



# Year in review



## Message from the Chief Executive Officer



This year presented us with plenty of challenges to test our community's resilience and demonstrate our adaptability.

In late 2020, just when we felt we were recovering from the pandemic, a COVID outbreak on the Beaches put us back in a local lockdown. In what could only be described as a gold star performance, the community pulled together, followed the health orders and came out on top, setting the standard for community spirit and cooperation during tough times.

Despite the challenges, Council continued to work through our delivery program with \$73.9m of capital works completed. This included renovations at Frenchs Forest showground, upgrades at Dunbar Park and Collaroy Plateau Park playgrounds and an award-winning upgrade to the tidal pool at Little Manly. The first stage of restorations at Currawong were completed, including the Blue Tongue, Kookaburra and Goanna holiday cabins, the games room and landscaping. The boat ramp at Bilarong Reserve, North Narrabeen was upgraded, 19km of road resurfaced, 8.2km of new footpaths constructed as well as a number of shared paths and end of trip facilities, to make getting around easier.

We continued our work towards a carbon-neutral future, installing a solar system on the Andrew Boy Charlton Aquatic Centre and continued installing low-energy street lighting across the network.

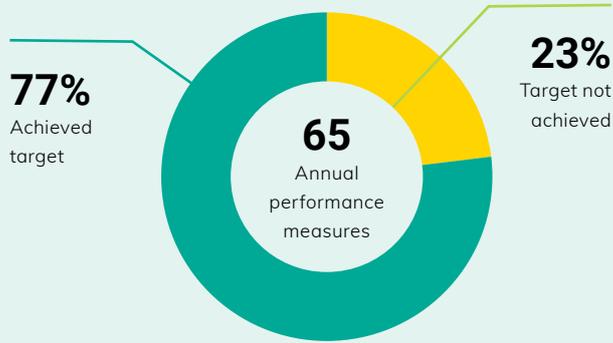
The year also had some fantastic highlights. Partnering with the World Surf League (WSL) we hosted the Rip Curl Narrabeen Classic in April. The event saw some of the world's best surfers compete in the championship tour event. The popular Taste of the Beaches event was held in a new format, partnering with local businesses to support them in recovery and attracting over 15,000 people to a series of events held over the month of May.

Just as this annual report was being prepared, we are again locked down in a Sydney-wide effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 Delta variant. Again, this community will set the standard for meeting State government restrictions and pull through.

I want to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the outgoing Council of 2017-2021. You leave a strong legacy as the first elected representatives of the Northern Beaches Council. Your steady leadership has steered Council through the challenges of amalgamation, maintaining and enhancing services and creating a resilient organisation able to support the community through any eventuality.

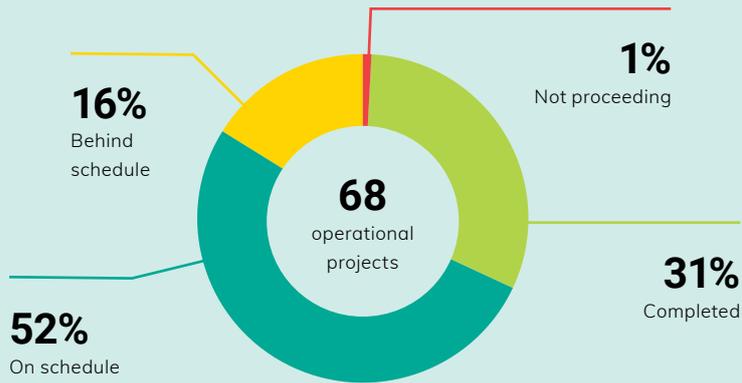
Ray Brownlee PSM  
Chief Executive Officer

Annual performance measures



Operational projects

**84%**  
completed or progressing  
on schedule - **Target 80%**



Capital projects

**86%**  
completed or progressing  
on schedule - **Target 80%**



## Resilience and emergency management

Northern Beaches Council has a significant role under the emergency management framework in NSW.

### Major activities

- Development of the COVID-19 Summer Action Plan for Public Open Spaces and COVID-19 Evacuation Supplement.
- Finalising the Local Emergency Management Plan, which was signed off by the NSW Police Assistant Commissioner in March 2021.
- Ongoing facilitation of the Local Emergency Management Committee which comprises all emergency services and supporting agencies within the Northern Beaches.
- Facilitating a multi-agency bush fire planning exercise in September 2020.
- Developing an on-water response guide for the Pittwater waterway, coordinating multiple agencies.
- Creating a comprehensive Emergency Preparedness section on the Council website, featuring articles on understanding local threats, steps to be ready for them, emergency contact details and resources on how to recover from emergencies.

### Emergency response

- Ongoing response to COVID-19 requiring extensive support to our community, NSW Health and NSW Police, particularly during the Northern Beaches outbreak in summer.
- A number of East Coast Low storm events resulting in extensive coastal erosion.
- A flooding event in March 2021 that resulted in over 500 tonnes of flood debris, including hazard materials, washing up on foreshore areas in Pittwater and the open coast.
- A major asbestos incident at Bilgola which required the evacuation of over nine properties.
- A rock fall incident at Great Mackerel Beach in October 2020 which resulted in extensive damage and continued evacuation of five properties.
- Light plane crashes at Cromer Park and Narrabeen Beach.

To advance our resilience as a Council and community, we commenced preparing the 'Resilient Northern Beaches' strategy. Extensive community engagement included four community focus groups, 10 workshops with subject matter experts and survey responses from over 600 online participants, 400 by phone and over 300 from the tailored youth survey. Further engagement activities are planned in July 2021 which will lead into the preparation of a draft strategy.

### Other agency support in resilience and emergency management

- Assisted and advised the State Emergency Services in developing the Northern Beaches Flood Plan.
- Helped the NSW Department of Education undertake a natural hazard risk assessment for public schools.
- Provided expert advice to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for the Ingleside Precinct project and other planning proposals.

## 2020/21 financial summary

Council's Net Operating Result for the 2020/21 financial year was a \$0.1m surplus, which was lower than the previous two financial years primarily due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. We delivered a capital works expenditure program of \$73.9m and repaid \$5.1m in loans.

We have met all financial and asset performance benchmarks set by the Office of Local Government apart from the Operating Performance ratio (due to the deficit operating result). However, if once-off material items are excluded this ratio would also meet the benchmark.

Our financial results over the past two financial years largely reflect the impact of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on operations and the support measures in place for the community. The net cost of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/21 was \$18m including losses due to service impacts along with small business and community support packages.

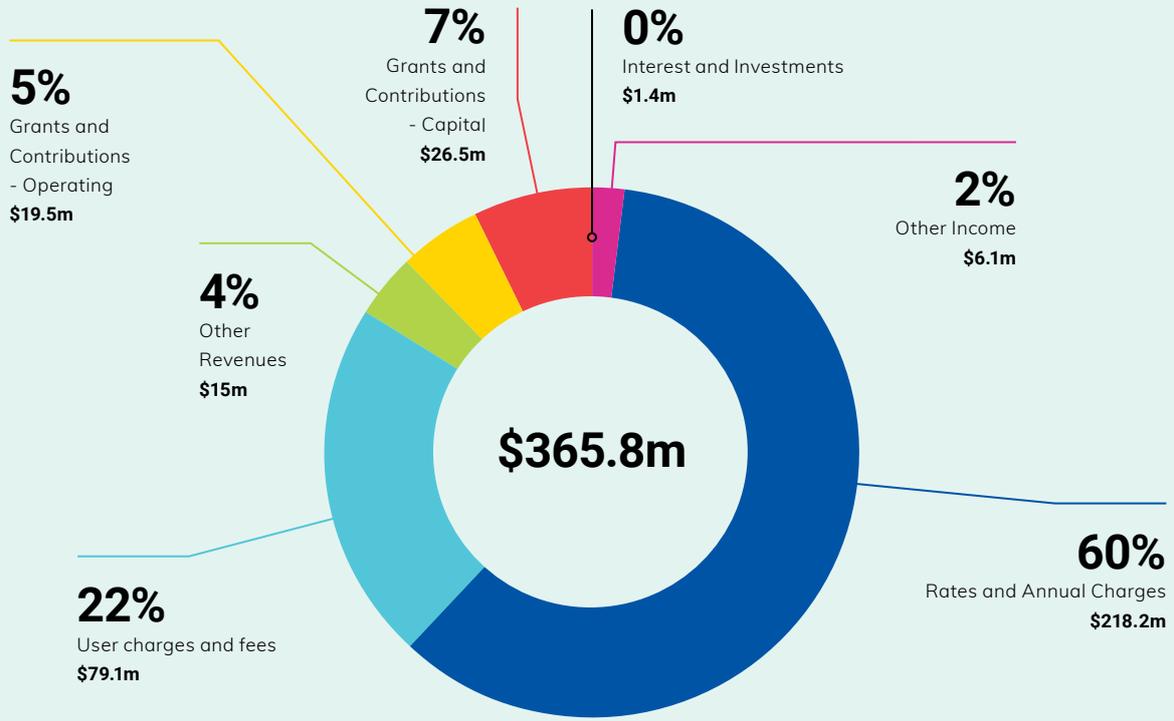
Income was slightly lower than the previous year while operating expenses increased (income -\$0.2m (0%); operating expenses +\$18.4m (5.3%)). Income was impacted by the closure and reduced use of Council facilities due to COVID-19 restrictions, while expenses included community COVID support subsidies and additional costs for the settlement of legal proceedings.

Council provided support to the community including ratepayer subsidies, relief for tenants and waiving of outdoor dining and merchandise fees. Capital expenditure was adjusted to provide capacity to respond to the pandemic and retain our long term strong and sustainable position. The Delivery Program adopted by Council in June 2021 is focused on recovery and rebuilding our working capital into the future to support the resilience of the organisation to, again, sustain unexpected events into the future.

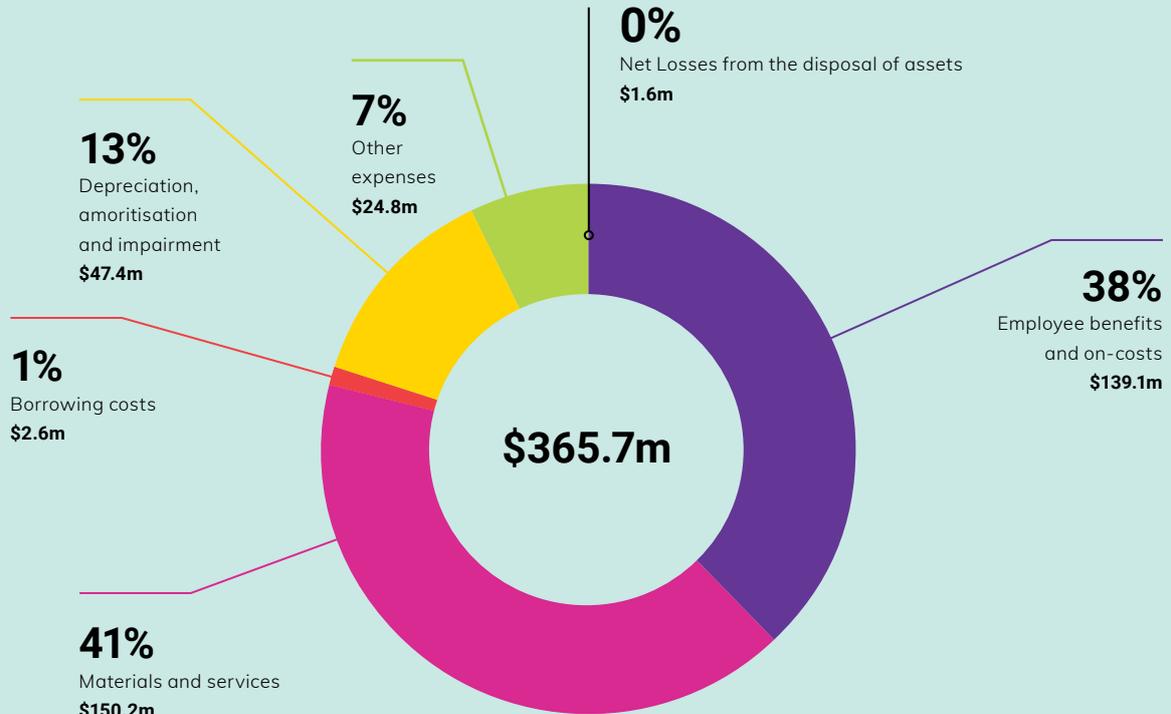
Council's General Purpose Financial Statements 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 contain more detail on our financial position and they will be attached to this report following the Council meeting on 26 October 2021.

**Figure 3**  
Financial performance summary

**Income**



**Operating expenses**



## Delivering on our Priorities

### Environment and sustainability

We lead and enable our community to live sustainably and protect biodiversity. We take action locally to tackle complex environmental challenges related to climate change, population growth, consumption and waste.

#### Key achievements 2020/21

##### Implementing the Environment and Climate Change Strategy

To support the Strategy we developed our Climate Change Action Plan, Climate Resilience Design Guide, Bushfire Prone Land Map, Local Priority Weed Management Plan as well as policies on bushland and biodiversity, bushfire management and water management for development.

##### Reducing energy, water and emissions

Since January 2021 all of Council's sites were powered by 100% renewable electricity, slashing our annual emissions by 80%. With over 800kW of solar panels now in place, the new 265kW "power station" solar system at Manly Aquatic Centre is one of the largest systems on the Northern Beaches. We now have five battery electric vehicles and 13 plug-in or hybrid vehicles in Council's fleet. We also reduced our water use by 15% this year.

We partnered with Ausgrid on the very exciting Community Battery Trial. The first of its kind in eastern Australia, the Beacon Hill community battery was installed in February 2021 and is part of a two-year pilot aiming to help local residents get the most out of their solar systems while improving the local electricity grid. We also accelerated the replacement of street lights with LEDs to reduce our energy consumption and transition away from mercury vapour lights. The LEDs reduce the light pollution into the night sky by around 90%, keeping the light within the roadway.

Our Charge Ahead program is enabling our community with energy efficiency education, resources and tailored advice to increase solar uptake. In June nearly 400 residents attended our inaugural Simplifying Solar Expo.

#### ● Environment

Protection of the Environment

Environmental Sustainability

#### ● Social

Places for People

Community and Belonging

#### ● Economic

Vibrant Local Economy

Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity

#### ● Civic

Good Governance

Partnership and Participation

**Caring for habitats**

We undertook bush regeneration at 260 sites on the Northern Beaches, planting 6,000 native plants and improving habitat across 1,083ha of bushland. Volunteers worked on another 58 sites and produced over 35,000 native seedlings in our Community Nurseries for planting. We also purchased land at Newport for its valuable habitats and wildlife corridor.

**Catchments and waterways**

Knowledge of our stormwater network's condition is vital to setting work priorities. So we completed CCTV inspections of 8,000m of pipes, relined and restored 650m of pipes, and fixed Gross Pollutant Traps (GPT). At North Steyne a new GPT will keep over 14 tonnes/year of debris out of the marine environment. Reactive works also helped beaches and creeks recover after large storms in August, March and April. A new equitable Stormwater Management Service Charge was adopted, and from July 2021 will fund stormwater works to address flood risk, waterway health and stormwater reuse for irrigating our fields.

**Sustainability**

For the first time, our community produced less than 400kg of waste per person over the year. This reflects great efforts of our residents to learn about and put in place waste solutions to avoid, recycle and reuse. Our innovative waste management and education campaigns won nine awards and commendations. Over 12,000 people participated in our education on sustainability, waste solutions and the natural environment, including sessions online, excursions and in schools. World Environment Day was a highlight with environmental events held from Palm Beach to Manly.

● **Environment**

Protection of the Environment

Environmental Sustainability

● **Social**

Places for People

Community and Belonging

● **Economic**

Vibrant Local Economy

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Good Governance

Partnership and Participation

## Delivering on our Priorities

### Health and recreation

We support our community in being healthy and active providing inviting places to use to enjoy the outdoors. These projects also increase opportunities for physical activity and active play.

#### Key achievements 2020/21

##### Sportsgrounds

The Warriewood Valley Sports Courts are completed. The area features four multiuse courts, a half-court basketball, outdoor gym and learn to ride bike track. Avalon Beach courts are also completed, with two multiuse courts and lighting so they can be used at night.

##### Recreation

Some of the world's best surfers visited North Narrabeen in April 2021 as competitors in the Rip Curl Narrabeen Classic. This event was enjoyed by many people in the open air and sunshine.

We recorded 7,739,751 beach visits this year, which is a little down on previous years, owing to COVID-19 restrictions. Our lifeguards and respected volunteers were still on hand to keep people safe whilst out and about.

A new half court and fitness station opened at Newport Beach, providing much-needed facilities for youth (aged 12 – 17). The facility gives local young people the opportunity to enjoy healthy and constructive recreation in their local neighbourhood.

##### Rockpools and tidal pools

Renewal works at Little Manly, Forty Baskets and Taylors Point tidal pools were completed in time for summer, with the Little Manly project receiving an award for excellence and innovation.

Our rockpools were all cleaned and maintained in accordance with our schedules, enabling people to stay active and healthy in the outdoors.

##### Playgrounds

The new playground at Collaroy Plateau Park was opened celebrating the links with the area and the invention of Wi-Fi, and an upgrade to the playground at Dunbar Park in Avalon. Neighbourhood playgrounds received a makeover included Grasmere Reserve, Wheeler Heights, and Terrigal Reserve, Terrey Hills

##### Environmental Health

Our Environmental Health Officers stepped up to requests from the State Government to assist with COVID-19 safety inspections at local food premises. This involved a review of COVID Safety Plans and ensuring compliance with safety measures including social distancing and wearing of masks, to reduce the spread of COVID-19. All COVID-19 environmental health concerns raised by the community this year were followed up and resolved.

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Dunbar Park Playground



## Delivering on our Priorities

### Planning for the future

We are planning holistically with the community for a future that is liveable and sustainable, protects our environment and neighbourhoods, and is supported by infrastructure and local jobs.

#### Key achievements 2020/21

##### Strategic Planning

We have reached the end of the first year of implementing Towards 2040 – Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), our community's plan for managing future population growth in line with the Sydney North District Plan. Towards 2040 has a 20-year timeframe and 187 actions to be completed in the short, medium and longer term.

At the end of its first year of implementation, 5% of actions are completed and a further 69% are in progress. Through implementing this plan, the community of the Northern Beaches continues as a great place to live, where the environment and our unique way of life is protected.

The full report is located in the Statutory Returns attached to this report.

##### Local Environmental Plan

We are continuing to plan for the future, currently examining how to improve and standardise local planning rules across the Northern Beaches. Council prepared a discussion paper with options on how to simplify development rules, protect the environment and foster economic growth. The discussion paper exhibition will take place in 2021/22.

A number of important studies are underway to inform a new local environmental plan and development control plan. Studies include environmental information, bush fire risk, urban design and employment, to name a few.

More information can be found in the Strategic land use planning chapter of the service performance section of this report.

##### Placemaking

A community-Council collaboration saw the release of the Avalon Place Plan for public exhibition and community discussion between February and May 2021. The webpage for community engagement featured videos and history, covering early community engagement and important background studies.

Council has a focus on placemaking as it has been well established that our unique local places are part of what makes the Northern Beaches such a special place to live. More placemaking is planned in coming years.

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**Development assessment**

Our Development Assessment team has been kept busy this year with a recorded 10% increase in applications from the previous year. Despite the increase in applications, process improvements have resulted in an improvement in average and median processing timeframes by 9% and 10% respectively.

Along with improved timeframes, the outcomes of development assessment have been improved with the introduction of the Development and Sustainability Advisory Panel and the Development Advisory Team to provide professional and independent advice on applications.

## Delivering on our Priorities

### Community and creativity

We enhance our public places and community cohesion through social services, arts, creativity, libraries and inclusion.

#### Key achievements 2020/21

##### Focus on community needs

Despite the challenges we faced during 2020/21, the spirit and camaraderie of the Northern Beaches community has pulled us through. Whilst some events and activities were able to take place in a face-to-face setting, others were creatively adapted to get everyone involved and connected online.

Over 130 activations were attended by more than 7,000 young people and their families during the year to educate, connect and build social cohesion.

We completed the first year of our Community Gatekeeper suicide prevention program and 178 people received training to identify warning signs, be equipped to hold safe conversations with others and have the confidence to make referrals to mental health services.

In an impressive demonstration of adaptability, Council worked with local community service partners to establish community needs during the COVID-19 lockdowns and supported them in a variety of ways. A particular highlight being the COVID Response Grants to allocate funds to local services most in need. There were 19 recipient organisations that received a share of almost \$185,000.

##### Creative initiatives

The Avalon Workshop was formally opened to the public as a creative space on 6 March 2021 in the Avalon Golf Clubhouse. This provides two multi-use workshop spaces for teaching creative mediums including physical artwork creation, small performances and digital creations. There is also now an affordable creative studio space for local artists.

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**Library Service**

Our Library Service program 'Library2U' won an award for excellence in customer experience, by supporting the community through the initial two month COVID-19 lockdown in 2020. Making over 18,000 COVID safe deliveries in that initial period, the service was able to provide happiness, hope and a form of escape to many who were in isolation.

**Progress on Surf Life Saving Club buildings**

The proposed new Mona Vale and Long Reef surf life saving club buildings and their associated community facilities have taken further steps towards reality. The construction works have commenced at Long Reef, with the old clubhouse having been demolished and ground works underway. Construction of the Mona Vale building, and associated amenities also commenced. Queenscliff has had significant refurbishments including a new lift installed for prams and wheelchairs to access the expanded upper floor. At South Narrabeen, the old tower was removed, and stairs rebuilt to allow full access to the building, with wheelchair users to access the café and club rooms by lift.

## Delivering on our Priorities

### Vibrant Centres and Business

We encourage vibrant town and village centres which reflect our character and heritage. These activated places foster a sense of community, thriving small business and local employment.

#### Key achievements 2020/21

##### **Killarney Heights commercial centre upgrade**

Following engagement with the local community and local business owners, we completed upgrades to the at Killarney Heights local shopping centre. Improvements to the space include new play equipment that is suitable for all ages, soft fall and synthetic turf, landscaping, additional seating, a shade net and footpath lighting along the Tramore Place pathway.

The village atmosphere is enhanced and a cheery, eclectic mix of businesses are there to offer a unique 'Killarney Heights' experience.

#### **Clean and safe places**

Our dedicated Public Space Officers are continuing to visit our commercial centres, parks, reserves, beaches and local streets to keep them clean and safe for everyone. They also updated COVID-19 signage, and inspected the Council carparks where COVID-19 testing sites are located to ensure that the carparks were clean and safe for that purpose.

#### **Place activation**

The Place team contributes to promoting and building vibrancy in our town and village centres and supporting a robust and diverse economy. The team has built strong stakeholder relationships and understands the unique challenges and opportunities within select centres.

The team uses research into trends impacting the region's economy, including the visitor economy and tourism trends, to develop strategies to create vibrant local economies, including place activation strategies.

Highlights this year included Live Art cube activations at several centres, sand sculpture events, a pop-up wine bar in Manly and streetscape decorations for Christmas and Mardi Gras.

#### ● Environment

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Good Governance

Partnership and Participation

**Supporting local businesses**

2020/21 has been a difficult one for businesses on the Northern Beaches and to support them Council established the Business Support Service.

As a single point of contact for information and support, the service aims to provide local business with the most accurate and up to date information as the situation with COVID-19 is constantly changing.

A dedicated Council Business Liaison Officer is on hand to find the answer to any questions that may arise.

We have also implemented a business support package, featuring fee waivers valued over \$1m, and flexible arrangements for deliveries and parking. Rates relief is available through our hardship assistance program.

A business support hub has been established to enable local professionals (that are registered and located on the Northern Beaches) to offer assistance to other businesses to help them adapt to COVID-19 and join the road to recovery.

The Northern Beaches is a great place to do business, with so many willing to help others and the community willing to support local business.

● Environment

Protection of the Environment
Environmental Sustainability

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## Delivering on our Priorities

### Connected Transport

Creating a safe, inclusive and connected community through our transport network, infrastructure and active travel links. We advocate for better road corridors, public transport and planning for a growing community.

#### Key achievements 2020/21

##### Action planning

Our 20-year transport strategy, MOVE, sets the priorities for development of auxiliary transport plans. It assists our advocacy role with the NSW Government and transport providers to improve the transport network for our community.

The strategy has a target of 30% reduction in vehicle emissions by 2038. A key component of achieving this target is the provision of infrastructure for the charging of electric vehicles (EV). So this year Council developed an Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Plan to support the uptake of electric vehicles and help reduce 'range anxiety' for EV drivers with more convenient charging stations across the area.

The draft plan was exhibited during the year and submissions will be used to review the plan and report it to Council in the new financial year.

##### Extending and improving active travel

We have good plans in place to improve active transport on the Northern Beaches and fill in any gaps in our network on a priority basis in accordance with the Walking Plan. This year we added a further 8.2km of new footpath to the network and 1.5km of shared path, including the shared paths on roads and those through reserves.

As part of our footpath asset management program 1.9km of footpath was renewed.

##### Roads and related improvements

As part of our road asset management program we resurfaced 19km of roads to improve their surfaces and help them to last longer.

Another highlight of our road asset management program was implementation of the Scotland Island Traffic Management Plan. In what was a challenging technical build, the project involved drainage and retaining wall construction together with the rehabilitation of the road pavement along Richard Road from Cecil Street to house No. 59.

Working with local residents, issues such as materials, access to the Island, stability and constructability of the road, contaminated soils, drainage and scour issues were addressed. The project has resulted in improved all weather access to properties on the Island.

#### ● Environment

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Partnership and Participation

**Improving trip facilities**

We installed an additional 36 bicycle parking places across the following locations to meet current and future demand:

- Opposite North Steyne Surf Club, Manly
- Little Manly Beach, Manly
- Chard Road, Brookvale

● **Environment**

Protection of the Environment
Environmental Sustainability

● **Social**

Places for People
Community and Belonging

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Good Governance
Partnership and Participation

## Service Improvements and Innovation

Council staff are encouraged to innovate and make improvements based on our approach to business excellence. In the past twelve months, over 100 improvements and innovations were implemented across the business improving the way services are delivered to our community.

The following are some highlights of innovations that have improved outcomes for the community and the way we do business.

### **Innovation in special events - Taste of Manly**

This festival that has been running for 34 years and underwent a makeover in 2019 that won Council an award for innovation.

Using data from a thorough review of the program, the following innovations were made:

- beach activation – for the first time ever, a beach restaurant/bar was set up on the sand to give customers a ‘money can’t buy’ dining experience on Manly Beach.
- sustainable wine glasses – reusable, dishwasher safe goblets were used to serve wine. Consumers had the choice to keep their goblet as a souvenir, or leave it for Council to wash and use again next time. This innovation has increased the environmental sustainability of the event.
- bike valet – people could ride their bike to the event and have it stored securely until they went home, at no cost.
- interactive digital event map – accessed using a QR code at the event, and available through free public Wi-Fi, the map saved Council having to print programs.

### **Excellence in leadership**

#### **- Local Strategic Planning Statement**

Council won an award for leadership in delivery of our Towards 2040 Local Strategic Planning Statement demonstrating innovation in community engagement. Community engagement involved a variety of methods including five videos/ webinars, three surveys, seven focus groups, five drop-in information sessions, five community group meetings and one mega-workshop.

Innovative methods were used including dot-voting, avatars and model building. Technical and complex information was translated into easy-to-understand concepts that were presented using visual communication as an educational tool. The program of engagement featured 30 maps and 80 infographics.

Using a scientific and educational approach to the engagement, the project had a strong online presence, with a dedicated Your Say page which provided on-demand weekly updates. During exhibition, community members could choose between 5, 10 and 15 minute online options, including an interactive PDF with embedded videos.

### **Excellence in risk management**

#### **- Council's disclosure management system**

An in-house Council software developer built an app for Council staff and Councillors to use to declare conflicts of interest. The app replaces procedures that were fragmented and involved, making it easier to make a declaration, as well as make the information available to the public in accordance with guidelines from the Privacy Commissioner.

**Communicator awards for excellence -  
Business unites campaign**

To inspire the Northern Beaches business community to be resolute in a changing environment, the Economic Development team established an innovative video project to showcase locals who have pivoted their businesses to adapt to face the challenges of COVID-19.

Winning an award, the program resulted in five online videos, one from each ward. Each video shows how businesses can change their focus, stay in business and help others.

**Manly Beach (Marine Parade)  
wave overtopping early warning  
system and response**

Using wave forecasting and remote monitoring by state of the art technology, the Marine Parade early warning overtopping project warns Council of conditions that could result in large waves and dangerous conditions for pedestrians by the sea in Manly.

This innovative system allows us to better plan for protection of pedestrians and to undertake community education and awareness of the potential for wave overtopping on the pathway. The tool allows for a forecast of dangerous conditions a week in advance. Ongoing improvements will result in the model becoming more accurate over time.

During incidents, this project has improved oversight and reduced pressures on workload and resourcing allowing staff to focus on multiple hazards and incidents from Palm Beach to Manly.

**Service reviews**

A comprehensive program of service reviews was conducted, backed up by an independent external review of the approach used. The program resulted in 57 services being systematically reviewed, and their service levels being refined to align with community needs. Almost 300 improvement actions have been identified and will be further investigated and implemented by management over the next 12 months. In addition, numerous strategic options have been identified and will be discussed with Council in the near future.

## Working with partners to deliver better outcomes

We are proud to work with the NSW and Federal Government to deliver services and improved facilities to our community through one off grant funding secured in 2020/21



### \$18.2m

- Footpaths and shared paths
- Recreational facilities and trails
- Playgrounds in our children's centres
- Road safety upgrades near primary and high schools
- Supporting COVID Safe Australia Day 2021 events
- Learning programs at The Roundhouse Children's Centre
- Beautifying Rialto Square, Manly
- World Food Markets events
- Open space at Brick Pit, Akora and Rabbett Reserves, Frenchs Forest



### \$20.9m

- Weed management at Governor Phillip Park, Middle Creek Reserve, Griffith Park and Harbord Reserve
- Walking trails at Manly Dam Reserve
- Memorial walls and seating at Manly Cemetery
- Queenscliff Surf Life Saving Club
- Activating spaces at Mona Vale, Forestville and Manly libraries
- Bush regeneration and recreation upgrades in Cromer
- Canopy tree planting in Manly Vale and Brookvale
- Pedestrian sandstone bridge and pathway at Ivanhoe Park
- Youth development events at the libraries
- Manly Dam Boardwalk
- Pedestrian ramp at Queenscliff
- Tidal pool upgrade at Clontarf
- Upgrade four cabins at Currawong and restoration of Platypus cabin
- Shared path network
- Maintenance and repair of regional roads
- Beaches Eat.Stay.Play activities and activation of Manly and Bilgola streets
- Bushfire hazard reduction works
- Cromer 1 synthetic field upgrade
- Female change space at Porters Reserve, Newport
- Frenchs Forest Showground clubhouse
- Little Manly Reserve and Bilarong Reserve boat ramps
- Forty Baskets Beach jetty
- Improving wharves at Paradise Beach, Currawong, Mackerel and Church Point
- Road safety upgrades near primary and high schools

Kayaking at Manly Dam



## Awards and Citations 2020/21



### Local Government NSW - RH Dougherty Awards

- Innovation in Special Events  
- Taste of Manly – winner
- Innovation in Special Events  
- Artists Book Award Project  
- highly commended
- Excellence in Communication  
- Swap for Good - finalist
- Excellence in Communication  
- New Waste Service - finalist

### Local Government NSW - Planning Awards

- Excellence in Leadership - Local Strategic Planning Statement Towards 2040 - finalist

### Local Government NSW - Leo Kelly Arts & Culture Awards

- Arts & Creativity Strategy Connected through Creativity 2029  
- highly commended



### LG Professionals NSW – 2020 Australasian Management Challenge

- Team Foamy Triple Shots - winner NSW
- Team Foamy Triple Shots – runner-up National (International)
- Team Foamy Triple Shots – Risk and Live Challenge categories - finalist



### NSW Resilient Australia Awards

- Northern Beaches Suicide Response – highly commended



### NSW Early Childhood Education Network (ECEEN) Sustainability Awards

- Narrabeen Children's Centre  
– Initiatives on plastic waste - finalist



### Local Government NSW Excellence in Environment Awards

- Behaviour Change in Waste  
– Waste Reduction Event & Video Series  
– highly commended
- Communication, Education & Empowerment – Swap for Good Business Program – highly commended



### NSW Department of Education Early Childhood Educator Awards

- Outstanding Commitment to inclusion within the community  
- Belrose Children's Centre  
- achieving a rating of Exceeding National Quality Standard in all seven quality areas - excellence



### Urban Development Institute of Australia Excellence Awards

- Urban Renewal – Dee Why Town Centre – commended



### The Statewide Mutual Risk Management Excellence Awards

- Metropolitan Region – Council's Disclosure Management System - winner



### NSW Youth Work Awards

- Outstanding Youth Participation - Youth Services Team - finalist
- Outstanding Partnership - Wellbeing Program joint award with Harris Farm Markets and Community Co-Op - finalist



### Greater Sydney Commission Planning Awards

- Community Collaboration - Local Strategic Planning Statement Towards 2040 - winner
- Community Collaboration - Arts & Creativity Strategy Connected through Creativity 2029 - winner



### International Association for Public Participation Australasia (IAP2)

- Core Values Awards
  - Protect.Create.Live
  - Northern Beaches Environment & Climate Change Strategy 2040
  - highly commended



### Sustainable Cities Awards – Keep Australia Beautiful

- Overall Sustainable City - practices, ethos and community collaboration - winner
- Response to Climate Change - Protect.Create.Live - Northern Beaches Environment & Climate Change Strategy 2040 - winner
- Recycled Organics - Closed Loop Organic Recycling Program - winner
- Environmental Communications - Swap for Good Campaign - winner
- Coastal & Waterways Protection - Reducing Litter in the Dee Why Lagoon Catchment, Solution for the Future - winner
- Litter Action – Don't be a Tosser / What a load of Rubbish - highly commended
- Coastal & Waterways Protection - Operation Straw - highly commended



#### Planning Institute of Australia (PIA)

- From Plan to Place - Dee Why Town Centre Urban Renewal - commended



#### LG Professionals NSW - 2020 National Federation Awards for Local Government

- Progressive Community Leadership - Northern Beaches Suicide Response - highly commended
- Environmental Leadership & Sustainability - Swap for Good Program - finalist



#### Sustainability Matters - 2020 Smart Cities Awards

- Future of Place - lead by Lake Macquarie City Council and partnered with UTS - winner



#### Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) – 2020 Engineering Excellence Awards

- Projects <\$500,000 (Design/Construction of a local government/public works project) - Little Manly Tidal Pool Renewal - highly commended



#### Hunter Valley Trading Company (HVTC) Excellence Awards 2020

- Large Host Employer of the Year - Northern Beaches Council - winner



#### 2021 Communicator Awards (international)

- Graphic Design (General Government for Brochure) - Community Arts Strategy - Connect Through Creativity 2029 - excellence award
- Graphic Design (Design Features - Overall Design for Corporate Communication) - Local Strategic Planning Statement (Towards 2040) - excellence award
- Graphic Design (Design Features - Overall Design for Marketing/Promotion) - What a Load of Rubbish - excellence award
- Communications - Digital (Social video - video series) - Business Unites Campaign - excellence award
- Communications - Digital (Social video - video series) - Amenities Upgrades Nolan Reserve, Balgowlah Oval and Lionel Watts - excellence award

- Graphic Design (Collateral - Causes & Awareness for Marketing/Promotion)
  - What a Load of Rubbish
  - distinction award
- Graphic Design (Annual Report
  - General Government for Corporate Communication) - Local Strategic Planning Statement (Towards 2040)
  - distinction award
- Communications (Content & Marketing Crisis Communications) - COVID-19 Local Response - distinction award
- Communications (Social Video - Educational & Instructional) - Be the Best Version of You: Avoid, Reuse and Recycle - distinction award
- History Hub – finalist
- Disaster Recovery/Emergency Response Management - COVID-19 Pandemic Plan & Emergency Response Framework – finalist
- Organisational Change - IGNITE-ing Business Excellence at Northern Beaches Council – finalist
- People, Workplace, Wellbeing
  - The Making a Difference Program
  - finalist
- Special Project Initiative - Engagement from Anywhere - the Library App - finalist



#### **2021 Local Government Excellence Awards**

- Community Development - Housing & Homelessness Project – winner
- Customer Experience - Library 2U Project – winner
- Asset & Infrastructure - Narrabeen Lagoon Boardwalk – highly commended
- Disaster Recovery/Emergency Response Management - Manly Beach (Marine Parade) Wave Overtopping Early Warning System & Response – highly commended
- Connected Communities & Regions



#### **LG Professionals NSW - 2021 Australasian Management Challenge**

- Team Flamin' Galahs - highly commended



#### **2021 Parks & Leisure Australia Awards**

- Park of the Year - Lionel Watts/Frenchs Forest Showground - highly commended

## Event highlights

### Community

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**40+**

Events

**85,000**

Participants

#### Highlights

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- Australia Day
  - Open Air Cinema
  - Sun Run
  - World Surfing at North Narrabeen
- 

### Glen Street Theatre

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**28**

Events

**24,927**

Participants

#### Highlights

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- The Wharf Revue  
(20th year anniversary production)
  - Animal Farm
  - Taste of Ireland
  - Melbourne International  
Comedy Festival Roadshow
  - Sydney North Public Schools Dance Festival
- 

### Community, Arts and Culture

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**456**

Events

**75,431**

Participants

#### Highlights

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- Annual Youth Week
  - Unplugged Competition
  - Annual Seniors Festival
  - Express Yourself
  - Northern Beaches Art Prize
- 

### Libraries

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**592**

Events

**17,046**

Participants

#### Highlights

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- Digital Easter Scavenger Hunt
  - Young Writers' and Young Scriptwriters' Competitions
  - Weekly Story Time and Baby Bounce
  - Library Lovers' Day
-

## Waste Education

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**50**

Events

**2,030**

Participants

### Highlights

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- Waste reduction workshops and webinar series
  - Seaside Scavenge at Collaroy
  - Bags to Riches second-hand market at Dee Why
  - Charity Clothing Collection Day
- 

## Road Safety Education

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**4**

Events

**752**

Participants

### Highlights

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- Learner driver online workshops
  - Youth car maintenance workshops
  - Seniors' workshops
  - Child restraint checks (done by voucher this year)
- 

## Environment and Sustainability

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**173**

Events

**12,342**

Participants

### Highlights

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- Simplifying Solar Expo
  - World Environment Day activities from Palm Beach to Manly
  - Science Week with 2,000 students online
  - In-house film screenings of 2040 and Sustainable Solutions
  - World Oceans Day
  - New micro plastics field surveys
-



# Our Northern Beaches



## Our community and its vision

### Our community profile

Covering 254 square kilometres north of Sydney Harbour, the Northern Beaches local government area was home to 274,041 people in 2020/21.

It is a treasured and beloved part of greater Sydney. We recorded over 7.7 million visits to our beaches in 2020/21 and 80% of Council employees live locally.

### Environment



**254 km<sup>2</sup>**

Land



**114 km<sup>2</sup>**

National Parks



**17 km<sup>2</sup>**

Bushland



**1,460**

Native Plant Species



**4**

Coastal Lagoons



**540**

Native Animal Species



**80 km**

Coastline



**14 km<sup>2</sup>**

Public Open Space



**7**

Catchments

### Economy



**105,694**

Local Jobs



**34,491**

Local Businesses



**52%**

Working Residents  
Work Locally



**63%**

Have a Full Time Job



**\$17.0b**

(GRP) Size of the  
Local Economy



**18%**

Residents Travel to Work  
by Public Transport



**60%**

Residents Travel to  
Work by Vehicle



**61%**

Have a Tertiary  
Qualification

## Community

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**122**

Sportsfields



**254**

Playgrounds



**15**

Rockpools



**2**

Aquatic Centres



**3**

Theatres/Galleries



**21**

Surf Club Buildings



**41**

Community Centres



**6**

Libraries



**274,041**

Population Now



**101,630**

Dwellings



**15**

Council Child Care Sites

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## Governance

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**15**

Local Councillors



**4**

State Members



**2**

Federal Representatives



**14,444**

On Community  
Engagement Register



**22%**

Residents are  
Volunteers



**136**

Registered  
Community Groups



**85**

People on Strategic  
Reference Groups

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## Our Elected Council

Our Council was proclaimed on 12 May 2016, with the merger of the former Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Councils.

The first elections of the new Council were held on 9 September 2017 and fifteen Councillors were elected to represent the Northern Beaches community for the first term.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected by Councillors with the Mayor elected for a two-year term and the Deputy Mayor elected for a one-year term.

Mayor Regan was re-elected Mayor at the Council meeting in September 2019. Cr Bingham was re-elected Deputy Mayor at the Council meeting in September 2020.

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### Curl Curl Ward



**Michael Regan** (Mayor) | 9942 2422  
Michael.Regan@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au



**David Walton** | 0427 741 824  
David.Walton@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au



**Natalie Warren** | 0427 495 229  
Natalie.Warren@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

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### Frenchs Forest Ward



**Roslyn Harrison** | 0427 329 907  
Roslyn.Harrison@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au



**Penny Philpott** | 0429 220 208  
Penny.Philpott@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au



**Stuart Sprott** | 0408 678 480  
Stuart.Sprott@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

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## Manly Ward

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**Candy Bingham** (Deputy Mayor) | 0418 430 544  
Candy.Bingham@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au



**Pat Daley OAM** | 0428 203 347  
Pat.Daley@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au



**Sarah Grattan** | 0427 745 673  
Sarah.Grattan@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

## Pittwater Ward

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**Kylie Ferguson** | 0481 000 170  
Kylie.Ferguson@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au



**Alex McTaggart** | 0411 779 585  
Alex.McTaggart@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au



**Ian White** | 0428 949 580  
Ian.White@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

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## Narrabeen Ward

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**Rory Amon** | 0418 497 223  
Rory.Amon@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au



**Vincent De Luca OAM** | 0427 218 553  
Vincent.DeLuca@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au



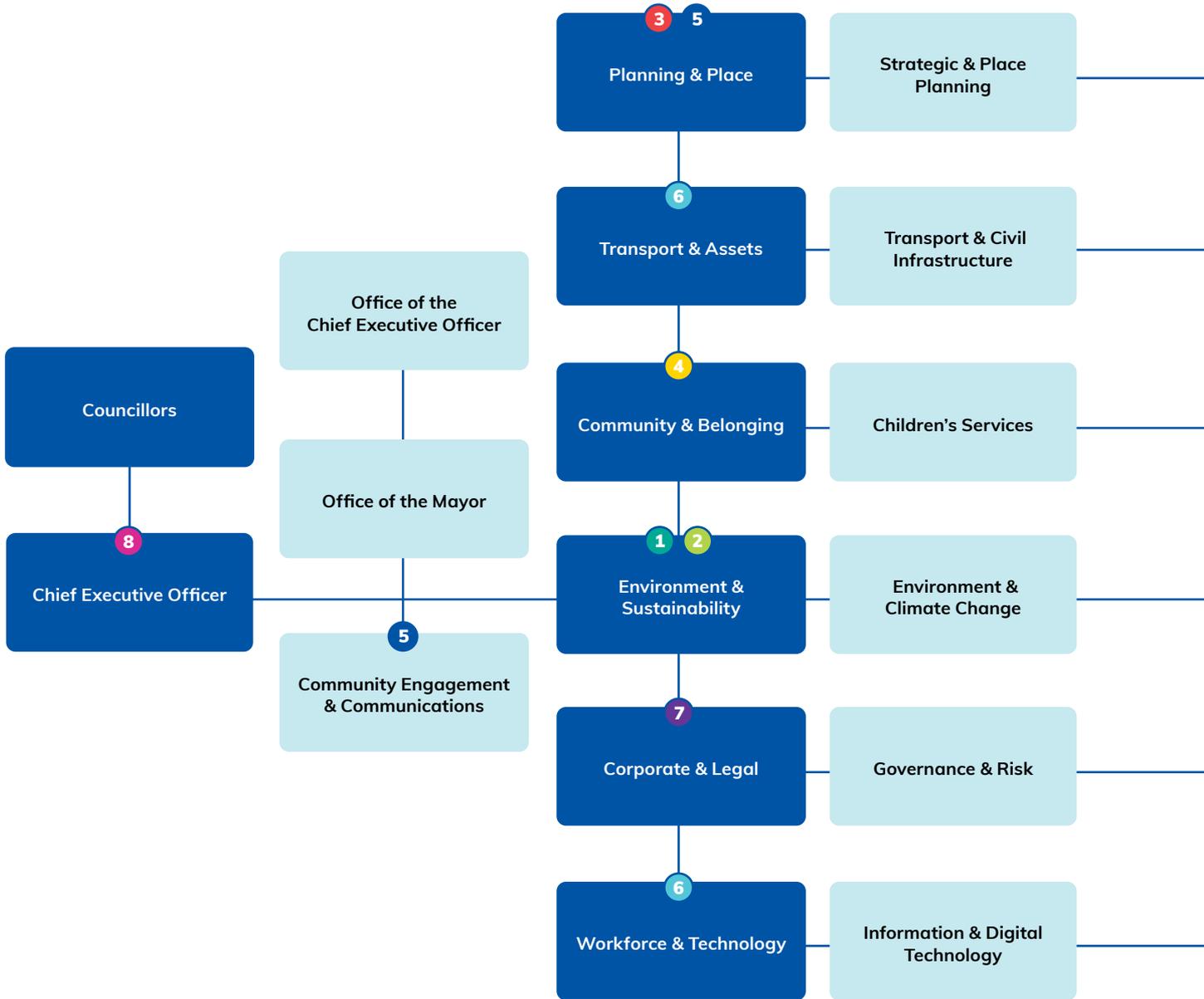
**Sue Heins** | 0427 226 453  
Sue.Heins@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

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## Our organisation

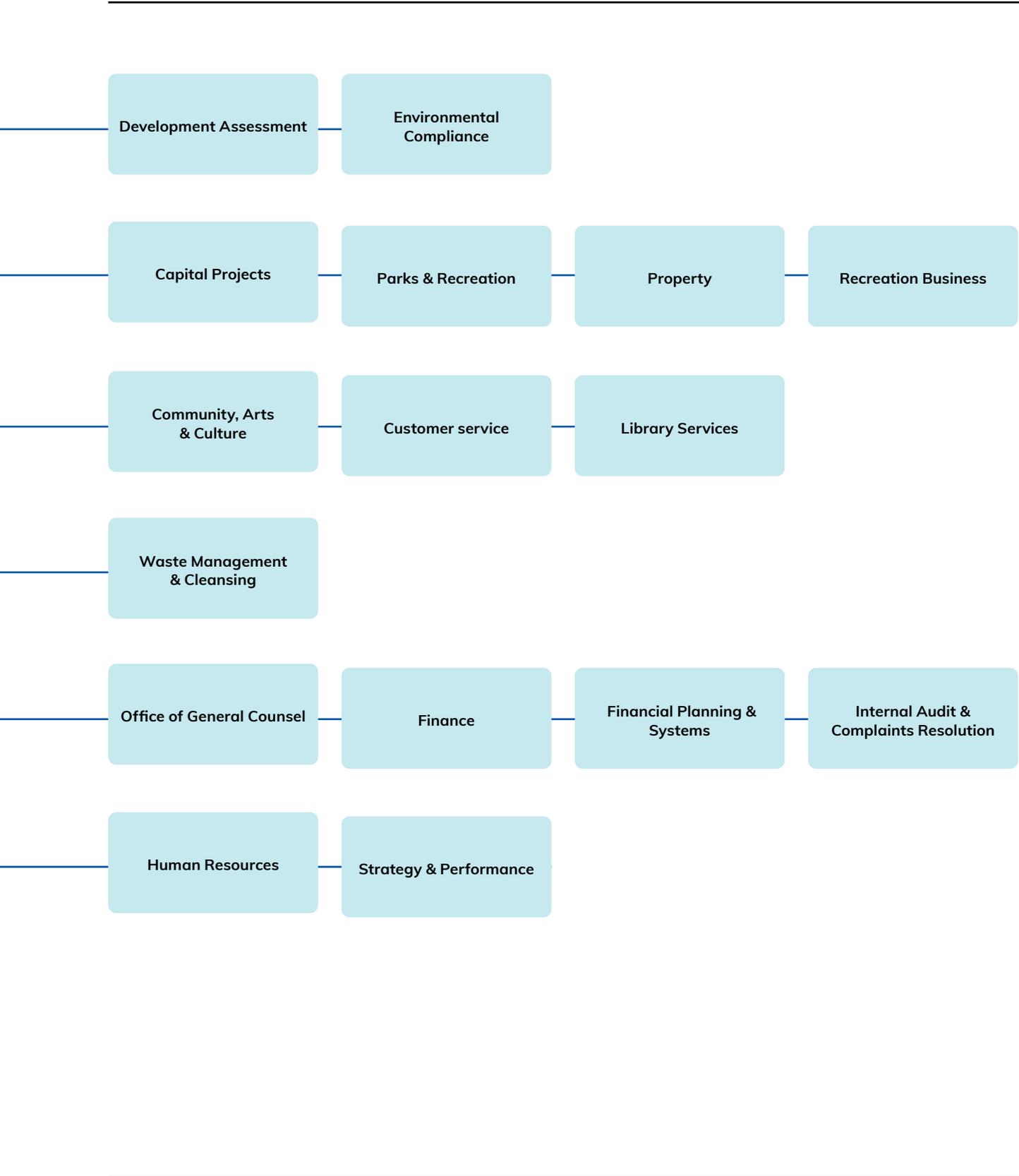
Our organisation’s structure is aligned to the community’s goals and strategies in the Community Strategic Plan ‘Shape 2028’

Council’s organisational structure



### Community Strategic Plan Outcomes

- 1 Protection of the Environment
- 5 Vibrant Local Community
- 2 Environment and Sustainability
- 6 Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity
- 3 Places for People
- 7 Good Governance
- 4 Community and Belonging
- 8 Partnerships and Participation



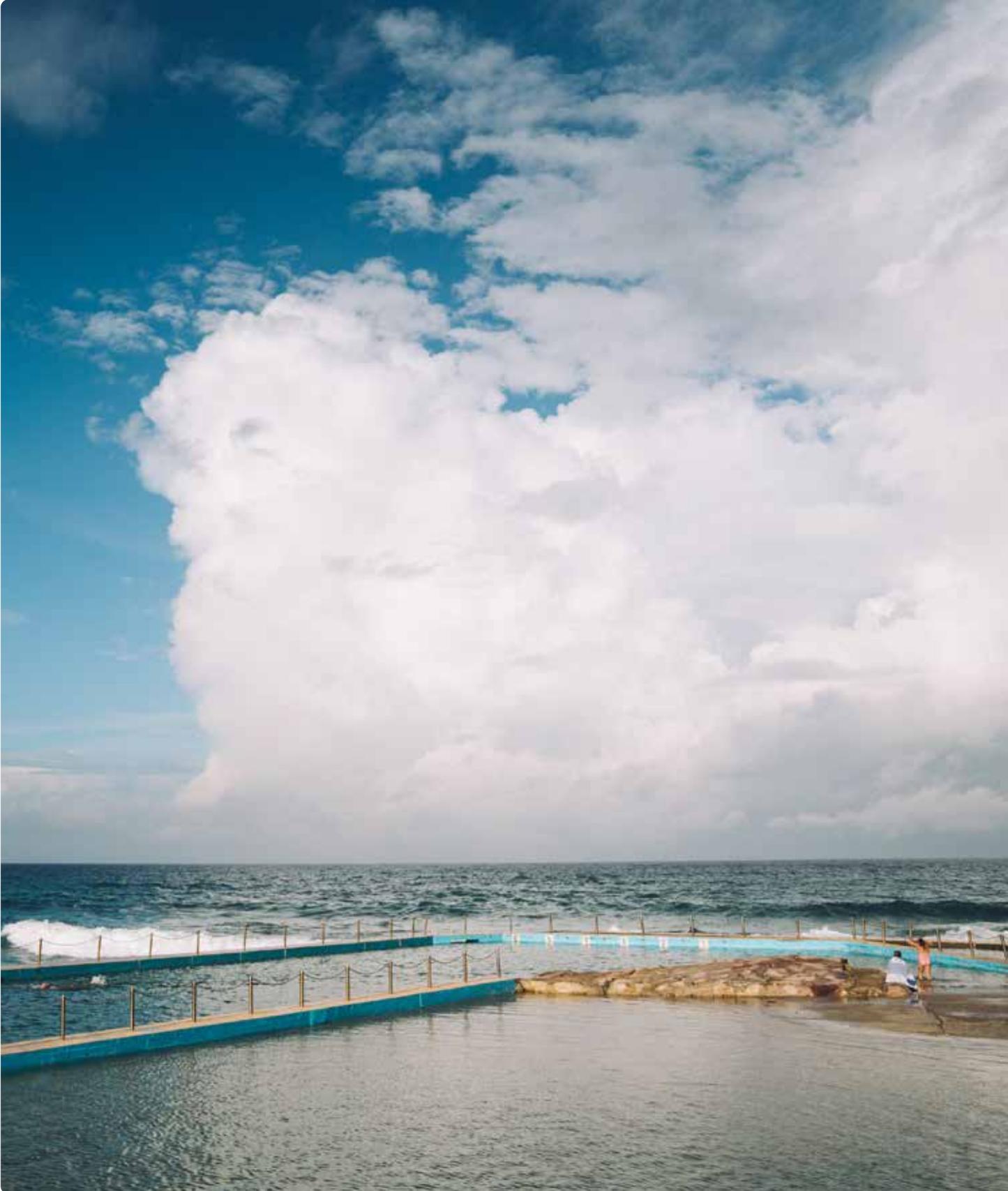
## Our Community Strategic Plan

Our Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is our roadmap for the future of the Northern Beaches. It defines the community's vision and sets a direction for everything we do over the next ten years to make the vision a reality.

The CSP identifies a strong shared desire to protect and enhance the natural and built environments, to create more connected and caring communities, to embrace our diverse sports and recreational culture, and to live more sustainably in balance with the environment. The responsibility for making the long-term community vision a reality rests with everyone.



Curl Curl Rock Pool



## Community Strategic Plan outcomes and goals

### ● Environment

#### Protection of the environment

##### Goal 1

Our bushland, coast and waterways are protected to ensure safe and sustainable use for present and future generations

##### Goal 2

Our environment and community are resilient to natural hazards and climate change

##### Goal 3

Our community is well-supported in protecting the environment

#### Environmental sustainability

##### Goal 4

Our Council is recognised as a community leader in environmental sustainability

##### Goal 5

Our built environment is developed in line with best practice sustainability principles

##### Goal 6

Our community will continue to work towards sustainable use of resources

### ● Social

#### Places for people

##### Goal 7

Our urban planning reflects the unique character of our villages and natural environment and is responsive to the evolving needs of our community

##### Goal 8

Our neighbourhoods inspire social interaction, inclusion and support health and wellbeing

##### Goal 9

Our community is healthy, active and enjoys a broad range of creative, sporting and recreational opportunities

#### Community and belonging

##### Goal 10

Our community is stimulated through a diverse range of cultural and creative activities and events

##### Goal 11

Our community feels safe and supported

##### Goal 12

Our community is friendly and supportive

- Economic

### Vibrant local economy

**Goal 13**

Our businesses are well-connected and thrive in an environment that supports innovation and economic growth

**Goal 14**

Our economy provides opportunities that match the skills and needs of the population

**Goal 15**

Our centres attract a diverse range of businesses providing opportunities for work, education, leisure and social life

### Transport, infrastructure and connectivity

**Goal 16**

Our integrated transport network meet the needs of our community

**Goal 17**

Our community can safely and efficiently travel within and beyond Northern Beaches

**Goal 18**

Our community can easily connect and communicate through reliable communication technologies

- Civic

### Good governance

**Goal 19**

Our council is transparent and trusted to make decisions that reflect the values of the community

**Goal 20**

Our Council efficiently and effectively responds to, and delivers on the evolving needs of the community

### Partnership and participation

**Goal 21**

Our community is actively engaged in decision making processes

**Goal 22**

Our Council builds and maintains strong partnerships and advocates effectively on behalf of the community