

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Stage 1 of 2)

Impact level: One

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1. Summary¹

This report outlines the stage one community and stakeholder engagement conducted from 13 December 2019 to March 2021 to inform the development of the draft Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan (Strategy). Stage two of consultation will be the public exhibition of the draft Strategy in which further feedback will be sought.

This stage one 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 community and stakeholder consultation for the Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy has provided Council with an opportunity to better understand the community's interaction with and needs relating to open spaces.

The input received during stage one of community and stakeholder engagement was reviewed and considered by the appointed consultants, Urbis and Council staff.

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

- diversity of recreation opportunity
- access to nature
- environmental sustainability
- health and wellbeing benefits and
- proximity to open space and views.

Suggested improvements include:

- higher quality of open spaces and supporting infrastructure and amenities
- better connectivity of walking and cycling trails
- more inclusive spaces
- playspaces that meet needs
- new and improved opportunities for off road cycling
- additional facilities such as more basketball hoops and outdoor fitness equipment
- cleaner and better maintained open spaces and facilities

¹ Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.

1.1. Key outcomes of engagement activities



Total contributions
received

Approximately 3,000



Interactive document

Social Pinpoint map

Contributions: 1458



Surveys and forms

Online off-road cycling survey

Contributions: 1770

Telephone survey – open space and recreation

Respondents: 403

We also received 128 written submissions



Feedback themes

Diversity

Amenities

Access

Maintenance

Inclusion

Quality

Environment

Connectivity

Health and Wellbeing

Proximity

1.2. How we engaged



Have Your Say
(13 December 2019
to 16 February
2020)

Visitors: 4055

Visits: 5930

Av. time onsite:
1m56s



Social media

3 Council Facebook posts

Reach: 27,601
Clicks: 962

1 KALOF Facebook post



Reach: 485
Clicks: 19



Print media and
collateral

Manly Daily: 8 ads

Distribution: 236,000

| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  Electronic direct mail (EDM) | Community Engagement newsletter (fortnightly): 5 | Distribution: 20,000 subscribers |
| | Stakeholder email: 2 | Distribution: 200 recreation, resident and special interest groups |
|  Face-to-face sessions and key stakeholder engagement | Council Youth Advisory Group | Attendance: 22 |
| | Headspace Youth Advisory Group | Attendance: 20 |
| | 2 All abilities sector workshops | Attendance: 15 |
| | 3 meetings with Off Road Cycling Stakeholder Group | Attendance: 20 |
| | Stall at Way to Well Being Seniors Expo | Visits: 50 |
| | 2 sessions with Places for People Strategic Reference Group | Attendance: 10 |
| | Approx. 20 meetings with recreation, resident and special interest groups | Attendance: 50 |
| | 2 meetings with Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park Advisory Group | Attendance: 10 |
| 2 meetings with Narrabeen Lagoon State Park Advisory Committee | Attendance: 8 | |
| Ongoing meetings with National Parks and Wildlife Service and Crown Lands | Attendance 5 | |

2. Background

The Northern Beaches local government area (LGA) is home to a large and diverse open space network taking in significant areas of parks, foreshore, beaches and bushland.

The unique mix of land and water environments provides a strong sense of place and belonging for our community and is a defining feature of the culture and identity of the area.

A growing and changing population will put increased and varied demand on the places we live, work and play.

The Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan aligns with the Toward 2040 - Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) and other Council and State Government strategic documents and frameworks to help the LGA improve and manage open space to continue to meet the needs of residents and visitors. It will also bring together the three former Council's (Manly, Pittwater & Warringah) strategies and policies referring to Council owned or managed Open Space.

The Strategy will provide the overarching framework, strategic direction and actions for Council owned and managed open spaces available to the public. These include; parks, reserves, playspaces, beaches, foreshores, foreshores, community gardens and some bushland areas.

The Strategy considers passive and active recreation activities enjoyed at these locations.

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

- Stage 1: Broad community consultation and targeted stakeholder engagement to understand how diverse people connect with open spaces, their current and future needs, and inform directions and priorities for the draft Strategy.
- Stage 2: Public exhibition of the draft Strategy to seek community feedback to ensure it is relevant to and supported by a large cross-section of the community.

3. Engagement objectives

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

4. Engagement approach

Stage one community and stakeholder engagement for the project was conducted between December 2019 and March 2021 and consisted of a series of activities that provided opportunities and platforms for community and stakeholders to contribute.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's [Community Engagement Matrix](#) (2017). The documented engagement approach is outlined in the Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (November 2019 internal document).

A project page² was established on our online have your say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

The project was primarily promoted through social media, stakeholder email notifications and our regular email newsletter (EDM) channels.

Feedback on the project page was captured between 13 December 2019 and 16 February 2020 through a Social Pinpoint map embedded on the Your Say page and a link to an off-road cycling survey on QuestionPro.

Email and written comments were also accepted. Contact details for the project manager were provided should people have any questions.

Meetings were held with various stakeholder representatives and special interest groups, including sporting clubs and environmental groups. Approximately 200 recreation, resident and special interest groups were contacted and invited to contribute their ideas.

² <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/open-space-and-recreation-strategy>

We held discussions with our Off Road Cycling Stakeholder Group and presented at the Places for People Strategic Reference Group.

We asked a uniform set of questions of participants in most activities, although tailoring also occurred where necessary. Results provide responses across a spectrum of demographics, expertise, experience and understanding of our local government area.

4.1. Engaging with hard to reach communities

It was determined for this project that it was particularly important to hear from potentially under-represented groups such as youth, seniors and people living with disability to understand their needs, ideas and expectations. We want to ensure our open spaces are inclusive and opportunities are available for everyone to participate.

We worked with our youth and community development teams (liaisons to our young people, multicultural communities and not-for-profit organisations/community services) and utilised their platforms and networks in an attempt to reach a diverse audience.

We promoted the project via the KALOF Facebook page and ran a workshop with Council's Youth Advisory Group. We also facilitated a discussion with the Headspace Youth Advisory Group.

We ran two workshops on Teams with representatives of the all abilities sector. We also ran a stall at the Way to Well Being Seniors Expo and spoke with seniors about their experiences of open spaces.

5. Findings

The feedback received during community and stakeholder engagement was reviewed and considered by the appointed consultants, Urbis and Council staff. The following is a summary of key themes identified across the consultation activities. The full report of consultation outcomes is included in Appendix 1. These outcomes have been integrated into the Strategy.

Respondents were asked to reflect on how they use open space and what they enjoy about it.

What the community value and appreciate:

- Diversity of opportunity
- Access to nature
- Proximity and views
- Environmental sustainability
- Health and wellbeing benefits

Respondents were asked to reflect on key priorities or needs for open space in the Northern Beaches.

What could be improved:

- Higher quality of open spaces, supporting infrastructure and amenities
- Better connectivity of walking and cycling trails
- More inclusive spaces

- Playspaces that meet needs
- New and improved opportunities for off road cycling
- Additional facilities such as more basketball hoops and outdoor fitness equipment
- Cleaner and better maintained open spaces and facilities.

Respondents were asked about their current recreational activities and any new activities they would consider trying. Respondents were also asked for suggestions to improve the use and functionality of open spaces across the Northern Beaches.

Ideas and opportunities:

- Unstructured uses and flexible open spaces
- Increased public access, e.g. for additional uses of sportsfields and more dog off leash areas
- Protect conservation areas and practice sustainable use
- Increased accessibility through information
- Managing commercial and community beach use
- Integrated management and planning for off-road cycling trails
- Invest in strategic off-road cycling linkages and authorised trails

Appendix 1 Consultation Outcomes Report – Urbis Pty Ltd

Includes results from Social Pinpoint, the Off Road Cycling Survey and some targeted consultation





**DRAFT NORTHERN BEACHES
OPEN SPACE AND
RECREATION STRATEGY**

**CONSULTATION
OUTCOMES**

WHO WE ENGAGED

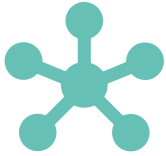
This consultation section summarises the outcomes from the community and stakeholder engagement conducted as part of the Northern Beaches Open Space and Recreation Strategy. The consultation was conducted over a 28 week period, from December 2019 to June 2020, and consisted of a series of activities that provided a range of opportunities for community and stakeholders to contribute. The purpose of the consultation was to understand how the Northern Beaches community currently use open space including any emerging trends and what they see are the needs and gaps in the network.

A variety of consultation methods were undertaken to help maximise the opportunity for people across all different ages, abilities and locations to participate. In addition to written submissions this included:

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Social Pinpoint (see Appendix A for summary of results) December 2019 – February 2020</p> |
|  | <p>Off-road Cycling Survey (see Appendix B for survey results) January 2020 – February 2020</p> |
|  | <p>Telephone Survey (see separate attachment for survey results) June 2020 – July 2020</p> |
|  | <p>Stakeholder Workshops February 2020 – June 2020</p> <p>Workshops were conducted by Council with several key groups including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Disability and all abilities services▪ Places for People Strategic Reference Group▪ Youth services▪ Council Beach Safety Manager and Reserve Bookings Coordinator▪ Headspace Youth Advisory Committee▪ Seniors (via the Well to Wellbeing expo) <p>Council also undertook additional meetings with targeted stakeholder groups, such as with off road cycling groups.</p> |

WHAT THE COMMUNITY VALUE AND APPRECIATE

Across the consultation activities, respondents were asked to reflect on how they use open space and what they enjoy about it. The following key themes were identified.



Diversity of opportunity

Community consultation showed the majority of people appreciated the diversity of the LGA's recreation and open space network, with 82% of telephone survey participants satisfied with the size of open spaces and 73% satisfied with the diversity of space. This diverse network was highly valued across social pinpoint responses, with many responses highlighting that the range of different open spaces provided a variety of opportunities to engage with the space – from swimming and surfing, to hiking and cycling, picnicking, playing, walking the dog and participating in a range of organised sport.

“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



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.



Proximity and views

The majority of consultation participants appreciated having open space close to where they live, with 87% of telephone survey participants satisfied or very satisfied with their proximity to open space. Social pinpoint respondents also indicated they valued views of natural areas, particularly beaches and bushland, so close to home.

“The friends I have made in my 17 years of walking my dogs here have made my transition into the community so much easier”
– Social pinpoint participant



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.



Wellbeing benefits

The community greatly valued open spaces as areas which support their health and wellbeing, with fitness/exercise (94%) and mental health (82%) listed as some of the main reasons for spending time in open spaces in the telephone survey.

Other community members reflected that using open spaces for recreational activities not only supported physical health but also provided an opportunity to meet new people and feel part of a larger community, providing a broader social benefit.

WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED

Across the consultation activities, respondents were asked to reflect on key priorities or needs for open space in the Northern Beaches. The following key themes were identified.



Supporting infrastructure and amenities

Consultation indicated there is an opportunity to improve supporting infrastructure in open spaces, with only 54% of telephone survey participants satisfied with the current level of supporting infrastructure. Upgrading/expanding services/facilities (e.g. playgrounds, toilets) was also the top priority when telephone survey participants were asked what could be improved about the open space network.

This was also reflected throughout the social pinpoint and stakeholder workshops, with facilities such as water bubblers, taps and toilets commonly raised as important amenities that could help improve the functionality of open spaces. Some suggested that this supporting infrastructure could be included at the entrances to walking and off-road cycle trails, such as Deep Creek (authorised for walking only), Manly Dam and the Narrabeen Lake loop, as well as at off-leash areas, beaches and outdoor exercise stations. Facilities such as charging stations, meditation areas, shade and study spaces were also suggested by representatives in the youth workshop for inclusion in open space areas.



Connected and walkable open spaces

Based on the telephone survey, walking is the most popular recreational activity in the Northern Beaches, with 87% of respondents having participated in this activity in the past year and 79% of respondents visiting walking and cycling tracks at least once every couple of weeks.

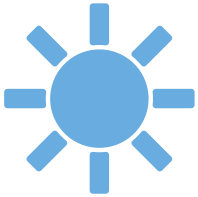
It was identified by a number of social pinpoint respondents that more walking trails and shared pedestrian/cycleways were needed to help improve connections between open spaces areas and key places (e.g. from homes and shops). Representatives from the all abilities workshop also highlighted the importance of people with needs being able to walk to open spaces, noting that this is an important skill for personal development. Connections to local open spaces were preferred as it was viewed that these spaces were less overwhelming for users.

People suggested that new or extended walking and cycling paths could be provided between Five Mile Creek and Deep Creek, at Wakehurst Parkway and along Pittwater Road. It is recognised that Five Mile Creek and Deep Creek contain unauthorised trails which straddle Council managed land and National Park.

“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 respondent, Davidson

WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED



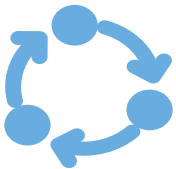
Higher quality, cleaner open spaces

While many participants were satisfied with the overall provision of open space in the LGA, many saw opportunities for Council to direct resources to improving and upgrading existing spaces. This is evident across the telephone survey, with upgraded/expanded services/facilities and increased maintenance/cleaning listed as the top two open space improvement priorities.

Providing quality open spaces across the Northern Beaches is also a key priority for the community, with 79% of telephone survey participants regarding this as very important to them.

Some suggested that Narrabeen Lagoon could be improved with regular maintenance to improve the water quality and local ecosystems. Others suggested regular cleaning of off-road and on-road cycling trails to remove debris, such as at Wakehurst Parkway, and along beach promenades.

“Clean open space is a valuable resource”
– Social pinpoint participant



More inclusive spaces

Representatives from the seniors, youth and all abilities workshops identified a need for inclusive open spaces and play spaces, where everyone has equal opportunity to use and engage in the space. It was suggested that subtle design improvements could be made which would enable greater inclusion and social interaction across all ages.

Suggestions included universally designed picnic tables, all-ages fitness equipment, spaces for carers or older people to sit, ramps, accessible toilets, for-hire wheelchairs and wide gates for prams.

Representatives from the all abilities workshop also highlighted that people with needs often visit places as a group and suggested open spaces be designed to support group activities.

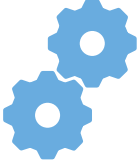


Greater education and signage for off-road cycling trails

The off-road cycling survey showed that the Northern Beaches is home to an experienced off-road cycling community, with most respondents having intermediate or advanced skills in this activity. However, education around authorised trails is lacking in the LGA. Approximately half (51%) of all respondents were not sure which trails were authorised for access and another 50% were not satisfied with the level of signage provided at trails. People suggested that clear signage and maps need to be provided at all off-road cycling trails to provide greater clarity around authorised routes and the type of skill level needed to complete the course.

“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

WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED



Off-road cycling amenities and trail diversity

Similar to open space, consultation with off-road cycling users indicated there is an opportunity to improve the level and type of supporting infrastructure at trails. Over half (53%) of off-road cycling survey respondents were either very dissatisfied or not satisfied with the existing provision of supporting infrastructure. Survey respondents suggested this provision could be improved by:

- Providing bike stations at off-road cycling trails where users could service their bike (e.g. wash/pump tires), access drinking water and view emergency access information. The bike station at Terrey Hills was suggested as a good example which could be rolled out on other trails.
- Increasing carparking near off-road cycling trails.
- Providing a bus or chair-shuttle service for downhill riding trails.
- Investigating opportunities to locate a café or coffee van near popular off-road trails (such as Deep Creek) to provide spaces for people to relax and socialise.

Off-road cycling survey respondents also commented on the need for a more diverse trail network, with 46% of users either very dissatisfied or not satisfied with the range of difficulty levels currently available. Given most respondents had intermediate – advanced skills across all off-road cycling activities, there is a likely to be increased demand for higher-order trails and skills parks. Off-road cycling survey respondents suggested a new mountain biking skills park (with parallel running jumps and drop lines) could be provided to help encourage skills progression in a safe and accessible environment, similar to Greenvalleys Bike Park in Tongarra, NSW.

“We need trails that can be legally used for racing and that cover all disciplines. We need trails that allow for progression of skills and for an ever growing user group”

- Off-road cycling participant

“...if there was a more formal network with more formalised infrastructure (e.g. car park, water stations, signage) it could be world class mountain biking. In terms of missing features, the ability to progress and ride technical features is a must have”

- Off-road cycling participant

IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Across the consultation activities, respondents were asked about their current recreational activities and any new activities they would consider trying. Respondents were also asked for suggestions to improve the use and functionality of open spaces across the Northern Beaches. Below is a summary of some of the ideas and opportunities provided by the community.



Unstructured uses and flexible open spaces

The telephone survey highlighted that passive and unstructured recreational activities, such as walking, outdoor swimming and relaxing, were the most popular open space activities across the Northern Beaches and have only increased since the COVID-19 pandemic. These activities were more popular than organised sport, which was ranked tenth overall in the telephone survey (see question 3a in Appendix B). These trends indicate an opportunity to incorporate more flexible approaches to open space design and management to allow spaces to support more of these passive and unstructured recreational activities.

“Open grassed parkland is flexible and used for so many different activities..”

- Social pinpoint participant



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 Newport Beach, Bilgola Beach and North Curl Curl Beach. Others also suggested greater public access to sportsfields, such as LM Graham Reserve, for personal recreation outside of peak and competition hours.

“...we need to protect and rehabilitate these natural areas so that we can enjoy them for generations to come”

- Social pinpoint



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).

The telephone survey also showed that the top factor influencing open space satisfaction was the sustainable recreational use of natural areas (see Chapter 2 in Appendix B). This supports the continued need to integrate conservation and sustainability principles in future open space planning.

IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Increased accessibility through information

Participants in the all abilities and disability sector workshops suggested that access could be improved by providing more detailed information on the LGA's open space areas. This allows users to choose if a space is accessible for them, rather than relying on disability standards which can be limiting and not aligned to individual ability.

Some suggested this information could be presented as an online catalogue or app, where people can easily see details about the size, layout and features of each area. Representatives from the disability sector suggested using the 'Naturally Accessible' guidelines, which provides directions on how to make bushwalking and natural areas more accessible for people with mobility based disabilities.

Embedding visual behavioural leads within playgrounds was also suggested by the all abilities sector. This may include arrows on the ground or signs to encourage sharing on play equipment, helping to support positive behaviour for all, including children with behavioural or intellectual needs.



Managing commercial and community beach use

Beaches are one of the most visited open spaces across the LGA, with 82% of telephone survey participants visiting a beach at least once every couple of weeks. Unsurprisingly, the Manly catchment had the highest rate of beach use, with 90% of telephone survey respondents from the catchment visiting a beach at least once every couple of weeks (compared to 75% in Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest).

Alongside general public use, many of Council's beaches support a range of recreational uses which require bookings from stakeholders, such as swimming clubs, organised fitness groups, adventure activities (e.g. hang gliding) and professional sporting competitions.

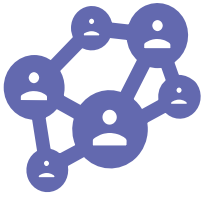
Workshop participants indicated that many of these groups compete for the same dates across Council's busiest beaches at Freshwater, Manly and Long Reef, creating pressure to ensure there is an equitable provision of commercial and public access.

To help with this, it was suggested that Council develop a clear guideline or policy for managing beach uses. It was suggested that this could outline which beaches are available for commercial hire, the maximum frequency and capacity of events, as well as recommendations for bookings to be undertaken at less popular beaches to help maintain public access.

The disability sector suggested for Council to use the 'Naturally Accessible' guidelines, which can be found at www.naturallyaccessible.org/, to help increase the accessibility of bushwalking and use of natural areas.

- Disability sector workshop

IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Integrated management and planning for off-road cycling trails

Off-road cycling trails are used frequently in the Northern Beaches, with 50% of off-road cycling survey respondents using these trails once or twice a week. These trails also attract a high proportion of visitors, with a fifth (19%) of respondents living outside the LGA. Many commented that there is a need for Council to provide a more integrated and diverse network of trails that cater for all skill types, noting that Council could leverage this network as a tourist destination. There was strong support from users to work collaboratively with Council to design trails which minimised environmental impacts, increased public access and allowed for greater accountability from users to care for the trails.



Invest in strategic off-road cycling linkages and authorised trails

While a popular activity, 68% of survey respondents felt that the current network of authorised off-road cycling trails on the Northern Beaches do not meet their needs. There were relatively high levels of dissatisfaction with the distance of trails (43% very dissatisfied – not satisfied), the variability in difficulty levels (46%) and supporting infrastructure (53%).

To help improve the off-road trail network, there was strong support among survey respondents to increase the number of authorised trails in the Northern Beaches, with many commenting that these trails provided a better riding experience and difficulty level compared to Council's trails. These included informal or unauthorised trails at:

- Garigal National Park
- Deep Creek
- Manly Dam
- Mt Narra.

Others also suggested for Council to create more internal linkages between off-road cycling trails to reduce the need to cross busy roads and to enable safer access. Key linkages were suggested between:

- Narrabeen and Terrey Hills – particularly to reduce the need to cross Mona Vale Road and Wakehurst Parkway
- Seaforth and Frenchs Forest hospital precinct – with some suggesting the Wakehurst Parkway track could be upgraded with clear markers to achieve this
- Manly to Dee Why, and Serrata to Manly Dam.

These linkages would be particularly important in the Terrey Hills and Frenchs Forest catchment, with the telephone survey indicating that most off-road cycling users (47%) resided in these catchments. This represents a considerably higher rate of users compared to Brookvale Dee-Why (13%) and Manly (18%).

“There is a lot of potential to work with the local riding communities to develop the area for mountain biking and sustainable trail networks and facilities”

- Off-road cycling participant

APPENDIX A

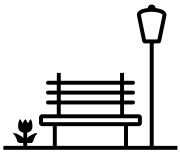
SOCIAL PINPOINT ANALYSIS

SOCIAL PINPOINT ANALYSIS

Council established an online social pinpoint site to invite the community to provide its feedback on open spaces and recreation spaces within the LGA. The social pinpoint tool was open to the public from December 2019 – February 2020 and was advertised via Council’s website, social media channels and the Manly Daily newspaper.

All comments received were reviewed and analysed to inform the development of the Northern Beaches Open Space and Recreation Strategy. The table below summarises the themes evident in the comments received. More detailed analysis is contained in the following pages.

SUMMARY OF KEY THEMES



Need for supporting infrastructure

Some social pinpoint responses highlighted that while access to open space was good, some areas lacked supporting infrastructure and embellishments which would enable them to stay longer. Facilities like water bubblers, taps, toilets and connected pedestrian paths were generally suggested at the entrance to off-road cycle trails and walking trails to help improve the functionality of the space.

Respondents suggested these facilities could be added at Deep Water Creek, Manly Dam and the Narrabeen Lake loop, as well as at off-leash areas, beaches and outdoor exercise stations.



Increased public access

Many social pinpoint responses related to requests for increased access to beaches and sportsfields for personal recreation and dog walking. Many respondents requested increased access for dog-walking along beaches and sportsfields, noting that this activity could be undertaken outside of peak and competition hours where public usage is relatively low.

In particular, there was strong support for allowing dog-walking along Newport Beach, Bilgola Beach and North Curl Curl Beach. Others also suggested greater public access to sportsfields, such as Graham Reserve, for personal recreation.



Value natural, peaceful areas

Social pinpoint responses indicated the community place significant value on the natural areas within LGA, noting that these areas provide a peaceful spot to relax, observe wildlife and connect with nature in an otherwise urban environment.



Protect conservation areas

Social pinpoint responses indicated the community also highly regard natural areas for their conservation value, with many respondents stating Lakeside Reserve, Nolan Reserve and Manly Dam provide some of the only natural areas where local flora and fauna habitats can survive. There were requests to protect these areas further by increasing and restoring these conservation areas. Many respondents suggested that any development or infrastructure (e.g. footpaths, bike trails) at these areas should be restricted to protect the natural environment and ensure its survival for future generations.

The social pinpoint site also allowed community members to leave a comment on any open spaces within the LGA about why they enjoyed the space and any suggestions for improvement. Community members were allowed to 'like' or 'dislike' comments left by other users to show their support for a suggestion.

The remainder of this appendix summarises the key comments received by the number of likes allocated.

It is recognised that there were no limits to the number of likes an individual could assign which may disproportionately influence the support or objection to a suggestion. As a result, the groupings contained in this section are for ease of reference only, with all comments considered on merit.

MY SUGGESTION FOR THIS PLACE IS...

The Northern Beaches community provided over 870 suggestions for open space and recreational facilities in the LGA. Key suggestions are summarised by topic below.

Off Road Cycling and ails

- Formalising the trails bordered by Forest Way, Mona Vale Road and Wakehurst Parkway (pin location: Five Mile Creek Trail, Terrey Hills NSW 2084, Australia) and at Mt Narra and Mona Vale.
- Construct an all abilities track through the bush from Narrabeen to Terry Hill, so people can access the bike facilities without driving.
- Develop a collaborative approach to funding and maintaining tracks between Council and the mountain bike community. Funding support can be provided by Council, with the mountain bike community responsible for upkeep and maintenance of the tracks.
- Develop an off-road cycling pump track at Catherine Park.
- Develop a formal Northern Beaches Mountain Bike Strategy. The strategy should be developed in consultation with the community and seek to alleviate the financial pressure from Council, with many of the mountain biking community willing to take responsibility of track maintenance.
- Formalise a shared walking and biking track between 5 Mile Creek and Deep Creek.
- Develop off road cycling facilities at Red Hill Reserve and Addiscombe Road Reserve.
- Construct a shared use walking and mountain bike trail, linking the level crossing at Burnt Bridge Creek to Manly Dam.
- Formalise a separate cycle path along the Wakehurst Parkway.
- Rebuild the pumptrack at Brick Pit Reserve and build a new playground.
- Provide a low level crossing on the western side of the Deep Creek at the Wakehurst Parkway to link both sides of the creek and allow access to the parkway underpass for walkers, runners and cyclists.
- Provide some free space at Baringa Avenue Reserve to allow children to free play and build their own bike jumps.

Recreation and sporting facilities

- Provide a synthetic hockey field at Nolan Reserve as there are none within the Northern Beaches.
- Remove the fence at Graham Reserve to allow public use of the park, instead of restricting it to sporting groups only. The reserve was previously open to the public and now there is increased pressure on the surrounding parks.
- Provide a climbing/bouldering wall as part of the Proposal Community Centre Project in Warriewood. Example provided of Burnley in Melbourne.
- Improve the facilities at Manly Warringah Field Archers site to include better car parking and a covered practice area.
- Provide upgrades to the baseball fields at Aquatic Reserve and softball facilities at Abbott Road Softball Grounds.
- Provide fitness equipment at Kooroowall Reserve, St Matthews Farm Reserve, North Harbour Reserve and Manly Beach.
- Provide areas for horses to access beaches and lagoons in the Northern Beaches.
- Adaptively reuse the old bowls club at North Manly and transform into a family friendly café and play hub.
- Provide community gardens which are attached to existing natural reserves and parks in the Northern Beaches. The Turramurra Community Garden is an example of this.
- Provide a synthetic hockey field at John Fisher Park to support the growing hockey community in the Northern Beaches.
- Provide additional recreational options at parks in the Northern Beaches. Suggestions were made for a full basketball court to be provided at Griffith Park and a playground and half basketball court at Grasmere Crescent.
- Provide fitness equipment at natural areas and parks across the Northern Beaches. Suggestions were made for equipment to be located at Cromer Park, Lagoon Park, South Creek Reserve, Collaroy Beach Reserve, John
- Redevelop the former North Manly Bowling Club for community uses.

Dogs

- Allow dog walking on beaches and sportsgrounds, outside of peak hours and competition rosters.
- Allow dogs to be walked along Newport Beach, Bilgola Beach and North Curl Curl Beach. Access could be restricted to off peak hours, to allow people to still use the beaches freely.
- Develop the old pool (west of the existing pools) at Dee Why Beach as a dog splash area. The pool is currently inaccessible and disused and could provide a place for families and dogs to cool off after a walk (location picture provided).
- Provide a hitching post for dogs at Curl Curl Beach and Avalon Beach.
- Transition from providing single use plastic dog bags at open spaces and to compostable bags.

Playspaces

- Fisher Park, Little Manly Reserve, Griffith Park, Beverly Job Park, Graham Reserve, Wellings Reserve.
- Provide upgrades to several playgrounds across the Northern Beaches. Suggestions were made for improvements at James Meehan Reserve, Brown Street Reserve, Seaforth Oval, Grasmere Crescent and Freshwater Beach.

Environment

- Increase, protect and restore the conservation areas at Lakeside Reserve and Nolan Reserve to allow the natural fauna and flora habitats to survive. The use of this corridor for recreational activities and hard infrastructure (e.g. concrete footpaths) should be restricted.
- Restrict development and embellishment works (e.g. roads, trails) at Manly Reservoir to protect and enhance the natural environment for all to enjoy. Seen as the “jewel in the crown” of the whole area
- Restrict development of formal recreational facilities and playgrounds at Manly Dam to protect the natural land for future generations and preserve the area as a place for quiet reflection.
- Protect rock platforms located in the Northern Beaches including Queenscliff, Mona Vale Headland and Newport.
- Legalise ‘Jump Rock’ at Collins Beach, Manly to remove the fences and make a safer jump.

Supporting infrastructure

- Provide drinking stations and taps at the Manly Dam picnic areas and at the start of the walking track around the dam.
- Provide more secure bike racks at Manly Beach.
- Provide toilet facilities at Middle Creek Reserve.
- Provide shower facilities at Delwood Beach.
- Provide additional lighting along pedestrian and cyclist path at Queenscliff Reserve.
- Upgrade signage on the coastal walk from Manly to Palm Beach.
- Provide supporting infrastructure such as seating and bike racks at natural reserves, parks and beach and foreshore areas to support recreational users. Suggestions were made to provide greater seating at Winnererremy Bay Park, Curl Curl Beach and Little Manly Reserve and secure bike racks at David Thomas Reserve and District Park.
- Provide improvements to signage and maintenance of coastal walks including the Dee Why to Curl Curl walk and Spit to Manly walk.
- Provide a bubbler or tap along the Deep Creek trails.

I ENJOY THIS PLACE BECAUSE...

The Northern Beaches community provided over 340 comments on open space areas that they enjoy within the LGA. Key feedback is summarised below.

Responses with over 1,000 likes

- People love the Mount Narra mountain bike trails and other off road cycling/mountain bike trails on the Northern Beaches. The trails are considered the best in Sydney and bring people from all over Sydney.

Responses with 999 – 500 likes

Aside from the mountain bike trails, the community said they loved

- The archery facilities at JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve (“Best place for archery in Sydney”)

Responses with 499 – 100 likes

Aside from the mountain bike trails, the community said they loved

- Manly Dam, as it caters for all ages and provides a natural and peaceful park. Manly Dam was also valued for its indigenous heritage. Manly people want Manly Dam and Manly War Memorial Park its boundaries protected from any development to preserve the natural environment for future generations.
- The BBQ facilities, park and tables at Catherine Park made the area a lovely spot to picnic. It was suggested for the facilities to be upgraded, particularly the play equipment.

Responses with 99 – 50 likes

Aside from the mountain bike trails, the community said they loved

- The community continued to love Manly Dam and Manly War Memorial Park for its natural scenery and peacefulness.
- Off leash dog parks as they help facilitate social interaction with other owners and make you feel part of the community.
- Scotland Island because of the peace and quiet the place provides. People love the tennis court with a BBQ which makes for good after school activities. However, there was seen to be a lack of playground equipment and diversity given the how many children (over 80) live on the island.

Responses with 49 – 10 likes

Aside from the mountain bike trails and Manly Dam, the community said they loved

- Koobilya Street Reserve (34 likes, no explanation – “I love this place”)
- Terry Hills Bike Park as it supports a variety of biking activities (e.g. BMX, pump) and is a family friendly park with great supporting facilities including a car park, toilet and BBQ.
- Wyatt Reserve as the graffiti wall here allows you a place to be creative outdoors.
- Bilarong Reserve as the children’s playground is seen as a real asset with direct cycle path access.

Responses with 49 – 10 likes (continued)

- Deep Creek Reserve as it is a great area for dogs and training.
- Long Reef Aquatic Reserve as it is an “amazing place for intertidal animals and migratory and vulnerable birds. Please keep dogs well away from all of the Aquatic Reserve”
- The trees along John Fisher Park provides shade which is valued, given that much of the area “has turned to concrete”
- Carrington Parade headland walkway is considered to be stunning with much of the remaining bush in excellent condition.
- David Thomas Reserve as it is quiet and provides a relatively large grassed area which is unused outside of competition hours. The park’s carpark, water taps and location away from the main road are valued. There was a suggestion to allow dog walking/off leash play at the park.
- Aquatic Reserve (part of Manly Warringah War Memorial Park) as it is the only dedicated baseball facility in the LGA. It is valued as the only place in the LGA which can facilitate multiple baseball games concurrently and is of a standard to host state championship games.
- The separate pedestrian path along Pittwater Road as it provides space for families to jog safely and also has bubblers along the way. Any plans to extend this pathway “would be fabulous”.

Responses with 9 – 0 likes

- Palm Beach and Barrenjoey Lighthouse is valued by locals as it provides breath taking views, is quiet and has well maintained walkways.
- The off leash dog area at Beverly Job Park is well used and a popular spot for the community and their dogs.
- The community garden located on Queenscliff Road provides a place for the community, especially those living in apartments, to grow fresh produce.
- Stony Range Flora Reserve as it is a “lovely natural space to take my children to play and explore. My children love the free craft activities, natural play area and seeing all the different plant types”.
- Manly Oval provides a great place for those without backyards to engage in physical activity and to meet other families.
- Fairlight Walk has glorious views and is accessible to those in wheelchairs.
- The fitness equipment at Bilarong Reserve is greatly valued by the community as many stated it is an awesome space to engage in physical activity.
- Manly Waringah War Memorial Park is a “wonderful local paradise for families and individuals to enjoy passive outdoor activities in a natural setting”.
- Village Park is a great community space, the markets located here are liked by the community.

APPENDIX B

OFF ROAD CYCLING SURVEY ANALYSIS

OFF ROAD CYCLING ANALYSIS

Council established an online survey to invite the community to provide feedback on off road cycling trails within the LGA. The survey was open from December 2019 to February 2020 and was promoted via Council's social media channels and with key Northern Beaches mountain biking and off-road cycling groups. The survey was developed to help understand the current needs and priorities of off-road cycling users within the Northern Beaches LGA to help inform future recreation planning and management.

Overall, there were a total of 1,770 responses to the survey. Not all respondents answered all questions, and hence the number of responses for individual questions do not always add to this total.

Key analysis

The following provides a snapshot of the key survey findings for off-road cycling within the LGA, with a breakdown of responses per questions provided afterward.

Off road cycling users

The Northern Beaches off-road cycling trails attract a reasonable number of visitors, with approximately 18% of respondents living outside the LGA. Most visitors were from the neighbouring Councils of Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby Shire, representing 15% and 12% of all visitors respectively.

Off-road cycling trails are most popular among the adult population, with two thirds (66%) of all respondents aged 35 – 54 years. Older people (over 65 years) have lower participation rates which is expected given the physical demands of the sport and the higher perception of risk.

Regular use

Half of all respondents stated they use trails once or twice a week, while 38% use the trails three or more times a week. Younger people were also the more frequent users of off road cycling trails, with 62% of people aged 15 – 24 years using the trails three or more times a week.

Demand is highest on the weekend, with most respondents riding on a weekend morning (40%) and/or afternoon (26%). Usage was low in the evenings, representing around 9% of respondents most regular riding time. It is expected most respondents who participate in evening rides are experienced riders and have their own personal lights and protective gear.

Exercise and enjoying nature key drivers for off-road cycling participation

Respondents most enjoyed off-road cycling as a way to undertake fitness/exercise or to be out in nature (26% of respondents each). Participating in competitions (5% respondents) or designing and building trails (3%) were less frequently cited as things respondents enjoyed most about off road cycling.

While fitness/exercise and being out in nature were the most popular reasons for enjoying off-road cycling across all respondents, children aged 0 – 15 years and young people aged 15 – 19 years were more likely to enjoy trails for the 'thrill of it', representing 24% and 23% of these age groups respectively.

Authorised trails not meeting user needs and preferences

The majority of respondents (74%) indicated that the authorised trails at Manly Dam and Bantry Bay are not enough to meet their needs. Users indicated they use a range of other off road trails and facilities, including unauthorised trails.

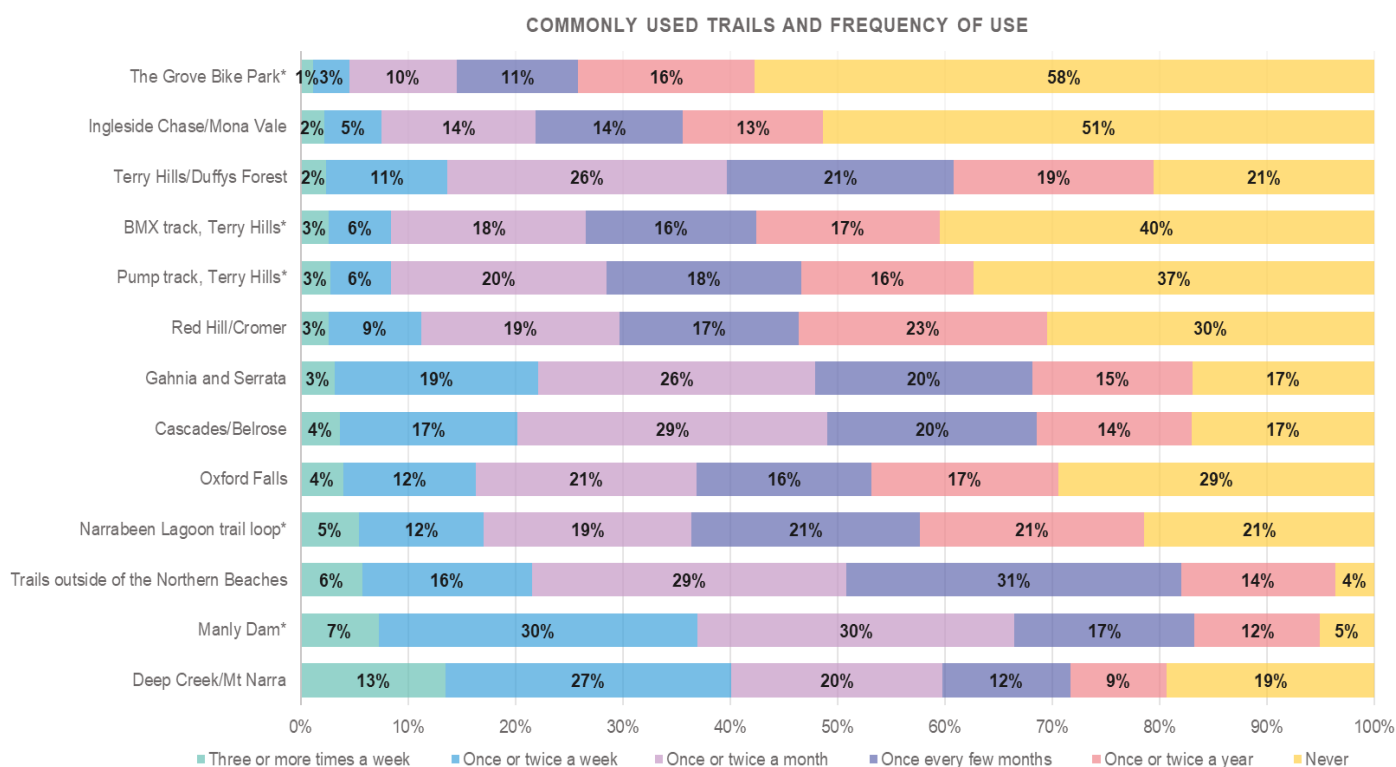
Frequent use of unauthorised trails and National Parks

Figure 1 below outlines how often riders use different trails within the Northern Beaches. Manly Dam and Narrabeen Lagoon Trail Loop are two of the most frequently used trails managed by Council, with high rates of regular use each week and month. This is likely because they are authorised trails. Notably, Manly Dam had the lowest 'never used' rate (5%), indicating its wide appeal to a variety of ages and experience levels.

While usage at these Council facilities are high, most respondents frequently use National Park or unauthorised trails for off road cycling activities. Deep Creek/Mt Narra is the most frequently used unauthorised trail, with 40% of respondents using this trail more than once a week. However, most of the Deep Creek/Mt Narra is unauthorised for bike access. Other trails such as Oxford Falls, Cascades/Belrose and Gahnia and Serrata have high use during the week/month, with comparatively lower levels of 'never used'. All of these trails are within National Parks, with Oxford Falls being largely unauthorised for bike access except for on fire trails.

Council facilities also have some of the lowest rates of 'never used', including the Grove Bike Park (58%), Terrey Hills BMX Track (40%) and Terrey Hills Pump Track (37%).

Figure 1 – Commonly used trails and frequency of use



Source: Survey question 7 – 'What trails/facilities do you use on the Northern Beaches and how regularly do you use them?' Trails with an * indicate a Council managed facility

Experienced riders but unclear on authorised trails

The Northern Beaches is home to an organised and experienced off-road cycling community. When asked about their level of skills in various off-road cycling activities, most respondents had intermediate – advanced skills across all activities. People were generally more skilled at off-road cycling activities such as cross country, fire trail, endurance and mountain trail riding. Out of 11 activities, BMX riding was the only activity where most respondents were beginners (50%), reflecting the generally higher rate of experience across the Northern Beaches off-road cycling community.

While experienced, it was clear there was some confusion around distinguishing between authorised and unauthorised trails. When asked if they were confident in knowing which trails were authorised for bike access, 25% of respondents either somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement, while 26% were neutral. This highlights that 50% of respondents could not confidently say that they knew which trails were authorised for bike access in the Northern Beaches.

When asked about Manly Dam, 70% of people strongly or somewhat agreed that they were confident in identifying which sections of Manly Dam were authorised for bike access. This leaves 30% of respondents who were not confident in their knowledge. Given that Manly Dam is one of the most frequently used trails in the Northern Beaches (as derived from Question 7 of this survey), this represents a considerable number of users and could partially explain the high use of unauthorised trails.

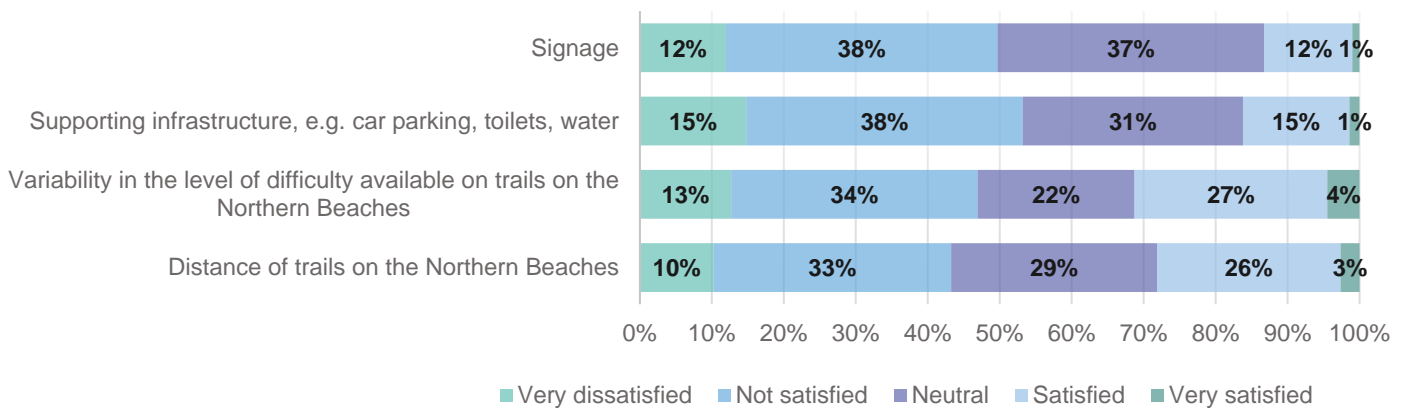
Users largely dissatisfied with supporting off-road cycling infrastructure, including difficulty levels

Respondents were asked to rank their level of satisfaction against key off-road cycling trails and infrastructure. Figure 2 below shows that most respondents were dissatisfied with the provision of supporting infrastructure (53%) and signage (50%) provided at off-road cycling trails.

Respondents were also largely dissatisfied with the range of difficulty levels available on trails within the Northern Beaches, with only 31% of respondents satisfied or very satisfied.

Figure 2 – Level of satisfaction with key trail elements

LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH KEY TRAIL ELEMENTS



Source: Survey question 2 – ‘How satisfied are you with the following’

Key suggestions

Respondents were asked to suggest any off road trail features or facilities that they thought were lacking on the Northern Beaches. The following table outlined some of the key reoccurring responses.

| Theme | Details |
|--|--|
| <p>Increase the number and type of trails</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide an integrated and diverse network of off-road cycling trails that cater for all skill types, from beginner to intermediate and advanced riders. There was support to increase the amount of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dirt jumps - Paved BMX tracks - Downhill trails - Enduro and XC trails - Cross country trails, particularly those aimed at children or beginners - Pump tracks, particularly near existing sportsgrounds or urban areas to provide 'pocket skills parks' - Flow trails with berms ▪ Increase the number of longer, flow trails to help support children, families, beginners and older people to access the sport and improve their skills in a safer trail environment. ▪ Provide a skills park for mountain biking with parallel running jumps and drop lines to encourage skills progression in safe and accessible environment. Greenvalleys Bike Park near Wollongong is an example of this. ▪ Increase the number of authorised trails in the Northern Beaches and ensure the trails are well signed to help increase awareness and prevent conflict between riders and other bush users. ▪ Create more internal linkages between trails to prevent the need to cross busy roads and to enable safer access. Creating more linkages to residential areas will also help in reducing the need to access trails by car. Linkages were suggested between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Narrabeen and Terrey Hills, particularly to reduce the need to cross Mona Vale Road and Wakehurst Parkway - Seaforth and Frenchs Forest hospital precinct, perhaps by using the off-road cycling track along Wakehurst Parkway provided the track is upgraded with clear markers - Manly to Dee Why - Serrata to Manly Dam. |
| <p>Use and legislation of unauthorised trails</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are many unauthorised trails which are considered to be more technically diverse and advanced than the trails currently provided by Council. ▪ There was support to legalise these trails to allow greater public access, provide better maintenance and to ensure the trails are designed to minimise any environmental impact. There was support to authorise the trails at Mt Narra, Garigal National Park, Deep Creek and Manly Dam. |

| Theme | Details |
|---|---|
| Environmental impact and maintenance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support to ensure trails are designed and maintained to minimise any harm on the existing environment. ▪ Provide consistent trail maintenance to ensure trails are safe for all users, particularly those with more challenging obstacles. There were suggestions to also improve the trail surfaces at existing BMX tracks and bike parks including at Terrey Hills, The Grove and Castle Grove. |
| Improve amenities and accessibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide more toilets, taps and water drinking facilities along the trails. Water stations were suggested at Manly Dam and the Narrabeen Lake loop. ▪ Provide bike stations where people can wash their bikes, pump their tires and have access to emergency access information. The station at Terrey Hills was suggested as a good example which could be rolled out to other trails. ▪ Provide more carparking near off-road cycling trails. ▪ Provide a bus or chair-shuttle service for downhill riding trails. ▪ Investigate opportunities to locate a café or coffee van near popular off-road trails (such as Deep Creek) to provide spaces for people to relax and socialise. ▪ Provide clear signage and maps for all trails. This will help to clearly communicate which trails are authorised and to identify where obstacles lie on the track to ensure all riders are prepared for the necessary skill level. |
| Examples of well-liked off road trails and management models | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Belrose Bike Park is highly anticipated and is expected to fill a large gap in the current provision of off-road cycling facilities. ▪ The facilities in Derby Tasmania were highly regarded for both their trails and management by Council. Many suggested for Council to look to this model as something that could be implemented in the Northern Beaches. |
| Leveraging off-road trails to boost tourism in the LGA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many trails (both authorised and unauthorised) are visited frequently by visitors to the Northern Beaches. There is an opportunity to advertise and support off-road cycling as a tourism destination in the LGA. ▪ It was suggested that off-road cycling tourism in the Northern Beaches could be supported by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing the number of authorised trails in the LGA - Creating partnerships with Council and existing riding communities to develop a sustainable, integrated and diverse trail network. |

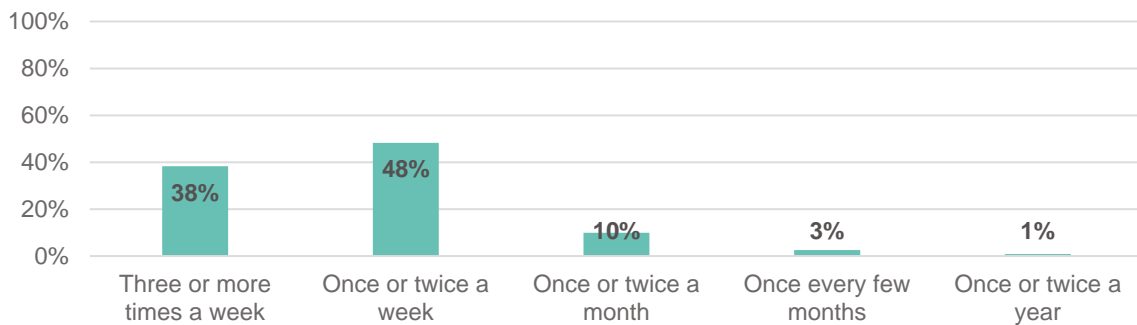
OFF ROAD CYCLING SURVEY – QUESTION BREAK DOWN

Q1. Do you off road cycle? (Forms of off road cycling include cross country, downhill, dirt jumps, enduro, free riding, all mountain, cyclo cross, pump, BMX and others).

Question 1 was used as a screening question to ensure respondents were existing off road cyclists. Respondents who answered 'no' to this question were therefore taken to page thanking them for their time and explaining the survey was targeted at understanding the needs of riders.

Q2. How often do you go off road cycling?

Almost half of the respondents (48%) participated in off road cycling once or twice a week, with 38% participating three or more times a week. Only 10% of respondents participated in off road cycling once or twice a month, 3% once every few months and 1% once or twice a year.

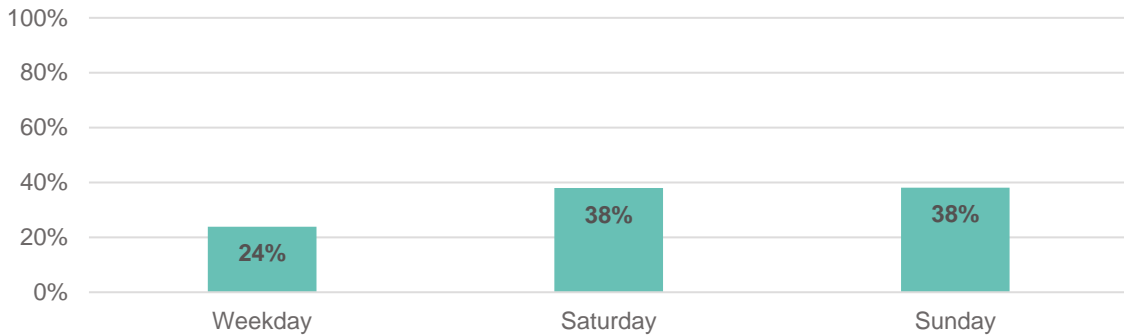


Number of respondents: 1,718

Q3. What days and times do you go riding? Select all that apply.

Morning

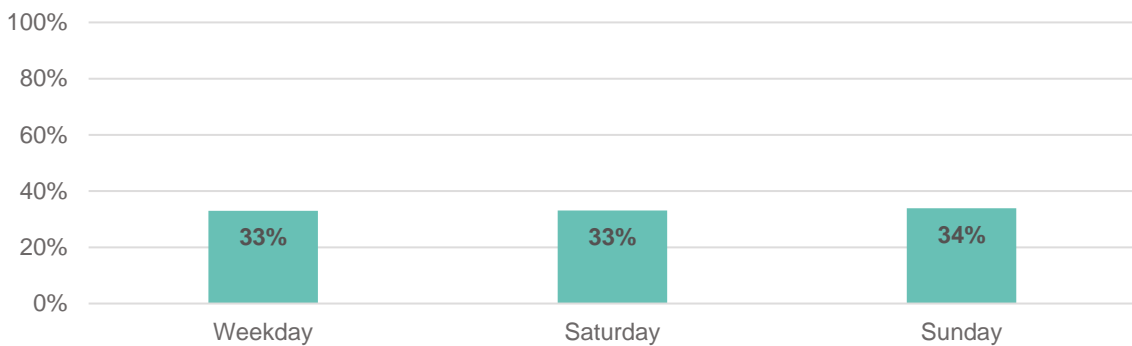
Most of the respondents go riding in the morning over the weekend, with 38% on a Saturday and 38% on a Sunday. Only 24% of respondents ride in the morning on a weekday.



Number of responses (noting individual respondents could choose multiple options): 3,681

Afternoon

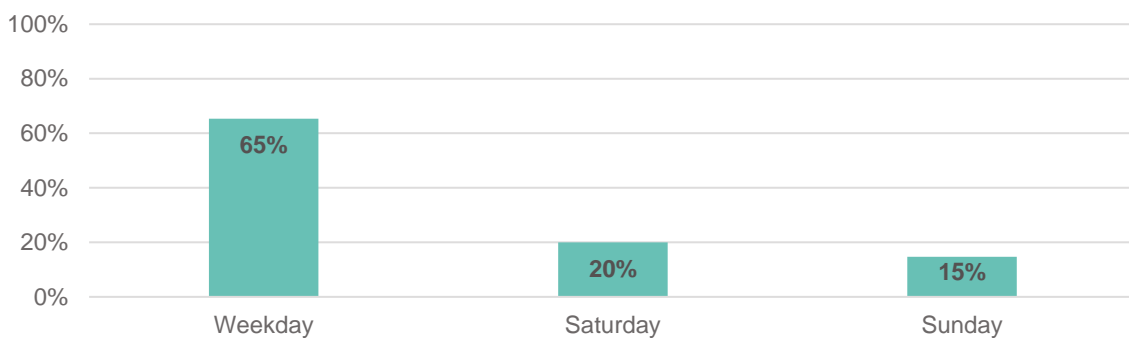
Just over two thirds of participants participate in off road cycling on the weekend, with 33% on a Saturday and 34% on a Sunday. A third of participants (33%) also ride in the afternoon on a weekday.



Number of responses (noting individual respondents could choose multiple options): 2,677

Night (after dark)

Most participants who ride at night (after dark) do this on a weekday (65%). Only 20% participate in off road cycling at night (after dark) on a Saturday and 15% on a Sunday.



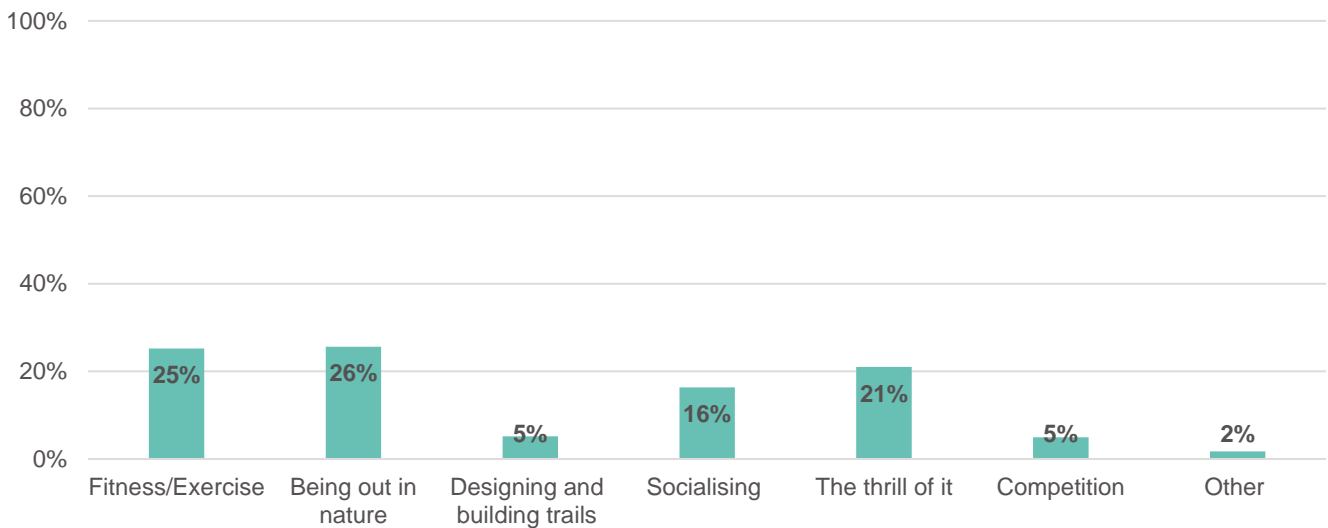
Number of respondents: 661

Q4. What do you enjoy most about off road cycling? Select all that apply.

Respondents mainly enjoyed off road cycling due to being out in nature (26%) and for fitness and exercise (25%). Respondents also enjoyed off road cycling for the thrill of it (21%) and the social aspect (16%). Fewer respondents stated that they enjoyed off-road cycling to design and build trails (5%) or for competitions (5%).

Some respondents (2%) stated they enjoyed off road cycling for other reasons. These comments broadly related to:

- Mental health and wellbeing benefits
- Experiencing new places
- Riding in a safe environment, protected from road traffic
- Having fun
- Providing a personal challenge and building new skills
- Building and experiencing a sense of community

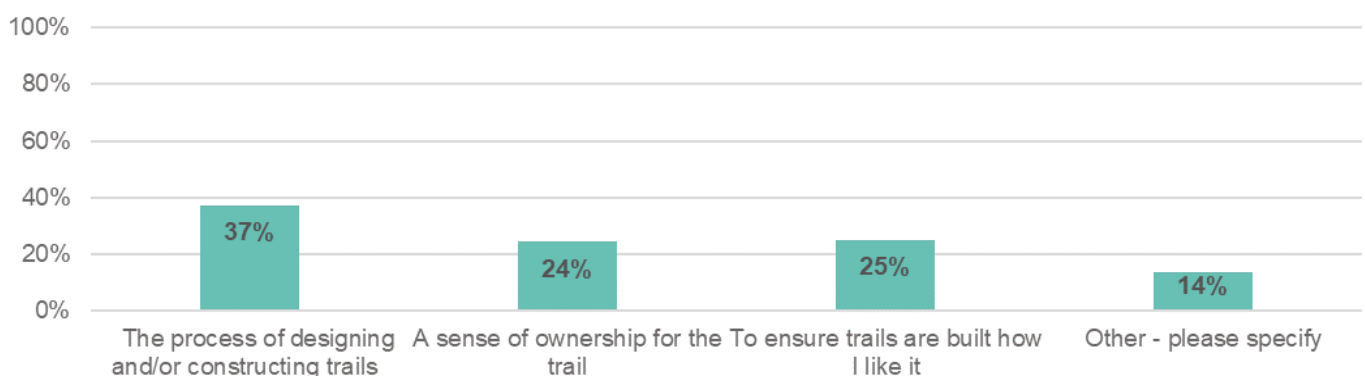


Number of responses (noting individual respondents could choose multiple options): 6,289

Q5. Please tell us what you enjoy about designing and building tracks? Select all that apply.

For those respondents who indicated they enjoyed designing and building off road cycling tracks, it was more frequently because of the process (37%), to ensure they are built to how they like (25%) and for creating a sense of ownership (24%). Some respondents (14%), stated there was other reasons they enjoy designing and building tracks. These comments were broadly associated with the following key themes:

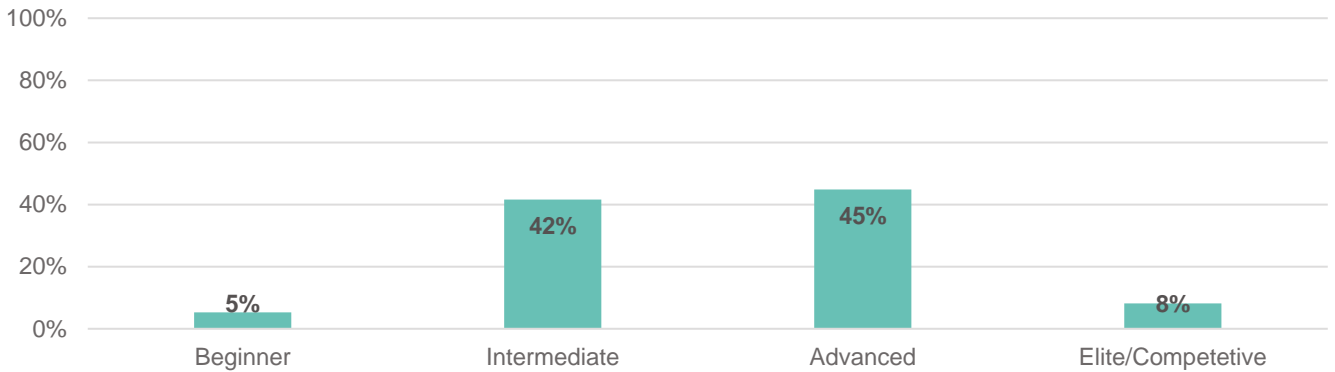
- For physical activity
- For social aspects and connections with other riders
- For a deeper connection with the natural environment
- To ensure tracks are well maintained and safe
- To give back to the riding community
- To ensure a network of connected trails are created.



Q6. What is your level of skill for each of the following off-road activities?

Cross Country

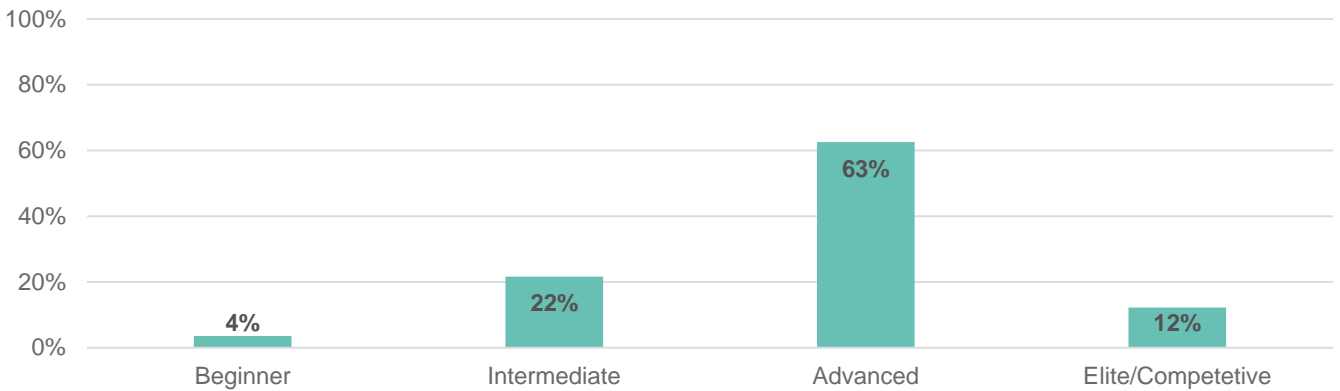
Most of the respondents who ride cross country have an intermediate (42%) or advanced (45%) skill level. Only 5% of respondents considered themselves to be beginners, while 8% considered themselves at the elite/competitive skill level.



Number of respondents: 1,393

Fire Trails

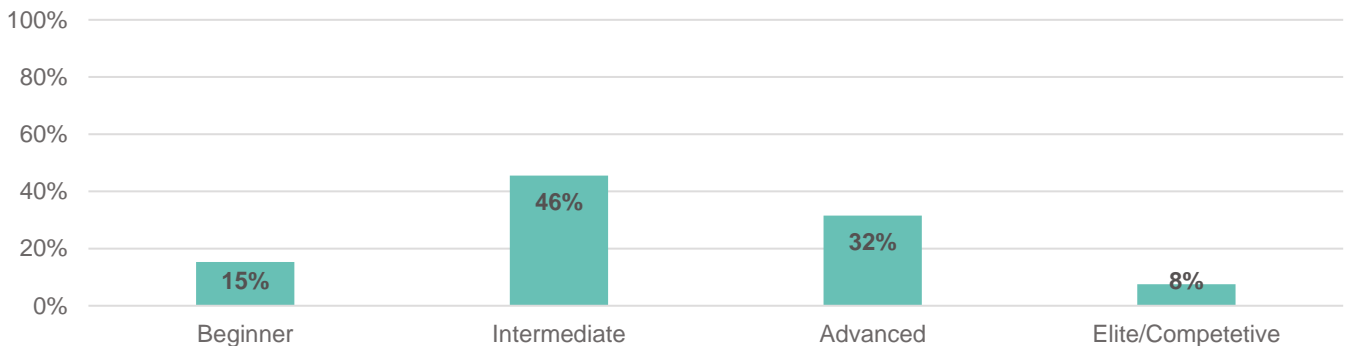
Most respondents who ride fire trails have an advanced skill level (63%). 22% consider themselves as intermediate, 12% as elite/competitive and 4% as beginner.



Number of respondents: 1,340

Downhill

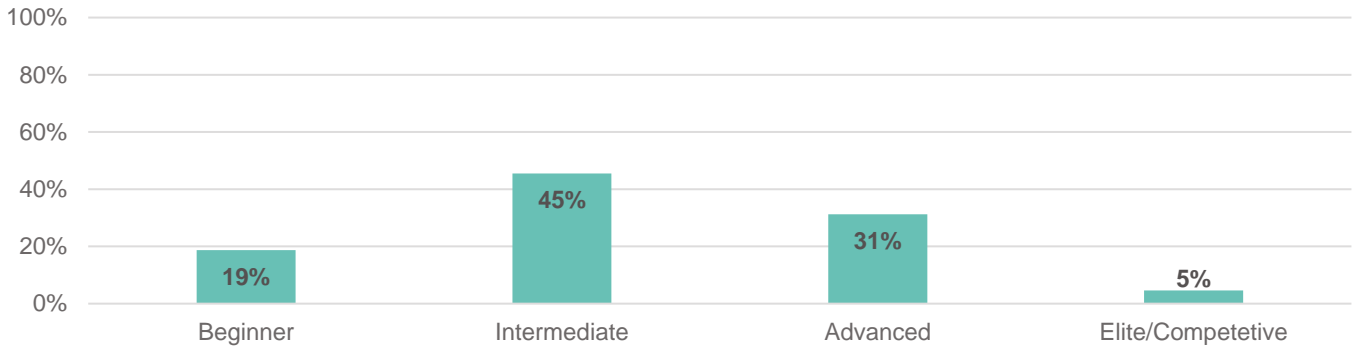
Most respondents who ride downhill have an intermediate (46%) or advanced skill level (32%). 15% of respondents consider themselves to have a beginner skill level and 8% as elite/competitive.



Number of respondents: 1,324

Free riding

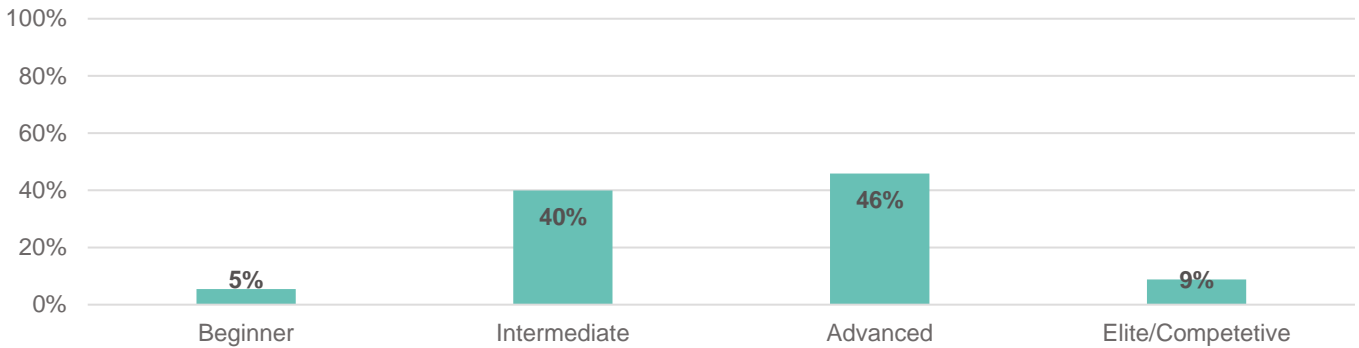
Most respondents who free ride have an intermediate (45%) or advanced skill level (31%). 19% of respondents consider themselves to have a beginner skill level and 5% as elite/competitive.



Number of respondents: 1,236

All mountain

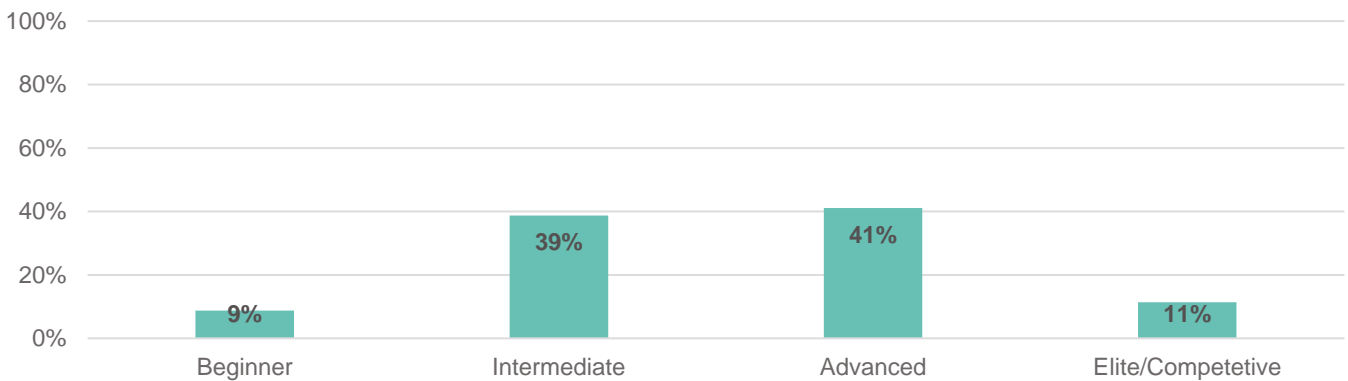
Most respondents who ride all mountain have an advanced (46%) or intermediate skill level (40%). Only 5% of respondents consider themselves to have a beginner skill level and 9% as elite/competitive.



Number of respondents: 1,431

Enduro

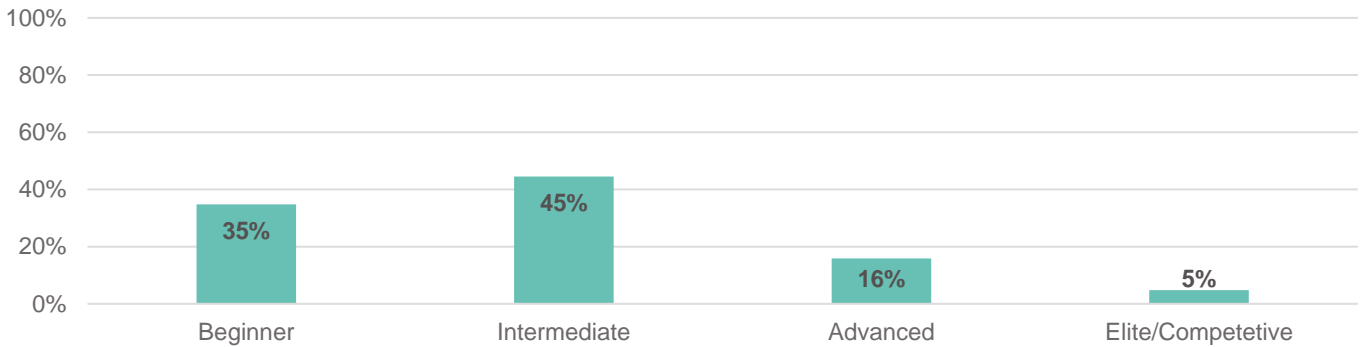
Most respondents who ride enduro have an advanced (41%) or intermediate (39%) skill level. 11% of respondents consider themselves to have an elite/competitive skill level and 9% as beginner.



Number of respondents: 1,343

Cyclo Cross

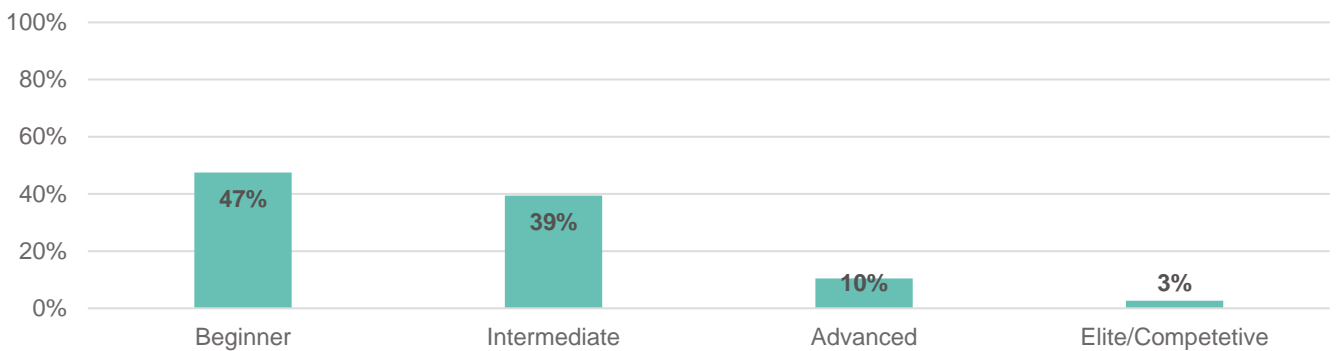
Most respondents who ride cyclo cross have an intermediate (45%) or beginner (35%) skill level. 16% of respondents consider themselves to have an advanced skill level and 5% as elite/competitive.



Number of respondents: 604

Dirt Jumps

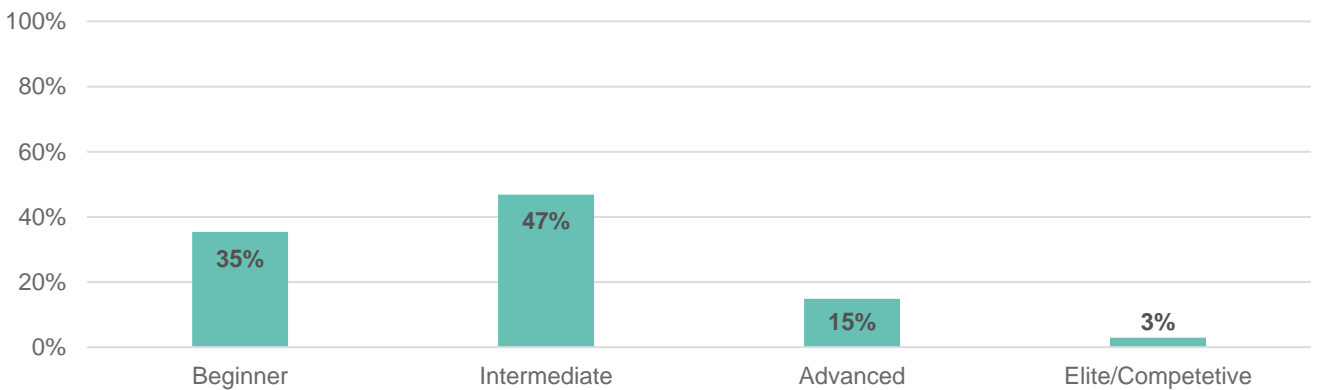
Most respondents who ride dirt jumps have a beginner (47%) or intermediate (39%) skill level. Only 10% of respondents consider themselves to have an advanced skill level and 3% as elite/competitive.



Number of respondents: 1,005

Pump Track (Asphalt)

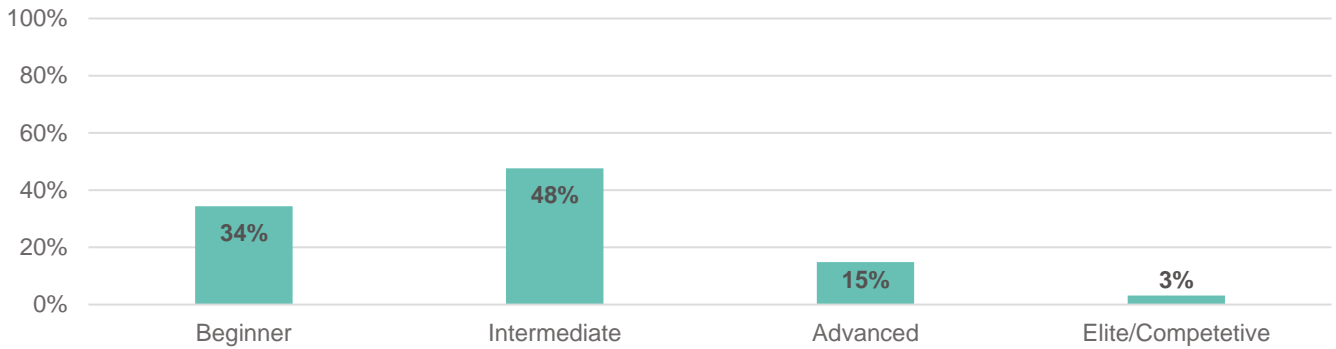
Most respondents who ride pump tracks (asphalt) have an intermediate (47%) or beginner (35%) skill level. 15% of respondents consider themselves to have an advanced skill level and 3% as elite/competitive.



Number of respondents: 997

Pump Track (Dirt)

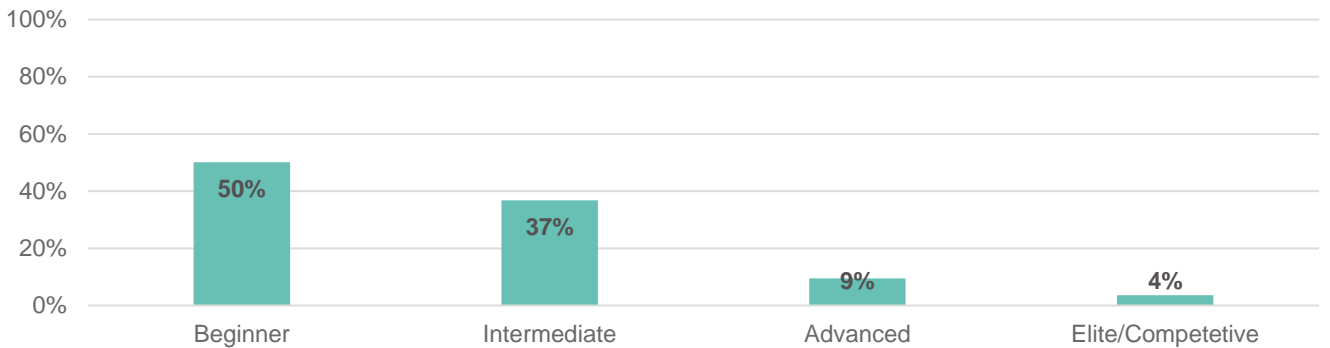
Most respondents who ride pump tracks have an intermediate (48%) or beginner (34%) skill level. 15% of respondents consider themselves to have an advanced skill level and 3% as elite/competitive.



Number of respondents: 1,044

BMX

Most respondents who ride BMX have a beginner (50%) or intermediate skill level (37%). Only 9% of respondents considered themselves to have an advanced skill level and 4% as elite/competitive.

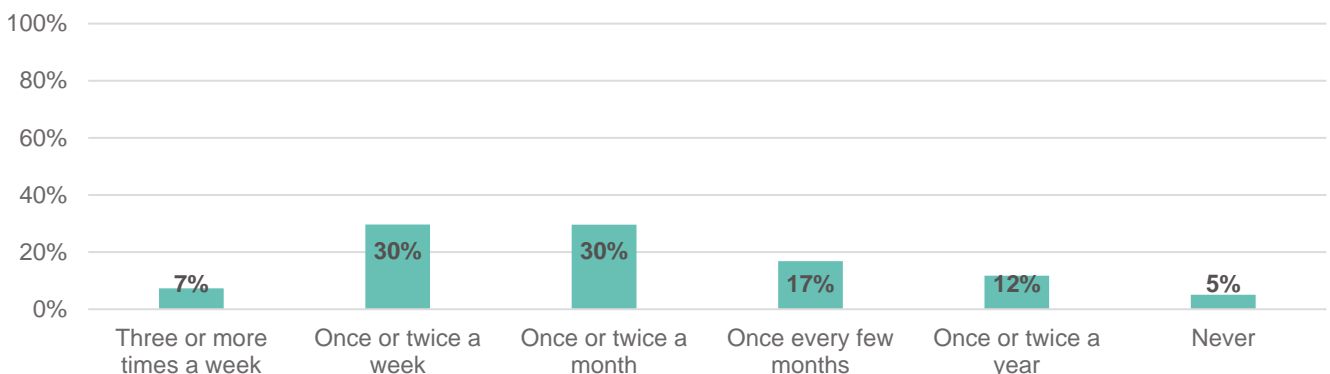


Number of respondents: 633

Q7. What trails/facilities do you use on the Northern Beaches and how regularly do you use each?

Manly Dam, Manly Vale (Council Facility)

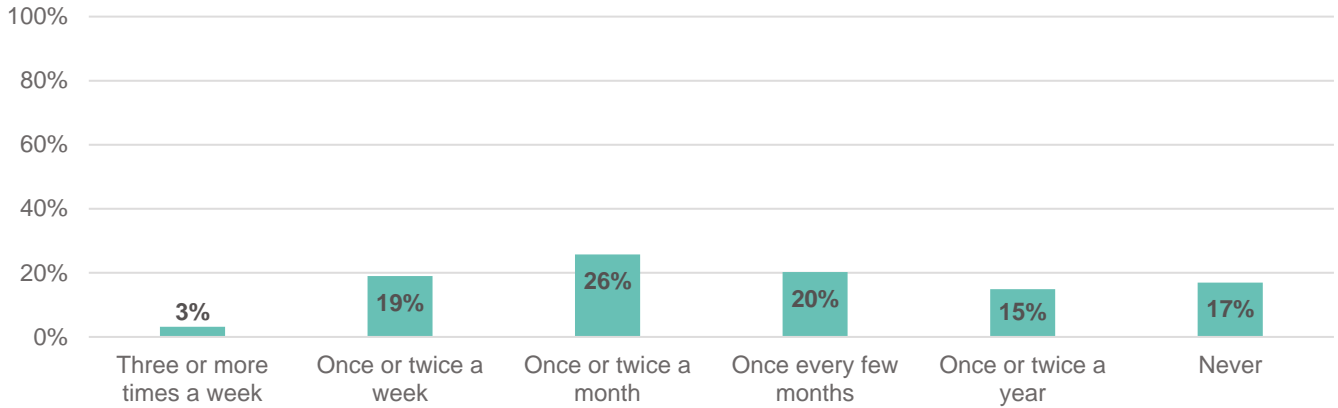
Manly Dam is used by 30% of respondents for off road cycling once or twice a week/once or twice a month. Other respondents use Manly Dam once every few months (17%) or once or twice a year (12%). Only 5% stated they never use Manly Dam for off road cycling.



Number of respondents: 1,454

Gahnia and Serrata, Forestville (National Parks facility)

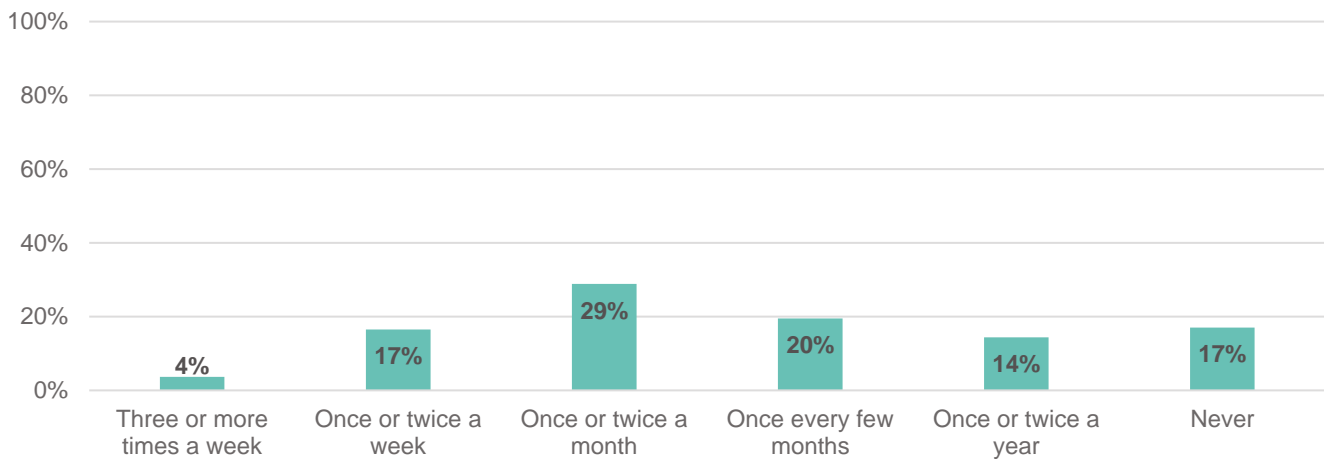
Most respondents use Gahnia and Serrata for off road cycling on a monthly basis, with 26% stating they use the facility once or twice a month and 20% once every few months. On a weekly basis, 19% of respondents use the facility one or twice per week and 3% three or more times per week. Other respondents use Gahnia and Serrata, once or twice per year (15%) or never (17%).



Number of respondents: 1,422

Cascades/Belrose (National Parks - bike access authorised on fire trails)

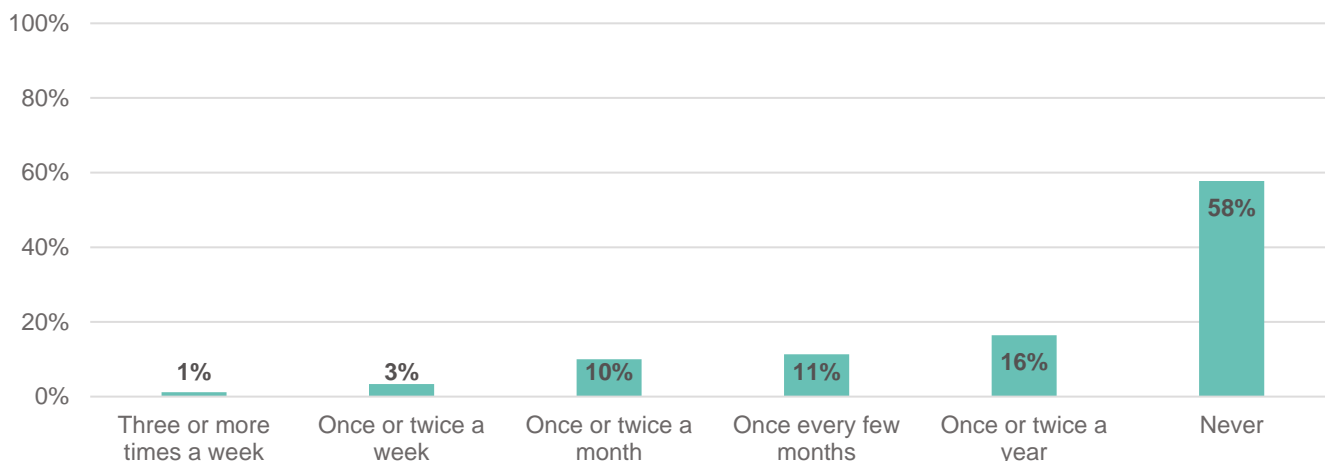
Most respondents use Cascades/Belrose for off road cycling on a monthly basis, with 29% stating they use the facility once or twice a month and 20% once every few months. On a weekly basis, 17% of respondents use the facility one or twice per week and 4% three or more times per week. Other respondents use Gahnia and Serrata, once or twice per year (14%) or never (17%).



Number of respondents: 1,410

The Grove bike park, Seaforth (Council facility)

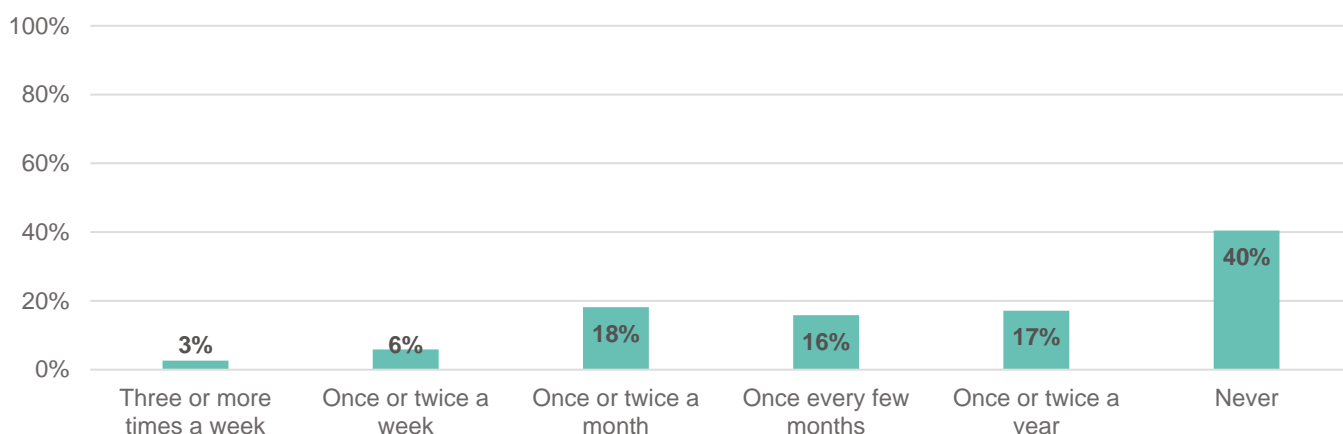
Over half of the respondents have never used the Grove bike park (58%). Of the respondents who do use the facility, 16% use it once or twice a year. Other respondents stated they use it once every few months (11%), once or twice a month (10%), once or twice a week (3%) and three or more times a week (1%).



Number of respondents: 1,370

BMX track, Terrey Hills (Council facility)

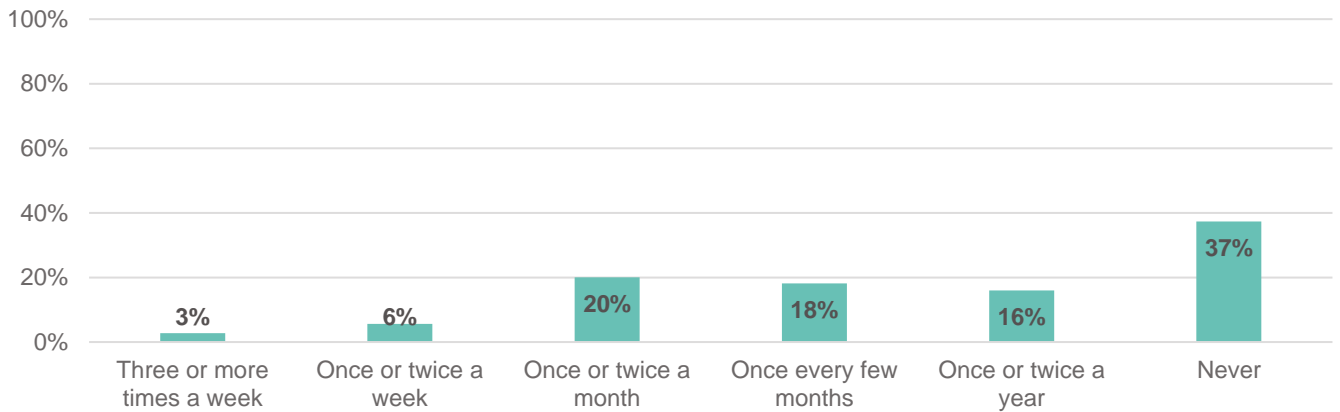
Of the respondents who use the BMX track at Terrey Hills, 18% use it once or twice a month, 16% once every few months and 17% once or twice per year. Only 6% of respondents use the BMX track once or twice a week and 3% three or more times a week. A high proportion of respondents have never used the BMX track (40%), likely due to the specialised nature of the facility.



Number of respondents: 1,384

Pump track, Terrey Hills (Council facility)

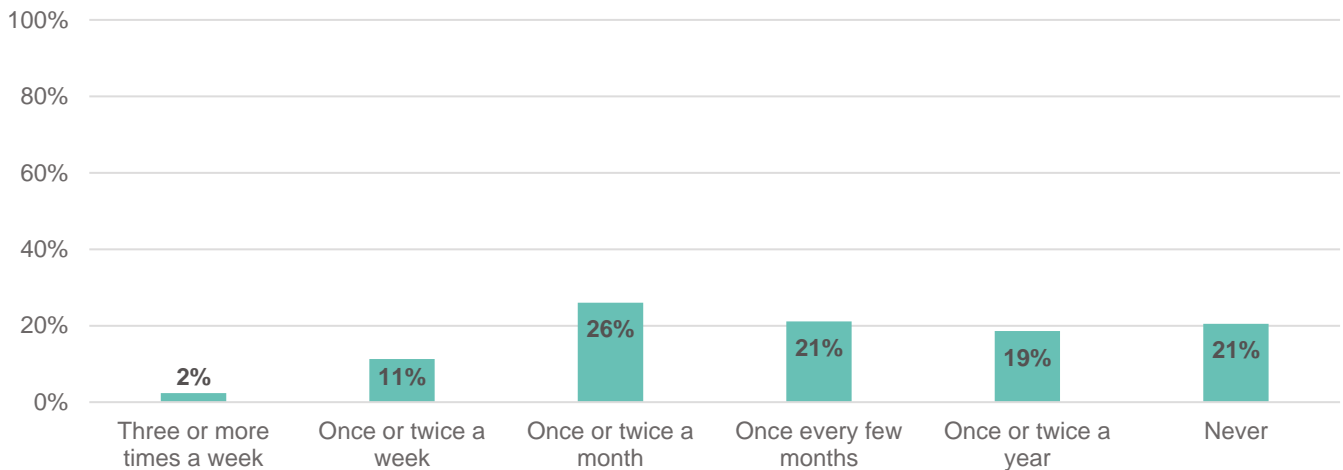
Over a third of respondents (37%) have never used the pump track at Terrey Hills. Of those who did use the pump track, 20% used it once or twice a month, 18% once every few months and 16% once or twice a year. There was a small proportion of respondents who used the pump track regularly, with 6% using it once or twice a week and 3% three or more times a week.



Number of respondents: 1,381

Terrey Hills/Duffys Forest (predominantly National Park - bike access authorised on fire trails)

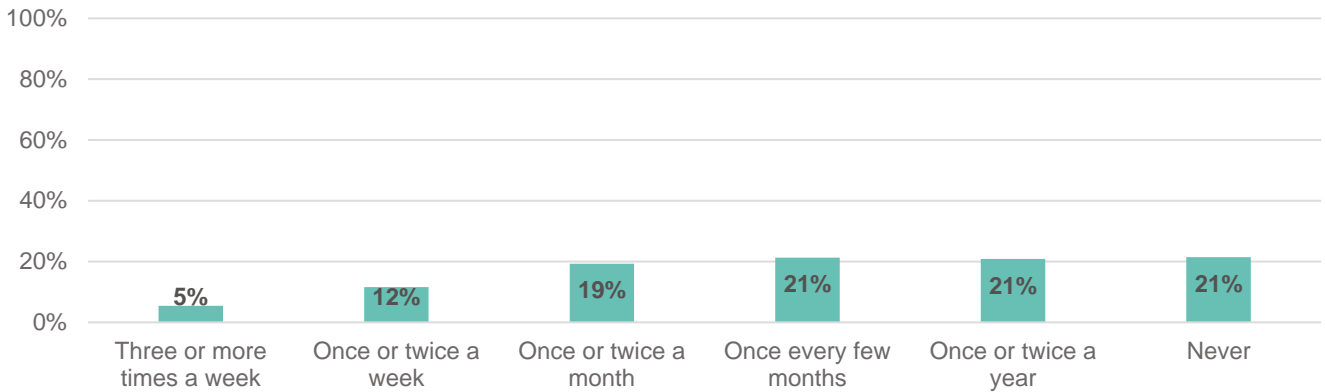
Most respondents use Terrey Hills/Duffys Forest for off road cycling on a monthly basis, with 26% stating they use the facility once or twice a month and 21% once every few months. 21% of respondents have never used this facility and 19% only use it once or twice per year. Other respondents use Terrey Hills/Duffys Forest once or twice a week (11%) and three or more times per week (2%).



Number of respondents: 1,390

Narrabeen Lagoon trail loop (Council facility)

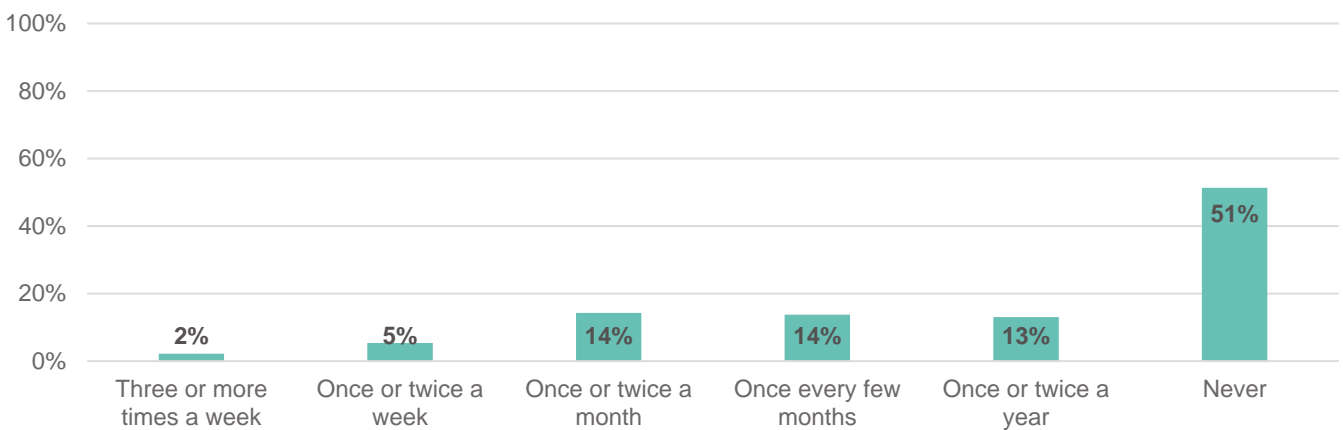
Most respondents use Narrabeen Lagoon trail loop once every few months (21%), once or twice per year (21%) or have never used the facility for off road cycling (21%). 19% of respondents use the facility once or twice a month and 12% once or twice a week. Only 5% of respondents use the Narrabeen Lagoon trail loop three or more times per week



Number of respondents: 1,413

Ingleside Chase/Mona Vale (Council managed - currently unauthorised for bike access)

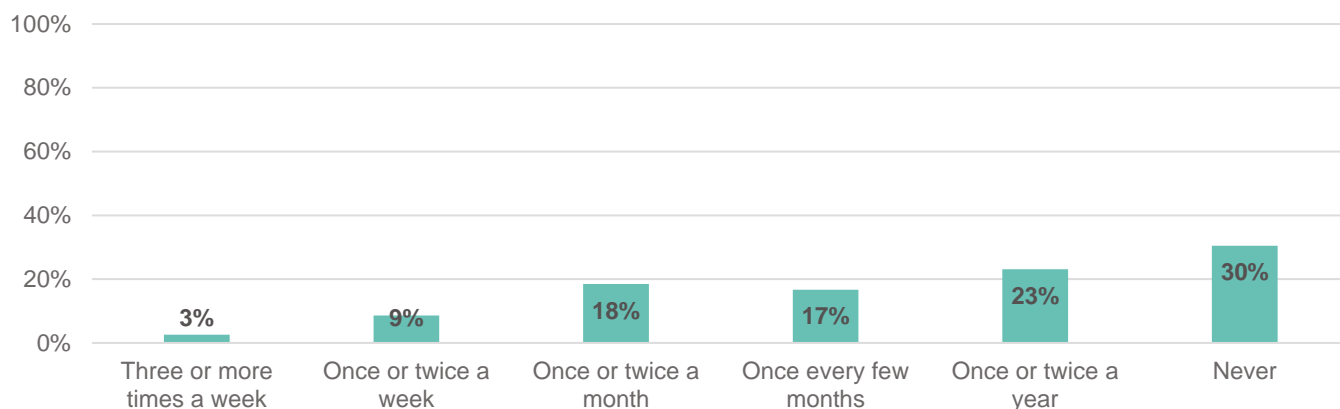
Over half of the respondents (51%) stated they never use Ingleside Chase/Mona Vale for off road cycling. Of the respondents who use the facility, 14% use it once or twice a month, 14% once every few months and 13% once or twice a year. Other respondents use the facility once or twice a week (5%) and three or more times a week (2%).



Number of respondents: 1,365

Red Hill/ Cromer (Red Hill Reserve track is Council owned, however, predominantly state owned and private property that is unauthorised for bike access)

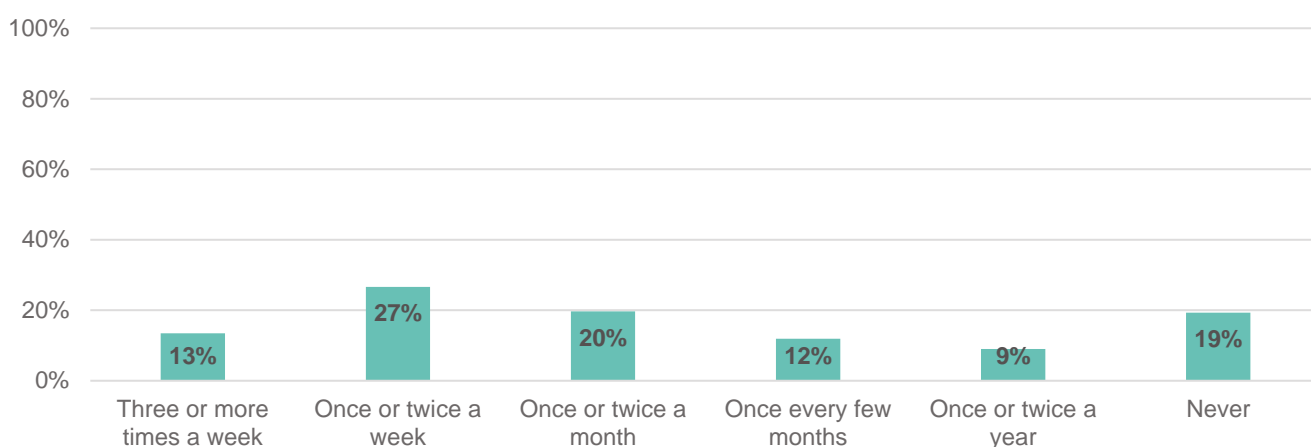
Just under a third (30%) of respondents never use the facility for off road cycling. Nearly a quarter (23%) of respondents use Red Hill/Cromer once or twice a year, whilst 18% use it once or twice a month and 17% once every few months. Other respondents stated they use the facility once or twice a week (9%) and three or more times a week (3%).



Number of respondents: 1,384

Deep Creek/Mt Narra (Council and National Parks - predominately unauthorised for bike access. Bikes authorised on National Park fire trail)

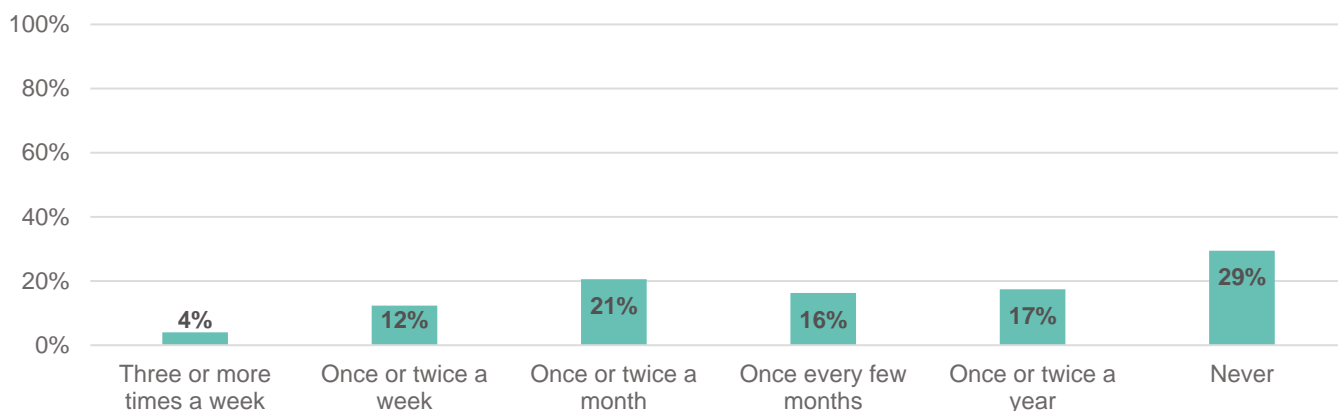
Most respondents (27%) use this facility for off road cycling once or twice a week. 20% use the facility once or twice a month, whilst 19% never use Deep Creek/Mt Narra for off road cycling. Other respondents stated they use the facility three or more times a week (13%), once every few months (12%) and once or twice a year (9%).



Number of respondents: 1,434

Oxford Falls (National Park, other state managed land and private property - largely unauthorised for bike access. Bikes authorised on National Parks fire trails)

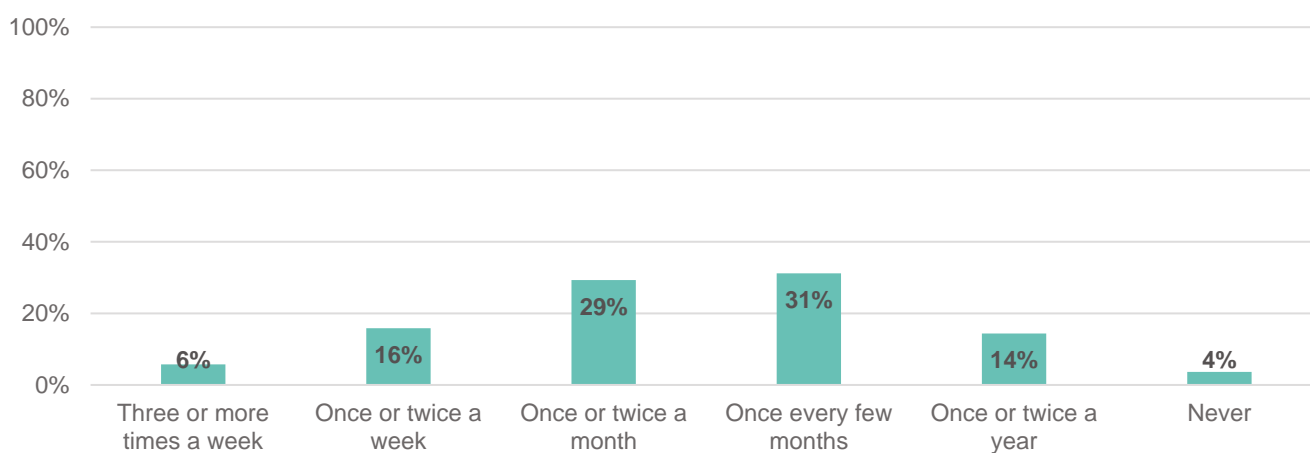
Most respondents (29%) never use Oxford Falls for off road cycling. Of the respondents who use the facility, 21% use it once or twice a month, 17% once or twice a year and 16% once every few months. Other respondents stated they used Oxford Falls once or twice a week (12%) or three or more times a week (4%).



Number of respondents: 1,396

Trails outside of the Northern Beaches

Nearly all respondents (96%) use trails outside the Northern Beaches. Most use the trails on a monthly basis, with 31% stating they use them once every few months and 29% once or twice a month. Other respondents use the trails once or twice a week (16%), once or twice a year (14%) or three or more times a week (6%).

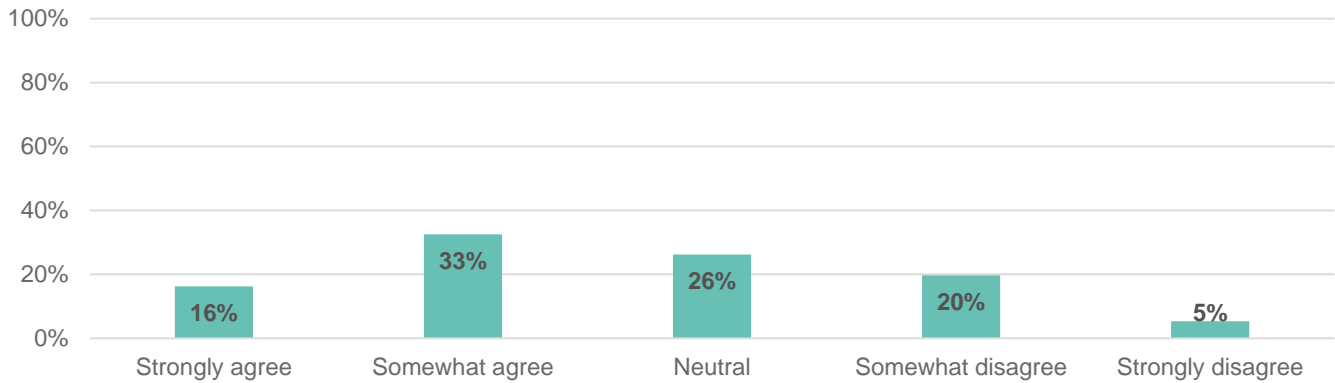


Number of respondents: 1,434

Q8. How strongly do you agree with the following statements?

When I go riding I am sure about which trails are authorised for bike access on the Northern Beaches

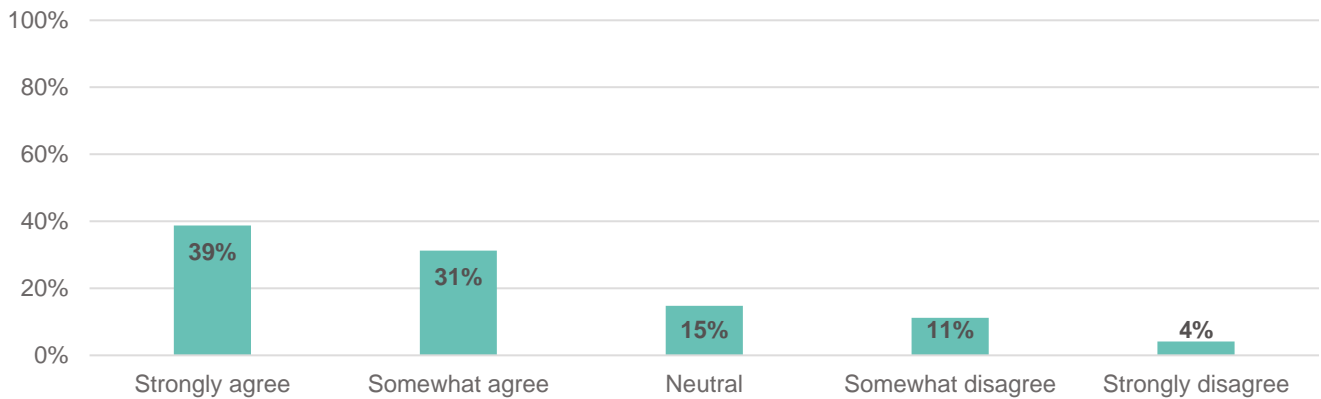
Nearly half of respondents (49%) either somewhat agree (33%) or strongly agree (16%) that when they go riding, they are sure about which trails are authorised for bike access. However, 26% stated they were neutral about this and 25% disagreed to some extent.



Number of respondents: 1,482

I am confident I know which sections of the Manly Dam trail are authorised for bike access and which are not

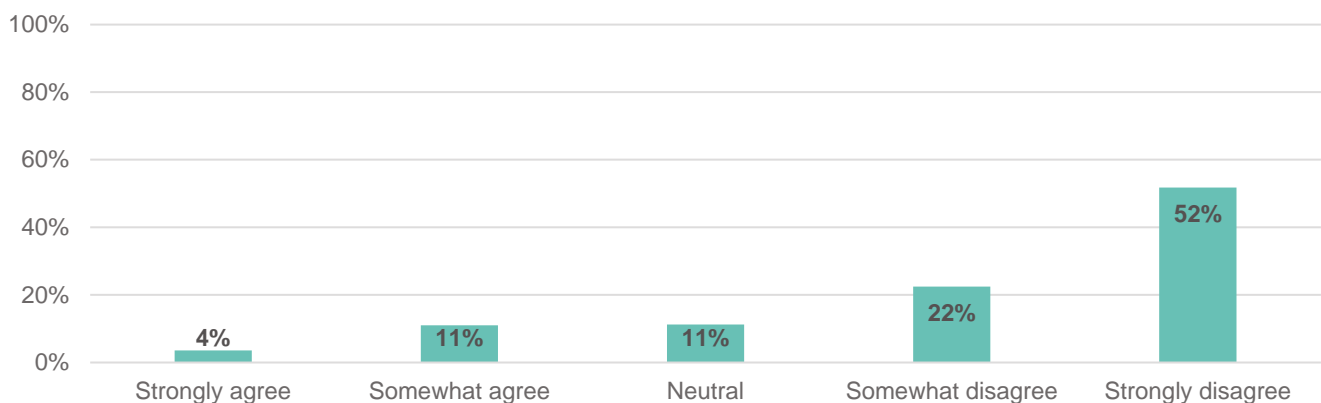
Most of the respondents (70%) agreed that they know which sections of the Manly Dam trail are authorised for bike access and which are not. 15% stated they were neutral and 15% disagreed to some extent.



Number of respondents: 1,485

The authorised trails at Manly Dam and Bantry Bay are enough to meet my needs

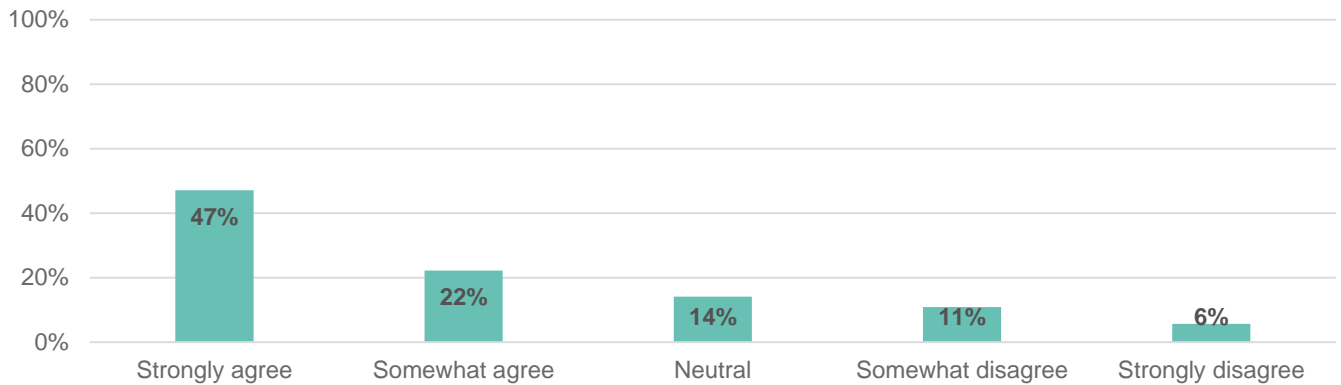
Most of the respondents (74%) disagree that the authorised trails at Manly Dam and Bantry Bay meet their needs. Only 15% stated they agree and 11% were neutral.



Number of respondents: 1,482

The existing authorised trails on the Northern Beaches do not currently cater to my needs

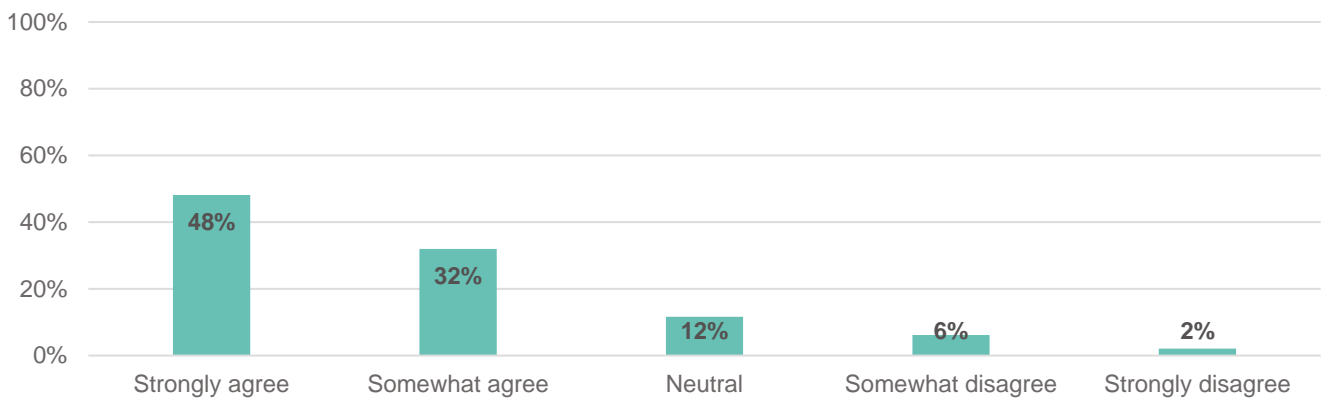
Nearly 70% of respondents agree that the existing authorised trails on the Northern Beaches do not currently cater to their needs. Only 17% disagreed with this and 14% were neutral.



Number of respondents: 1,476

I feel the need to travel outside of Sydney to access off road cycling experiences which are not provided by Northern Beaches trails

Most respondents (80%) feel the need to travel outside of Sydney to access off road cycling experiences which are not provided by Northern Beaches trails. Only 12% neutral are neutral and 8% disagree.

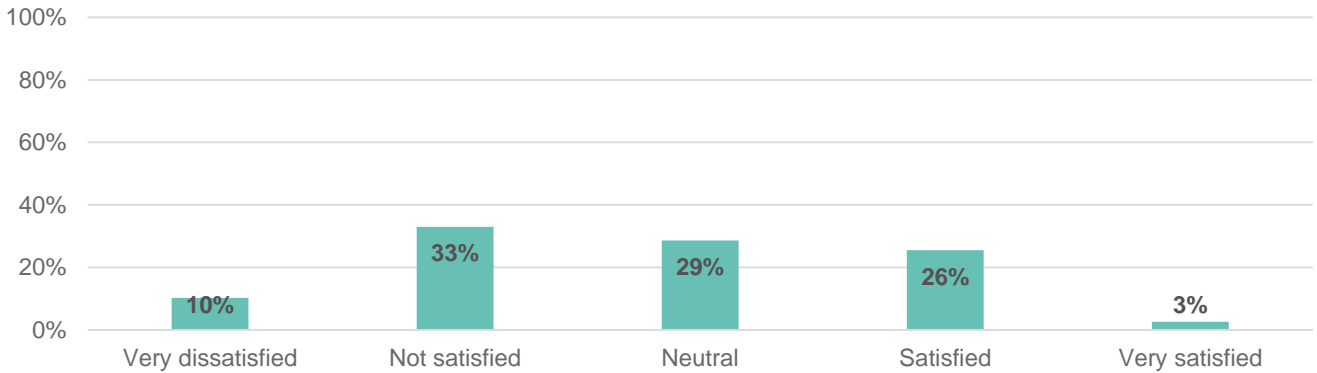


Number of respondents: 1,479

Q9. How satisfied are you with the following:

Distance of trails on the Northern Beaches

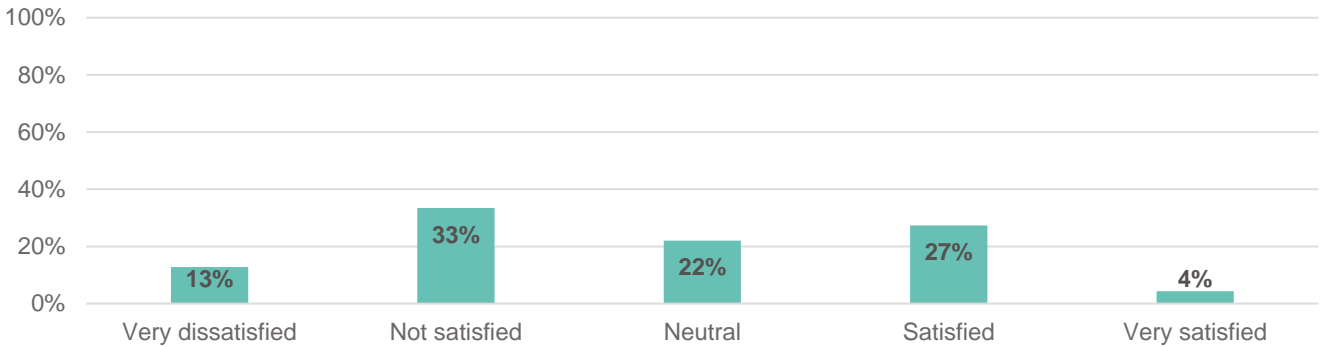
A high proportion (43%) of respondents are not satisfied with the distance of trails in the Northern Beaches, while 47% are either satisfied or neutral.



Number of respondents: 1,482

Variability in the level of difficulty available on trails on the Northern Beaches

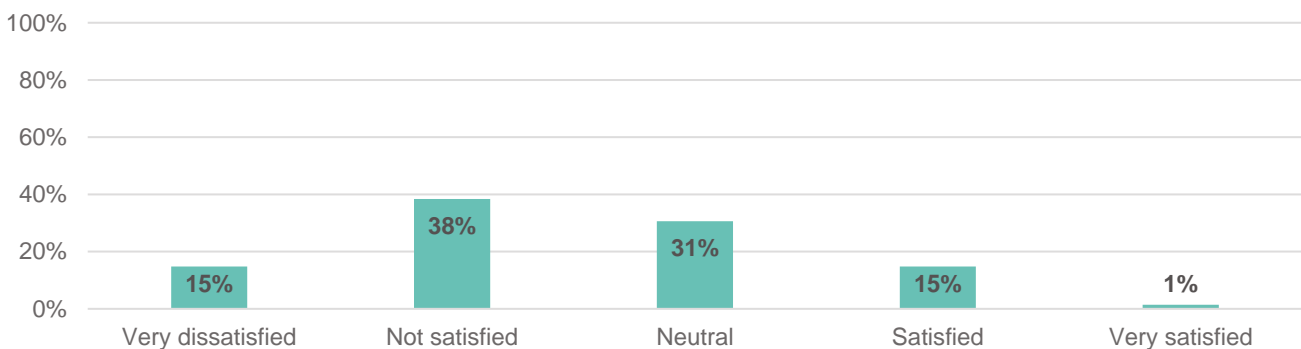
Nearly half of respondents (46%) are not satisfied with the level of difficulty available on trails in the Northern Beaches. 31% are satisfied and 22% are neutral.



Number of respondents: 1,485

Supporting infrastructure, e.g. car parking, toilets, water

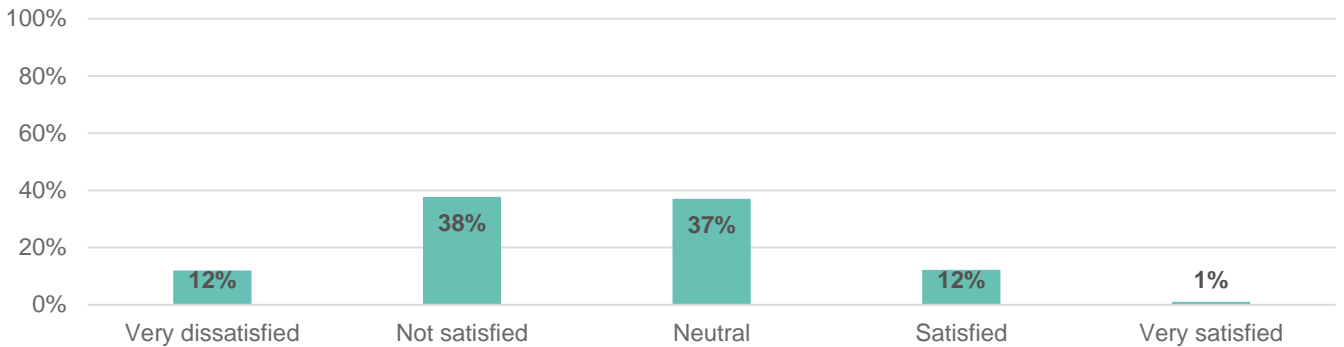
Over 50% of respondents are not satisfied with the supporting infrastructure associated with off road cycling facilities. 31% are neutral and 16% are satisfied.



Number of respondents: 1,487

Signage

Half of respondents (50%) are not satisfied with the signage associated with off road cycling facilities. 37% are neutral and 13% are satisfied.



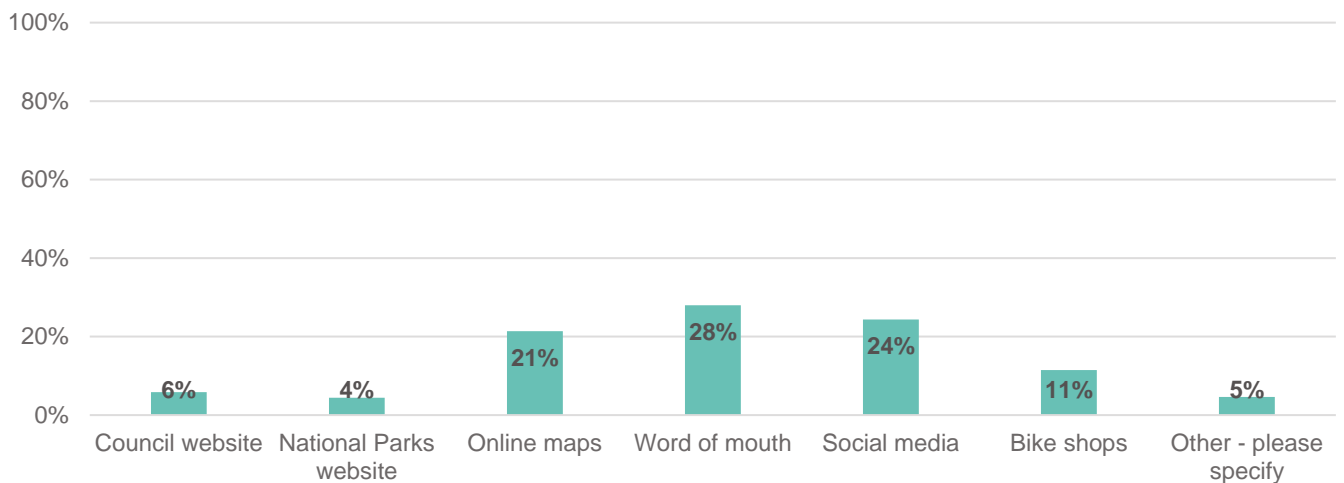
Number of respondents: 1,479

Q10. Are there any other off road trail features or facilities you think are lacking on the Northern Beaches?

Refer to the key suggestions table provided in the upfront off road cycling analysis.

Q11. How do you get your information about trails on the Northern Beaches? Select all that apply.

Just over a quarter of respondents (28%) stated they get information about trails on the Northern Beaches by word of mouth. Social media (24%), online maps (21%) and bike shops (11%) were also relatively popular ways for respondents to get information. Only 6% got their information from Council's website and 4% from the National Parks website.



Total number of respondents: 1,489

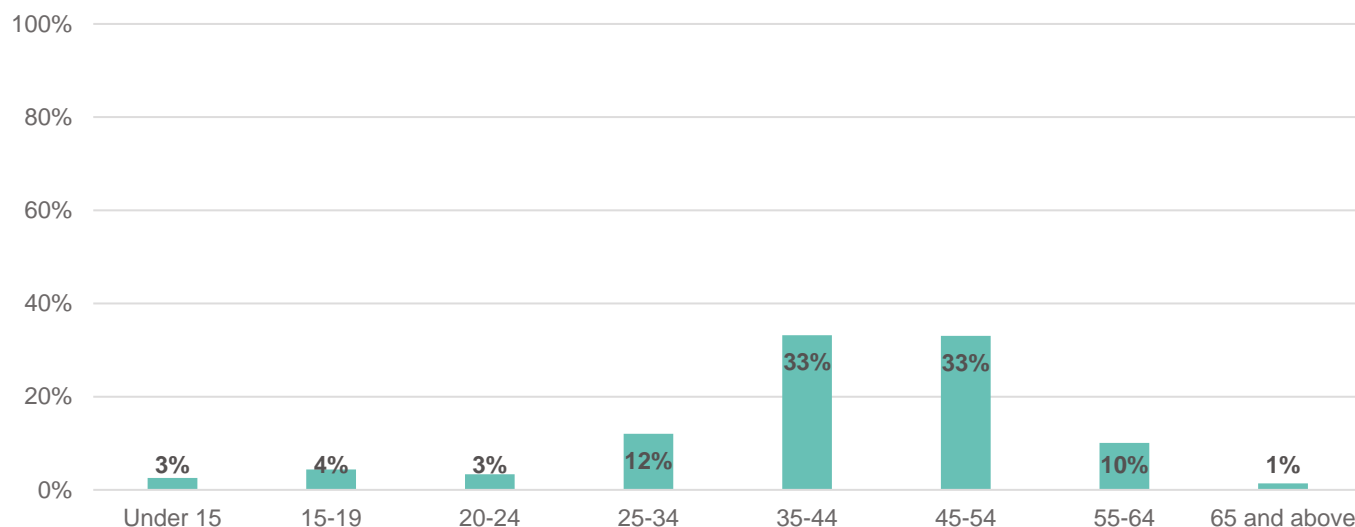
Q12. Are there any other comments you would like to add about off road cycling in the Northern Beaches?

Respondents were asked to make any additional comments about off road cycling in the Northern Beaches. Most comments were in relation to the following:

- Recognising the social benefits associated with well-designed bike tracks.
- Recognising the value of existing trails in the Northern Beaches.
- Suggestions for an increase in:
 - More trails which are targeted to skill levels
 - More authorised trails and flow trails to support the large riding community
 - More linkages with existing trails and bike paths.
- Suggestions for a need to provide:
 - Greater investment by Council in building and delivering a high quality network of trails and supporting infrastructure
 - Greater accessibility to information on places to ride throughout the Northern Beaches
 - Increased collaboration between Council and riding communities to build trails
 - Increased community education on preserving the trails.
- Providing feedback that the quality of unauthorised trails were generally better than authorised trails and suggestions there is a need to use of existing bushland for more off road cycling trails.
- Suggestions that there are opportunities for more mountain bike races in the Northern Beaches.
- Suggestions that there is an opportunity to investigate developing trails along bus routes.

Q13. How old are you?

A third of respondents were aged 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 years old. Children and older people were the least represented category, with 9% of respondents aged under 19 years and 1% aged over 65 years.



Total number of respondents: 1,489

Q14. What is your gender?

A significant majority (89%) of survey respondents were male.

CROSS TABULATIONS

Age and Gender versus Frequency of Participation

| | Overall | Under 15 | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65 and above | Female | Male | Prefer to self-describe |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|--------|------|-------------------------|
| Three or more times a week(%) | 39% | 55% | 62% | 62% | 39% | 37% | 38% | 31% | 38% | 41% | 39% | 0% |
| Three or more times a week(N) | 1164 | 21 | 40 | 31 | 70 | 184 | 184 | 47 | 8 | 65 | 514 | 0 |
| Once or twice a week(%) | 49% | 39% | 34% | 36% | 54% | 51% | 48% | 51% | 38% | 36% | 50% | 67% |
| Once or twice a week(N) | 1436 | 15 | 22 | 18 | 96 | 253 | 235 | 76 | 8 | 57 | 654 | 2 |
| Once or twice a month(%) | 10% | 5% | 5% | 2% | 7% | 9% | 11% | 11% | 24% | 17% | 9% | 0% |
| Once or twice a month(N) | 284 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 46 | 55 | 17 | 5 | 27 | 115 | 0 |
| Once every few months(%) | 2% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 2% | 6% | 0% | 3% | 2% | 33% |
| Once every few months(N) | 64 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 12 | 9 | 0 | 5 | 26 | 1 |
| Once or twice a year(%) | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 2% | 0% |
| Once or twice a year(N) | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 |

Age and Gender versus What People Most Enjoy

| | Overall (Cumulative Under Frequency) | Under 15 | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65 and above | Female | Male | Prefer to self-describe |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|--------|------|-------------------------|
| Fitness/Exercise(%) | 25% | 15% | 18% | 20% | 23% | 26% | 26% | 28% | 36% | 27% | 25% | 29% |
| Fitness/Exercise(N) | 2761 | 23 | 49 | 44 | 168 | 469 | 472 | 142 | 20 | 148 | 1224 | 2 |
| Being out in nature(%) | 25% | 16% | 20% | 21% | 24% | 26% | 26% | 28% | 32% | 28% | 25% | 43% |
| Being out in nature(N) | 2802 | 24 | 53 | 45 | 172 | 482 | 474 | 141 | 18 | 154 | 1236 | 3 |
| Designing and building trails (%) | 5% | 16% | 12% | 11% | 7% | 5% | 3% | 2% | 0% | 3% | 5% | 0% |
| Designing and building trails (N) | 574 | 25 | 32 | 23 | 49 | 87 | 60 | 12 | 0 | 17 | 269 | 0 |
| Socialising (%) | 17% | 14% | 17% | 16% | 17% | 17% | 17% | 16% | 14% | 17% | 16% | 14% |
| Socialising (N) | 1824 | 22 | 47 | 34 | 125 | 303 | 301 | 78 | 8 | 94 | 811 | 1 |
| The thrill of it(%) | 21% | 24% | 23% | 21% | 21% | 21% | 21% | 20% | 14% | 17% | 21% | 14% |
| The thrill of it(N) | 2296 | 36 | 63 | 46 | 154 | 379 | 367 | 101 | 8 | 91 | 1050 | 1 |
| Competition(%) | 5% | 10% | 8% | 10% | 5% | 5% | 5% | 3% | 0% | 4% | 5% | 0% |
| Competition(N) | 560 | 15 | 21 | 22 | 39 | 86 | 84 | 15 | 0 | 21 | 257 | 0 |
| Other (%) | 2% | 5% | 1% | 0% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 4% | 3% | 2% | 0% |
| Other (N) | 194 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 29 | 32 | 11 | 2 | 17 | 79 | 0 |

CROSS TABULATIONS

Age versus frequency of riding

| | Overall | Under 15 | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65 and above | Female | Male | Prefer to self-describe |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|--------|------|-------------------------|
| Three or more times a week(%) | 39% | 55% | 62% | 62% | 39% | 37% | 38% | 31% | 38% | 41% | 39% | 0% |
| Three or more times a week(N) | 1164 | 21 | 40 | 31 | 70 | 184 | 184 | 47 | 8 | 65 | 514 | 0 |
| Once or twice a week(%) | 49% | 39% | 34% | 36% | 54% | 51% | 48% | 51% | 38% | 36% | 50% | 67% |
| Once or twice a week(N) | 1436 | 15 | 22 | 18 | 96 | 253 | 235 | 76 | 8 | 57 | 654 | 2 |
| Once or twice a month(%) | 10% | 5% | 5% | 2% | 7% | 9% | 11% | 11% | 24% | 17% | 9% | 0% |
| Once or twice a month(N) | 284 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 46 | 55 | 17 | 5 | 27 | 115 | 0 |
| Once every few months(%) | 2% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 2% | 6% | 0% | 3% | 2% | 33% |
| Once every few months(N) | 64 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 12 | 9 | 0 | 5 | 26 | 1 |
| Once or twice a year(%) | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 2% | 0% | 0% |
| Once or twice a year(N) | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 |

Appendix 2 Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Telephone Survey - Micromex



Northern Beaches Council

Open Space and Recreation Research

Prepared by: Micromex Research

Date: July 2020



northern
beaches
council

micromex
research

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Background & Methodology

Why?

- Identify the community's perception of the overall importance of, and satisfaction with, the overall quality of open spaces in the Northern Beaches.
- Understand community satisfaction with specific open space attributes in the Northern Beaches Council LGA.
- Understand usage of open and recreational spaces in the Northern Beaches Council LGA, and the activities undertaken when visiting these locations.
- Identify how recreation participation changed during COVID-19 and its impact on future activities.
- Explore new recreation activities residents would consider doing/trying on the Northern Beaches in the next 12 months.

How?

- Telephone survey (landline and mobile) to N=403 households
- 115 acquired through number harvesting (from previous Northern Beaches Council research)
- Greatest margin of error +/- 4.9%

When?

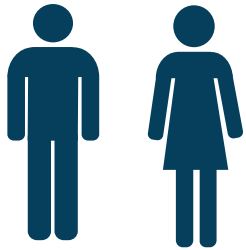
- Implementation 25th June – 1st July 2020



Sample Profile

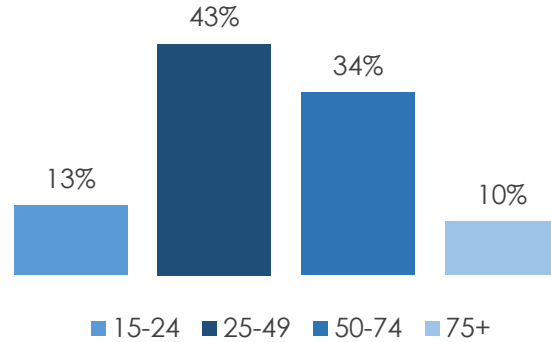
The sample was weighted by age and gender to reflect the 2016 ABS community profile of Northern Beaches Council.

Gender

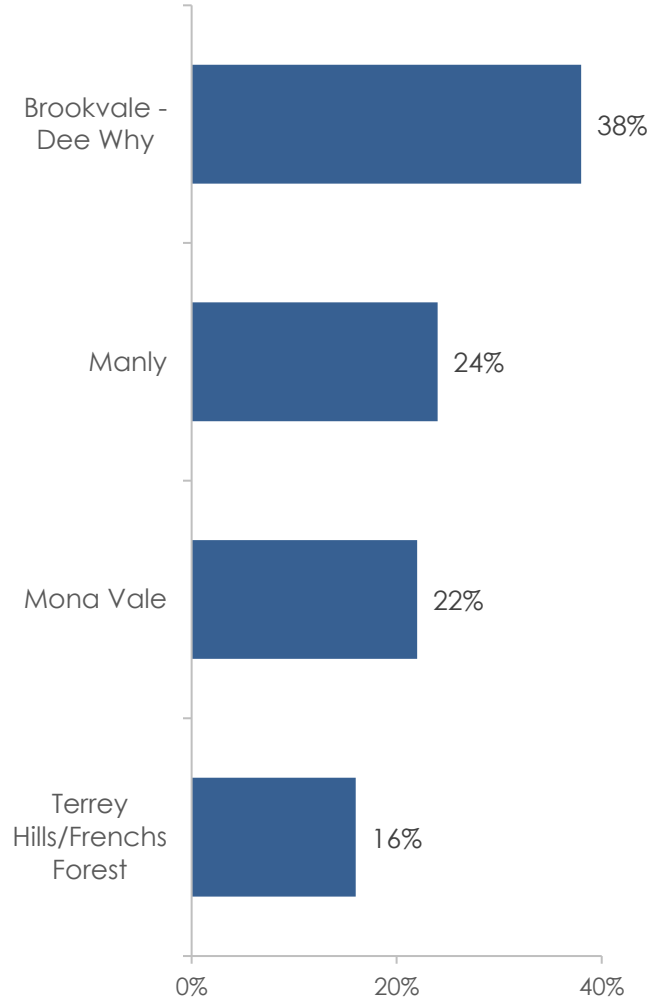


Male 48% Female 52%

Age



Catchment



Household type



Couple (children at home) 42%



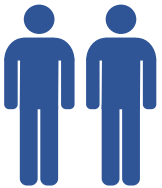
Couple (no children at home) 21%



Single/living alone 16%



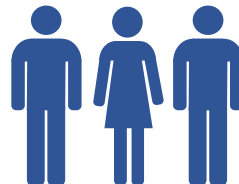
Single parent (children at home) 5%



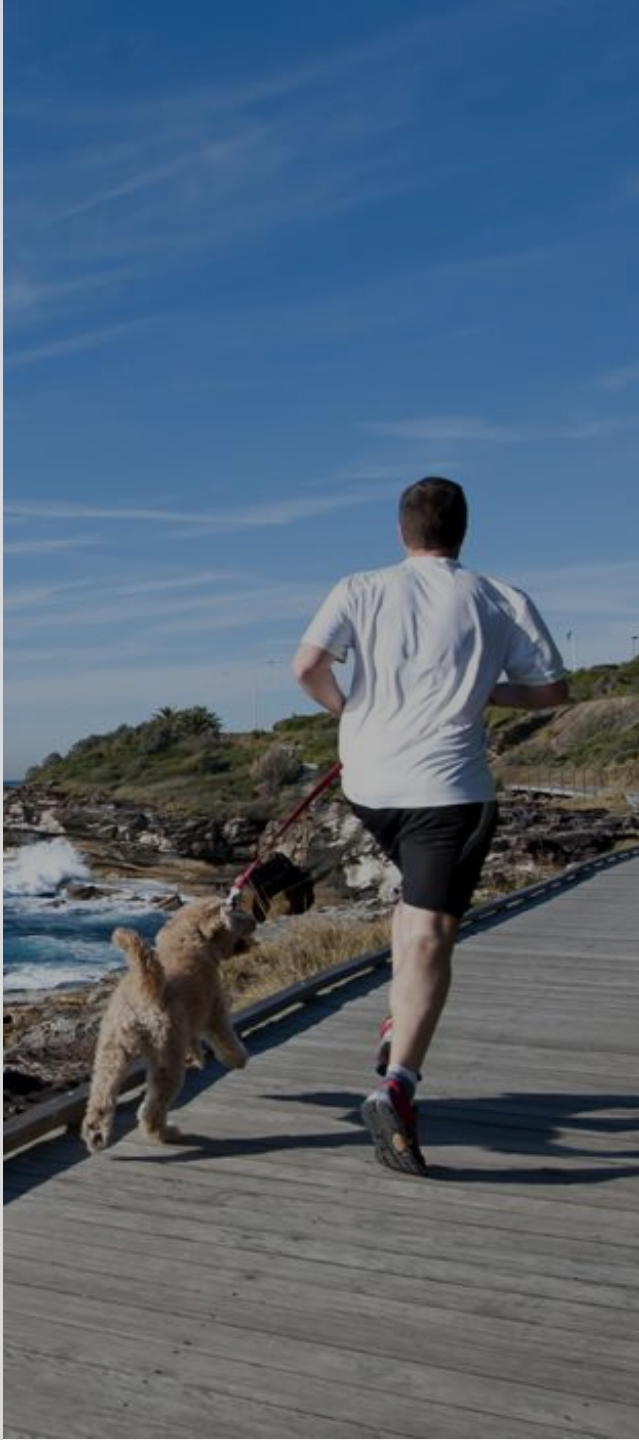
Living at home with one or more parents 12%



Extended family household (multiple generations) 2%



Group/shared Household 2%



Key Findings

Detailed Results

1. Quality of Open Spaces
2. Drivers of Overall Satisfaction
3. Visiting Open Spaces
4. Activities

Appendix A: Detailed Methodology and Demographics

Appendix B: Additional Analysis

Appendix C: Questionnaire

Summary Findings – Open Space

The provision and quality of open space is an important issue for residents of the Northern Beaches. It is significantly higher than observed in other Metro LGAs.

There is a high overall level of community satisfaction with the quality open space being provided, and this has strengthened over the past 4 years.

There is potentially an opportunity to improve satisfaction with regard to facilities that support open spaces, such as public toilets, parking, drinking water and seating.

The community indicated that the key priorities revolve around expanding existing services and facilities, increasing the level of maintenance/cleaning and providing greater accessibility/connectivity.



This focus on optimising current spaces is supported in the Shapley Regression Analysis. The key differentiating drivers of overall satisfaction were found to be driven by perceptions of sustainability, diversity and quality, with the top three drivers identified as:

1. The sustainability of recreational use of natural areas,
2. Diversity of spaces, and
3. Quality of amenity, general condition and maintenance

→ **Contextualising residents expectation in these areas will assist align the open space strategy with community needs**

Usage and Behaviour

Usage of Open Spaces

Beaches and walking/cycling tracks are the types of open spaces residents reported using most frequently in the Northern Beaches, with 82% and 79% of residents stating that they use them at least once every couple of weeks, respectively.

- Unsurprisingly, residents within the eastern Catchment areas have higher usage of beaches, whilst those within the Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchments have higher usage of parks, bushland, sportsgrounds and playgrounds. In regards to variations by age, younger residents reported higher usage, particularly amongst 25-49 year old's, with usage then declining across the 50-74 and 75+ age groups.
- Females are more likely to use open spaces for social interactions, mental health and being out in nature, compared to males, whilst residents within the Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchments were more likely to state they use them for time with their family.

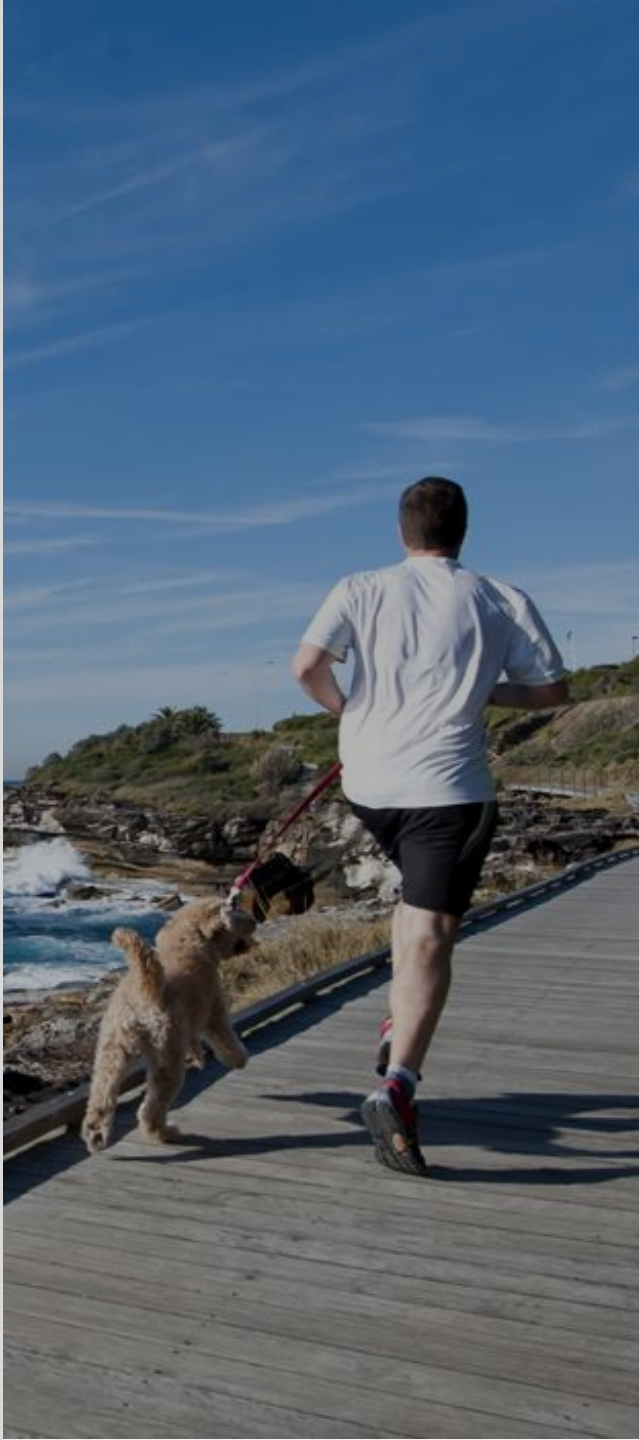
Recreational Activities

Residents conduct a wide variety of different activities in open spaces in the Northern Beaches, on average participating in 7 different types of activities over the past 12 months. Males, 15-49 year old's and residents of the Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchments all reported participation in a greater variety of activities.

Overall, walking (other than bushwalking/dog walking) was the most common activity for residents aged 25+, whilst swimming at the beach, rock pool or tidal pool was the most common activity for 15-24 year old's.



- COVID had the greatest impact on multi-person/team activities, with residents either decreasing their activity or having to stop altogether. Single-person recreation activities were much more likely to have continued as normal, or even increased (with walking, bushwalking and running/jogging the top recreational activities residents conducted more than usual during COVID).
- 1 in 5 residents would consider trying a new recreation activity over the next 12 months, with particular interest in canoeing/kayaking and surf sports.



Key Findings

Detailed Results

1. Quality of Open Spaces

2. Drivers of Overall Satisfaction

3. Visiting Open Spaces

4. Activities

Appendix A: Detailed Methodology and Demographics

Appendix B: Additional Analysis

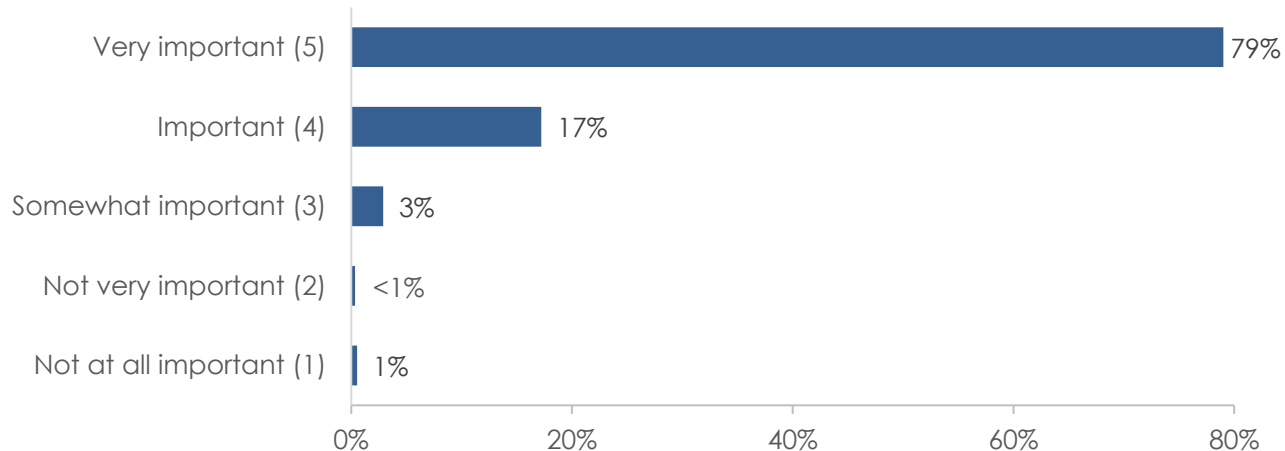
Appendix C: Questionnaire

Importance of Overall Quality of Open Spaces

Q4a. Overall, how important to you is the overall quality of open spaces in the Northern Beaches?

| | Overall | Male | Female | 15-24 | 25-49 | 50-74 | 75+ | Brookvale-Dee Why Catchment | Manly Catchment | Mona Vale Catchment | Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchments |
|-------------|---------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| T2B | 96% | 97% | 96% | 95% | 96% | 97% | 98% | 97% | 98% | 95% | 93% |
| Mean rating | 4.74 | 4.70 | 4.78 | 4.63 | 4.76 | 4.77 | 4.68 | 4.77 | 4.71 | 4.71 | 4.75 |
| Base | 403 | 194 | 209 | 54 | 173 | 136 | 40 | 154 | 98 | 87 | 64 |

| Parks and recreation areas (including playgrounds) | Micromex Metro Council Benchmark | 2019 NBC community report | 2018 NBC community report | 2017 NBC community report |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| T2B | 85% | 91% | 91% | 93% |
| Base | 33,529 | 753 | 757 | 756 |



Base: N = 403

Scale: 1=not at all important, 5=very important

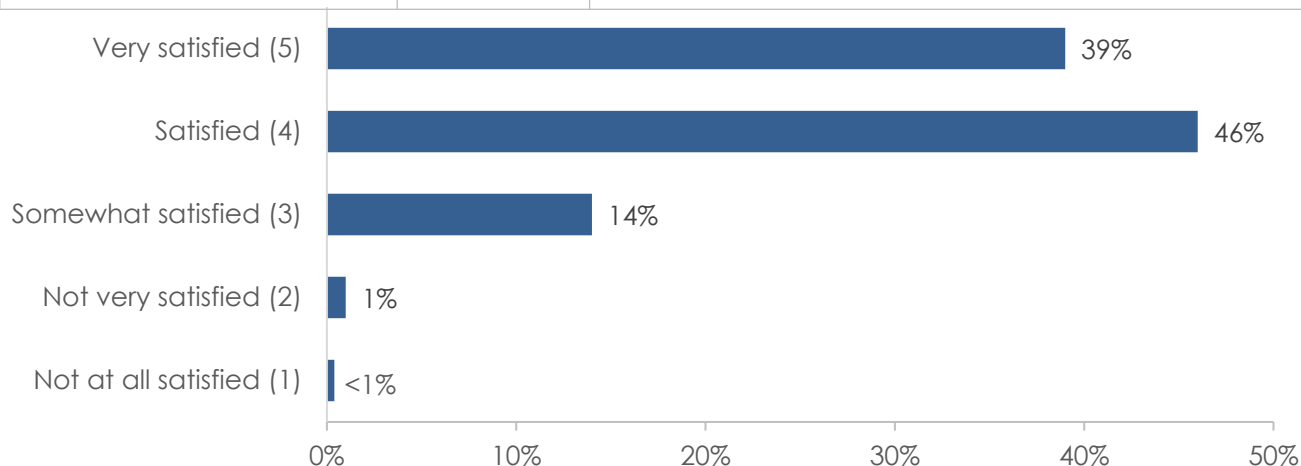
The quality of open spaces on the Northern Beaches remains a priority for the community. This has increased from previous years possibly because of the Covid 19 shutdown.

Satisfaction with Overall Quality of Open Spaces

Q4b. Overall, how satisfied are you with the overall quality of open spaces in the Northern Beaches?

| | Overall | Male | Female | 15-24 | 25-49 | 50-74 | 75+ | Brookvale-Dee Why Catchment | Manly Catchment | Mona Vale Catchment | Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchments |
|-------------|---------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| T3B | 98% | 97% | 100%▲ | 100% | 100%▲ | 97% | 95%▼ | 98% | 97% | 100% | 100% |
| Mean rating | 4.21 | 4.22 | 4.20 | 4.05 | 4.26 | 4.18 | 4.29 | 4.22 | 4.19 | 4.21 | 4.23 |
| Base | 403 | 194 | 209 | 54 | 173 | 136 | 40 | 154 | 98 | 87 | 64 |

| Parks and recreation areas (including playgrounds) | Micromex Metro Council Benchmark | 2019 NBC community report | 2018 NBC community report | 2017 NBC community report |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| T3B | 91% | 95% | 94% | 92% |
| Base | 28,588 | 753 | 750 | 755 |



Base: N = 403

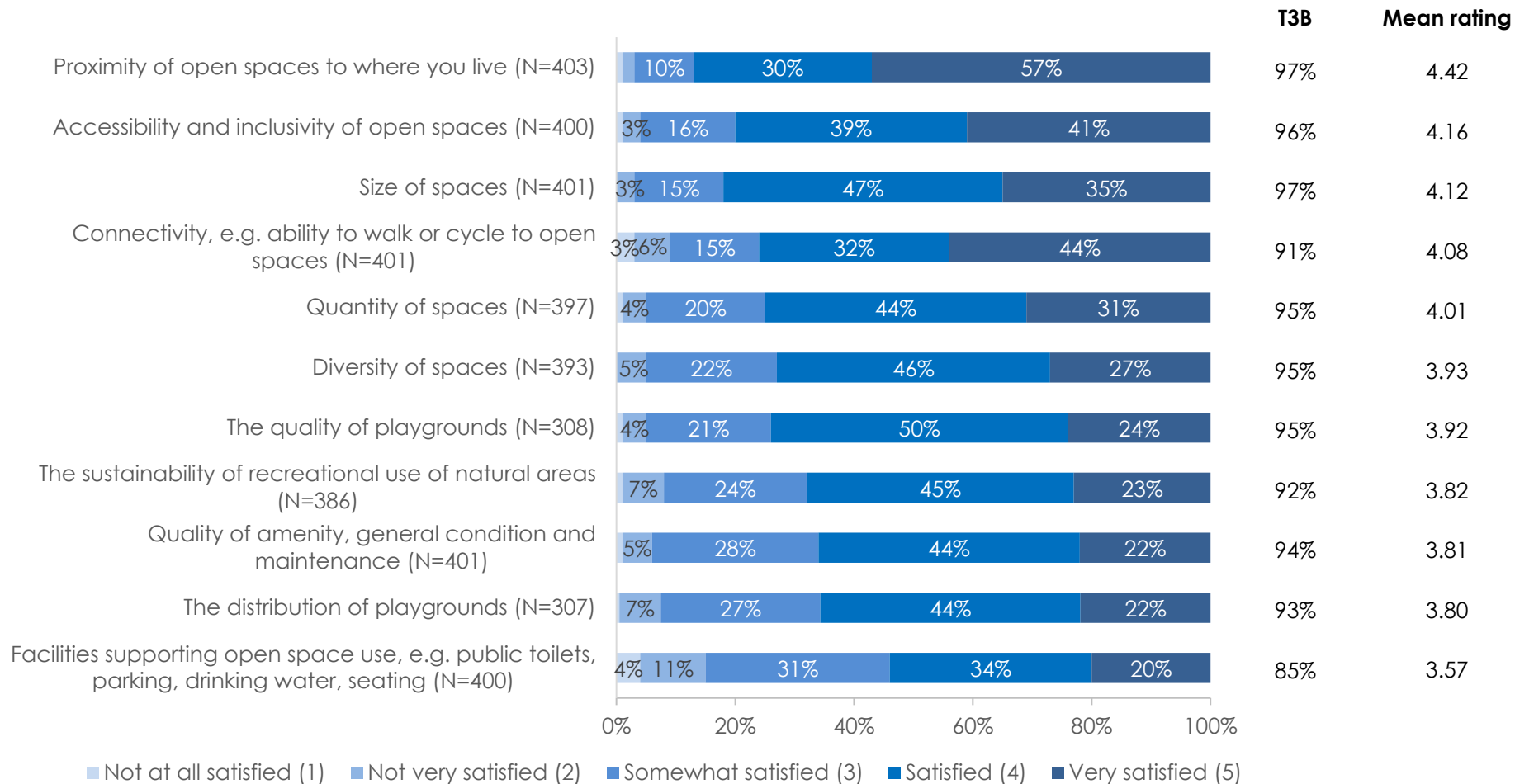
Scale: 1=not at all satisfied, 5=very satisfied

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower value (by group)

98% are at least somewhat satisfied with the overall quality of open spaces provided. Satisfaction has continued to strengthen over the past 3 years.

Satisfaction with Individual Attributes of Open Spaces

Q5. How satisfied are you with the following regarding open spaces on the Northern Beaches?



Base: N = 403

Scale: 1=not at all satisfied, 5=very satisfied

Note: values <3% are not shown in the above chart

Satisfaction is strongest for attributes relating to how residents are able to access open spaces, such as their proximity to homes, accessibility/inclusivity, connectivity and quantity.

Satisfaction with Individual Attributes of Open Spaces

Q5. How satisfied are you with the following regarding open spaces on the Northern Beaches?

| | Male | Female | 15-24 | 25-49 | 50-74 | 75+ | Brookvale-Dee Why Catchment | Manly Catchment | Mona Vale Catchment | Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchments |
|---|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| Proximity of open spaces to where you live | 4.51 ▲ | 4.34 | 4.27 | 4.40 | 4.51 | 4.42 | 4.43 | 4.45 | 4.45 | 4.35 |
| Accessibility and inclusivity of open spaces | 4.21 | 4.12 | 4.03 | 4.13 | 4.23 | 4.23 | 4.23 | 4.10 | 4.17 | 4.08 |
| Size of spaces | 4.11 | 4.13 | 4.01 | 4.16 | 4.15 | 3.99 | 4.09 | 4.17 | 4.05 | 4.20 |
| Connectivity | 4.19 ▲ | 3.97 | 4.12 | 4.01 | 4.19 | 3.99 | 4.18 | 4.21 | 3.95 | 3.82 |
| Quantity of spaces | 4.08 | 3.93 | 3.75 | 4.09 | 4.01 | 3.97 | 4.02 | 4.12 | 3.85 | 4.02 |
| Diversity of spaces | 3.92 | 3.95 | 3.93 | 3.95 | 3.92 | 3.90 | 3.94 | 3.95 | 3.91 | 3.93 |
| The quality of playgrounds | 4.02 | 3.83 | 3.93 | 3.90 | 3.97 | 3.83 | 3.90 | 3.91 | 3.80 | 4.10 |
| The sustainability of recreational use of natural areas | 3.86 | 3.78 | 3.85 | 3.85 | 3.78 | 3.76 | 3.85 | 3.75 | 3.84 | 3.83 |
| Quality of amenity, general condition and maintenance | 3.90 | 3.72 | 3.62 | 3.81 | 3.83 | 3.95 | 3.84 | 3.69 | 3.84 | 3.85 |
| The distribution of playgrounds | 3.86 | 3.75 | 3.62 | 3.85 | 3.81 | 3.73 | 3.82 | 3.81 | 3.63 | 3.95 |
| Facilities supporting open space use | 3.67 | 3.48 | 3.37 | 3.70 ▲ | 3.50 | 3.57 | 3.61 | 3.56 | 3.50 | 3.60 |
| Base | 144-194 | 159-209 | 27-54 | 145-173 | 101-136 | 28-40 | 114-154 | 74-98 | 60-87 | 57-64 |

Scale: 1=not at all satisfied, 5=very satisfied ▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower value (by group)

For the most part results are consistent across the locational and demographic cohorts.

Satisfaction with Individual Attributes of Open Spaces – A Detailed look at Playgrounds

Q5. How satisfied are you with the following regarding open spaces on the Northern Beaches?

| All respondents | Male | Female | 15-24 | 25-49 | 50-74 | 75+ | Brookvale- Dee Why Catchment | Manly Catchment | Mona Vale Catchment | Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchments |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---|
| The quality of playgrounds | 4.02 | 3.83 | 3.93 | 3.90 | 3.97 | 3.83 | 3.90 | 3.91 | 3.80 | 4.10 |
| The distribution of playgrounds | 3.86 | 3.75 | 3.62 | 3.85 | 3.81 | 3.73 | 3.82 | 3.81 | 3.63 | 3.95 |
| Base | 144-149 | 159-162 | 27-28 | 145-149 | 101-107 | 28-31 | 114-116 | 73-97 | 62-85 | 59-63 |

| Respondents that use playgrounds (at least once every few months) | Male | Female | 15-49 | 50+ | Brookvale- Dee Why Catchment | Manly Catchment | Mona Vale Catchment | Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchments |
|---|-------|--------|---------|-------|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---|
| The quality of playgrounds | 4.10▲ | 3.75 | 3.90 | 3.94 | 3.92 | 3.95 | 3.73 | 4.02 |
| The distribution of playgrounds | 3.87 | 3.68 | 3.77 | 3.78 | 3.80 | 4.00 | 3.42▼ | 3.83 |
| Base | 75-76 | 85 | 110-111 | 49-50 | 64-65 | 30-31 | 29-30 | 35-36 |

Scale: 1=not at all satisfied, 5=very satisfied ▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower value (by group)

Male Users had higher levels of satisfaction with perceived quality.

Users of playgrounds in the Mona Vale Catchment (at least once every few months, bottom table) have softer levels of satisfaction with playground quality, and significantly lower levels of satisfaction with regard to playground distribution.

Priorities for Improving Open Spaces

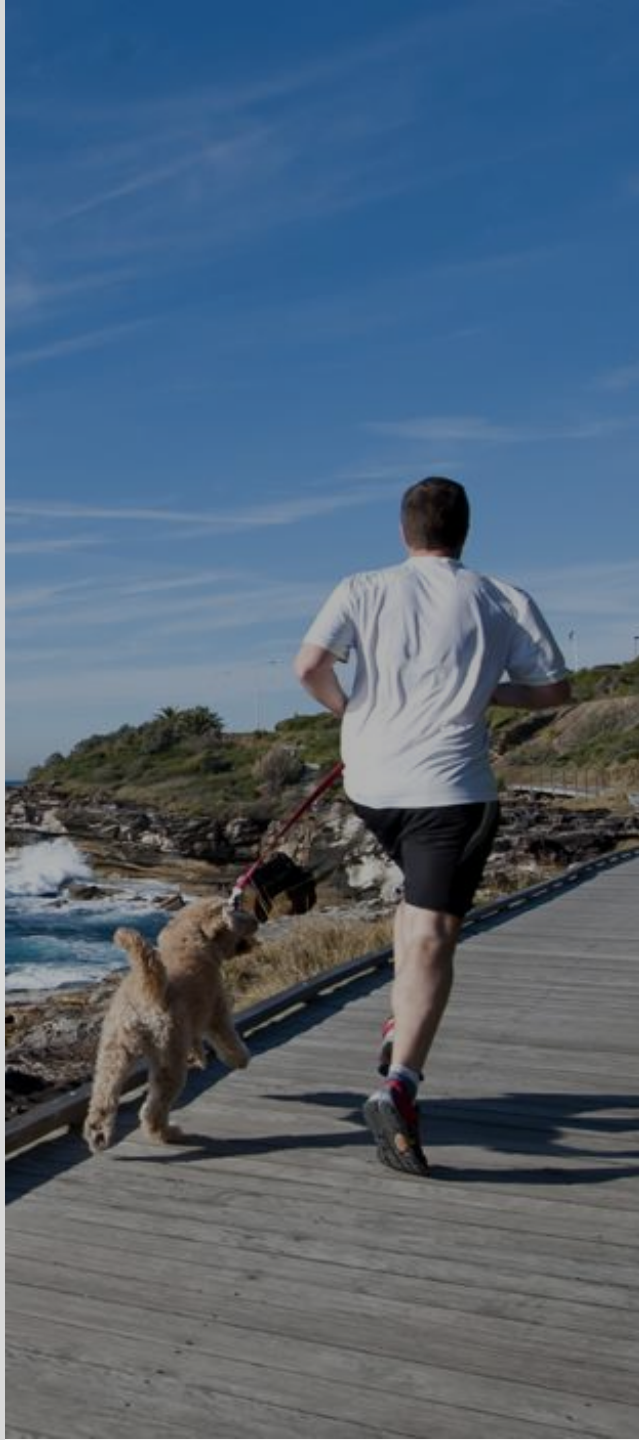
Q6. What do you see as the main priority for improving open spaces in the Northern Beaches?



When residents were asked what they see as the main priority for improving open spaces in the Northern Beaches, the top responses discussed upgrading/expanding existing services and facilities, with increased maintenance and cleaning and better accessibility.

| | N=403 |
|--|-------|
| Upgraded/expanding services/facilities e.g. playgrounds, toilets | 35% |
| Increased maintenance/cleaning | 26% |
| Improved accessibility e.g. disabled, amenities, parking | 14% |
| Increased number of open spaces on the Northern Beaches | 14% |
| A more connected bike/trail system | 11% |
| Increased safety measures e.g. lighting, social distancing, sun protection | 7% |
| Appropriate facilities for activities with pets | 7% |
| Environmental preservation/consciousness | 6% |
| Limit development e.g. high rise buildings, excessive signage | 6% |
| Don't know | 8% |

Drivers of Overall Satisfaction



Key Findings

Detailed Results

1. Quality of Open Spaces

2. Drivers of Overall Satisfaction

3. Visiting Open Spaces

4. Activities

Appendix A: Detailed Methodology and Demographics

Appendix B: Additional Analysis

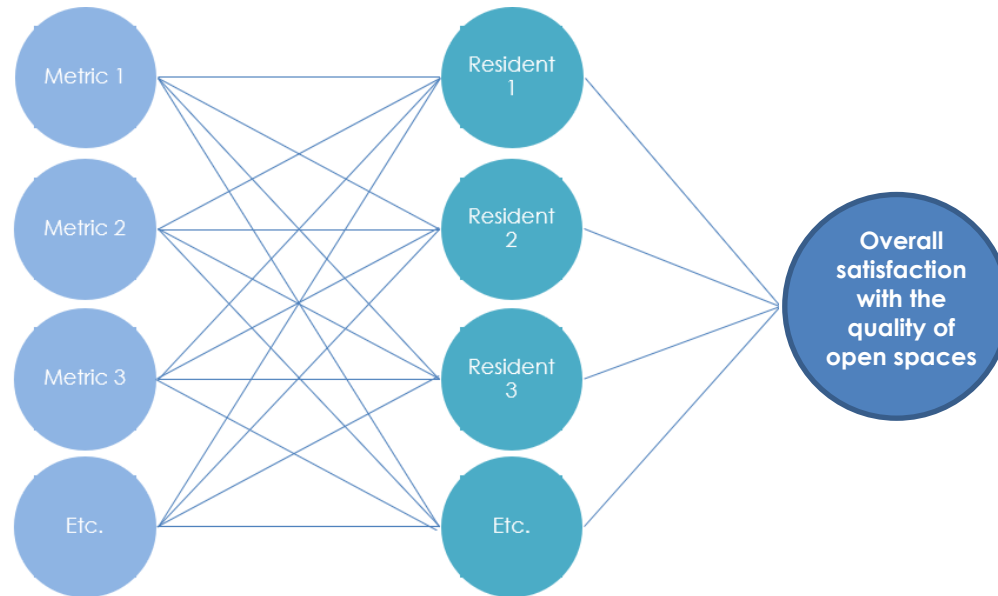
Appendix C: Questionnaire

Drivers of Overall Satisfaction

Shapley Regression Analysis

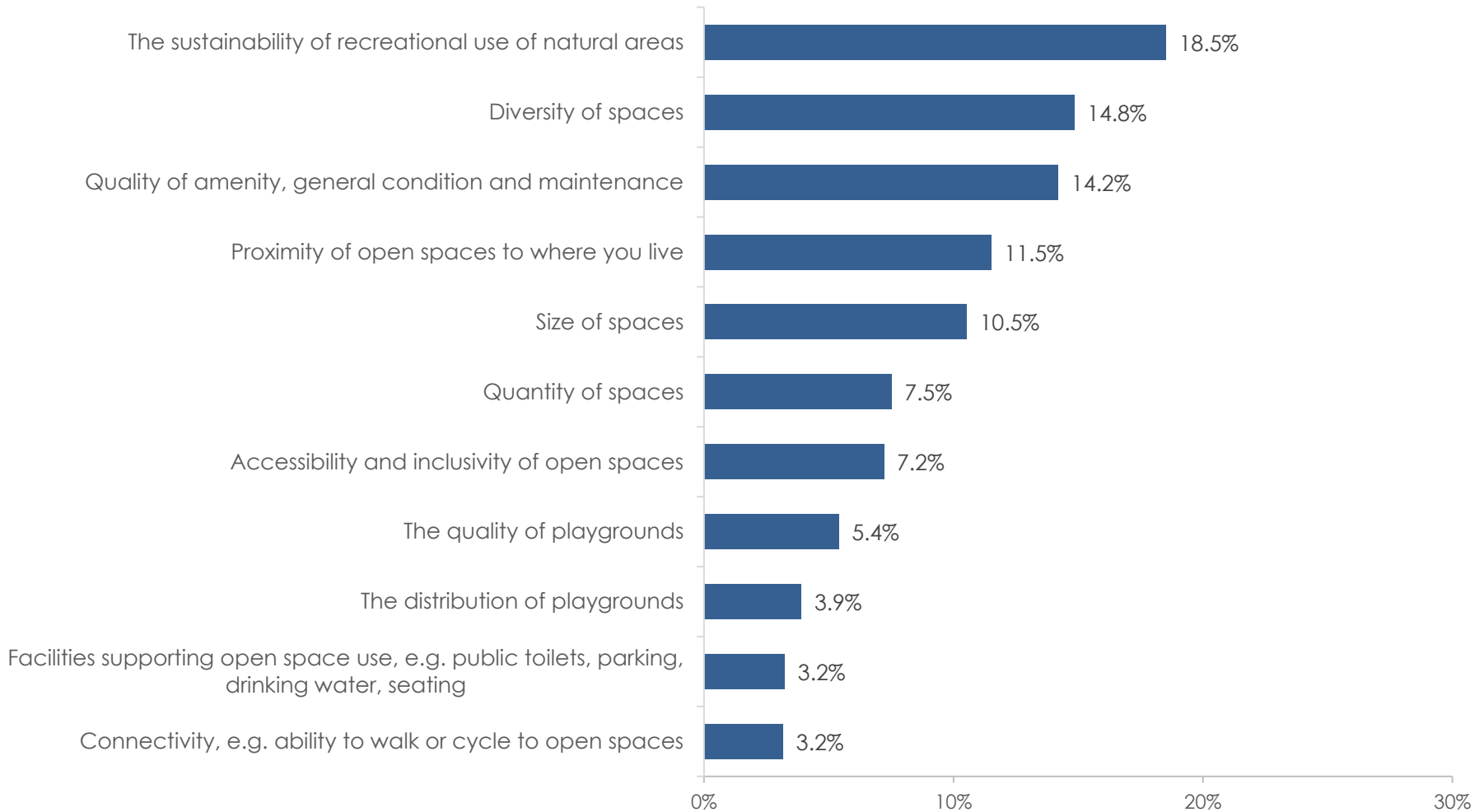
This next slide reports on a regression analysis that was used to identify the underlying drivers of overall satisfaction with the quality of open spaces in the Northern Beaches.

Regression is a statistical process for estimating the relationships between variables – particularly when the focus is on the relationship between a dependent variable (in our case, overall satisfaction with the quality of open spaces, Q4b) and one or more independent variables or 'predictors' (in our case, the detailed individual attributes of open spaces satisfaction ratings, Q5)



Drivers of Overall Satisfaction

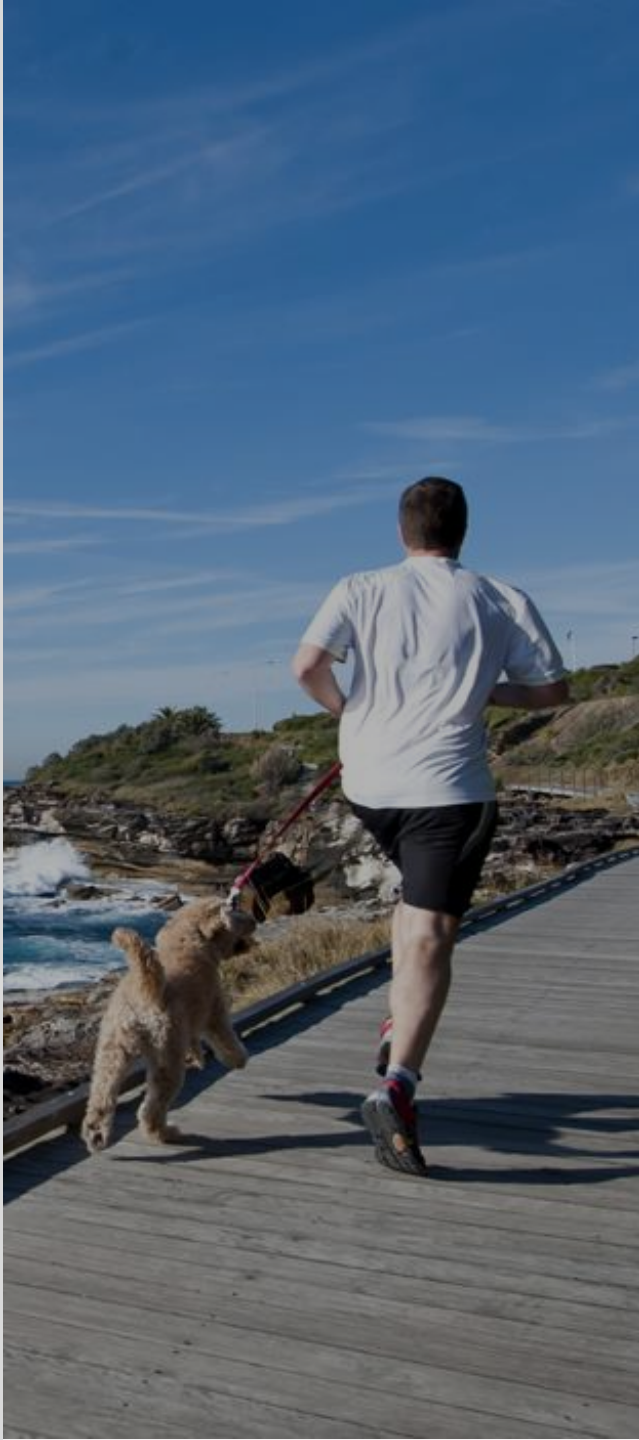
Dependent variable: Satisfaction with the overall quality of open spaces in the Northern Beaches



R²=30.7

The results in the chart above identify which attributes contribute most to overall satisfaction with the quality of open spaces. If Council can improve satisfaction scores by addressing resident expectation across these areas, they are likely to improve their overall satisfaction score.

Visiting Open Spaces



Key Findings

Detailed Results

1. Quality of Open Spaces
2. Drivers of Overall Satisfaction
- 3. Visiting Open Spaces**
4. Activities

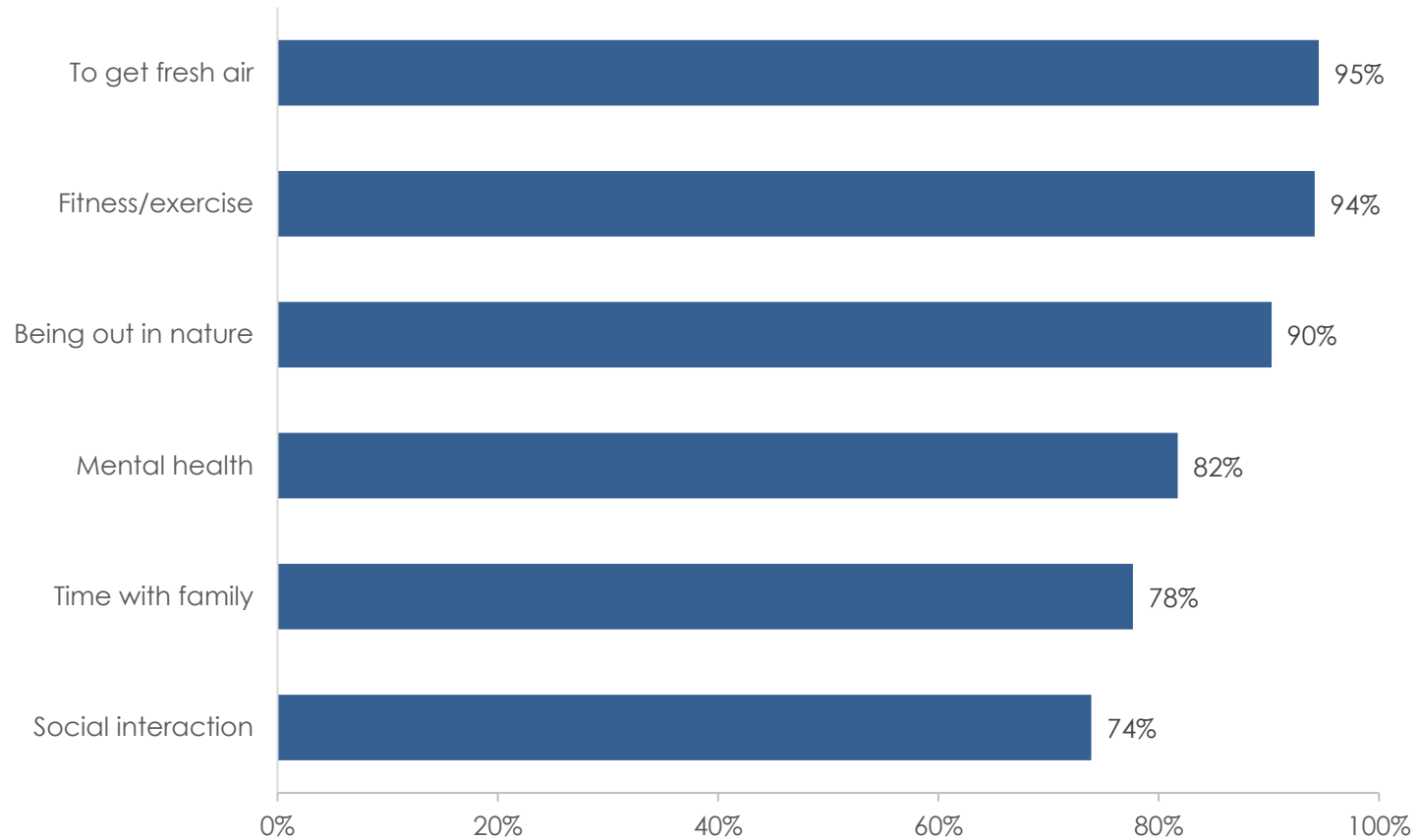
Appendix A: Detailed Methodology and Demographics

Appendix B: Additional Analysis

Appendix C: Questionnaire

Reason for Spending Time in Open Spaces

Q2. What are your reasons for spending time in the open spaces?



Base: N = 403

Residents spend time in open spaces for a large variety of reasons, the most common being fresh air (95%), fitness/exercise (94%) and being out in nature (90%).

Reason for Spending Time in Open Spaces

Q2. What are your reasons for spending time in the open spaces?

| At least every couple of weeks | Male | Female | 15-24 | 25-49 | 50-74 | 75+ |
|--------------------------------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| To get fresh air | 94% | 95% | 97% | 94% | 95% | 91% |
| Fitness/exercise | 95% | 93% | 100% | 95% | 92% | 88%▼ |
| Being out in nature | 86% | 94%▲ | 90% | 93% | 92% | 71%▼ |
| Mental health | 77% | 86%▲ | 77% | 87%▲ | 81% | 68%▼ |
| Time with family | 75% | 80% | 77% | 85%▲ | 74% | 59%▼ |
| Social interaction | 69% | 79%▲ | 92%▲ | 80%▲ | 64%▼ | 56%▼ |
| Base | 194 | 209 | 54 | 173 | 136 | 40 |

| At least every couple of weeks | Brookvale-Dee Why Catchment | Manly Catchment | Mona Vale Catchment | Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchments |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| To get fresh air | 93% | 95% | 95% | 96% |
| Fitness/exercise | 91%▼ | 96% | 97% | 95% |
| Being out in nature | 91% | 87% | 88% | 96% |
| Mental health | 80% | 86% | 76% | 87% |
| Time with family | 74% | 75% | 79% | 88%▲ |
| Social interaction | 75% | 74% | 74% | 69% |
| Base | 154 | 98 | 87 | 64 |

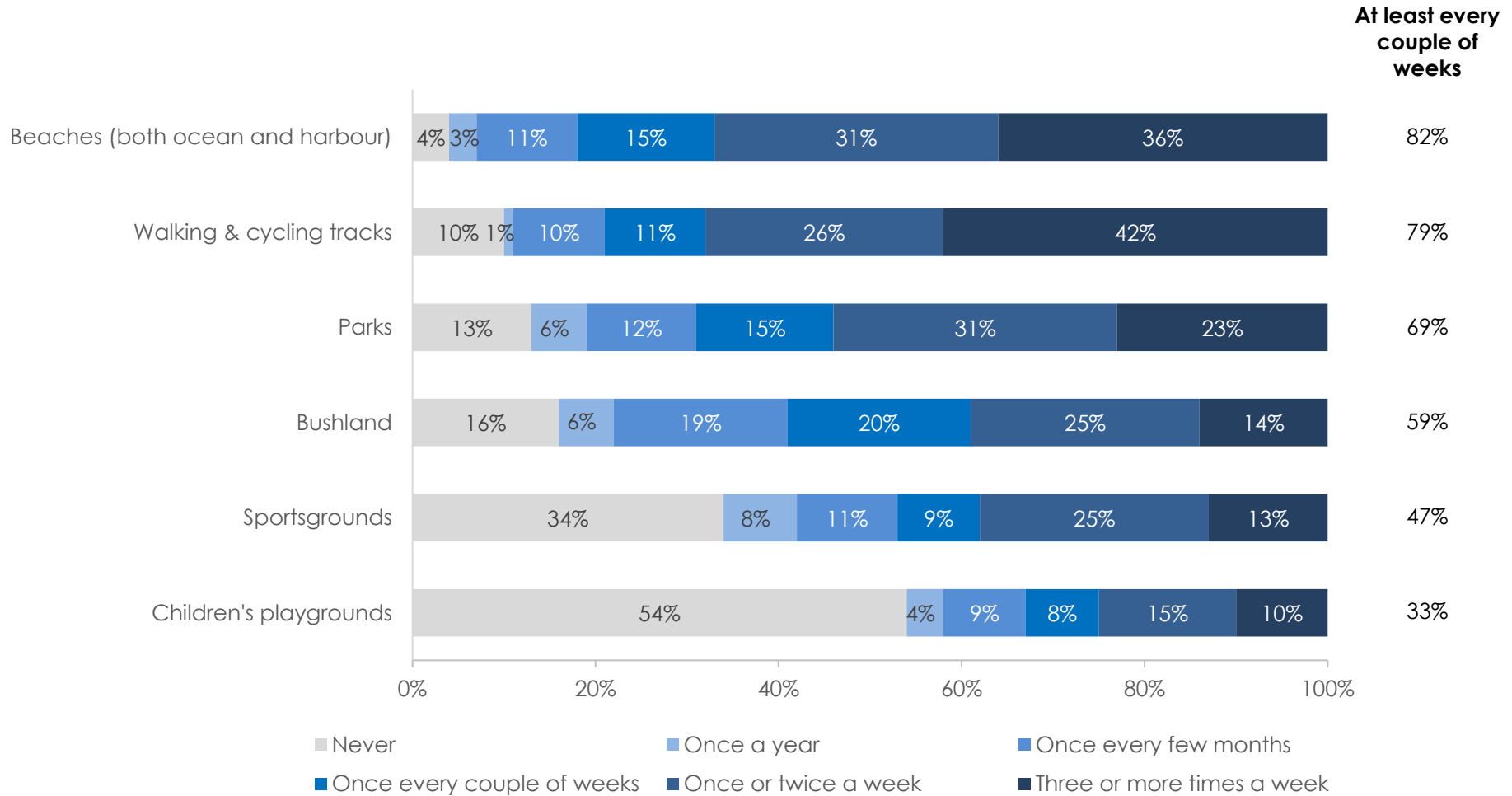
Base: N = 403

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

How residents spend time in open spaces for social interaction varies across demographics – with the usage of open spaces for social interactions higher for females compared to males, and greatest for 15-24 year old's then following a downward trend with age.

Usage of Open Spaces

Q1. Could you please state how often, if at all, you visit these areas anywhere in the Northern Beaches.



Base: N = 403

Beaches and walking/cycling tracks are the most frequently used types of open spaces within the Northern Beaches LGA.

Overall, children's playgrounds are the open space used the least, with 33% of residents stating that they use them at least every couple of weeks – However, this increases to 48% when looking at households with children.

Usage of Open Spaces

Q1. Could you please state how often, if at all, you visit these areas anywhere in the Northern Beaches.

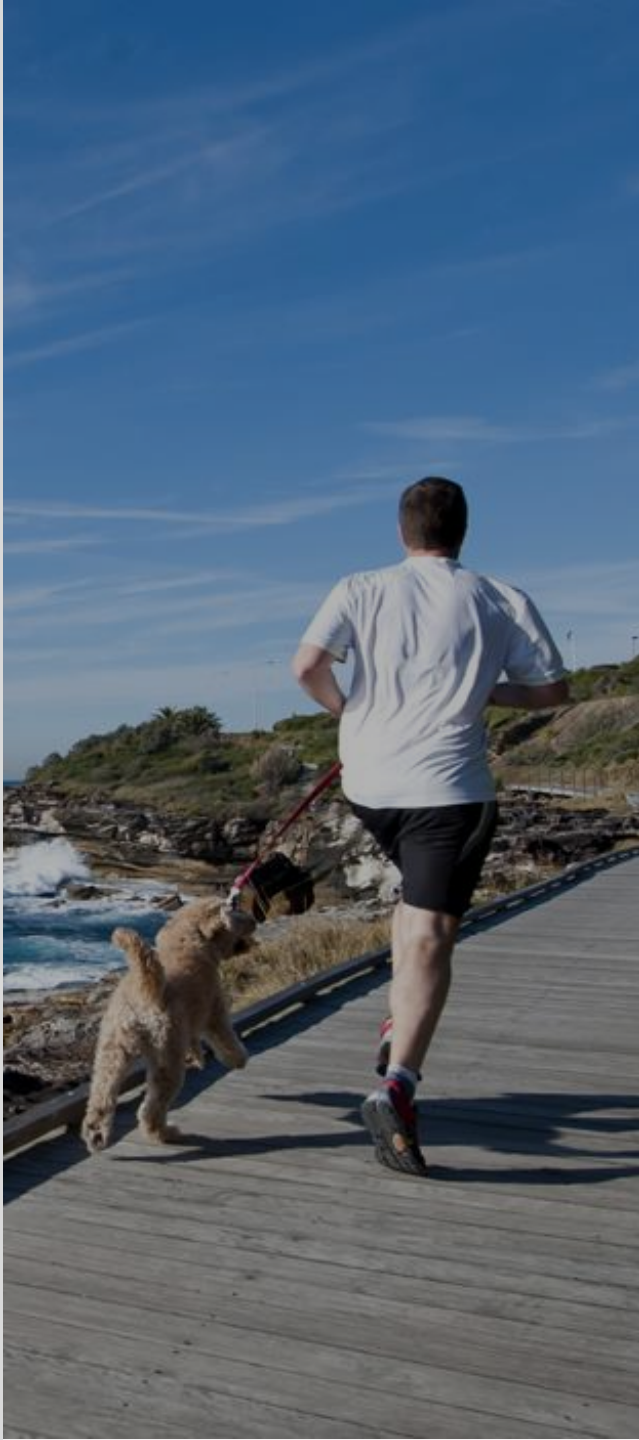
| At least every couple of weeks | Male | Female | 15-24 | 25-49 | 50-74 | 75+ |
|----------------------------------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Beaches (both ocean and harbour) | 84% | 80% | 90% | 90%▲ | 77%▼ | 56%▼ |
| Walking & cycling tracks | 78% | 79% | 67% | 91%▲ | 73% | 62%▼ |
| Parks | 69% | 69% | 60% | 86%▲ | 60%▼ | 39%▼ |
| Bushland | 61% | 55% | 77%▲ | 71%▲ | 43%▼ | 30%▼ |
| Sportsgrounds | 51% | 44% | 54% | 61%▲ | 35%▼ | 19%▼ |
| Children's playgrounds | 29% | 35% | 20% | 50%▲ | 19%▼ | 12%▼ |
| Base | 194 | 209 | 54 | 173 | 136 | 40 |

| At least every couple of weeks | Brookvale-Dee Why Catchment | Manly Catchment | Mona Vale Catchment | Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchments |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| Beaches (both ocean and harbour) | 82% | 90%▲ | 78% | 75% |
| Walking & cycling tracks | 76% | 88%▲ | 72% | 79% |
| Parks | 69% | 77% | 51%▼ | 82%▲ |
| Bushland | 53% | 58% | 57% | 71%▲ |
| Sportsgrounds | 41% | 42% | 49% | 68%▲ |
| Children's playgrounds | 34% | 28% | 23%▼ | 46%▲ |
| Base | 154 | 98 | 87 | 64 |

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

Younger residents generally visit open spaces more frequently, with usage (at least once every couple of weeks) particularly high across all of the different types of open spaces for 25-49 year old's.

Unsurprisingly, residents of the Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchments have lower visitation to the eastern beaches, but greater usage of parks, bushland, sportsgrounds and children's playgrounds.



Key Findings

Detailed Results

1. Quality of Open Spaces
2. Drivers of Overall Satisfaction
3. Visiting Open Spaces
- 4. Activities**

Appendix A: Detailed Methodology and Demographics

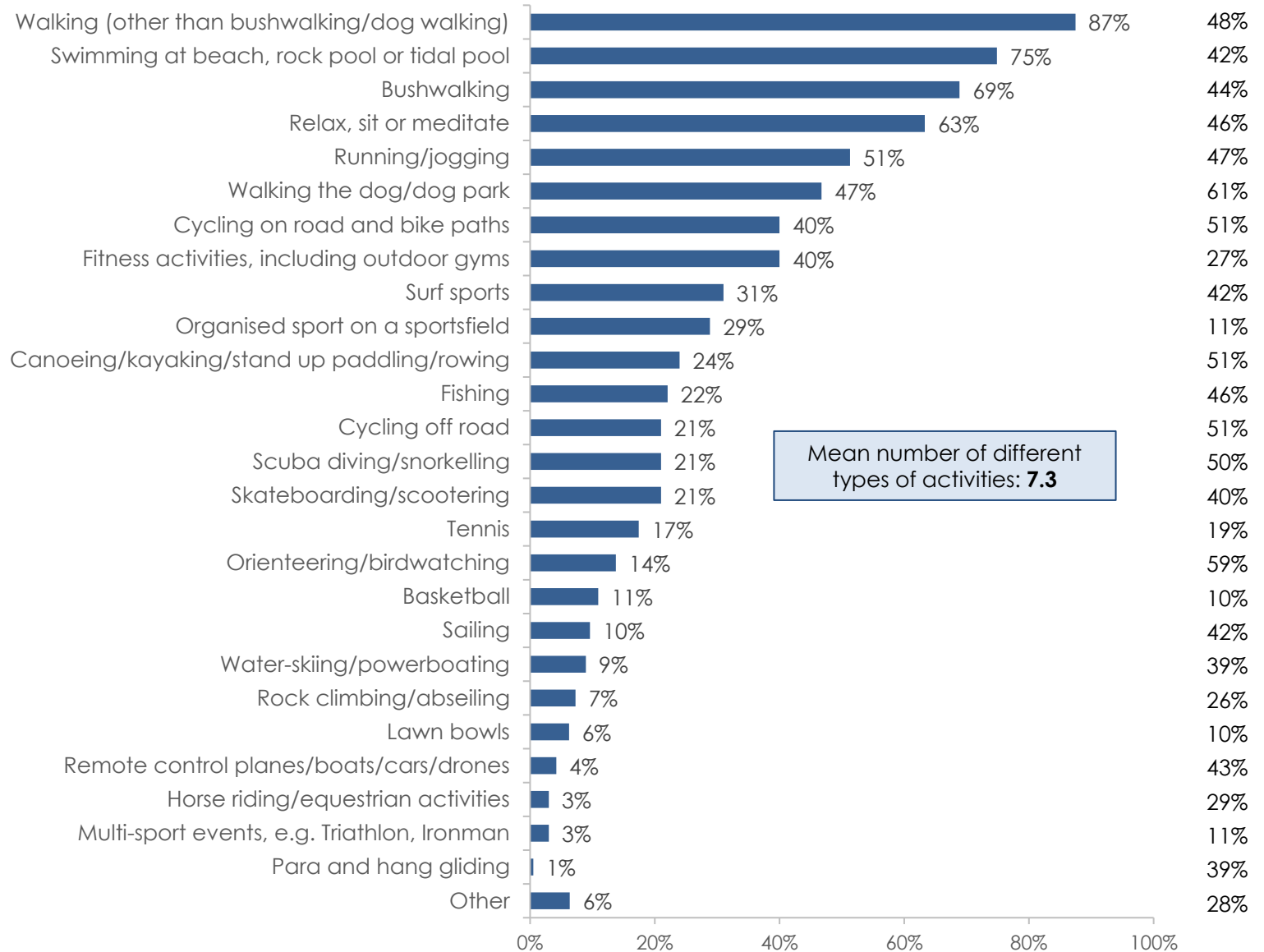
Appendix B: Additional Analysis

Appendix C: Questionnaire

Activities Undertaken in the Last 12 Months

Q3a. Thinking about the recreation activities you have undertaken when visiting these types of places, what sort of activities have you undertaken on the Northern Beaches in the last 12 months?

Participation remained the same during COVID



Mean number of different types of activities: **7.3**

Residents have undertaken a large variety of recreation activities whilst visiting open spaces in the Northern Beaches over the past 12 months (on average each participating in just over 7 different types of activities). The 6 most common activities participated in are passive, i.e. they do not require additional equipment or people to be conducted.

Activities Undertaken in the Last 12 Months

Q3a. Thinking about the recreation activities you have undertaken when visiting these types of places, what sort of activities have you undertaken on the Northern Beaches in the last 12 months?

| | Male | Female | 15-24 | 25-49 | 50-74 | 75+ | Brookvale-Dee Why Catchment | Manly Catchment | Mona Vale Catchment | Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchments |
|--|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| Walking (other than bushwalking/dog walking) | 84% | 91% | 67%▼ | 88% | 92% | 98%▲ | 85% | 92% | 80% | 96%▲ |
| Swimming at beach, rock pool or tidal pool | 77% | 73% | 84% | 85%▲ | 71% | 33%▼ | 76% | 72% | 75% | 76% |
| Bushwalking | 71% | 67% | 75% | 79%▲ | 64% | 32%▼ | 69% | 63% | 65% | 83%▲ |
| Relax, sit or meditate | 61% | 66% | 55% | 70%▲ | 63% | 46%▼ | 67% | 65% | 53%▼ | 66% |
| Running/jogging | 62%▲ | 42% | 72%▲ | 72%▲ | 32%▼ | 0%▼ | 49% | 57% | 41% | 62% |
| Walking the dog/dog park | 46% | 47% | 64% | 52% | 38%▼ | 31%▼ | 44% | 39% | 55% | 52% |
| Cycling on road and bike paths | 44% | 37% | 42% | 58%▲ | 28%▼ | 2%▼ | 32%▼ | 42% | 36% | 63%▲ |
| Fitness activities, including outdoor gyms | 44% | 37% | 52% | 49%▲ | 31%▼ | 18%▼ | 35% | 47% | 42% | 41% |
| Surf sports, e.g. surfing, body boarding, surf life saving/kite surfing/beach volleyball | 41%▲ | 22% | 37% | 43%▲ | 21%▼ | 4%▼ | 29% | 34% | 40% | 19%▼ |
| Organised sport on a sportsfield | 30% | 28% | 42% | 37%▲ | 19%▼ | 8%▼ | 27% | 24% | 29% | 40%▲ |
| Canoeing/kayaking/stand up paddling/rowing | 25% | 23% | 27% | 34%▲ | 17%▼ | 0%▼ | 22% | 24% | 28% | 23% |
| Fishing | 29%▲ | 15% | 22% | 29%▲ | 17% | 8%▼ | 19% | 22% | 22% | 30% |
| Cycling off road, e.g. BMX, mountain biking, dirt jumps | 26%▲ | 17% | 17% | 32%▲ | 16% | 0%▼ | 13%▼ | 18% | 24% | 42%▲ |
| Scuba diving/snorkelling | 27%▲ | 15% | 24% | 27%▲ | 19% | 0%▼ | 22% | 29% | 17% | 14% |
| Skateboarding/scootering | 22% | 21% | 19% | 41%▲ | 4%▼ | 0%▼ | 12%▼ | 23% | 17% | 47%▲ |
| Tennis | 18% | 17% | 22% | 23%▲ | 12% | 4%▼ | 19% | 13% | 17% | 21% |
| Orienteering/birdwatching | 13% | 14% | 12% | 8%▼ | 21%▲ | 19% | 13% | 13% | 11% | 20% |
| Basketball | 11% | 11% | 22% | 16%▲ | 3%▼ | 0%▼ | 14% | 7% | 7% | 15% |
| Sailing | 14%▲ | 6% | 10% | 8% | 13% | 3%▼ | 9% | 10% | 15% | 3% |
| Water-skiing/powerboating | 11% | 7% | 19% | 12% | 3%▼ | 1%▼ | 6% | 6% | 18%▲ | 9% |
| Rock climbing/abseiling | 12%▲ | 3% | 19%▲ | 9% | 2%▼ | 0% | 4% | 7% | 14%▲ | 5% |
| Lawn bowls | 8% | 5% | 13% | 5% | 3% | 14%▲ | 9% | 4% | 6% | 3% |
| Remote control planes/boats/cars/drones | 6% | 2% | 5% | 6% | 2% | 0% | 5% | 2% | 2% | 8% |
| Horse riding/equestrian activities | 4% | 2% | 13%▲ | 3% | 0%▼ | 2% | 3% | 0% | 7% | 3% |
| Multi-sport events, e.g. Triathlon, Ironman | 3% | 2% | 0% | 5%▲ | 2% | 0% | 3% | 6% | 1% | 1% |
| Para and hang gliding | 1% | <1% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Mean number of different activities | 8.0▲ | 6.8 | 8.3 | 9.0▲ | 6.0▼ | 3.4▼ | 6.9 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 8.5▲ |
| Base | 194 | 209 | 54 | 173 | 136 | 40 | 154 | 98 | 87 | 64 |

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

There are some observable skews in the data.

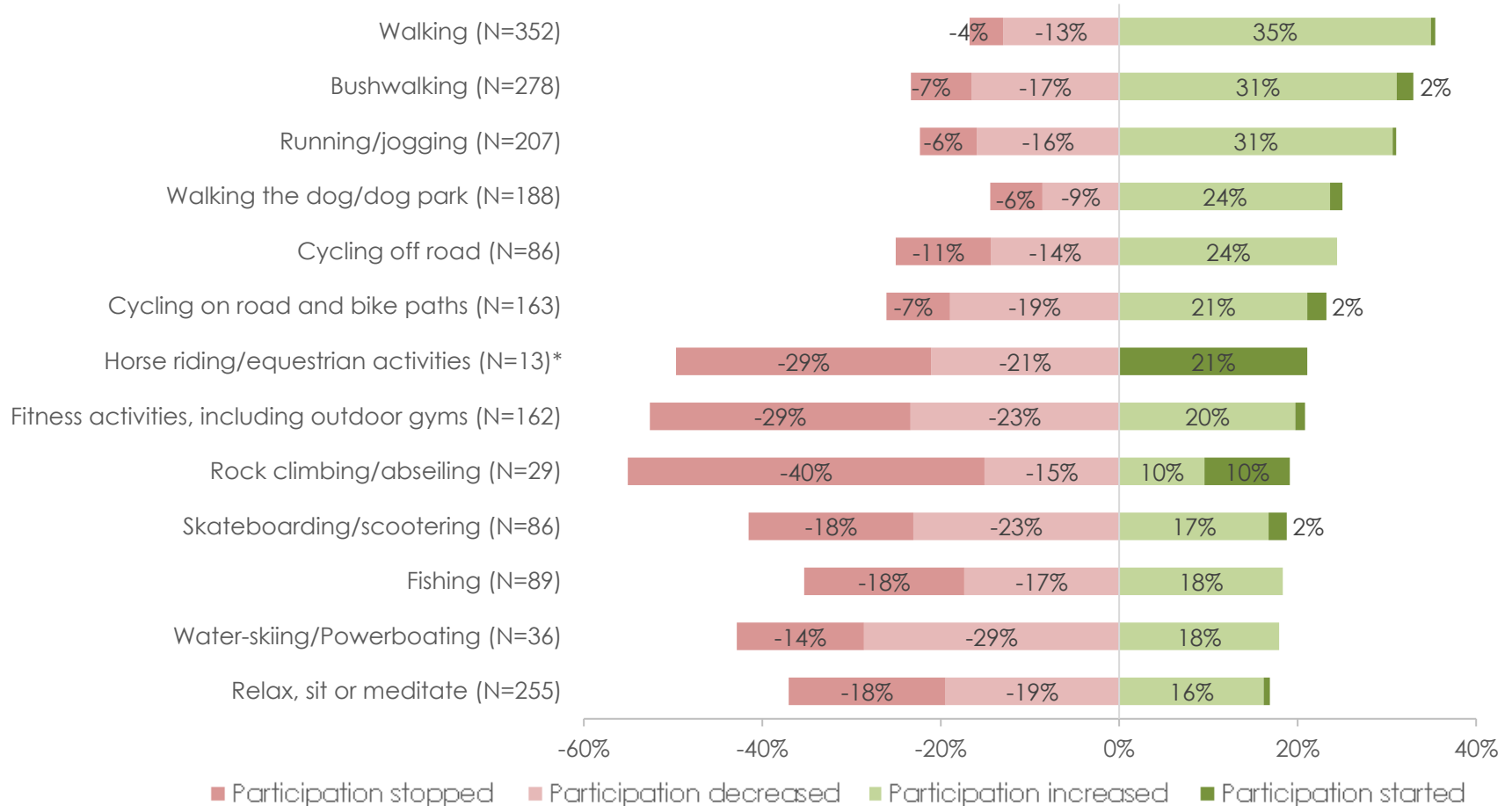
Male claimed participation rates are generally higher. Proximity to beach/bushland impacts behaviour.

Age impacts activity choice.

Impact of COVID-19 on Recreation Participation

Q3b. Throughout Covid-19 a number of recreation facilities were temporarily closed or had restricted access and many people's participation in outdoor activities changed during this period. Could you please tell us about how, if at all, your recreation participation changed during COVID-19?

Chart 1 of 2 (continued on next page)



*caution low base size

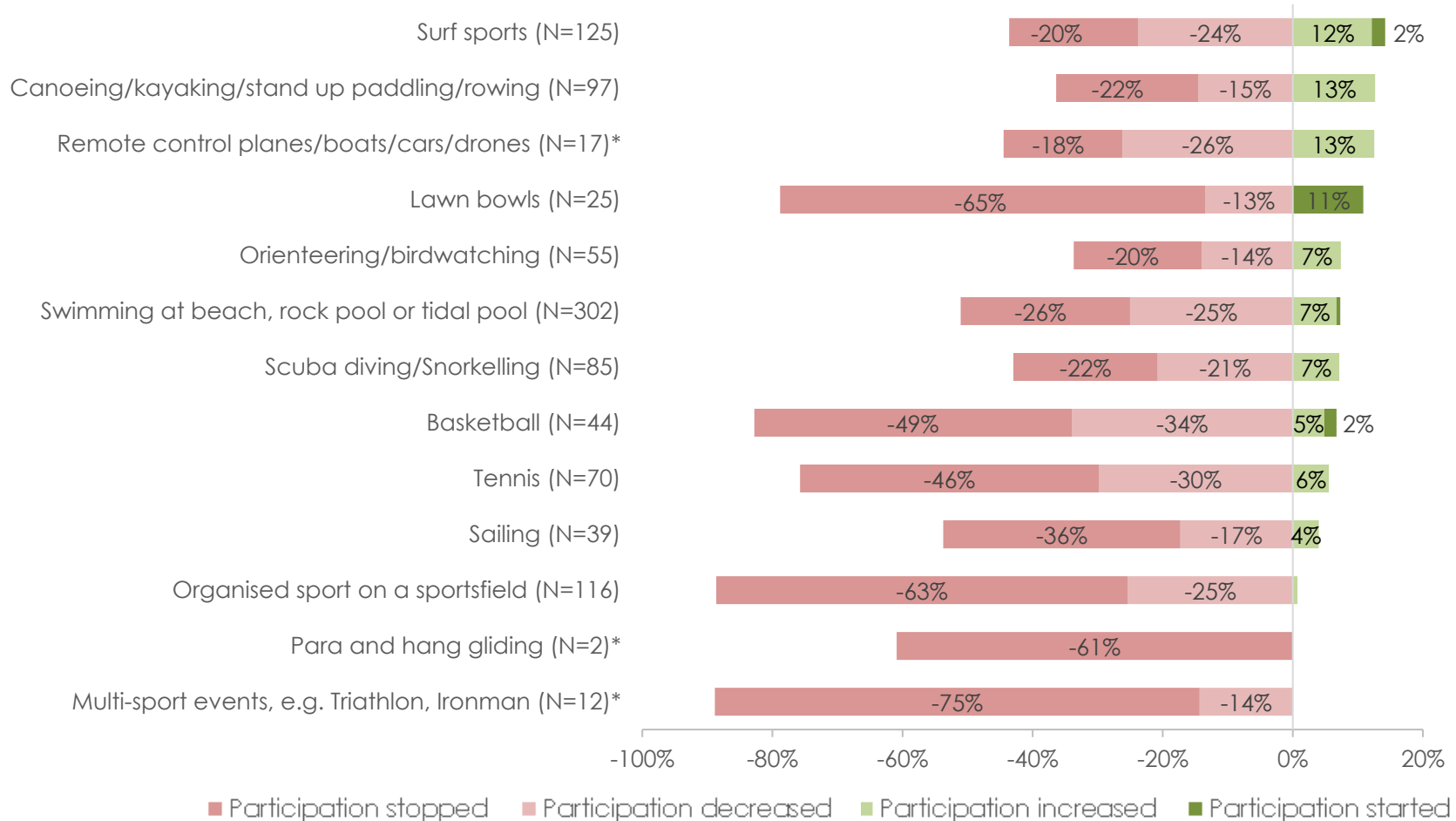
Note: labels <2% are not shown in the above chart

Participation in single-person recreation activities was more likely to have increased during COVID – Whilst multi-person activities/team sports were more likely to have decreased or been forced to stop altogether (see next slide). The different varieties of walking and running/jogging were the activities residents stated they increased participation in during COVID

Impact of COVID-19 on Recreation Participation

Q3b. Throughout Covid-19 a number of recreation facilities were temporarily closed or had restricted access and many people's participation in outdoor activities changed during this period. Could you please tell us about how, if at all, your recreation participation changed during COVID-19?

Chart 2 of 2 (continuation from previous page)



*caution low base size

Note: labels <2% are not shown in the above chart

Organised sport and activities not conducive with social distancing were most likely to have been impacted by COVID.

Continuing New Activities

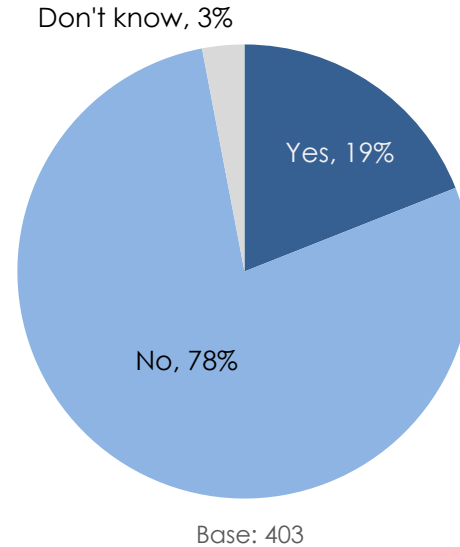
Q3c. Will you continue any of these new activities into the future?

| | Residents that participated in the new activity (Count from Q3b) | Residents that will continue the new activity (Count from Q3c) | Proportion continuing the new activity |
|--|---|---|--|
| Bushwalking | 5 | 5 | 100% |
| Cycling on road and bike paths | 4 | 4 | 100% |
| Horse riding/equestrian activities | 3 | 3 | 100% |
| Walking the dog/dog park | 3 | 3 | 100% |
| Surf sports, e.g. surfing, body boarding, surf life saving/kite surfing/beach volleyball | 3 | 3 | 100% |
| Walking (other) | 2 | 2 | 100% |
| Fitness activities, including outdoor gyms | 2 | 2 | 100% |
| Swimming at beach, rock pool or tidal pool | 2 | 2 | 100% |
| Skateboarding/scootering | 2 | 2 | 100% |
| Relax, sit or meditate | 2 | 2 | 100% |
| Running/jogging | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| Rock climbing/abseiling | 3 | 0 | 0% |
| Basketball | 1 | 0 | 0% |
| Lawn bowls | 3 | 0 | 0% |

Whilst caution should be taken with the small sample sizes, for 11 of the 15 activities that residents started new during COVID, all participants plan on continuing the activity into the future.

Activities in the Next 12 Months

Q3d. Are there any new recreation activities that you would consider doing or trying on the Northern Beaches in the next 12 months?



| | Male | Female | 15-24 | 25-49 | 50-74 | 75+ | Brookvale-Dee Why Catchment | Manly Catchment | Mona Vale Catchment | Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchments |
|------------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---|
| Yes | 17% | 21% | 12% | 22% | 20% | 12% | 22% | 20% | 12% | 21% |
| No | 78% | 77% | 83% | 73% | 78% | 88%▲ | 75% | 79% | 81% | 78% |
| Don't know | 5% | 2% | 5% | 5% | 2% | 0% | 3% | 1% | 7% | 1% |
| Base | 194 | 209 | 54 | 173 | 136 | 40 | 154 | 98 | 87 | 64 |

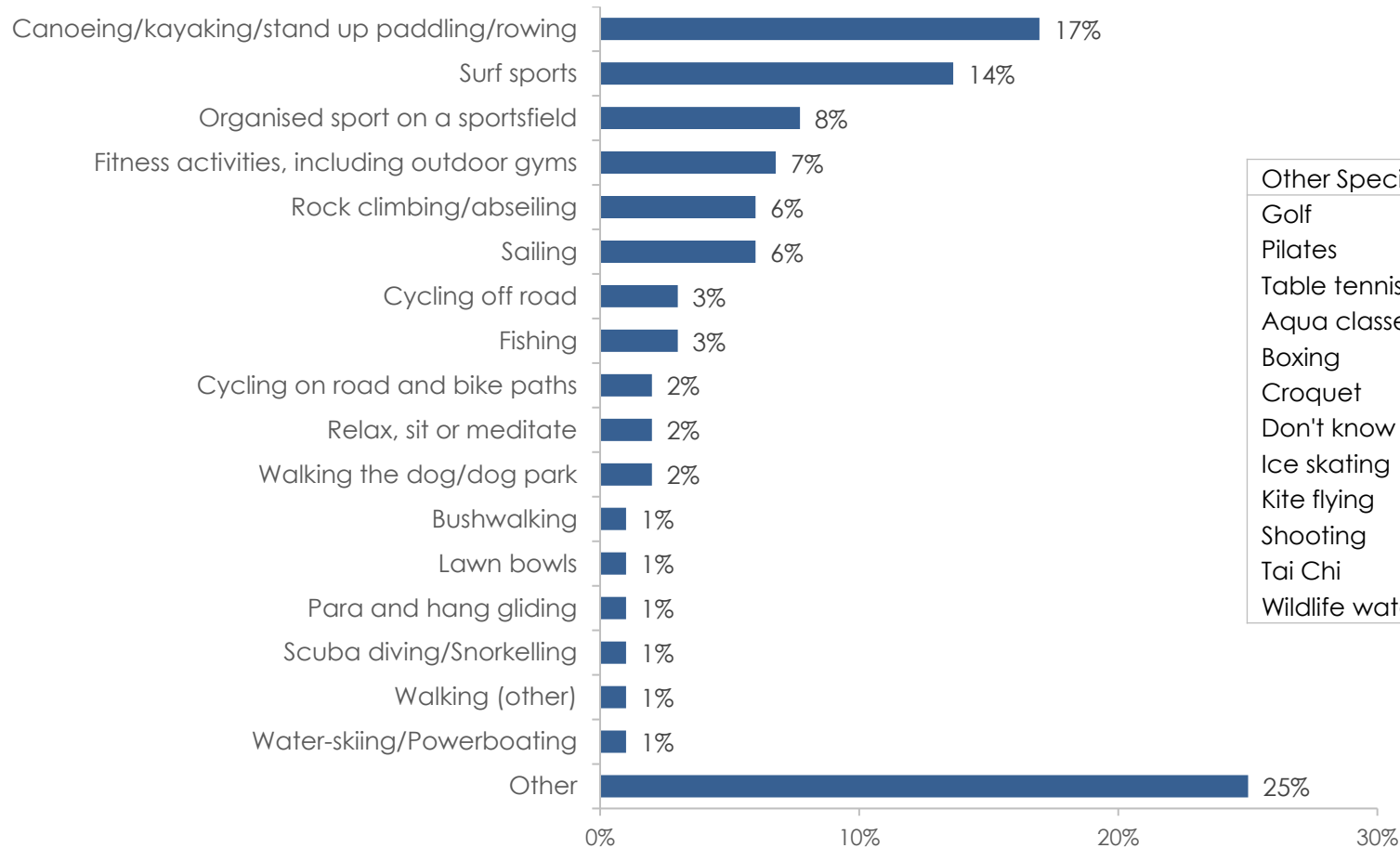
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

1 in 5 residents (19%) would consider doing/trying a new recreation activity on the Northern Beaches in next 12 months.

Activities in the Next 12 Months

Q3d. Are there any new recreation activities that you would consider doing or trying on the Northern Beaches in the next 12 months?

Q3e. Which one recreation activity would you most like to do or try in the next 12 months?



| Other Specified | Count |
|-------------------|-------|
| Golf | 7 |
| Pilates | 2 |
| Table tennis | 2 |
| Aqua classes | 1 |
| Boxing | 1 |
| Croquet | 1 |
| Don't know | 1 |
| Ice skating | 1 |
| Kite flying | 1 |
| Shooting | 1 |
| Tai Chi | 1 |
| Wildlife watching | 1 |

Base: N = 77

Of the residents that stated they would be interested in doing/trying a new recreational activity in the next 12 months, the top two activities they would like to try/do were water based, i.e. canoeing/kayaking/stand up paddling/rowing and surf sports.

Activities in the Next 12 Months

Q3d. Are there any new recreation activities that you would consider doing or trying on the Northern Beaches in the next 12 months?

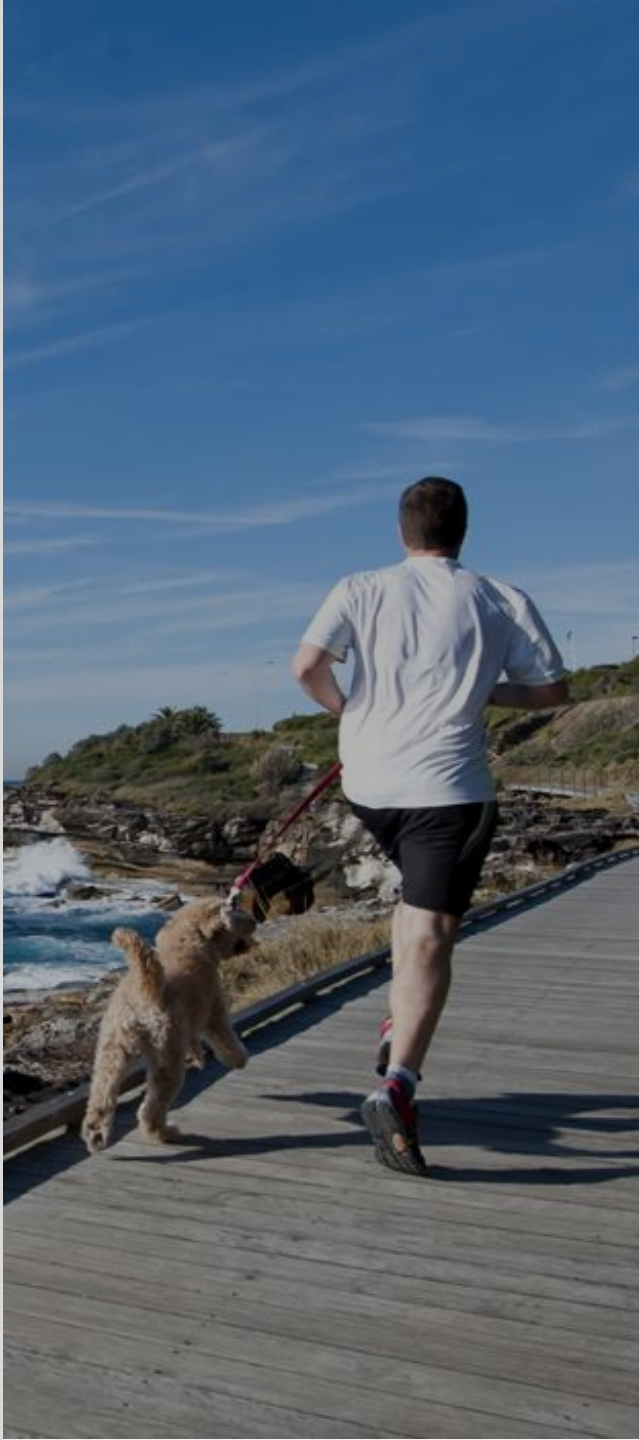
Q3e. Which one recreation activity would you most like to do or try in the next 12 months?

| | Male | Female | 15-24 | 25-49 | 50-74 | 75+ | Brookvale-Dee Why Catchment | Manly Catchment | Mona Vale Catchment | Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchments |
|--|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| Canoeing/kayaking/stand up paddling/rowing | 16% | 17% | 0% | 20% | 19% | 0% | 18% | 22% | 8% | 13% |
| Surf sports | 16% | 12% | 0% | 16% | 16% | 0% | 11% | 22% | 0% | 19% |
| Organised sport on a sportsfield | 8% | 8% | 0% | 16%▲ | 0% | 0% | 6% | 4% | 0% | 22%▲ |
| Fitness activities, including outdoor gyms | 0% | 12%▲ | 28% | 2% | 6% | 17% | 4% | 7% | 17% | 7% |
| Rock climbing/abseiling | 8% | 4% | 72%▲ | 0% | 0% | 0% | 13% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Sailing | 8% | 4% | 0% | 11%▲ | 0% | 0% | 6% | 4% | 13% | 0% |
| Cycling off road | 4% | 2% | 0% | 2% | 5% | 0% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 10% |
| Fishing | 4% | 2% | 0% | 3% | 3% | 0% | 7% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Cycling on road and bike paths | 2% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 3% | 13%▲ | 3% | 0% | 6% | 0% |
| Relax, sit or meditate | 0% | 3% | 0% | 2% | 0% | 9% | 1% | 4% | 0% | 0% |
| Walking the dog/dog park | 0% | 4% | 0% | 2% | 3% | 0% | 0% | 4% | 8% | 0% |
| Bushwalking | 0% | 2% | 0% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 8%▲ | 0% |
| Lawn bowls | 2% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 22%▲ | 1% | 0% | 6%▲ | 0% |
| Para and hang gliding | 0% | 2% | 0% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 4% | 0% | 0% |
| Scuba diving/Snorkelling | 0% | 2% | 0% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 6%▲ |
| Walking (other) | 0% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 3% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 7%▲ |
| Water-skiing/Powerboating | 0% | 2% | 0% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 6%▲ |
| Other | 31% | 21% | 0% | 16% | 40% | 39% | 27% | 28% | 33% | 10% |
| Base | 33 | 44 | 6 | 38 | 28 | 5 | 33 | 20 | 10 | 13 |

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

Residents within the Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchments and 25-49 year old's were more likely to state they would like to do/try an organised sport on a sportsfield, whilst females were more likely to state they would like to do/try fitness activities.

Appendix A: Detailed Methodology and Demographics



Key Findings

Detailed Results

1. Quality of Open Spaces
2. Drivers of Overall Satisfaction
3. Visiting Open Spaces
4. Activities

Appendix A: Detailed Methodology and Demographics

Appendix B: Additional Analysis

Appendix C: Questionnaire

Background & Methodology

Sample selection and error

A total of 403 resident interviews were completed.

288 of the 403 respondents were chosen by means of a computer based random selection process using the electronic White Pages and SamplePages. The remaining 115 respondents were 'number harvested' via face-to-face intercept at several locations around the Northern Beaches Council LGA - Due to COVID-19 preventing new number harvesting from being conducted specifically for this research, these number harvested respondents were recruited during previous, unrelated, research for Council.

A sample size of 403 residents provides a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 4.9% at 95% confidence. This means that if the survey was replicated with a new universe of N=403 residents, 19 times out of 20 we would expect to see the same results, i.e. +/- 4.9%.

For the survey under discussion the greatest margin of error is 4.9%. This means, for example, that an answer such as 'yes' (50%) to a question could vary from 45% to 55%.

The sample was weighted by age and gender to reflect the 2016 ABS Census data for Northern Beaches Council LGA.

Interviewing

Interviewing was conducted in accordance with the AMSRS (Australian Market and Social Research Society) Code of Professional Behaviour.

Prequalification

Participants in this survey were pre-qualified as being over the age of 15, and not working for, nor having an immediate family member working for, Northern Beaches Council.

Data analysis

The data within this report was analysed using Q Professional.

Within the report, ▲▼ and blue and red font colours are used to identify statistically significant differences between groups, i.e., gender, age and catchment area.

Significance difference testing is a statistical test performed to evaluate the difference between two measurements. To identify the statistically significant differences between the groups of means, 'One-Way Anova tests' and 'Independent Samples T-tests' were used. 'Z Tests' were also used to determine statistically significant differences between column percentages.



Background & Methodology

Ratings questions

The Unipolar Scale of 1 to 5 was used in all rating questions, where 1 was the lowest importance or satisfaction and 5 the highest importance or satisfaction.

This scale allowed us to identify different levels of importance and satisfaction across respondents.

Top 2 (T2) Box: refers to the aggregate percentage (%) score of the top two scores for importance. (i.e. important & very important)

Top 3 (T3) Box: refers to the aggregate percentage (%) score of the top three scores for satisfaction. (i.e. somewhat satisfied, satisfied & very satisfied)

We refer to T3 Box Satisfaction in order to express moderate to high levels of satisfaction in a non-discretionary category. We only report T2 Box Importance in order to provide differentiation and allow us to demonstrate the hierarchy of community priorities.

Percentages

All percentages are calculated to the nearest whole number and therefore the total may not exactly equal 100%.

Micromex LGA Benchmark

Micromex has developed Community Satisfaction Benchmarks using normative data from over 60 unique councils, more than 120 surveys and over 68,000 interviews since 2012.

Catchments

The report combines the Frenchs Forest Catchment and Terrey Hills Catchment into the 'Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchments' in order to form a larger sample size for statistical analysis and comparisons to the Brookvale-Dee Why Catchment, Manly Catchment and Mona Vale Catchment.

Word Frequency Tagging

Verbatim responses for this question were collated and entered into analytical software. This analysis 'counts' the number of times a particular word or phrase appears and, based on the frequency of that word or phrase, a font size is generated. The larger the font, the more frequently the word or sentiment is mentioned.



Demographics

QD4. Gender.

| | N=403 |
|--------|-------|
| Male | 48% |
| Female | 52% |

Q2. Please stop me when I read out your age group.

| | N=403 |
|-------|-------|
| 15-24 | 13% |
| 25-49 | 43% |
| 50-74 | 34% |
| 75+ | 10% |

QD3. Which of the following best describes your status?

| | N=403 |
|--|-------|
| Married/de facto with children | 42% |
| Married/de facto with no children | 21% |
| Single with no children | 16% |
| Living at home with parents/guardian | 12% |
| Single parent with children | 5% |
| Extended family household (multiple generations) | 2% |
| Group household | 2% |



Demographics

QD1. What suburb do you live in?

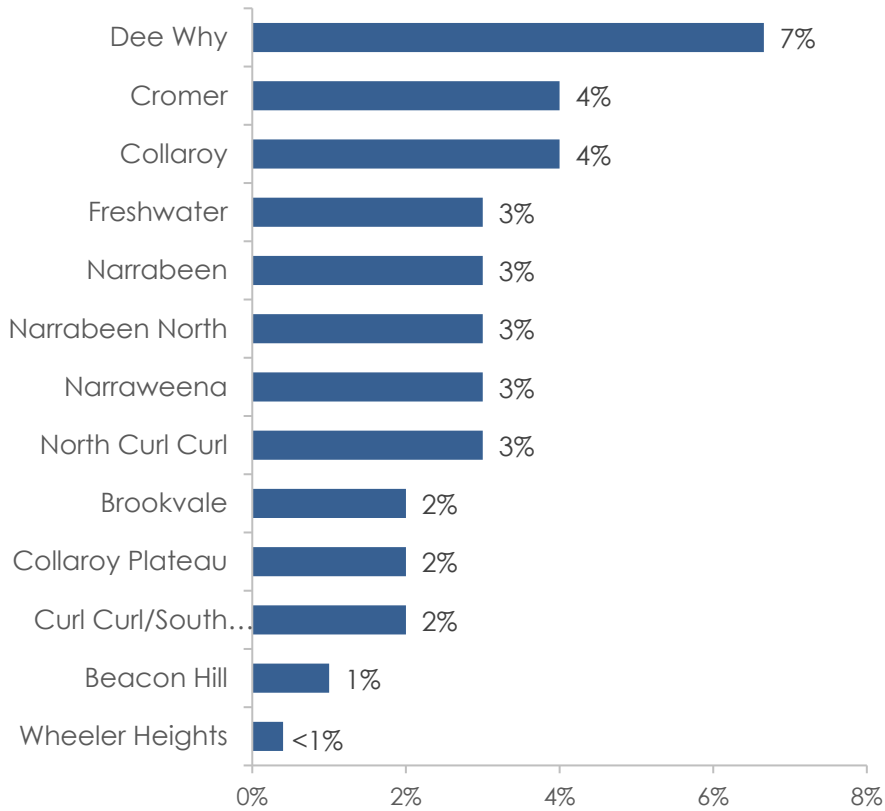
| | N=403 |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Dee Why | 7% |
| Manly | 7% |
| Forestville | 5% |
| Frenchs Forest | 5% |
| Mona Vale | 5% |
| Avalon | 4% |
| Narrabeen | 4% |
| Newport | 4% |
| Balgowlah | 3% |
| Collaroy | 3% |
| Cromer | 3% |
| Freshwater | 3% |
| Narrabeen North | 3% |
| Narraweena | 3% |
| North Curl Curl | 3% |
| Seaforth | 3% |
| Allambie/Allambie Heights | 2% |
| Belrose | 2% |
| Collaroy Plateau | 2% |
| Curl Curl/South Curl Curl | 2% |
| Elanora Heights | 2% |

| | N=403 |
|-------------------|-------|
| Elanora Heights | 2% |
| Fairlight | 2% |
| Manly Vale | 2% |
| Warriewood | 2% |
| Balgowlah Heights | 1% |
| Bayview | 1% |
| Beacon Hill | 1% |
| Brookvale | 1% |
| Clontarf | 1% |
| Davidson | 1% |
| Killarney Heights | 1% |
| North Balgowlah | 1% |
| North Manly | 1% |
| Queenscliff | 1% |
| Terrey Hills | 1% |
| Wheeler Heights | 1% |
| Bilgola | <1% |
| Bilgola Plateau | <1% |
| Ingleside | <1% |
| Palm Beach | <1% |
| Scotland Island | <1% |

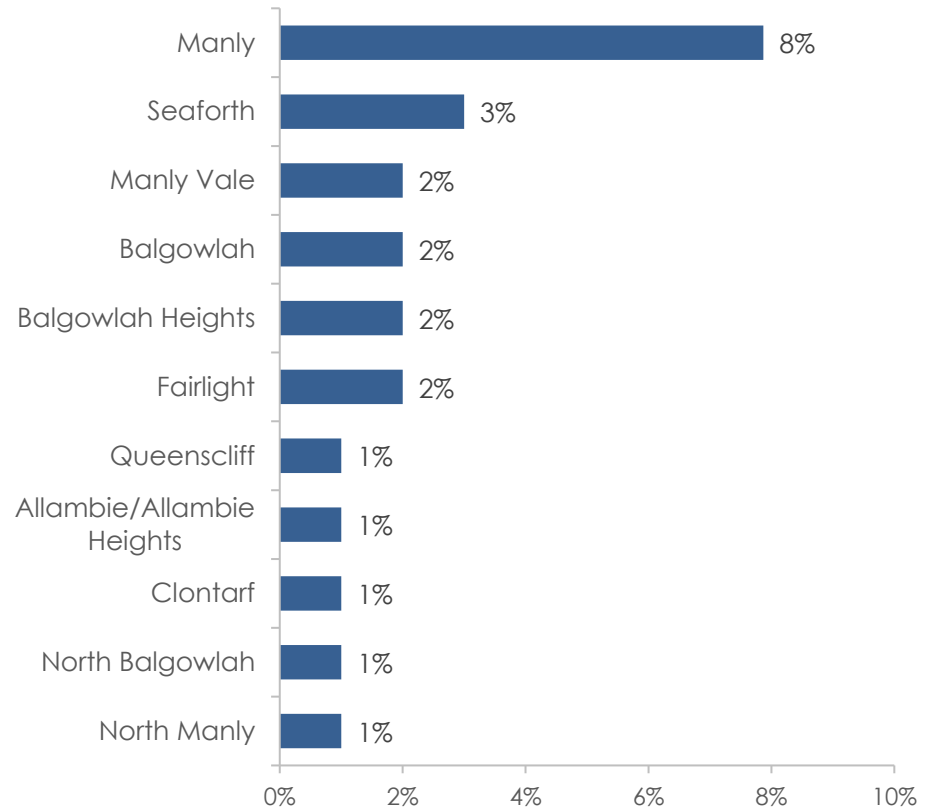


Demographics – Catchment Breakdown

Brookvale-Dee Why Catchment



Manly Catchment

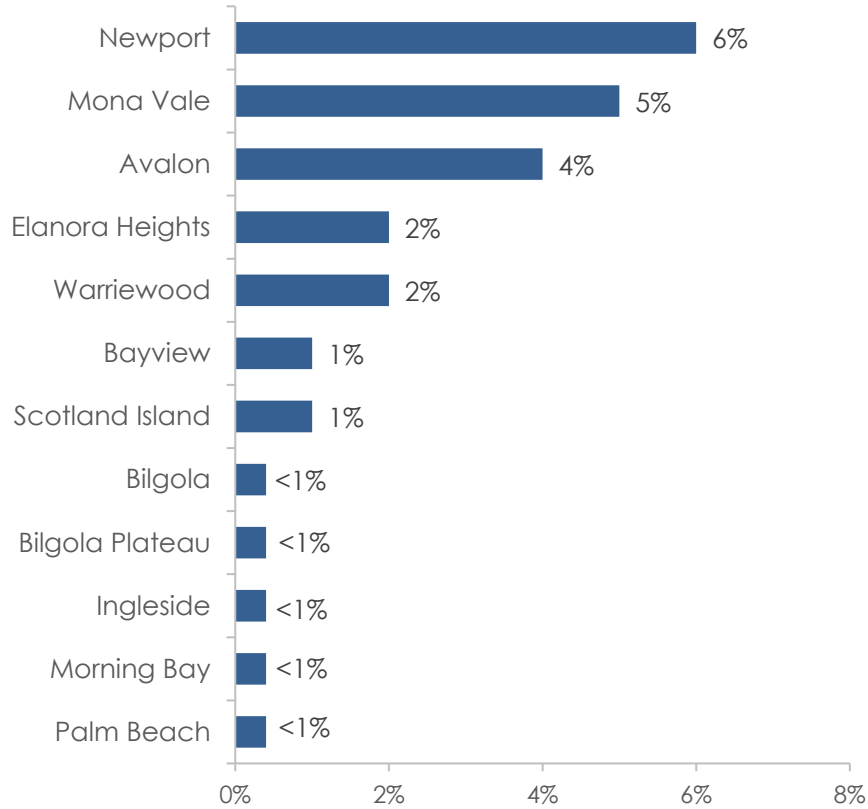


Base: N = 403

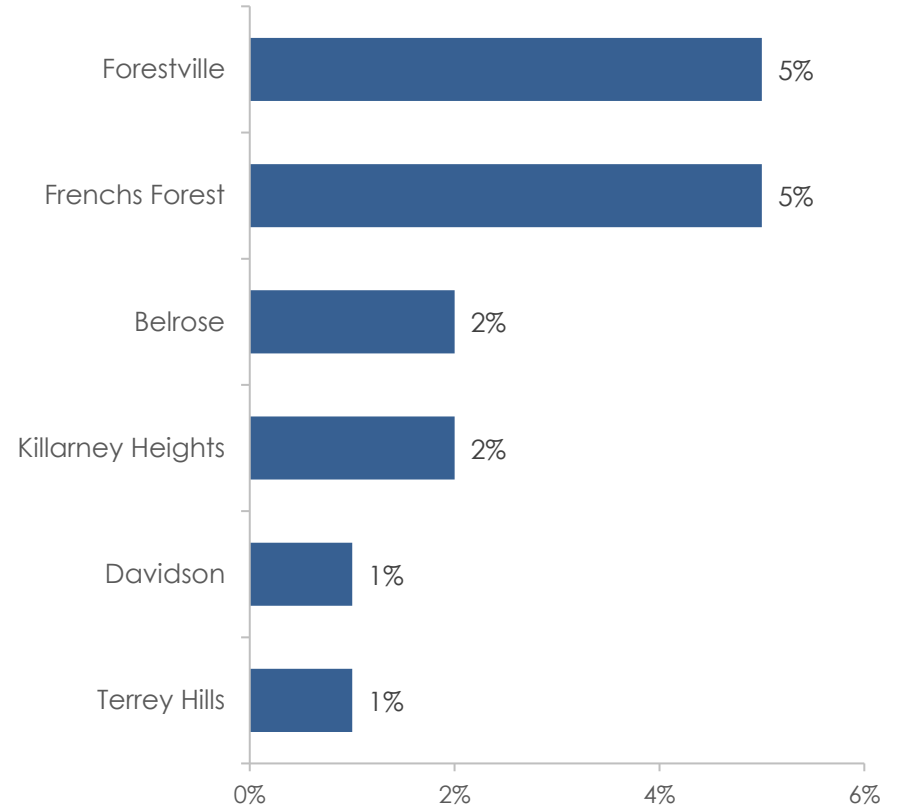


Demographics – Catchment Breakdown

Mona Vale Catchment



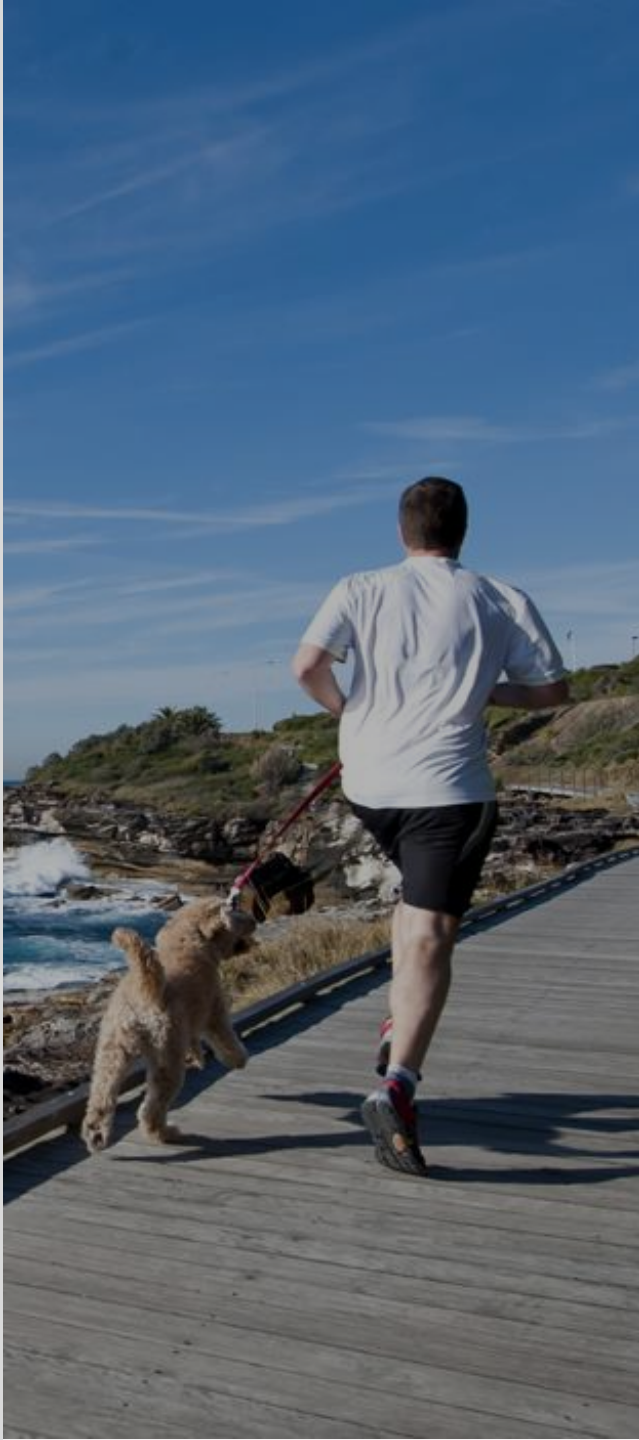
Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest Catchment



Base: N = 403



Appendix B: Additional Analysis



Key Findings

Detailed Results

1. Quality of Open Spaces
2. Drivers of Overall Satisfaction
3. Visiting Open Spaces
4. Activities

Appendix A: Detailed Methodology and Demographics

Appendix B: Additional Analysis

Appendix C: Questionnaire

Activities Undertaken in the Last 12 Months

Q3a. Thinking about the recreation activities you have undertaken when visiting these types of places, what sort of activities have you undertaken on the Northern Beaches in the last 12 months?

| Other Specified | Count |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Golf | 12 |
| Netball | 4 |
| Playing with grandchildren/social | 2 |
| Roller-skating | 2 |
| Baseball | 1 |
| Croquet | 1 |
| Dance | 1 |
| Table Tennis | 1 |
| Tai Chi | 1 |
| Whale watching | 1 |

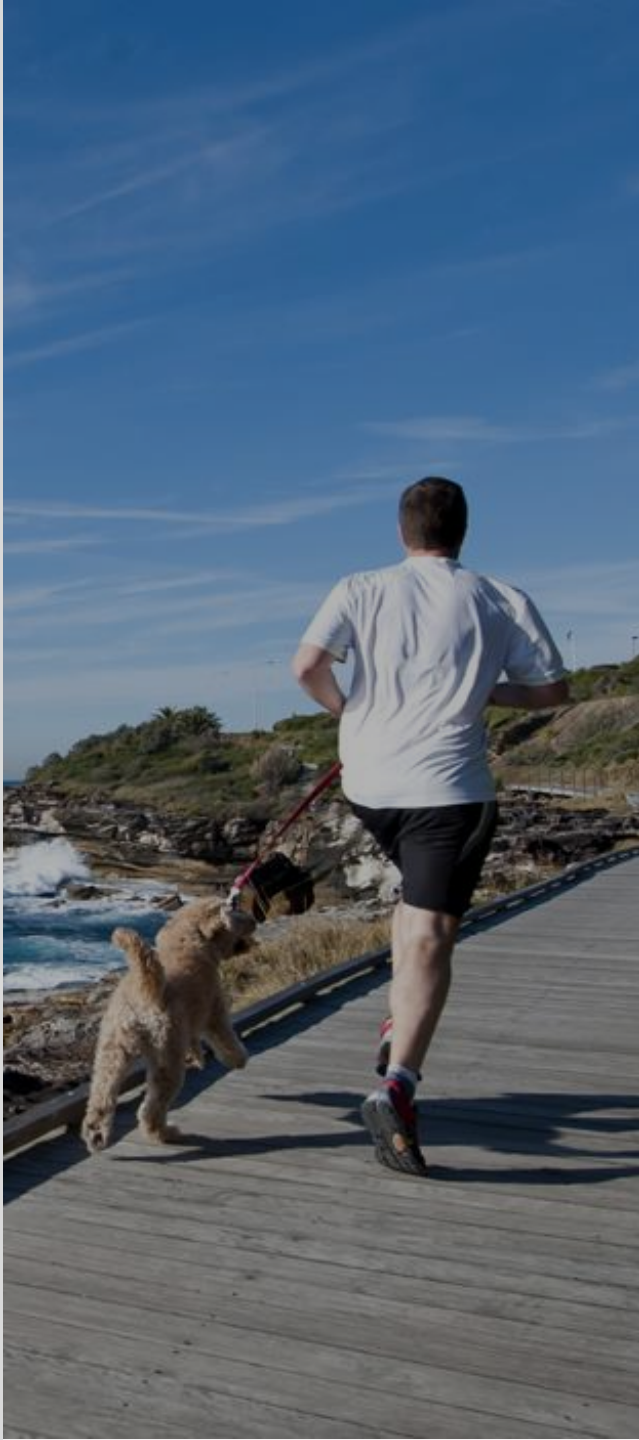
Priorities for Improving Open Spaces

Q6. What do you see as the main priority for improving open spaces in the Northern Beaches?

| | N=403 |
|--|-------|
| Diverse offering of outdoor activities | 3% |
| Happy with how things are | 3% |
| Encourage outdoor activities | 1% |
| Keep open spaces open to the public | 1% |
| Affordability | <1% |
| Invest in local sporting teams | <1% |
| Keep knobs on taps | <1% |
| Less golf courses | <1% |
| Less tourism within the area | <1% |

The information contained herein is believed to be reliable and accurate, however, no guarantee is given as to its accuracy and reliability, and no responsibility or liability for any information, opinions or commentary contained herein, or for any consequences of its use, will be accepted by Micromex Research, or by any person involved in the preparation of this report.

Appendix C: Questionnaire



Key Findings

Detailed Results

1. Quality of Open Spaces
2. Drivers of Overall Satisfaction
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Appendix A: Detailed Methodology and Demographics

Appendix B: Additional Analysis

Appendix C: Questionnaire

Northern Beaches Council
Recreation Open Space and Recreation Survey
June 2020

Good afternoon/evening, my name is from a company called Micromex. We are conducting a survey on behalf of the Northern Beaches Council about recreation and leisure activities in the area.

(Re-introduce yourself to respondent if necessary and check respondent is 15 years of age or over.)

We would like to know about your current participation in recreation, sport and leisure activities and demand for potential new and upgraded facilities in the Northern Beaches Local Government area.

Section 1: Visiting open spaces

The following questions relate to how often you visit open spaces and recreational spaces on the Northern Beaches and the kinds of activities you participate in.

Q1. In this first question, I will read out a list of different types of open spaces. For each of these, could you please state how often, if at all, you visit these areas anywhere on the Northern Beaches. Prompt

| | Three or more times a week | Once or twice a week | Once every couple of weeks | Once every few months | Once a year | Never |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Walking & cycling tracks | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Beaches (both ocean and harbour) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Bushland | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Children's playgrounds | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Parks | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sportsgrounds | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Q2. What are your reasons for spending time in the open spaces? Please answer yes or no as I read each one. Prompt

- Fitness/exercise
- Social interaction
- Mental health
- Time with family
- Being out in nature
- To get fresh air
- Other (please specify).....

Q3a. Thinking about the recreation activities you have undertaken when visiting these types of places, what sort of activities have you undertaken on the Northern Beaches in the last 12 months? Please answer yes or no as I read each one. Prompt

- Running/jogging
- Walking the dog/dog park
- Bushwalking
- Walking (other)
- Fitness activities, including outdoor gyms
- Surf sports, e.g. surfing, body boarding, surf life saving/kite surfing/beach volleyball
- Swimming at beach, rock pool or tidal pool
- Sailing
- Canoeing/kayaking/stand up paddling/rowing
- Water-skiing/powerboating
- Scuba diving/snorkelling
- Fishing
- Cycling off road, e.g. BMX, mountain biking, dirt jumps
- Cycling on road and bike paths
- Organised sport on a sportsfield
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Lawn bowls
- Skateboarding/scootering
- Horse riding/equestrian activities
- Multi-sport events, e.g. Triathlon, Ironman
- Relax, sit or meditate
- Orienteering/birdwatching
- Rock climbing/abseiling
- Para and hang gliding
- Remote control planes/boats/cars/drones
- Other (please specify).....

Q3b. Throughout Covid-19 a number of recreation facilities were temporarily closed or had restricted access and many people's participation in outdoor activities changed during this period. Could you please tell us about how, if at all, your recreation participation changed during COVID-19? Prompt
NOTE: Only show activities selected in Q3a

- A:** Remained the same/No impact from COVID
B: More often than usual during COVID
C: I was not able to participate in this activity as much as usual during COVID
D: I was not able to participate in this activity at all during COVID
E: This was a new activity for me during COVID

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Running/Jogging | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Walking the dog/dog park | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Bushwalking | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Walking (other) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Fitness activities, including outdoor gyms | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Surf sports, e.g. surfing, body boarding, surf life saving/kite surfing/ beach volleyball | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Swimming at beach, rock pool or tidal pool | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sailing | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Canoeing/kayaking/stand up paddling/rowing | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Water-skiing/powerboating | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Scuba diving/snorkelling | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Fishing | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Cycling off road, e.g. BMX, mountain biking, dirt jumps | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Cycling on road and bike paths | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Organised sport on a sportsfield | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Basketball | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Tennis | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Lawn bowls | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Skateboarding/scootering | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Horse riding/equestrian activities | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Multi-sport events, e.g. Triathlon, Ironman | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Relax, sit or meditate | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Orienteering/birdwatching | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Rock climbing/abseiling | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Para and hang gliding | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Remote control planes/boats/cars/drones | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other (please specify) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Q3c. Will you continue any of these new activities into the future? Please answer yes or no as I read each one. Prompt
NOTE: Only show activities that selected Option A in Q3b

- Running/jogging
- Walking the dog/dog park
- Bushwalking
- Walking (other)
- Fitness activities, including outdoor gyms
- Surf sports, e.g. surfing, body boarding, surf life saving/kite surfing/beach volleyball
- Swimming at beach, rock pool or tidal pool
- Sailing
- Canoeing/kayaking/stand up paddling/rowing
- Water-skiing/powerboating
- Scuba diving/snorkelling
- Fishing
- Cycling off road, e.g. BMX, mountain biking, dirt jumps
- Cycling on road and bike paths
- Organised sport on a sportsfield
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Lawn bowls
- Skateboarding/scootering
- Horse riding/equestrian activities
- Multi-sport events, e.g. Triathlon, Ironman
- Relax, sit or meditate
- Orienteering/birdwatching
- Rock climbing/abseiling
- Para and hang gliding
- Remote control planes/boats/cars/drones
- Other (please specify)

Q3d. Are there any new recreation activities that you would consider doing or trying on the Northern Beaches in the next 12 months?

- Yes
- No **(Go to section 2)**
- Don't know **(Go to section 2)**

Q3e. Which one recreation activity would you most like to do or try in the next 12 months? Do not prompt

- Running/jogging
- Walking the dog/dog park
- Bushwalking
- Walking (other)
- Fitness activities, including outdoor gyms
- Surf sports, e.g. surfing, body boarding, surf life saving/kite surfing/beach volleyball
- Swimming at beach, rock pool or tidal pool
- Sailing
- Canoeing/kayaking/stand up paddling/rowing
- Water-skiing/powerboating
- Scuba diving/snorkelling
- Fishing
- Cycling off road, e.g. BMX, mountain biking, dirt jumps
- Cycling on road and bike paths
- Organised sport on a sportsfield
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Lawn bowls
- Skateboarding/scootering
- Horse riding/equestrian activities
- Multi-sport events, e.g. Triathlon, Ironman
- Relax, sit or meditate
- Orienteering/birdwatching
- Rock climbing/abseiling
- Para and hang gliding
- Remote control planes/boats/cars/drones
- Other (please specify).....

Section 2: Quality of open space

I'd now like to ask your views on the quality of open space and recreational facilities on the Northem Beaches.

Q4a. Overall, how important to you is the overall quality of open spaces in the Northem Beaches? Prompt

- Very important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not very important
- Not at all important

Q4b. Overall, how satisfied are you with the overall quality of open spaces in the Northem Beaches? Prompt

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Not very satisfied
- Not at all satisfied

Q5. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is not at all satisfied and 5 is very satisfied, how satisfied are you with the following regarding open spaces on the Northem Beaches? Prompt

| | Not at all satisfied | | 3 | Very satisfied | | N/A |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | | 4 | 5 | |
| Quality of amenity, general condition and maintenance | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Proximity of open spaces to where you live | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Connectivity, e.g. ability to walk or cycle to open spaces | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Accessibility and inclusivity of open spaces | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Facilities supporting open space use, e.g. public toilets, parking, drinking water, seating | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The quality of playgrounds | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The distribution of playgrounds | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The sustainability of recreational use of natural areas | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Diversity of spaces | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Quantity of spaces | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Size of spaces | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Q6. What do you see as the main priority for improving open spaces in the Northem Beaches?

.....

Section 3: Demographics

D1. What suburb do you live in?

Pittwater Ward

- Avalon
- Bayview
- Bilgola
- Bilgola Plateau
- Careel Bay
- Church Point
- Clareville
- Coasters Retreat
- Cottage Point
- Currawong Beach
- Duffys Forest
- Elvina Bay
- Great Mackerel Beach
- Ku-ring-gai Chase
- Lovett Bay
- McCarrs Creek
- Mona Vale
- Morning Bay
- Newport
- Palm Beach
- Scotland Island
- Terrey Hills*
- The Basin
- Whale Beach

Narrabeen Ward

- Collaroy
- Collaroy Plateau
- Cromer
- Elanora Heights
- Ingleside
- Narrabeen
- Narrabeen North
- Oxford Falls
- Terrey Hills*
- Warriewood
- Wheeler Heights

Curl Curl Ward

- Brookvale
- Curl Curl/South Curl Curl
- Dee Why
- Freshwater
- Narraweena
- North Curl Curl
- North Manly
- Queenscliff

Manly Ward

- Balgowlah
- Balgowlah Heights
- Clontarf
- Fairlight
- Manly
- Manly Vale
- North Balgowlah
- Seaforth

Frenchs Forest Ward

- Allambie/Allambie Heights
- Beacon Hill
- Belrose
- Davidson
- Forestville
- Frenchs Forest
- Killarney Heights

D2. Please stop me when I read out your age group. Prompt

- 15 – 17
- 18 – 24
- 25 – 34
- 35 – 49
- 50 – 64
- 65 – 74
- 75+

D3. Which of the following best describes your status? Prompt

- Living at home with parents/guardian
- Single with no children
- Single parent with children
- Married/de facto with no children
- Married/de facto with children
- Group household
- Extended family household (multiple generations)

D4. Gender determined by voice.

- Male
- Female

Thank you for your time and assistance. This market research is carried out in compliance with the Privacy Act, and the information you provided will be used only for research purposes. The research has been conducted by Micromex Research (02 4352 2388) on behalf of Northern Beaches Council (1300 434 434).

* Crosses ward

A man in a white t-shirt and black shorts is running a golden retriever on a leash along a wooden boardwalk. The boardwalk is situated on a rocky coastline with waves crashing against the shore. The sky is a clear, bright blue with some light, wispy clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a clear day.

micromex research

Telephone: (02) 4352 2388
Web: www.micromex.com.au
Email: stu@micromex.com.au

Appendix 3 Written Submissions

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| 1 | <p>Please include as many perimeter walk/running/cycling paths as possible around the outer edges of any parks/ golf courses / public spaces etc preferably starting and finishing in an area with car parking.</p> |
| 2 | <p>As since last Sunday's storm I am 'off the air' indefinitely at home re internet, tv and landline, I am sending these comments re Bayview groyne/wharf/baths historic complex from my iPad courtesy of Mona Vale library.</p> <p>The Bayview groyne/wharf/baths complex is perhaps the oldest built community item since European settlement. It has been, and remains, a community hub since the groyne/wharf was officially opened to much acclaim in December 1900. Unfortunately, in recent years the baths which have been an integral part of the complex since 1915, have been significantly deteriorating from lack of maintenance.</p> <p>We have been advised that while Bayview Baths is listed on the NBC Tidal Pools Renewal Project, it is anticipated that this is unlikely before 3-4 years and subject to funding. This is despite higher priority for Paradise Beach and Taylors Point baths, neither of which has either Bayview's history and community hub status, or ready street access and parking.</p> <p>Any help re re-prioritising this iconic community asset will be much appreciated by the Bayview Church Point community.</p> |
| 3 | <p>I love Manly Dam.</p> <p>The council should immediately start a campaign to stop any further encroachment other than what is already in play or planned from this moment.</p> <p>Additionally A group should be formed to reviewing all land on current leases by not being used to ask the State Government to revoke or alter those leases to ensure there is no further encroachment on the Manly Dam Catchment.</p> |
| 4 | <p>I have received an email from the SMDCC in relation to Council's Open Space and Recreation Strategy. The purpose of this submission is to give my full support to the Committee's views and goals listed below.</p> <p>As you would know, we are keen for the Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park to be maintained as a place of natural beauty and reflection, which balances recreational uses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One recreational use should not be at the expense of others! • It is a War Memorial Park - which is unique in Australia for such an expanse of land. A place for contemplation. • It is a State Park and should be afforded protection. • It is a place for endangered flora and fauna - the wildlife corridors and fresh water quality need to be protected. • It is a place of indigenous significance. • The mental health benefits to those who choose to use this natural environment are substantial. • It is a place for learning about the natural environment - listen, watch, smell, feel! <p>In addition I have 2 further suggestions in relation to Manly Dam.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rename it as a lake, as dam has an engineering ring to it and is old fashioned. It's been a recreational lake for decades and the name should reflect current usage. For example Lake Argyle, Burrinjuck, Burley Griffin (some of many in Australia) were all formed by dam construction. 2. Do not renew the water skiing club licence. They alienate a large section of the lake yet appear to be using it less and less – which is a plus, given the intrusive noise and exhaust fumes the speed boats generate. In terms of your 'Recreation Strategy', Manly Dam and associated Park should be reserved for passive and non-motorised recreation. |

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Thank you for bothering to write a personal reply to my submission – I really appreciate that this effort and have not received a personalised reply to other public consultation submissions, so I do thank you. I have heard from someone who has spoken with you that you are very sincerely committed to your role and I do understand how many pressures would be upon you.

I was thinking that such an open process as that “What would you like?” map is interesting in that there are obvious benefits, but it also opens up the reality of explicit division and opposition with communities. An open question as broad as “What would you like here” invites wish lists – with proponents and opponents, whereas if Council only puts out proposals that are actually considered viable by your planners, then people are responding to a specific proposal.

I would like to add a comment about a local issue which I did not comment on in my submission as it is so specific: the proposal on the map for public toilets in Catherine Park on Scotland Island. I live quite near this park and so have walked through it a couple of times a day for 33 years. I have spent a lot of my free time and hosted many family events in that park, and been part of various working groups discussing infrastructure from playgrounds to paths to new on-site wastewater system. Over those decades, every now and again, someone, usually new to the island, suggests public toilets. Again and again, when this has been raised in public meetings of the Residents Assoc, the community has howled it down. When I first looked at the interactive map, I saw that there was a request for public toilets and lots of likes. Only on the last day did I get round to putting the comment “Be careful what you wish for ...” . There is a small group lobbying for a public toilet, but I imagine that if they were part of a discussion about the implications of public toilets, most residents would not want them. Not having public toilets acts as a natural break on large numbers of visitors coming and settling in for the day and the evening – which would totally change the atmosphere for locals for whom this is our ONLY recreational park. When we do have groups of visitors, there is often rubbish left behind – which people like me then pick up. Locals don’t trash our park. Recently a group of younger visitors set up with a boom box of loud music – which would have been heard by all the surrounding residents. Would our children still be able to play unsupervised as they always have? How often would Council clean the toilets and provide extra maintenance of the park?

This is a solution without a real problem. Contrary to the comment on the map, I have NEVER seen signs of human defecation in the park – and I have done bush regeneration, clean-ups, events, and walk through the park all the time. In 33 years, I have only been asked if there is a toilet a couple of times, and people accepted the answer. If someone looked like they had a real problem, a local would take pity and direct them to the toilet behind Fire Shed – which is always open.

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The open space plan should emphasise the preservation of biodiversity in the many bush reserves that residents value along the peninsula for recreation. Walking tracks, that are not concreted over preferably, to ensure less physical site impact, accompanied by discreet signage, identifying relevant valuable flora and fauna being protected, would enhance the outdoor experience. We can reduce waste by encouraging picnics, rather than more commercial food outlets located in our open spaces.

Natural, vegetated open spaces like golf courses, parks, and particularly council verges fronting steep sites, all provide valuable sponge-like qualities for absorbing excess water in flooding events. Hard surfaces such as gutters, driveways and drains are frequently unable to manage the excessive runoff, leading to expensive damage to coastal areas, waterways, beaches, infrastructure and the built environment. Roadside verges are under-valued open space and must be kept in a natural state wherever possible, to deal effectively and cheaply with extreme rainfall climate incidents.

It appears our shared natural outdoor spaces are under the onslaught of an introduced species – the dog! Demands for dog access to be prioritised, where other endangered species are threatened, is an ongoing issue in the management of our coastal recreation areas. Many of us treasure the unique natural flora and fauna still found here and want it to be carefully protected from introduced species.

Therefore we suggest that an education campaign, publicity and promotions regarding the benefits of protecting biodiversity in sensitive environments - such as remaining intact bush, plus coastal wetlands, foreshores, mangroves etc, be instigated. Users must be made aware that we need to support these integral ecosystems under climate stress. Close enforcement of regulations where dogs have access to sensitive coastal environments is required, backed by an investment in more rangers.

Coastal recreation areas, including beaches, pools, parks and reserves will need to consider the impacts of sea level rise with new research suggesting sea level rise will triple current estimates. Realistically there will need to be reclamation of those identified low lying sites at risk of inundation, with buffer zones designated as future open spaces along beachfronts. Council will need to include IPCC sea level rise benchmarks in their adaptation plans, re-assess approval processes and draft planning guidelines that will protect these vulnerable sites from inappropriate developments. Built sea walls are not a sustainable solution and just push the problem elsewhere, damaging beaches.

the NBC should investigate acquiring some remaining blocks of vacant land.

The key ones are 120 Mona Vale Rd, which has very limited access through the Uniting Church property and therefore is unsuitable for housing, as well as blocks 117 and 119 on Mona Vale Rd. Owned by NSW RMS, it is important for wildlife access that this plan proceeds, so that the link with Katandra Bushland Sanctuary is completed.

. Given the identified shortage of playing fields, particularly netball courts, on the northern beaches, we believe that the expanse of flat land in front of the house would make excellent playing fields - or a fabulous community garden, as this fertile area in Mona Vale /Ingleside has traditionally been used for farming. We bought our vegetables directly from the market gardeners located here. Hopefully NB council will consider the benefits for the community by acquiring this unique open space, because the proximity of the nearby bushland and the significant fire risk, makes this site a rather dubious location for 81 dwellings, in this as yet, unbuilt, very large, proposed residential development.

We appreciate the opportunity to engage with your open space and recreation strategy

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| | and have opted for general comments derived from our group's discussions about the issues, rather than using the map. |
| 7 | <p>My suggestions very broadly include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening up all beaches for off leash dog walking and horse riding. Bayview is now much too small with increased numbers of apartments and other developments in the Northern beaches. The increase in dwellings on the North Shore also means a huge increase in the use of the beaches, coastal walks etc. Councils need to respond with more dog parks and open spaces. Beaches can be used by dog owners between certain hours which could be extended in the winter months when they are much less popular for swimming etc. 2. Open up more bridle paths and allow horses to be ridden on the beach. Again at certain times and in specific locations. 3, more cafes and other food outlets which are licensed for alcohol and do not shut early. 4. Enough seating for elderly people on beach areas. 5. Appropriate levels of parking charges. The current \$10 an hour is much too high and prohibitive for families. It is crazy to go for a walk and buy a coffee to keep local suppliers. Going but it costs \$25! It is fine for local residents who have a permit but very unfair on visitors. 6. Open up National Parks with proper trails for people to walk dogs and take horses. National Parks are protected but with such a huge amount of space there could be wonderful education trails and designated areas. Post bushfires, it would be a wonderful way to get people to continue to support the regeneration of flora and fauna. 7. Open up the Palm Beach headland with a cafe. 8. History walks and information points along with indigenous information along the coast line. 9. More evening openings for cafes and restaurants to bring revenue into local area <p>We live in a beautiful area and of course changes have to be carefully and sustainably undertaken.</p> <p>We do need a forward thinking, more visionary policy which is less about not allowing and restrictive actions and more about creating useable spaces for all sections and ages of the population.</p> <p>What I would also like to see is Councils working collaboratively to share ideas and work for the benefit of everyone, not just one single area</p> |

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| 8 | <p>I write as a mother and local resident and not in my role at Whale Beach SLSC in this instance but I would be keen for the development of park/playground/bushland areas suitable for children from 7/8 years to teenager. There is a bit of an absence of parks at this mid-range age and we often see bigger kids playing (not always in the most suitable fashion!) in little kids parks indicating they still would like suitable space to run and play outdoors. The skateboarding areas are wonderful but if your child is not interested in that there is little else. I love many of the European park ideas with nature playgrounds and also ones where a big open space contains old car tyres and planks of wood etc that kids can use to create their own play area.</p> |
| 9 | <p>As a long time member of the Manly and District Kennel and Dog Training Club Inc I have a request regarding the possible placing of portable toilets here at Deep Creek reserve whenever those that are attached to our clubhouse are out of order (as in the recent flooding episodes). We have up to 60 or more members on Saturdays, Sundays and Thursdays - for several hours at a time - there are also bike riders, walkers, family picnickers needing toilets. Any males just duck around the back if they can't wait (not a good solution - phe eeew!!).</p> |

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| 10 | <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Council’s Open Space and Recreation Strategy - Draft.... I write as a WW2 veteran, deeply concerned and opposed to any proposal to extend existing mountain biking or similar activities within Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park - Manly Dam.</p> <p>Briefly, since boy scouting there in 1936 I have been involved in the ongoing protection conservation, ceremonials and enjoyment of MWWMSPNotwithstanding name changes and incremental intrusions and vandalism at times, this is a natural iconic place... Truly, a spiritual resting haven dedicated “ To all who gave their lives, served or are serving Australia in the armed forces, civil support services and those who strive for world peace “.</p> <p>First and foremost this is a unique war memorial park, dedicated to service and sacrifice in times of peril and to the noble aspiration for world peace...What is the thinking that wants to ignore such a worthy contribution - for the common good - for the satisfaction, knowing the impacts but uncaring of the consequences ?...Considering Council’s leadership in sustainability, environmental policies including climate change awareness, that the “ Key elements of the Strategy will be “ off road “ cycling trails and facilities “ are incompatible.... Revered, environmentally sensitive and heritage rich areas generally are crucially important and must be protected against degradation from unwarranted development, MWWMSP in particular....The building of mountain bike trails alone involves the clearing of pristine bushland, the nature and impacts of the activity on wildlife and the environment (including water ways) are devastating and lasting...</p> <p>Equally important, the role of MWWMSP as a noteworthy place for reflection and contemplation in the peaceful ambience of the Australian bushland, almost in the heart of our county’s largest city....This is capable alongside the passive activities for which people visit and enjoy this place....As a war memorial park it has reached the balance of activities and the capacity for the honourable purpose those visionary WW1 diggers remembered departed comrades... All this a century ago</p> <p>Increasingly we are losing our country’s natural environment, it’s ecology which is vital in supporting society’s sustainability....Activities that promote and involve destruction and harm to life’s main support ie; clean air are ultimately bad for us all...MWWMSP is currently applying for National Heritage Listing Status, it’s Aboriginal heritage, it’s wealth of native fauna and flora and it’s Role of Honour as a war memorial must ensure that it is not subject to further mountain biking trails...They are incompatible and I believe harmful in any war memorial park.</p> <p>Please accept my strongest opposition to Council’s proposal.</p> |
| 11 | <p>Hi Jessica</p> <p>Thank you for meeting with [REDACTED] and myself to have a look at the recreational facilities in and around Catherine Park. I realize that our discussion was quite broad but there are so many issue that overlap ie stormwater management and facilities. Enclosed are notes relative to our meeting as well as notes from Trish Chaney for a previous meeting with Steve Lawler. We have had many of these issues on the agenda for over 10 years it would be nice to see some progress and are keen to help as needed.</p> <p>Kind regards, [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> |

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| 12 | <p>It's great that council is taking initiative in this area. For the amount of people opposed to the idea I am more than quietly confident there would be triple the numbers of families super keen for this.</p> <p>Barrenjoey High School and Avalon Public has a huge number of kids boys and girls competing in the Mountain Bike Interschools in March this year its great fitness, great for families and brings tourism to the area.</p> <p>Our families travel on a regular basis to Ourimba, Green Valleys and Thredbo. For kids just learning or needing somewhere to ride they are heading to St Ives, Hornsby, Mount Narrabeen to name a few it would be awesome for them to be able to ride in their local area, and this would bring others to the area that would help the village.</p> <p>The skate park in Avalon is always full! I think its great that council are taking initiative to help the younger people and families with this initiative. If there is any way we can help to make sure more people are supporting please let me know.</p> <p>Another space that the kids were throwing around is behind/next to the skate park extending this area for dirt bike jump. Many of the dads and kids would even be happy to help build in their spare time to save council costs etc. I know many dads and kids have been cleaning up Mount Narra after the storm, cleaning and clearing, they are good people who care for the environment and the place they live in.</p> |
| 13 | <p>I really enjoy walking - it is great when the areas of nature are connected with paths/stairs. It is wonderful to be able to connect from one nature patch to another. The northern beaches is a fantastic place - really appreciate the recreational infrastructure. Think that connection with areas for walkers between locations is probably my biggest suggestion.</p> |
| 14 | <p>This email is regarding the over the phone request to operate a Vintage market every second Saturday at Collaroy Beach Reserve.</p> |

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| 15 | <p>Thank you for bothering to write a personal reply to my submission – I really appreciate that this effort and have not received a personalised reply to other public consultation submissions, so I do thank you. I have heard from someone who has spoken with you that you are very sincerely committed to your role and I do understand how many pressures would be upon you. I was thinking that such an open process as that “What would you like?” map is interesting in that there are obvious benefits, but it also opens up the reality of explicit division and opposition with communities. An open question as broad as “What would you like here” invites wish lists – with proponents and opponents, whereas if Council only puts out proposals that are actually considered viable by your planners, then people are responding to a specific proposal. I would like to add a comment about a local issue which I did not comment on in my submission as it is so specific: the proposal on the map for public toilets in Catherine Park on Scotland Island. I live quite near this park and so have walked through it a couple of times a day for 33 years. I have spent a lot of my free time and hosted many family events in that park, and been part of various working groups discussing infrastructure from playgrounds to paths to new on-site wastewater system. Over those decades, every now and again, someone, usually new to the island, suggests public toilets. Again and again, when this has been raised in public meetings of the Residents Assoc, the community has howled it down. When I first looked at the interactive map, I saw that there was a request for public toilets and lots of likes. Only on the last day did I get round to putting the comment “Be careful what you wish for ...” . There is a small group lobbying for a public toilet, but I imagine that if they were part of a discussion about the implications of public toilets, most residents would not want them. Not having public toilets acts as a natural break on large numbers of visitors coming and settling in for the day and the evening – which would totally change the atmosphere for locals for whom this is our ONLY recreational park. When we do have groups of visitors, there is often rubbish left behind – which people like me then pick up. Locals don’t trash our park. Recently a group of younger visitors set up with a boom box of loud music – which would have been heard by all the surrounding residents. Would our children still be able to play unsupervised as they always have? How often would Council clean the toilets and provide extra maintenance of the park? This is a solution without a real problem. Contrary to the comment on the map, I have NEVER seen signs of human defecation in the park – and I have done bush regeneration, clean-ups, events, and walk through the park all the time. In 33 years, I have only been asked if there is a toilet a couple of times, and people accepted the answer. If someone looked like they had a real problem, a local would take pity and direct them to the toilet behind Fire Shed – which is always open. All the best with reconciling the many demands of the public with the planning and budgetary constraints of Council.</p> |
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| 16 | <p>Further to my initial complaint in relation to Dee Why Rockpool, yesterday the swimming club took up 6 of the 7 available lanes while many other users of the pool patiently waited. This occurred between 11.00 am and 11.30 am, 23/02/20. The swimming club in question also placed a physical marker across the pool at the 25 meter mark. This marker was forcing the two to three swimmers from the general public - who were sharing lane 7 - to dive under in the middle of each lap. When I spoke to members of the swimming club about them only leaving one lane open to the public and not the required two, they waved my comment away in a rude manner calling me a "nark". As before, they showed no respect or gratitude for holding the booking of the pool while the remaining public waited. As well as this, I spoke to one of the persons sharing lane 7 and explained that the adjacent lane was indeed available to swim in. Interestingly, this person appeared uncertain about the idea and chose to continue sharing lane 7 so as not to upset the swimming club. I spoke to another person who I know from Dee Why SLSC and who was waiting at the end of the pool to swim laps so to maintain her fitness as a Bronze holder and Surf Lifesaver. She also chose to avoid disrupting the swimming club and left.</p> <p>I remember discussing with the council following my original complaint, that public perception could be that they need to give way to the aforementioned swimming club. The people described in this email who were either sharing lane 7 or waiting to swim exemplify this. Moreover, I am still concerned that the club in question is not complying with the booking conditions on a regular basis and I have genuine concerns about the manner in which they disregard anyone who challenges their misuse of the rockpool. Ergo, they are inconveniencing the public.</p> |
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We haven't met before, but I am on the Avalon Preservation Association management committee and have been actively trying to find solutions to the mountain biking issues around the Avalon/Newport area. My particular concerns were for the cabbage tree grove in Palmgrove Park, and I have been working with [REDACTED] and his colleagues for a couple of years now to stop the destruction of the park (and also Stapleton Reserve, Angophora Reserve & Bangalley Head). I also participate in the Bushcare Group for Avalon Golf Course, so have a vested interest and love of this area. I have lived here on and off for over 55 years - as have my children, my parents, grandparents and great grandparents!! I have had meetings with [REDACTED] & other Council staff, & with heads of mountain biking groups who are knowledgeable re mountain biking and track building & what is desirable. We were hoping that the Council would look into using the old Newport Quarry area for this purpose. The old quarry is currently an unused dumping ground & drug dealing area for local kids. It is in desperate need of a clean up. It would be the perfect space for the Council to provide a fabulous facility & help the local community - starting small, but with the ability to expand in the future if required. It is easily accessible to Avalon & Newport kids. We are not sure why the currently beautiful and popular green space in Avalon has been chosen instead of Newport? Could you please explain the reasoning for this and if more careful consideration could be given to the old Newport Quarry area instead? I guess my point is that the Newport Quarry area can only be improved, as it is in an appalling state currently - whereas the Avalon site is a well used and loved green space that is maintained, and is a huge asset to the community as a whole (not a small minority, as this dirt bike jump area would be).

Another option might be to put the bike jumps behind the Avalon Beach sand dunes, next to the about-to-be-constructed netball courts. At least then, all the kids could congregate in the one area, with parents supervising multiple sports ie skateboarding, basketball, netball, in addition to the bike riding kids. So this would become the Avalon sport precinct, where lots of kids could gather for multiple sport experiences.

My family and I live close to this proposed new dirt bike jump area near Avalon Public School, and as much as we support the kids being given somewhere to ride, we are most concerned that this area will be turned from the existing beautiful, treed/grassed green space - that is currently used non-stop, 7 days a week, by families, sporting groups, individuals - & by Avalon Public School; into a muddy, rocky, barren, ugly area, opposite the ugly unmaintained Telstra Exchange, and the barren block of land on the corner of Old Barrenjoey Rd & The Crescent. We worry that as it's quite isolated, older teenagers will hang out and create problems for the younger kids & local residents. Parental/Council supervision will be crucial to safety and looking after the surrounding existing flora. We do not want the trees and bush destroyed in the construction of this proposed bike park. Supervision of the kids & the potential for destruction of bush, are the 2 major issues relating to this project and we would like to have decisive answers as to how these issues will be mitigated.

Also, as you know, it would be built directly on top of a drainage basin designed to drain away huge quantities of water flowing from the golf course & Bilgola Plateau. It is naturally very wet (esp. now we've had rain) Once the ground is dug up, the trees are destroyed (as happened in Palmgrove Park), we fear it will become an undesirable area that will detract from Avalon as a whole. The playing field in question, for many decades, (in the 60s, 70s & 80s), was rocky, barren and ugly - then the Council spent thousands of dollars turfing and levelling it and putting in the drainage basin at the northern end. It seems a shame to revert the area to its original barren ugliness. Is Council planning on fencing off the biking area from the rest of the grassed area and

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| | <p>the golf course? Are they planning to also use the casuarina grove that extends up the hill beside The Crescent & the Golf Course, for the bike park?</p> <p>We also fear that this small allocated area at the northern end of the playing field will in no way contain the kids - and they will then migrate with their bikes, to the golf course (which is happening now).</p> <p>Thank you for responding to our list of concerns, & queries re the viability of the Newport Quarry site. I would also like to be included in any correspondence & see draft plans relating to this matter. Can this be arranged please?</p> |
| 18 | <p>Appreciate your communication, I think it is a great idea - many locals unfortunately don't like change, but it has to happen if we are to make progress.</p> |
| 19 | <p>Fantastic, thanks for the update Jessica. Lets hope it gets through for the kids and the environments sake.</p> |
| 20 | <p>I am writing on behalf of Save Little Manly Beach Foreshore Inc. We support the Little Manly Master Plan and think it important that Northern Beaches Council include an Action as part of the Open Space and Recreation Strategy to implement the demolition of 40 Stuart Street in order to increase the foreshore open space amenity at Little Manly and to implement the other items in the Master Plan. There were 74 submissions made regarding the demolition of 40 Stuart Street and the elected Councillors passed a resolution to demolish 40 Stuart Street. We therefore feel that reference to it should definitely be included in Council's overarching Open Space and Recreation Strategy document.</p> |
| 21 | <p>1) On behalf of ALL those in wheelchairs but especially those in electric wheelchairs, please be aware that even a small lip on a driveway or a ramp or a walkway, or a slope from left to right or right to left can make entrances or exits on ramps and walkways, inaccessible or unusable for those in wheelchairs.</p> <p>2) ALL doorways should be wide enough for an electric wheelchair and a support worker driving the wheelchair to fit through. A normal size doorway cannot fit a wheelchair and the support worker driving that wheelchair through safely and without risk.</p> |
| 22 | <p>I'm from the Manly Warringah Cycling Club. We hire JJ Melbourne Hills approximately 2 – 4 times a year to run our cyclocross races. Our races use a mix of the open grassed areas, the criterium circuit, and the equestrian cross country course. We use this mix as a means of creating a course for our races that is both physically/aerobically challenging, as well as technically challenging (bike handling skills) for our athletes. We are interested in adding an additional feature to our course utilising the wooded area near the RFS base. I've broadly marked it in the image below:</p> <p>Within that area, we are looking to do two things:</p> <p>a) firstly, cut some of the grass (to a height of ca. 10cm) between the trees and to clear aside some of the fallen logs to create a route through the trees, and</p> <p>b) secondly, to build an earth and timber step at the bottom of one of the inclines. This step would be approximately 2m wide and approximately 20cm high.</p> <p>Based on my discussions with [REDACTED] and with [REDACTED] from council, we would require clearance from your team prior to embarking on this. I therefore kindly ask for permission to conduct this on behalf of our club. This would be at no cost to council, would involve no removal of live plant life, and would add a fantastic feature to our events. If you would prefer, I'm happy to meet you on site to discuss the request further.</p> |

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| 23 | <p>I could not find where I could comment, but when you are talking Open Space Strategy, you should also make provision for dogs being walked on beaches. Families and their dogs should have opportunities to do so, just as they do in every other council in Australia with a seaboard.</p> <p>Dogs and their families/people Have been totally discriminated against by the Green zealots in the Council in the past. They have tied down the beaches with their zombie science, ideology and alarmist statements. The Council would rather spend \$250,000 of rate payers money than put in signage, bins, bag dispensers at a few of our beaches. Dog walking is the stated most popular activity in the (once) Pittwater Council area, but that fact has been blindly ignored. I presume it would be similar in other wards. Council, there are 1,800 of you – and we pay you. Time to be reformist and visionary in your outlook on life and start listening to and doing the will of the people. Give us some local beach time, get the cars off the roads, 80% of people who filled in the questionnaire want this and just remember that we have more than 22 klms of unused beaches. Public space is for sharing.</p> <p>One important thing to remember is this: kids need this too. I met two 17 year old girls on Palm Beach and they wanted to walk their dogs on a beach, together. They said they were fed up with looking over their shoulders for rangers and they have had to do that all their young lives – and there was a man with his phone taking photos of them, presumably to be sent to the Council. We talk about looking after the mental health of young people. Where would you rather they be – hanging around a mall, on a device or walking their dogs on a beach? Should they have felt and feared this persecution since childhood? Or is it a perfectly normal thing for a young person to do in every other jurisdiction in Australia?</p> <p>I know the Council is hierarchical and few are prepared to stand up for what is right and fair and just – you just do as you are told. Well, here’s a challenge: start making a difference to the lives of young people, the elderly and families who want the simple pleasure of walking their dog on a beach. And change starts with you, Jessica.</p> |
| 24 | <p>I hope this is a rumour but the plan to ban dogs from open spaces is appalling!! People love their dogs & these days they are part of the family. They want to be able to take them to cafes & restaurants, to parks & playgrounds & beaches. That's how it is in Europe & the Americas so why is Australia such a dog (& cat) hating country?! If you are going to totally restrict dogs to their homes you are setting up the community to deal with anxious lonely dogs barking all the time upsetting the peace & destructive, even sometimes aggressive behaviour from dogs being unsocialised that would result in a lot being dumped at shelters or euthanized..... or is that the idea, to get rid of dogs & cats completely!? How about giving people a discount on dog registration fees if people produce a Puppy School graduation certificate? That way you've got the vast majority of dogs well trained so what harm is it for people to enjoy & share their lives away from home with a leashed, well trained dog?</p> <p>I found your link with a bunch of dots all on top of one another impossible to navigate to put in a submission or comment so please accept this as a submission regarding every open space on the northern beaches.</p> |

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| 25 | <p>The mapping is excellent and will be of great benefit to the Northern Beaches community.</p> <p>1) The legend indicates that the orange lines are 'trails'. These could be off-road bike/ on-road bike/ footpaths/ off-road walking trails or shared pedestrian and cyclist trails. Knowing what type of tracks these are is important, but especially important in places such as Manly Dam, which is remote and potentially dangerous if walkers are sharing tracks with mountain bikers. Can I suggest that the mapping differentiates between the types of trails?</p> <p>2) Will this be integrated with the impending Northern Beaches Bike Plan?</p> <p>3) Is there an ongoing opportunity for the public to provide feedback to continually update this 'live map'?</p> <p>4) Will other government services, such as NSLHD, be able to link to this map?</p> |
| 26 | <p>As I said on the day I think it is a fantastic idea to go ahead with this plan however, I feel that the playing fields across from Avalon Public is not the right place. I know you are thinking that it will be at the north end where Avalon Public School don't use but I think you'll find that end is used by running clubs and parents watching their children play sport.</p> <p>I object to that area as I was hoping you were planning this bike jump facility for teenagers as well. I fear that the area you are proposing to use is not big enough for teenagers to get a lot out of it. Yes that size is probably good enough for small children but as a resident of Avalon with teenagers, we with teenagers, know that Avalon has little for them to do if they don't surf or skateboard. It needs to be a bigger area that caters for older children too which is why I believe the Careel Bay Area would be ideal. There is a much larger space there that is definitely under utilised, I think you'll find the area across from Avalon Public is already used to the max!</p> <p>I'm very happy to hear that a half court basketball court is going up and I have also heard that a proposed bike path around the bends is planned, both of which will be absolutely fantastic! This proposal for a bike jump facility together with the aforementioned proposals are music to my ears and I thank you for planning this.</p> |

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| 27 | <p>Firstly Thank you for addressing a need in the community by planning to build a dirt bike park. So many of the kids in Avalon, including my own, are avid bike riders and have copped a lot of aggression and abuse from locals . So your actions are very welcome .</p> <p>However, the proposed site for the bike park across from the Avalon Public School would be devastating for many children who use the park already for other physical activity and recreation.</p> <p>A running group has been held at that park for almost a decade now [REDACTED] [REDACTED] It is wonderful because kids of all ages and abilities come along and have a great time being active. Many are children who would not otherwise be involved in physical activity. The park is a wonderful space and we use the entire park to run around. The club is run before school which is fabulous because the kids just duck across to school afterwards. Many kids are dropped off by parents on their way to work, so another location further from the school would preclude many children from being able to participate.</p> <p>I have also noted that the park is generally full many afternoons already with kids practicing netball at one end and mini soccer occurring at the end closest the shops that are not marked for netball. At the same time, many parents sit with their other children enjoying the space and socialising. The entire area is being used.</p> <p>In my opinion the grassy area is already fully utilised and it would be devastating to many to lose this space.</p> <p>I feel that the jump park would be better situated at Careel Bay ovals - the bike riders are obviously mobile already and could readily access it.</p> <p>Please do not build the bike park across from the Avalon Public School- because whilst helping one group it would harm many children who already use the space.</p> |
| 28 | <p>I had hoped to make constructive comments. I have read in the 2040 document that walking, not necessarily bush walking is a most popular activity. I believe that making beautiful and safe streets, with interesting architecture and activities will contribute hugely to recreation enjoyment. Parks and bush land are also extremely important but day to day walking will often be in streets, along footpaths and safe crossings.</p> <p>Pedestrian priority in more urban, built up areas is essential. I will also support any actions taken to lower vehicle speeds in high pedestrian areas and in minor roadways.</p> |
| 29 | <p>The entire northern beaches does not have any form of Radio Control Buggy track. I was wondering if that is something the council would consider for the future as it might attract a number of kids and hobbyists alike.</p> <p>Any indoor or outdoor area that is not being used and not suitable for any further development would be suitable.</p> <p>The Ryde council has a great one which is maintained and operated by the council and is used by both public and club members.</p> <p>If this is something you would consider I believe the track would also be supported by creating a local club and the NBHC hobby shop.</p> |

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| 30 | <p>I think it would also be vital to include a parents and children's representative group in your stakeholder consultation process. I would be happy to help organise this for you. I am a local GP and as I mentioned my children are avid bike riders. We would be representatives and advocates for our children and are most aware of what the issues are for them and what they actually want.</p> <p>One other very important thing I realised recently is that what the children actually want is a downhill track not so much a jump park. They themselves are suggesting the edge of the golf course. This seems to be a not unreasonable idea to follow up, firstly because the number of people playing golf at the Avalon course is very low. And secondly, it seems unfortunate that so many children have been desperately searching for a space to ride and are locked out of this publicly owned area. It would be great if this beautiful space could be used and shared by the whole community in a multifunction capacity, and not just restricted the few who play golf there. It has been suggested to me that there is no reason why the golf course could not still exist but with less greens.</p> <p>Please let me know if I can help arrange a children and parent stakeholder representative group for you. I feel it would be a great shame if this great initiative did not actually meet the desired need.</p> |
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| 31 | <p>Few comments primarily focused in Manly Relating to bicycles</p> <p>Darley Rd the gateway to our beautiful North Head. The current bikepath on the eastern side of Darley rd does not get much use as it is overgrown with bushes. (note to maintenance guys) the Manly hospital is closed and traffic volumes are greatly reduced why not now have a bike path on the road pavement from Marshall st North. Plus Darley Rd has become a repository for trailers and boats etc as it does not have any parking restrictions. It will gwt worse when the Parking Plan takes place. Needs to be 8 hours so we can give the mature kids (18+) from St Pauls and ICM somewhere to park during school time .</p> <p>Bike path on the beachfront reserve The Corso through to Queenscliffe. There are signs stating cars parked adjacent to the bikepath are to park nose in. This is to prevent cars overhanging the bikepath especially with tow bars protruding etc creating a hazard. More signage and enforcement is needed as the bikepath width is effectively reduced by 50% when cars reverse park.</p> <p>Bike path Sth Steyne to Shelley Bicycles are not supposed to use this on weekend but they do creating an unhealth mix of bikes, pedestrians and toddlers / prams. Also include large scooters etc needs more / better signage and enforcement plus a flea in the ear of the bike hirers. Around Fairy Bower is the worst section.</p> <p>Bike facilities Manly Wharf We are trying to encourage people to use bikes but the parking at the wharf is abysmal. We need more storage for bikes and get rid of the old bikes that have been locked up there on fences and racks unused for years. Its a poor show for visitors coming to the area.</p> <p>Bike path West Esplanade travelling south past the art gallery. There is not enough road width here and the bike path located within the footpath area is a dangerous joke especially on garbage collection days. This needs to be a 40kmh limit.</p> <p>Little Manly Beach We need a pedestrian link for the disabled and mums with prams between the boat ramp , back of the houses and through to the playground / shop. More shade trees required. Another park that is loved to death. A strategy needs to be put in place to handle parks with little grass cover due to heavy foot traffic.</p> <p>Shelley Beach and adjacent green area. This area is special and unique but is loved to death and has become a dust bowl. Srface treatment needs to be consistent with the amount of foot trafic it now generates...grass is no longer an option + Do the tinnies next to the boat ramp really still need to be here?</p> <p>Old Manly Aquarium West Esplanade. Dont know if this is part of the project but an informal wharf is needed (perhaps here) to enable boat visitors to Manly and area to offload / pick up guests.</p> |
| 32 | Request for new playground equipment at Ryrrie Reserve in Forestville |
| 33 | Oxford Falls has many properties containing horse. More arenas are being built on private properties. If there was a public arena in Oxford Falls (like there is in Duffy's Forest), it would be used daily. |
| 34 | <p>1) On behalf of ALL those in wheelchairs but especially those in electric wheelchairs, please be aware that even a small lip on a driveway or a ramp or a walkway, or a slope from left to right or right to left can make entrances or exits on ramps and walkways, inaccessible or unusable for those in wheelchairs.</p> <p>2) ALL doorways should be wide enough for an electric wheelchair and a support worker driving the wheelchair to fit through. A normal size doorway cannot fit a wheelchair and the support worker driving that wheelchair through safely and without risk.</p> |

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| <p>35</p> | <p>I would like to put in a formal request for the upgrade & redevelopment of the playgrounds in Manly. There are three and they are all in poor condition and are limited in what they offer. Yet their location lends them to being fantastic I'm including the two along Manly beach & the Lagoon playgrounds in my comments, however could extend to include Forty Baskets, Manly Cemetery among others.</p> <p>The following playgrounds are all very good examples of what could be achieved. From observation & experience it seems that Queensland puts more funding into their playgrounds & so many are examples from there.</p> <p>These playgrounds are mostly nearby however the first one is in Noosa but I include it as it is also near water and is particularly outstanding.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noosa River Pirate Playground, 130/141 Gympie Terrace Noosaville, QLD. 2. Keppel Kraken, Yepoon Foreshore, QLD. 3. Darling Quarter playground, Darling Harbour, NSW. 4. The Pod Playground, National Arboretum Canberra, ACT. 5. Royal Park Nature Play Playground, Flemington Road and Gatehouse Street Parkville, VIC. <p>What is important in a playground & why these examples are successful include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caters to many age groups - Supports socialisation & interaction - Combination of inventive and suggested play - Use of a variety materials (e.g. sand, water) - Reflective of its surrounds |
| <p>36</p> | <p>I'm from the Manly Warringah Cycling Club. We hire JJ Melbourne Hills approximately 2 – 4 times a year to run our cyclocross races. Our races use a mix of the open grassed areas, the criterium circuit, and the equestrian cross country course. We use this mix as a means of creating a course for our races that is both physically/aerobically challenging, as well as technically challenging (bike handling skills) for our athletes.</p> <p>We are interested in adding an additional feature to our course utilising the wooded area near the RFS base.</p> <p>Within that area, we are looking to do two things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) firstly, cut some of the grass (to a height of ca. 10cm) between the trees and to clear aside some of the fallen logs to create a route through the trees, and b) secondly, to build an earth and timber step at the bottom of one of the inclines. This step would be approximately 2m wide and approximately 20cm high. |

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| 37 | <p>I have Cc [REDACTED] on this as he may also have some ideas if this is possible and how to approach it?</p> <p>In a proposal we sent to NBC last year we asked if it was possible for a club house to be created at the JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve. I have attached the proposal in case neither of you have seen it. If not a fully constructed building then perhaps something with shipping containers (see picture below for reference).</p> <p>Do you know if this has been discussed within council? How would we go about getting something like this started?</p> <p>Your employees have done a great job in clearing the lantana on the site in preparation for the delivery of dirt. We will eventually have hand tools, wheel barrows etc to start moving that around - it would be great if we had somewhere to securely lock that equipment up when not in use.</p> |
| 38 | <p>I am enquiring about the lack of dog access to beaches within our council area. Our dog, just like many other dogs, loves to swim in the water, as do my wife and I. We have taken our dog to Queenscliff lagoon and Curl Curl lagoon in the past. Whilst I am aware there are signs in place saying that the water is not safe, we can't deny that to him - which resulted in him getting Giardia and falling violently ill.</p> <p>Why is there no access for our dogs to the clean ocean water? Collaroy beach is 3.6km long, with barely anyone on it. I understand that some families may not want to be interrupted by dogs while using the beach, which is why pre 8am and post 6pm dog access would be perfect.</p> <p>I have always cleaned up after my dog, but having more bins and waste bags accessible would assist with this further.</p> |
| 39 | <p>We are writing to enquire why there are so few public basketball courts in the Northern Beaches?</p> <p>My 10 year old daughter and I have done some research and we have calculated that there are 10,115 basketball participants in the Northern Beaches (based on Roy Morgan stating that c.4% of the National & NSW population play the game regularly). Your website states that there are 11 basketball courts in the council which equates to 1 hoop for every 920 basketball players!!</p> <p>We know there is a basketball centre in Warriewood which we play at but whenever we want to play locally to our home (in Freshwater) we find the hoops are usually taken by other people. We know some people have hoops at home, but that is not an option for everyone.</p> <p>Could you please explain why there are so few courts & hoops and advise if there are plans to build more.</p> |

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| 40 | <p>Hello Northern Beaches council, I am a fellow resident who enjoys this part of Sydney very much, I am loving the area but I just have a question regarding mountain bike trails, I was wondering if it is possible to build some trails in collaroy either on the plauteu or up on the headland, it would be most appreciated if we could have full access to a certain area to express ourselves and have the up most enjoyment out of it along with the rest of the MTB community, I must regard these trails will not be large neither will there be massive dirt jumps, I was more thinking some simple single track through a grassy field of a nice downslope, just something to entertain us all so close to those who live in the area without having to drive anywhere else. I hope to be working with you guys soon!</p> |
| 41 | <p>I am a resident in Brooker Ave, Beacon Hill. There is a little park in our street, we have many kids in the street and immediate surrounding streets. A few of us were wondering if it would be possible to get some swings added to the existing park equipment. It's such a safe and secure area for young kids to play and we think this would be a great addition to the area</p> |
| 42 | <p>I was wondering if you might be able to answer a few questions for me?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update on the timeline for the redevelopment of Councils Oaks Street Carpark 2. Future plans, if any, for 68 Oaks Ave <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If none, something needs to be done. Its currently a rubbish and supermarket trolley dumping ground and a waste of tax payers money given its mowed and cleaned months and is unusable b. Huge potential for a pocked park or the like 3. Is there any potential for Dee Why Park to be looked at as a off leash dog friendly park during certain times, say before 8am and/or after 6pm? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The closest dog friendly, off leash park is North Curl Curl which is difficult to get to on week days during day light If one is working full time |
| 43 | <p>Subject: Lindsay Reserve - Forestville Hi Michael Hope you have kept well during this time. For a while now I have seen large community open spaces and thought how could they be used to offer contemporary community offerings, aligned to what locals could be looking for. For example Lindsay Park in Forestville - Deakin Avenue. A fantastic open space in its basic form. A possible concept for consideration is a multi purpose community space. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain some open space • Urban Community Farm - something similar to https://www.pocketcityfarms.com.au/our-farm • Kids Bike track with traffic lights etc - something similar to Sydney Park Bike Track https://g.co/kgs/6sTh4n • Updated, inclusive for all, play equipment <p>How to achieve this will take time and further discussion although pocket city farms started with a govt grant of approx \$35k and a kickstarter account. That said ongoing investment from council, private and/or both would most likely be required. Just thought I would share and see if you think it's something council would consider and if so what the right avenue is to propose a concept like this? Thanks in advance.</p> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin-top: 5px;"></div> |

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| 44 | <p>We would like somewhere to ride our dirtbikes, i have sent an email to Kimbriki tip as i believe they would have a suitable spot or such a venue. The closest place we have is Appin which is a long way away. Would there be any support from you if we could find somewhere safe and secure from noise, dust, flora and fauna?</p> <p>Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]</p> |
| 45 | <p>The mountain bike trails that have been built in our bushland are largely unsustainable, incorrectly constructed and therefore damaging to the local environment. Like a lot of the informal walking trails they degrade over time and either widen or are rerouted because they've become washed out. The growth of the sport has seen more and more trails be built to suit each group that builds them. Some are better than others. The fact is the building and expansion won't stop unless there's a real formal option. I'm a mountain biker but also concerned about conservation and it pains me to see passionate mountain bikers trying to build these trails without proper construction. These trails have been built mainly without long term consideration and as a result are causing erosion and other undesirable outcomes. Is there a solution? Please look into the possibility of formalising the existing mountain bike trails that have been made by the community on the beaches . They do care about the bush here but it's not something that can be fixed by community working bee weekends - it needs proper funding and professional development.</p> <p>Over the last 15 years I've seen trails move and grow from Oxford falls to red Hill to Narrabeen to Terry hills to Mona Vale to Ingleside back to Oxford falls. The sustainability just isn't there and as they wear out new fresh trails appear. This is a growth sport with a strong community- it's amazing that it continues to be underground. What is councils position to rectify this issue?</p> |

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| 46 | <p>To our Mayor, MP's & NSW National Parks and Wildlife,</p> <p>I am a mother of a 14year old boy who dreams all week about his weekend ride. My son has never taken to the hussle and bussle of team sport - the field of knocks has never been his thing. Not all kids want to play soccer or rugby.</p> <p>My son has always been keen on wheels - and now has this incredible sport of Mountain Biking.</p> <p>Through the Garigal Gorilla's, he has connected with a group of like minded riders - they are from all over the Northern Beaches. The Gorilla's are a passionate and supportive club doing an incredible job - especially in making connections.</p> <p>We have met the families of my sons riding buddies and created new family friendships - mum and dads now also riding together on weekend outings. These boys are well mannered - always smiling and kind - they are excited for each other, developing skills and confidence on their bikes.</p> <p>My son and his friends have a measured approach to riding - and all the while, they are learning about risk-taking. They are learning the subtle differences between riding in the wet or the dry, or jumping in the wind impacting your air-time. They are building very important skills; their skills of judgement. Life long skills that I know will help them be safe as they move into their older teen years, becoming drivers on our roads and workers in our community.</p> <p>They are breathing fresh air. They are loving the incredible natural bush we have here in the Northern Beaches - so fortunate we are to live in this beautiful place. I grew up in the country - we do not take the bushland here for granted. We love it - we embrace it - green space is so important for our wellbeing.</p> <p>As a secondary school teacher, I see the importance of the youth having a passion. I absolutely encourage children and families to embrace sports that drive passion, fitness, social & physical skills & wellbeing - like Mtb.</p> <p>Please continue to support this growing sport in the Northern Beaches.</p> <p>██████████</p> |
| 47 | <p>Hi ██████████,</p> <p>I read the recent article on the new skateboard and it reminded me to write to you about Mountain Biking.</p> <p>I'm a member of a few local mountain biking clubs and I also travel around the country (pre covid) riding with friends.</p> <p>I urge you to support this great sport on our beautiful nth beaches. Great for families, tourism and the community as we love our bushland, it's like our playground or a skatepark and we surely can make it better for all to enjoy.</p> |

48

Hi Jessica,

Please find attached the Campbell Pde proposal for DJ, CX and kids track. Please forward onto the correct people. TrailCare would appreciate a reply acknowledging receiving the proposal.

We have come up with this proposal to give the beneficial outcome for The Grove issues, lack of replacement for Freedom Jumps (btw is back in action due the action and inaction at The Grove).

Please note MWMTB have seen this proposal and support it with the built in CX course incorporated.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Kind regards

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

49

Thankyou [REDACTED] for your reply, I had written to you and other councillors to raise awareness of the reality on the ground regarding mountain biking on the beaches.

I won't comment on the grove and Bare creek and pump track projects as they are specifically jump parks and in a separate category – (a good analogy is cross country running vs 100m sprints – requiring different facilities) – good projects nonetheless.

I have just rode the Manly dam trail last weekend with my son. I could possibly use this as an example of what I was banging on about.

The trail is a hotch-potch of ex-walking trails, fire roads, suburban streets and rider built sections – much like a lot of the local trails.

Manly dam mountain bike trail has signage and has a little bit of community maintenance. The main trail loops around the dam and there is an extended unofficial trail which crosses Wakehurst parkway on the Bantry bay side (which is on RTA land and probably Sydney water land I think) then meets up again with the main trail behind Allambie Public School. The illegal bits ironically the better parts of the trail.

The problem with the official council trail is that it was never built for mountain biking and just was formed from existing tracks and roads.

The alignment and drainage mitigation isn't correct on most of the trail. Therefore after rain it is the wettest trail on the beaches – with much pooling and sediment runoff.

When it began to be used as a bike track 10-15 years ago there wasn't a lot of understanding about trail design and maintenance. The section opposite North Balgowlah public school, for example, has zero erosion control and has washed out considerably leaving only tree roots along most of the section as it heads straight uphill to Wakehurst golf club.

Calling it an asset is a misnomer – more a liability. it relies on some community weekend maintenance which is admirable but mainly ineffective as most of the trail alignment is incorrect as stated previously. They basically fill in the holes and make some cool jumps which are washed out again in a few months.

There is solutions to the problem – it requires a dedicated project to make it a proper mountain bike trail. Get it off the fire roads and suburban streets , re-align the trails and provide drainage and bridging over sensitive wet areas. There are specialist companies providing solutions to council all around the country.

The benefit of improving the formal trails will reduce the building of illegal trails but a task force is also needed between Council, MALC and NP to specifically address these issues of illegal trails. The informal mountain bike trails behind deep creek are an example of where they cross multiple landowner boundaries – the dog park at Deep creek has become a hub for the Mountain bike community to ride into NP and MALC areas from a council area – the council now has the issue of erosion of the deep creek foreshore, a dangerous and unsuitable entrance way to the parking area, tension between the two user groups and other issues like riders crossing Wakehurst parkway to access trails.

Sorry for the lengthy email – but sometimes people don't take the time to brief the

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| | chiefs with an honest appraisal. I feel it is needed here as I've seen trail development in other councils and the missed potential for our area. |
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Thank you for taking my call just now and discussing the implementation of lights at the BMX track in the JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve.

As per some of your questions re the society. I have provided a short profile below.

We (NSAS) formed in 1987 and have a membership of ~150. We are based in the Northern Suburbs of Sydney and have members from all over the Northern Beaches, Kuringgai as well as Lane Cove area etc. We are active (Covid period aside) in supporting education in schools with support to Mona Vale, Castle Cove and other schools, scouts and club groups and have been asked to talk to Rotary and other bodies. We have good contacts into higher order education, universities and other research groups and hold monthly meetings where members can listen to advanced research and other similar topics. We are also currently engaged with the Urban Night Sky Park (UNSP) at Palm Beach headland with several of us involved and one of our team on the working group, and will be installing light measuring equipment in the UNSP for ongoing certification. Our current observing field is the JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial reserve which is important to Sydney as it has been cited as the best observing site in the greater Sydney metropolitan region. Our website is <http://www.nsas.org.au>.

With regard to the use of the field we currently mostly use the reserve Friday - Monday in a 12 day period around the new moon (when it is dark). However, our bookings with council are for every night in this period. During winter time we will use the site from sunset (~5pm) and in summer time (8pm AEDT). Whilst we do have a booking with council we are unlikely to use the site on the main days that the BMX training is on Tue-Thu.

I have passed on the lighting diagram to one of our members who has had a career in implementing commercial lights and in his view the observing area will be unusable if the lights are on.

I'd like to put forward a request for your and council's consideration of;

- A) restricting the lights from sunset to dawn for the Fri-Mon for the weekend when we observe.
- B) an ability to be able to turn the lights off if there is no-one in the BMX area and it is after dark.

We do recognise that it is likely that the BMX club will want to use the lights more often and hence accept that we should plan for alternate arrangements on an ongoing basis. There is a facility, an old quarry (Valet Trail, <https://goo.gl/maps/G2FVJT5FTjjgDz6G8>) in the national park, where some environmental damage has occurred but could be addressed, and at the same time provide for a future location for an observing site and an educational centre etc. Whilst such a site would take some money to fix it is currently environmentally damaged and hence some govt grants may be available etc. A first step would be to recognise this in council's recreational strategy which you mentioned is currently under discussion. There is no other facility in the Sydney region which would be comparable to a facility if it were to be established at Valet Trail. The opportunities for school excursions and support a growing interest in science would be

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| | <p>unique for the Northern Beaches.</p> <p>I am happy to be contacted or involved as required for any discussion re the above.</p> <p>I can be contacted on this email or via [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> |
| 51 | Upgrade Hinkler Park dog water fountains |
| 52 | Lay turf on the embankment behind the pool at LM Grahem Reserve and install tiered seating on the embankment. Complete the white metal picket fence around the oval. |
| 53 | As a resident & property owner in Balgowlah Heights I would like to submit an application to ask for an outdoor gym to be installed at Tania Park. There is ample room for one to be installed at the southern end of the park which would be away from all the sporting events, fields & facilities regardless of season. I hope you may consider my request, I have asked a lot of locals & they ALL would really love an outdoor gym area to be installed. |
| 54 | In my almost 10 years living in Terrey Hills, I have only ever seen 2 children playing in this playground/reserve and I walk past it often. The problem as I see it is that it is hopelessly under equipped with only 2 swings and one see saw. My suggestion to Council is to either equip it properly or sell the land - I'm sure the proceeds can be put to much better use. |
| 55 | <p>Hi my wife and I have been very pleased with the work that the council has done in the local parks. They are very well maintained. The volunteer bush regeneration people are also doing a great job.</p> <p>Could I suggest that council install a dog poo bag facility at either/or both District Park and Passmore Reserve</p> |

I was very pleased to see the development of the Basketball and Netball courts in Avalon. It brought me joy to see the amount of kids that went and played on the courts, the friendships that have already been made due to these new courts and the growth in interest of the two sports because of the construction of these courts. I live [REDACTED]. I am a 15 year old boy and I am a very passionate and driven person at school and about sport. My proposal to you is to ask you for a Basketball court to be put in Bayview and under the basketball hoop is a small soccer goal. I will link a few photo's below to show an example. The reasoning for these courts is because in Bayview we do not have any free, recreational areas/facilities for sport. These courts not only give facilities for a small, street style soccer, but also give a space for basketball players. These two sports are rapidly growing in Australia and to keep the rapid growth, by having these courts, it will increase the popularity and the ability for people to learn about the sports and use these courts. Soccer is the biggest sport in the world and it would be fantastic for Australia to get more involved in that by teaching and supporting the future generation to grow in this sport. This will also build relationships, build up the community in Bayview and allow people to meet others that have the same interests as them. I am a very sociable person and love meeting new people, but I don't feel like Bayview has the same culture and as close of a community as other suburbs. Bayview is also seen as a more 55+ suburb. But in recent years, there has been a massive growth in young, new families. These courts will enable people like me to gain more of an understanding of the people living around me. There are a lot of kids around here and I think it's important that we have a place for them to keep active from a physical perspective and the mental side. I have a proposed location as well. It is hard to describe this location so I am happy to talk to you in person to show you, but there is a carpark with a reasonably sized park in the middle. This carpark is in between the Bayview Tennis Club and Bayview dog park. I think this would be a great place to have the court/possible courts because it has a great piece of land which I feel isn't being utilised to its full potential. It would be a perfect place for everyone. There are already picnic spots and benches for families to have lunch, but behind these benches is a great piece of land which could do with these courts. I have been very very blessed to be able to go overseas and experience other countries' cultures and their way of life. In almost every country I've been to, they have had small, free facilities like described above and in the linked photos below. An example was when I was in France. I was travelling through and my family and I went through multiple small towns, not even major cities or suburbs. Even they had little basketball/soccer courts every couple hundred of meters for their communities to enjoy and connect. This was also the same case in England, Cruyff Courts in the Netherlands and I have not been to the United States of America, but from researching I'm sure you are aware of the massive investment into making multiple outdoor basketball courts all around the nation. These are all major countries that have produced outdoor, free facilities for their communities. These courts allow for people to develop their skills in the sport and connect with others. I think this court or courts could be the exact same as the ones in Avalon. Same backboard and hoop, segmented in the ground, same material as the ground for the court, but just add a goal at each end at the bottom that is centented in the ground and possibly a low cage/fence around the court to really give it that street soccer effect and so the ball doesn't get kicked out of the area. I feel these courts will bring a sense of new and freshness in the suburb and boost the relationship of the new young families. These courts can also have beautiful artworks on them created by the suburb and possibly a competition in the area to also create awareness of the new court. I am more than happy to meet with you at any time as I am on holidays at the

moment to speak more about where the location could be in Bayview and what the courts could look like. I hope to hear from you soon and hopefully we see eye to eye.

Below are just some examples. The courts do not have to have a massive cage/net around the area, but just some examples.

57

Hi there,

I am emailing to see if there are plans in place for any existing children playgrounds, North - from Avalon to Palm Beach, to be upgraded with more shade and baby/toddler friendly equipment, including and most importantly the playground being fenced/ enclosed as well as shade.

Besides the wonderful playground at Newport which caters for all childrens' ages, there are no appropriate baby/toddler friendly playgrounds which are both shaded and enclosed.

Most of the playground parks North of Newport are open planned which are close to roads, car parks or the beach/ open ocean.

For example:

1. Whale Beach - not enclosed - right next to the busy car park and open ocean - limited equipment
2. Governor Philip Park (Palm Beach) - not enclosed - right next to Beach Rd
3. Pittwater Park - enclosed, however, the equipment is weathered and does not cater or is safe for young babies or toddlers
4. Jamieson Park - not enclosed - right next to Barrenjoey road
5. Dolphin Park - not enclosed - limited equipment for young children
6. Illuka Park - not enclosed - limited equipment - next to Barrenjoey Road
7. Avalon Beach Park - not enclosed - equipment is limited and not suitable for babies or toddlers
8. Dunbar Park - not enclosed - recently renovated however, limited equipment for babies or toddlers

It would be an excellent as well as healthy and safe investment for families and their respective community for Northern Beaches Council to please upgrade at least one or two of the said parks with playground equipment that is:

1. fenced or enclosed AND
2. has increased shaded areas (either by wind sales or planting of trees) AND
3. upgraded baby and toddler friendly equipment.

Examples of parks that demonstrate the above requests include:

1. Newport Park , OR
2. Village Park in Mona Vale

There are so many reasons why a project like this should become a priority.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Enjoy your long weekend!

Thank you.

Kind regards,



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| 58 | <p>the northern beaches could really do with more community gardens. COVID restrictions or not, it's hard to manage more than 30 people working in the garden at the same time and it's not always possible to find meaningful tasks for that many people.</p> <p>We currently have over 60 memberships (some individual but many household) and the number is increasing just about every week. It's actually fortunate that most people don't attend weekly, some only occasionally, and some never. Because all of our beds are communal, we are always accepting new members. However, if memberships continue to increase at the current rate, at some point the numbers could become out of control. (I'm expressing my personal opinion here, not something that our committee has discussed.)</p> <p>So I'd be happy if Council could locate a few new locations for gardens and try to find enthusiastic people to manage them. [REDACTED], 20.10.20</p> |
| 59 | <p>Note. The above request to allocate parks for community gardens for the future was suggested several times in the Community Garden Guidelines community engagement process. In response people were told it would be reviewed as part of this strategy.</p> |
| 60 | <p>Topic: Open Space and Recreation Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support/request for an entrance/gateway that acknowledges the park as a war memorial. Would like an archway, steel is fine. Aware that the archway would need to be tall enough to fit trucks through, e.g. Rural Fire Service. Prefer an archway rather than pillars/statues as the gateway. • Support/request for a shelter that can be used during Anzac Day services and by others at other times, e.g. for bands. Would like a rotunda rather than a contemporary design. Pillars to include historical inscriptions, e.g. history of Manly Dam, history of the Remembrance Trust. • Would like soldiers names integrated into the boardwalk/pathways linking picnic area 1 to areas 2 and 3. |
| 61 | <p>Footpath to Manly Dam Dear Council Staff, Could you please ask the relevant council officer to look into putting a footpath along the road that leads to Manly Warringah Memorial Dam/Park from Manly Vale.</p> <p>This weekend I was walking on Fathers Day and to my horror I saw so many people walking in the middle of the road with prams and also toddlers riding their bikes. Cars were going around them and the parents presumed that the cars would be doing 20km however most were travelling at 50km.</p> <p>With the corona virus more and more people are choosing to walk here from the area. The council has done a wonderful job with the new park area and I sincerely hope you can send an officer to observe the pedestrian facilities along the road that leads to the dam.</p> <p>Most people who know the area stand against the bushes when a car goes by but when two cars pass you are almost trapped.</p> <p>Many visitors are not aware of the danger. At present the only access is by walking on the road.</p> |

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| 62 | <p>I have moved into this area in April, and have been using this small court for some time, which I think is fantastic, at the same time it could use a bit of renovation. The idea is to develop this small basketball court into a half court for 3x3 basketball, and make it a bit more approachable for everyone. It would help the fitness of everyone around this park area as well as people who come to it. It is a beautiful little piece of land, where kids as well as parents come to enjoy it. There is fitness, there is sport, there is life here.</p> |
| 63 | <p>Wondering whether the formalising of trails near Forestville Park is something that can be heroed.</p> <p>We are looking for a venue to run some XC-style races in a safe environment.</p> |
| 64 | <p>Customer would like basketball hoops at Keirle Park, Aitken reserve & Lagoon Park please inspect Nolan hoop also gets very busy please contact customer</p> |
| 65 | <p>Hi there, this is the first time I've ever contacted the council regarding a request.</p> <p>I've lived in Balgowlah for all of my 39 years. My parents and grandparents have lived here much longer than that.</p> <p>Each time I walk my children to North Harbour Reserve to play basketball, I have noticed this area always occupied. There really isn't any other within walking distance.</p> <p>I was hoping the council would entertain the idea of a basketball ring being installed at Balgowlah oval, the one off Sydney Road next to the golf course. It's always been a fairly neglected park. This could bring a bit more life to the area, as well as preventing the congestion at North Harbour Reserve.</p> <p>Here's hoping this email finds the right person.</p> <p>Thanks and kind regards</p> <p>██████████</p> |
| 66 | <p>Hi Jess, Thanks for your time this morning discussing ██████████ and how it can hopefully assist with the future planning for tennis in collaboration with Northern Beaches Council. As discussed, I've attached some of the documentation we went over today:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sample Venue Sustainability Rating report for a club/venue 2. Council Proposal document used by TNSW to partner with an LGA ██████████ 3. Working draft of the current venue tiers across NSW* 4. Working draft of the current management model definitions* <p>*please note these are likely to continue to evolve further and are not yet complete.</p> <p>As ██████████ mentioned, we see this process as hopefully an ongoing relationship where we can provide the relevant expertise and advice to assist Northern Beaches Council in the sustainability of their tennis footprint.</p> <p>I'll make sure to include Mark and yourself in the initial plans for our ██████████ report presentation in the coming weeks once we finalise the data. If you have any questions in the meantime, please just let me know. Regards,</p> <p>██████████</p> |

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| 67 | <p>Dear Northern Beaches Council, an indoor skatepark named Warehouse 11 located at 11 Campbell St, Artarmon NSW 2064 has just recently closed leaving the young people of Sydney with almost no indoor young people leisure facilities in the area. We believe that if we could have one built not far from Forestville the place and livability of our suburb would increase drastically. We have also noted that as young people get bored due to the lack of entertainment they tend to start making a dangerous and stupid decision such as smoking and vandalism. Recently there have been an incredible amount of people stopping their games and coming to skateboard and scooter but many are slowly losing interest and are looking for better skateparks. Now, we are also well aware of corona and the danger present but if social distancing rules are applied and only a certain amount of people let in the danger can be reduced to almost nothing. Regarding the safety of the people, we would recommend rules on safety equipment such as helmets and kneepads. Several requests have asked for a resi (a wooden ramp with a foot of foam or padding) to allow riders to send hard tricks without hurting themselves.</p> |
| 68 | <p>Due to the high rate of skin cancer in Australia, I believe more outdoor areas should have large shade sails over them. Especially at the warringah aquatic centre. Don't take my word for it, ask cancer council. Most of the damage to skin is done before the age of 12. Council has a responsibility and duty of care.</p> |

69

To be able to continue running monthly club rounds with flexibility on dates if one weekend has to be postponed. • Current issues

- o Keeping the beaches open during the Covid-19 pandemic was valued and appreciated. However when other councils closed their beaches there was larger number of surfers from out of the area going to the Northern Beaches to surf.
- o Each of our contacts came back with the same feedback of not having a storage space for their clubs equipment. There have been multiple times that clubs have reached out to local Surf Life Saving Clubs for some space for storage and they have been denied each time. There's a bit of frustration there especially that boardriders is a year round thing and Surf life Saving is the summer season only.
- o Parking and parking costs

• Ideas for locational improvements

- o Storage and facility spaces available for boardriders and coaches at Surf Clubs. At the moment each club has to store their equipment in a trailer and leave it at one of their members houses. They then need to take it down to each club round and leave it in and pay for a car spot.
- o Boardriders to have flexibility on dates and beach use for monthly club rounds if they need.

Continue coaching

Increasing memberships

Better fundraising and sponsorship for BRC's.

Putting current members through Surfers Rescue courses to keep up skilling surfers to help rescue people in the water and on the beach.

North Steyne BRC continued to run their monthly round by enforcing strict guidelines during Covid-19. They had an online component with their competitors having to come down one at a time in their own coloured shirt then went home straight away.

Beach visitor guidelines and wave etiquette signage

"Safe surf zones" potential for a flagged area away from the main break for beginner surfers.

More recognition from councils and the community of what a boardriders club provides eg mental health, shaping future athletes, inclusion, strong sense of community, saving lives and equality.

70

Thank you for the opportunity, and my apologies for not answering sooner. [REDACTED] did answer as the Warringah amateur Association, as [REDACTED] for our district and he has all the clubs official numbers and can give you all the information that you may require.

For Northern Beaches Swim Club:-

Our numbers were stable for this year (2019) due to a number of members performing in the arts and water polo competitions. this was after a huge growth the year before of double numbers. 120-240.

We would like to see an improvement to the Freshwater Clubhouse, ideally with shelving in the very untidy store room, which is never kept clean and tidy. Freshwater did do a great job of cleaning and sorting before the season began, however as the weeks rolled on it becomes less so. As we share this space and are the "new comers" it is not our place to tidy their equipment and feel if there were shelves it would make it easier for equipment to be off the floor space. The showers' and toilet in that area are really not for anyone's use, and leave a lot to be desired.

It would be nice to see a path for the disabled , so they didn't have to be carried down the stairs to the pool. This would need to start at the top outside the main entrance and meet up the exciting path (which has small steps) to the main path to the pool. this would then give wheelchair access from the carpark to the pool and savethe long walk down the stairs.

Our Rock pools are amazing and we thank the council for your continued upgrade and maintenance of these wonderful facilities, which enable all members of the public to enjoy the pleasure of swimming and competing in a safe environment.

Again my apologies for not getting back to you sooner.

[REDACTED]

71

I am the [REDACTED] for the Pittwater Branch of Sailability NSW. We sail out of the pontoon at Rowland's Reserve every second Wednesday and Saturday from September through to May. This years season was curtailed for obvious reasons. We have a building for the storage of our equipment and materials in the council compound at the reserve.

We take people with disabilities sailing covering ambulant and wheelchair bound people. We have participants from school age up to senior citizens with disabilities with a wide range of disabilities including autism, cerebral palsy, paraplegia and a number of groups with intellectual disabilities. We cater to groups, individuals as well as Fisher road School and a class from Pittwater High School.

There are no paid positions in our branch and our funding comes from the \$10 we charge for adults and \$5 for children which covers our running costs. If we need additional equipment we apply for grants from local community organisations however we haven't needed to do so in the last two years.

Our membership numbers are steady with two or three leaving and two or three new volunteers each year. Our volunteers ages are skewed towards the senior citizens with our average age of volunteers in our branch sixty-nine years old made up of both sailors and non sailors. We are always looking for younger volunteers - just in case you know someone looking for a volunteering opportunity. The numbers of participants on any given day can vary widely from six to thirty four depending on the time of year, the weather and school holiday's.

At times we have to turn potential participants away. We have four boats and can manage thirty two with sailing volunteers getting a reasonable break. We would like to run every Wednesday to provide the opportunity for more people to participate but would require more volunteers as we don't have enough volunteers prepared to do every Wednesday.

The current issue we have is also the idea for locational improvement. The existing amenities do have disabled toilets but they were built over thirty years ago and thinking and design for disabled facilities has progressed a great deal since then. The issues we have are as follows;

1. The existing facility is quite a distance from where we sail. This means a wheelchair participant has to be loaded into a vehicle to be taken there. With some of the groups this can leave them short of trained carers while one is away.
2. The existing disabled facilities are accessed via the male and female toilets. This can cause a problem when a female carer takes a disabled male to the toilet. Modern facilities tend to have unisex disabled toilets.
3. There is no suitable change area for wheelchair bound adults. Sailing means sometimes participants get wet and changing their clothes can be problematical. This is sometimes a disincentive to participation.

Overall the area at Rowland's Reserve is a great place for us to conduct our sailing. The area is well managed and maintained by the council. The council also provides us with fifteen parking passes each year for the use of volunteers and participants for which we are most grateful. Issues we have raised regarding maintenance of the toilet facilities and grounds have always been promptly attended to.

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| 72 | <p>Our vision centres on increasing bowling participation, continuing to be financially viable and improving the amenity. Would like to have the fig trees pruned but appreny there is an embargo on doing so</p> <p>We have benefited from opportunities to partner with other local organisations and will continue to grow and expand these relationships. For example, Probus meet monthly at the Club. Newport Fishing Club holds a monthly weigh in and barbecue, Weight Watchers meets weekly. These developments are relatively recent.</p> <p>Through our 200+ social members we have been able to attract private functions such as birthdays, anniversaries, wakes. We have hosted well attended annual presentation events for other groups such as Newport Board Riders.</p> |
| 73 | <p>I refer to an email forwarded to me by one of our other walkers which she received from [REDACTED] and apologise for the delay in replying to the Open Space Strategy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our group varies from 6 to 15 walkers 2. Some form of seating would be good to use for morning tea 3. Toilets 4. Bells to be compulsory for bike riders |
| 74 | <p>Warringah Triathlon Club is happy using parks around the LGA. Support for outdoor fitness equipment at various locations. Need for a space to hold club meetings</p> |
| 75 | <p>The playground equipment in Florence Park Reserve Newport needs updating and upgrading.</p> <p>It is unsuitable for children under 8 years. The ladder is too tall for safe play. There is not enough equipment. It needs to be fenced as it is near both water and a busy road.</p> |
| 76 | <p>Good Morning</p> <p>Please can Council review a park upgrade at the below address https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/recreation-area/minmai-reserve</p> <p>With many young children and families in this street, having a local park with more than a swing set would be great for the community</p> <p>There is a playing monkey-bar set, from the original park, which is a great original item (please keep!) however there is plenty of room for an upgrade with more equipment</p> <p>Thank you for your prompt consideration</p> <p>Kind Regards, [REDACTED]</p> |
| 77 | <p>Hi there,</p> <p>I'm not sure if I'm in the right area but I was wondering if there could be a possibility to upgrade the Ramsay Playground in Ramsay St Collaroy. It's very outdated & looking a little tired. Would be lovely to see an upgrade with a table to entertain. We live across the road from it & would love to use it more but my children are getting a little bored with it.</p> <p>If it could be considered that would be fabulous!!!</p> <p>Thanks, [REDACTED]</p> |
| 78 | <p>I am writing to request a swing set for the Rickard Street playground - While this is our closest playground I think it is one of the most sad playgrounds around</p> |

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| 79 | <p>As a long-term Collaroy resident, I am writing in the hope Council can assist in overcoming the lack of tennis courts at Collaroy Tennis Centre.</p> <p>Since the old Court Sportz complex in Cromer and a number of other public courts have closed, it has become almost impossible for the Collaroy Tennis Centre to meet the growing demand from northern beaches residents for court hire and lessons.</p> <p>The complex is extremely well run by the Evolve Tennis team and Collaroy Tennis Club, which has helped lift the overall standard of tennis on the northern beaches.</p> <p>The tennis centre provides an important sporting and social outlet for residents of all ages and tennis ability.</p> <p>The problem is that it's become so popular that it's now almost impossible to book a court for casual play or lessons either before or after school. In fact the courts are now mostly full even during school hours.</p> <p>There is ample room to the south just behind the existing centre to add another two or three courts.</p> <p>If Council was willing to part fund the building of additional courts, I'm sure local residents and players would raise funds to assist.</p> <p>I urge Council to consider this request.</p> |
| 80 | <p>My name is [REDACTED], I'm a resident living at [REDACTED], Cromer. I just wanted to touch base with Council regarding a couple of issues that have come to my attention.</p> <p>The first one is the condition of the nature strip on our street – please see the photos below. You can see that it's extremely worn, and it's basically made up of a dirt path where overuse by pedestrians has killed the grass. This continues up the street.</p> <p>Campbell Avenue is a busy pedestrian thoroughfare for many people, who use the street to access Cromer High, Cromer Park, Pittwater House, the playground on Campbell Avenue, the Post Box, as well as two pedestrian public pathways located at the ends of Michele Road and Campbell Avenue. I have highlighted points of interest in the map below. Since moving here recently, I am really surprised that the footpath ends on the corner of South Creek Road, when it's clear this area is heavily used by pedestrians. I also wanted to query when the playground on Campbell Avenue (lime pentagon in above map) will be earmarked for an upgrade? It is a lovely big space, which allows users to play a range of extensive activities like cricket etc. However, the playground itself is quite dated and limiting to children who need to climb!</p> |
| 81 | <p>Upgrade playground</p> <p>In the neighborhood we want to stay more local because of COVID and wanted to request an upgrade of the Wedgewood Reserve playground in Beacon Hill. The current facilities are good but it could benefit from some additional equipment as there is an increasing number of families in Beacon Hill south of Warringah Rd. The large playground at BH is too hard to access with small children. The community is developing a lot around the area and we would benefit from a safe playground where many kids can play at the same time.</p> |

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| 82 | <p>JAMES MEEHAN RESERVE PARK - that park is in a perfect location, has a natural shelter from the sun but I find a "sad" park ... not much to play, and ate car the soil/floor is so deep that my daugter cannot get in by herself. It has so much potential ... also, it would be nice if the walking area along Dee Why to Narrabeen would be a bit more wide. Investigate bringing this park forward in the upgrade schedule due to the higher density in Dee Why and the young families living in home units there.</p> <p>- WATER GORS - what a great park. My kids love it. But, the water park starts a bit too late. 10am is almost the worst sun and is near lunch time for most kids. I also would like to be a bit more sheltered from the sun and would be great if would have fences. Investigate running the water feature outside the hot times of the day during summer (As it operates as a water play feature)</p> <p>- DEE WHY OVAL- It is a huge and empty spot. Has so much potential for a bigger and great kids park + skate area, volley net, basket ball ... Investigate installing tables and chairs beside the pathway to encourage active informal use of the open space.</p> |
| 83 | <p>I am looking at a property purchase in [REDACTED], Belose. I have been looking at some maps and I see an area marked as Perentie Park down the bottom of the street leading on to the national park. However, at this time there is nothing in that area except grass/trees.</p> <p>As it is a large area that has been mapped as Perentie Park, are there plans to develop this area into a playground or bike tracks or any other type of development?</p> <p>The Council officer I spoke to confirmed it is Council land so I am hopeful that you could kindly give me some insight into plans for that area.</p> |
| 84 | <p>It appears that the plan of management is very outdated and that no landscape masterplan exists for the park either. The park is a former landfill and is covered with Lantana and other weeds. Some of the tip material is exposed including glassware and china pieces.</p> <p>I have spoken to some of my fellow residents and there is a consensus that the park needs a masterplan, rework, vegetation management and added facilities, especially for children. The vegetation needs urgent attention as the park is upstream of Burnt Creek and is likely a source of weed seed downstream.</p> |
| 85 | <p>Infrastructure Maintenance - See attached letter. I'm a huge fan of the developments around the Lionel Watts Oval - really happy generally with the ongoing improvements and those made over the past 2 years. However, there's on aspect that I really miss - and I missed it from the start - which is a) the lack of basketball courts, and b) how poorly maintained they are. I noticed this already in the past, but given Covid and the increased usage of outdoor space, my disappointment in the situation has only increased. I'm attaching 4 photos I took yesterday (Sunday) late afternoon when I wanted to take my 9yo out for a play - and here are my observations: - There 5 dedicated netball courts (or 10 half courts), but only 1 court for basketball (2 half-courts) - No action on netball courts - 2 parties played basketball on the netball court due to lack of alternatives (me and my son included) - 1 hoop on the basketball court was missing completely (broken off?) - the other hoop was the only one playable, [REDACTED]</p> |

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| 86 | <p>There is a lack of bike tracks locally for riders in northern beaches specifically Balgowlah heights as the closest jump spot is a twenty minute drive to bare creek and the grove is eroded and slightly too advanced for some riders. It would be great if their was a spot put in near Tania park that would meet most levels of riders from people just starting the sport too fairly advanced riders this would be appreciated or as an alternative some land dedicated to local riders so that they can progress and create their own bike track of a variety of skill levels.</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p> |
| 87 | <p>Could I please request some playground equipment be erected in Fielding reserve as there are a number of children in the street that would utilise it.</p> |
| 88 | <p>My 14 year old son is a keen basketballer and asked me to reach out to you to see if we could get a meaningful conversation with Councils Open Space & Recreation team to discuss the possibility of the provision of a ½ Multi Use Court for basketball / handball, futsal and soccer goal within Council owned land in or around Killarney Heights Oval.</p> <p>Key reasons for the ½ Multi Court facility in this proposed location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of Killarney Heights is over 1km distance to Melwood Sports Precinct where only one Basketball court is available. • All the available Basketball Courts @ the High School & Primary School are not open at night or week ends / school holidays • Killarney Heights has no public accessible Basketball Court, let a long a half court • Highly visible and in an active sports area good CPTED principle • Most of the site is over 50m away from residents who can complain about the ball noise <p>If it helps we could get a petition together.</p> <p>See attached a map of the area from near map & an example of a small ½ court set up. We use them often in parks we do. They need about 6m 2 of hardstand in front of the hoop / goals.</p> <p>Happy to discuss on site once we are out of lockdown.</p> <p>It would also be good to look at the run down amenities block / change room that has seen better days!</p> |

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| 89 | <p>ps.my husband and I have each a home office and outside our window the boy next door and a few friends bounces and shoots his basketball for hrs.We have lived here for many yrs prior to them.Can we have a court built at Quilpie park and or next to Freshwater Highscl.Many young families would connect and benefit noise wise if we shared the court space around.I is unbearable.Cannot do skype meetings and teach music with constant thumping and yelling. Do we have any noise pollution rights to restrict to certain hrs days for a compromise?thanks [REDACTED]</p> <p>On Wed, 23 Mar 2022 at 09:22, Therese McMullan <theresemcmullan93@gmail.com> wrote: Basketball is a rapidly growing sport.Can we have some indoor courts/or half at nrth manly Bowling club and some outdoor also asap. Pickleball in the day for seniors is taking off as well.Any chance of a craft/music room for women in the day to create items for charity?Happy as help as semi-retired highschl Art/Music teacher and good and bringing lonely older folk together .A verandah cover outdoor ?covid friendlier area is vital also asap. We will need a large cupboard to store our craft/art resources.I help run one in manly and we have a wait list so great need for a womens shed !We could be leading the way as the 1st cool council with a 'womens shed'I asked for at inclusion day council ran.kind regards [REDACTED]</p> |
| 90 | <p>I have completed the form and wish to accentuate the desire to have safer walking areas in some of the reserves and trails. I have spoken to my group of other bush care volunteers and we were in agreement that the use of bicycles along the Narrabeen Lakes trail has put us off walking there. Walking along with the constant stress of bicycles whizzing past negates the value of the exercise. There must be a way to provide space for both. Strange dogs lumbering along off leash with the owner far behind is also a hazard. Both these issues occur at the Warriewood Wetlands as well. If we can arrive at a good solution to these issues, I am convinced that more residents would get out and become or remain active for a longer and healthier time.</p> |

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| 91 | <p>Hello, I am writing to you today about the basketball courts at melwood oval in forestville. We need another basketball court, whenever I try to go up and just shoot around the one court that is always taken and there are usually people shooting with basketballs on the netball rims. When the renovations were done in the past, I questioned the decision to put 5 netball courts to 1 basketball court, especially when the netball club lived on 2 courts for so long. During the course of the year, the basketball courts get way more use as it is a good family activity that can be done by everyone, the netball courts however, are only used by the club, the rest of the time it's just a general purpose surface which a basketball court would do the same job. The only time the netball rims are used other than the season are just people with basketballs waiting for the court to be free. There should be one more basketball court and have a 2:1 ratio of netball to basketball which is what it was originally before the renovations. On top of the lack of availability, the basketball hoops arent of the best quality either, as 5 netball courts wasn't enough apparently, the basketball hoops had to be reversible to have a netball ring as well, since the basketball hoops are on a swivel, they are constantly being moved and misaligned from the center of the court so the basketball hoop we do have isnt even straight. You might say that I should just share the court with the families that are there, but if everyone shares, the court just gets way too crowded and annoying, especially since there are 5 free courts being unused.</p> <p>In conclusion, during the non-netball times the netball courts are never being used, the one basketball court always seems to have people using it and the one basketball court we have doesnt even have the rims aligned properly(they are also at different heights to each other).</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, I don't know how much effort this would take or what your priorities are but to me it seems as simple as a paint job and installation of 2 rims.</p> |
| 92 | <p>Hi there</p> <p>My 11yr old son is a super keen basketball player He would like to write a letter to Council requesting their consideration for one or two half basketball courts to be built at Plateau Park, Collaroy Plateau</p> <p>Could you advise please who this letter should be addressed to please, or if an alternate email is more appropriate?</p> <p>Thanks very much</p> <p>██████</p> <p>██████████</p> |
| 93 | <p>Just wondering if the council has considered providing additional amenity in the Bayview Baths Park adjacent Gibsons Marina on Pittwater Road? The park provides a lovely place to stop for the many locals walking along the waters edge as well as cyclists and visitors. The addition of some passive equipment for exercise such as pull up bars would not seen expensive or require any significant maintenance and would provide health benefits to residents.</p> |

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| 94 | <p>Hi, my name is [REDACTED] and I strongly agree the the people of curl curl dee why and harbord will love to see an ash felt pump track in the local community centre next to the skate park in curl curl.</p> <p>Me and some mates were building some mountain bike trails but it kept on getting knocked down. The little kids loved and and improved the skills on the jumps they are getting out doors and staying healthy and fit, they get out side and I see them do the jumps, a ash felt pump track is not only for bikes but suitable for skating, scooters and builds the community to come out doors and exercise.</p> <p>Not only little kids ride the pump track. but the pump track serves many age groups, there so many football fields around that u guys have to maintain but the pump track is a much lower price to maintain, for a example its ash felt, and easy to maintain, if dirt is on the track get a heavy duty broom and sweep the dirt of before ride. the community of curl curl will enjoy something to ride instead of traveling 45 mins to the recently built Bare Creek, Bike Park belrose witch concluded a sweet ash felt pump track.</p> |
| 95 | <p>Hi,</p> <p>I am curious to know a little more about this land and what it is used for?</p> <p>The reason I am curious is because I'd like to know if we could potentially write a petition to use this land for an adult exercise gym area. Walter Gors Park is used for children and the space is not large enough for bringing healthy adults together to move their bodies. The outdoor gym at Manly Lagoon is a fantastic use of space and gets quite crowded along the bars, however not many people use the "bike and elliptical" station, the shoulder rotational station etc. If there had been two of those stations I believe it would be a much better use of space. Additionally there are no water stations. If we increase the amount of horizontal bars in the area (such as the one's like bondi) it would attract more people outdoors and utilise the space. I'd love to see a community in Dee Why for this use of unused space.</p> <p>Keen to hear your thoughts,</p> |
| 96 | <p>Good Afternoon I am 13 years old and my Name is [REDACTED] I am a resident of the Northern Beaches Council and as a resident I would like to have a basketball ring or court and the park called Wyatt Reserve in Belrose because during this period of time I would like to have a basketball ring near me to be able to play Thank you for understanding this situation and I hope you can arrange something for this matter</p> |

97

To whom it may concern:

In light of the Boomer's recent bronze medal that inspired so many, I would love to see more outdoor basketball hoops in the northern beaches area to make the great game more accessible to kids (and adults) of all ages.

Having moved to Freshwater from [REDACTED], I have found it difficult to find a place just to go and shoot around by myself or with my kids. There are only a few public courts that I have found within a 10 minute drive of our home. Many of them are quite busy at the times the kids are available to go shoot. This is not only a deterrent for young kids to have much larger kids/adults running around them, but with 5 or more basketballs flying at any given time as many people try to share a court, it can also increase injury-risk. Compared to the US, public courts are much more difficult to find, which makes sense given the sports relative popularity. However, I have noticed that the basketball courts we do go to most frequently (John Fisher Park and Nolan Reserve) have become busier in the 3 years since we moved here. As basketball continues to grow in popularity in Australia, it would be great to see more options in the area.

While there are a very large number of netball courts at John Fisher reserve, there is only one halfcourt basketball court that is pretty much always occupied. I would love if a couple of the netball courts utilized the rotating tower type setup so they could be multi-faceted.

Basketball is a great team sport, but can also be a fun solo activity as kids look to improve. As basketball's popularity continues to grow in Australia, I am quite sure that additional basketball hoops would definitely be well-used by the community.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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| 98 | <p>The Northern Beaches needs more open-access outdoor basketball courts / half courts! Basketball is one of the most popular sports in the world with an estimated 450 million players. Australia is no exception to this popularity - our Boomers and Opals men's and women's teams are renowned for punching way above their weight. Basketball's popularity and player-base are diverse – Sydney courts are routinely busy with people of all ages from both poorer and wealthier backgrounds. This melting pot of different backgrounds and cultures on courts has benefits for all participants, fostering invaluable friendships and even role-models for vulnerable young Aussies. Despite all this, Basketball still seems woefully on the beaches.</p> <p>Near where I live as an example, in the suburbs of Freshwater, Manly, Curl Curl, Dee Why and Warringah, there are only a few outdoor courts that are open-access which are usually seriously overcrowded. It is not uncommon to see a single half-court simultaneously playing host to a high intensity 'three on three game' of fully grown adults, a parent-child pair learning to shoot the ball and another individual practicing shooting. While these hoopers always go to great lengths to accommodate one-another, it still poses a safety risk to have so many different balls and bodies moving around in a tight space. While Covid has discouraged hoopers from playing contact games, it hasn't weakened our appetite for shooting, and the dangers of overcrowding are even more obvious at a time when social distancing is a health priority.</p> <p>Basketball courts are a force for good in our communities, they are relatively low cost to develop and maintain, are space efficient and have broad appeal. Courts offer a healthy, inexpensive exercise outlet for people from all walks of life, however are dangerously overcrowded on the beaches.</p> <p>Please fix this problem and build more open-access outdoor courts!</p> |
| 99 | <p>I really enjoy walking - it is great when the areas of nature are connected with paths/stairs. It is wonderful to be able to connect from one nature patch to another. Maintaining wildlife corridors and preservation of wildlife is very important. The Northern Beaches is a fantastic place - really appreciate the ecreational infastruture. Think that connection with access for walkers between locations is probably my biggest suggestion.</p> |
| 100 | <p>"Council must develop a strategy which accommodates the recreational needs of present and future generations without sacrificing bushland. This strategy must include provision for acquiring land for active and passive recreation, including acquisition of privately owned local bushland."</p> <p>Long submission please see linked TRIM</p> |

Larger written submissions below



Submission to Northern Beaches Council in respect of Northern Beaches Open Space and recreation strategy

I am the President of the Northern Beaches Pickleball Association Inc. It is a not-for-profit Association.

I refer to the Report to the Ordinary Council meeting dated 24 September 2019 where there appears the following statement (amended to reflect a typographical error as per my discussion with Mark Wilson):

“Sport plays a vital part in the physical well-being of the Northern Beaches Community and also the social fabric of the community. Facilitating fit for purpose netball facilities at an appropriate location will not only benefit the netball clubs but will also provide other potential users such as Pickleball the opportunity to play and connect rather than pursuing more isolated sedentary pursuits”.

Our Association is desperate to play the game of pickleball on outside flexi pave courts or similar surfaces on the Northern Beaches. Consistent with the above statement, we submit that some existing outdoor and future sporting facilities should also be marked out for pickleball courts in a similar way to how indoor complexes have catered for netball, basketball and badminton.

We agree with Council that multi-use of existing and future outdoor facilities to include pickleball is logical and opens up the use of outdoor facilities to many residents on the Northern Beaches who would otherwise have no reason to use the facilities. We find that many of our members are retirees who are looking for an activity during the week at times when it is unlikely that the netball courts would be in use.

Councils in the Sydney metropolitan area which have embraced the game of pickleball by marking up existing outdoor sporting facilities include Cumberland City, Parramatta, Hornsby, Lane Cove and Ryde. We are asking Northern Beaches Council to also embrace the game.

Pickleball is a very social game and gives residents who may be lonely and isolated a chance to participate in a community activity. It is also a good cross generational game and appeals to all cultures and ethnic groups.

Our Association is open to anyone to join and we can provide coaching for beginners at no cost. The membership fee to join the Association will be minimal; enough to cover insurance, wear and tear on equipment and annual registration fees to the Government.

About Pickleball

Pickleball is a game played either indoors or out, as singles or doubles, on a court the size of a badminton court over a low tennis-style net. It is played with a paddle made from wood, graphite, or aluminium and a light, plastic whiffle ball a bit larger than a tennis ball but with holes. The scoring takes you through to eleven and the winners must be ahead by two. Because the games are relatively short, players waiting in the wings for a court are assured of a game without much delay.

Invented on Bainbridge Island, Seattle some 50 years ago by Barney McCallum and a group of sports-crazy friends, it was initially played with wooden paddles a bit larger than a ping-pong bat. In fact, the game is a mixture of tennis, badminton and ping-pong and as such is highly favoured, and easily learned by players of these and other bat-and-ball sports. Little did the inventors know that forty years later the sport would boast millions of players across four continents.

This short video will give you a good introduction to the game:

<https://youtu.be/kqLRRNOpe8U>

Pickleball has become the fastest growing game in the United States of America and Canada and some are predicting that the sport will make its debut at the Olympic Games as early as 2028.

Pickleball commenced in Queensland a few years ago and is now played in all States of Australia. In Sydney, it is played in indoor sporting complexes at Ryde, The Rocks, Five Dock, Hornsby, Dee Why, Wahroonga, Riverwood, Tarren Point, Seven Hills to name a few.

Our Club

Our Club was incorporated in August last year and now has 65 members and will continue to grow (when play can resume). We anticipate that by the end of the year, we will have at least 80 to 100 active members.

The Gold Coast Pickleball Club has over 170 members and that was formed about 15 months ago. We see the sport expanding at the same rate on the Northern Beaches.

Limited Venues on the Northern Beaches

Whilst the game has attracted a number of young people, we are having difficulty in providing venues at night and on the weekends to meet their needs.

As the game of pickleball is played on the size of a badminton court, we have only been able to identify two centres on the Northern Beaches where the game can be played. They are the sporting complex at Dee Why (PCYC) and the Avalon Recreation Centre. We have indicated to Council our intention to play night pickleball at the Beacon Hill Memorial Hall when that complex is available for use.

We have deliberately refrained from marketing the game as we find that these centres are limited in court availability and playing times. We have found that we now have to limit numbers at these venues which is very disappointing.

Whilst a majority of our members are retired, there are some very enthusiastic younger members playing the game as well.

Current Times of Play

Dee Why PCYC: 4 courts 9am - 11am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays, with limited numbers.

Avalon Recreation Centre: School Holidays - 3 Courts between 9am - 11am on Wednesdays (numbers limited to 16). Saturday mornings (numbers limited to 16).

Pickleball is mostly played outdoors in America. There is no doubt that playing pickleball outdoors on the Northern Beaches is more desirable than an indoor location.

Health and Well-being

We believe that playing pickleball would greatly improve the physical and mental health of residents. It is a game that can be played at all levels and by all ages (8 to 88 years) and which gives you a whole body workout. Playing pickleball would particularly benefit our older residents for the following reasons:

- It is easy to play, very social and less stressful on muscles, tendons and joints than other bat and ball sports. Everyone is welcome to play, from the complete beginner to the advanced player.
- Being a weight-bearing exercise, it improves muscle and joint strength. This assists in reducing the loss of muscle mass which occurs during the ageing process.
- It gives you a good cardio workout which causes the brain to release endorphins and consequently reduces stress.
- It improves brain function, because the game requires strategy, reflexes and quick thinking.
- It improves balance and agility.
- It improves cardiovascular health.

It is a good, safe physical exercise which compliments beach activities.

Tourism

We have had several visitors from America, Canada and the United Kingdom wishing to play pickleball on the Northern Beaches during their stay in Australia. We have also had visitors from other States of Australia particularly from Queensland.

The Future

We see pickleball becoming a major sport on the Northern Beaches particularly for retirees. We find that as the game is less demanding on the body than tennis, squash, and badminton, many of these players are turning to pickleball for recreation. Some of our members, who have never played these racket sports, are able to enjoy the game immediately.

What We Propose

Consistent with Council's philosophy on the multi-use of its outdoor sporting complexes, we propose some of its existing and approved sporting complexes be marked up for outdoor pickleball.

Pickleball nets are portable and a court does not require special posts or postholes, thus not interfering with other court users.

Possible future outdoor venues for pickleball include:

- North Harbour in Condamine Street, Balgowlah
- LM Graham Reserve in Kenneth Road, Manly
- North Curl Curl Community Centre
- Newport Tennis Courts
- Other Council owned tennis courts
- Council owned netball courts at Avalon and Curl Curl
- Council owned (to be constructed) half basketball court at Avalon (agreed to be marked up)

In relation to tennis courts, it is possible to place three pickleball courts on one tennis court depending on size.

In relation to netball courts, it is possible to place four pickleball courts on one netball court.

In relation to basketball, it is possible to place four pickleball courts on one basketball court.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone 0408 888 695 or by email at libnjohn@bigpond.net.au should you require any further information or wish to arrange a meeting.

Yours Faithfully,

Mark,

Thanks for the opportunity to provide input. Please see responses below as they pertain to my NBBA coaching business, plus a little bit of my observations (not official) on the Manly Warringah Basketball Association as it relates to my involvement with them. Hope I haven't rambled too much.

- **Membership/participant numbers:**
 - Through the Northern Beaches Basketball Academy - July 2019 to date:
 - Coach 12 teams consisting of 95 players (1 private, 7 High School, 2 Primary School & 2 club teams). 9 of these teams participate in competitions run by the Manly Warringah Basketball Association, using a combination of school, Council and Council supported (Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Centre & Dee Why PCYC) facilities.
 - 61 sessions of learn to play and Sporting Schools clinics at 9 primary schools (25-35 kids per session)
 - 8 private session kids
 - Weekly learn to play clinics x 2 for Manly Warringah Basketball Association(MWBA) at the Council supported Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Centre. (20-60 kids per session).
 - School Holiday & Representative Camps for Manly Warringah Basketball Association. (12 days with 80-145 kids per day).
- **Is membership/participation in your program/competition growing, declining or static:**
 - Definitely growing. When I first started coaching basketball 5 years ago, I had 1 x 1 hour session per week. Business has steadily grown to today's 28 training sessions, clinics & games per week for up to 33 hours per week during school terms.
- **Current issues:**
 - I believe there to be a distinct lack of both outdoor basketball courts for casual usage and indoor courts for more formal individual & team training and competitions.
 - From my involvement with MWBA, I know the numbers playing are significantly growing. I understand that they are having to turn players and teams away from their local competitions due to a lack of suitable indoor basketball courts. For a more complete picture and numbers on the growth of basketball on the Northern Beaches, you should refer to the MWBA as they are the largest basketball organisation within the Council area.
- **Vision and opportunities for the future:**
 - There seems to be a definite opportunity for the Council to fill the growing demand for basketball facilities, both outdoor and indoor.
 - The creation of another indoor basketball hub, like the Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Centre, located at the southern end of the Council area, would fill a void that has not been filled by the multi-use Dee Why PCYC and could be constructed at a fraction of the cost of the PCYC if the principle of function over form was used in its design.
 - With regard to vision, as with many things in life, it would be great if the supply of appropriate facilities of all types, including basketball, was ahead of the demand curve instead of being behind it. Otherwise there will be individuals lost to various sporting and other opportunities they could have otherwise enjoyed.

- **Ideas for locational improvements (sports specific/general):**

- There is a trend towards schools and Councils, either installing new or refurbishing old, outdoor basketball courts and using soft artificial turf instead of using a traditional hardcourt surface. Like the recently installed court adjacent to Weldon Oval. This type of surface is it is not suitable for bouncing/dribbling basketballs. It makes it harder for kids to play on, with less enjoyment due to the poor bounce the surface gives the ball and impedes their individual skill development.
- Also, this particular court is too small to play games on and given its design, is dangerous with no at court height run off under the basket or on the sides of the court. With the significant drop off from the artificial turf covered concrete to the dirt below, injuries are highly likely if they have not occurred already. The close proximity of the cricket net to the far sideline of the basketball court is also a hazard. Again, not enough usable space for a basketball court or court run off room, meaning there is a high likelihood of hand/finger injuries to those who run into or up against this chain link fence (fingers getting caught in the fence as players pass by or fall.) SEE PICTURES BELOW.
- While netball is very popular on the Northern Beaches, with hard surfaced courts readily available, they seem to be grossly under utilised except during netball season for official training and official games. Unlike basketball, you really don't see people playing netball informally like you do with basketball. As basketball is a year round sport, there is the opportunity to convert numerous netball only courts throughout the Council area, into multipurpose netball & basketball courts by simply installing reversible netball/basketball goals (see example pic from Lionel Watts Oval) and additional basketball court line painting. As an example, there are 25 hard surfaced netball only courts at the Curl Curl sporting complex and only 1 x ½ basketball court. If the 4 or 5 courts closest to the Curl Curl Community Centre and adjacent to the existing ½ basketball court (see picture below), could be modified for use by netball & basketball, it would create a great basketball hub for the community and could even be used to host the occasional outdoor 3 x 3 tournament. Note: 3 x 3 basketball is growing quickly as it has recently been added to traditional 5 x 5 basketball, as an Olympic sport. This suggestion could be replicated at other outdoor netball only facilities throughout the Council area.
 - Weldon Oval:





- Curl Curl Netball Courts:



- Lionel Watts Oval:



Again, thanks for the opportunity to provide input. If you have any questions about any of the above, please don't. Hesitate to contact me. Unfortunately I don't have access to much of the facts and figures on basketball participation and the problems the lack of enough indoor and outdoor basketball facilities. But hopefully you will get this information from the MWBA.

Many thanks,

Mr Mark Wilson
Recreation Project Officer
Northern Beaches Council

15 May 2020

To Mr Wilson

Submission on Northern Beaches Open Space and Recreation Strategy from Manly Warringah Field Archers

History and Background

The Manly Warringah Field Archers have operated continuously as a club since 1953, and have a proud history on the Northern Beaches spanning over 67 years. During this time, we have provided a place for recreational archery activities for both local and national archers with a number of members having successfully participated in international archery events.

The Club originally operated on land within the Manly Dam and relocated to the JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve in 1983 following the acquisition of the Reserve by Council. For the past 37 years, the field archery club has operated as custodians of the bushland below and to the North of the sporting fields, a location highly valued within the national archery scene for its uniquely remarkable terrain and range layouts.

The Club's facilities include a clubhouse, toilet block, target practice range and three separate field archery ranges that operate on fixed twenty target courses. The Club house represents and displays the history of its members, past and present, and provides a social and personally significant space for many of the Club's older members.

Competition Club events are held monthly and are attend by Club members and the membership base of other affiliated Clubs around Australia and Internationally. The monthly event involves the free-style set out of 3D target ranges. Between events, the facility is accessible 7 days per week to offer members the opportunity to meet, practice and refine their archery skills.

Club membership has steadily increased over the years, with memberships currently exceeding 240 members, with an age demographic from 8 to almost 90 years of age.

The Club is a not-for-profit organisation coordinated by volunteer Committee members who meet regularly to organise events and undertake working bees and maintenance activities. The Committee also resides over administrative and competition based activities including member insurances.

Submission

In order to assist the development of the Open Space and Recreational Strategy, the Club wishes to highlight the following areas where operational pressure points and enhancements have been identified for consideration as part of the Strategy for this area.

| Issue/Consideration | Details |
|---|---|
| Preservation of this unique facilities for future generations | Over the past few decades, the Club's operational footprint has been significantly reduced due to the expansion of the Kimbriki Waste Facility and changes to operational boundaries. Whilst these adjustments have not affected the viability of the Club at this current point in time, the extent of reduction of operational footprint is now at the point that any further reduction in available space would be potentially detrimentally to the style of archery that has been |

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| | enjoyed by archers over the last 67 years. The preservation of this unique facility for future generations to enjoy is considered an aspect that should have a supporting strategy. |
| Unauthorised activities within the reserve | Despite mountain biking being identified as an unauthorised activity in the 2010 Plan of Management for the reserve, unauthorised access and construction of tracks by local mountain bike riders and clubs has occurred adjacent to active ranges and through established target buffer zones. These unauthorised activities may require improved regulation or permanent demarcation, should the ban on this style of activity in the Reserve be reversed. |
| Delineation and demarcation of open space uses | With the construction of new BMX and bike pump-track facilities within JJ Hills Reserve, patronage of the area has significantly increased. While MWFA fully supports the utilisation of the improved facilities and nature of use, there may be a need to review and improve information signage and open space demarcation provisions arising from the cumulative increase in patronage and changes to the age demographic in this location. |
| Access and egress | With the Club's increasing membership base and age demographic, improvements in access and egress provisions for existing club members, and provisions for disabled archer accessibility could be considered at this time. The Club's Committee has identified a number of improvements such as sealed pathways and direct access car parking for the disabled following discussions with organisers of the Invictus Games that were recently hosted on the Northern Beaches. |
| Improved patronage and usage options | Club members have identified that the provision of a wet weather protection awning over the target practice range shoot line and the provision of an 18m indoor competition range with lighting and access for the disabled would vastly improve the accessibility and usability of the facilities. The Committee has accepted these objectives as providing tangible improvements to the Club patronage and utilisation. |

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission to Council. We appreciate your interest and look forward to being involved in any future planning and consultation opportunities associated with the development and management of the Reserve.

Yours sincerely

Hi Mark,

Garigal Gorillas MTB Club committee members have discussed your recent email in regard to the Northern Beaches Open Space and Recreation Strategy. Our comments in relation to this topic are below, and are consistent in what the club and local riders have been requesting for years and still waiting for:

Groups/clubs/organizations operating within the Northern Beaches:

The Garigal Gorillas MTB Club has 593 paid members as of March 2020 AGM a further 2031 followers on the Clubs Official Facebook page and 2829 members engaging on the Clubs Facebook forum/chat page - all looking to ride quality authorised single track on the Northern Beaches, individually, socially with friends, in club events and race's.

Rider numbers on the Northern Beaches are increasing daily despite the lack of formal trail networks.

Currently, due to Covid-19, local bike shops cant build bikes to sell fast enough to meet demand. The number of riders using trails on any given day has increased dramatically at this time.

Several years ago a survey of the popular riding app Strava indicated conservatively that there were over 10,000 unique individual riders on the Northern Beaches alone.

The best evidence of the types of trails the community is interested in riding can be seen at Deep Creek, where riders who have given up on waiting for council and national parks to fulfill requests to build trails have gone and constructed their own unauthorised trail network.

While the Garigal Gorillas MTB club do not condone this, we understand their frustration.

We as a MTB Club endeavor to liaise with land managers such as Council and National Parks to create MTB trails that meet rider's needs and meet land managers requirements.

However, club members have been pursuing this cause for a number of years to no avail, and recently, while land managers have regularly "engaged with the community" there are still no formal trails. There has been a great deal of talk and as is historically accurate, still no authorised trails to ride as a result.

Specific feedback relevant to your groups activities that you may have regards future plans/opportunities:

Our club would like to increase junior development for general riding, access for beginners and intermediate riders and also club racing but we are unable to do that as no suitable authorised trails exist where this training, skills development or racing can legally take place.

We asked Northern Beaches Council for a club house and skills area to be built at JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve at Terrey Hills but we have been told that has been delayed a further 6 months due to Covid - 19 restrictions. With no time frame given in the first place riders are once again wondering if anything will ever happen?

Meanwhile, the ACT Government understands the increase in rider numbers as a whole and trail demand has dramatically increased at this current time due to Mountain biking being an outdoor activity that can easily be enjoyed while maintaining social distancing. As a result they have advertised 10 paid positions to maintain walking and MTB riding trails in the ACT.

Why has nothing happened like this at Northern Beaches Council?

Current issues and ideas for specific improvements.

Our current issue is the disappointingly small number of approved single track mountain bike trails that exist on the Northern Beaches.

An idea for improvement would be for NBC to read through the requests of riders documented in many consultations over the last decade and now act on the discussions.

Norther Beaches Council is aware there are many thousands of riders and several organised groups including Garigal Gorillas MTB club asking for more trails and the numbers are rapidly growing, yet to date there have been no additional trails or facilities provided.

For how many more years do we need to ask for trails before these requests are acted upon and trails are created?

How many more surveys for various council departments do we need to complete before council actually creates new trails and authorises existing trails?

What is the point of consultation if there is no end result in a timely manner for the user group requesting assistance? (Just to make it clear, waiting years for authorised trails is not timely, waiting decades is insulting but that's where it's at).

To start with, the "Mountain Bike Trail" around Manly Dam is severely incomplete.

A specific improvement would be building a MTB single track around the entire Manly Dam area. A complete single track loop with features that meet the demands of today's riders.

Linking sections of trail with fire road, concrete footpath or actual streets is at best a stop gap measure that is NOT sufficient to meet the requirements of the user group in the long term. This has been an issue for years and never been resolved despite many requests.

A specific improvement would be to have paid trails crews.

We don't see any volunteers mowing council soccer, rugby or cricket fields, yet somehow, despite the large rider numbers from the local jurisdiction who pay taxes and council rates there is very little to no financial or operational support from council in this area. In fact, there is so little support despite a large community group of MTB riders that the trails around manly dam have become deteriorated.

Riders feel that up to this point, NBC and prior councils haven't been interested in supporting the riding community. Community engagement has provided nothing we have requested.

This is not good enough and needs to change.

Thank you!

Garigal Gorillas MTB Club

Hi Mark

Sorry that this is after deadline, but I did want to give a response from Chocolate Foot and myself personally, which is below. I could go on forever but I'm just going to focus on Manly Dam as it's the only formal track and one that we use for our business and I ride very regularly.

In our capacity as a mountain bike skills provider, we are seeing a huge demand for this for kids. Since offering clinics for kids in the last six months, all of those sessions has been sold out plus demand for more places, and we've had a lot of enquiries to teach kids lately during lockdown. We've also seen a massive increase in the number of children out riding their bikes (and making 'adjustments' to the Manly Dam trail!) which is fantastic, however there is only one suitable trail for a lot of children which is the informal 'possum' network at Bantry Bay. Manly Dam is, for a lot of small children, just too much with its rough terrain and steep sandstone features. And unfortunately in current times, the possum trail is too heavily used to be fun and safe for kids.

I'd like to recommend that, as you have done at the Manly Dam walking trail, signage is put on the Manly Dam MTB trail regarding the increased number of people using it and to be respectful of all users. I've recently heard complaints of people 'racing' around the dam harassing others to get out of their way and I've also experienced rude overtaking moves myself. This has also happened in the walking trail with runners hoping to get their usual workout despite the increased number of walkers etc. Weekends are obviously far worse than weekdays.

I've read the response from Garigal Gorillas MTB Club and 100% agree with their points. From my own perspective, I have sat through so many Council meetings in the past 10 years which have never resulted in better provision for mountain bikers. It's so frustrating to see how delayed Belrose Bike Park has been when, at a meeting I attended many years ago, it was said that construction would begin before the tip even closed. Another point of frustration is how readily Council worked to identify a site for dirt jumps in Avalon because the kids were persistent in rebuilding them each time after bulldozing. This result is great for these kids and the wider community of course. But, how many times have informal trails around Manly Dam been shut down and rebuilt and shut down again and rebuilt ... but never has there been any consultation with the user group on an alternative site. By doing exactly the same thing as those kids, mountain bikers have got nowhere ... but when we try to do the right thing (reining in illegal building, attending meetings with Council, etc.), rarely does anything change. I'm all for creating safe places and venues for kids but mountain biking is such a booming sport and we need more formal trails for all levels to cater to that demand.

I feel that Council has the opinion that, as the track is so well used, it is fit for purpose. This is absolutely not the case – it's simply that it's a formal trail, easy to find, is signposted, and well known. The only really good bits of singletrack (that have any flow, are erosion free, and fit for purpose) are the informal ones. There has never been adequate work on the existing trail to bring it up to an acceptable standard (previous work by contractors has not achieved this). The hours of volunteer labour that is spent on patching up a track that needs far more significant work is just ridiculous, and is it really fair to expect the MTB community to keep doing this (although they are willing to do so, in order to keep the trail relatively enjoyable)? The 19th hole descent, for example, needs far more than a few shovels and mattocks moving dirt around to stop the water from eroding it every single time it rains heavily. And all the drainage channels we keep digging around the trails simply fill up with silt and needle matter (not sure what that tree is called ...) and block easily. I'm forever stopping my ride in its tracks and grabbing a stick to get water off the track. The trail needs work to allow water to run off it, instead of relying on these drainage channels. And, the number of riders currently riding it in wet conditions will mean our next trail building day will yet again only see us going over past work. We never get ahead, the only section of trail that has been improved and held up to weather is the cobbled area on the trig track. Everything else is just us moving dirt around and then watching it wash off the trail again.

And this is just to keep the track running "well" in its current form. We sorely need good b lines around the more technical parts, not like the few terrible ones that were built a few years ago. And work done to make it a better track for all levels of rider – which is mostly by adding easier lines and erosion control, but certainly not by "dumbing down" the more technical stuff as that's the only reason many of us ride the track.

From a coaching perspective, we'd like some purpose built obstacles alongside (or on a b-line of) the main trail, where people can learn to ride obstacles such as log-overs, roll downs and chutes, small jumps, and drops. The natural obstacles on the trail are pretty full on for beginners, plus there's the pressure of other users of the trail. If there were a small 'skills park' area that coaches could use exclusively (or at least, without interrupting the flow of traffic on the main trail), this would help us immensely in trying to better equip people to ride the Manly Dam trail safely and successfully. If you were to go out to the golf course singletrack on any given weekend, you'd see so many people tackling that section completely out of control and only just surviving. These are the kind of people who come to us for help on riding Manly Dam and we designed that course to help people improve their skills and learn good riding lines to enjoy it more (and hopefully in turn, we will witness far fewer moments of near death).

We've stopped meeting our clients at the Manly Vale Public School as that climb at Water Reserve Road is so intimidating and difficult to ride that it's just not a positive start to the session. An alternative could be a singletrack climb that traverses its way up to Bangaroo Street. And some novice and kid-friendly singletrack loops could be put in the recently cleared area just behind the school – in fact, this would be a great location for the skills park I mentioned above. With jumps built on the firetrail up at Allambie Heights. I know I put that, and a lot more, on the map of the recent bike plan consultation process. I sincerely hope we can see some positive results from that and not only around Manly Dam.

I do hope that this email will be well received, and that Council will put some serious funding and development behind the sport and mountain bikers in this area can finally see progress being made. Belrose Bike Park will be fantastic, but it's only catering to a certain type of rider and won't change the demand for trails in the bush.

Kind regards

Hi

As a key stakeholder we want to hear your thoughts on our open spaces and recreation facilities. This includes parks, playgrounds, beaches, tracks and recreational use of our bushland areas.

Last year Council's Planning Division went through an extensive community consultation process to develop a Local Strategic Planning Statement which will form the basis of the new LEP for the whole of the Northern Beaches Council area. The final statement adopted by Council listed the priorities to be used in the formulation of the LEP. The Environmental items are at the top of the priority list. This is in accordance with our submissions and many others that were made when the draft Statement was on exhibition. These environmental priorities should be incorporated in this Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

We suggest that the submissions on the interactive map be sent to the Council's Planning and Environment Divisions for comment prior to preparing a draft strategy.

We want to learn about the places you love and where there are areas for improvement.

Jessica, we are most concerned at the presentation you are making with that interactive map. You are inviting people to put bright ideas and comments on the map but you have not provided any information about the bushland areas to inform their responses - e.g.

- 1. Many of those bushland areas have Plans of Management that define the values of the land and inform people of what is currently permissible there.**
- 2. Some of those bushland areas have been gazetted as National Park or Regional Reserve in recognition of their values.**
- 3. We want and expect to see "protection of biodiversity" as an over-riding aim of all sections of Northern Beaches Council. The way the interactive map is presented, the value of the biodiversity is not even mentioned.**
- 4. Northern Beaches Council employs a number of people to manage and protect the natural environment. The interactive map does not indicate that the process of developing an Open Space and Recreation Strategy is connected in any way to the plans and strategies developed by the staff in the the environmental section of Council.**

Your feedback, ideas and stories will inform the development of a draft Open Space and Recreation Strategy that will help us plan for and manage our open spaces and recreational facilities into the future.

In the context of the way this is being presented i.e. to develop a "Recreational Strategy", the implication is that "improvement" will be defined as "enhancing human enjoyment and recreation".

If the environmental ecological values are not given top priority, there will be a degradation of those values into the future.

Our organisation, for the last 15 years has been trying to educate the general public about the extreme importance of the local biodiversity.

The health of the citizens of Northern Beaches and beyond depends on having a sustainable surrounding ecosystem of bushland, creeks and beaches that is protected from over-use.

This point needs to be made at the top of the page above that interactive map.

Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts on our Social Pinpoint map at the following link:

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

So far, we have made one comment pinned to Wheeler Creek Valley because that is a particularly sensitive patch of bushland.

Mr Ray Brownlee,
The General Manager,
Councillors,
Northern Beaches Council

Re: Public consultation on the Open Space and Recreation Strategy

Dear Mr Brownlee and Councillors,

1. Comments on the process of public consultation for the Open Space and Recreation Strategy

I appreciate that you are committed to public consultation about your Open Space and Recreation Strategy, as with other strategies. While I applaud that aim, I urge you to consider how you will balance pleasing online lobby groups with your responsibilities for the long-term preservation of biodiversity. I am concerned at the interactive map as a process for public consultation on the Open Space and Recreation Strategy for our varied and extremely valuable public land. I raise the following concerns about this particular approach.

- a) *How are the unspoken needs of the natural environment to be considered in evaluating the interactive map consultation process?*

In our increasingly crowded built environments, public land rarely increases in size, frequently decreases in area, faces increasing demands for its use and its role in conserving threatened biodiversity becomes ever more important and also more imperilled. Therefore, the role of government agencies is to manage public land for the very long-term sustainable benefit of the public as well as the preservation of native flora, fauna and landscapes. This requires careful balancing of very long-term goals with short-medium term demands of the public. Since the natural environment cannot speak for itself, it is the vital duty of government authorities to evaluate the environmental impacts of all proposed works and advocate for the environment.

- b) *How will Council balance the reality that this consultative map process is more likely to bring responses from those urging active recreation facilities than those who prefer passive recreation and biodiversity values in natural areas?*

The interactive map consultation process means that it is very likely that those wanting active recreation facilities will respond much more than those who prefer passive recreation which does not require infrastructure or Council permission as they are not asking Council to do anything except maintain existing area. Online lobby groups representing specific interests such as off-leash dog areas, bike tracks, skate ramps, playgrounds, car parking etc are able with one email to contact many supporters with similar interests and urge them to just go to the link and press *Like* or

Dislike. People who want to go for a bushwalk, sit quietly in a natural place, picnic without extra facilities, birdwatch, and generally value undeveloped, unengineered natural places do not generally need to form lobby groups and do not want Council to install infrastructure so will tend to be much less aware that such a consultation process even exists. They will not receive email alerts urging them to press *Like* or *Dislike*.

- c) *How will Council encourage or balance this instantaneous type of response with letters, meetings and formats for a deeper consultative process?*

Simply adding a quick comment or pressing *Like/Dislike* does not necessarily represent an informed or considered comment. The person may or may not care deeply about this issue, even know the place well, understand any of the implications or impacts of their request or be familiar with the native species on that site.

2. My general plea for bushland and quiet passive recreation areas

My comments above refer to my concerns about this consultative process. I would also like to register a strong general comment applicable to all areas under Council management, requesting Council to strongly preserve the values of all bushland areas and ensure that there are recreational areas which simply offer shade, grass or a rock to sit on, an outlook and a quiet spot to relax. That is actually increasingly hard to find! I do not want to go through the whole map, stating this again and again for every area, so how do I register that as a generalised, deeply felt request?

3. Erosion and danger caused by mountain bikes

I walk regularly through the bushland between Forest Way, Mona Vale Rd and Wakehurst Parkway and am horrified at the damage done by mountain bikers. It is also extremely dangerous for walkers and an accident will occur sooner or later. It is terrifying to be walking along and have a couple of high speed bikes suddenly appear just behind you and leap past you. I have had this experience several times. Their online groups have organised strong lobbying on your interactive map, but other tracks have been allowed and the demand is always for more.

4. Particular comments on off-leash dog areas

I have been dismayed by the increasing number of officially approved off-leash dog areas, particularly the approval of a trial off-leash dog area at Station Beach which flies in the face of environmental advice and values.

There is no obligation on Council to provide swimming opportunities for dogs. I remember how relieved I was as a young adult when Council finally banned dogs on beaches after years of dodging dogs and droppings. I grew up playing in the shallow water and sandy beach by Queenscliff Lagoon before the bridge. So did my children. I now take my grandson to the nearby playground and he is of course drawn to the adjacent sand and water. However, it is no longer safe for a young child as large dogs run free. Owners feel no obligation to restrain them if a toddler is nearby. I have had a similar experience walking along the foreshore with him from Winneremery Bay past Rowland Reserve to Bayview. Long-term Council employees and local residents will remember the prolonged campaign by horse owners to retain "swimming rights" for horses at Winneremery Bay. Would anyone now seriously question that Council was right to reclaim this area for the public and the waterway? Approving an area for off-

leash dogs effectively removes the open space from use by everyone else and so no longer really counts as public open space.

I have noticed an increasing number of dogs, on and off leashes, in bushland areas over the last couple of years e.g. tracks in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Manly Dam, Angophora Reserve. When I comment politely to owners that this is not appropriate, I increasingly get a quite aggressive, entitled response indicating that they feel justified in ignoring the regulations. I fear this attitude is may be an unintended consequence of granting more natural areas for off-leash dogs.

I look forward to following Council's discussions and decisions in this important strategy.

Yours sincerely,

Protect Pittwater Association
Submission on Northern Beaches Council
Open Space and Recreation Strategy

February 2020

Introduction

The Protect Pittwater Pittwater Association would like to thank Northern Beaches Council (NBC) for the opportunity to comment on plans for a new Open Space and Recreation Strategy. We also appreciate the council's inclusion of Pittwater Council's strategy from 2014 in the document library and hope it will be used as a guide to the new strategy for the Pittwater Ward.

The main focus of this submission is the protection of Pittwater's rich natural environment, so important to its residents for recreation, through development of short and long-term acquisition and management plans for the Ingleside Escarpment and other bush reserves. It also discusses strategies for other public parks, footpaths, golf courses, playing fields and netball courts, school grounds, beaches and swimming pools.

Ingleside Escarpment

One of the defining features of the Pittwater Ward is the green escarpment that forms the backdrop to its suburbs. This bushland provides a sanctuary for endangered and other native species, while epitomising the natural environment that residents value.

In the past, Pittwater Council had a visionary and largely successful plan to protect the escarpment. However, it only extended south of Mona Vale Road, and some blocks were never purchased – remaining subject to changing planning priorities.

Clearing and development is already beginning to create a “moth-eaten” appearance on the escarpment – reflecting threats to the fauna and flora that populate the area.

It is, therefore, time once again for our local council to establish a plan to acquire other significant land in the escarpment to protect it. Open space planning for the NBC provides an ideal vehicle for this.

History of Ingleside Escarpment

Ingleside Escarpment is part of the sloping ground rising from the coastal plain to Ingleside plateau. It creates the bushy backdrop to Warriewood and Mona Vale and can be seen from other coastal suburbs nearby.

Former Pittwater Council General Manager Angus Gordon and Pittwater Natural Heritage Association Secretary David Palmer have recently completed an unpublished history of the campaign to protect the escarpment.

They explain that the area, now known as Ingleside Chase, was formed from a core of old land grants amalgamated with a number of other privately and publicly owned blocks of land.

In fact, Pittwater Council identified “saving the Ingleside escarpment” - in its 2014 Public Space and Recreation Strategy - as the first of its significant achievements in meeting community expectations for open space. The council reported having acquired 65 hectares of:

“highly sensitive bushland escarpment to create Ingleside Chase Reserve that now extends from Elanora Heights in the south to Mona Vale Road in the north ...”.

With its diverse wildlife in largely unspoilt bushland, the escarpment was an important element of the council’s vision:

“To be a vibrant sustainable community of connected villages inspired by bush, beach and water”.

The strategy also observed that:

“Pittwater’s uniqueness is due to the natural environment and dependent upon the retention of bushland and canopy trees.”

Pittwater Ward residents still overwhelmingly agree with this assessment - as has been illustrated by the NBC’s own place planning research.

Why is Urgent Protection Needed?

The Ingleside Escarpment is now at risk. Despite the success of the Pittwater strategy to the south of Mona Vale Road, a number of blocks remain in private hands and under threat of development – some imminent. Furthermore, it would still be possible to consolidate land north of Mona Vale Road, for both environmental and recreational purposes as well as visual amenity.

Road works widening Mona Vale Rd provide a glimpse of how future development on the escarpment would appear to those in Pittwater. Clearing to widen the original roadway has left a scar across the bushland – clearly visible from both low-lying and higher ground in the area. A number of private owners have also cleared blocks on the escarpment – both north and south of Mona Vale Road – contributing to the development of a patchy appearance to the bushland. We can easily imagine what our natural backdrop would look like if further development of Ingleside and other parts of the escarpment occurred.

More broadly speaking, we as a community must identify and purchase land for the public that can be used now and for future generations. We should not simply be discussing

current needs but future proofing land for a time when sea levels will be higher, the climate hotter and population density higher.

Protect Pittwater acknowledges that councils have budget restrictions, are often short of money and experience pressures to sell public land.

We also note that the NSW government is forcing the NBC to build more apartments for our population - projected to grow by some 40,000 people in the next 15 years.

However, increases in medium density housing to accommodate that growth will lead to a loss of biodiversity in residents' private gardens. Pittwater has also lost significant numbers of trees from backyards in recent years under the NSW government's 10/50 land clearing laws and as houses have grown in size. (Environmentalists estimate that one road alone – Hudson Parade in Clareville – has lost more than 100 trees in recent years.) This puts pressure on wildlife, whose habitat is often located on those large residential blocks with old-growth trees.

With a growing population, public bushland reserves in Northern Beaches suburbs are also suffering damage from intensive and inappropriate use - for example kids digging hideouts in parks or riding and creating tracks for mountain bikes (such as at Palmgrove Park in Avalon).

The ongoing loss of trees, as well as damage to other vegetation and wildlife habitat means it is critical to preserve and increase the amount of publicly-owned bushland on the Northern Beaches to ensure the survival of our local biodiversity and provide suitable places for children - and adults – to play.

What needs protection?

Pittwater Council's Planning Strategy for the Ingleside/Warriewood Urban Land Release relied on research from nine different studies to identify the opportunities and constraints on urban development imposed by the physical and cultural environment of the area. The strategy referred to four of these in particular:

- Urban Land Capability
- Vegetation Conservation
- Fauna Conservation and
- Visual Impact.

These studies resulted in an Ingleside/Warriewood Development Capability Map, which indicated that the vast majority of the escarpment – forming a continuous green band across the ridgeline - was of High Conservation Value and minimal development capability. This was true both north and south of Mona Vale Road where it first crosses the escarpment.

However, the map also shows that much of the land east of the Baha'i Temple towards the escarpment – incidentally owned by the then Department of Planning – is also of Conservation Value and low development value.

These areas have been identified as worthy of conservation, in part because they are rich in fauna, including many creatures listed as vulnerable or endangered. These include: the Spotted-tailed Quoll; Squirrel Glider; Swift Parrot; and Powerful Owl.

However, they are also identified as visually significant to Pittwater. The Ingleside/Warriewood Visual Study shows a dark pink band stretching the length of the escarpment and paler pink flush extending south-west towards the Baha'i Temple. Residents, visitors and tourists see this as Pittwater's bushland backdrop. Development in this area would harm the aesthetic value of the district – so much appreciated by those who live here as well as visitors and tourists. It is something that many people take for granted but would be shocked and appalled if it was developed and the bushland fragmented.

Significant obstacles to development on the escarpment also exist, including the practicality and cost of supplying utilities such as water and sewerage at sites located on solid sandstone.

But the most serious issue is bushfire. This was acknowledged in the 2018 Meridian Urban report to the NSW Government, titled Bushfire Risk Assessment for the Ingleside Planned Precinct. The report found that:

“The Ingleside Precinct is exposed to potentially extreme existing bushfire risk, noting the Precinct has been previously impacted by fire events and extreme-scale event exposure is likely again based on daily Forest Fire Danger (data) captured since 1976”.

This was demonstrated in 1994 when bushfires travelled from Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and burned down houses on parts of the escarpment and on land adjacent to Mona Vale Road.

Given the devastation caused by bushfires in Australia since July 2019, the Northern Beaches, including the Ingleside Escarpment, now provides important habitat for endangered animals – and even some that have actually escaped the fires, most notably birds. The expansion of protection for this bushland as a sanctuary is therefore even more important now than in the past.

Where to begin?

We believe the council should now develop long-term acquisition and management plans for land in these areas.

However, three blocks in particular need immediate attention:

8 Forest Road

This 5.7-hectare site is comprised of 2.9 hectares of cleared land and 2.8 hectares of bushland, with a high level of biodiversity, that would be well suited to public recreation and conservation. Also notable is the presence of a substantial old farmhouse built in 1925 of local historical interest (see unpublished study by Kristin Zindel, July 2019).

The current owner gained approval to build 80 dwellings on the cleared land in 2017 but has still not made any significant progress on the development.

However, we believe this development is inappropriate for a number of reasons:

- The site is at significant bushfire risk because of its position on the escarpment and proximity to bushland.
- Access to the site is via a network of very narrow roads in Warriewood – which would be overloaded with cars from 80 apartments, creating significant danger in a bushfire.
- The danger of domestic pets housed in the apartments to wildlife living on the escarpment.

We believe the bushland and wildlife on this site should be protected, along with the old house – and it would be in the community's interest if the proposed residential development did not proceed. A natural sciences and heritage museum/educational facility - mirroring the Coastal Environment Centre but for terrestrial life – could be set up in the old house if renovated appropriately. The cleared land could be developed into much-needed local parkland, next to Narrabeen Creek, for Warriewood residents. Given the popularity on the Northern Beaches of walking and other outdoor activities associated with natural bushland, the whole site would make an ideal public reserve.

If development is to proceed at this site, we believe fencing should be erected behind the blocks of apartments (as at Mona Vale Cemetery) to prevent domestic animals prowling and hunting in nearby bushland.

120 Mona Vale Road

This site is comprised of about 6 hectares of cleared land, located at the end of the escarpment. The current owner has proposed a development there which was rejected by the Land and Environment Court. As with 8 Forest Rd, there are several serious problems with any developments that could occur at this site, including:

- Bushfire risk and egress, given that the land is close to bushland and was severely burnt in the 1994 bushfires.
- Access is limited. The site can only be reached via a steep, narrow private road owned by the Uniting Church.
- Because of this limited access, the site is only suitable for low intensity development anyway.
- The site currently acts as a “sponge” for rainfall flowing down the escarpment, so building on it could increase the risk of flooding downstream in Warriewood.

We believe this land should be brought into public hands and could provide much-needed recreational possibilities, such as:

- Developing a mountain bike track – which could generate income for the council
- A community garden – possibly with terracing.

117 and 119 Mona Vale Road

These two blocks of land are now owned by NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), with one being used as a site office for the widening of Mona Vale Road. RMS intends to give these blocks to the community at the end of the project. We believe council should ensure this plan proceeds and the blocks should be added to Katandra Bushland Sanctuary in Ingleside – with the council securing enough funds to allow for the extra management and work the land will create for the sanctuary.

Bush Reserves

Pittwater Ward is rich in nature conservation areas, featuring bushland, headlands, wetland, other escarpments with special geological features, flora and fauna communities, and sites with Aboriginal heritage significance (see Public Space and Recreation Strategy 2014).

These include a number of bushland reserves with high conservation values: McKay Reserve; Stapleton Park; Angophora Reserve; Deep Creek Reserve; Warriewood Wetlands and Nareen Wetlands. These reserves are popular with residents and visitors for their walking tracks and opportunities to observe native flora and fauna, as well as relax in peace and solitude. Many residents also enjoy participating in bushcare of the reserves.

However, Pittwater residents have noticed the presence of more weeds in reserves and less bushfire preparation since council amalgamation. To maintain the integrity of these reserves, **it's important that these activities are stepped up – increasing funding to bush regeneration, as well as continuing to support and provide public recognition of bushcare groups, perhaps with a recruitment drive for more volunteers.**

There is also one particular site, on the corner of Pittwater Road and Coronation Street, at Mona Vale, that lacks but warrants special protection. Known colloquially in the past as the “Black Swamp”, the site is the last remaining example of Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest in Pittwater (for description of this landscape see: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10945>)

As such, a reserve should be created to protect the forest (maybe named the Black Swamp Reserve) with a proper management plan.

Other Public Parks

To meet the projected population increase in Pittwater – and across the Northern Beaches – it is essential that the NBC establishes more open parkland and employs sufficient staff to maintain them. Parks provide space for recreation, and when well-designed and located,

will attract residents out of their homes and help create community interaction and cohesion.

Problems with public disorder in Manly can in part be attributed to its lack of open space, with crowds of young people living in local apartments, built over the last 30 years, squeezing into a limited amount of open foreshore space on weekends and in the evenings. We should ensure this is not repeated elsewhere.

Instead, **we need more open parkland, like that at Winnereeremy Bay** – with a kids' playground, seats under shady trees for hot days and sunny spots for winter, picnic areas, bike paths, gravel walking tracks, and safe toilets. Bush gardens or regeneration in sections of parks would also provide habitat for native wildlife. **It is important that the needs of elderly people, children and those with disabilities are catered for – so that parks are accessible to all, with short walks from population centres or public transport.**

We would like to see several larger parks in Pittwater upgraded in this way – for example, Mona Vale's Apex Park and Dunbar Park in Avalon. Warriewood Valley is also in desperate need of such a large park as well as smaller neighbourhood parks – which section 94 developer contributions should be funding. **At Kitchener Park in Mona Vale, the plan of management should include Lot 3.** When the Mona Vale skate park was built, this was the only piece of land that was suitable for passive recreation, yet it was used for dynamic recreation. Under the terms of the plan there must be areas set aside for all forms of recreation and this includes passive recreation.

Smaller, sometimes neglected parks and reserves also exist across Pittwater that could be cleared, planted with a shady tree and seats and simple playground equipment installed. **Village greens, such as at Mona Vale and Avalon, should be protected from further encroachment.**

Footpaths

Walking is a popular activity in Pittwater, however many Pittwater residents are concerned about the growing number of concrete footpaths in the area. This especially applies to the Coastal Walkway. This could be a world-class tourist attraction but the new concrete sections are an eyesore, detracting from its beauty. Many such walks exist around the world without being concreted.

We are particularly concerned about remaining sections north of Mona Vale, such as around Avalon and across Bangalley Headland.

Pittwater Council previously developed gravel pathways along sections of the track – for example, beside Mona Vale Golf Course – which attract large numbers of walkers. **Concrete pathways are cheaper to maintain but out of character with the Pittwater area.**

Arguments may exist for making sections of the walk accessible to those with disabilities – and this might be appropriate in the more heavily populated sections of the walkway. However, concrete paths are much harder on joints for those walking or running longer

distances – and access for many people with arthritis will be more limited on a concrete path.

Concrete paths also add to the heat island effect in built up areas – and are less pleasant to walk on in hot weather for this reason.

These pathways are also appearing unnecessarily along beachfronts (eg Bilgola) and in small, suburban parks – destroying the natural feel of the Pittwater Ward.

As a large council with more resources than the former Pittwater Council, we should be able to avoid building concrete paths unnecessarily. Where tracks are needed to encourage walking for pleasure or otherwise, gravel tracks should be introduced. In sensitive areas, raised grids or timber walkways are also appropriate to prevent erosion.

Golf Courses

Pittwater Ward has three public golf courses at Mona Vale, Avalon and Palm Beach, as well as private courses at Ingleside and Bayview. It should be noted that golf courses are often built on flood prone land and are important as water sinks (absorbing water that would otherwise flood residential and business areas).

Every attempt should be made to keep all of these as open, green space for future generations - due to their value as recreational space, as well as for wildlife habitat and corridors. We note that golf courses are important places for bio-diversity, which should be protected from domestic and feral animals.

Where golf club membership shrinks and clubs become unviable, the links should be converted to large parks (as described above) – with clubhouses used as restaurants, meeting places and other innovative purposes, picnic areas developed, and bush regeneration on some of the land as well as wetlands and ponds encouraging frogs and other wildlife.

At Avalon **Golf Course**, we hope to see the beginnings of a regional art centre with galleries, studios, public education spaces, young people's art classes, and so on (similar to Hazelhurst Gallery at Gympie, in the Sutherland Shire, which attracts international exhibitions as well as acting as a local arts hub.) It could also host an outdoor sculpture collection, accessible from the Coastal Walkway. This would create not only a valuable local arts centre but also an attractive tourist destination – with public transport close by.

Playing Fields and Netball Courts

Pittwater – as with other parts of the Northern Beaches – is short of playing fields and netball courts. Past studies have suggested the area is short of four ovals. This particularly affects girls' and women's soccer games, which are usually relegated to Sundays.

Pittwater Council previously identified - in its Public Space and Recreation Strategy 2014 - land at **Boondah Road, Warriewood, as having space for two or three more playing fields.**

However, we are opposed to the use of artificial turf on any playing fields, because of the damage it causes to the underlying soils, the run-off it creates and the fact that there is no way to recycle the material after a relatively short lifespan.

Netball and basketball courts also present environmental problems because of the amount of runoff from hard surfaces. For this reason, we believe the development of hard surface courts next to Careel Creek, in Avalon, is inappropriate. **Council should be investigating the purchase of sites that are already developed to build hard-surface courts in future – rather than destroying publicly owned, open green space.**

School Grounds

All schools receiving public funding should open their grounds and sporting facilities to the public outside school hours. These include outdoor play equipment, tennis courts, basketball and netball courts, and swimming pools. This would increase recreational facilities for the whole community and use of publicly-funded facilities that lie dormant over weekends and for large parts of the year. It would also encourage community interaction at these sites.

Council, with the NSW Education Department and schools, would need to develop plans of management and supervision for safety reasons (eg at swimming pools) and to prevent vandalism.

However, this would not eliminate the need for identifying and developing other parks and sporting facilities in Pittwater and other parts of the Northern Beaches.

Beaches

Our beaches are a major recreational resource but are currently under threat from sea level rise. With the state government having passed responsibility for identification of land threatened by rising sea levels to local councils, it is imperative that the NBC develops policies to address this problem and inform residents of its decisions.

The erosion of private property at Narrabeen and Collaroy is occurring because homes have been built on the sand dunes, locking them down so that they cannot replenish the beaches after major storms. The fact that houses have been washed into the sea at these locations in the past reinforces this point. However, properties in Pittwater are also at risk – for example, at Clareville and Palm Beach.

Several community projects have helped restore vegetation to sand dunes in Pittwater and this activity should continue with council support. But allowing residents to build seawalls - financed either privately or with government support – to protect their homes along sand dunes, will eventually result in the disappearance of beaches in front of houses and to either side. **NBC should protect the beaches for the enjoyment of all residents by preventing construction of further seawalls and developing a future proofing policy to remove buildings from dunes** – which would also safeguard the community from legal claims for damages from residents who should have been aware of the risks.

Swimming Pools

Pittwater is fortunate to have rock pools at almost every beach in the district – as is true for the rest of the Northern Beaches. The pools are heavily used throughout summer and some hardy residents continue swimming in them during the colder months as well. However, even in summer, the pools are subject to rough conditions, pollution and build ups of weed. **It is therefore important that the council continue to regularly clean and maintain the pools throughout the year.**

However, unlike the former Manly and Warringah Council areas, Pittwater does not have an all-weather 50 metre Olympic Pool (or even a 25-metre public pool). Swimming is an important form of exercise, for the young and not so young and those with a range of health conditions. Amongst those who would like the use of a 50-metre pool are swimming clubs and local schools – which are forced to travel as far afield as Macquarie Park for swimming carnivals due to the demand on Northern Beaches pools.

There is also no pool locally for water polo, and a pool catering to this sport would increase recreation opportunities – particularly for young people.

This facility should not be an expensive “leisure centre” as has been developed at Manly – and should be located in the centre of Pittwater – perhaps at Mona Vale – with public transport access up and down the beaches as well as inland.

Therefore, we believe NBC should investigate the development of an indoor 50 metre swimming pool in Pittwater to bring facilities here in line with those in other former council areas.

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Ecological Australia (2014) Ingleside – Executive Summary of Ecology, Riparian and Bushfire Investigations, in Ingleside Community Reference Group 18 November 2014

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Pittwater Natural Heritage Association submission on Open Space and Recreation Strategy

13 February 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the development of an Open Space and Recreation Strategy for Northern Beaches Council.

Pittwater Natural Heritage Association understands that with the constant growth of population in the Northern Beaches Area there is an increasing need for parks, playgrounds and other community open spaces, however we firmly believe that our bushland is essential to the character of the northern beaches and that it provides important environmental services to our community. As such it must be preserved. Our bushland is under increasing pressure and is being destroyed or degraded, often by young people carrying out illegal and or destructive activities. Some specific examples are:

- Mountain bike tracks in Ingleside Chase reserve
- Bikes in Palmgrove Park and Avalon Golf Course bushland
- Teenage camps in beach dunes as at Avalon and Mona Vale involve destruction of vegetation and large amounts of rubbish.

Many reserves have walking tracks which allow people to access bushland. Interpretive signage at reserve entrances would enhance walkers' experience and appreciation of the natural environment they are in. The signage could be very simple or more detailed. It's also important to consider signage children can read. (an example from the Desert Wildlife Park near Alice Springs).



Dog owners are also utilising areas which are not suitable for off leash dogs. Some specific examples of this are:

- Angophora Reserve Avalon – a Wildlife Protection Area where dogs are permitted on leash, but many dogs are unleashed.
- All of Bangalley Head Reserve including the mown area near the Marine Pde entrance is a Wildlife Protection Area where no dogs are allowed.

Even existing State parks such as Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park are under pressure from inappropriate uses. We submit that as a place of natural beauty its environmental values should be protected.

These examples indicate the growing demand for open space that needs to be met by Northern Beaches Council without allowing the bushland to be so heavily impacted.

Council must develop a strategy which accommodates the recreational needs of present and future generations without sacrificing bushland. This strategy must include provision for acquiring land for active and passive recreation, including acquisition of privately owned local bushland.

Another comment we would like to make is that in our opinion the map on Council's web page is not a satisfactory way of gathering serious comment. Some of our members have had difficulty accessing or using the map others say that it is useful only as a wish list and includes requests for inappropriate activities in unsuitable areas.

Yours Sincerely

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION STRATEGY CONSULTATION

We appreciate the opportunity to put forward our views on a proposed Open Space and Recreation Strategy. We have chosen to do so in writing rather than on the interactive website as there are a number of points we would like to address and space does not permit on the website.

The format adopted for the initial consultation did not lend itself ideally to discussion of the principles and major issues which should underlie the strategy on this important topic. Therefore we have put together this discussion of the major issues as we see them. We note that the initial consultation did not contain any current proposals for the open spaces and recreation areas within the Palm Beach/Whale Beach area.

Issues

Amongst the major issues we see (in no particular order) to be dealt with in a strategy are the following: -

1. Natural recreation spaces

The principal area of natural recreation space in our area is McKay Reserve, which is natural undeveloped coastal bushland, with a number of unstructured tracks. We believe that the principal issues which the proposed strategy should address are: -

- The preservation of such areas in their natural state – these areas are irreplaceable. This will require policies on the minimum level of infrastructure to ensure the safety of those using the area plus some measure of safe access for people with disabilities. Thus there needs to be a discussion about the trade-off of structured pathways, accessible to people with disabilities vs greater intrusion on the natural state of the area.
- Procedures for a measure of reduction of fire hazard to protect lives and the surrounding houses. In particular, there should be accessible fire hydrants at all these sites.
- Improved measures for the removal of rubbish.
- Firm policies on which activities are permitted within the area and those which are not and to ensure that group activities such as weddings are properly licensed and policed. In particular, the Council's non-smoking policy for all group activities in these areas needs to be enforced; all naked flames, such as open fires, candles, tiki torches, sparklers, etc should also be banned during the fire season. Bonds should not be released without an inspection of the site by Council rangers.
- Areas which are part open space and part recreation area, such as Dark Gully Park should be preserved and maintained as they are.
- Appropriate acknowledgements of indigenous history or sites within these spaces would be appreciated by indigenous people and visitors alike. Consultation with Budawa might result in assistance in the preparation of such acknowledgements.

2. Man-made open spaces and recreation areas

These areas include golf courses and public parks, such as Winnererremy Bay Reserve and Governor Phillip Park. These areas need to be preserved from development which is a constant threat. Where a usage, such as a golf course, is diminishing in use, to the point where its viability is in question, alternative opportunities for public use must be found. An example is Avalon Golf Course – an alternative use for part of the site might be as an amphitheatre used for public performances or perhaps an aquatic centre.

A number of public spaces contain picnic tables – many of these are placed in the unshaded open, without a roof or other cover. These are rarely used as people are more and more conscious of the risks of sunburn and skin cancer. Over time, additional picnic tables should be installed in the shade of trees or with roofs and the older exposed ones phased out. Some parks currently without picnic tables, such as Hordern and Wiltshire Parks could be considered for the installation of one or two (at most) carefully-sited picnic tables to increase public enjoyment of such spaces. Shaded seating is also important in all these spaces to encourage socialisation, rest and quiet contemplation of the environment. There needs to be a transparent public policy for charges for the exclusive use of any part of these spaces for events.

Consultation on the new Plan of Management for Governor Phillip Park is due to commence in April this year and we welcome this. Among a number of issues of concern, its use by the producers of Home and Away is increasing, both in terms of space occupied and in terms of hours of use. The result is that the public is being crowded out of this Crown land and local businesses within the Park, at times have difficulty operating. This needs to be addressed. Pittwater Council had a policy of removing equipment from smaller parks and consolidating such equipment in larger parks. We trust that this policy will not appear in the new strategy and that any small parks from which equipment has been removed are preserved and not slated for development

3. Fees and Charges

There needs to be a transparent public policy for charges for the use of both natural and man-made open spaces and recreation areas, where a permit or licence is required.

4. Access to waterways

Whilst the Council is not responsible for the waterways, it is responsible for all the means of access. Greater use of the waterways is inevitable which puts demands on parking and tinnie, kayak and canoe storage. Parking throughout the Palm Beach/Whale Beach area is already under intolerable pressure during the summer months and holiday weekends so additional parking will need to be constructed. Trailers are another problem but despite previous representations, Woorak Reserve remains an under-utilised trailer parking area. Additional tinnie, kayak and canoe storage is also required but existing places such as Dark Gully Park are not suitable for reasons of no vehicular access and lack of parking. Greater availability and promotion of public shuttle transport is required.

Council must ensure that all public pathways, steps and rights of way leading to the waterways are signed and maintained for public use and not encroached on or appropriated by adjoining properties.

5. Beaches

The principal issues in relation to beaches are management issues, of rubbish removal, adequate clean toilet facilities, parking and the prevention of pollution of the kind which caused problems and illness at the southern end of Palm Beach last year. These beaches and their events receive world-wide exposure – for example the Palm Beach to Whale Beach Swim is rated World No.1 most beautiful coastal swim on the Red Bull website.

6. Tree Cover

There are many opportunities for increased tree planting in open spaces without impinging on existing public use and enjoyment. Examples are South Pittwater Park (shade trees near the ferry wharf where people wait) and Winnererremy Bay Reserve where there is space for at least another row of trees along the Mona Street and Edgar Green Drive frontages. This should be part of the strategy, namely to increase tree canopy. Pittwater tree coverage is below the Sydney average and restoration is all the more important as temperatures rise. Hopefully the Council's policy of replacing any dead or dying tree with a native equivalent would apply and be specifically included in the strategy.

7. Fire Risks

The level of fire risk should be assessed for all open spaces and recreation areas for which the Council is responsible and the result of that assessment made available to residents in each area. The rating should also be made available to people making a booking for events in open spaces and recreation areas.

8. Youth Facilities

Additional exercise equipment in open spaces will be attractive for young people and could be used to provide additional meeting places for them, encouraging fitness and involvement at the same time. There should be consultation with young people to get their views on their needs.

9. Signage/Direction Finding

There are many opportunities for improved signage in our area and, we believe, other areas with the LGA, both for direction-finding and for information. For example, there are some thirty-three or thirty-four pathways in public ownership in Palm Beach and Whale Beach, most of which have no signs and have not been maintained. The "Walking Pittwater" app should be updated and re-released.

10. Rubbish Collection

Increased use of open spaces and recreation areas will generate additional rubbish. There will need to be additional bins provided and/or more frequent collections.

11. Lighting

Some recreation areas, for example Governor Phillip Park, are used by people for walking or relaxation at night. Consideration should be given to adding subdued lighting on principal paths or tracks in the interests of safety in man-made open spaces and recreation areas but not in natural areas where lighting would disturb the native fauna).

We trust that this discussion of underlying strategic issues is useful in the formulation of a draft strategy for open spaces and recreation across the LGA. We note that there will be further public consultation once a draft strategy is formulated, which we would strongly support and we look forward to seeing the draft strategy in due course.

Yours faithfully

Colco Consulting Pty Ltd

Planning and Development Consultants
ABN: 33 106 423 303
29a Amiens Road Clontarf NSW 2093
Ph/Fx: 61-2-9949 6304 Mb: 0404 805 671
email: wayne.collins3@bigpond.com

14 February 2020

The Chief Executive Officer
Northern Beaches Council
Civic Centre
725 Pittwater Road
DEE WHY NSW 2099

Dear Sir,

**Re: Submission – (1) Northern Beaches Council Open Space and Recreation Strategy.
(2) Particular Application to Freshwater Open Space, Coastal, Beach and Community Lands.**

1.0. Introduction, Background and Critical Elements

1.1. We thank the Northern Beaches Council (**Council**) for the opportunity to provide feedback and ideas to inform the development of Council's draft Open Space and Recreation Strategy. This submission is lodged on behalf of our client [REDACTED] a resident of Ocean View Road Freshwater. [REDACTED] is most interested in the future of the Northern Beaches area and especially the use, maintenance and responsible development of community land. This includes local beaches, beach reserves, community lands, open spaces including coastal reserves, parks, playgrounds, bushland reserves, walking and cycling tracks, convenient access including regular and convenient public transport, road and traffic design and safety.

1.2. [REDACTED] is interested in the whole of the Northern Beaches area and with other residents is particularly focused on the Freshwater area. He has committed personal resources to investigating Council's existing and proposed management, use and development of the Freshwater coastal open space area. [REDACTED] is particularly concerned with the Freshwater Coastal Open Space Masterplan adopted by Council in 2018, and has retained a project team of experts to consider an improved, shared vision for Freshwater's open spaces.

1.3. Council is congratulated for embarking on a planned approach to the use and management of open space and recreation. However, our client and our team hold serious concerns with the current approach of Council for reasons as generally outlined in clause 3.0 of this submission.

2.0. Principles for the Development of Community Lands – Open Space and Recreation

2.1. This submission relates to the whole of the Council area with particular reference to Freshwater. While each area of community land, every beach, beach reserve, playground, sports venue and passive community lands will be different and should be developed with recognition of these differences, **we consider the following principles should apply overall:**

1. A Proactive Vision driven by overarching plans over a long-term period of at least 30 years which incorporates 5 and 10 year development plans in accordance with statutory requirements, including Plans of Management (PoMs). This Proactive Vision should be included



By email to Northern Beaches Council Mailbox



in Council's statutory management plans, budget considerations and allocation of funds for operation and maintenance and also for capital improvements. The Proactive Vision must be driven by environmental concerns, optimal community use, and long-term funding (including government grants and Council/government joint ventures and public-private partnerships where appropriate).

2. Recognise and plan for the changing nature of localities – Provision of facilities appropriate to identified needs and growth in each locality and the changing nature of localities.
3. Passive and active use of community lands – Adopting a long-term vision for maximising open space with both passive and active planned recreation facilities.
4. Environmental protection – Protection of the natural environment and the unique natural landscapes and ecosystems of each area.
5. Provision of sensible vehicle parking nearby to open spaces in a manner that prioritises safety, meets growing demand for parking, and occupies minimal natural open spaces with an emphasis on maintaining the scenic value of open spaces on the coastline. Alternatively, Council should consider coordinated public transport (i.e. regular mini-buses) to and from transport and parking "hubs" to open spaces.
6. Accessibility and public transport- integrated provision for and promoted use of public transport.
7. Legal compliance – all to be provided for within a series of statutory Plans of Management for Council lands and Crown Lands with supporting studies and documents developed in a manner that is compliant with the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* and *Crown Land Management Act 2016 (NSW)* and which acknowledges that all uses, licences, development and other dealings on Council's community land and Crown land legally require detailed Plans of Management.

3.0. Key Concerns for the Freshwater area and the Northern Beaches Council Coastal Open Space Masterplan

3.1. Our client is seriously concerned with the Freshwater Coastal Open Space Masterplan adopted by Council in 2018. He has committed personal resources to reviewing Council's actions and proposing an alternative, safer plan for the area which will generate improved community and environmental outcomes. [REDACTED] wants to draw Council's attention to key legal and safety issues, concerns, missed opportunities and suggested ideas for the consideration of Council and residents.

3.2. To date, our project team has:

1. Reviewed the Northern Beaches Council Freshwater Coastal Open Space Masterplan adopted 18 May 2018 including its legal status.
2. Commissioned a detailed traffic study with recommendations.
3. Prepared a review report raising concerns and missed opportunities.
4. Prepared architectural concept plans together with road and traffic planning and traffic management ideas which achieves improve community and environmental outcomes. We will continue to develop these plans for presentation to Council and residents in due course.
5. We will continue in our efforts to engage with Council with the aim of developing and implementing shared vision for Freshwater's coast open spaces with Council and residents.

3.3. Our concerns, which could be applied to each parcel of Council's community land, include:

1. A lack of long-term vision, with a focus of doing little beyond tidying up existing spaces, which will result in missed opportunities for open spaces throughout the Northern Beaches. It is critical that any long term strategies and masterplans must involve an integrated and coordinated overarching management approach across the Northern Beaches Council between the various specialist council staff and consultants including Town Planning, Land Use Planning, Sports and Recreation, Civil Engineers, Traffic planning, Recreation planning, Parks and

Gardens, and representatives of numerous community and sporting interests, residents and local business.

2. Excessive allocation of open spaces in scenic locations for car parking, noting that increased car-parking spaces could be achieved without compromising the scenic value of our coastline.
3. A failure to foster public transport to open spaces.
4. A failure to consider the safety risks of proposed changes to existing roads and traffic management.
5. A serious concern that Council actions to date do not comply with the statutory obligations for preparing and implementing Plans of Management under the *Local Government Act* and the *Crown Land Management Act*.

3.4. Our client asks that each of these above concerns be addressed in developing an Open Space and Recreation Strategy for the Northern Beaches area, and that Council ensures compliance with the statutory requirement for Plans of Management. When preparing, exhibiting, adopting and reviewing the required Plans of Management, the process and outcomes must comply with the statutory requirements under the *Local Government Act* and the *Crown Lands Management Act*.

4.0. A Shared Vision for Freshwater

4.1. A visionary plan for Freshwater Beach can yield tremendous public benefits. By considering innovative design solutions, there are considerable opportunities for improving the recreational and environmental quality of existing open space. A considered Masterplan within the appropriate statutory Plan of Management will ensure design excellence is carried through in the long term.

4.2. Creative options for traffic management and car-parking, for example, would protect and maximise the available open spaces. By engaging with the private sector, there may also be inspired opportunities to achieve a model of sustainable development in the community interest.

4.3. [REDACTED] recognises Council must deal with many competing needs and priorities. With regard to open spaces and community lands there is a particular need to identify and respond to wants, needs, competing interests and priorities. This requires a proactive long-term vision driven by community values and based on assessments and recommendations by relevant experts (architecture, planning, traffic and environmental).

4.4. We submit this is an important opportunity to achieve positive outcomes in the Northern Beaches, and in particular the Freshwater coastal area, in relation to natural features, environmental preservation, maximising open space and mixed recreational facilities, vehicle parking supported by an appropriate public transport system; and potential funding opportunities with limited commercial uses.

4.5. In this regard, [REDACTED] requests that Council considers each of the matters raised in this submission be considered in the preparation and adoption of Council's proposed Open Space and Recreation Strategy. In particular [REDACTED] requests the following elements of our vision to be considered:

- Vision driven objectives to maximise open spaces available for public use, protection of the natural environment together with integrated vehicle parking and public transport.
- Design options for retaining natural features and utilising the natural topography for future structured recreation development, parking, transport and amenities.
- Separation of motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic in order to reduce conflict between vehicles and pedestrians. Management of traffic and roads within the open space area to ensure convenient access, public safety, and resident amenity. Options to address on-site parking whilst increasing the available and usable recreation open space areas

Submission to NBC-Open Space Strategy and Freshwater Open Space, Coastal, Beach and Community Lands

- and off-site parking with public transport service incorporated (especially for major weekends and events).
- Consideration of options for the future improvement of the Freshwater Surf Lifesaving Club and facilities.
- Provide potential for limited and complimentary commercial opportunities (e.g. cafes) to provide services and amenities for residents and visitors and as a possible funding source for improved community outcomes.

4.6 [REDACTED] requests the opportunity for our project team to present to Northern Beaches Councillors the outcome to date of our traffic and design studies and long-term use and structured development of the Freshwater Beach open space community lands. We firmly consider that this is in the best interests of the Freshwater Community, to ensure that we use this important opportunity to achieve an improved shared vision for our open spaces and recreational areas.

Yours faithfully,

Tell us about an open space that you enjoy on the Northern Beaches and why

Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden.....
Peaceful site. ~~It~~ has no off-leash dogs or bicycles racing past.....
.....

Do you have any suggestions for improving any particular open spaces?

We would love to be able to do the Narrabeen lakes circuit, but owing to the hazards of speeding cyclists and off-leash dogs, we haven't visited in more than two years. Having my partner struck by an abusive cyclist
Any other comments? was a huge turn off.

It would be helpful and more inclusive to examine ways in which we all could enjoy the green spaces of the Northern Beaches. Perhaps having more areas dog and cycle free on certain days would be a start.



Newport Residents Association Inc.

PO Box 1180

Newport Beach NSW 2106

President - Gavin Butler (gbutler@aapt.net.au) 0409 395 102

Vice-President - Kyle Hill 0412 221 962

Hon. Secretary - (wendydunnet@gmail.com) 0418 161 074

Hon. Treasurer - Bill Thomson 0437 405 442

www.newport.org.au

29th January 2020

The Chief Executive Officer,
Northern Beaches Council,
PO Box 1336,
Dee Why, NSW 2099

Dear Sir,

Re Proposed Outdoor Youth Space, Newport Beach environs

Our Association is very supportive of endeavours to provide the youth of Newport with facilities which encourage and enhance constructive, healthy outdoor activity.

A number of our members and their families are actively involved in local netball and basketball. Even more have active involvement with the Newport Surf Life Saving Club. So our comments include aspects which reflect those specific inputs.

The Newport SLSC, including its Nippers program, is one of the pre-eminent Clubs in NSW for fostering wide youth involvement and providing excellent, healthy and developmental training for youth in general. For quite some time, the Club has been pursuing options to increase the size of the clubhouse, which is grossly inadequate for housing the equipment it already requires and to provide the facilities, which optimise the involvement of current and future youth membership. We would not wish to see anything proceeding on the area indicated, which will in anyway compromise or impact upon these paramount Club improvements. The detailed plans for the Club must be considered and duly allowed for before concluding what other youth initiatives might be progressed.

Our member feedback on the inclusion of a Basketball Halfcourt is that the ones recently installed elsewhere (eg, Narrabeen Lake) do not seem to attract many basketballers and/or netballers, so go largely unused. Whereas full-size court with standard playing surface get very regular use.

A *Climbing Wall* is an excellent idea; as is a *Street Workout* system. However, has *the location* been fully thought through by those familiar with the existing uses of this particular area, which is quite small and adjacent to so many existing active zones?

The wall, the workout apparatus, the halfcourt (and its fence) and the several concrete seating walls will all block the existing, main vehicle access to Bert Payne Park. And its not just events such as Australia Day and the Newport Market Day which need to have vehicular access. Every Surf Life Saving interclub event also needs such access, to set up tents and position trailers with boats, surf skis, etc. This significant grassy area is also extensively used by visiting family groups throughout the whole summer. These structures, in this location will likely make their access that much more problematic.

There are a number of factors which really need to be thought through, before any non-Surf Club developments proceed in this area:

- Has it been considered that this takes over the area where voters queue, every election day?
- Does having an older teens' activity facility hard up against a children's (and disabled youths') playground attract more vandalism?
- Does the adjacent presence of noisier, more active, bigger youths diminish the enjoyment and overall attraction of the existing playground for the current users?
- And, as we've already touched on, will it detract from the current and future optimal use by the Surf Club, its members and its visiting contestants?

The facilities you've listed – plus a small skate park (larger ones seem to attract a much older, bullying element) – would be great youth embellishments for the Newport community. But is this the optimal location?

Under Pittwater Council, a small skate park was mooted at the northern end of the carpark. For several years, there has been consistent lobbying and indeed, community-sourced professional plans to upgrade the look and the facilities of Newport Oval, the welcoming southern gateway to our village. Could some of these youth facilities be looked at for incorporation into such an oval upgrade? Especially as a significant part of the funding would already appear to be in place.

We heartily endorse the intent of the NBC proposals; we just don't think this is the right location, relative to existing and planned future uses, and also to alternate spaces that can be available elsewhere, adjacent to our village.

Yours sincerely



TrailCare Proposal for Manly Dam Mountain Bike Trail King St Re-alignment

INTRODUCTION

Manly Dam MTB trail is a highly valued community recreation asset and is also one of a very small number of sanctioned MTB trails in the Sydney metro area. It's an extremely popular riding destination for local riders and attracts riders from many other parts of Sydney and elsewhere.

The current Manly Dam MTB trail has evolved over many years and is the result of some creative linking of many existing resources to provide a rideable loop. Its relatively close proximity to the CBD makes it a very appealing destination for before/after work exercise. On a busy day it can see well in excess of 400 visitations (according to councils own data) making the MTB user group one of, if not, the largest identifiable user groups of MWWMP.

The last several years have seen rapid evolution of the sport of mountain biking,

Improvements in mountain bike design and technology have seen mountain bikes rapidly evolve with equally impressive advances in rider skills. We've also seen high growth in MTB specific destinations with professionally designed and built trails

These advances have substantially changed the type of riding which is now the norm, and substantially raised the expectation of riders.

The net effect of this evolution of rider and machine is a vastly increased demand for high quality riding experience and this is characterized as single track.

It is becoming increasingly clear that Manly Dam MTB trail is no longer meeting rider expectations. Consisting largely of suburban streets, public paths, service trails, etc. it offers a generally poor overall riding experience.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In its current form MD MTB Trail falls well short of the expectations of the majority of riders.

This demand for higher quality rider experience has also been manifested in an increasing amount of unsanctioned trail building activity which consumes valuable NBC staff and financial resources to control and remediate.

The primary aim of this proposal is to demonstrate councils support for the sport of mountain biking by improving the overall rider experience for MD MTB Trail.

Another of the most frequent criticisms of the current trail is that riders never actually get to see Manly dam at any point along the MTB trail!

An important secondary benefit is the reduced congestion and improved safety in and around the Manly Vale Public School.

The proposal outlines the re-alignment of the first few hundred metres of the trail. It utilizes an existing electricity easement together with an informal walking trail in an area that has previously been extensively quarried during the construction of the dam. All vegetation in the affected area is re-growth.

Approximately 175metres of new trail will be required to be constructed.

Overall the proposed design requires relatively little construction effort and has been designed to minimise disturbance by leveraging existing features. It provides a substantially improved entry to the trail, immediate access to expansive views of the dam and removes riders from and increasingly traffic congested zones in Arana, Gibbs and Sunshine Sts including the school carpark.

Currently riders commencing their ride at the Hydro Labs follow Arana & Gibbs Sts for approximately 575m before entering the car park at Manly Vale P.S. which provides access the service road (fire trail) behind the school. The proposed alignment replaces approximately 575metres of suburban street with new single track.

TrailCare believes this project has strategic significance as it offers a tangible demonstration of councils support for MTB and will help to build stronger links with the rider community. It also provides a bridge to engage illegal trail builders and refocus their activities to maintain the trails we want i.e. professionally designed and sustainable trails and not building ill conceived, poorly constructed and unsustainable trail in places we don't want them.

TrailCare also believes that this project provides a potent signal to the MTB community that positive engagement can deliver better outcomes for the community and the environment.

CURRENT STATUS

The formal MD MTB trail is approximately 9.6kms in length however less than 2.0kms of the existing MTB trail is single track and offers what most riders would consider a quality riding experience. The remainder being a mix of service trails, public streets, paths, right of ways, asset protection zones, etc. Less than 200metres of the trail could be considered as professionally designed and would meet international sustainability standards as described by the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA)

A quick look at activity maps also indicates that the original Manly Dam trail is no longer the preferred ride for the majority of riders riding in/around Manly Dam. A significant proportion of riders now opting for what's known as the "extended loop".

This includes some additional unsanctioned single trail in the RMS reserve on the Western side of the Wakehurst Parkway including links to the Serrata and Ghania trails in Garigal National Park.

| Segment | Length | Trail Type |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Hydro Lab to School | 578 | Sealed road |
| School to Water Reserve Rd | 550 | Service Road |
| Water Reserve Rd to Kalahi St | 315 | Service Road |
| Kalahi St to Manning St | 377 | Sealed Road |
| Manning St Reserve area | 336 | Non-bush path |
| Manning St Pavement | 211 | Pavement |
| Manning St Climb | 227 | Legacy Trail |
| Bantry Bay Oval Path | 403 | Shared-use path |
| Bowling club connector | 90 | Singletrack |
| Water tower service road | 197 | Service Road |
| Golf Course Single track | 1157 | Singletrack |
| Survey trail | 316 | Legacy Trail |
| Fire road descent | 858 | Service Road |
| Fire road climb | 1934 | Service Road |
| 19th hole single track | 243 | Singletrack |
| 19th hole connector | 235 | Non-bush path |
| Cootamundra drive | 149 | Sealed road |
| Cootamundra drive connector | 81 | Singletrack |
| Allambie service road | 345 | Service Road |
| Allambie descent | 375 | Legacy Trail |
| Allambie fire break | 318 | Non-bush path |
| New Allambie single track | 98 | Singletrack |
| Old Allambie single track | 104 | Singletrack |
| Exit connector | 109 | Shared-use path |
| | | |
| Total Trail Length | 9606 | |
| Total MTB Trail (single track) | 1773 | |
| Total Service Road | 4199 | |
| Streets and pathways | 2481 | |
| Other | 1153 | |

TABLE 1: TrailCare Audit of Manly Dam MTB Trail

KEY ISSUES:

- RIDER DISSATISFACTION
- POOR RIDER EXPERIENCE
- INCREASED BUILDING OF UNSANCTIONED TRAILS WITHIN MWWMP AREA
- POTENTIAL DESTRUCTION OF SINGLE TRAIL DUE TO WAKEHURST PARKWAY WIDENING
- LACK OF A LONG TERM STRATEGY CONTRIBUTING TO UNSANCTIONED TRAIL BUILDING

The Future for MD MTB trail.

With council's support volunteers have contributed many man hours in the maintenance of the trail however it really needs a long term strategy that has been jointly developed with the local rider community.

The planned widening of the Wakehurst Parkway also threatens access to the most highly valued section of the circuit, the single track located between the Wakehurst Golf Club and the Parkway. It is critical that planning to accommodate these changes is performed in a timely manner and that riders are able to contribute in this planning process.

Any loss of access or amenity would be viewed very negatively and has the potential to catalyse further illegal trail building.

NOTES ON PROPOSED KING ST REALIGNMENT

Segment A: Electricity easement parallel to King St (Yellow)

Distance: ~170m

Terrain: Flat.

Build effort: Low.

Materials Required: None.

The proposed new alignment will follow the power line easement parallel to the King St entrance to MWWMP. This easement is somewhat overgrown at the moment and potentially due for major clearance work by the energy authority to mitigate any associated fire risk.

Once cleared it would provide a suitable corridor for this initial section of the new MTB trail alignment.

Construction effort for this section of the trail is low and could be conducted by volunteers to reduce costs.



Segment B: New climbing trail (Blue)

Distance: ~175m

Terrain: gentle climbing trail, <10% gradient.

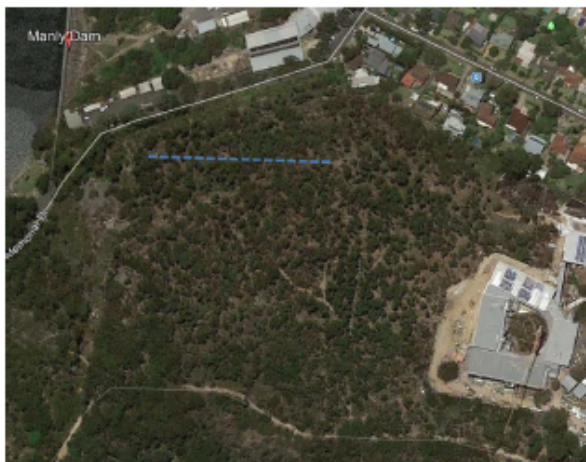
Build effort: Moderate.

Materials required: Small amount of crushed sandstone and flagging.

This segment is a climbing traverse of approximately 175 metres which will enable riders to gain 25metres of elevation. This area has been extensively quarried during the various construction phases of the dam and still shows many signs of the quarrying work. All vegetation in this area is regeneration as the area was cleared during the dam construction.

One of the many benefits of this new alignment is a satisfying view of Manly Dam. In its current form there is no point on the existing trail where riders can actually see Manly Dam!

Construction effort for this section of the trail is moderate and could be machine cut or conducted by volunteers to reduce costs



Segment: Informal walking track (Pink)

Distance: ~450m

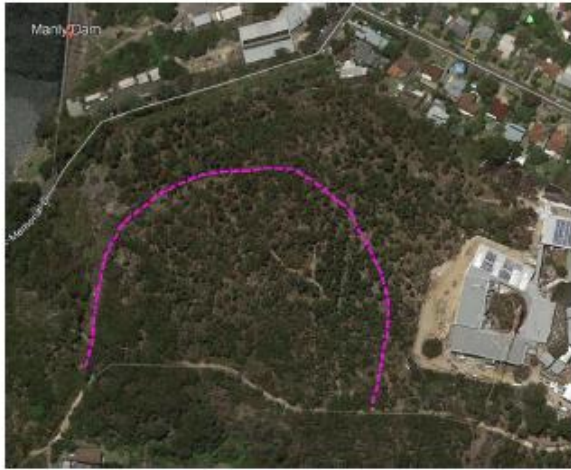
Terrain: Almost flat (gentle contour).

Build effort: Low.

Materials Required: None.

This segment is an existing informal contour trail following a wide natural rock terrace around the NW shoulder of Mc Comb hill. It provides an excellent viewing platform for riders to take in views of the dam and is largely concentric to the existing formal walking trail to the summit of McComb hill. This links to the Water Reserve Rd Fire Trail.

As this walking trail currently exists the construction effort to allow for MTB is minimal and could be conducted by volunteers to reduce costs.



Segment: Formal walking (summit) track (Red)

Distance: ~400m

Terrain: Undulating.

Build effort: N/A.

Materials: None.

This is the existing formal walking trail to the summit of Mc Comb Hill and is shown here as a matter of record only.

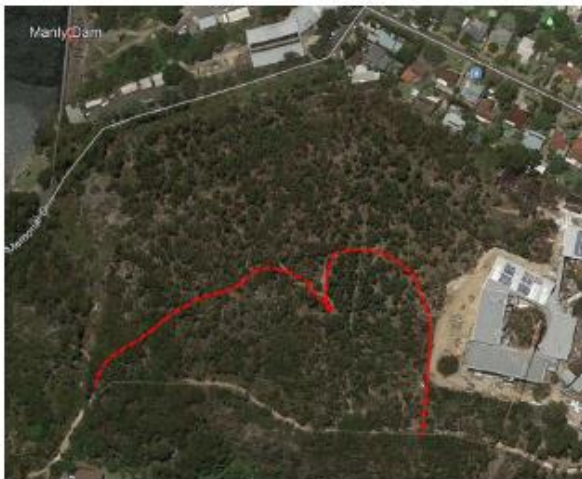


DIAGRAM 1: COMBINED VIEW OF EXISTING EASEMENTS AND TRAILS

This diagram overlays each of the segments and shows their relative location.

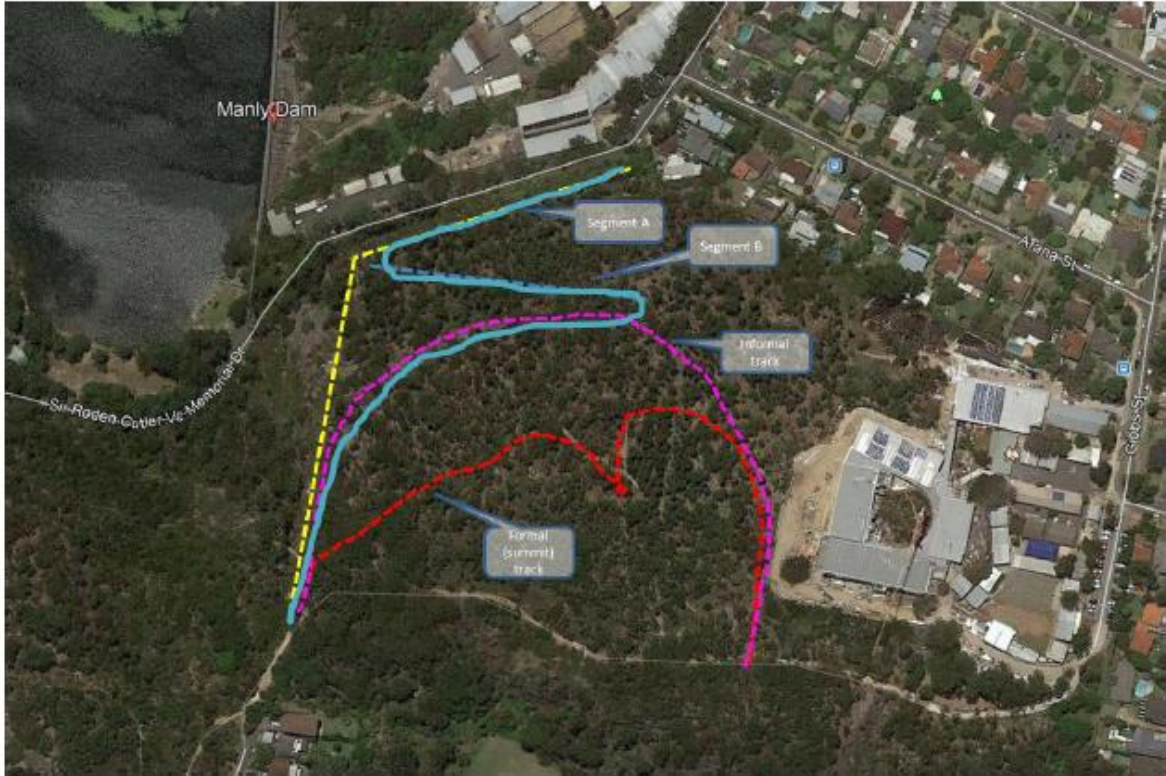
This also show the full extent of the electricity easement which initially follows parallel to King St however turns approximately south and continues over the western shoulder of Mc Comb hill.



DIAGRAM 2: PROPOSED NEW ALIGNMENT

This final diagram illustrates the intended alignment for the new single track (Blue line) and shows the relationship of each of the features discussed.

By utilizing existing easements, trail and natural rock features the impact of the construction is largely limited to segment B, the climbing trail that allows riders to access views of the dam.



BENEFITS

The most significant benefit of this proposed alignment is the improved rider experience. It is TrailCare's contention that enhancements such as this realignment have the potential to reduce unsanctioned trail building activity by demonstrating Council's commitment to mountain biking by enhancing the current trail and providing a high quality riding experience.

A relatively modest build effort will provide a dramatic improvement to the trail. By replacing the Arana and Gibbs St segment riders will have an almost direct access into a single track experience and after a short climb are delivered to a wide rock terrace with extensive views of Manly Dam to the north west.

The Manly Vale Public School population is projected to grow from its current cohort of approximately 550 (half the design capacity) to potentially as much as 1200 students. This will result in substantially increased traffic density in and around the school. Congestion points already exist around the school car park at the junction of Gibbs and Sunshine Sts. The proposed new MTB trail alignment removes all MTB cycle traffic from this vicinity and mitigates the safety risk from increased traffic density.

NBC surveys confirm many residents are attracted to the active lifestyle opportunities our location offers. Parks and Reserves such as MWWMP are highly valued community recreation assets. However research by Exercise and Sports Science Australia (ESSA) indicates that Australia is facing an "Inactivity Crisis" with only 1 in 3 Australians meeting or exceeding the physical activity/sedentary behavior guidelines.

Cycling in all its forms is growing and industry figures indicate that in an average year approximately 1.5million bicycles are imported into Australia. An increasing proportion are mountain bikes suggesting that the demand for high quality single track riding experiences will continue to increase. TrailCare recently conducted modeling using Transport for NSW Economics Manual which demonstrates a benefit/cost ratio > 4 (actual results ranged from 4 - 6 using conservative scenarios) for mountain biking. The bottom line is that it's very hard to beat the health benefits of mountain biking!

As the popularity of mountain biking has increased so has the popularity of purpose designed and built MTB trails and trail destinations. These provide very high quality rider experience with carefully designed and constructed sustainable single track experience for riders. Riders are continually looking for higher quality riding experiences of the single track kind closer to home and many case studies suggest this unmet demand for high quality riding experiences will fuel illegal trail building.

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

Status Quo = poor user experience and more illegal trails!

Enforcement - what would that cost, is it even possible?

Long Term Strategy - work with the rider community to enhance a highly valued resource for a Win/Win outcome.

ABOUT TRAILCARE

TrailCare represents mountain bikers across NSW, with a particular local focus on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

We're a volunteer not-for-profit organisation committed to:

- (i) working with government agencies towards securing and protecting sustainable MTB infrastructure.
- (ii) assisting land managers understand MTB, and manage associated issues.
- (iii) consulting on MTB projects, including environmental, design and social considerations.

Further information can be found here: www.trailcare.com.au

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for chatting to me the other day, as discussed I would formally write to council in regard to LM Graham's Reserve.

A small few do the right thing at LM Graham's Reserve, Manly, picking up their dog faeces BUT

1. Please can you explain to me how an owner of more than one dog not on a lead can monitor the dogs doing a number two. While one dog runs one way and the other dog runs the other way, how does that owner watch both dogs doing a number two and know where to pick it up from.
2. On dusk how does the owner see where the dog has done a number two?
3. When the enclosed dog fence was up there wasn't that much dog poo because it was in a confined area and dog owners had no choice other than to pick it up.
4. Myself, volunteers, committee members and other dog walkers have followed some dog owners to pick up their dog's poo, some comments made by some dog owners are: where is it, that's not from my dog, it's not in the way, why should I, I don't have a bag, or they keep walking.
5. You can not sit on the grass on a rug and watch sport, as dogs run onto the rug or run over the top of you or your children.
6. If a local family wanted to have a portable barbecue in the park for a birthday party this could not work as dogs would jump onto the barbecue or harass the cooking person.
7. Dogs in the change rooms, public toilets and canteen, continuously, with the occasional sorry
8. I've seen small dogs being attacked by large dogs. I've seen an assault from a younger woman to an older person over her dog stealing the other dogs tennis ball
9. I was bowled over the other day as I was cleaning my shoe from poo, a very large dog jumped up onto my chest which caught me in a unbalanced position, no sorry by the owner.
10. There is a lot of children scared of dogs, we have heard on many occasions screaming children as their dad turns up to play sport, carrying sporting equipment and cannot pick up the child as well, as a dog runs up to them

Here's a couple of suggestions that, I see to move forward with L M Graham's Reserve with Dogs, Sporting codes, Recreational People, the General public and Children

1. Dogs to be on leads at all times
2. OR Dogs are to be on leads during the winter season everyday
3. OR Dogs could be off leash before 8am and after 4 pm

I haven't seen an up to date drawing of what type of fencing or gate will be erected before the hill at the back of the Boy Charlton Pool and beside the white building facilities to stop dogs coming into the new amenities block. There is a historical plaque on the red building, it should be put up somewhere else not thrown away.

I look forward in receiving your response as soon as you are able

Yours sincerely

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for opportunity to let you know a little about our club.

Our figures for the 19/20 year do not reflect our positive situation.

We have come out of Covid 19 lock down quite well. This was mostly due to the appointment of a younger more energetic board. Plus the continued use of volunteer workers as well as the appointment of a new Licensee.

Our Cash Reserves [REDACTED] During lock-down this money was not required.

Our Trading Account had been reduced, however since trading resumed in July, we have been able to achieve working capital of \$90K. This is the same amount of working we had in the bank prior to closure.

We have been able to achieve this cash balance whilst making several important purchased:

- Australian made outside chairs made from recycled materials
- An electronic sign-in machine to effectively control the requirements of Covid
- Purchase Covid compliant internal signage and sanitisers
- Upgraded our cleaning program ongoing
- Upgraded all Club exits to meet fire requirement
- Upgraded security with new locks and installation of security cameras and monitoring
- Upgraded our outside drainage
- Upgraded our kitchen to meet commercial requirements
- Upgrade of TV's
- Painted the internal walls of the club *
- Upgraded the existing gardens*
- Purchased pots and plants to decorate the entrance to the club
- Upgraded the Caretaker Cottage

*The painting and gardening was done during Covid Lockdown. We responded to many of our members expressing the need to be involved. We purchased paint etc and arranged a Covid compliant plan to achieve the upgrade of the club whilst looking after the mental wellbeing of many of our members. This involved both men and women from within the club.

We are a vibrant community based sports club that is open to many diverse community groups.

Our focus has been bowling; our bowling membership remains static, several members passed away over the past few months, however, we have been able to gain new younger members.

- Our greens are open to **wheelchair bowlers**. We have wheelchair access and we promote groups to use this as a way of getting out and having fun.
- Over the past 4 months we have extended our facilities to young people to get on the green and have fun. This has assisted us in gaining over **200 new Social members since July**.
- We offer **school sport** - we are looking to introduce an intra and inter school competition in 2021.
- **Older Bowlers** - In consideration to older members that are finding the longer game too exhausting we have introduced shorter games with a mid-break so they can continue to have access to the very important social aspect of the game and still have a competition. One of our oldest members is 93 and is a true inspiration to all as he plays the full game very athletically.
- We **host District and Zone** bowling events.
- The **club hosts several local Carnivals** each year for example, George Vade Day, North of the Harbour, End of June Carnival, Ham and Turkey Day, Versatility Day. These events bring players from our district as well as outside.
- **Twilight bowls** for all level of player during Summer.

Notably we have a number 1 men's Pennant team in our club. Our men are open to playing with women with many women playing in club competitions as well as reserve for the men's pennants. Our men and women are competitive within the zone and district.

We welcome **charity groups** to run their fundraising events at no cost to them.

Our club has opened our doors to a **training companies** to conduct training in a variety of disciplines including the White Card and RSA and RCG and Excavation Course.

We accommodate First Aid courses and Surf Life Saving courses

Mahjong group utilising our facilities.

Trivia has been popular and is attracting a different sector of the community to our club.

Horse racing groups, darts competitions and we will resume when allowed have **live entertainment**.

We provide an **inexpensive venue for groups** who wish to celebrate birthdays etc.

Since July we have introduced a **Purchasing Policy to purchase from Local Companies**.

- Our meat raffles are purchased from Devitt's at Narrabeen. They supply the meet for our sausage sizzles. (The previous board was purchasing from Aldi)
- Spirits and some of the basic wines from Bayfield's
- Our major wines are purchased from Molly's Cradle
- General Grocery items and juices are from Woolworths
- The new sign-in was also purchased from a local group.

Library service for all members.

We are looking to offer food to the venue in 2021.

During the next month we will finalise our Business plan for 2021 which will continue to improve the facilities for all members, whilst maintaining strong financial stand.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 13 May 2020 3:38 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Northern Beaches Open Space and Recreation Strategy

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you and the team are all well over on the Northern Beaches.

Our team here at Surfing NSW have come up with the below points after a couple of meetings and feedback from Boardriders clubs on the Northern beaches for the open space and recreation strategy.

- Membership numbers.
 - At the moment on the Northern beaches there 17 Boardriders clubs with approximately 1500 members and 500 Surfing NSW members.
 - SNSW and local boardrider club membership is growing, there's also more female and junior girls joining clubs which is great to see.
 - There are 6 elite coaches, 1 High Performance Centre and 5 surf schools operating.
- Vision & opportunities for the future
 - To be able to continue running monthly club rounds with flexibility on dates if one weekend has to be postponed.
 - Continue coaching
 - Increasing memberships
 - Better fundraising and sponsorship for BRC's.
 - Putting current members through Surfers Rescue courses to keep up skilling surfers to help rescue people in the water and on the beach.
 - North Steyne BRC continued to run their monthly round by enforcing strict guidelines during Covid-19. They had an online component with their competitors having to come down one at a time in their own coloured shirt then went home straight away.
 - Beach visitor guidelines and wave etiquette signage
 - "Safe surf zones" potential for a flagged area away from the main break for beginner surfers.
 - More recognition from councils and the community of what a boardriders club provides eg mental health, shaping future athletes, inclusion, strong sense of community, saving lives and equality.
- Current issues
 - Keeping the beaches open during the Covid-19 pandemic was valued and appreciated. However when other councils closed their beaches there was larger number of surfers from out of the area going to the Northern Beaches to surf.
 - Each of our contacts came back with the same feedback of not having a storage space for their clubs equipment. There have been multiple times that clubs have reached out to local Surf Life Saving Clubs for some space for storage and they have been denied each time. There's a bit of frustration there especially that boardriders is a year round thing and Surf life Saving is the summer season only.
 - Parking and parking costs
- Ideas for locational improvements
 - Storage and facility spaces available for boardriders and coaches at Surf Clubs. At the moment each club has to store their equipment in a trailer and leave it at one of their members houses. They then need to take it down to each club round and leave it in and pay for a car spot.
 - Boardriders to have flexibility on dates and beach use for monthly club rounds if they need.

Whats the next steps or process from here? We'd still like to be involved with this to keep helping our members and clubs on the Northern Beaches.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
PO Box 4005, Maroubra South, 2035 NSW
surfingnsw.com.au



SAVED SOMEONE WHILE
SURFING?
RECORD YOUR RESCUE AT
SURFERSRESCUE247.COM

All Surfing NSW staff are currently working remotely. As of the week of 4th May, Surfing NSW have reduced working hours over the COVID-19 period indefinitely until the end of June 2019. Surfing NSW working days are Monday - Thursday and the office phone (02) 9349 7055 will be attended 9am - 5pm on these days.

If you physically need to visit the office please call (02) 9349 7055 to arrange an appointment. Please use the new COVID-19 guidelines and assess if this is absolutely necessary at this sensitive time.

For all Surfing NSW updates across events, membership, programs and education please visit the news section on our website surfingnsw.com.au and keep follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

Thank you Mark , please find below our submissions:

Membership/participant numbers: We expect to grow once we can recommence shows, estimated 100-200 participants each show

Is Membership/participation in your program/competition growing, declining or static – Our numbers are static at the moment as not only can we not use the ground but during Covid 19 (horse and human) movement is strictly limited , but as soon as it opens up again and we can organise shows on the grounds we will do so , with expected numbers to increase. We have been contacted by a lot of Horse people wondering when we will be back having shows at the showground, there is a lot of interest.

Vision and opportunities for the future : Our events have been running for over 85 years and we intend to keep striving to keep our rural/agricultural history a part of the current community , which is an important part of the Forest Area and history.

Current Issues : Grounds not complete, unsuitable to run events, no building to run the shows out of , no timeline as to completion of the area so we can commence to organise some events.

Ideas for locational improvements (ground specific/general) : We need a building to work out of, run our canteen and office, we have lost over 2 years of income from the ground works. We won't know if the works completed so far will be Horse show friendly until we have our first event and hope that the parking of floats and trucks can manoeuvre around the track and roadways within the showground perimeter. As we have noticed that a lot of the information we gave to council at the many meetings we attended have not been listened too, and this I put down to the staff involved being changed every meeting we attended there was different staff each time.

Thank you for letting us submit some of our thoughts,

Thankyou



Frenchs Forest A & H Society

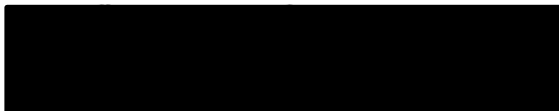


Northern Beaches Council: Draft Space & Recreation Strategy

Avalon Beach Bowling & Recreation Club Ltd.
Avalonbowlo.com/facebook/instagram

October 2020

All inquiries:



Overview:

The Avalon Beach Bowling & Recreation Club is situated in the centre of the Avalon Beach village and has been a mainstay of sports and community activity on the beach for over 60 years.

Unlike many other bowling clubs across NSW the Avalon Bowlo is progressing well through a mix of increased sporting activity, social/community inclusion, entertainment and food service.

Directors are seeking to develop the [AvalonBowlo](http://AvalonBowlo.com) to a more recognised centre for community socialising, events and functions, and to encourage greater use by sports groups in the local area.

Despite the impost of Covid 19 restrictions [AvalonBowlo](http://AvalonBowlo.com) is trading satisfactorily to the extent that it currently has been removed from the Jobkeeper program – based on the 30% down trade provision.

Club offerings:

Avalon Bowlo provides:-

SPORTING FACILITIES for :

- Lawn bowls
- Petanque
- Croquet
- Sight Impaired bowlers.

MUSIC:

- Jazz – Wednesday nights / 50 weeks per year.
- Live bands – Sunday afternoons 50 weeks per year
- Special music events: Avalon Big Band, featured artists, private concerts.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY:

A refurbished clubhouse caters to patrons seeking social activities including bar service 7 days a week; televised sporting events; pool room facility; outside entertaining & eating.

CATERING:

The Clubs newly revamped kitchen with a full time in house Chef provides a variety of casual quality foods for patrons on site. Additionally, special food events are coming on stream and quality catering for Club and private events is now on hand.

Attendance at Avalon Bowlo.

Avalon Bowl opens its greens and services 7 days a week – mostly from 2.30 pm.

Pre Covid 19 restrictions it was estimated that some 10,000 people signed in to the bar area in a 12 month period. These would include repeat visits.

Club Memberships currently are (apx):

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Lawn Bowlers | 78 |
| Petanque Players | 45 |
| Croquet Players | 20 |
| Sight Impaired bowlers | 12 |
| Social Member s | 880. |

All levels of membership are up against 2018-2019.

Club Trading:

Over the past two year the Club has embarked on a revitalisation of its business, community interaction and involvement with social promoters, local sports groups and entertainment

During the Covid 19 shut down the Club spent some \$87,000 upgrading its club house and gardens to provide a new look Club with better, cleaner facilities for Members and patrons;

A new commercial kitchen was installed (with help of NSW Gov grant); new carpets and flooring, new lighting, ceiling fans and a full repaint of the Clubs interior was undertaken – at the Clubs expense.

Prior to the Covid Pandemic the Club was trading potentially at its best in several years. In 2020-2021 – thus far – and despite the Covid restrictions the Club is trading satisfactorily and has been removed from the Jobkeeper program.

Vison & opportunities for the Club.

Directors are currently working through the complexities and diversions to trading being caused by the Covid restrictions.

However, overall and longer term the efforts being put in place indicates that the Club's memberships and business activities are all growing.

Directors are seeking to further expand the Club's social, sporting, community outreach to further integrate the Avalon Bowlo as an modern integral part of this beachside community.

While it has to be acknowledged that Lawn Bowls is a sport with a reduced impact in recent years Avalon Bowlo sees a strengthening in numbers for this sport and the new sporting activities we are encouraging in Petanque and Croquet are utilising the facilities developed and maintained by the Club.

Ideas for locational improvements.

Avalon Bowlo has a good working relationship with Northern Beaches Council and currently have ongoing discussions to plans submitted by the Club to provide access for disabled and impaired patrons/ members. To offset the loss of internal space the plan includes expansion of the floor plan.

The Club is also in talks with Council re tree pruning to allow sunshine to reach solar powered lights installed by Council for the safety of patrons (and many residents of Pittwater Palms who travel the Clubs property to access their homes).

And while Council has fixed pot holes in the street and driveway that allows vehicle and human access to the Club, there is a need for a full restoration of the bitumen for safety and convenience.

Ends.



SEAFORTH BOWLING CLUB

ABN 73 001 059 972

"The Friendliest Bowling Club on the Peninsula"

Kirkwood Street (PO Box 37), Seaforth NSW 2092 Ph: (02) 9948 1119

E-mail: seaforthbowlingclub@gmail.com

Chairman: Grahame Goldberg

Website: www.seaforth.bowls.com.au

Administration Manager: Rhian ter Laak

1 October 2020

Mark Wilson
Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 82
Manly NSW 1655 Australia

council@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mark

We wish to make the following submission to the draft Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

1. SBC Membership Numbers

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Bowling Members | 150 |
| Social Members | <u>514</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>664</u> |

We expect social member numbers to increase by approximately 20 in this financial year.

2. Growing Membership

Bowling membership is steady. Social membership is going to increase over the next 12 months with additional social members from both Probus and Bridge players.

3. Vision and Opportunities for the Future

We are exploring the possibility of increased playing in the evening under floodlights, of which we have six at present.

We have a grant application (for \$24,000) in for a playground area for children, including an outdoor eating area and improved BBQ area.

We have a MOU with the Raiders (children's local rugby club) and they use our club as their home base.

We are contemplating a limited organic market (for which we have not yet lodged a DA).

Our overall intention is to make the club one which is seen more as a community club, rather than simply a lawn bowling club.

4. Current Issues

We apply for grants wherever possible. It does sadden us that we have never, to the knowledge of long-standing members of the club, had an alert from Crown Lands that they have a grants program. Given that the initial lease was from Crown Lands in 1959 we would have expected that if they had a grant program appropriate to us they would send us notification as all other bodies seem to do.

Furthermore, it is difficult to accept that we are not eligible to apply for Northern Beaches Council grants because we are not a lessee of the council nor is the land managed by Northern Beaches Council. We are a strong community minded club.

We may lodge a development application for a small organic market in our large carparking area.

5. Ideas for Locational Improvements

Bantry Bay Reserve is the home of the Raiders and there are many rugby union games played there by children – male and female, from less than age 6 up to 14 years (and there are a number of large floodlights, presumably installed by Northern Beaches Council) so that night games can take place as well as during daylight hours.

At the eastern end, well beyond the try score line for the rugby field, there is a semi-circular area which is unused.

There are two comments which we wish to inform you of for Banty Bay Reserve;

- i) As the entry/exit to the tunnel will be close by, it would appear sensible to seize the opportunity to use the soil to level the rugby field to make it a first-class field, which it is not at present.
- ii) It would be possible to add a few netball courts in the semi-circular area. (Netball courts are 30.5 x 15.25 metres = 465.125 metres).
- iii) Also, at Seaforth Oval there are now three full size soccer fields and two half size soccer fields. There is very little grass on any of these five soccer fields. So that area too would be greatly improved by the addition of soil obtained from the tunnel construction.

Yours faithfully
Seaforth Bowling Club

Northern Beach Open Space and Recreation Strategy

Forest Hills Pony Club

Submission to Warringah Council May 2020

Introduction

Pony Club NSW is a not-for-profit organisation committed to the development of horse riding in NSW for children and young people. Pony Club NSW is one of the largest equestrian associations in the world and runs through a local club structure, with over 15,000 riders participating in 270 clubs across NSW.

Pony Club provides high quality training at a grassroots level, as well as elite development programs, state and national level competitions and education programs.

Pony Club aims to encourage young people to ride and learn to enjoy all kinds of sports connected with horses and riding; provide instruction on riding and horsemanship; teach an understanding of proper animal care; and instil highest ideals of sportsmanship and citizenship.

Forest Hills Pony Club

Forest Hills Pony Club (FHPC) was established in 1976 and over the years has nurtured the talents of many elite riders, including Olympians Shane Rose and Stuart Tinney.

We are the only pony club in the Warringah area and enjoy the largest dedicated equestrian grounds on the Northern Beaches.

FHPC is dedicated to children and young people, so our riding membership comprises young people aged 6 to 25. Parents and carers are also welcome to participate as non-riding members.

Our facilities at JJ Melbourne Memorial Reserve include a full-size sand dressage arena with lights, large cross-country course with a big water jump, ample float parking, a canteen and a club house.

We offer children and young people the opportunity to participate in a wide range of equestrian activities such as:

- Show jumping
- Dressage
- Sporting
- Mounted Games
- Cross Country
- Eventing
- Polocrosse
- Horseball

The core activity of pony club are our rally days, which are held on the first and third Sunday of every month from 8 am to 3pm. At Rally days, riders receive instruction on a wide range of riding disciplines and caring for their pony. Rally days are run by voluntary instructors and are the backbone of the Club and the broader pony club movement.

FHPC also participates in clinics and competitions with other pony clubs in the northern Sydney region, and beyond that, across the State. Through these activities our members build friendships and connect with young people from regional and rural NSW.

Membership

Because pony club is run by volunteers, it is one of the few equestrian activities that is affordable. Due to the logistics involved, equestrian sports rely on a high degree of parental involvement – pony club really is a family affair and FHPC prides itself on the dedication of its members. We run a canteen and BBQ every rally day, have a team of volunteers to set up and pack up, and an active “Dads Club” who help maintain and repair our buildings and equipment.

Following a concerted effort to raise the profile of the Club, the membership of FHPC has increased over the last few years.

In 2020 we have 63 active members, with between 20 and 30 riders attending each rally day.

Our increase in membership is attributable to an improved social media profile and a membership drive and also our efforts to reach out to local equestrian businesses – riding schools and agistment centres – to help support their riders to come to Pony Club.

FHPC is a registered activity provider of the NSW Active Kids Program. Parents, guardians and carers can apply for a voucher valued up to \$100 per calendar year for each student enrolled in school.

The majority of our members live in the Warringah Shire LGA and all the horses that attend FHPC are stabled locally. They make a significant contribution to the local economy.

Vision and opportunities for the future

Horse agistment and riding has always been a treasured part of life on the Northern Beaches. We are very fortunate to have access to beautiful bush tracks and public arenas where locals can enjoy this special sport.

Over the next 5 years we are very keen to further expand our membership and increase our involvement in regional and State activities with other pony clubs.

A long term vision is to build a covered arena to protect the children from the sun and enable all weather training, as well as an elite level cross country course.

Current issues

The FHPC clubhouse, amenities block and grounds are in need of an urgent upgrade.

Specifically:

- The current amenities block (2 female and 2 male toilets) are not wheelchair accessible;
- Without a shower we are unable to host multi-day events;
- The kitchen facilities are very crude and in need of urgent improvement;
- Our clubhouse and storage shed have been broken into a number of times over the last few years, with expensive machinery stolen. Security is an ongoing concern, especially given the value of the machinery we store there (tractor, ride-on mower, ground maintenance and equestrian equipment);
- The pergola to the club house does not have a gutter and in heavy rain the clubhouse floods;
- The boundary fencing is in a state of severe disrepair and needs replacing;
- The cross-country course is overrun by noxious weeds – mainly lantana and blackberry. Weeds encroaching on the track represent a real safety hazard. A weed eradication program is required as a matter of urgency to maintain safe access to the course;
- Many cross-country jumps require significant repair and/or reconstruction;
- A second tap is needed for the horse wash bay.

Ideas for locational improvements

We are very fortunate that our members are able to ride to pony club from around Terrey Hills and Duffy's Forest and the riding tracks around the JJ Memorial Reserve are an important drawcard for the club because they enable members who do not own a horse float to walk to rally days.

The condition of the track along Mona Vale Rd can be unreliable especially after rain and storms. We would like to see better and more regular maintenance of this track to ensure safe access to the grounds.

Better signposting to warn bike riders of the likely presence of horses would also be beneficial.

We would welcome an opportunity to discuss our vision for the future with Council, and we would be very pleased to have Council visit a Rally Day to better understand our fantastic club.

Please feel free to call [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 25 September 2020 9:43 AM

Subject: I have an idea ! A Rotary Rotunda

Fellow Rotarians I have an Idea !

After a recent visit to Brisbane , I came across a Rotary built facility in a local park. Photos below.

I think this concept could be a great addition in our own Mona Vale Village Park.

Here's my thinking:

- 1) After our recent experience with Carols, the hiring of a stage each year at \$15k plus is not a great use of club/sponsors/public funds.
 - 2) A facility such as this could be located in the southern corner (similar to where stage goes) to be used by anyone hiring the venue (Carols / Organic market / school groups, etc) enabling easier stage type presentations/announcements. The amphitheater seating already there would compliment this facility
 - 3) A great opportunity for a Rotary "legacy" project where the Rotary Brand is on constant display.
 - 4) Given current council / state / federal grants/assistance being provided for infrastructure type projects, this could be a good fit. Suggestion is our club could coordinate the project, dealing with govt/council / local suppliers, etc. Whilst not a fund raiser like the markets proposal, it could provide our club with a new focus.
 - 5) This is not new to Rotary, if you google Rotary Rotunda you will see many examples of clubs around the country have done this. We could learn from them as well. I think we did look at this a few years back and it was cost prohibitive, but getting council/govt support in this "coming out of Covid " period may give it a chance. We could for instance start a sinking fund to raise funds for a part of the project, using crowd funding/other avenues .
- So happy to get your collective thoughts, on the idea and best way to progress. As usual we would need a key working group to progress this, let me know if you have an interest. Whilst our projects are being shut down through covid, this could be a timely replacement to get us busy again !

Yours in keeping Rotary visible and relevant

[REDACTED]
<image007.jpg>

<image008.jpg>



Northern Beaches Volleyball Association

Web: nbva.org.au

Post: PO Box 39 Manly NSW 2095

ABN: 61 723 793 662

To: Mark Wilson – Recreation Project Officer, NBC,

Re: Open Space & Recreation Strategy - Input

Date: 18th May 2020

Hi Mark,

Thank you for reaching out for consultation with the Northern Beaches Volleyball Association in respect to your 2020 Open Space & Recreation Strategy. As a long-standing part of the Northern Beaches Community we welcome the opportunity to be involved and provide input.

Executive Summary:

- The NBVA has been running for 30years providing important sporting and recreation facilities, competition and training to Junior, Social, Elite level athletes in the Northern Beaches Community – in addition to attracting visitors from Greater City, other Australian States, and Internationally.
- The Club has been growing consistently and in the past 2years has seen exponential growth resulting in strain on the facilities.
- Areas of opportunity for providing additional facilities and services to the Northern Beaches Community involve:
 - Additional Permanent Courts at Manly Beach.
 - Additional Permanent Courts at other "Beach" and "Off Beach" Locations in the Northern Beaches Area.
 - Improved Facilities at Manly Beach (including lighting / power / storage) to enhance the ability for the NBVA to operate and provide services to members and community.

Sport & Club Overview:

Beach Volleyball (and Volleyball in general) is a growing Olympic and Commonwealth Games sport which Australia and the Northern Beaches have achieved International success. Confirmed by AusPlay and the Australian Sports Commission as Australia's most gender equal sport - this is critical with both the Northern Beaches Council and Governments recent focus on target opportunities specifically for women and girls.

The Northern Beaches Volleyball Association (NBVA) has been a part of the Northern Beaches Community in operation for over 30years (inaugurated in November 1989), providing free access to recreation facilities to the Northern Beaches Community in the form of 8 permanent courts on Manly Beach, and 1 permanent court at Newport Beach. From these facilities the NBVA also runs Junior, Social, and Elite Training Programs and Competitions for over 500 members.

The NBVA has had considerable success with Northern Beaches Athletes representing on the World Stage. This involves countless Australian Champions, FIVB World Tour Medals, Junior World Champions, and participation of past/current members at the highest echelons at both the Commonwealth and Olympic Games, including:

- 1996 Atlanta Olympics (Kerri Pottharst – **Bronze Medal** / Julien Prosser – 9th)
- 2000 Sydney Olympics (Kerri Pottharst – **Gold Medal** / Julien Prosser – 9th)
- 2004 Athens Olympics (Julien Prosser – 4th / Kerri Pottharst – 9th)
- 2012 London Olympics (Becchara Palmer – 19th)
- 2016 Rio De Janeiro Olympics (Mariafe Artacho Del Solar / Nikki Laird – 19th)
- 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games ((Mariafe Artacho Del Solar – **Silver Medal**)

The Northern Beaches Community and the NBVA are privileged to be able to leverage these athletes to 'give back' into the community and sport in an ongoing basis.

The NBVA is proudly a Non-Profit organisation with 100% of the profits generated being injected back into the sport to drive positive outcomes for the sport of Beach Volleyball, Junior Athletes, a healthy & engaged Northern Beaches Community.

Participants are of an extremely diverse background from age, cultural, gender predominantly from Northern Beaches District + Visitors to the area.

- Junior Volleyball Program
- Primary & High School Groups
- Social Players
- Elite Athletes

Exponential Growth:

The sport of Beach Volleyball has been growing consistently both in Australia and Globally since its introduction at the 1996 Olympics, and more recently the 2018 Commonwealth Games debut on the Gold Coast. Recent delivery of Volleyfest events on Manly Beach has also aided in the sports popularity.

We have observed a significant increase in participation in the past 2yrs (comparing season 2017/18 to 2019/20 on Manly Beach over a number of demographics and areas including:

- NBVA Junior Membership: **+378%**
- NBVA Female Membership: **+37%**
- NBVA Tournament Participation: **+76%**
- BeachVolleyball School: **+86%**

These numbers are extremely pleasing as they are balanced across juniors, grass roots beginners, elite competition, and female participants. The NBVA's membership in season 2019/20 is exactly 50/50 gender equal.

These numbers reflect only the organised activities (competition and training) and registered members, in addition to this the NBVA Courts provide year-round free access to the community outside of training and competition times. This sees the Manly Beach Volleyball Courts as a hive of activity on weekday mornings and evenings, and all day on the weekend.

Current Challenges & Opportunities:

The above growth although fantastic for the sport of Beach Volleyball and the overall health and recreation access for the Northern Beaches Community it also comes with its challenges. These include:

- Tournament / Training Capacity:
 - The competitive tournaments that the NBVA run have increased in participation +76% over the past 2years. This has resulted in the tournament being extended across 2 days (Saturday and Sunday) and being played on 8 x Permanent Courts + 4 x Portable Courts (at risk when the beach / sand is washed away by storm surges / tides).
 - The Tournaments are currently at maximum capacity and are at the mercy of weather conditions & the state of the beach / sand which is basically uncontrollable.
 - Demand for court space for training sessions during peak times (Weekday mornings & evenings and Weekends) is significant and at the highest in club history, this results in either **a)** running fewer sessions or **b)** reducing general member access / community access. We have been managing a delicate balance to achieve satisfaction for all stakeholders.
- Social / Community Usage:
 - Outside of Tournaments / organised Training Sessions, we have observed a significant demand in social access to the facilities.
- Facilities:
 - Lighting, current lighting provides increased access to only 2 x courts during evening times.
 - Access to Electricity, allows more sustainable access to power (vs Battery or Generator) providing improved tournament services.
 - Storage (on beach equipment storage required to manage NBVA Activities): current storage is exhausted.

- o Clubhouse, no home / clubhouse for NBVA facilities, storage, meetings.

The NBVA Committee has considered a number of opportunities and solutions to address the above challenges, these include:

- **Additional Permanent Courts at Manly Beach**, at locations which are less frequented by the public, these recommendations include:
 - o **North Steyne Beach Area**: additional permanent courts to the North of the current courts, this can be achieved alongside the upcoming stormwater drain project. The Beach space between the courts and North Steyne Surf Club.
 - o **Queenscliff Beach Area**: additional permanent courts at near the Queenscliff Surf Club.
- **Additional Permanent Courts at other “Beach” and “Off Beach” in the NBC area** these recommendations include:
 - o Additional Permanent Courts at additional beached in the NBC area.
 - o Off Beach opportunities adjacent to sporting ovals, reclaimed bowling greens, park areas. Beach Volleyball courts can be installed in areas as small as 220sqm for 1 x court.
- **Improved Facilities** of current facilities including:
 - o **Additional Court Lighting** will allow increased access (for both training and public access) to more courts during evening times.
 - o **Access to Electricity**, there are electricity access points currently available in close proximity to the courts, required is approved access and agreement on how we will get connection from the light posts to the sand (either a power point constructed under the pavement or using cable protectors). This will provide improved improved tournament services for p.a. and music in a more sustainable way.
 - o **Equipment Storage**, as current equipment storage is exhausted, opportunities include: **a)** another similar ‘storage box’ on the promenade near the current box, **b)** storage space in the Central Avenue Council Carpark (in an un-usable corner).
- **Clubhouse / Storage Facilities** a clubhouse or facilities at Manly Beach or nearby “Off Beach” facility could address a number of challenges. Ideas include:
 - o Combining with an existing or SLSC Facility or renovation plans (this could include shared clubhouse space, storage, access to power etc)
 - o Off Beach facility, Clubhouse and Storage in combination with “Off Beach Courts”/

In partnership with NBC in achieving any of the above initiatives, the NBVA would welcome Beach Volleyball being added to the NBC Open Space & Recreation Strategy (as it is noted that it does not currently feature in the current plan). Furthermore, the NBVA has been diligently managing finances and budgets to ensure that we are in a position to co-invest in these community projects.

To further any of the above topics, the NBVA committee would welcome discussion and collaboration with the NBC – we firmly believe that these initiatives would provide additional access, participation, and improved services to not only the Beach Volleyball Community but also the greater Northern Beaches Community.

Kind Regards,



To Northern Beaches Council

We would like to thank Northern Beaches Council for the opportunity to submit information about our Beach Tennis group situated at Northern Beaches.

About Beach Tennis:

Do you like going to the beach as well as playing a bit of competitive sport? Then let us introduce you to the world of Beach Tennis where you can happily combine the fun of sporting activity with sun, sea and sand.

The sport can be played by all ages and all playing abilities - a perfect way to spend time with your friends and family under the sun.

All you need is a court of a size of a beach volleyball court, many of which are often already set up on beaches around the world.

About Beach Tennis Around Northern Beaches:

Beach Tennis is a rapidly growing sport and is increasingly attracting widespread interest around the world. It is a popular sport and have been growing more than 300% each year.

In the Northern Beaches, the number of people interested in this amazing sport is growing every day and with the Council support we will have the opportunity to increase these numbers much more. Combining the wonderful beaches in our area with a population that love outdoor sports we have the best combination to make Beach Tennis an enormous success in Australia.



2019 Tournament



Weekends Social Games

Number of Member: Approximately 100 players

Australian Beach Tennis started its activities in 2017 with 2 members and in the end of the first year we were more than 30 players. Nowadays, there are over 100 beach tennis members, learning, playing and competing in the NB area.

In the last 3 years, we have promoted two BT Tournaments in Queenscliff with more than 60 participants each time and players are excited waiting for the next one to come.

Current Issue: Fixed spots for beach tennis practice.

Nowadays Beach Tennis does not have any fixed spot for the sports activity, so we have been playing at Queenscliff Beach only on the weekends (when we can set the courts) and during the sun light hours (since there is no light otherwise).

To setup a Beach Tennis court it is only necessary a sand court area with the same space as the beach volleyball court (10x20m). Having fixed spots with nets ready to play and proper lightening, would give the whole community more opportunities to practice the sport during weekdays. These will be a fantastic opportunity to make the Northern Beaches a significant hub for this activity. These spaces can be set at the beach and/or on any of the parks around Northern Beaches Area. We can help NB Council with our expertise building these new spaces for the NB community.



2019 Tournament



Court at the Parks around the world

Ideas for locational improvements:

- Queenscliff Beach 150m from the Surf Club
- Collaroy Beach 50m from the Surf Club
- John Fisher Park or North Curl Curl Youth Community Centre
- Nolan Reserve

Vision and opportunities for the future

Our goal is to make the Northern Beaches the birthplace of Beach Tennis in Australia and then, to turn Beach Tennis a nationally known sport in the country.

Besides that, in the next years, Australian Beach Tennis wishes to train the youth of our society to form the Australian Beach Tennis Team to compete in the world championship of Beach Tennis that happens every year in Russia.

Also, in 2021 we plan to host here in the Northern Beaches one of the segments of the ITF (International Tennis Federation) tournament. Making Australia take part of the world circuit of Beach Tennis.

Australian Beach Tennis have interest as well to rent an area from the Council around the Northern Beaches to create a beach sports club, for practice of Beach Tennis, Beach Volley and other sports.

Thank you very much for this opportunity.

We are available to provide any extra information when necessary.

Kind Regards,



Manly 16ft Skiff Sailing Club

Cnr East Esplanade and Stuart Street, Manly 2095
T: 9977 3322 F: 9976 2804 www.manlyskiff.com.au
ABN 43 001 066 253

15 May 2020

General Manager
Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 82
MANLY NSW 1655

Attention: Mark Wilson
Recreation Project Officer

Re: Input for Northern Beaches Open Space and Recreation Strategy

We are writing regarding your email of 30th April 2020 seeking input for the Council's Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

History

The Manly 16ft Skiff Sailing Club was formed in February 1923 and has been committed to the promotion and conduct of the sport of dinghy sailing in Manly since that time. The Club was fortunate to be granted a lease of its present location on the corner of East Esplanade and Stuart Street in 1927 and members immediately banded together to construct our first boatshed to enable boats to be stored and act as a base for our sailing activity.

The Club became a licensed club in 1959 as a means of generating sufficient funds to enable it to successfully achieve its primary purpose as mentioned above. Since that time, the Club has successfully grown and broadened our fleet from about ten 16ft skiffs to four different fleets of sailing dinghies totalling some 60 boats which provide for all age groups from the age of around 8 years to the more mature members of our community.

The Club has been successful many times since the early 1970's winning International, National, State and interclub regattas and is now commonly known in Australia by our sporting body as one of the most successful dinghy sailing clubs in Australia. In more recent years we have also produced Olympic Gold and Silver Medallists.

Unfortunately, whilst the Club does have the financial capacity and on-water resources to further expand our sailing activity, the current fleet sizes are close to the limit that can be accommodated due to parking limitations and restrictions and the lack of space available to enable boats to be rigged and unrigged in the Manly Cove and Little Manly area.

The Club is very appreciative of the good relationship and current arrangements that it has been given by the Northern Beaches Council (and previously Manly Council), however, the

increasing popularity of the East Esplanade Beach and Park area over the summer months is providing challenges to both the Council and the Club.

For your information, our sailing season extends from the early September each year through to the following April (usually just prior to Easter).

Membership numbers

The Club currently has a total of 7,660 members. Whilst the majority of these are social members, there are currently around 400 of these members who are directly involved in the Club's sailing activity, whether it be as a person sailing each week during the sailing season or a person involved in helping organise and support the on-water requirements to run our sailing races or just as a supporter of our sailors (ie. parents, partners, etc..).

Our overall membership numbers have slowly grown over the years, however, as mentioned above, the numbers involved in our sailing activities have plateaued over recent years due to the limitations also mentioned above (parking and rigging limitations).

Current Issues

We currently race four different fleets each weekend. Our Senior Division consists of the 13ft Skiffs and 16ft Skiffs and these two fleets race each Saturday afternoon during the sailing season. Last season we had an average of eleven 13ft skiffs sailing each week and twenty-one 16ft skiffs, directly involving around 84 sailors.

Due to the lack of storage space at the Club, for the last 50 years or so, a large proportion of our 16ft skiff sailors have used the East Esplanade Park/Beach (between Osborne Road and Victoria Parade) area for rigging and launching their boats and storing their trailers whilst they are out sailing. In the 1960's and early 1970's, a couple of our 16ft skiffs were stored at Little Manly Beach (in the boatshed that used to be near the current launching ramp) and they rigged and launched from the beach at that location. Currently, the remaining 16ft skiffs (about six of them) and our 13ft skiffs (about twelve in total) are stored at the Club and are rigged and launched from the Park area and boat ramp adjacent to the Club. This area is now at capacity each Saturday.

Over recent years, you will be aware that the East Esplanade Park/Beach area has become very popular with picnickers and beach goers, particularly on warm summer days over the weekend. This has, unfortunately, reduced the amount of space that our boats are able to utilise for rigging and launching their boats and also storing their trailers. This is starting to have an impact on our fleet numbers and is evidenced by the fact that we saw a slight reduction in the fleet size of our 13ft skiffs and 16ft skiffs last sailing season.

Our Junior Division consists of Flying 11's and Manly Juniors and these two fleets race on Sundays (the Manly Juniors in the morning and the Flying 11's in the afternoon). Last season we had an average of 13 Flying 11's and 15 Manly Juniors, directly involving around 60 sailors. All our Junior Division boats are stored at the Club and rigged and launched from the Park area and boat ramp adjacent to the Club. Where possible, the Junior Division boats are given priority when it comes to storage, so that the younger sailors do not have to rely on their parents trailing their boats to and from the Club each week. The rigging and launching area is also nearly at capacity each Sunday.

Parking is also an increasing issue in the main business area of Manly and also the Eastern Hill area. The Club has been fortunate that the Council has provided us with a number of special Council parking stickers that can be utilised by the sailors, but the number of these is limited. Where possible, our sailors car pool to minimise the number of cars, however, this is not always an option.

Vision and opportunities for the future

It is noted that the Council is currently conducting some upgrading of the Park area in the vicinity of Ashburner Street and Osborne Road. It is also noted and acknowledged that the Council did approach the Club in 2019 to discuss these upgrades during the planning process and have shared the final plan of Stage 2A with our President and Commodore since commencing the works a few weeks ago. Council has also undertaken to keep in touch with the Club in regard to the second stage (2B) planned for around September 2020. At this stage, these works, once completed, should not impact on our sailors' use of the area for rigging and unrigging their boats.

The Club would like to ensure that we continue to retain the long, close and cooperative association that we have had with the Council for many years with regard to the use of the East Esplanade Park and Beach area. This has ensured that not only the Club sailors benefit from the Council owned area and facilities, but also the general public.

Some of the highlights of that association have been:

- a) In 1993, the previous Manly Council decided to upgrade the East Esplanade Park area. This included removing an access road that used to run up the centre of the reserve and the subsequent grassing and landscaping of that area. In recognition that a number of the Club's sailors were using the area to rig, launch and unrig their skiffs, the Club agreed to contribute \$25,000 towards that upgrade. Council, in recognition of the regular use of the area and financial contribution by the Club, made an exemption that the Club's skiff sailors and their trailers could use the land and erected a sign near the driveway entrance to confirm this arrangement (refer Appendix A).
- b) During March 2000, the Club upgraded the Manly Council owned area directly outside the Club and through to the Manly Yacht Club on Stuart St. The total cost of the works included the installation of the underground boatshed, a new entry to the upstairs area of Manly Yacht Club and the landscaping of the area which totalled \$700,000. The Club continues to make payments to Council as per the Club's ongoing lease agreement.
- c) To further support the Club's position on Manly Council's acceptance over the many decades of the sailors using the East Esplanade reserve for rigging, launching and unrigging skiffs, Manly Council in September 2005 titled a document 'Manly Council's Accessible Parks & Reserves'. This was previously located on Manly Council's website and stated that the East Esplanade beach is used for launching sailing boats.

As mentioned above, the scope of work currently being carried out on the East Esplanade Park area look good and we would like to indicate our support for ongoing improvements to the area and would like to submit the following suggestions and commitments:

- i) The Club would like to ensure that the current arrangements and close association with the Council is maintained and, in that regard, is still open to providing some funding assistance to any ongoing works in the East Esplanade Park area between Victoria Parade and Osborne Road and also in the area leased by the Club adjacent to Manly Yacht Club in recognition of its ongoing use for the rigging, launching and unrigging of our member's sailing dinghies.
- ii) The Club is hopeful that Northern Beaches Council intends to retain the arrangements acknowledged in paragraph (c) above in the document 'Manly Council's Accessible Parks & Reserves'.
- iii) If the East Esplanade Park and Beach area continues to be a very popular public area, as has proved the case in recent years, the Club is happy to discuss with Council ways in which our sailors can continue to utilise the area, but at the same time, ensure that the general public also continues to have fair use and access as well.
- iv) Height access – our 16ft skiffs require a height of approximately 10 metres when fully rigged to stand upright ready for carrying to and launching at the water's edge. We understand that a sustainable tree canopy needs to remain and be maintained, but ask that this height be taken into account when any planning is in progress, allowing corridors that skiffs can pass through to be able to launch and also subsequently return to their rigging space.
- v) Boat and trailer access - skiffs have previously been able to enter the Park area by means of a kerbside driveway and we ask that this facility remains to allow ease of trailer unhitching and unloading of the skiffs. Vehicle/trailer traffic is limited, and usually only occurs after hours once the Park is empty and this practice is conveyed to our members to adhere to on a weekly basis to prevent conflict between Park users and sailors.
- vi) Community Facilities – the Club would ask that, if there are any further plans for the East Esplanade Park/Beach area, the Council endeavour to strategically locate any proposed infrastructure or community facilities such as bike racks, signage, bubblers, etc.. in such a way that the safe movement of skiffs in and out of the area will not be inhibited, but at the same time be easily accessible for the community. For your information, a 16ft skiff fully rigged is approximately 7.5 metres long and 1.3 metres wide and, as such, requires adequate space for its crew of three to be able to carry it to and from the water.
- vii) The Club would very much appreciate the continuation of the allocation of special Council parking stickers that can be utilised by our sailors who have to store their boats at home and trail them down to the Club to sail each week. In this regard, based on the current fleet size, we would appreciate up to twenty (20) stickers.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge that the Club fully appreciates and understands Council's limited options when it comes to providing adequate infrastructure and community facilities to satisfy all the competing community demands for access points to Sydney Harbour in the Manly/North Harbour area. Nonetheless, the Club is always open to discussing and considering any options that the Council would like to put on the table to enable us to continue to achieve our objective of promoting and growing the sport of sailing, but at the same time respect the fact that the Council has to also balance these with the demands of other stakeholders and the general community.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspects of our submission, please feel free to either contact myself on 0406 154 370 or Michael McMahon on 0407 242 221.

Yours faithfully,



Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

Mark Wilson.

Northern Beaches Council.

From Sailability Manly. [REDACTED]

1. Membership numbers at Manly Sailability. At the moment, we have 80 paid up members who are mainly the Volunteers who come to sailing:
 - a. To help with the activity of putting boats out, taking people with a disability sailing on Manly Cove, putting boats away, providing a snack for our exhausted sailors and participant sailors from such organisations as Sunnyfields, Unisson, House With No Steps, etc , Group homes, special schools or support classes in regular schools.
 - b. To meet friends who are like minded. Most of our Volunteers are elderly.
 - c. To have the opportunity to work as a team member, and develop these skills.
 - d. To have a place to go and a wonderful activity to be a part of about 45 times each year.
 - e. To have fun and be out in the fresh air.
2. Membership was growing steadily until Corona Virus hit. This is our 25th year at Manly, and we generally have over 100 members each year. Unfortunately, this pandemic will halt our activity indefinitely because we sit in very close proximity in tiny sailing boats. It is worrying that because of the age of so many of our Volunteers, it will be difficult to attract old members back, so there will be a lot of promotion to do as we slowly return to our sport.
3. Vision and opportunities? Those of us who are willing at the moment are doing some renovating of our storage space at Manly Yacht Club. This will help us stay focussed, and enable some social contact between some of our members. Our vision will be on building up to where we were before. Then go on from there. We will offer some training in activities like First Aid Courses, and Radio Training to get our existing people back, and promote through letter-box drops, ads through Northern Beaches Go Local, etc. The renovations we are undertaking will also encourage people to return because the lifting, carrying, storing will be facilitated.
4. Our main current issue is the Corona Virus. When we are allowed to return we will need to spend a lot of extra time keeping things sanitised, and following the health procedures outlined publicly. If we cannot sail, we lose our main impetus of promotion, as our little boats on Manly Cove were always the focus of attention and discussion, attracting people from the ferry, and residents of Manly.
5. Locational Improvements? Our home is Manly Yacht Club. We are very happy with this, as we work well with our host club, and are making the storage improvements we made in our forced closure period.
6. Why do we love Manly Cove, and the Yacht Club? 25 years ago they welcomed us with open arms. The improvements we have been able to make because of our status as a charitable organisation have allowed improvements to the area: A floating pontoon, an accessible bathroom, a lovely walk down the ramp from East Esplanade Upper Level to East Esplanade park, where the Yacht club is. Accessible storage for our boats, and a huge rigging deck. Access to the club meeting room upstairs for special occasions, and sometimes for meetings. A bubbler, and now improvements for our storage. This enables team-work, fitness, social cohesion, a loving environment where everyone is equal.

Hi Jenny,

Sorry for being a little late.

I am [REDACTED] of Avalon Bilgola Swimming club and [REDACTED] of Warringah Amateur Swimming Association, so can give you some feedback from both those perspectives.

Avalon Bilgola Swimming Club

½- Membership has been consistent for a number of seasons, sitting at around 200 members.½ Our membership base is predominantly children of primary school and early high school age, as well as their parents.½ Our membership comes from the area between Palm Beach to Mona Vale.

- Our vision is to provide members of the community a place to participate in family friendly recreational racing.½ We also provide Learn to Swim/Stroke correction programs for both our junior and senior members.½ But the most important aspect, is to be inclusive and about participation at whatever standard.

- A couple of issues are:

½- Marketing our club to prospective new members, we typically do this via the school network and social media.½ We have signage down at the pool, which is beneficial.½ We are included in the council community database.½ But most of our new members come by word of mouth through family and friends.

½- The condition of Bilgola pool; we have discussed this with council on a number of occasions, and understand that council are looking at the requirements of each of the ocean rock pools.½ We have seen a number of pool upgraded over the years by both Warringah Council and Norther Beaches Council, these include Queenscliff, Freshwater (which I think is one of the best pools upgraded), Curl Curl, DY and Collaroy.

½- We are looking forward to when the upgrade of Bilgola is programmed, as we see a number of short comings:

½½- the concourse is very rough with the aggregate coming through, council has put some temporary covering over parts which has helped

½½- some of the edging of the pool is not flat, especially at the start/finish ends of the pool.

½½- would be great to have lines on the bottom :, we have lobbied for many years for this, and the upgraded pools now have lines.

½½- lighting is very poor at Bilgola.½ Pittwater council replaced the halogen lights many years ago, but the new lights really only light up the concourse.

½½- when council come to planning the Bilgola upgrade, it would be great if we could be consulted.

Warringah Amateur Swimming Association

- Membership has grown over the past few seasons, at around 5-10%.½ We are sitting at ~1700 members.½ The demographic of our membership is school age children and their parents.½ We cater for more of the recreational club swimmers rather than those swimmers who target Metro/State/Nationals.

- Our vision is to provide a pathway for those swimmers who come from Learn to Swim programs to our recreational clubs, to try inter-club competition without the pressure.½ If they want to persue this, they would then join one of the more competitive clubs, such as Warringah Aquatic or Manly to further the swimming via training squads.

- We have a great relationship with Warringah Aquatic Centre, running 4 of our inter-club swim meets at the facility, as well as our Summer Development camp.½ We also provide officials for the school swimming carnivals at both Manly and the WAC when required.

- The main issue we see on the Northern Beaches is the amount of pool space for both Learn to Swim and Squad training, especially further north on the peninsula.½ For LTS, there are a number of private providers around Avalon and Mona Vale, but they have limited space.½ For training, there is (really) only Manly and the WAC, both of which are very busy and a significant distance from the northern end of the council area.

- Also of concern is the cost of pool space for the recreational clubs at Manly and the WAC to provide community sport.½ We understand there were some challenges at one stage at Manly, but we believe there has been some good developments in that area,

- We worked with council back when the WAC was built and we have been involved in many of the working groups on the expansion of the WAC, we have been very supportive of this and we believe that additional pool space at the facility would provide the necessary warm water for LTS programs (and a very important revenue stream).½ But unfortunately, due to many reasons, such as the new NB hospital, this never eventuated.

Both WASA and ABASC thank Council for their support for the both organisations and the many recreational swimming clubs on the Northern Beaches.

And thank your for the opportunity to provide this feedback.

Thanks

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