & school holidays), concerts and other forms of art via the promotion of local talent.

GMRF also encourages, via youth community officers, more opportunity for participation in sport and better utilise the existing facilities including playing fields, tennis courts and golf courses. Balgowlah golf course is an excellent course for young people to learn the game - a game for life.

GMRF supports the investigation of finding suitable areas that will not do environmental damage to facilitate off road cycling - perhaps North Head, Manly Dam and Forestville park on the western side of the Wakehurst Parkway.

GMRF encourages the initiative to motivate the youth and hope that our suggestions are helpful.

Whitney Reserve Mona Vale is a natural haven for numerous species of wild life, including Dacelo (kookaburra), Intellagama lesueuri (waterdragon) and A.lathamii (brushturkey) as well as numerous frog and lizard communities.

The roads around this reserve are incapable of servicing the increased number of vehicles a development which is proposed would attract, both in condition and overall width.

Parking around the reserve, even if a car park is installed on site, would not be acceptable as at weekends there would be an overlap of fixtures causing double the amount of traffic and pedestrians in a relatively quiet neighbourhood.

In reality the age demographic of the area is not at all appropriate for such an amenity.

As very recent residents of ***** Mona Vale we are most definitely opposed to any restructure of Whitney Reserve.

Yours faithfully

Please see enclosed file

It's a small park no toilets blocks please

Surely there should be no new mountain tracks built at Manly Dam- especially when the current circuit track is so badly eroded and desperately in need of maintenance and funding. It is currently damaging to the environment and unsafe. Why not pledge to finance its rehabilitation before embarking on new intrusions? Manly Warringah War Memorial Park is such a special area of native wildness so close to suburbia. But there seems to be a constant push by Council to create more and more "infrastructure" there which -will obviously have negative impacts on vulnerable species. Ecologists say that fragmentation of bushland is the greatest threat to biodiversity. Unfortunately Council has no recovery plans in place for threatened wildlife (such as the Eastern Pygmy Possum) but seems able to finance intrusive pathways which will degrade their habitat. Incidentally all other sports have to pay for the privilege of using Council grounds. Mountain Bikers don't, yet new purpose-built facilities are provided for them at Bare Creek, Wyatt Ave etc. There is also a specially made track at Garigal National Park. Some funds from the Manly Dam budget, I believe, get diverted to cater for Mountain Bike related demands (even though most bikers are from outside the Council area) . This means that other areas in need such as bush regeneration presumably suffer the consequences. It is especially depressing to see illegally built tracks which have been created by vandalising bushland being favourably considered for "formalisation".

I am not in favour of 'improvements' to Manly-Warringah War Memorial Park (Manly Dam) for recreational mountain biking as outlined in the Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan.

Manly Dam is only 10km from Sydney CBD but being the original water supply catchment for Manly has prevented widespread disturbance.

The Manly Dam Biodiversity Project has recorded 1124 species of plants recorded within Manly Dam, 38 mammals including the Eastern Pygmy Possum and five other threatened species, 172 species of birds including migratory birds and two threatened bird species.

This is one of the best preserved area of natural bushland in the Warringah area of the Northern Beaches but Manly Dam has long been designated a recreational area when it really should have always had conservation as its main priority.

Manly-Warringah War Memorial Park only became a recreational mountain bike area due to the pressure of illegal mountain bike use in the late 1980s and so the decision was made in the early 1990s to cater to this new recreational activity.

Mountain biking activity should have been re-located to to a less pristine area where infrastructure additions, erosion, re-surfacing of tracks, and irreparable disturbance to the the ancient rock and soil strata (e.g. by the creation of 'jumps' in illegally cleared tracks) which currently occurs would be far less detrimental to the finely-tuned ecological processes in Manly Dam's bushland.

Rock outcrops and Hanging Swamps in Manly Dam have been damaged, even by approved mountain bike tracks. Even the re-surfacing of tracks with the addition of sand or even hard surfaces to facilitate mountain bikes is detrimental in such a pristine area. Sand washes off the track into adjoining bushland areas changing the natural surface area, adding nutrients and facilitating exotic weed invasion. In short one of the best places to experience nature continues to be compromised by this recreational activity. More tracks, better linkages and other additions in a natural bushland area are not the solution.

Manly-Warringah War Memorial Park in its natural state is not just 'open space' or another suburban park - it is a gem of the Northern Beaches and it's integrity should not be sacrificed to further 'improve' recreational mountain biking. A more appropriate area for this activity needs to be found and nature preservation, non-motorised boating and bushwalking should become the main priority of this living War Memorial Park.

Dear Northern Beaches Council,

I am a resident / owner at ***** Mona Vale and would like to provide a submission against the proposed changes to the Whitney St Reserve.

During COVID lockdowns, understandably there was a vast increase in the use of the reserve, particularly children through to teenagers and more than occasionally older young adults in late teens to early 20's.

The bike jumps were particularly popular, and whilst I understand the riders wishing to build these, it definitely created many negative impacts for the families who used the reserve, and the residents living around it.

I understand the council would like to formalise the jumps to reduce conflict between residents and riders, but I feel the location of these facilities is inappropriate. The lower area of the reserve where the jumps have been built previously is closely surrounded by houses on 3 sides. Extra

noise and anti-social behaviour, significantly increased rubbish dumped on the reserve and into the adjoining creek were quite out of hand at times when the riders had to abide but the lockdown rules. Were these jumps formalised, the majority of these problems would quickly return.

Also the secluded area of the lower reserve makes it difficult to see from the street etc. and I'm sure would be a haven for younger adults who think they couldn't be seen, to continue anti-social behaviour (underage drinking, smoking etc.)

If the jumps were to be built on the main reserve it would significantly impact the open space many families use to play ball games etc. on the upper area.

The opposite side of the field, next to "The Grange" would be possible, however this would then be unfair to all of the houses who are right next to this part of the reserve.

I do feel that it would be a great thing to have a bike park similar to something like a smaller version of Mona Vale skate park, however Whitney Reserve is not the location for such a facility.

In regards to the possible "upgrade" perhaps increased lighting etc. would be required again negatively affecting the residents who live on the edge of the reserve.

In summary:

- * The only place bike jumps could be located would be in the middle of the reserve, which would mean it could not be used by families etc. which is its primary purpose.

- * I would be concerned if the jumps are formalised it would nullify residents' ability to put in a complaint when things get out of hand. Which they did during lockdown.

- * A lot more traffic and a lot more noise as well as longer hours of both.

- * Less (if any) space to use the park as we currently do.

- * Increase in rubbish, pollution of the creek and anti-social behaviour.

Thank you for your time,

Regards,

I congratulate Council on a thoughtful and well-considered Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan. However, there is one serious omission. I am concerned about the impact of dog-walking and off-leash areas on other users of nearby areas. Searching the document showed 39 appearances of the word 'Dog[s]', relating to the provision of quality spaces for people to enjoy time outdoors with their dogs. However, there is only one mention of 'noise' and that refers to the importance of green spaces. I can find no mention of barking. My experience of dogs on or near beaches is that the sound of barking travels far and is a major nuisance to people well outside the allocated dog area. I think assessment and consideration of this should be an important part of the information Council collect to guide where and how dog-parks/areas should be permitted.

Northern Beaches Council has well thought out strategies [e.g. <https://help.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/s/article/Barking-Dog>] to minimise the nuisance of barking of neighbours' dogs. The same consideration needs to apply to the issue of noise from dog-parks disturbing users of other open spaces nearby. The difference is that it will be difficult to control dog barking in open spaces. Therefore, there should be detailed assessment of the impact of the noise on surrounding areas, and in particular areas where sound travels, such as beaches. That extra information needs to guide decisions about where dogs will be allowed.

This document is mainly about YOUR decision to legalise illegal bike tracks in bush reserves. Seeing as all these 'Have Your Say' consults are merely tick a box announcements of this council's plans - and that so many no longer bother; why are you persisting with them at all? Many people are OPPOSED to any scheme you present which will further accelerate the decline of these reserve and bush areas and impact on wildlife. It is time you took your responsibilities to all residents rather than acceding to the lobbying of groups who only have their own interests in mind.

I am deeply concerned that the fragile ecosystem at Manly Dam is going to be adversely affected by the plans. The proposed walkways and cycle ways are going to place the endangered bushland in the area under even more pressure. Manly Dam is home to a number of endangered species, both plant and animal, and I strongly feel the remaining bushland needs to be protected and preserved. There are already illegal tracks created by mountain bikers that have caused untold damage. I would prefer to see this damaged bushland restored.

I walk around Manly Dam often, and being on the current bike trail is a hazard. I can't tell you the number of near misses. The current trails are in disrepair, the amount of rain we have had left the trails in urgent need of maintenance. I am not sure why you would consider creating more trails when the current ones are not being maintained and are a danger to the people who use the tracks.

We live ***** Whitney Reserve and have been there for over 13 years raising our family. We are of the very strong opinion that the proposed changes to Whitney Reserve, set out below in summary

1. Formalising bike jumps in Whitney Reserve
2. Getting rid of the little parks in the area and redirecting all people to Whitney Reserve
3. Considering Whitney Reserve as a possible spot for sport courts, facilities, playgrounds and lighting

with regards to the Councils proposed change of use would have a significant negative impact on our homes and lifestyles. If all or any of the above occur, we can at a minimum expect:

1. A lot more traffic

2. A lot more noise
3. Longer hours of both of the above
4. Less (if any) space to use the park as we currently do.
5. Increase in rubbish and anti-social behaviour
6. Reduction in the value of our property due to the street becoming less desirable and our views or vistas being impacted.

And more - all this after just living through significant disruption with mona vale road on our doorsteps.

Our position is that Whitney Street isn't a suitable arterial road for increased traffic and parked cars. In fact it struggles now with traffic (especially with people using it as a quick 'rat run' and parking. Our homes, many filled with families, are too close to the park to not be impacted by increased noise, behaviour and rubbish. In fact those on the Grange have their boundary's adjacent to the Park. We are lead to believe that when this area was being redeveloped and these homes built that it was part of the homeowners agreement that they they had to pay a contribution towards the Reserve and that it was always to be 'open space'. We certainly bought our home with the knowledge that whitney reserve was to be green space.

On point 1, We do not want to formalise bike jumps to prevent conflict between residents and riders. Those bike jumps were built in an unusual period. They have NOT been used since. We DO NOT want them back. There is significant risks to human health, not to mention the aesthetics and noise of the park of what 'reinstating' these jumps (which is something that doesn't currently exist) would do. The quiet enjoyment of my home would destroyed as will many others. They have perfectly good facilities at Mona Vale, and Terrey Hills for this kind of activity.

Further, it leave residents with an inability to put in a complaint if things get out of hand. Which they did during lockdown. They will use this area like a mountain bike park, it causes significant damage to the area, and with the road so close there is bound to be further injuries (we have already have had 2 and countless near misses - especially with the increased traffic. It will not be just be local young kids who will use this area. Lockdown showed us that many kids were driven here and dropped off, and that bigger kids soon came and bullied the little kids out. There was also remote-control car and motorbikes at one point. The Rubbish and damage is still there - 2 years later.

On point 3, We would like to see the council put in writing that they won't rezone the park. The Park can support sports facilities and lighting and so forth, to do this the Council will have to look at toilets, bins, increased parking and fencing, security and more.

We all know that these types of facilities may draw undesirables and bad behaviour.

If any of these steps are taken to change Whitney Reserve from what is currently is, you can expect that the impacted homeowners will fight this and would be looking for significant compensation. Further, it is beyond disappointing that the Council have not reached out directly to those homeowners in Whitney Street, the Grange, Suzanne and other homes that are adjacent to the park to get their opinion and buy in.

We ask that Whitney Reserve to be removed altogether from section GG 17 of the draft document proposals. It shouldn't be considered for these purposes due to the proximity of residents and the quiet nature of the street and the impact on the value and vistas of the homes. Everyone loves it just the way it is.

Regarding Whitney Reserve in Mona Vale, as a resident of the area residing on Whitney Street myself, I'm concerned about the wording on page 62 of the Strategy that infers that when smaller local play ground facilities reach end of life they should be relocated to Whitney Reserve. Whitney Reserve is a very quiet, low density residential area and should not become a central hub for playground use or sports club training. It is one of the only places east of Pittwater Road that you can kick a football with your kids, and if the existing open space starts to get filled up with play equipment it will change the dynamic of the area significantly as happened with the Rocket Ship Park in Warriewood, where originally there was nothing other than open space, later playgrounds were introduced and soon after there bins and public toilets were needed leading to litter problems, vandalism and anti-social behaviour at night time when there was none in the past.

Open spaces such as this should be preserved as local assets, not turned into regional hubs or used ways for Council to save costs on their obligations to renew existing assets that have existed for years in other locations. Once they are gone, they will never return.

Quite simply, in favour of:

- formalising bike jumps in the park that have been there for years
- some work to improve basketball half court when it's required (even though it isn't necessary now)

Given their likelihood to significantly change the dynamic of the area, very much opposed to:

- any lighting in the reserve
- any use of the park for sports club training or games due to impact on public using the park for general relaxation and recreation (ie, I can't kick a ball in the park when there are clubs training in the middle of it), and also the significant impact on traffic and parking
- any playground equipment being erected in the park, as there is a regional park already at Warriewood and several existing parks with play equipment nearby that should be maintained, not removed and consolidated in a hub
- any significant increase to the size of the basketball courts.

Can we have some tables and benches in the area of the Frenchs Forest Showground near the corner of Glen St and Pringle Ave? Is the exercise equipment coming back?

Mountain bike tracks destroy the bushland, the riders have no respect for native flora and fauna. Manly dam doesn't need anymore disturbance or construction!!!

I would like to see more mountain bike trails at Manly Dam please. This is one of the most popular trails in Sydney but it is a mix of trail, road, footpath, etc. It would be great to have a consistent trail separated from motor vehicles and trail options so it is not always one continuous loop.

Thank you

It has identified Manly Warringah War Memorial Park as having "potential" for new mountain bike trails whilst conceivably "formalising" some of the illegally created ones. Meanwhile the current mountain bike circuit (to quote an MB rep) "is in an appalling condition, that is now harming the environment and is dangerous for users". We strongly endorse their call for funding to fix the serious erosion problems. But why would Council propose yet more trails when this one isn't even properly maintained? Surveys for the recent Manly Dam Biodiversity project revealed that an incredible variety of flora and fauna rely on this area for habitat. The ecologists involved, emphasised that the greatest threat to the survival of birds and mammals is bushland fragmentation. Please keep Manly Dam Wild.

Whitney Reserve has been mention to create playing fields and a bike jump. This is unsuitable as it was never intentioned to be used for this purpose. So for the following I believe

1. Jumps as is should be in not formalised.
2. Need retention of small parks in the neighbourhood as mini parks for children in the area.
3. Remove Whitney Reserve from GG17 as it's not a viable location to attract out of area users by adding sports facilities , lighting or playgrounds.

As an original owner who helped develop Whitney Reserve by paying for the landscaping which now exists on the park and assured by council that it would be kept as a small park. the proposals are totally unviable for this small street. It should be retained as a small park for the neighbourhood to enjoy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I have 2 topics that I'd like to raise.

Topic 1: I'd like to pick-up on the objective: "We will create more play areas for older children". Firstly, I'll clarify that I absolutely agree with this sentiment. My comment relates to how this is achieved. To place my feedback into context: I'm a mum of an 8yo and a 3yo. The age gap has proved challenging when I want to take them together to enjoy an outdoor space. Many of our playgrounds are really only suited to younger kids . Flying Fox Park is an example of this. Rocket Ship Park in Warriewood has a little more variety but is still limited for older kids. My experience is that I have one very happy pre-schooler but a quickly-bored 8yo. So, my request is for you to consider how to create playgrounds or play-spaces that suit a broader range of ages. As you consider how to create spaces for older kids, please think about placing them alongside spaces for toddlers/pre-schoolers. As an example of where I've seen this done well, I can suggest looking at Oddies Creek Park in Albury, NSW. This space is entirely fenced and includes a fabulous bouldering apparatus (as well as climbing pyramid and long, flying fox) for the older kids. I would also like to suggest that you particularly consider 'Ninja Warrior' style equipment for the older kids. We do have some wonderful skate and bike parks & opportunities. However, many tweenagers & teenagers are 'into' Ninja Warrior. A Ninja Warrior-style set-up might include long runs of monkey bars (possibly undulating up and down) and other hand-holds (like 'monkey fists') as well as foot pads to leap from one to the other. An example of such a set-up can be found in Sir Roden Cutler Park in Dubbo (this one is aimed at older teens and adults). Ninja Warrior-style parks don't require that kids have any special equipment (like scooters, skateboards and bikes) making them accessible to more kids. This also reduces the hazards for incorporating into or next to parks for preschoolers and younger kids.

Topic 2: Water play

With respect to the objectives: "Make new spaces that people can do lots of different things in" and "We will add playgrounds in areas that need them most", again I'm in complete support. I would like to add some thoughts as to how this is achieved. We have magnificent beaches and the option of open ocean, ocean pools & sheltered water such as Pittwater and Narrabeen Lagoon. However, as the mum of a 3yo, I'm sometimes looking for water play options that are 'low risk'. Water play parks are hugely popular with kids of a broad age range. However, we really don't have any of these in the upper northern beaches. I've found myself travelling to Home Bush, Ryde and Darling Harbour so that my kids can enjoy a water park. I'd love to see us create some of these locally. In my experience, the water jets (coming from the ground) are fabulous fun for kids under 10yo. Similarly, they love playing with 'water runs' where water can be diverted and directed to run along channels or blocked with sand etc. These are such great options for warmer weather!

Please find my feedback in the attached document.

Great ideas. Make sure you use as much solar power as possible on any of Council's buildings, and include braille and other languages on signage.

Purely in regards to Whitney Reserve, Mona Vale we do not support the recommended actions as follows;

Code GG15 Play equipment

Code GG17 Additional basketball facilities (quarter to full size courts with possible lighting)

Code LL47 Junior to Intermediate bike dirt jumps. (a helicopter had to land in this park to take an injured bike jumper to hospital a few years ago. Please keep this in mind if intending to install bike jumps here)

The park with its open space and mature trees is currently very well used by the young and not so young alike without the necessity of equipment or further development.

Over the past few years a Brush Turkey has built a very impressive nest amongst a stand of trees. He is a welcome site again this year.

We often see an impromptu footy or soccer game happening and a few times a coach will bring a team to train here as their training field has flooded.

Many people picnic here and some also exercise here with their friends or trainer.

With playground equipment or development, these activities would most likely cease and also cause additional costs and maintenance to council which we feel is not justified.

This is a wonderful initiative to improve our local play areas for the community. May I please ask that Beverly job playground in Narraweena be looked at. In comparison to other playgrounds within suburbs that Neighbour Narraweena, it appears to be in poor condition and in need of more play equipment. Narraweena is full of young families who would really appreciate a more up-to-date playground and playspace. Please consider revitalising this park. Much appreciated.

-Meet with school stakeholders (e.g.local Principals, Health Promotion, DoE) to discuss and plan shared access of school grounds as well as school access to Council facilities and input into nearby park upgrades.

-Incorporate more evidence-based 'nature play' design features where possible, using the experience of current 'nature play' playgrounds that challenge and connect with nature.

-Plan for flood mitigation of recreational areas especially parks and sports fields.

-Minimise the use of artificial grass: Children do more high intensity activity on real grass and it is an accredited soft fall material, artificial grass creates a heat island effect which impacts public amenity in the heat of the day, it generates more injuries and has a large environmental impacts at a time when we need to meet net zero targets for human health and wellbeing. (references: - Aminpour, F., & Bishop, K. (2021). Children's preferences on the move: Establishing the characteristics of unofficial paths and their benefits for children's physical play in Australian primary school grounds. Journal of Environmental Psychology, 75, 101599.

-Pfautsch, S., Rouillard, S., Wujeska-Klause, A., Bae, A., Vu, L., Manea, A., ... & Leishman, M. R. (2020). School Microclimates.)

-Future proof play grounds and sports fields using climate smart design and surfaces that reduce heat impacts as per the Cool Schools Guide and Guide to Climate-Smart Playgrounds: Research Findings and Application reports.

Northern Sydney Astronomical Society supports the strategy with changes where NSAS believes it has interests related to JJ Melbourne Hills Reserve. Details are provided in the attached document.

I have read the draft in full and very disappointed about the lack of action points, significant mention, or even imagery of anyone with a disability, especially wheelchair users. People of all nerds and abilities live in the northern beaches, yet feel very forgotten in comparison to other councils.

Point 1

If the council is upgrading pathways, then ramp access instead of stairs MUST be a number one priority. The curl curl board walk is a prime example of this. Accessible at one end but not the other (staircase at the end of the boardwalk). This is not only practical, safe, equitable and accessible for anyone with a disability, it allows families with prams, runners and even emergency services better access. Do better NB Council with all your walk upgrades. And maybe even test a path out with a wheelchair to see what users are currently up against.

Point 2

Accessible, inclusive, and equitable facilities are wonderful - but only if well supported by accessible bathrooms. Please ensure all new or upgraded bathroom facilities include a proper adult changing space with a change table. World famous beaches such as Manly, Palm Beach and the national parks are let down but this essential missing piece of the puzzle.

Mona vale surf club has done a magnificent job including a proper accessible changing space bathroom and should be congratulated.

The beaches, playgrounds, major sporting fields, and common park areas such as Manly Dam need to follow suit.

There is no point making something accessible, only for the people needing the accessibility to suffer the indignity of having to be changed on a bathroom floor.

Do your research and realise that a disabled bathroom is only good for someone able to transfer onto and sit safely on a toilet. For Anyone with any physical disabilities these bathrooms are inadequate and unsafe (let alone insanitary - try changing a 15 year old on the floor).

Point 3

Consider more swimming pools as part of the recreation plan review!!! And water features in Children's parks. There are no pools on the north end of the beaches which are accessible. Warringah aquatic centre is an ancient embarrassment.

Having recently visited pools in the City of Sydney Council and Ryde Council which offer accessible access, changing facilities, and more, the northern beaches looks so behind the times. Our beaches are not accessible (the central coast and Shoalhaven councils are so much better), and we need more water options that are usable year round.

NBC - I acknowledge you are trying, but please be better with your inclusion and equitable spaces. As a parent to a 15 year old child with severe cerebral palsy, life is hard enough, but being unable to access activities, facilities and outdoor spaces easily is frustrating and disappointing in this day and age. And even more so to see it is still not really on the agenda for changes to come.

Happy to speak to you if you need.

Hi, as a local property owner, Father and business owner using the footpath space I would like to see more green space.

Our daily interaction with the urban settings could be enhanced by more greenery.

This could be cutting up concrete to directly plant understory plants which would boost biodiversity, filter pollutants from road Traffic and enhance overall mental wellbeing among the community.

Our business ***** to grow plants which we buy from local nurseries on the Northern Beaches boosting the local economy.

Green is good

Please could you install some static fitness equipment at Passmore Reserve

I would love to see a skate park near the children park at the Griffith park. Some adult exercise equipment in fox park as all other park facilities have been removed.
And I have also submitted the need for an environmental bike and walkway around Dee why lagoon that could link the already existing bike and walking paths thank you

- * Regarding MP4, More off-leash dog walking in Northern Beaches.
- * Regarding MP4, Less restrictive policies so long as dogs are safe and under control. Designed with a pragmatic rather than regulatory mindset such that well trained, well behaved dogs can go most places off leash, including bushland, coastal areas and beaches. Owner responsible for controlling dog, picking up waste, etc.
- * Regarding LL22, please work with national parks and other groups to enable more off leash access to bushland and coastal areas for walking with well behaved dogs.
- * Regarding LL26, change policy such that well behaved dogs can walk off leash around Manly Dam.
- * Regarding GG22, new/more off lease dog areas in Nth Balgowlah/Seaforth. E.g. Bottom "carpark" at Seaforth oval is in poor condition and rarely used. Convert part of this area to dog agility area with tunnels, jumps and ramps for dog play and training.
- * Restore/formalise walking paths south of Seaforth oval including lookout.
- * More significant bike path from Nth Balgowlah/Seaforth to Manly enabling to safely ride to the beach with family. LL18 is a nice idea.
- * Regarding GG23, more kayak storage options around Clontarf and more convenient kayak unloading and parking possibilities
- * Regarding BB6, nice idea :)
- * Regarding BB9, yes but need much larger areas to take dogs off leash - i.e. 5-10km bushwalking tracks rather than standing in a park.
- * Regarding BB33, I'd like to know more about this plan. Are the kayaking options?

I would like to see weed eradication strategies for the precious bush lands we need to preserve for future generations

Cleaning up water ways such as South Creek before they spill into Narrabeen lagoon and ultimately the ocean where I see a great deal of rubbish after a storm

My feedback is focused on section 3.3 off road cycling. I appreciate the willingness to increase and improve the authorised trails in the Northern Beaches. I am certain that more authorised trails will result in fewer unauthorised versions. I believe however that the current strategy is missing a few opportunities. I am an advanced rider who enjoys all of our technical trails but I am also an occasional XC racer, hence looking for longer rides which are not too technical but also not as boring as firetrails. Manly Dam is a good example for this type of trail. Here are my comments/suggestions:

Firstly, I suggest that additional unauthorised trails should be considered as potential new/improved. In particular I am thinking about the Mount Narra trails. This network of trails is already well maintained by volunteers and attracts a large number of riders in the area. Due to proximity and easy access via Slippery Dip fire trail I think Telegraph, Dutch Rudder and BullAnt should be included (see also my fourth point). These trails are well established, rocky and relatively low maintenance.

Secondly, I think Northern Beaches are lacking XC style trails. There is only Manly Dam, all other trails are either very technical or outright boring fire trails. I would love to see a flow trail with some technical features in the area.

Thirdly, I appreciate the plan to connect Serrata and Gahnia via Daisy and Mistress. In addition there should be a connection from Gahnia to Manly Dam via overpass or underpass of Wakehurst Parkway. Crossing the Parkway can be very challenging in particular during peak traffic in the morning and afternoon. This would help with safety as well.

My fourth suggestion is to consider linking the trails across different areas by marking bike paths and considering off road connectors where possible. This would create a truly exceptional network on the Northern Beaches.

All in all the strategy is heading in the right direction and I appreciate that off road cycling is included and recognised. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Would be good to recognise additional pursuits that are extremely popular among the northern beaches population including trail bike riding, horse riding and rock climbing

Hi there

I'm very supportive of this strategy, but add the following comments.

1. **OUTDOOR FURNITURE** - I'd love to see a wider and more modern range of outdoor furniture. I live in Fairlight so I mostly visit Manly and Fairlight and there's an abundance of benches which, let's face it, are pretty uncomfortable. There's also many picnic tables, and I note the new furniture on East Esplanade, but I feel it's all a bit dated and upright/formal. I would love to see chairs along the Adirondack lines, where you can take a book, a coffee, and relax a little. In general, just comfortable, welcoming, informal furniture. Also some casual seating, eg: sandstone blocks (as stools) and little tables.

2. **OUTDOOR DINING** - the Market Lane (Manly) set-up with the takeaway tables and chairs within an artificial picket fence is woeful. Can we have a bit of a rethink with this type of strategy? Blocking off the area with the falling down fence is horrible, there's rubbish, there's rats, there's puddles. Outdoor dining is so great - let's have some permanent Council furniture that's not sold off to the highest bidder and is available to all. (Side note - I'd also encourage it without the garish "Installed by the NSW Govt" signage/propaganda).

3. **DOGS** - so glad to see your document recognising the benefits of dog ownership - walking my own dog has brought me untold community benefits. Aside from providing off-leash parks, can we have some investment in the facilities there, eg: fountains for the dogs to play in, tunnels, grass mounds etc? I do untold laps of LM Graham Reserve and honestly, it's just sad - for me and the dog and all of us who do endless, tedious laps where it's either dusty or muddy, with nothing to look at, nothing to see, nothing to do. The park is loved to death by dogs and their owners, which surely means it (indeed, all dog parks) deserve some of their ratepayer's funds.

Thanks for reading, looking forward to seeing the Outdoor Strategy roll out.

Implement a prioritised program for installing fitness equipment on appropriate links and loops. Needs to be well thought out like the American setups - <https://nationalfitnesscampaign.com/>
<https://www.santamonica.com/original-muscle-beach-santa-monica/>

The Manly precinct is in desperate need of an extensive multi-aged playground/adventure park. There are a number of such sites between Freshwater and Mona Vale, Belrose and Forest areas and Clontarf. But Manly precinct is under provided for. The upgrade to the park at the old power station point is good but not on the main track. The Queenscliff lagoon playground is only of interest to pre schoolers and the two play spots along the Manly to Queenscliff shoreline are hopelessly inadequate - minimal play facilities, always overcrowded, boring and unfenced. There is next to nothing for the primary school up to early high school children in that area where families traditionally go for weekend and holiday walks. That age group needs space, climbing challenges, interesting play equipment and a sense of fun and adventure alongside the younger brothers and sisters' playground. Even Shelley Beach no longer had the two swings that were there for years. Now there is nothing, but there is under utilised room at that spot. Manly is the primary target of young families on weekends and school holidays, but facilities for kids are hopeless - no cinema, no fun fairs, no adventure parks, no roller skating or ice skating, no skate park (within a couple of kilometers of the township), no ten pin bowling, no games arcade, few kid centred restaurants and nowhere to host kids' birthday parties. In other words, particularly outside of summer time, for under 18s, Manly is BORING.

1. No loss of existing bushland. fyi I remember seeing koalas at Palm Beach and a younger friend saw koalas in the bushland leading down to Manly Lagoon from N Balgowlah. All Australian species , plant and animal, must be protected from extinction by preserving and maintaining populations.

2. The use of plastic turf is a shortsighted non-solution to healthy playing fields. The micro plastics getting into the environment and non-recycling ability of sun-damaged plastic leaves more problems than it saves.

3. Better to spend money on local employment caring for the natural environment than using non natural surfaces

We need to provide a safe and proper facility so that road cyclist can ride and race on. Heffron park has a great example of there crit track where local clubs race and local residents that ride use daily even getting young children involved as it's safer than riding on the road.

The plans are good but do not go far enough. The Northern Beaches should be made into a bicycle haven, with:

1. An interconnected network of on-road separated bicycle paths along primary road and street corridors (not winding through back streets), and

2. An interconnected network of mountain biking paths connecting bushland and parkland areas.

The idea behind this is that no matter where you live in the LGA, you can ride your bicycle from your front door to wherever you want to go, and that you can return via another equally attractive route.

The on-road paths should be reallocated from road space that is currently dedicated to car lanes and car parking. Car use should be progressively discouraged.

Who needs a car when you can ride to the beach? (I live close enough to the beach that I could ride, but I wouldn't dare at the moment because it's unsafe. And as I'm a middle-aged male, if I consider riding my bike in my area to be unsafe, then there are plenty more who are younger / older / female / etc. who would feel even more strongly about this safety problem).

A very practical amenity that is sorely needed is free lockers at beaches for local residents. This is needed to provide a way for people to store their valuables while they swim without needing to rely upon locking them in a car.

Another important update to this strategy is to recognise that blue space is public space. Pittwater, the lakes and lagoons, and the harbour, can all be made more accessible with Council or not-for-profit facilities to hire kayaks and stand up paddleboards. It would be much more equitable and inviting for all if these water craft were available to hire cheaply without a private profit margin. This would also enable more people to enjoy our Northern Beaches environment and to encourage more care for it.

Please add these suggestions to the plan.

Thanks

<p>The items on improved bike paths (MTB, road, etc) are good and need to be emphasized. Keeping the community engaged in outdoor activity is much easier when the outdoor facilities are excellent.</p>
<p>I live on *****. I have 2 children, school age. About an year ago the playground on Lindsay Reserve, at Deakin St burned down. That was the only walking distance playground from my home. Lindsay Reserve is such a beautiful green open space. The whole community would benefit massively with some infrastructure in the reserve. Some suggestions for the area: Bike tracks, nature playground for kids of a different age range, picnic shaded area, sports court. The existing soccer goal is always used by the children. A small court with soccer posts, basketball or netball net would be much loved. Thanks for the consideration</p>
<p>Kangaroo Park us in desperate need of a good clean up the lawn mowing leaves a lot to be desired it's messy overgrown and the garden beds thanks to the greenies is neglected. There should be gym/swings as many children and adults spend time in this park. The swing currently in use is dangerous as a child could fall and hit their head in the rocks too close to the handmade swing</p>
<p>Is this the right initiative, I can't find any mention of field hockey? The community have been asking for sometime to rectify this on the Northern Beaches. Worlds 4th biggest sport that Australians are great at. Massive hockey community and probably not documented enough as we all play for a variety of clubs around Sydney instead of for Manly.</p> <p>A decent synthetic pitch would get used all year round by any sport (ask other hockey clubs who uses their pitches!). Whereas there has barely been any sport on grass this whole year. My kids are going insane. Nolan reserve always closed, Graham reserve barely open.</p> <p>I just get told we're investigating a location. Go play on grass. Time for me to run for council.</p>
<p>The Forest area is in desperate need of more basketball facilities. The local kids who like to catchup with their friends and play basketball only have two courts to play on in the whole area! Basketball is played year-round by boys and girls, and from children to adults and it's popularity is only increasing. Basketball is in fact so popular on the Northern Beaches that the local organised comps are completely full the day after rego opens and can't expand due to the lack of appropriate facilities. At the single basketball courts at Melwood and Lionel Watts ovals, there are regularly up to 14 kids on each court trying to play.</p> <p>Belrose has no courts available for use! Belrose Public School has one court however it is not available for use after school or during school holidays due to onsite after school care and vacation care. My son and his friends have to get the bus and either travel to the courts down in Warriewood (which are great!), or try to find time when the courts at the Dee Why PCYC aren't being used for regular comps or holiday camps. A couple of courts at Wyatt Ave in Belrose would be a great and much welcomed project.</p>
<p>I'd like to see an eco friendly path linking Dee Why to Long Reef only along the Pittwater Rd side around the Dee Why Lagoon. Also we need more bike paths, for example a bike path on the side of Pittwater road linking Dee Why down Manly Vale.</p>
<p>https://www.singletracks.com/mtb-trails/study-shows-bikers-outspend-hikers-climbers-skiers-near-moab/?fbclid=IwAR3h7Jgw_m9sFLLVO2D7-K9q3ZUaZHMEssRjNfpba3quPECrIZ5Jcladl0q&fs=e&s=cl</p>

<p>thanks for your work on this.</p> <p>But I can't see anything for 'road' cyclists. We don't want to ride on the road, we much prefer allocated paths. Best of all would be a dedicated and physically separate lane on the road, but a painted cycle lane on the footpath is better than nothing.</p> <p>Transport by bike cuts down the number of cars on the road, and it's fun. For example, lots of people do training loops on their bikes up at North Head. Perhaps a bike lane could be put in on Darley Rd, and then Blue Fish Drive and N Head Scenic Drive (by working with NPWS). There is nothing for cyclists there now.</p> <p>thanks.</p>
<p>More action needs to be taken to maintain, enhance and expand spaces for families with dogs. The few spaces in Pittwater area are massively oversubscribed, resulting in eroded mud pits and excessive use of the few spaces available to us. It also results in poor outcomes for users as these sites are usually too busy for a quality experience</p>
<p>After lockdown where kids were desperate to get out I think more off road bike areas would be great. Biking areas with hills, bumps and jumps.</p> <p>Also please prioritise graffiti clean ups before we have to send in a request. They seem to be one step ahead of the clean up team. To see how many people use the recreational areas to take a breathe and how awful it is to see how much damage the graffiti people can do is so sad.</p>
<p>Please escalate the timetable for this, especially the provision of interconnected separated cycleways and paths. Existing roads must be made much safer. Reduce road width and use for cycle ways. It should be legal to cycle on footpaths at low speed on roads that have more than a certain traffic density, even if there are so-called cycle routes since these are almost as dangerous as being on an unmarked road. This would have an immediate effect in reducing congestion and pollution. I am a driver but mainly drive due to the serious danger posed by vehicles on the roads -- but I would much prefer to cycle.</p>
<p>Please do a park at the bottom of James Wheeler Place reserve. There are no nearby parks that are easy to walk to with small children. This park in general is largely unusable in its current state.</p>
<p>I propose to extend the shared link path from near the Shell garage on Fisher road, along the Wabash reserve, to Caroola rd Cromer.</p> <p>This would connect residents of Cromer and Cromer Heights to the shared path to Dee Why and Narrabeen Lagoon. It would also provide a safe route for school kids to access Cromer Campus and Cromer Public schools. Currently locals use the path on the reserve which is often waterlogged and muddy in winter and overgrown in summer.</p> <p>Please see map of proposed extension attached. The current path in orange and proposed extension to the path in red.</p>
<p>spaces and places for intergenerational activations. Traditionally skate parks have been known as youth space only, but seeing more and more families at these sites which is great</p>
<p>Would love to see some indoor courts, with facilities too match</p>
<p>We need netball and basketball practice hoops in neighbourhood park that kids can walk to for unstructured play.</p>

Acknowledge the importance of dirt paths/trails for sports such as running as concrete paths present much higher loads on the body. Also connecting the Narrabeen Lagoon loop to the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation would improve access for a lot of people via means other than private transport (without having to walk/ride along the very narrow side of the Wakehurst Parkway. Keep up the good work with bike paths and keeping the beautiful state and national parks as untouched as possible.

I fully support the proposal to formalise the dirt jumps at Whitney Reserve at Mona Vale as they are such great value for the kids and that they are no impact on neighbours. It's a great safe place for the kids to get together and as a parent knowing my child is close to home but outdoors being active. ***** the one who had the accident but that was no one's fault But his own. It was such a shame the jumps had to go as it was such a hub for kids 6-16... wonderful community feel.

I think it's a well thought strategy. My bias is toward soccer, mountain biking and basketball but there seems to be something for everyone. Basketball in particular seems to be really popular with so many hoops in driveways around the Forestville area where I live.

Can I ask that you please consider Lindsay Reserve in Forestville as an addition to your list of venues. The aging playground was recently burned down and now there is nothing for kids within walking distance for the northern section of Forestville (down from Forest Way and Frenchs Forest Primary). The addition of one or a few of the following would be a great boost for this area which is filling up with young families:

- playground
- picnic facilities
- native gardens
- bike track
- dog park
- basketball court

Many thanks for considering.

i think that there should be a dirt jump park in Forestville or some sort of pump track or something related to mountain biking

Bare Creek Bike Park has become an elite facility. Parts of the bike park that were more approachable have been modified to become more difficult and less welcoming.

JJ's BMX track is great and very accessible for beginners through to advanced.

I have a particular concern about Porter Reserve at Newport.

I live at ***** and have raised these issues before, with no response whatsoever.

There are two key issues.

The whole reserve should be rezoned as public open space. For some reason substantial parts of the reserve are zoned E4. The risk that this public land could be developed as E4 should be removed and the whole of the land should be zoned public open space.

Secondly the state of much of the reserve is in very poor condition. Funds should be set aside to rehabilitate this precious land.

Porter Reserve should be part of the open space action plan.

More single track mountain bike trails please.

More mountain biking trails

It's been a long time coming, but it's good to see that the council is finally starting to take off-road cycling seriously in the area. Facilities to support this sport have been largely ignored in the past so it's great to see that there is positive movement for change with this regard.

There is enormous public support for formalised trails and a clear need for both this strategy to be implemented and also to be funded accordingly as well.

Specifically, the entire trail network at Mt Narra and at JJ Melbourne need to be approved (including the proposed new trails as well). A well maintained mountain bike trail has no more environmental impact than a walking track, and if council is serious about stopping the building of unsanctioned trails the only way to do this is to provide a fit for purpose network of trails in the area.

Please don't pay lip service to this demand for cycling facilities by taking the easy route of approving one or two trails, do it properly.

As a resident and ratepayer living in Whitney Street Mona Vale I fully support formalising the dirt jumps in the reserve. There has been some form of jumps in this reserve for over 30 years and they proved to be the saviour of hundreds of kids during lockdown over the past few years. The only impact these jumps have ever had on residents is a bit of noise from the kids having fun - I would argue that living next to a park this should be both encouraged and expected.

Whitney Reserve is the only area in Mona Vale that is truly open space within the residential area where you can kick a ball and just hang out with the family, and it needs to stay this way. Proper positioning of the dirt jumps should not affect this and nor should improvements to the basketball half court either. As Whitney is a residential area I would be concerned as to any large scale changes to the size of the existing facilities in the park or if there was a suggestion to put lighting in the park either. The last thing anybody needs is kids hanging out in the park after dark. The park should remain facility for local kids to ride or walk to, and yes, it needs improvement and formalising, but shouldn't be turned into a large scale destination in the process.

1. Both Manly (Boy Charlton) swim centre and Warringah Aquatic centre should be included in detail. It's unreasonable to exclude specific consideration due to their obvious use for sport and recreation in the same way for example as ocean pools. Surf swimmers, triathletes, etc. all use these pools for training and cannot rely alone on for example, ocean pools. Water polo is not adequately catered for. E.g. The recent renovation of Manly pool, despite \$30m+ spending, saw the removal of a necessary outdoor floodlight which leaves one corner of the 50m pool darker and affected also by the shade factor from the indoor pool (this was an extremely ignorant and poorly thought out design decision - no facility should be worse after spending \$30m+). Any review should also include the complete lack of parking and unsafe parking on Kenneth Road. Any study should consider building additional water polo facilities for the northern beaches. Currently all elite water polo players have to play on the south side of Sydney, which should not be ignored if Council wants to look at how their decision making affects road traffic and pollution (i.e. driving all over Sydney just because there are no adequate water polo facilities on the northern beaches). If Council wants to do something practical for the health and well-being of it's residents, build a water polo pool. Currently, kids are turned away from the sport because there are simply not enough facilities which force training and playing times to be late at night or at pools outside of the northern beaches. Currently, water polo is also one of the most expensive sports a child can play, which is really shameful that those playing are limited to those that can afford to. Council should not double dip by charging water polo players pool entry AND pool hire.
2. Put taps back at parks. Everyone experiences dog faeces on their shoes or rugby boots from time to time because there are people that do not pick up after their dogs. It's unhygienic and unsafe to have public spaces without access to fresh running water taps. The water saving aspect of removing taps is not valid when it comes to safety.
3. Low flow showers at beaches are hopeless, as are the anti-vandal shower heads that make you have to hug the shower stand. Any wind blows the water away from the user. Low flow showers mean you spend longer under the shower. Being unable to wash off yourself or equipment properly at the beach means that you just wash off again at home, so there is no water saving. The cost of water to Council can be justified if practicality is a priority over notions of petty savings.

Re "initial planning is underway for an intermediate to advanced bike park at Seaforth Oval."

After witnessing the destruction of bushland areas adjacent to "jump bike tracks" ie The Grove- at Seaforth and the ripping out of plants that council planted in 2021 by "bike users" to again build another illegal track, I do not support another council built "jump track" in Seaforth near Wakehurst Parkway/ Seaforth Oval area.

Garigal National Park is adjacent to the proposed site. Every jump bike track built has seen poor waste management by users including Bare Creek Bike facility-rubbish just dumped everywhere- despite bin provided. This is in addition to the destruction of land and habitat adjacent to the tracks by users who are never satisfied with tracks built for purpose. If the riders are so keen for a new facility to be built, perhaps they should take some responsibility for areas of destruction they have made, by building previous Illegal tracks and when they rehabilitate these areas they destroyed, then council may look at building them a new facility. Going by the way areas like Bare Creek and The Grove have been treated by users, they appear to do so much harm to the environment and areas surrounding tracks built for purpose.

Jump bike riders are a very niche group-not many in the local community would benefit from its construction. For example-Seaforth Oval-multiuse facility-can be used by the whole community-ie soccer players, rugby, cricket, dog walkers, walkers, exercise groups and is an all age facility.

Building a jump track is for a niche group of mainly young males(Ref " for the opt-in Off Road Cycling Rider Survey 89% of respondents (n=1,770)

were male and 11% female.") and cannot be used by walkers or other groups of a varying age range.

Perhaps there could be a user pays facility built privately-like Terry Hills, where there are staff on hand for safety issues and to stop users littering and to maintain tracks.

I would like more wheelchair accessible park benches in Belrose. At Lionel Watts Park, there is just one single bench overlooking the synthetic playing fields. There is a need for several more, and the space is available underneath the Bottlebrush trees. Also benches or a picnic table and bench overlooking the Showground / Dog exercise area. All the existing benches are currently inside the showground fence. Benches are needed up on the level of the car parking, or around on the north side which is accessible via the paved pathway, so that elderly people can sit and enjoy the fresh air and watch the activities.

A phased plan should be created to reduce the amount of road area available to cars and assign that space to cycles. The amount of car journeys saved by folk walking and cycling will more than create enough space for the reduced amount of vehicle traffic. I personally would cycle almost everywhere if I thought I could get there alive. I am not alone in this.

Hi there, My name is ***** and I live in Freshwater and my 1.5 year old son loves to go to playground in Freshie but both playgrounds (beachfront, and north one) are way too old and would be great to have an update with more game options as most parks have already updated with different activities for them to enjoy.

Freshie has so many families and kids around and very few games for them to play and help with their motor skills. The beachfront playground would be amazing with new games, more playground space, a better and updated soft flooring, but also some more tables and a BBQ would be amazing to spend at least half a day over there and be fun for everyone, kids and adults.

Thank you for the improvements either way!

We need adult areas with exercise stations similar to so many other areas on Sydney's coastline, e.g. Eastern suburbs gym stations.

The work to improve mountain bike trails and add more is amazing!

<p>I am really pleased to see that more public spaces for dogs is being considered. With this in mind, perhaps Council could consider more seating with shade (may be more large trees need to be planted) at the bottom part of John Dunbar Park, Mona Vale. I would also like to see less restrictions on horse-riding activities - I love to see the horses around Warriewood and perhaps better safety for horse riders having to access roads in the Terrey Hills / Duffy's Forest areas.</p>
<p>Add shade cloths on proposed basketball courts.</p>
<p>Could we add shade cloths to the newly proposed basketball courts as they get very hot in summer and are unable to be played on from mid morning to afternoon.</p>
<p>Great to see the strategy - but disappointing that there is very little mention of the Balgowlah/Clontarf areas, with high population of you and adolescents it is important this area isn't forgotten. Would love to see more adolescent facilities provided in Balgowlah/Clontarf, bike tracks, skate areas, basketball courts.</p> <p>North Harbour had a huge amount of funds directed towards it recently, with little to show for the funding, apart from a new entrance and tree hedging.</p> <p>Brimecomb park in Balgowlah has a swing set and see saw which has not really been maintained, this area could be better utilised with some maintenance.</p>
<p>Is there any information regarding which play spaces are to be improved? Beacon Hill is a new home to many young families and the play spaces are quite sparse and depressing in comparison to those in many other Northern Beaches neighbourhoods.</p>
<p>I would love to see more playground areas built in Davidson. Many young families are returning to the suburb, and are finding that the majority of our Reserves are just grassed areas (e.g. Chesterman, Allworth, Matthews, MacFarlane). The existing playgrounds in Davidson are inaccessible for people pushing prams, either because they are too far away, require climbing steep hills, or have steps inhibiting access.</p> <p>It would be great to see a play area reinstated near MacFarlane Oval, on the Sir Thomas Mitchell Drive side of the oval where the existing seating is. There used to be a playground on the other side of the oval, but it was not replaced due to bushfire concerns. Placing it on the other side of the oval should alleviate those concerns.</p> <p>In any case, this oval is in regular use and a playground would benefit locals as well as visiting parents with children playing sports (siblings not playing sports would have something to do).</p>
<p>How about leaving the playground area in the Belrose Bowling Club alone???</p>
<p>The use of sportsfields should be within scope for this project, as the Northern Beaches Sportsgrounds Strategy (2017) is a seriously outdated and flawed document, begun during a period of Administration. Given what we now know about the ill-health and adverse environmental effects of synthetic turf playing fields, infilled with End-of-Life Tyre Rubber Crumb. The Council needs to go back and rethink sportsfields as open spaces for all residents. The Council needs to stop 'locking up' open space for rental by a minority group of football associations. The plan to convert natural grass of Pittwater Rugby Park to synthetic turf is outrageous. The synthetic playing fields infilled with toxic crumb rubber at Lionel Watts Reserve, Melwood Ovals, Cromer Park Field #2, and Narrabeen SHS, all need to be retrofitted to remove the toxic infill. The Northern Beaches Sportsgrounds Strategy needs to be rewritten, to re-examine the Option of using half (9-holes) of some 18-hole golf courses as open space playing fields. The plan to convert three natural grass fields at Millers Reserve to synthetic turf is dire and ill-conceived.</p>

I think the plan sounds really good but there is one detail that I'd like to emphasise. You talk about improving off road cycling but this is often accompanied by pictures of mountain biking and rough adventure tracks. I am most concerned that safe family / all age off road cycling on paved areas is provided for and possibly joined up so that cycling with little ones is possible away from traffic and without having to constantly cross busy roadways.

Thank you

I strongly urge the Northern Beaches to consider gender equity when considering the use of open space. The majority of active open space is often occupied by skate parks, basketball courts/ovals and other open playing fields and golf courses. All of which have predominantly male users. Consideration should be given to designing public places with female users in mind, particularly tween and teenage girls. See for example the article in Bloomberg:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2021-05-28/we-need-more-public-space-for-teen-girls>

See also the research and case studies prepared by 'Make Space for Girls':

<https://makespaceforgirls.co.uk/>

I note this is considered as an action at BB 27, however I urge the Northern Beaches Council to urgently undertake a wholesale review of the entire strategy from a gender equity perspective prior to finalising the strategy.

Very supportive of the proposals for cycling. However, there needs to be more emphasis on mtb trails that are accessible to all levels of riders. The Gahnia / Serrata tracks, Bare Creek, Mt Narra and some limited parts of the Manly Dam track are realistically "black" level tracks. Blue tracks everywhere else in the world are roll-able, as well as providing features that create challenge at greater speeds. Green tracks on the northern beaches are virtually non-existent. Ideally, there should also be more emphasis on linking riding areas with safe riding infrastructure. The bike paths currently under construction on Forest Way are a good example.

There needs to be more emphasis on new sporting fields to accompany population growth in the Northern Beaches. Better planning is needed around population growth - where are the areas of population growth, what new parks and sporting fields will be needed to provide to support this growth. The population growth strategy thus far by Council has been a disaster - no planning for new sports fields in areas like Warriewood Valley with 40,000 new residents. Let's stop complaining about a lack of sporting facilities after the event and get it right up front.

I want to emphasise how important the tracks be all accessible. I want electric wheelchairs and off-road disability scooters access. If this plan is for 15 years we need to plan for electric stations for all. See Off-road wheelchairs to open up the 'doors to nature' for more people to enjoy

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-05/off-road-wheelchair-mountain-trike-trialled-sa-enhance-tourism/101206064>

I think the strategy is great. I have a few thoughts regarding playgrounds that may be of use. Typically playgrounds have aimed at 4-8 year olds and both the younger and older children miss out. Having some more spaces suited to 0-2 year olds and 12-14 in particular would be a real boon to the community.

This past year I found that the lawn maintenance in many of the local playgrounds was appalling - some grass was up to the waist of my 2 year old and when it was wet it made the spaces unappealing. More frequent mowing esp in summer please!

Also please ensure there are garbage bins and a place or two for adults to sit at each park/playground. This reduces litter on the ground which little kids get into.

Thank you for all your efforts on our behalf
<p>The water quality of our beaches, lagoons and creeks (the few creeks left) is a disgrace. Cleaning these up should be a priority. Should be able to swim rain or sunshine. Dumping sewer off shore, treated or not is also a disgrace.</p> <p>Stop over development.</p> <p>Would like to see environment impact of your proposal eg for every metre of infrastructure build what habitat is destroyed to mine or source these materials. Eg sand to make cement what river bed is ruined to provide the sand?</p> <p>Address the tick issues in the northern beaches.</p>
<p>Yes I approve in general, but I think there should be more emphasis on the majority of wild areas being left basically unimproved. We want accessibility for people, but most bush tracks should be left as just that, and the proliferation of made pathways and walkways should be kept to a minimum.</p>
<p>The northern beaches has been blessed with green spaces but that doesn't mean the council shouldn't work to create even more by acquiring and rehabilitating space.</p> <p>In terms of sports fields the council should look at more all weather surfaces for wet seasons.</p> <p>Beach activities should be managed to avoid small groups of people taking up all the space like beach volleyball.</p>
<i>YourSay Submissions – Attachments</i>
<p>Submission regarding Northern Beaches Council – OPEN SPACE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STRATEGY</p> <p>Growth and Gaps</p> <p>Code GG15</p> <p>. In the vicinity of Whitney Reserve, Mona Vale</p> <p>This area in question is smack in the middle of Suburbia – Streets in this area are narrow and already have a problem with parking availability. To introduce playing fields to the area will cause unbelievable traffic and parking congestion not to mention the drastic increase in noise pollution which will follow from not only the increased traffic but the noise created from the fields themselves. Demographically, the streets surrounding this area are widely occupied by Retirees and Seniors looking for a peaceful existence. The building of such fields and the subsequent Toilet blocks etc. will most definitely attract the type of attention (particularly at night) that we can most certainly do without.</p> <p>This area is quite environmentally sensitive as the adjacent creek, trees and shrub s and open grass area support an incredibly diverse range of wildlife. Everything from Plovers, Bush Turkeys, Kookaburras, King Parrots etc. as well as Water Dragons, Blue Tongue Lizards and many more native species which certainly won't survive if this plan goes ahead.</p> <p>I feel that this proposal has been somewhat 'buried' in the paperwork with not enough details being disclosed to affected residents and ratepayers to allow them to have sufficient time to comment or research properly.</p>
<p>Several aspects of this plan would have significant negative impacts on the amenity, environment, parking and real estate value of ourselves and other residents of *****, Mona Vale. The</p>

detail of very major changes is hidden in the small print of the plan leading us to believe that the Council hopes to bring in major changes without adequate consultation with affected residents.

The existing uses of both Whitney Reserve and Marie Reserve provide valuable green space and contribute to the healthy and relaxed environment of the area. We should not be doing anything that reduces the area of our low-usage green space. It provides a major contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

The proposals that give us particular concern are within the “Growth and Gaps” section and are:

GG17 Provide additional basketball facilities at appropriate locations as parks are reviewed for improvement to better meet need. These may vary from quarter courts to full size and may include some lighting depending on need, available space and compatibility with other use and users and impact on residents.

Potential locations include: • Whitney Reserve, Mona Vale

and

GG15 Reserves where play equipment is ageing and future use could be discussed with residents includes (but is not limited to):

- In the vicinity of Whitney Reserve, Mona Vale

(We believe this refers to Marie Reserve in Marie Crescent.)

The reasons why we believe these proposals are inappropriate for our area are:

GG17

1. Formalised basket ball courts or playing fields for other sports, will cause significant parking problems for residents in all the nearby streets, including Marie Crescent, when either games or training are on. (Marie Crescent is just a 30 second walk from Whitney Reserve through the right of way to Susanne Road.)
2. Facility Lighting will cause light pollution issues for adjacent residents.
3. Public attendance at such playing facilities will cause noise and traffic pollution.
4. The above consequences will reduce the value of our real estate.

GG15

1. The small playground within Marie Reserve is currently used extensively by mothers and their children from nearby streets who can access the playground without having to use a motor vehicle.
2. The playground facilities in Marie Reserve are not old as they were replaced just a couple of years ago.
3. We suspect that this is another attempt to have Marie Reserve designated as a community garden area as such a proposal is mentioned generally elsewhere in the plan. A similar proposal was rejected previously by the nearby residents as it would have significant impact on parking, available amenity and security of the area.

We would like to see proposed changes to the use of either Whitney Reserve or Marie Crescent removed from the plan.

We would also like to see more direct consultation with affected residents in adjacent areas as most that I have spoken to have no idea that it is proposed to change the usage of their local reserves.

Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy

Objections re Whitney Reserve Plan

Council Plan includes

1. Formalising bike jumps in Whitney Reserve
2. Getting rid of the little parks in the area and redirecting all people to Whitney Reserve
3. Considering Whitney Reserve as a possible spot for sport courts, facilities, playgrounds and lighting.

Concerns

This would have a negative impact on our homes and lifestyles for all of us living immediately around the park and adjoining roads. If all or any of the above occur, we will suffer

- Significant increase of traffic
- Huge increase in noise
- Less (if any) space to use the park as we currently do.
- Increase in rubbish and anti-social behaviour
- Reduction our property value due to the street becoming less desirable.
- Loss of local habitat for native plants and wildlife

Whitney Street is not a suitable arterial road for increased traffic and parked cars that this plan will create.

We understand council considers formalising bike jumps may prevent conflict between residents and riders, but really it will prioritise the riders and nullify residents' voice, as happened during lockdown when large groups of young biker's anti-social behaviours became problematic. Council stated it will only be local young kids who will use the bike jumps. But lockdown showed us that many kids were driven here and dropped off, and that bigger kids soon came took over bike jumps and bullied the little kids from nearby homes out of the park.

Regarding consideration of Whitney Reserve as a possible spot for sport courts, facilities and lighting, and playgrounds: Whitney Reserve should be removed altogether from section GG 17 of the draft document proposals. It should not be considered for these purposes due to the proximity of residents, the precious quiet nature of the street and wider area, plus the fact it is currently well used and serving fantastic purpose in its current state. This beautiful open purposed park and quietness of the area is a major reason why we locals live in this immediate area.

Additionally, several years ago we and other many other locals helped council put in time and effort replanting native habitat areas on the eastern end of the park because this is so very important to us collectively. Development will destroy what we have been working towards and

negatively impact the protected native flora, birds, bandicoots and lizards etc that now reside there, and which council declares its commitment to protect!

Request

Our plea is for Whitney Reserve and Whitney Street to not have formalised bike jumps or development other than perhaps some more native planting and clean-up of the creek. Please leave Whitney Street Park as is: a natural quiet haven available for diverse uses by community, not just for/ or prioritising bike riders or organised sport for whom there are existing venues and spaces to further develop if needed.

1. Retain the little parks scattered around the neighbourhoods which enable easier access recreation areas, variety of walk and play destinations, and preserve more nature space for locals health and well- being.
2. Remove Whitney Reserve from section GG 17 as it's not a viable location to attract out of area users by adding sports facilities, lighting or playgrounds.

I am aghast to hear of this proposal to include Whitney Reserve in the section GG17 of the draft document proposal.

This suggestion must have been put forward by a person whose children who enjoyed the experience last year during the covid lockdowns. As one of the residents surrounding the park, we tolerated the noise, traffic, rubbish, and parking limitations of people, obviously out of area, dropping their kids off for the day, unsupervised. This soon led to the older kids bullying the younger ones and a tragic accident concluding in an emergency medivac to a spinal unit. I was intimidated by a youth with a shovel when I confronted him when he was constructing a bike jump in a native reclamation area! The noise generated by the kids lasted well into the late evening being daylight saving. The rubbish generated was appalling, mostly drink containers and lolly wrappers cleaned up by the local, tolerant residents, knowing it was a short-term, extraordinary situation. To have this being put forward as a permanent proposition is horrifying! This is a quiet suburban park being used for the passive use and enjoyment of all surrounding residents.

I do recognise the need for children and teens to have a place to go to meet and socialise in a healthy and positive atmosphere. Kitchener Park at Mona Vale already has all amenities and space required for such a purpose. It has parking, rubbish receptacles, toileting facilities and not surrounded by residential housing. It is well within reach of all kids of the area, they're kids on bikes! Those that came to Whitney with bike racks just have to drive down the road further.

As for getting rid of all the small parks in the area. My kids have left school now but when little, we could give them the choice of which park to go to, the Far Away Park, the big swing Park, the slippery dip Park or the Flying Fox Park. It was empowering for them to have a choice and delightful for us. We were extremely proud and thankful that we even had a choice. I hope our kids have that opportunity and privilege in the future with their children.

In conclusion I plead that Whitney Reserve be excluded from the GG17 proposal as it is inappropriate and unnecessary for the area.

This letter is written on behalf of Good For Manly, an incorporated association of residents and ratepayers of the Manly area, formed in 2012 to enable them to have a more active voice in the local community. Preparation of this submission follows a review of the exhibited Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action plan.

Good For Manly overall supports the overarching six strategic directions of the strategy and subsequent action plan contained within. Council and its staff are to be commended on the thoroughness and detail contained within these plans. It is apparent that a great deal of

consultation has taken place with recreational user groups and the general community to understand needs, discuss ideas and gain feedback.

We support in particular the following areas and detailed actions :

- a) the objective of seeking, where feasible, multiuse of facilities other than sportsfields
- b) the actions outlined in the Links and Loops section in relation to enhanced links to and way finding within Manly Dam.
- c) the detailed work carried out to provide for the growing sport of mountain biking within the area. We welcome, in particular, the plans to provide further offroad bike parks to cater for the interim to advanced skills our older youth need, as a way to address the problems caused by the creation of unauthorised trails.
- d) In relation to the activation of open spaces we support the concept of the enhanced use of Ivanhoe park so that it is used and enjoyed by a larger portion of our residents and visitors ref.BB3.
- e) Ref. BB14 the provision of a shelter within the vicinity of the war memorial at Manly Dam which has long been requested by the management committee and we note the need to ensure this is provided within the short term.
- f) The provision of a half basketball court at Tanya Park - we need to continue to provide facilities that older children can enjoy. Could any consideration be made to doing a further half basketball court within the Manly Ward?
- g) GG21- The consideration and provision of facilities for our youth is of utmost importance.

However, we strongly recommend that greater consideration be given to the following:

- a) We note that the creation of a Masterplan for the Manly Beach to Shelly Beach Walk is not included (Reference Council resolution 30/2021.) We believe this should be a part of the open space strategy.
- b) Furthermore, the inclusion of the actions contained within Councils resolution 404/19 Part B to undertake a detailed feasibility study for the boardwalk/harbour pool reinstatement concept as part of the West Esplanade Activation Heritage Plan should also be included in the strategy.
- c) GG23- We recognise the growing number of different groups wanting to use our beaches at the same time, which may conflict with existing users. Consideration needs to be given to an enhanced scheduling and booking system, and layout of the beaches, in the same way as the management of our sports fields, particularly at Manly Beach.

We trust that Council will consider this submission in the ongoing design development of this action plan.

DRAFT OPEN SPACE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN
as it affects WHITNEY RESERVE, MONA VALE

My partner and I live at [REDACTED] The Grange is a private road bordering Whitney Reserve. I would like Council to take note of the following comments we wish to make on the Strategy and Action Plan. The Council's "Timeline" states that from as early as December 2019 and up to the end of June this year there has been:

- **Targeted consultation with special interest groups**

I would have thought impacted residents would be the most interested group, but I have no knowledge of being targeted for consultation.

. **Telephone Survey**

Again, no telephone calls to our home. Of the phone survey participants, 90% selected "being in nature" as their main reason of utilising open space. Access to nature is one of Council's stated desirable outcomes.

. **Electronic mail**

No emails directed to this directly affected resident.

. **Face to face sessions**

Nope – not with this directly affected resident and stakeholder.

To say we are disappointed in Council's lack of communication with the most directly affected people is an understatement.

After children dug and built up parts of our local park to build bike jumps, and following the consequent serious biking accident when a child was helicoptered off the park to hospital, it is now some consolation to know that the Northern Beaches Council is considering "normalising" the bike jumps. This will mean that the Council now becomes the responsible party when accidents happen and parents will at least have legal recourse to some financial compensation.

It gives me hope that, as our own trees continue to thrive and contribute to carbon absorption, but also deplete the sun-soaked spots for growing vegetables, we can take our spades and contribute to the community by digging a wonderful veggie garden in Mona Vale's Village Park. The Council can then "normalise" this much needed economic benefit to the community and – Bob's your uncle! My thanks go to the Council for this "normalising" innovation.

But we need to talk about Whitney Reserve.

Twenty years ago my partner was run over by a car which caused serious injuries including a debilitating brain injury. It therefore became desirable to find a new home without constant exposure to traffic and noise. The Grange in Mona Vale, a private, short and narrow road fronting Whitney Reserve, provides the perfect spot. My partner is an octogenarian and next week I will be also. The Reserve is used regularly by dog-walkers, picnickers, groups celebrating childrens' birthdays, personal trainers, ball game practising by young groups and people simply soaking up the peaceful surrounds.

You can see from the Google Earth picture below, showing Whitney Reserve (with our home circled in yellow), that this small reserve is tightly surrounded by private homes. All noise on the reserve is plainly audible from all these homes and particularly from those on The Grange. The present level of noise is acceptable.

The one basketball hoop is not used often enough for the repetitive bang-bang-bang of the ball on the concrete to be a real concern. But any increase in the present level of noise, as is being mooted with the possibility of netball/basketball courts, or quarter courts, or with the possibility of enlarging or restructuring the unauthorised bike jumps into a junior or intermediate bike park with

The Council rightly puts great store home to Powerful Owls. I often hear the Mona Vale Road works got under way, their habitat is being increasingly encroached upon and disappearing. Still, they are there and endangered. Any suggestion of night lighting and hard surface ball-courts in this area is tantamount to saying "Stuff the Powerful Owls!".

The aged population in our LGA is forecast to increase over the next decade and is already significant, particularly in our immediate area. We need to keep small and peaceful green spaces such as Whitney Reserve conveniently located for access by this group. Bike parks and the older portion of our community would probably not coexist without mishap.

I hope Council can find a way to communicate any progress and future developments on this Plan with us. If phone calls are made please leave a message as unknown numbers otherwise go unanswered.

Yours sincerely,

NBC OPEN SPACE & RECREATION STRATEGY

We are pleased that NBC is reviewing this crucial part of its infrastructure. Due to the behemoth that is now NBC, it seems it has become difficult for Council to grapple with the complexities & minutiae of the local Open Spaces, Reserves and Rec areas they oversee. This particularly relates to the narrow peninsula of Pittwater and its ecologically sensitive, bushland. There is overwhelming 'people' pressure on our reserves & open spaces due to continued urban sprawl and over-developed private land, where native habitat is being removed in favour of built form. This must be addressed urgently in the new NBC LEP/DCP, as well as in this Open Space Strategy. Council must act quickly while we still have the reserves, canopy trees, bushland, wildlife and open space to save!

We are concerned about the over-use and lack of maintenance of all reserves & open spaces in the Pittwater area. The bush and tree canopy needs further protection by council, and the ever-increasing weed issue tackled more efficiently. Weeds are taking over in many parks and reserves. 'Trees' need to be overseen by the 'Environment & Climate Change' section of NBC, NOT by 'Parks'. It makes no sense for the Parks Dept to manage all trees.

The Pittwater dog population has increased 4 fold during Covid. This puts greater pressure on our green spaces. Sensitive bushland reserves like Angophora, Palmgrove, Stapleton, Mackay, Algona etc MUST be **prohibited** to dogs, and left as a safe habitat for our dwindling wildlife – Wildlife has NO-WHERE else to go. Dogs should not be allowed on our surf beaches – but would be reasonable – as in the ACT – for dogs to be allowed off-lead on all our sports fields, when not in use. If NBC are trialling dogs on PB and MV surf beach, where people and small children are in swimsuits with bare feet – then it seems reasonable that they be allowed on sporting fields provided owners control them appropriately.

AVALON GOLF COURSE

Generations of our family have lived beside Avalon Golf Course since the late 50s, so we know this area intimately, and we are most concerned about NBC's recent golf course announcement to 'review the ongoing operational model of the business', despite being assured recently in the Avalon Place Plan that it will remain a golf course. The golf course is crucial to local biodiversity. It is a haven for birds and other wildlife – It's also great for golf, although recent rains have made that difficult.

The water retention pond in the low-lying NW corner of the golf course is the perfect environment for hundreds of water-loving birds: Australian wood ducks, black-tailed native swamp hens, egrets, cranes, herons, plovers, royal spoonbills - the list grows every year as new birds discover this great water source. Due to recent rain events, the pond has silted up from soil runoff and lack of maintenance, so there is very little water remaining currently. This has seen a decline in bird numbers over the past few months. It is a travesty that this essential ecosystem has been neglected and desperately needs to be remediated and refilled with water by NBC, to retain this important habitat.

Avalon Golf Course is a nocturnal **haven for birds and animals**. Unlike most of urban Avalon, it is very dark and quiet at night. There is no artificial lighting and there is a deep understory of protective original remnant bush on the perimeter and in the central triangle, which offers wildlife good feeding cover without human disruption to their night wanderings. Retention of this bushland/water ecosystem is crucial. We regularly see bandicoots, boobook owls, barn owls, powerful owls, whip birds, parrots, galahs, black cockatoos, tawny frogmouths, whistling kites, wedgetail eagles, lace monitors, possums (ringtail and brushtail), snakes, lizards and even a sugar glider! This open space, bush & water source is essential habitat to all of these creatures & many more. It must be protected. **I honestly don't believe NBC has any idea of the number of creatures that regularly use this habitat. I would be pleased to provide you with more information.**

POSSIBLE MOUNTAIN BIKE PUMP TRACK ON OLD BARRENJOEY RD FIELDS

We are also most concerned by the proposal to construct a mountain bike pump track on the Old Barrenjoey Road playing fields opposite Avalon Public School. It seems that NBC has little knowledge of the value the Avalon community places on these fields, nor is aware of the sheer number of people who regularly use the fields. The golf course (these fields included) was A J Small's legacy to Avalon, & in the Warringah Shire Council Minutes of 20/8/1956, a note was recorded setting aside part of the Avalon Golf Course land for the use of the Avalon Public School. We assume the land referred to is now the playing fields where this bike track is proposed. Is this appropriate?

The importance of this open greenspace for the school & entire community to use, and protection of the northern landscaped bushland as crucial wildlife habitat, needs to take precedence over development of a concrete bike park for a niche group. If it is felt that this new pump track is essential, then a more sensible location would be next to the Avalon Skate Park, where it would be part of a kids' 'active sport precinct' where there is more adult supervision due to multiple kids' sports being played there, already installed lighting, and importantly - no residents or schools in close proximity.

The photo below is of a standard concrete 'pump track', and has not yet been confirmed by NBC, but we assume this design is most likely, (if budgeting allows) per discussions with NBC staff.



We can obviously understand that a bike park similar to this would be really fun for kids & probably very popular, but would like to make the following observations:

- 1. Can NBC make assurances to the school and nearby residents**, that this bike facility will not turn into a vandalised, graffitied, muddy, wasteland - as Avalon Skate park is - and has been - virtually from the day it was constructed? NBC makes very little effort to maintain the skate park and surrounds. (photos) Why would this concrete pump track be any different? This is worrying considering it is directly opposite Av Public School, and the fields are used daily by school children, & the local community. It is close to residential areas, but also quite isolated & unlit - particularly on weekends and evenings, (the wildlife and nearby residents would not welcome more lights installed or bushland removed to open it up). **It also has the potential to attract an undesirable group of older people who are not interested in bike riding.** The Av skate park is known as a site for drug dealing & vaping. Several NBC bike park sites have had recent ~~major safety~~ issues also. How will NBC make this new Avalon bike park cleaner or safer?

2. The northern end of the field is landscaped bush and is currently a crucial safe habitat & night feeding ground for many bandicoots, possums, owls & other wildlife. (photos) They will be displaced if this bike park goes ahead (particularly the bandicoots - and they have very low survival rates if they are relocated. They are listed as 'endangered' – (photos). Pittwater Council made this landscaped bandicoot habitat when the water retention drains were put in at the northern end of the fields as a catchment to mitigate regular flooding in Avalon village. There are dozens of bandicoot burrows throughout the planted native

lomandra, gymea lilies and watergums & across the whole northern landscaped perimeter 'bowl' area of the playing fields. These would be compromised if a bike park was constructed - by either the bush being removed for construction, or kids moving through the bush on their bikes

3. The kids will not restrict their riding to the confines of the pump track. They will want to make their own jumps nearby. Concern re the potential destruction of nearby bush and damage to remaining grass on the sports fields, which could make them unusable for APS & community for other activities - The bikes may move up into Avalon Golf Course & even nearby Palmgrove Park & Angophora Reserve, - as kids make their way to & from the park from other parts of Avalon and nearby suburbs - There are no other bike parks like this in the Pittwater vicinity. Traffic will increase. Most importantly, it **does NOT address the mountain bike problem that NBC needs to solve** - that of kids & adults making their own bike jumps in ecologically sensitive, hilly bushland reserves. It will only worsen the problem.

4. Avalon desperately needs more level grass fields for sports practise. Even during Covid lockdowns and recent rains, these fields have been heavily utilised by the community. We note there is currently an enquiry into the negative effects of astro-turf fields. It would seem that more natural grass fields will be needed in the future - not more concrete!

As local stakeholders and nearby residents with a long history in the area, we would appreciate being included in any discussions relating to Avalon Golf Course, the planned bike park or the playing fields in general.

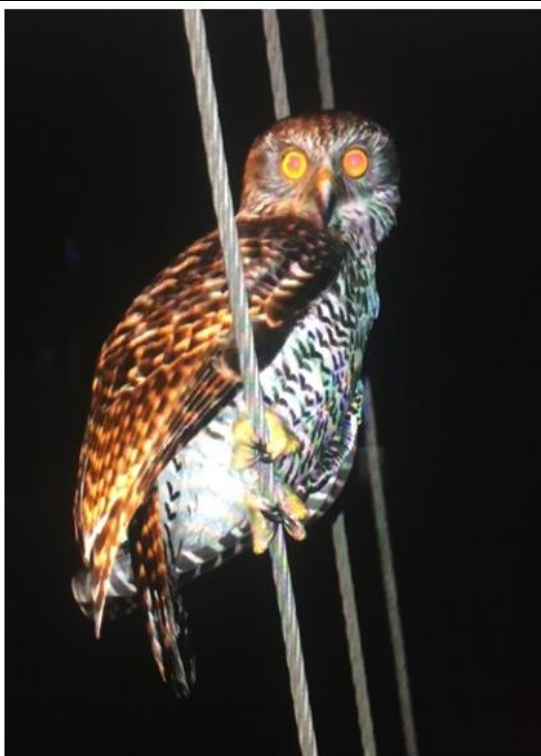
Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Avalon Skate Park - Vandalised, graffitied & poorly maintained. Can NBC guarantee that the planned new pump track would be any cleaner or safer, if they can't maintain this skate park?



Cont.....





Photos taken recently of wildlife living around the proposed pump track site. Many bandicoot diggings and burrows in Lomandra bushes on site beside footpath.





Response to

Northern Beaches Open Space and Outdoor
Recreation Strategy and Action Plan

Draft - June 2022

1st August 2022 (Amended 14th August)

The Northern Beaches Council has issued the Draft Northern Beaches Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan and has invited responses to the document.

Northern Sydney Astronomical Society (NSAS) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback and has provided the commentary in the following pages. In general, the feedback is positive on the plan, but does seek to include NSAS in various actions that Council is already committing to in this plan.

Current Action Plan comments

At the moment the strategy does 3 things:

1. Has an action on council to develop a plan for JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve
 - MP 16 *“Develop and implement a recreation plan for JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve to better accommodate and manage the varied recreational activities more effectively. The Masterplan is to consider the shared uses and needs of horses, field archery, bikes, astronomy and general community use and access. Specific needs are listed elsewhere in this Action Plan.”*

NSAS supports MP16. We would add that consideration also included for minimising light pollution and damage to wildlife and fauna in this plan. MP16 should be updated to include this consideration. Compliance with AS4282.

2. Update leasing arrangements to include NSAS. This will move NSAS from a casual booking to a formal long term arrangement and will enable signage for the field etc. There is an unstated impact of fees or other implications.

- MP 27 *“Prepare/update leases and licences and other agreements for regular user groups at JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve as required, for Warringah Field Archers, Forest Hills Pony Club, Manly Warringah BMX Club and Northern Sydney Astronomical Society and other users as required.”*

NSAS supports MP27 and looks forward to understanding Council’s intention for the longer-term leasing arrangement. Specific questions relate to signage, car park maintenance and common communication or visibility of council bookings for the site.

3. The action plan references multiple updates to the area referred to as JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve but does not reference or include NSAS in the relevant paragraph. NSAS believes it should be included in items c), d), g) and i) – NOTED IN BOLD BELOW.
- a) JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve - formalise Guggenheim, Pony Express and Kamber Climb trails pending Council being appointed manager of Kamber Crown Road Reserve
 - b) LL 24 Audit the existing cross country horse trail at JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and develop and implement a concept plan for improvements, for integration with other trails, entry and exit points and to reduce potential user conflicts. Consider any potential for shared use e.g., dual use as a bike track (such as for cyclo-cross) and for events. Consider outcomes of the audit in future DP and implement if funded.
 - c) **LL25 Improve accessibility from the field archery club car park to the club house at JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve.**
 - Safer pathway or mowed grass from NSAS observation area to toilet facilities
 - d) **LL 52 Accommodate the growing needs of mountain biking at JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve where appropriate, including the following: (missing text)**
 - e) LL 53 Pony Express and Guggenheim Mountain bike trails within JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve to be considered authorised. Improvements to be made as resources and funding becomes available including signage. A new trailhead(s) is to be created to minimise conflict with horses and other use. Continue to work with the State to confirm access to and subsequent formalisation and improvement of the Kamber Climb trail on Crown Road reserve.

- f) LL 55 Consider the potential for additional mountain bike trails including signage at JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve to the south of the BMX track, pending environmental review and community consultation.
- g) **LL 56 Consider improved and new storage and club facilities for the BMX Club at JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve based on need.**
- h) LL 58 Continue to support volunteer trail maintenance crews, e.g. provision of materials, personal protective equipment, supervision and inductions, at Manly Dam, Bare Creek Bike Park and JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and future locations as agreed.
 - i) **BB 8 Upgrade/improve the Forest Hills Pony Club Clubhouse at JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve, including expanded and new accessible public amenities. Consider shared use of the amenities with other recreation groups such as the BMX Club.**

NSAS supports the Action Plan items but does draw council's attention to the fact that several items should include NSAS to enable a more encompassing outcome. These items are c), d), g) and i).

These 4 items (LL25, LL52, LL56, BB8) should be expanded to include NSAS as an interested party to the decisions associated with these items or the topic expanded to include similar consideration for NSAS. NSAS would have valid input for discussion and consideration.

Other Considerations

NSAS also provides the following items for Council's consideration.

- a. Improved screening or denser plantings between where the "NSAS Field" is and the road and / or strong lights from the various building around – and/or consideration approaching these organisations to use lighting consistent with AS4282 / A2 designation
 - a. Including investigation of dark sky lighting options for the industry in the valley.
 - b. Implementation of a light pollution study at the site and surrounding areas to produce specific recommendations for local radiance and upward facing lights. To be incorporated into the lighting facilities onsite.
 - c. Toilet facilities lit be red light or low temperature lighting as per dark skies designs (ie. Dim 3000K lights)
 - d. The lights at the clubhouse can be switched to red lights after hours and on detectors / timers. OHS to be considered.
- b. Improved signage and road maintenance.
- c. Improved club house facilities where NSAS can store equipment (bollards, signage etc)
- d. Long Term – considerations for an observatory – Suggest that is to be included in the JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve plan
- e. Consideration for the extension of the road and made into a ring road to facilitate cars exiting at night with minimal impact to grass areas, particularly when they are soft after extended wet weather.
- f. NSAS would be interested in a discussion regarding Valet Trail as a potential long-term site to provide education and recreational support for the Northern Beaches community and the suburbs of Sydney. This environmentally damaged location could provide the basis of a long-term capability for the area, as well as resolve potential conflict for night-time astronomy activities with other users of the JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve.

NSAS appreciates the opportunity to provide the above for consideration by Council and will make itself available for any further discussion as requested by Council.

Thank you for taking the time to read my feedback on the proposed Open Spaces strategy. I would like to focus my submission on the proposals for Whitney Reserve. I live against Whitney Reserve. Here is a quick summary of my feedback, then I will go into more detail.

- Formalising bike jumps in a park surrounded on all side by residents presents problems that aren't solved by legitimisation/formalising of their existence.
- We want to retain an un-purposed open space, without lighting, playgrounds or sport courts.
- Small side parks in the neighbourhood are valued as quieter spaces to walk to with smaller kids or with elderly relatives and should be retained and maintained.
- We do not support any move that will increase car traffic, noise pollution, tree culling or environmental damage, out of hours use, or use by sport teams.
- Residents do not support any move to rezone the park. I have been advised this is not the plan and have told my neighbours as much, but we want to reiterate our position that the park remain "local".

More Details:

Like all the residents around Whitney Reserve, we're very protective of one of the few un-purposed open spaces left on the Northern Beaches and believe it should remain the way it is. A place not taken up by sport teams, that you can walk to (not drive) to get some space to kick a ball with your kid, fly a kite, walk a dog, have a picnic, and so forth.

Obviously living near a park comes with the expectation of some noise, traffic and unfortunate side effects (dog poo, rubbish). But it's important that this strategy does not present an escalation in those elements. This is a space bordered on all side by families in homes. Our kids hear every swear word, are put in danger by every extra moving and parked car, and the rubbish blows up on our doorsteps.

I hope my thoughts carry a lot of weight, because while I understand why people in other areas think, "yeah, a bike park and facilities would be great in Whitney," their lives will remain unchanged. And their properties will remain the same value. They very rarely empathise with the impact on us. Especially the impact of those of us in Whitney St, which is the main entry point for 95% of the park's use by non-residents.

During COVID, the kids built some bike jumps in the dirt at Whitney Reserve. At the time, it was the right thing to let them do it. Sports were stopped, holiday programs were cancelled, they weren't allowed playdates and so forth. For a moment in time, it made sense. Since COVID restrictions ended, the kids have shown no interest in it.

While I supported the kids having something to do during this time, having spoken to the council about what they think the proposed formalisation will do (provide a place for local kids to come and ride their bike) wasn't the reality. Let me explain why:

1. Parents were driving kids from many suburbs away, dropping them off for the day and returning late in the evenings. There was no supervision. The swearing, the bullying, the rubbish and the damage to surrounding areas was significant. From 8am to 8pm. The lack of parental supervision reached a point where one boy pushed his limits and broke his neck, requiring helicopter airlifting.
2. It starts with little kids. Then bigger kids come and kick them off. My children would frequently return in tears having had their jump pushed down or had bigger kids bully them. My neighbour was threatened and abused. I know of some kids who refused to return to Whitney even to kick a ball for fear their bully would be their riding a bike.

3. Inevitably, the bigger kids soon brought motorbikes, too. I'm sure I don't have to explain what that was like in terms of noise and damage.
4. While in winter, when this feedback is being acquired, the hours of light are small and temperature low, in summer they are long and temperate. The noise can start as early as 7am and go right through to 9pm.

Whitney Reserve is mentioned a number of times in the proposed strategy. There is a focus on bike jump legitimisation. I understand that formalising them would seem to make things easier and more straightforward for the council. When I spoke to Jessica Curry on the phone, she said how it would reduce conflict as residents wouldn't be able to tell kids to stop or knock down their jumps.

I disagree. I think it will escalate conflict dramatically, because residents will lose recourse when things get out of hand. Many of us (most of us) turned a blind eye during COVID because it's what the kids needed during that time. But if formalised, we won't be able to push back. The return of anti-social behaviour from older bike riders will lead to an increased risk of high conflict situations. Again, this isn't a "what if" situation; this is what history has taught us.

And we all live in real fear of the fact these kids know where we live. They can (and have) returned to damage our property or throw things (like glass bottles) at our driveways and homes, when asked to quiet down, move on, or stop illegal behaviour. I asked one kid to stop riding his motorbike through the park, and had two bottles thrown at my house, smashing glass all over my driveway.

In regards to looking at Whitney Reserve as a potential space for playgrounds, basketball courts and lighting, I point again to the fact this is a quiet residential street bordered on all sides by family homes. It simply isn't fit for that purpose.

At times, we've had teams looking to train here and have had to get the council and relative associations involved. The increased traffic creates hugely dangerous situations. This is not a main road. Cars were constantly going down the street and double parking, making it unsafe for kids to walk to the park. Or ride their scooters and bikes around. Eventually a child did get hit by a car, and we can all be thankful the injuries were minor (not the shock I wager).

The sound of engines running, horns tooting, doors slamming, coaches blowing whistles filled our every day. And none of the residents could actually use the park for its purpose as cones spread from one corner to the other. This is why it must remain a local park.

As you can't control the number of cars, the volume of noise, the use of any facilities as intended, the rubbish, environmental damage or the swearing right next to resident's homes, repurposing of this space should not be considered. Whitney Reserve should be removed from GG 15 and GG 17.

Instead, I would like to see the money used to improve infrastructure so our kids can actually use the current facilities. For example, the footpath along cabbage tree road to Winnererremy Bay is not a shared path and is dangerously close to a busy, unpoliced road. A full shared pathway on the golf course side would allow residents from the whole of west Mona Vale to send their kids safely down to that large and fantastic space. As well as the boat ramp for fishing.

In addition, the lack of any pedestrian crossing on the busy Maxwell St prevents families from West Mona Vale sending their kids down to the excellent skate park. (Not to mention the school)

As a father of three children, I do recognise the need for off-road bike facilities. But formalising these in residential parks will create more problems than solutions given what we just experienced first-hand during COVID. And for the same reasons, so would adding facilities that will invite increased noise, traffic and conflict.

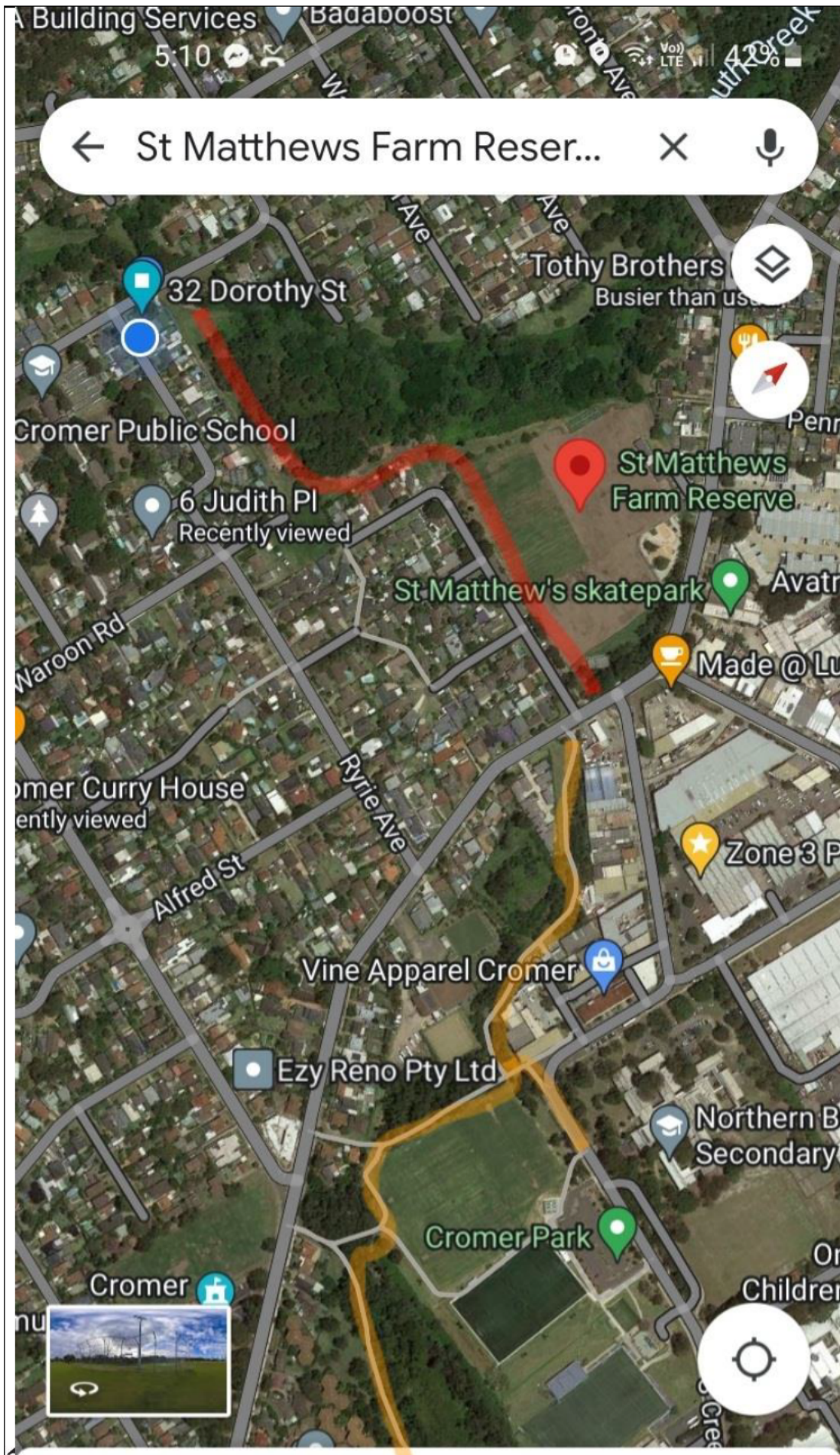
Finding locations away from residents, and building safe infrastructure to get there, is a better long-term solution. In regards to bike jumps, can I suggest the space behind the skate park in the corner of Kitchener not used for soccer? Or a track through Kooroowall Reserve between Winnererremy Bay and the Bayview Boat Ramp. (This is where our bike tracks were when I was a kid). Potentially even the school side of Progress Park away from residents.

There's also 15 Jubilee Avenue, which the owner has been trying to sell for years. It's the perfect size, shape and slope for an off-road track and away from residents. I know it's not public land, but perhaps there's still a conversation to be had there about a purchase or long-term lease.

Perhaps less obvious is the strip on the northern side of Mona Vale Rd between the RSL and Hungry Jacks. There is a long naturally downhill area here that is unused and will soon be opened up after the construction ends. It is close to resident backyards on one side, which may rule it out. But the constant traffic on the road might also drown out any noise.

There's also Mona Vale Golf Course. Surely, we don't need two 18-hole golf courses in one suburb? But maybe there's a middle ground anyway. Perhaps the hole that runs the length of Kitchener Park can be annexed and the space turned into more sports fields, courts, parking and a bike track. I'm sure the other 17 holes can be rejigged so it remains 18 holes by converting a Par 5 into two Par 3s.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts as this is a vitally important matter to residents who live on parks in our council.



St Matthews Farm Reserve

2. Submissions Outside of YourSay

Three items for consideration:-

1 The park at the end of Wimbledon Avenue Narrabeen.

The contractors are currently using this park for the construction of new pedestrian/cycle bridge over Narrabeen Lagoon.

The current condition of the park is a disgrace.

This park use to have a nice play area for children and picnics plus good parking for cyclists and walkers.

Can Council please put rejuvenation this wonderful position for a park - on it priority list of works.

2 The non foot path area which could be a new footpath/cycle - way

The non foot path adjacent to Pittwater Road, eastern side of Pittwater Road from long reef surf club area to Hawkesbury Ave Dee Why.

This would make a wonderful addition to Councils pedestrian/cycle paths.

3 Make the pedestrian/cycle path/trail around Narrabeen lagoon more resilient.

Parts of the path on the eastern side of the lagoon have recently become an impassable mud pool.

Works similar to the works on the western side of the lagoon should be undertaken to make it more resilient and able to be readily used after wet weather.

I would love to see more and new communities engagements like this, I would like to see more outdoor bike parks, And pump tracks.

Mountain biking Sydney has grown heaps because of the belrose bike park.

I love too see people get outdoors and enjoy There time in the sun.

Bike parks have heaps of that, from staying fit and healthy, from progressing your skills and I would like to see more progressive bike parks like belrose bike park.

From

Hi I am

I would like to see more mountain bike tracks in the Northan beaches like bare creek, since there is way more people mountains biking these days.

Good afternoon

I am so disappointed in hearing of all new proposals mainly for bored undisciplined children. I am a senior aged 72 and can no longer take walks which I did really enjoy for health and exercise due to kids and adults on bikes and skateboards. On almost all of my walks I have experienced an altercation with a cyclist or a skateboarder SO I NO LONGER WALK ANYMORE - it's only a matter of time until I am hit by a cyclist or skateboarder and possibly break a hip or something. Its such a shame Council doesn't consider and

provide more for responsible seniors rather than providing absolutely EVERYTHING for bored, rude, discourteous, undisciplined, irresponsible children!

My name is ***** and I have been horse riding in the area for over 20 years.

I would like to say a big thank you to the team that have been working on the trails in Duffys Forest, Terry Hills area. They have done a fantastic job!

My horse loves going out in the bush but is old, he has some arthritis in his legs so the rough rock trails makes it difficult and we can't go very far.

We still can't travel very far only 1 or two km on the perimeter trail before we have to turn around to go home but it has definitely made it more comfortable for him.

We would love some authorized shorter loop style tracks up the duffys forest end to enjoy all the bush. This would reduce the traffic condensed to the one trail and this would help to spread everyone out a little more making it safer from the increased bike riders zipping up and down the perimeter trail. Please consider this in your next meeting for those older horses who would enjoy a variation of shorter tracks or people short on time or horses that dont like bikes. It would make everyone happy and we all need more happiness in our lives 😊

Big thank you again!!

I've now had a chance to read the Draft plan and have the following comments:

1. I'm perpetually annoyed by Council's consultants who prepare these documents inserting colour-coded maps into them. Like me, a significant proportion of males are red-green colour blind to a greater or lesser extent and these maps are useless! A numerical/alphabetic coding system would make them far more relevant.
2. The prominence given in the document to a "telephone survey" of 403 people to supposedly represent the views of a population of 270,000 people is questionable, at best. I don't know about you, but when I receive a request for a telephone survey just as I'm about to sit down for dinner, I struggle not to be rude. I certainly do not respond.
3. I'm not sure if this is deliberate, but there doesn't appear to be any consideration given to organised (and casual) sports like football and cricket. I have a granddaughter who is very keen to be able to practice her cricket and struggles to find nets in any public parks.
4. Whilst I accept that the council has a "Northern Beaches Bike Plan", it's based on flawed assumptions and should not be promoted in this document. In particular Shared Pathways are dangerous, particularly to pedestrians. I'm very happy to support greater use of bicycles but only on specific cycle paths or on roads.
5. As an extension to that point, I strongly support the continuation of The Coastal Walkway" project, but only as a walkway, not a Shared Pathway.
6. I do not support any extension to off-leash dog areas, particularly near or on beaches. Small children are often intimidated by dogs who are not under control and are often injured by them, to say nothing of the unsanitary excrement they leave behind.

Overall, the document covers the relevant issues thoroughly, if a bit tediously. The apparent attempt to make the subject sound like a "scientific analysis" is mildly amusing - most of it is expressing the blindingly obvious!

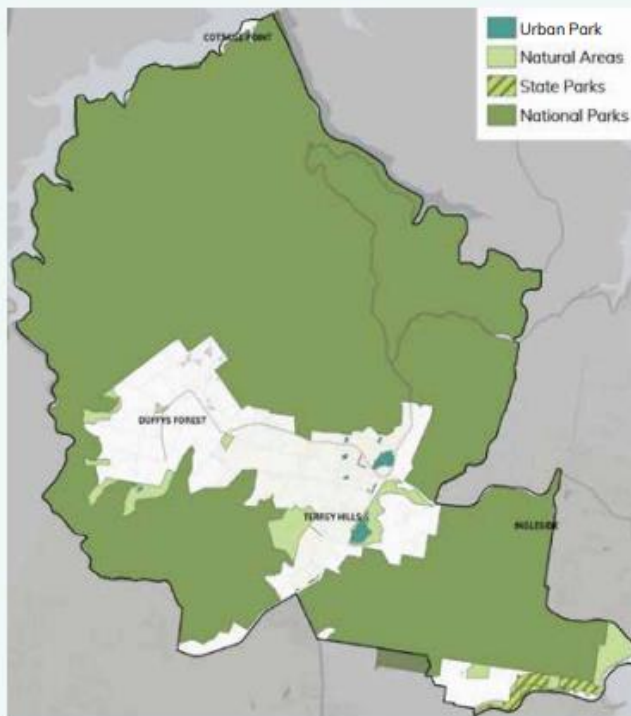
I hope those comments are helpful. Would you like me to repeat them on the "Your Say" page or are you able to incorporate them into your summary?

With almost 200 actions, some of the key priorities identified include:

- providing 7 new playgrounds at: Parkes Road Reserve in Collaroy Plateau; Ashley Reserve in Fairlight; Brick Pit Reserve in Frenchs Forest; Fielding Reserve in Collaroy; Condoval Reserve in North Balgowlah; Forestville Park; and McDonald Street Road Reserve in North Manly.
- prioritising playspace upgrades to offer higher quality and diverse play experience that benefit a broad range of people, rather than smaller playgrounds/ playspaces that service a smaller catchment. This may include alternate facilities for older children and youth such as bike parks and basketball facilities
- developing new and improved off road cycling facilities for a broad range of interests and skills, including improvements to the Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park (Manly Dam) mountain bike trail, new bike parks, formalising some unauthorised trails and continuing to work with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) on additional cross tenure trails
- installing outdoor fitness equipment and basketball/netball/multi-use courts at appropriate locations
- improving maintenance regimes (including during periods of high use) to increase the standard of service and more consistent experience e.g. toilet cleaning and maintenance, facilities maintenance, rubbish collection, trail maintenance, grass and weeds
- reviewing sportsground amenities and identifying opportunities for improved facilities
- Developing a Dogs in Public Places Policy (Dog Policy) in consultation with the community and identifying opportunities to improve to the provision of quality spaces for people to enjoy time outdoors with their dogs
- improving green/recreational grid connectivity between open spaces, town centres schools, public transport and other key locations
- continuing to support the sustainable recreational use of bushland and managing edge effects
- continuing supporting parks, garden and trail volunteers
- continuing to partner with the NSW State Government regarding shared access of school grounds and facilities and new parks
- undertaking an Indoor Sport and Recreation Needs Study.
- continue to seek funding from other tiers of government and explore corporate sector and other funding opportunities.

What other opportunities exist to explore cross tenure with Crown Lands and other State bodies and organisations?

36 Terrey Hills Catchment



Total open space - 5,879 ha



19 ha

urban parks
including sportsgrounds



217 ha

natural areas
including 39 ha of state parks



0

beaches and
foreshore parks

Recreational facilities



6

playspaces



5

public tennis
courts



3

horse arenas



3

bike parks



1

basketball
facility



1

skate facility

BMX track
What are the other 2
bike parks currently
here?

national parks

Open space diversity



1

regional space



1

district space

3.3 Off road cycling analysis

It should not be understated how much visitation there is from other LGAs due to our abundance of natural environment and formal and informal track networks

Summary

Off road cycling is a popular recreation activity on the Northern Beaches with an experienced riding community. Residents and visitors participate in a variety of riding styles including but not limited to cross country, gravity, dirt jumping and BMX. However, riders have access to relatively few authorised trails and bike park facilities catering to limited skill levels.

Managing the proliferation of unauthorised bike trails over the years, and even more so since COVID-19, is an ongoing challenge for Council. Closing and rehabilitating unauthorised trails is costly and often unsuccessful, with trails often reinstated or new trails emerging. This causes significant damage to the sensitive natural environment through tree and vegetation removal, erosion and increasing fragmentation of bushland.

A key part of preparing this Strategy has involved a targeted analysis of off road cycling facilities. The aim is twofold, to better meet the needs of riders and to identify ways to reduce unauthorised trail building.

This section summarises the outcomes of community engagement specific to off road cycling, reviews the current provision of facilities across the LGA and in each of the planning catchments, and outlines how Council will respond to gaps in provision and opportunities for improvement. The opportunities are detailed further in the Action Plan.

Opportunities for new and improved off road cycling facilities

Following the review of current off road cycling facilities, unauthorised trails and seeking input from riders, Council is proposing a number of new and improved trails and bike parks to address the gaps in provision. The opportunities are summarised in Table 1 and indicative locations are mapped in Figure 5. Further detail is provided in the Action Plan.

Strategically Council intends to:

- provide new and improved off road cycling trails and bike parks where appropriate catering to a range of riding styles and skill levels
- provide bike parks in each of the planning catchments. Advanced facilities are more likely to attract users from outside the immediate local area and should be located in areas that can accommodate visitation including access to car parking and amenities and good passive surveillance, and not unreasonably impact on residents and other users
- formalise some unauthorised off road cycling trails following consideration of feedback from relevant stakeholders and appropriate environmental reviews and planning approvals
- close unauthorised trails and bike parks that are not suitable to formalise. Reasons may include environmental concerns, conflict with other uses, inappropriate location, e.g. proximity to residences, supporting facilities and amenities
- strengthen compliance initiatives to minimise unauthorised trail building, through signage, ranger visibility, education and ongoing engagement with riders
- partner with other land owners for cross tenure opportunities, in particular State Government agencies such as National Parks and Wildlife Service, Crown Lands and Department of Education
- continue to liaise with other regional land managers in Sydney north to share information and explore regional scale opportunities.

Bike parks are great for skills development but new and improved singletrack trails are still needed to address demand and mitigate against informal singletrack in bushland

Any opportunity with Sport and Rec at Narrabeen?

Table 2

Northern Beaches Off Road Cycling: Existing

Further details are provided

Planning catchment	Trail/Facility - existing	Supported New/Improved	Potential New/Improved*
Manly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manly Dam mountain bike trail The Grove Bike Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manly Dam mountain bike trail improvements New intermediate to advanced bike park at Seaforth Oval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manly Dam - formalise New and Quarry mountain bike trails Continue to work with Transport regarding trails interfacing Tunnel project and linkage to Dam and Garigal National Park mountain bike trails, including Passumpsit trail
Frenchs Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bare Creek Bike Park Gahnia and Serrata mountain bike trails (NPWS) Garigal National Park fire trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wyatt Ave, Belrose - Junior/Beginner Bike Park Forestville Park - formalise Daisy Duke and Missys trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestville Park - investigate formalising Dirty Schnitty trail and links to Garigal National Park Lionel Watts - formalise bike dirt jumps
Terrey Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve - BMX track, pump track, dirt jump track, dual slalom track Terrey Hills fire trails (NPWS) 	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve - formalise Guggenheim, Pony Express and Kamber Climb trails pending Council being appointed manager of Kamber Crown Road Reserve Terrey Hills Oval - formalise bike dirt jumps
Mona Vale	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bike park (junior) opposite Avalon public school Ingleside Chase Reserve - formalise Mona Vale Downhill trail Bike park in Warriewood at Lynne Czinner Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in Avalon (Careel Bay), Park), Mona Vale (Whitney Reserve - formalise dirt jumps), North Narrabeen (North Narrabeen Reserve and Bilarong Reserve) and Elanora Heights (Koorangi Reserve - formalise dirt jumps) Continue to work with NPWS regarding potential to formalise some mountain bike trails at Deep Creek

Action plan needs to seriously consider major realignments where applicable

Provide a complete 12km single track MTB track wholly within the park boundary

Needs to be formalised in Bantry Bay Bushland Reserve by NBC

Expand the tracks at Narrabeen within council managed land

- Improvements and potential minor realignments to the fire trail descent off the Trig Track.
- In consultation with Transport for NSW, consider a linkages between the Trig Track and Pipeline Trail in the vicinity of the planned shared path along Wakehurst Parkways as part of the Beaches Link tunnel project, to improve connectivity and provide a safer, easier route for riders to bypass the steep fire trail within Manly Dam.

Add Improvements and realignments to the Allambie descent. This section has been heavily eroded by this years rainfall and has issues with overland flow berms intended to protect adjacent properties

Northern Beaches Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan

107

Needs to provide single track links into the Manly Dam MTB circuit

Strongly support this initiative

Manly

Supportive of these initiatives

Code	Recommended action	Catchment/s	Proposed timing	Proposed resourcing	Responsibility
LL 30	Develop a shared path along the Sydney Water pipeline between Aquatic Reserve and Manly Dam.	M, FF	Short to medium term	Consider in DP & LTFF	T&CI
LL 31	Investigate feasibility for a multi-use trail linking Condover Reserve to Manly Dam including provision of end of trip facilities at Condover Reserve such as access to car parking.	M	Short to Long term	Consider in DP & LTFF	P&R E&CC
LL 32	Investigate feasibility for a primary mountain bike trailhead at Aquatic Reserve to provide a key link to Manly Dam and the Garigal National Park mountain bike trails as well as Frenchs Forest precinct and the Beaches Link shared path. Secondary trailheads to include Mana Vale Public School, Nyrang Road, Allambie Heights Oval, Condover Reserve and potentially Seaforth Oval. Trailhead facilities to be considered including: end of trip facilities, signage, links to amenities.	FF, M	Short to Medium term	Consider in DP & LTFF	P&R
LL 33	Support one trial mountain bike event at Manly Dam, with potential for an annual event.	M	Short term	Consider in DP & LTFF	P&R
LL 34	Close and rehabilitate the unauthorised mountain bike trail at Manly Dam known to riders as Fatback and other unauthorised trails as they develop.	M	Short to medium term	DP 23/24 & consider in DP & LTFF	P&R
LL 35	Retain and signpost the unauthorised bike trails Nemesis and Quarry Track (formerly known as Edward) at Manly Dam and incorporate them into a future plan of management as part of the formal mountain bike trail. Nemesis is a realignment for the safety of rider and pedestrians. Edward provides a section of technical single track in an otherwise predominantly intermediate shared trail	M	Current to medium term	OPB 22/23 & consider in DP & LTFF	P&R

LL 56	Consider improved and new storage and club facilities for the BMX Club at JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve based on need.	TH				
LL 57	Undertake the appropriate environmental assessments required to authorise the Mona Vale Downhill mountain bike trail at Ingleside Chase and undertake any mitigation and trails works required by the assessments when resources and funding become available. Close unauthorised trails.	MV				
LL 58	Continue to support volunteer trail maintenance crews, e.g. provision of materials, personal protective equipment, supervision and inductions, at Manly Dam, Bare Creek Bike Park and JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and future locations as agreed.	M, TH				
LL 59	Support additional off-road cycling facilities at the former Belrose Waste and Recycling Centre/Bare Creek Bike Park, including a first-class standard cross-country track, pending availability of resources and funding.	FF	Short to Long term	Consider in DP & LTFF	P&R	
LL 60	Investigate the feasibility of formalising some mountain bike trails at Deep Creek (known to riders as Mt Narra), North Narrabeen. Conduct an environmental review of the recent trail audit in partnership with National Parks and Wildlife Service and undertake community engagement. Any future formalisation of trails in this area will need to consider environmental sensitivities, other parks users, e.g. walkers and dog walkers, appropriate links to the National Park and Eleanora Heights, safe access, parking and amenities, including the access/ connection between the eastern and western sides of the creek.	MV	Current to long term	OPB 22/23 & consider in DP & LTFF	P&R E&CC National Parks and Wildlife Service	

This solution needs to factor in an ability to ascend to the top of the downhill trail without use of motor vehicle for 'shuttling' for the youth. whether this is an ascending trail or 'push' up track (which can be shared use with walkers)

Great initiative

Fundamentally critical piece of work to be delivered with favourable outcomes for off-road cycling

Northern Beaches Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan

109

Code	Recommended action	Catchment/s	Proposed timing	Proposed resourcing	Responsibility
LL 61	Daisy Duke and Missys (known to riders as Mistress) trails at Forestville Park are considered authorised mountain bike trails. Improvements including any necessary realignments will be made as resources and funding becomes available.	FF	Short to long term	Consider in DP & LTFF	P&R
LL 62	Unauthorised mountain bike trails in the southern section of Forestville Park are to be rationalised. The trail known as to riders as Breadcrumbs is for walkers only and is not suitable for shared use given its narrow width. The trail known to riders as Dirty Schnitty can be considered for formalising pending appropriate protection of the Aboriginal shelter in the vicinity. Connections to the car park and Garigal National Park to be created/formalised pending agreement and funding being available, including realignments where necessary. Further feasibility work to be undertaken.	FF	Short to long term	Consider in DP & LTFF	P&R

Needs to be planned as a linking trail to Ghania in Garigal NP

Pittwater Natural Heritage Association (PNHA) is a volunteer community organisation and NSW Landcare Group, formed in 1994. We aim to promote and facilitate the enhancement and understanding of our natural heritage and ecological systems through advocacy, education and on-ground work. We welcome the exhibition of the draft Northern Beaches Open Space and Recreation Strategy and Action Plan and would like to make the following comments.

In the section What the community value and appreciate (p74), it is significant that a high number of residents appreciate access to nature, views of nature and protection and preservation of bushland. We concur with this sentiment and ask that no bushland in the northern beaches local government area be

destroyed by conversion to open space, or degraded by allowing unsustainable activities within Bushland reserves.

We support the actions aimed at educating and informing our community about protection and enhancement of bushland (p104). There is growing pressure on our bushland reserves from people who don't understand their value to biodiversity and the community.

We are opposed to authorisation of any mountain bike trails at Ingleside Chase (p108) as this reserve is easily damaged by erosion, fragmentation and loss of native flora. Often, use of one trail leads to formation of branch trails which just compound the problem. Our association led the campaign which enabled the creation of Ingleside Chase Reserve as a haven for native species, so we are extremely disappointed to see it exposed to such degrading activities. Surely there must be more appropriate locations for this activity. We note that on page 110 Council aims for improvements that are in keeping with the natural environment, and will not result in a net loss of natural bushland. Mountain bike trails in Ingleside Chase bushland are not consistent with this aim.

Finally, we believe that Northern Beaches Council must take a serious approach to protection of its bushland assets by increasing its compliance and enforcement capacity. Laws and regulations that protect our natural assets must be enforced so the majority of the community who value them are able to enjoy them into the future.

There has been some acknowledgment of mountain biking in the strategy but it only caters to a small section of the sport. Most mtb'ers want to cycle on natural terrain for at least 40+ mins. The playgrounds / pocket park / pump tracks etc are great for practice and skills courses but not for sustained exercise or rides with friends. It's a nice gesture, but doesn't really cut it.

The pocket parks should also be open for skills clinics unlike Bare Creek. It is amazing that there aren't more accidents at Bare Creek as it seems that training is only informal. Imagine Thredbo not allowing skiing lessons - it would be ridiculous, but that appears to be the case with the council and mountain biking.

I am a regular volunteer at the Manly Dam trail maintenance days and have been for years. In all the time I have been going, I have never seen a member of the council attend or lend a hand. The promises from the council on upgrading this facility have also not been kept. This understandably leads me to think the council have extremely limited knowledge of mountain biking and about as much interest, so please listen to people who actually do have an interest. There is so much demand in the community but the council are not listening.

First of all, your lack of exposure for this proposed venture is outrageous. We are ratepayers. You have a duty to write to each resident in the area of Whitney Reserve to advise residents of any proposal as you have done with the good news of our Jeannette Avenue and Marie Crescent road resurfacing.

I have asked a few neighbours and nobody has received any correspondence regarding this Outdoor Recreation proposal. Also, now that we do know, you have not given enough time for everyone to respond.

Your lack of correspondence is extremely frustrating. Your proposal would impact on every resident in the streets surrounding the area of Whitney Reserve, regarding parking, noise, pollution etc. This would also have a negative impact on our wildlife.

To answer your question: Do you support the draft Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy? NO, I DO NOT.

My comments:

Comments on the Northern Beaches Open Spaces and Outdoor Recreation

Several aspects of this plan would have significant negative impacts on the amenity, environment, parking and real estate value of ourselves and other residents of Marie Crescent, Mona Vale. The detail of very major changes is hidden in the small print of the plan leading us to believe that the Council hopes to bring in major changes without adequate consultation with affected residents.

The existing uses of both Whitney Reserve and Marie Reserve provide valuable green space and contribute to the healthy and relaxed environment of the area. We should not be doing anything that reduces the area of our low-usage green space. It provides a major contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

The proposals that give us particular concern are within the "Growth and Gaps" section and are:

GG17 Provide additional basketball facilities at appropriate locations as parks are reviewed for improvement to better meet need. These may vary from quarter courts to full size and may include some lighting depending on need, available space and compatibility with other use and users and impact on residents.

Potential locations include: • Whitney Reserve, Mona Vale
and

GG15 Reserves where play equipment is ageing and future use could be discussed with residents includes (but is not limited to):

- In the vicinity of Whitney Reserve, Mona Vale

(We believe this refers to Marie Reserve in Marie Crescent.)

The reasons why we believe these proposals are inappropriate for our area are:

GG17

1. Formalised basketball courts or playing fields for other sports, will cause significant parking problems for residents in all the nearby streets, including Marie Crescent, when either games or training are on. (Marie Crescent is just a 30 second walk from Whitney Reserve through the right of way to Susanne Road.)
2. Facility Lighting will cause light pollution issues for adjacent residents.
3. Public attendance at such playing facilities will cause noise and traffic pollution.
4. The above consequences will reduce the value of our real estate.

GG15

1. The small playground within Marie Reserve is currently used extensively by mothers and their children from nearby streets who can access the playground without having to use a motor vehicle.
2. The playground facilities in Marie Reserve are not old as they were replaced just a couple of years ago.
3. We suspect that this is another attempt to have Marie Reserve designated as a community garden area as such a proposal is mentioned generally elsewhere in the plan. A similar proposal was rejected previously by the nearby residents as it would have significant impact on parking, available amenity and security of the area.

I would like to see proposed changes to the use of Whitney Reserve removed from the plan.

Whitney Reserve

First of all, your lack of exposure for this proposed venture is outrageous. We are ratepayers. You have a duty to write to each resident in the area of Whitney Reserve to advise residents of any proposal.

I have asked a few neighbours and nobody has received any correspondence regarding this Outdoor Recreation proposal. Also, know that we do know, you have not given enough time for everyone to respond. We can only assume, this is something you want to proceed.

Your lack of correspondence is extremely frustrating. Your proposal would impact on every resident in the streets surrounding the area of Whitney Reserve, regarding parking, noise, pollution etc. This would also have a negative impact on our wildlife.

To answer your question: Do you support the draft Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy? NO, I DO NOT.

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2. The playground facilities in Marie Reserve are not old as they were replaced just a couple of years ago.

3. We suspect that this is another attempt to have Marie Reserve designated as a community garden area as such a proposal is mentioned generally elsewhere in the plan. A similar proposal was rejected previously by the nearby residents as it would have significant impact on parking, available amenity and security of the area.

We would like to see proposed changes to the use of either Whitney Reserve or Marie Crescent removed from the plan.

We would also like to see more direct consultation with affected residents in adjacent areas, as most that I have spoken to have no idea that it is proposed to change the usage of their local reserves.

I am a resident / owner at*****and would like to provide a submission against the proposed changes to the Whitney St Reserve.

During COVID lockdowns, understandably there was a vast increase in the use of the reserve, particularly children through to teenagers and more than occasionally older young adults in late teens to early 20's.

The bike jumps were particularly popular, and whilst I understand the riders wishing to build these, it definitely created many negative impacts for the families who used the reserve, and the residents living around it.

I understand the council would like to formalise the jumps to reduce conflict between residents and riders, but I feel the location of these facilities is inappropriate. The lower area of the reserve where the jumps have been built previously is closely surrounded by houses on 3 sides. Extra noise and anti-social behaviour, significantly increased rubbish dumped on the reserve and into the adjoining creek were quite out of hand at times when the riders had to abide but the lockdown rules. Were theses jumps formalised, the majority of these problems would quickly return.

Also the secluded area of the lower reserve makes it difficult to see from the street etc. and I'm sure would be a haven for younger adults who think they couldn't be seen, to continue anti-social behaviour (underage drinking, smoking etc.)

If the jumps were to be built on the main reserve are it would significantly impact the open space many families use to play ball games etc. on the upper area.

The opposite side of the field, next to "The Grange" would be possible, however this would then be unfair to all of the houses who are right next to this part of the reserve.

I do feel that it would be a great thing to have a bike park similar to something like a smaller version of Mona Vale skate park, however Whitney Reserve is not the location for such a facility.

In regards to the possible "upgrade" perhaps increased lighting etc. would be required again negatively affecting the residents who live on the edge of the reserve.

In summary:

- * The only place bike jumps would could be located would be in the middle of the reserve, which would mean it could not be used by families etc. which is its primary purpose.

- * I would be concerned if the jumps are formalised it would nullify residents' ability to put in a complaint when things get out of hand. Which they did during lockdown.

- * A lot more traffic and a lot more noise as well as longer hours of both.

- * Less (if any) space to use the park as we currently do.

- * Increase in rubbish, pollution of the creek and anti-social behaviour.

It's *****, I spoke to you on July 25 regarding the councils Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy to formalise the bike track on the slope on the eastern side of North Narrabeen Reserve and the impact it will have on residents backing onto the reserve.

Briefly the impacts would be,

Disturbance to endangered animal and bird life living and breeding in the bushland islands next to the baseball fields.

More noise adding to the year round day and night activity on the sporting fields and driving range.

Anti-social behaviour by groups of teenagers and graffiti of the new rugby and baseball clubhouse.

Dangerous asbestos through the entire area from the 1960's rubbish tip

We also discussed nearby alternative sites namely the northern end of Boondah Reserve Field No. 5 which you agreed was an ideal site for a bike park as it is well away from residential properties, has easy access, ample car parking, toilet facilities, close to shops, easy to construct and maintain and could connect to the new basketball courts on Boondah Rd.

Also we discussed the prospects of a bike park being added to the Mona Vale Skate Park depending on available area which patrons of the skate park thought was an excellent idea and would be a welcome addition to the skate park.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our thoughts and concerns and we hope that North Narrabeen Reserve remains as it currently is with no significant changes

Please keep me and all North Narrabeen Reserve neighbours informed of the future of our beautiful, precious and fragile area.

I've just read the draft plan, and I just want to register our total opposition to it.

We live across from Whitney Reserve, and having the Reserve turned into a sports area with lights will create:

- noise, late into the evening;
- parking problems;
- litter;
- loss of the Reserve as an amenity for locals.

Why is it that future plans the council comes out with always seem to destroy what we have, with no positives. Even the 'mini parks', where people will be in future be directed to Whitney Reserve, will now be rezoned for building, with the loss of yet more green space and amenity.

We oppose your plan in its entirety. Will there be a public forum where we can air our concerns, as almost certainly local residents are unaware of the damage you intend to inflict on our community (we were unaware until a neighbour alerted us)?

just wondering if any of these proposed initiatives have been costed?

As a ratepayer I am astounded that new facilities are proposed to be built but existing ones are not maintained.

How do I find the costing in this. Also I can't see the environmental impact of new facilities ie how much bush is being removed from public use for provision of facilities for single purpose groups.- where would this be ?

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment



P.O. Box 845, Narrabeen NSW 2101

www.narrabeenlagoon.org.au

To Jessica Currie,
Coordinator, Recreation Planning
Northern Beaches Council

August 19, 2022

Comments on the Draft Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy

In the Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy, we are pleased to note that there is strong support for protecting nature as well as "continuing to support sustainable recreational use of bushland and managing edge effects".

In the telephone survey (403 participants), bushwalking had the third highest participation rate for outdoor sport. (Walking rated first and swimming second.)

Off-road Cycling Mountain bikes

Another focus of the Strategy is off-road cycling. There is a strong focus on mountain biking in Section 3.3 'Off-road cycling analysis' and Section 5.2 Action Plan (2) 'Links and Loops'.

We have previously expressed concern that although there are fire trails through the bushland areas, the mountain bikers are not content to stay on the fire trails. They prefer to form other trails through the bushland, which results in the destruction of bushland, the erosion of fragile soils and sometimes causes damage to Aboriginal heritage.

We acknowledge that public authorities, such as Council, currently do not have the resources to control unauthorised mountain biking use and creation of trails. However, effective controls are required for environmental reasons to protect natural areas.

Trailbikes

In some locations, motorised trail bike use is also prevalent. This causes more damage than mountain bikers, as the heavier bikes churn up soils and cause serious erosion. The use of these motorised vehicles should be restricted to areas specifically designed and managed for them.

NOTE:

1. The Outdoor Recreation Strategy needs to include the provision of suitable resources to manage areas where mountain biking or trailbike riding is permitted.
2. Outdoor areas where mountain biking or trailbike riding is permitted need to be sign-posted and monitored in an adaptive manner where, if unacceptable negative impacts are taking place, trails can be closed and rehabilitated.

Facilities such as carparking

We are concerned that new trails and facilities, such as more car parking, will attract more mountain bike and trailbike users and exacerbate the problem of unauthorised trails and environmental damage unless there is suitable funding to managed the areas.

Adding more environmental protection for valuable areas

A high priority should be given to saving bushland areas in Red Hill and elsewhere in the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment and integrating these natural areas into existing reserves.

For environmental protection of the catchment, adding valuable areas to existing reserves is preferable to spending disproportionate amounts on infrastructure in small local reserves such as Nandi Reserve. (This reserve has natural features that can be enhanced and managed without an expensive upgrade of infrastructure.)

A priority should be given to conserving larger areas to allow for sustainable recreation activities and nature-based experiences. Otherwise, the more intensive use of our reserves will not be sustainable.

Narrabeen Lagoon itself is recognised as a major resource for outdoor water-based recreation. In the surrounding catchment, the protection of bushland is important to ensure that water quality is suitable for primary contact recreation.

Ongoing community consultation

We understand the Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy is both a high-level strategy and a detailed action plan in which specific actions will be subject to further consultation and, where appropriate, an environmental review.

We would appreciate it if our organisation could be involved in any proposals within the catchment area. We would like to get involved in any direct proposal and to have the opportunity to examine any relevant environmental review. This includes the proposal to construct a trail on Council land on the West side of Deep Creek. Council has indicated previously it will consult with Friends on this project.

Yours sincerely,

SUBMISSION:

OPEN SPACE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

20 August 2022

Firstly, there are more people than just mountain bike riders using the open spaces in the Northern Beaches. There are walkers, joggers and people who watch and record wildlife by photography or recording soundscapes. There are people out there just enjoying the serenity of the bushland. Covid has demonstrated how important it is for people's mental health to be able to escape to bushland areas.

These people in this second group are severely impacted upon by the legal mountain bike riders and the illegal motorbike riders in the Northern Beaches.

I personally have been photographing an endangered bird out in the bushland when a mountain bike rider dropped from some great height above us, screaming and yelling, not only scaring off the bird but terrifying us. I do not need to tell you about the risks to walkers from mountain bike riders who are careering down trails without a thought of what's around the next corner.

It does feel that the Plan has been written mainly for the mountain bike.

Secondly, I do not feel that mountain bike riders should be rewarded for damaging the bush by having illegal trails made legal as is outlined for the Manly Dam area.

This encourages future damage. If you want to stamp out illegal behaviours, the council should not make illegal trails legal in the future. Otherwise, it becomes a self-perpetrating issue.

There are numerous dedicated bush regenerators in the area who volunteer their time, often for decades, to repair the bushland in public spaces. They have watched in horror where parents have put mountain bike tracks right across their work. This has been justified with 'the kids have to play somewhere'.

There are still a significant number of parks in the Northern Beaches that are devoid of bushland. These would be suitable for mountain bike trails for children as they are close to the children's home, the children can get themselves there without needing to be driven and they will not be destroying our precious bushland.

The open space in peri urban bushland is a haven for our unique and often endangered flora and fauna. Scientific studies of roads have demonstrated that roads impact on wildlife for at least 500 m on either side of the road. Apart from the physical loss of bushland, there is the impact of noise, light and disturbance.

I am quite sure even though we don't have the scientific research finalised at present, that paths that bisect the bushland also impact on the flora and fauna of the area. The impact upon flora and fauna needs to be considered in this plan.

I also feel the Plan should have a section devoted to protection of public bushland. There is continuous ongoing attrition of public space bushland.

The council needs to deal with the illegal motorbike riders around the Redhill area. The motorbike riders are never policed. The damage they are doing to the bushland is clearly visible on Google Earth or Google Maps.

The plan also needs to deal with compliance.

I regularly walk the trail that circumnavigates the Narrabeen Lagoon. I have never seen a council ranger on that trail since the trail has been opened.

People regularly walk dogs off the lead there and there are bike riders who race around the track. They impact on other people. I have been knocked off my bike by a dog off lead.

The council needs to regularly send compliance officers to walk around this track and others such as those in the Manly dam area to ensure that all people can enjoy our incredibly beautiful open space bushland.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Hi Phillip

I can see there are a lot of extensive playgrounds being constructed and improved which is wonderful.

There is a small park at the end of our street (just two swings) - can we request that there be added play facilities for this area as it is much needed? There is very little else within easy walking distance. Perhaps a basketball play area or some other simple equipment

This is the park at the near the carpark on Bower Street in Manly

Many thanks and any feedback on how to go about these improvements would be much appreciated.

Best Regards



Forest Hills Pony Club

Northern Beaches Council

Attention:

Mayor Michael Regan Michael.Regan@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Dep Mayor Candy Bingham Candy.Bingham@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Cr Jose Menano-Pires Jose.Menano-Pires@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

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Cr Michael Gencher Michael.Gencher@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Cr Miranda Korzy Miranda.Korzy@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Cr Rory Amon Rory.Amon@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Jessica Currie, Acting manager, Open Space & Recreation Planning

Northern Beaches Council Jessica.Currie@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

15th August, 2022

council@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Response to Draft Open Space & Outdoor Recreation Strategy

Dear Northern Beaches Council

Thank you for the opportunity to make further submissions on the Draft Open Space & Outdoor Recreation Strategy (**Draft Strategy**).

Forest Hills Pony Club (FHPC) made a submission in May 2020, a copy of which is annexed to this submission for ease of reference.

FHPC would very much like to make a constructive contribution to the development of the Final Strategy. We consider that our earlier submission, and the interests of horse riders in the Northern Beaches Council area more broadly, have been sadly neglected in the development of the Draft Strategy, which contains virtually no analysis of or commitment to the needs of local residents who ride, and particularly children.

We urge Council to remedy this position to ensure that such a longstanding and important use of open space is supported and maintained in the Final Strategy. Horse riding in Terry Hills and surrounding suburbs is a unique and special aspect of the culture and amenity of the Northern Beaches local government area. It is a part of northern beaches life that has been greatly diminished with the increasing urbanisation of the area. It is important that the Final Strategy protects this historic use of open space for generations to come.

As outlined in our earlier submission, FHPC is the only club in the Northern Beaches local government area offering recreation activities to junior equestrians in an affordable and safe setting. Pony Club prides itself on reducing barriers to access to equestrian sports, in an effort to ensure that it remains accessible to all sectors of the community. Our membership fees are \$230.00 per annum, with no additional fees for our members to participate in local rally days which are held at our grounds at JJ Melbourne Memorial Reserve in Terrey Hills. All our instructors are local volunteers and we pride ourselves on our equity of access.

Further to our earlier submission, there are over 60 current members of FHPC. As we previously noted, the nature of the sport involves the active support of family members, and we estimate that there are at least 200 local residents directly involved in the ongoing activities of FHPC and more from other areas. When we host Zone events for Pony Club NSW, riders from across Sydney and the Central Coast attend the JJ Melbourne Memorial Reserve pony club grounds to compete. We also partner with adult riding clubs in the area to offer open competitions and riding events. The condition of the grounds reflects directly on our club and on Northern Beaches Council.

The strong impression from the Draft Strategy is that off the development of off-road cycling has assumed an overriding importance in Council's planning. FHPC recognises that many community members (including our own members) enjoy recreational cycling. However, the

opportunities for off-road cycling throughout the Northern Beaches are extensive, including throughout all five of the planning catchments addressed in the Draft Strategy. The further development of off-road cycling should not be permitted to overwhelm and prejudice the continuing use of JJ Melbourne Memorial Grounds by equestrian users including FHPC.

Failure of the Draft Strategy to recognise the unique nature of equestrian activities and in particular the provision of equestrian activities for children through Pony Club activities

Horse riders do not have the opportunity to use open space facilities throughout the local government area – they require specialist facilities which are currently limited to the two public arenas (Kinka and Anembo) and the JJ Melbourne grounds. The arena at JJ Melbourne is maintained by Forest Hills Pony Club, as is the cross-country horse trail.

The Draft Strategy (p8, section 1) identifies the five planning catchments of NBC and notes that publicly available formal equestrian grounds (arenas and the cross-country trail) are only available in the Terrey Hills planning catchment (Draft Strategy pp41, 44). This contrasts with most of the other sports identified in the Strategy; for example off road cycling can occur in all five catchments.

Further, FHPC is the only equestrian club in the local government area that caters for children. Its special position in this regard should be recognised, protected and supported.

We consider that insufficient attention has been given in the Draft Strategy has been given to protecting and supporting facilities used for horse riding. We are also very concerned that the Draft Strategy emphasises the development of offroad cycling in areas that are currently used for horse riding, in a way that is directly in conflict with the safe use of these spaces by the Pony Club and other horse riders.

A failure by Council to support FHPC by properly protecting its grounds in the Final Strategy will inevitably result in the disappearance of this important and unique use of open space and recreation offering in NBC local government area. It will also result in the a diminution in the diversity of recreation activities , as well as mark the loss of a really important aspect of the character of the Terrey Hills local area

With reference to the Strategic Directions outlined in the Draft Strategy, we make the following comments.

Strategic Direction 1 – Inform and Understand

It is important to maintain the diversity of existing community use of open space throughout the Northern Beaches. The diversity of recreational opportunity is rightfully celebrated in the Draft Strategy. That diversity is at risk if appropriate attention is not given to protecting and developing equestrian sports for children.

The use of facilities for multiple purposes is a good objective, but it should not be applied unthinkingly or in a way that endangers the safety of the various users of the facilities. This is particularly the case with equestrian activities involving children, which require careful management.

The Final Strategy should recognise the need for distinct, separate areas at JJ Melbourne Memorial Grounds dedicated for FHPC use, including the need for appropriate fencing.

Strategic Direction 3: Better and Brighter

JJ Melbourne Memorial Reserve is the *only* facility in the LGA that is dedicated to providing equestrian activities for children. To “enhance the use and quality of existing open spaces” it is necessary to commit to maintaining and improving the FHPC grounds and equestrian use of JJ Melbourne, in particular the better separation between horses and by cyclists (both off road and BMX). The Draft Strategy fails to meaningfully engage with this safety imperative.

We note LL 53 proposes a new trailhead to be created to minimise conflict between horses and mountain bike riders. It is imperative that this and other works be done to ensure complete separation of bikes and horses and prevent bike entry on the horse cross-country trail.

Strategic Direction 4: Growth and Gaps

This Strategic Direction includes the objective of enhancing open space to “address key provision gaps”. At present the Draft Strategy is likely to create a provision gap by prioritising off road cycling in a way that would make cross-country horse riding difficult or impossible, by reason of increased rider and horse safety concerns.

The suggestion at LL 24 (Draft Strategy p 106) that there might be potential for “dual use as a bike track such as for cyclo-cross” on the cross-country horse trial at JJ Melbourne should not be pursued - it would obviously create a situation of extreme danger for horse riders and cyclists alike, as well as resulting in the dangerous degrading of the cross country track, rendering it unsafe for use by horses.

Strategic Direction 5: Management and Planning

We support the proposal to ensure that management of open spaces is flexible, responsive and viable. The final form of the Open Space & Recreation Strategy should include provision for the management and development of the Pony Club facilities at JJ Melbourne, including improvement of the sand arena and cross-country trail. Such provision is currently lacking from the Draft Strategy.

Strategic Direction 6: Ongoing Maintenance

We support the maintenance of open space to maximise opportunities for users to access high quality spaces and facilities. In the case of the cross-country horse trail, council should appreciate that the safety of riding and jumping horses at speed along a trail is severely diminished if the ground condition of the trail is uneven or rutted. The regular use of a horse trail by off road bikes inevitably creates scours the surface, causing dangerous ruts and undulations. Use of horse jumps by BMX riders inevitably damages the critical take off and landing areas of those jumps for horses.

There is also no recognition in the Draft Strategy of the need to provide appropriate fencing at JJ Melbourne. The current fencing is inadequate in terms of its coverage and in poor repair. It fails to adequately separate bike areas from those used by horses.

Appropriate fencing to separate bike riders from the equestrian spaces would go a long way toward reducing the potential risks associated with contemporaneous use of these areas by cyclists and horse riders.

The Draft Strategy refers at MP 16 (p116) to the development of a Recreation Masterplan for JJ Melbourne Memorial Reserve to “consider the shared uses and needs of horses” and other sports. We agree with the proposal to Masterplan use of the reserve. However, that Masterplan must address the preservation and development of equestrian activities in the way explained above in this submission.

Please feel free to contact me or Jo McGee, Secretary FHPC, for further information about any aspect of this submission.

Yours faithfully

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

council@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

27th July 2022

Dear Mr Brownlee,

**Re: Draft Northern Beaches Open Space and
Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Northern Beaches Council's *Draft Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan*. Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD) Health Promotion is committed to ensuring that the built environment has a net-positive impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals and the wider community.

Health Promotion commends Council for drafting the Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan. It is a comprehensive and well thought out plan. It takes stock of existing open space and recreation, and puts in place strategies to address gaps that have been found in providing equitable access to the whole Northern Beaches community.

Health Promotion provides the following general recommendations in relation to the plan.

Recommendations:

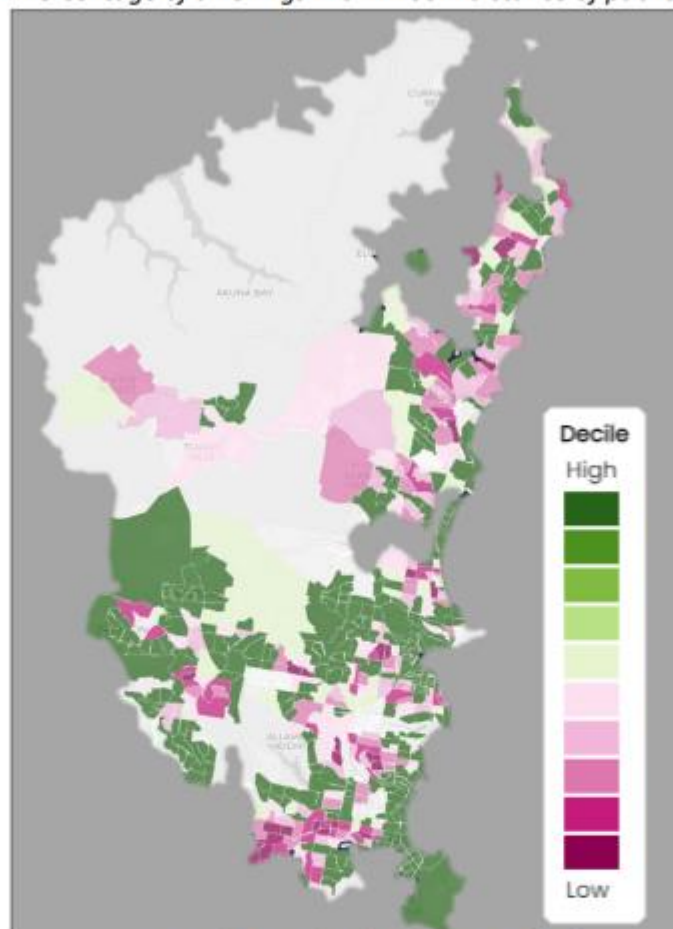
1. Delete 'Harbord' from the Brookvale - Dee Why catchment suburbs (p.8), as the suburb has been renamed 'Freshwater'.
2. Review the figures and maps in the plan and ensure they are correctly numbered and correlate with the body of the text. For example:
 - Figure 2 (referred to on p.23) appears to have been omitted.
 - Reference is made to 'Brookvale - Dee Why Figure 3' (p.29), however Figure 3 relates to the Manly catchment area.
 - There are multiple Figure 4's (p. 31 and p.35).

Public Open Space Access

The Northern Beaches community as a whole generally has quality access to public open space, with an average of 88.5% of dwellings located within 400m¹. However, the Australian Urban Observatory also highlights the disparity of access to public open space within the Northern Beaches LGA¹. Figure 1 highlights that dwellings in particular neighbourhoods, particular in Seaforth and Balgowlah, have some of the furthest distances to travel to public open space compared to all Australian Urban Centres. This indicates a need to prioritise public open space investment in these particular locations.

¹ Australian Urban Observatory website, RMIT University. Available at: <https://auo.org.au/> (cited 3 August 2022)

Figure 1: Percentage of dwellings within 400m distance of public open space



Source: The Australian Urban Observatory (2022)

Planning for public open space should incorporate multipurpose facilities such as community gardens, performance spaces, playgrounds, outdoor dining areas, green spaces dedicated to passive and active recreation, and exhibition spaces. Designs which are accessible to users of different age groups and abilities are important to ensure equitable access to public spaces.

An emerging subgroup of public open space users are those who work or study from home (WFH) as a result of COVID. Therefore, the Northern Beaches Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan should foster local incidental activity and social interactions to support this cohort of the population requiring increased access to public open space.

Recommendations:

3. Prioritise public open space investment in neighbourhoods identified as having the least access.
4. Engage with local schools and encourage participation in the *Share our Space* program, providing opportunities for community members to use school outdoor facilities during holidays for a wide range of activities.
5. Create multipurpose open spaces by co-locating community facilities that encourage intergenerational recreation.
6. Incorporate more evidence-based 'nature play' design features where possible, using the experience of current 'nature play' playgrounds that challenge and connect with nature.
7. Identify opportunities to encourage incidental activity and social interactions within public open space.

Resilient Open Spaces

Greener and more resilient public spaces are key features in DPIE's Public Space Charter². Public spaces that are softer, greener and more connected to nature can cool towns and cities, providing relief and respite and reduce the impacts of extreme weather conditions. Public spaces can also provide a network of essential hubs that bring communities together and provide refuge and escape, while building our capacity to withstand shocks during times of crisis.

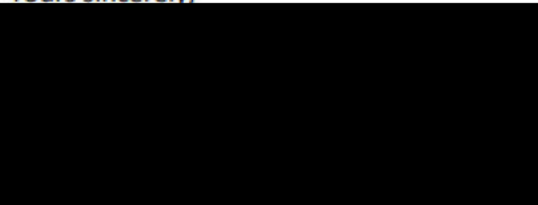
Whilst the existing tree canopy cover for Council managed lands (community centres, playgrounds, sports fields, parks and bushland reserves) is already high, we encourage Council to continue to prioritise and improve the tree canopy in public open spaces. An Australian study of 46,786 adults indicated that exposure to 30% or more tree canopy was associated with a lower incidence of psychological distress³. In addition to maintaining the quality of our natural environments, local bush care groups can play a role in enhancing social connectedness through volunteerism.

Recommendations:

8. Use the NSW Government Architect's Draft Greener Places Design Guide⁴ when planning, designing and implementing green infrastructure.
9. Prioritise street tree planting to improve amenity and provide shade, which reduces urban heat stress, helps prevent skin cancer from UV radiation and encourages walking⁵.
10. Plan for flood mitigation of recreational areas especially parks and sports fields.
11. Future proof play grounds and sports fields using climate smart design and surfaces that reduce heat impacts as per the Cool Schools Guide⁶ and Guide to Climate-Smart Playgrounds: Research Findings and Application⁷ reports.
12. Acknowledge and promote the mental health benefits of trees for the community and the positive health impacts of engaging with nature.
13. Promote and support the recruitment of residents to local bush care groups.

NSLHD Health Promotion thanks Northern Beaches Council for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan. Should you have any queries about this submission please contact David Morrissey at david.morrissey@health.nsw.gov.au. I look forward to continuing our work with Council to support projects that benefit the health and wellbeing of the community.

Yours sincerely,



Northern Sydney Local Health District

- ² NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment website, NSW Public Spaces Charter. Available at: [https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/premiers-priorities/great-public-spaces/festival-of-place/public-spaces-charter#:~:text=The%20NSW%20Public%20Spaces%20Charter%20\(PDF%207.3MB\)%20has%20been,space%20experts%20and%20community%20members](https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/premiers-priorities/great-public-spaces/festival-of-place/public-spaces-charter#:~:text=The%20NSW%20Public%20Spaces%20Charter%20(PDF%207.3MB)%20has%20been,space%20experts%20and%20community%20members) (cited 3 August 2022).
- ³ Astell-Burt, T. and Feng, X., 2019. Association of Urban Green Space with Mental Health and General Health Among Adults in Australia. *JAMA Network Open*, 2(7), p.e198209.
- ⁴ NSW Government Architect, Draft Greener Places Design Guide. <https://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/policies/greener-places> (cited 3 August 2022).
- ⁵ NSW Shade Working Group, Shade - A planning and design priority to help prevent skin cancer. December 2019. Available at: <https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/getmedia/be5ca26a-3755-4487-a698-fa843cfaf023/WR-MR0010096-A4-ShadePlanning-CI-0002-01-20.pdf> (cited 19/07/2022)
- ⁶ Madden, A.L., Arora, V., Holmes, K.A., Pfautsch, S. 2018. Cool Schools. Western Sydney University. 56 p. Available at: <http://doi.org/10.26183/5b91d72db0cb7> (cited 5 August 2022)
- ⁷ Pfautsch, S., & Wujeska-Klaue, A. (2021). Guide to Climate-Smart Playgrounds: Research Findings and Application. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.26183/2bgz-d714> (cited 5 August 2022)

It has come to my attention that Council has plans to provide additional recreation/sporting facilities to the Mona Vale catchment including Whitney Reserve Mona Vale.

Under GG17 in regards to Whitney Reserve, basketball courts or playing fields for other sports would cause an inadequate number of car parking spaces in the general vicinity, lighting & noise pollution to nearby residents. Other facilities would also need to be provided including toilets, shelter, table, seats & drinking water.

The Reserve is also a nature reserve attracting Australian native ground feeding birds due to the open space available to them, which they prefer for safety reasons, including Brush Turkeys, currently rebuilding their mound in the NW corner of the reserve, Galahs, Crested Pigeons & Rosellas the additional infrastructure would discourage them from coming or staying.

All residents that I have spoken to enjoy the current casual, open atmosphere of the reserve.



Jessica Currie
Coordinator Recreation Planning
Northern Beaches Council
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24 August 2022

Dear Ms Currie

RE: Tennis NSW input to DRAFT Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into Council's draft Outdoor Recreation strategy as placed on public exhibition recently. We understand the immense value that plans such as this do to set the table for future actions and investment which ultimately serve to meet the needs of the current and future community.

Tennis NSW is the body responsible for the promotion and development of participation in tennis across NSW (State Sporting Organisation).

Tennis is a growing sport in NSW, underpinned by its safety and incredible inclusivity, providing opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, physical capabilities (including those with disabilities), cultural and socio-economic backgrounds.

Tennis NSW has engaged positively with Northern Beaches Council through collaboration and planning programs such as Tennis Restart (report provided in 2020) and ongoing support and advice.

It submits the following feedback on the Outdoor Recreation strategy for Council's further consideration and action.

1. Tennis NSW broadly supports the comments regarding tennis on page 44 and in particular actions identified in MP28 and MP29.

This reflects the evidence that interest and participation rates in tennis on the Northern Beaches is strong and is expected to continue to do so. It also aligns with Tennis NSW's shared objective with Council and local tennis stakeholders to improve the sustainability, utilisation and capacity of the network of tennis venues to support a full range of participation opportunities.

One option would be to call this out through the development of a tennis-specific strategy which will inform actions, including those in MP28 and MP29. This is something we have discussed with Council staff and believe is supported as the next logical step.

e.g. insert "MPXX - Develop a tennis-specific strategy to investigate and set the direction for future facility management, management models, provision and investment which will improve the sustainability, utilisation and capacity of the network of tennis venues to deliver a full range of tennis participation opportunities, that are affordable and accessible, from recreational play to competitive club-based play." then reference MP28 and MP29 as they are or with minor adjustments.

2. Tennis NSW has provided attached references which might assist Council further substantiate critical insights and implications for provision and delivery of tennis within the LGA. These include:
 - *National and NSW AusPlay Data and Participation Trends*
 - *Tennis NSW DRAFT Greater Sydney Infrastructure Strategy*
 - *Local Participation Figures - Northern Beaches LGA Restart Report*

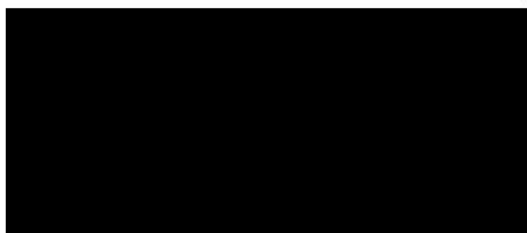
3. Request that Council consider amending MP29 to also include "explore opportunities to establish a regional level tennis venue".

As identified in Tennis NSW's State Infrastructure Strategy and in regular dialogue with Council over the past 10 years, the sport is seeking opportunities to develop a Metro Performance Hub (Tier 2) / Premier Community Venue (Tier 3) venue in the northeast of Sydney to serve the Northern Beaches and neighbouring local government areas. Such concept would seek to complement existing facility provision and

- improve access for NSW players to grand slam and ITF standard venues and events within NSW
- strengthen the local participation pathway by stimulating development of local players and coaches of all levels, which filter back into other local tennis venues, increasing the quality and performance of tennis offerings across the network in time
- supplement and grow club-based competitive play opportunities
- contribute to increasing capacity within the local tennis venue network to meet future growing demand for the sport, including for recreational play
- unlock strategic funding and investment opportunities aligned to such infrastructure and aligned objectives

4. Tennis NSW is in-principle supportive of shared use / multi-sport opportunities as identified in GG18. We have no specific assessment at this stage regarding suitability of the potential sites identified nor the specific multi-sport solution appropriate, but certainly have expertise to assist inform this future planning. This would be another outcome of a tennis-specific strategy.
5. Note the redevelopment of Warringah Recreation Centre which will return five (5) replacement tennis courts and ancillary infrastructure as part of a multi-sport precinct with Golf and Squash (not currently referenced within the action plan)

Yours faithfully



Tennis NSW

CC Dani Scivetti - Regional Tennis Manager (Metro), Tennis NSW

Participation Data and Insights

See 3.1 within attached DRAFT Greater Sydney Infrastructure Strategy

Additional comments:

Market research commissioned by Tennis Australia indicates that over 11.9% of people aged 15 or over on the Northern Beaches played tennis within the past 12 months (Sydney-wide is 10.3%) and up to 13.3% of that same population is interested in playing tennis during the next 12 months (2020 data).

This is potentially under-estimated given Northern Beaches Council's recent phone survey which indicate 17% of the population or almost one in five people played tennis in the past 12 months as one of their preferred recreational activities/hobbies.

The covid-pandemic has seen participation in tennis rise particularly through the form of recreational tennis and as a safe and accessible option for fitness and play. This trend has been sustained beyond lockdowns with AusPlay data (2021) indicating significant increase Australia-wide in participation by those aged 15 and over by 12.4% from 2019 and from third to first as the most participated sport by adults. Further, tennis was the second most continued sport post covid for children (27%) against a backdrop for many sports where participation decreased in this demographic.

Visitation

Tennis Restart report was last undertaken in 2020 and reflected audits undertaken between 2019 and 2020.

It reported:

- Over 421,266 visits per annum across 72 courts in 19 venues
- The reflected an average of 5,051 visits per annum per court (Sydney average 2,977)
- A number of venues on the Northern Beaches such as at Keirle Park, Collaroy and North Manly are generating in excess of 9,000 visits per annum per court - in part due to support of for-purpose professional deliverers (commercial coach-operators and/or club-coaches who support their community club-based operation)
- This reflects very strong participation uptake and further analysis shows the diversity of tennis offerings and access available

Key focus areas identified for Tennis NSW and Council to work together

1. on Lease and Licence / Management Model reform to match appropriate service agreements with venues
2. introduce online booking and electronic gate access solution to appropriate venues
3. to develop strategy to support a more sustainable facility funding model (ensuring venues are maintained and renewed to appropriate lifecycle condition)
4. to improve project readiness to plan appropriate asset renewal and upgrades, as well as secure grant funding and infrastructure investment
5. to improve operational and financial sustainability by ensuring all venues have established formal business planning documentation and action plans
6. to undertake annual Venue Sustainability Rating (VSR) audits to track and assess performance and sustainability of tennis on the Northern Beaches
7. to ensure best practice is met regarding child Safety

I need more time to read through your plan (which I was not aware of until yesterday) but after a look to see if there was any news about dog areas I wanted to make the following comments.

Please be aware that there is nowhere suitable for medium to large sized dogs in our area.

Careel Bay dog park had some special space allotted for small dogs (now it seems dogs with a personality disorder which is silly as you can now have very large dogs in there with very small dogs).

This is rarely used for such purpose. I go there almost every day and have only seen it used for such purposes about 3 times. This move took away some of the space for larger dogs to run. I used to play with my Labrador in that area to avoid the rougher and more rowdy dogs.

Now I notice another area of the park is being made smaller by the construction of some shaded area etc. Again this is an area where bigger dogs often run and chase the ball and it is being made smaller.

It is easy to see why many people now have their dogs run and chase balls on the field adjacent to the park because the dog park area is just not big enough.

Just wondering why the bias is towards small dogs. Does noone on the Council have a medium/large dog perhaps.

Aside from that, I welcome outdoor spaces for all people and various activities and from what I have read so far, a lot of the ideas put forward look very positive although some people will protest of course.

I congratulate Council on a thoughtful and well-considered Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan. However, there is one serious omission. I am concerned about the impact of dog-walking and off-leash areas on other users of nearby areas. Searching the document showed 39 appearances of the word 'Dog[s]', relating to the provision of quality spaces for people to enjoy time outdoors with their dogs. However, there is only one mention of 'noise' and that refers to the importance of green spaces. I can find no mention of barking. My experience of dogs on or near beaches is that the sound of barking travels far and is a major nuisance to people well outside the allocated dog area. I think assessment and consideration of this should be an important part of the information Council collect to guide where and how dog-parks/areas should be permitted.

Northern Beaches Council has well thought out strategies [e.g. <https://help.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/s/article/Barking-Dog>] to minimise the nuisance of barking of neighbours' dogs. The same consideration needs to apply to the issue of noise from dog-parks disturbing users of other open spaces nearby. The difference is that it will be difficult to control dog barking in open spaces. Therefore, there should be detailed assessment of the impact of the noise on surrounding areas, and in particular areas where sound travels, such as beaches. That extra information needs to guide decisions about where dogs will be allowed.



The Palm Beach & Whale Beach Association Inc.

www.pbwba.org.au | PO Box 2 Palm Beach NSW 2108

The purpose of this letter is to raise an issue which has come to prominence since the Council's Have Your Say item on Outdoor Space and Recreation. We chose not to make a submission on that item as it seemed a sensible approach, with the obvious qualification – that the best intentions will not be fulfilled if the program is not properly funded. We have advised the Council on several occasions that the failure to spend reasonable sums of money on the maintenance of one of our most prominent parks, Governor Phillip Park, have already resulted in its degradation and the need to spend larger sums on its restoration at some point.

That consultation paper categorised two important parks in this area as "local parks", these being Governor Phillip Park and Pittwater Park, both in Palm Beach. Both of these parks should be graded in a much higher category, for the reasons set out below. Grading them as of much higher importance than "local" may assist the Council to gain additional grants for them for necessary upgrading and restoration.

Governor Phillip Park is probably the best-known beachside park in Australia because of Home and Away and the promotional and tourist activities associated with it. However it also has had a high historical importance since it was visited by Governor Phillip only 5 weeks after the foundation of the colony in 1788. He was in search of land capable of producing food and indeed part of what is now the Palm Beach Golf Club, became a market garden later in the 19th century. It was the focus of a successful public campaign in 1918, led by the newly-formed Palm Beach Association, to save it from development and preserve it as a park.

Pittwater Park is a significant component of the transport network in the LGA. It hosts the Palm Beach Wharf which is a terminal for travel to the Western Foreshores of Pittwater but is also the point of entry to the LGA for a large number of people from the Central Coast who work in many businesses all over the LGA. It also hosts many tourists who depart from the wharf to visit or camp at the Basin or to visit Patonga and/or Bobbin Head on cruises.

We strongly recommend the lifting of the rating of these two important community resources for the reasons listed above.

Yours faithfully



Palm Beach & Whale Beach Association



To Jessica Currie
Acting Manager, Open Space & Recreation Planning
Northern Beaches Council
Email: [REDACTED]

22 August 2022

re DRAFT OPEN SPACE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STRATEGY

SUBMISSION

Note: The following submission incorporates points made during the on-line meeting with SMDCC representatives on 16 August 2022.

The Strategy is a high level strategy with a primary focus on off-road cycling and playgrounds.

Our vision is to protect the conservation values of Manly Dam Catchment.

The use of the Park for mountain biking was formalised around 2000. Prior to this walking was the predominant use of trails including the circuit around the perimeter of the Park now dominated by mountain bikes. This has resulted in a greater impact on the environment.

Mountain bikers have different skill levels and seek variability in tracks to cater for more advanced riders including world class single trail mountain bikers.

Mountain biking is a popular sport but, from observation, the dominant cohort consists of males who are reasonably young and fit. Whereas walking is an outdoor activity that attracts all ages.

In the off-road cycling survey: Of 1700 respondents - 89% male. In telephone survey (403 participants over 15 years in the LGA) – 38% female. Lobbying is mainly from the more advanced riders.

The telephone survey does not indicate rider participation rate from outside the LGA.

Council has no aspiration for the reserve to be a world class facility for mountain biking.

“The current state of existing facilities is variable. An audit of the Manly Dam mountain bike trail was undertaken, with improvements being planned and implemented in consultation with key rider stakeholders and additional maintenance works are ongoing.” (Off-road cycling analysis)

One million dollars has been allocated to improving existing mountain bike trails. The recommendations have to be in line with the Park Plan of Management.

An Audit has been done, but have not made it public because Council strongly disagrees with some of it. The allocation of funds includes the Manning Street realignment – now have environmental review and audit people working together. The \$1m is allocated via the Council budget.

Walking trail priorities are next.

Trail Care is the group with which Council has been consulting.

Map boundary

In the map for the Manly area the Park has been split with the upper portion in Frenchs Forest map.

The catchment boundaries for the Strategy do not align with our water catchments. The Parks and Recreation division of Council does not have autonomy over the boundary. The boundary needs to be consistent with other strategies such as demographic and open space provisions.

Aquatic Reserve

In the Frenchs Forest map (p27) the playing fields in Aquatic Reserve are shown as an Urban Park.

Aquatic Reserve is an integral part of MWWM Park in the upper catchment of Manly Dam. Existing vegetation and waterways in this area need to be protected.

Intensity of use will increase considerably with population increase associated with Frenchs Forest Town Centre Precinct. This will put further pressure on conservation values within the Park and Catchment.

Re Plan of Management

Council can exhibit just the amendment for 28 days prior to it being adopted by Council.

A recommended action in the Plan of Management is to incorporate bushland on adjoining Crown land into the Park. This action would improve conservation and recreational values within the Park.

Reference was made to the Riders Code of Conduct.

Is this leaflet still available and the information distributed?

Some riders are not adhering to the Code.

For example, they are riding at night or in wet conditions

There are also concerns about the impact of unauthorised trails.

There is an element of self-management in complying with Code.

Re annual mountain bike gathering: This is not supported as the intensive use will incur further damage to the environment.

Re Aquatic Reserve: We support planting trees and protecting existing vegetation.

Manly Catchment

In the map, the Park area has been truncated above the water pipeline. The upper catchment area of Aquatic Reserve is included in the Frenchs Forest Catchment. However, it is important that this area is managed as part of the Park and Manly Dam Catchment.

The MWW Park will be subject to a greater intensity of use with new development in the Frenchs Forest Town Centre Precinct. The conservation values of the Park and catchment need to be protected as a priority.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

This strategy includes the potential for several new Mountain Bike trails at Manly Dam.

We support the allocation of money to repair the erosion of the existing track but are strongly against more destruction of fragile bushland and wildlife habitat for new trails”.

There is breadth of biodiversity (detailed in flora and fauna surveys) that is threatened by fragmenting yet more bushland.

The professional ecologists involved in surveying flora and fauna all stress the need to keep habitat intact to avoid losing more species.

If the environment is to be protected we advocate no more tracks through Manly Dam.

Protect conservation areas and practice sustainable use

“Consultation indicated the community highly value natural areas for their conservation role. Some suggested that these areas, particularly at Lakeside Reserve, Nolan Reserve and Manly Dam, should be protected further by increasing conservation areas and restricting the development of hard infrastructure (e.g. courts, cycle paths).”

“Manly Dam is a gem; an oasis of natural beauty surrounded by suburbs. It’s possible to escape into this small wilderness and forget you’re in suburban Sydney.” Social pinpoint participant

We support the following:

1. Increased protection for biodiversity in heritage conservation areas.
2. Sustainable recreation use that does not degrade natural areas.
3. The protection and rehabilitation of natural areas.

In the Strategy the following is proposed:

Potential New/Improved*

Manly Dam - formalise Nemesis and Quarry mountain bike trails

* Potential opportunities may require further feasibility work, including environmental studies, community engagement and planning approvals prior to approving for implementation.

Quarry Trail was also named Edward Trail. Bikers have naming rights but do not want to assign names that reward unauthorised trails.

Rangers have tried to block the trail with branches, but these have been removed.
Concern about erosion, loss of vegetation and fragmentation.

Quarry Track

Route traverses rock terrain and sandy soils that support heath vegetation

Rock shelf a challenge for some but a potential hazard for others

Single trail is not suitable for intensive use. Reasons:

Fragmentation and potential for unauthorised links

Sandy areas prone to erosion and loss of vegetation alongside track

Potential conflict with walkers

Strategic Directions and Actions – MANLY DAM

Summary Comment

- Support U5, LL26, LL29 and LL34 to reduce environmental impacts.
- Object to LL33 and LL35 due to environmental concerns.
- Further information required re LL31, LL32, MP17

See attached.

As part of a feasibility study, we would appreciate information relating to environment studies and further involvement as part of community engagement process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Strategy.

[REDACTED]
On behalf of Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee

E: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ATTACHMENT

Strategic Directions and Actions – MANLY DAM

INFORM and UNDERSTAND

U5

Motivate, inspire, educate and support our community and stakeholders to value, protect and enhance bushland, catchments and waterways, including recreation spaces, and by facilitating, supporting volunteering such as at bike parks, gardens and natural areas, including Manly Dam.

LINKS and LOOPS

LL26

Progressively upgrade the walking trail network at Manly Dam (including surface upgrades and signage) to improve safety, access and the walking experience as well as reducing the environmental impacts including those associated with track erosion.

LL29

Implement priority improvements and upgrades to the Manly Dam mountain bike trail to improve rider safety and rider experience as well as reducing the environmental impacts. To be informed by the 2021 mountain bike trail audit and rider feedback.

LL31

Investigate feasibility for a multi-use trail linking Condover Reserve to Manly Dam including provision of end of trip facilities at Condover Reserve such as access to car parking.

LL32

Investigate feasibility for a primary mountain bike trailhead at Aquatic Reserve to provide a key link to Manly Dam and the Garigal National Park mountain bike trails...Trailhead facilities to be considered including; end of trip facilities, signage, links to amenities.

LL33

Support one trial mountain bike event at Manly Dam, with potential for an annual event.

LL34

Close and rehabilitate the unauthorised mountain bike trail at Manly Dam known to riders as Fatback and other unauthorised trails as they develop.

LL35

Retain and signpost the unauthorised bike trails Nemesis and Quarry Track (formerly known as Edward) at Manly Dam and incorporate them into a future plan of management as part of the formal mountain bike trail. Nemesis is a realignment for the safety of rider and pedestrians. Edward provides a section of technical single track in an otherwise predominantly intermediate shared trail.

Page 5 of 6

MANAGEMENT and PLANNING

MP17

To Jessica Currie
Acting Manager, Open Space & Recreation Planning
Northern Beaches Council
Email: [REDACTED]

22 August 2022

COMMENTS re DRAFT OPEN SPACE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STRATEGY

The Strategy has a predominant focus on off-road cycling and playgrounds.

The content of the Strategy is informative, comprehensive and well organised.

Re Protect conservation areas and practice sustainable use

I am pleased that the consultation indicated the community highly value natural areas for their conservation role. I agree with the comment "...we need to protect and rehabilitate these natural areas so that we can enjoy them for generations to come"

Executive Summary

In first para second sentence: 'bushwalking' could be included in addition to "off-road cycling and horse riding through bushland". Bushwalking has a higher participation rate (69% compared with 21% and 3% respectively for off-road cycling and horse riding) and less impact on the environment.

Walking 'in a variety of settings' is mentioned in the next sentence and encompasses bushwalking, but the latter is also identified as an outdoor activity (distinct from walking) in the telephone survey.

A focus of the strategy is:

"developing new and improved off road cycling facilities for a broad range of interests and skills, including improvements to the Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park (Manly Dam) mountain bike trail, new bike parks, formalising some unauthorised trails and continuing to work with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) on additional cross tenure trails"

Re 'vast tracts of open space': Bushland areas that are an integral part of the landscape will become a diminishing resource for outdoor recreation unless protected. The bushland provides core habitat, connectivity and catchment protection but is dependent on a reserve status for conservation.

If we do not protect the natural landscape there will be more intensive use of existing reserves for outdoor recreation, such as mountain biking. The increased pressure on natural areas will mean the impact of mountain biking is not sustainable for the environment. It is also important to protect our remaining bushland areas to cater for the predicted increase in population. The increased intensity of use for outdoor recreation is a further reason to protect natural areas.

We are fortunate to have local open space, but are also caretakers of natural areas with existing and potential regional, State and National significance for conservation and recreation.

It is encouraging to note that residents' value and appreciate: access to nature and environmental sustainability.

I agree with the following key priorities

- improving green/recreational grid connectivity between open spaces, town centres schools, public transport and other key locations
- continuing to support the sustainable recreational use of bushland and managing edge effects
- continuing to partner with the NSW State Government regarding shared access of school grounds and facilities and new parks

In the survey walking has the highest participation rate for an outdoor recreation activity.

Walking has a slower pace than cycling and allows more time to observe the immediate surrounds en route including the native vegetation.

From observation the mountain bike fraternity consists predominantly of fit males, who are young (teens to forties) with a skeletal frame strong enough to withstand the bumps and jumps incurred mountain biking. Walking is suitable for a wider age group and level of fitness.

Bushwalkers also have to negotiate physical impacts along trails. This includes impacts associated with the loss of vegetation and soil erosion, such as deep ruts, waterlogged areas, mud etc. and a changed runoff regime, which exacerbates soil erosion when diverted along trails.

To take pressure off the Manly Dam area and other environmentally sensitive locations it is important to give a high priority to protecting bushland in Red Hill and other non-urban areas for conservation and outdoor recreation.

Nature based activities should be sustainable to protect the conservation values of natural areas.

Off road cycling analysis

P67 "Consultation revealed overall that riders want new and improved off road cycling facilities that cater to a range of riding styles and skill levels."

"Given the high participation rates and range of riding styles and skill levels, the current provision of off road cycling facilities on the Northern Beaches falls well short of meeting current and future demand for this growing activity. Pending works will go some way towards

addressing this gap. However, more facilities are needed to adequately meet rider needs.”

Constraints to meeting rider needs include environmental factors, such as erosive soils, and compatibility with other users, such as bushwalking.

P68

Unauthorised trail review

“The environmental review and further community consultation is required prior to making a recommendation on these trails.”

This action is strongly supported.

Consult with other relevant stakeholders: include bushwalkers who also use the tracks.

Note: Not able to identify Daisy Duke and Missys (not on Trailforks).

Unauthorised local dirt jumps and opportunities for bike play

Red Hill has a local mountain bike jump area, resembling a moonscape with mounds, that young mountain bikers have built up over the years. The site is in the vicinity of Red Hill Reserve.

Compliance and education

“Compliance is an ongoing challenge in terms of educating unauthorised trail builders on the legislative frameworks in place to protect parks and bushland from illegal tree and vegetation removal and subsequent environmental degradation caused by erosion and fragmentation.

Council will continue to work with riders to explore opportunities for new and improved off road cycling facilities with a view to decreasing the prevalence of unauthorised trail building.”

Acknowledge that compliance is a problem. This makes it difficult to prevent further damage occurring in conjunction with new trails for off-road cycling.

Opportunities for new and improved off road cycling facilities

Off-road cycling Strategic Group to include bushwalkers and environmental specialists?

Protect bushland areas to consolidate and extend existing reserves. Reasons include:

- Increased population will put more pressure on existing reserves.
- Take pressure off Manly Dam and Garigal National Park.
- Exclude access to allow damaged areas to be rehabilitated

P69

Opportunities for new and improved off road cycling facilities

“Strategically Council intends to:

1. provide new and improved off road cycling trails and bike parks where appropriate catering to a range of riding styles and skill levels
2. formalise some unauthorised off road cycling trails following consideration of feedback from relevant stakeholders and appropriate environmental reviews and planning approvals
3. close unauthorised trails and bike parks that are not suitable to formalise. Reasons may include environmental concerns, conflict with other uses, inappropriate location, e.g. proximity to residences, supporting facilities and amenities
4. strengthen compliance initiatives to minimise unauthorised trail building, through signage, ranger visibility, education and ongoing engagement with riders”

Strongly agree with the latter two actions (3 and 4).

P70

Table 2

Northern Beaches Off Road Cycling: Existing, Supported and Potential Facilities.

Manly Dam – Quarry trail

On previous occasions branches have been placed at the entry to deter cyclists, but more recently they have been removed and cyclists are once again traversing the narrow trail. Impacts include a widening of the trail and loss of vegetation. The track is also used by walkers.

Forestville Park: Walkers also frequent this area.

JJ Melbourne: Walkers use the trails that are links to the National Park.

Ingleside: Walkers also use this route, which passes through a rainforest area. We have observed netting placed across the trail to deter downhill cycling to prevent further erosion and loss of vegetation within the steep terrain.

John Fisher Park

Area previously had dense ground cover with narrow walking trail. Retain a route for walkers, preferably through the forest, as part of the circuit walk around Curl Curl Lagoon.

Maybrook Avenue

Area of dirt bike jumps not specified. However, use of steep downhill bushland area near entrance from Maybrook Avenue has resulted in serious erosion and loss of vegetation. The damage to the environment is worsening with continued use for off-road cycling.

Previously this area consisted of dense native vegetation with high diversity of species and no erosion.

It is noted that:

“* Potential opportunities may require further feasibility work, including environmental studies, community engagement and planning approvals prior to approving for implementation.”

Access to nature

“Consultation participants indicated they greatly appreciate the natural areas in the LGA, noting that these areas provide peaceful spaces to relax, observe wildlife and connect with nature in an otherwise urban environment. This was particularly evident with 90% of telephone survey participants selecting ‘being in nature’ as their main reason for spending time in open space.

Acknowledge appreciation for access to nature, which also has benefits for health.

p75

Environmental sustainability

“A common thread through all community consultation was the desire to protect, preserve and use the LGA’s natural open space assets in a sustainable way. People valued the existing habitats and wildlife across the LGA’s open space network and wanted to see it protected for future generations. Off-road cyclists also sought opportunities to develop sustainable trails which aim to protect bushland areas and minimise disturbances.”

Environmental protection and rehabilitation is a high priority.

P76

Transport

“My main issue is that I need to hop in the car to get to most of these open spaces ... I would like to see more nice open spaces within walking distance of people’s homes and improve pedestrian access” Social pinpoint participant – Davidson

Local bus service for access to recreation venues would reduce car dependency and the demand for more car parking. This could be an expanded version of the Manly Hop, Skip and Jump service that is currently being reviewed.

p78

Greater education and signage for off-road cycling trails

“Education around authorised trails is lacking in the LGA...Approximately half (51%) of all respondents were not sure which trails were authorised for access”.

“Proper signage and regular maintenance throughout the [off-road cycling] network would be great. Education to riders about endangered plants and animals etc. should be part of the plan”

Off-road cycling survey participant

Agree with clear signage to provide greater clarity around authorised routes.

Also education about impacts on biodiversity including native plants and animals.

p10

Major spaces: Waterways and Aquatic Reserves

Re Water Sports: Narrabeen Lagoon and Manly Dam are used for primary contact recreation. Water quality is dependent on the protection of bushland and waterways in the surrounding catchments. This is a further reason to protect natural areas.

p13 Telephone survey

Participation in recreation activities in past 12 months:

Bushwalking 69% - third highest activity; off-road cycling 21%.

p38

Open Space Provision

“Opportunities for increasing quantity of open space are rare, and although Council will continue to partner with State Government agencies for access to new and improved open

spaces (e.g. through the NSW Parks for People Program for Nandi Reserve and County Road Reserve or purchasing land), the future focus is largely on realising the full potential and best use of the existing open space network to meet community needs. This can be achieved by improving existing open spaces, connectivity and recreation facilities and infrastructure and maintaining open spaces and facilities to the expected standard.”

Comment:

- High priority to protect non-urban land for conservation and sustainable use for recreation.
- Reserve fund to respond to increase open space, as and when opportunities arise.
- Rare opportunities have occurred in recent years, for example, in the Red Hill area.

P49

Walking trails

“Areas that provide walking access (or potential for) and high connectivity value for the community but that require additional research or feasibility in order to improve or formalise include:

- some areas along the Pittwater foreshore
- some areas of creek foreshore at North Manly
- access from Elanora Heights to Deep Creek

- linkages with National Parks, e.g. Deep Creek
- fire trails and other trails at Red Hill

Improved or formalised access to trails at Deep Creek and Red Hill would also benefit off road cycling...”

Acknowledge that Red Hill area is of high value to riders and bushwalkers.

Oxford Falls Regional Crown Reserve in Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment is also used for walking and mountain biking. This Reserve includes natural areas in Oxford Creek Catchment. Who manages this land?

OTHER TOPICS

PLAYGROUNDS

“prioritising playspace upgrades to offer higher quality and diverse play experience that benefit a broad range of people, rather than smaller playgrounds/ playspaces that service a smaller catchment. This may include alternate facilities for older children and youth such as bike parks and basketball facilities”

“Most residents are within walking distance (400 - 800 m) to a local or neighbourhood playspace...the larger playspaces can be busy during peak times (e.g. after school and weekends) which can act as a deterrent for use and therefore do not replace the need to also provide local and neighbourhood playspaces.”

I support a diversity of local and regional play spaces that benefit a broad range of people.

Playgrounds that cater for a smaller catchment have the advantage that they are usually within walking distance and allow local residents to meet informally and make friends. They have a social as well as a recreational benefit.

Larger playgrounds that service a wide area are generally more crowded.

I agree with providing facilities for older children and youth to keep them active.

DOG EXERCISE

P80 Increased public access

“Many social pinpoint respondents requested increased access to beaches and sportsfields for dog exercise. Some suggested that access to sportsfields and beaches for dog exercise could be made available outside of peak and competition hours and other times where public usage is lower.”

“Across the responses there was strong support to allow dog- walking along Palm Beach, Mona Vale Beach, Newport Beach, Bilgola Beach and North Curl Curl Beach. “

I do not support access for dog exercise along our local beaches at peak or off-peak times.

In particular, I do not support dog-walking along North Curl Curl Beach.

Reasons: Health and safety. Also the amenity of other users. The majority of dog owners are responsible, but occasionally owners display a callous indifference when their dogs chase or intimidate other users. At off peak times, when there is less surveillance, other users are likely to feel more anxious about sharing the beach with dogs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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