



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Manly Dam – Safe access to water

Consultation period: 10 May to 9 June 2024

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1. Summary




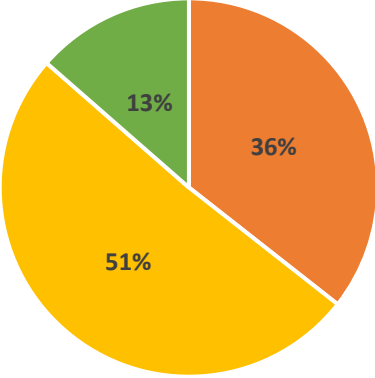

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of the exhibition of the proposed Manly Dam – Safe access to water project conducted between 10 May to 9 June 2024.

The feedback received during consultation indicated a high level of support for the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades. The majority (64 percent) of respondents supported the plan outright or with some changes, and feedback said the plan would allow more people of different abilities to enjoy Manly Dam.






While most feedback supported the proposed water access platform, some respondents requested the platform width be extended to better accommodate wheelchair users. Others requested handrails be incorporated into the design.

Those not in support of the proposal were against the infrastructure improvement, stating that it compromised the natural environment. Another mentioned it was not suitable as a kayak launch ramp.

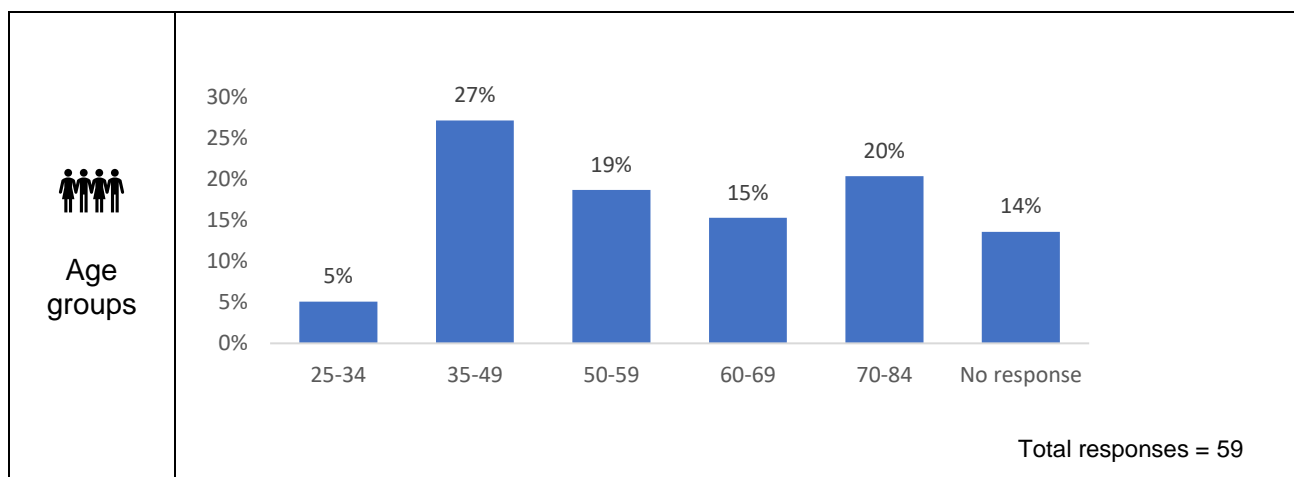
1.1. Key outcomes

 Total unique responses	<h1>59</h1>	
 How responses were received	Your Say – Survey	Completions: 59 <i>No comments received outside of Your Say</i>
 Online sentiment question: Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades?	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No ■ Yes ■ Yes, with changes <p>Total responses = 59</p> </div>	
 Feedback themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great to see more accessible infrastructure • A sensible location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great option for a wide range of people • Impacts on open space and grassed area

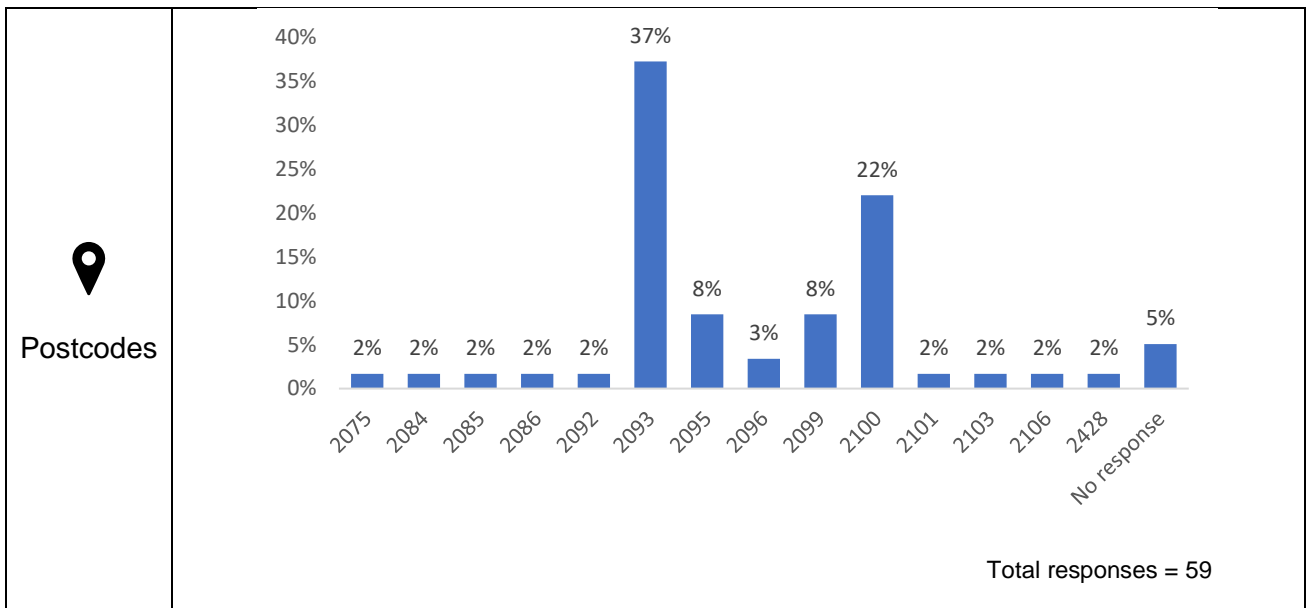
1.2. How we engaged

 <p>Have Your Say: visitation stats</p>	Visitors: 540	Visits: 662	Average time onsite: 2 minutes 9 seconds
 <p>Print media and collateral</p>	Letterbox drop: 2093 Site signs used: 4		Distribution: 393
 <p>Electronic direct mail (EDM)</p>	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2 editions Council (weekly) e-News: 1 edition Northern Beaches Youth Interagency Newsletter: 1 edition		Distribution: 23,000 Distribution: 61,500 Distribution: 256
 <p>Face-to-face sessions</p>	Pop up event: 1		Approx. 7 attendees
 <p>Key stakeholder engagement</p>	Stakeholder emails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail Care Australia • NSW Environment and Heritage 		Distribution: 1 Distribution: 1

1.3. Who responded¹



¹ Demographic data was gathered by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail. No demographic data was captured for respondents who contributed feedback in writing.



2. Background

We are proposing to construct a platform that allows safe entry and exit into the water for all paddlers and swimmers. This facility will offer an option for people with reduced mobility to enjoy Manly Dam, by providing safe access to the water's edge and water. The platform will be located at the shoreline of Section 1 Picnic Area adjacent to the playground. This location was determined after listening to community concerns raised in a prior round of consultation.

As part of the works, we are also proposing to construct a new accessible pathway that will link the new water access platform to the accessible amenities and parking bays. New turf will also be laid to complement the pathway connections.

A Review of Environmental Factors has been prepared to assess and mitigate any potential environmental impacts of the works.

This proposed infrastructure project continues from recent works on the memorial space with a focus on accessibility upgrades.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities
- identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values
- provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way
- communicate to community and stakeholders how their input was incorporated into the planning and decision making process.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Manly Dam - Safe access to water project was conducted between 10 May and 9 June 2024, and consisted of a series of activities that provided opportunities for community and stakeholders to contribute.

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

A Your Say project page² was established with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

Key stakeholders, resident groups and local residents received notification letters requesting feedback on the proposed concept plan.

The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletter (EDM), media channels and signage at the location to reach those frequenting Manly Dam.

Feedback was captured through an online comment form embedded onto the Have Your Say project page. The form included a question that directly asked respondents for their level of support on the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway.

An onsite pop-up event was held on a Saturday morning at Manly Dam - Section 1 where the proposed works are to take place. Our aim was to gather feedback and to maximise community involvement.

We contacted community members who had an interest in the recent works on the memorial space as both projects had a focus on accessibility upgrades.

We also invited comment through email and in writing.

4.1. Reaching diverse audiences

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

We encouraged community participation and sought feedback on the project through several other activities to attract all the potentially affected people including:

- information was provided on Council's Have Your Say project page
- a community pop-up event with the project team held on a Saturday morning
- letterbox drops to neighbouring residents
- displays of onsite notification posters
- Mayor's weekly e-news.

² <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/manly-dam-safe-access-water>

5. Findings

Table 1: Issues, change requests and other considerations.

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Accessibility	<p>Some respondents cited the proposed platform was too thin and that it be widened to accommodate wheelchair users.</p> <p>A wheelchair accessible ramp or railings should be considered.</p>	<p>The concept design indicated a design intent for the water access platform.</p> <p>Based on feedback and additional investigations, the design will now be further developed, and Council will aim to provide a water access ramp that is suitable for the majority of users with a focus on those who are less mobile.</p>
Impacts on open space	<p>Some respondents noted that they were not supportive of the construction of the accessible pathway as it will detract from the open space.</p>	<p>It is a requirement of Council's Disability Inclusion Accessibility Plan that Council provides equitable access to its facilities where possible and feasible. A path meeting appropriate grades to the proposed launch ramp is feasible.</p> <p>Council has attempted to minimise the impacts of the pathway on the open space while providing a safe way to access the water for all Manly Dam users.</p>
Material	<p>Several respondents noted strong consideration be placed on the material used and to ensure it is suitable for all applications and intended uses.</p>	<p>The fibreglass reinforced plastic (FRP) decking has a high durability and slip rating in marine environments as is the preferred material for these reasons and has been successfully applied at other locations. To meet the design objectives though mitigation of the issues raised with this material will be investigated through the detailed design process.</p>
Use of existing infrastructure	<p>Several respondents noted that the existing boat launch ramp should be used for launching of kayaks.</p>	<p>Council is not attempting to replace the existing access adjacent to the memorial space, but rather provide an</p>

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
		access option that caters to a larger user group, such as those with reduced mobility.

Table 2: Questions raised and Council's answers

During the consultation, Council received the following question in the feedback.

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
I fear a wheelchair could slip off the side of this one, looks too thin?	The concept design indicated a design intent, the design will now be further developed with an aim to provide a water access ramp that is suitable for the majority of users with a focus on those who are less mobile than others.

6. Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Comments received via Your Say form

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? Yes That's great, can you tell us what you like?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
1	A great addition. Looking forward to it. The existing shelter (with the BBQ) could be enlarged if possible for a bit more room and more seating around the table and periphery.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
2	Awesome idea, there arent many accessible spots for water access generally for people with reduced mobility. The rocks around the water can be really slippery even for people with good mobility so will be good for everyone.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
3	This is a lovely park and I enjoy using it even though I am in a wheelchair.	Make sure that the wild aspect of the surround is kept as much as possible as we love to see all the wildlife.
4	I support these works that provide greater access for those with a disability. The design seems to have no downsides either.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
5	I like the fact it is a seperate platform where kids can swim as I've got a toddler	I would love to see wheelchair accessible ramp or railings for the elderly and disabled to be able to enjoy a swim too
6	The Dam should be enjoyed by all, especially those with accessibility issues. The more it is available to everyone the better	If you do it well it will be enjoyed for many years to come.
7	Looks good.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>


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

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? Yes That's great, can you tell us what you like?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
8	Looks good. Like the idea of more people having access to the water and this is the best location for it.	Not sure about new turf - the turf outside the playground didn't work well. If new turf is to be laid it should blend in with the natural grass and be appropriate for the environment.
9	Great idea. Get on with it.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
10	Always glad to see more accessible infrastructure being considered. Removing barriers like this is so important in ensuring all members in our community can participate together and I love to see it.	Just generally, it would be great to see more proactive planning with accessibility in mind right from the start rather than as an afterthought and consultation with people with disability included throughout planning.
11	My family and I access Manly dam to paddle kayaks mainly in Picnic area 1. I support the proposal to build a platform that assists swimmers and paddlers to enter and exit the water for recreation.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
12	Just a great idea	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
13	Allowing more people that might not have been able to before to enjoy Manly Dam is a good thing.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
14	We people of all abilities to be able to access council facilities like Manly Dam	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
15	Will be easy access for paddling	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
16	The ramp may need to be up to 2.4 meters wide and the last 3 meters at the water end covered with artificial grass to protect the users and the water craft from scratches.	<p>The kayak launching spot between area 3 and 4 is totally useless and needs to be revamped or removed.</p> <p>Web sight updates, last week walking the Dam after rain the bike tracks where closed, on one short walk 5 rides passed me. I questioned about the closed track and was was told although THEY thought the track should be closed they checked web sight and it didn't say closed. there was a closed sign at the Parkway gate. ignored or to small.</p>

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? Yes That's great, can you tell us what you like?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
17	This seems like a reasonable solution. My husband and I are able bodied, and we don't find it easy getting into the water. It's very slippery on the rocks and we read in the local news that a woman slipped and injured herself badly there last year. We have also witnessed people falling over when trying to enter the water there.	This might also be a good opportunity to update signage around the area. We often see people misusing the area, including bringing dogs off leash, smoking, feeding the birds and leaving fishing line around. We have seen injured birds that have had their legs caught up in fishing line, which is distressing to see.
18	Wonderful idea to provide easy non-slip access for kayaking. We have always found it tricky and slippery trying to do this in the past and have been nervous about potential injuries. Thank you for making the dam more accessible.	Great idea- will be much appreciated. A cafe or mobile van would be truly wonderful, but might be pushing it:)
19	Our beautiful Manly Dam should be accessible to everyone! This is a great idea and as a resident and regular at the Dam (reverse dam Strava local legend) I fully support the proposal	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
20	This is a fantastic idea to help children, adults and others with the ability to access the water more readily.	Water skiing impacts the utility of the Dam for other water users. It seems like an intensive use of a large space by a small number of people. I don't see it as being a fair use of the available space and impacts the utility of this project.
21	It's a great idea. As a Scout Leader and getting on I will use this a lot.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
22	The proposed water access platform for Manly Dam is a fantastic idea - such a wonderful amenity should be accessible to all members of the community, both able-bodied and non-able-bodied. The projected time frame and lack of major disturbance in the immediate area makes it all the more commendable.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
23	Supportive of the proposal as it would allow more people of different abilities to enjoy Manly Dam.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? Yes That's great, can you tell us what you like?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
24	I like that you are making it more accessible for the many disabled people that visit the dam but can currently only watch from the grass	<p>Could it be a full ramp into the water with a wet wheelchair with inflated wheels please. The chair could be kept in the disabled toilets which can only be accessed with a Mlak key.</p> <p>I am a disability carer and I know so many of my clients would use the dam to swim if it was fully accessible. Swimming gives so much relief and fun to para/quadruplegics. I have taken clients to family bbqs at the dam and they've said they wish they could swim with us - but currently would not be safe for either of us to try.</p> <p>Unfortunately there are not many FULLY accessible facilities on the beaches for wheelchairs but every little bit is a step in the right direction</p>
25	Making this resource more user friendly for a more diversified group in our community is a very good idea, thank you.	<p>From my experiences across Australia, The Manly Dam site is a fabulous site for a native plant and animal conservation project focused on the plants and animals in this area before European settlement.</p> <p>If set up as a native wildlife conservation facility in a short time it would attract many visitors as an eco-education facility (primary, secondary and tertiary) and eco-tourism facility.</p> <p>Properly set up, as I've been a party to elsewhere in Australia, it would be an excellent facility for saving from extinction our local native species of plants and animals, many of which are now classified as "endangered".</p> <p>The tourism and education aspects create opportunities for interpreted tours by knowledgeable guides (Rangers). Those taking guided tours would pay a small fee. Self guided tours would also be available for a fee.</p> <p>The site lends itself to indigenous culture education, which is</p>

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? Yes That's great, can you tell us what you like?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
		<p>closely related to the native plants and animals focus. Priority should be given to focusing on local species of plants and animals classified as "endangered" and "threatened".</p> <p>A facility such as this also attracts a lot of attention from the general public for mere recreation (eg picnics and bush walks) and others in the community who want to volunteer to remove exotic weeds etc.</p>
26	It's now in a sensible location. Previously, when near the park entrance, some of the people most likely to need it didn't have suitable parking to load and unload.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
27	This will make it much safer to get in and out of the water.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
28	Manly Dam is a beautiful part of the Northern Beaches. Any enhancement is welcome so more locals can visit and enjoy!	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
29	Love this investment in Manly Vale community.	Would love to see kayak storage at manly dam as another way to improve access to water. There's lots of young families in units and townhouses in the local area who may not have storage for watercraft at home and would benefit from a public facility. Thank you!
30	It looks minimal impact, and in an area already heavily affected by humans anyway. It's great to have this wonderful place accessible to more people - and yet keeping the dam trail as untouched as possible ;) This is an amazing place and we are lucky to have it, and so well managed at that!	<i>No further comment provided.</i>

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? Yes, with changes What changes would you like to see?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
31	A bigger platform. Three or four times wider and out longer to go out over deeper water, with one smaller part still offering a ramp. Then you can also have some steps down into the deeper part and people can play and jump off. This looks a bit thin?	<p>It is great to consider those with mobility issues, so they can swim at the Dam. If we are building this, let's make it much wider. I fear a wheelchair could slip off the side of this one, looks too thin? Plus, let's have some fun and have a bigger platform.</p> <p>One possible issue is the platform becoming an area where the ducks, Swans etc decide to hang out, so becoming very messy. Consider how that can be kept clean. Also consider dam water levels, should this jetty be able to adjust up and down with levels? See attachment and replace kayak with wheelchair.</p> 
32	The type of materials you are using are not user friendly for disabled paddlers, the craft and the carers. You are proposing a slanted steel ramp. Any kayaker, paddler, SUP etc will tell you you need a pontoon, level with the water, able to move vertically with changing water heights. The surface needs to be timber or a softer surface so as not to damage the craft or the accessible wheelchairs or the person living with a disability. Take a look at the pontoons at	I understand you want to provide better accessible access but you will waste your money with the proposed materials and design. When entering or exiting a canoe or kayak the paddler will sit or lie on the pontoon. You can't do that with the steel grid proposed. It needs to be level and wide enough for two boats, about 10-12 metres.

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? Yes, with changes What changes would you like to see?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
	SIRC at Penrith, the pontoon at the Lane Cove River Kayakers, talk to paddlers. Contact [redacted] at PaddleNSW and ask about their accessible program. Talk to [redacted] [redacted] at Manly Warringah Kayak Club on Narrabeen Lake. The steel sloping ramp will put anyone in a wheelchair in the water. It needs a horizontal floating pontoon that sits about 100mm above the water surface.	
33	Where the access point is to be . Ensure rocks and other impedence to get into the water safely are taken into account. Some form of railing to help entering and exiting the water for the impaired	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
34	No waterskiing on the dam. They take up too much space, too much time and destroy the serenity of the area.	No waterskiing on the dam. They take up too much space, too much time and destroy the serenity of the area.
35	We recently went kayaking in Alaska Inside Passage launching the kayaks from dry docks with rollers that were at the back of our small cruise boat (see the UnCruise company). As I need two people to help me get in and out of a kayak, having a steady kayak that does not rock is critical. I have not explored how this is done back home here in Australia, but at the moment I do not see how my need for a super stable kayak can be accommodated on the current plan for a mesh platform. Please consider. I found kayaking to be such a lovely relaxing pastime and would love to have places I can do it around the northern beaches.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
36	Better accessible parking spaces which are checked, both at the memorial and at the picnic/waterski area I have often had to park quite far away from the picnic area after dropping off disabled clients who can't walk so far. Not every disabled person is in a wheelchair! A safe kayak entry in the same area as the water ski ramp (but adjacent) would also help as many clients like to kayak with help getting into and out of a kayak but love the feeling of being able to glide along the same as everyone else.	I feel the accessible ramp as proposed is unnecessary as there is already an accessible pathway which is closer to the ammenities. If necessary, it could be widened.

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? Yes, with changes What changes would you like to see?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I do not understand the circuitous route for the concrete access path. In my experience, users will just take the shortest route between start and finish creating their own path over time killing the grass and creating a barren walkway that will be either dry and dusty or wet and slippery. <p>1. CHANGE THE ROUTE OF THE PATH FOR MORE DIRECT ACCESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the water access platform is intended to facilitate use by people with 'reduced mobility' I would suggest including a strong metallic handrail on one side of the ramp to enable easier access to and from the water. The inclusion of a post with a floatation could also be included. If 'reduced mobility' includes wheelchair users the ramp would need to extended further into the water. While the water depth increases rapidly in the area it is feasible that such individuals might want to utilise the ramp with appropriate personal floatation devices and enjoy kayaking and other aquatic activities. The dam is an ideal place for these people due to the calm waters and protected environment. <p>2. MODIFY THE RAMP TO ENABLE GREATER ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH REDUCED MOBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I do NOT understand the need for PLASTIC MATERIALS in any way, shape o form. They deteriorate over time leaching microplastics into the environment. This area is a relatively pristine natural environment with some human interaction. It has been successfully preserved over time and this policy should not be compromised. <p>3. FIND AN ALTERNATIVE MATERIAL THAT DOES NOT USE PLASTIC</p>	<p><i>No further comment provided.</i></p>

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? Yes, with changes What changes would you like to see?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
38	<p>Your information provided is contradictory and confusing regarding the placement of this new ramp.</p> <p>Your words say that the ramp will be in front of the playground area, which is appropriate.</p> <p>Your map key indicates that the ramp will be east of this, in front of the War Memorial. This area is totally inappropriate for water access. This site was previously presented, and was not supported by the community, the War Memorial trust and the ranger staff. The water access slope is too steep. It would be highly disrespectful to Anzacs and those that appreciate and venerate the Memorial area for respectful, quiet contemplation of the services of our diggers.</p> <p>The new ramp and path etc must be well away from the Memorial and rotunda designated area.</p>	<p><i>No further comment provided.</i></p>

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? No Which part of the proposal don't you like?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
39	<p>The idea that launching and returning a kayak from a platform in the water is not possible. I've paddled a kayak in Manly Dam 30 odd times a year over the past 35 plus years. My kayak needs to be grounded with my weight in it for my safe entry and exit. trying to get in or out while the kayak is floating is and can result in me tipping into the water. The older I get the more careful I must be. I've entered the water from the picnic area below the far carpark for years. This enables me to fish the biggest area of the Dam without trespassing in the water ski area. Lately I use the beach at the 1st parking area as the walk to the water is closer. Both areas have flat launching areas.</p>	<p>The proposed location of the pontoon encourages Kayakers to paddle through the water ski area which is not allowed. If you want to enable wheel chair access the beach at the 1st carpark is the best area, any other point makes travel to the water a lot further. If that area has been vetoed than I'm afraid any proposal is doomed.</p>
40	<p>This proposal has been developed without consideration of larger and more important issues that council has a responsibility for and will need to take more initiative with. Namely Manly Dam reaching capacity is the major contributor to all major flooding in North Manly since 2014, and it must be better used as part of the flood management strategy moving forward as we experience the effects of climate change. Using MD as a flood management asset is necessary and it should involve lowering its default water level, thus this project is premature. Flood mitigation for the wider community where safety is compromised and widespread property loss occurs clearly takes precedent over recreational users.</p>	<p><i>No further comment provided.</i></p>
41	<p>I question whether this is really needed or money is just being spent for the sake of it.</p> <p>Why does money continue to be invested in recreation while nothing is spend not flood mitigation for those downstream?</p> <p>The ducks and geese will likely move onto this platform within the first week and occupy it, and poop on it extensively overnight. Hence the material should allow drainage and the rain to wash it away.</p>	<p><i>No further comment provided.</i></p>

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? No Which part of the proposal don't you like?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
	<p>Depending on the water depth the end of the platform ramp is intended to be in (1) a safety gate should be considered, as it is a lot more dangerous for small kids to fall into deeper water. (2) if it's for swimmers will there be steps or handrails down into the water or a post with a life buoy installed on it.</p> <p>If paddle craft are intended to be launched here will there be tie off point.</p> <p>It is unclear whether people step off the ramp on the the shallow sandy bottom or.</p> <p>Has the constantly fluctuating dam (often 1.8m's variation) been considered and that part of the ramp will need to be submerged and may become slippery and weed coated. As opposed to a floating pontoon. For simple the current non powered craft ramp is very short so not usually covered but when it is it is very slippery.</p>	
42	<p>Another piece of infrastructure imposing on our natural environment.</p> <p>There is already a boat ramp - if an accessible water entry point is actually needed by a significant number of people, then this should be integrated into that existing infrastructure to minimize the visual impact and foot print of our activities.</p>	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
43	<p>The main reason to reject this proposal is the impact of the proposed path on the existing grass area currently used for picnics and play area. NBC are correct in saying no trees are impacted - but fail to mention the detrimental impact on the grass open space area.</p> <p>The access from the car park is complicated, and will have to go via the covered picnic area to stay on level ground.</p> <p>This is a waste of community money (or even grant money) when there are insufficient funds in the Council's budget for many wanted</p>	Please consider instead the use of the water-ski access "driveway" for providing this all ability entry point to the water. This provides the ability to park or drop-off closer to the water without a complicated path of entry.

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? No Which part of the proposal don't you like?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
	and needed improvements in the Northern Beaches. Previous feedback to Council has rejected a complex entry point.	
44	There is already a perfectly good access point with parking, at the waterski entry point. The amount of picnic area grass that will be impacted is too much for something already existing.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
45	This is an additional impact on the grassed area which is unnecessary in terms of environment and cost. There is already a water ski access that could be used. An added advantage of this is it would provide parking closer to the access point.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
46	Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee is against the detrimental impact this will have on the grass area in front of the playground. We represent a large number of impacted members. We negotiated for a long time to reduce the proposed playground and a good outcome was achieved. This plan re-opens this discussion with no consideration of the large area that is being impacted by this concrete pathway. The access is complicated from the carpark and would impact others using any other facility - especially if there was a group in the covered shelter. Additionally, when it rains heavily, the runoff through the playground is substantial and will impact this plan as well. Please do not do this just because you have Grant money left over and the proposal was rejected previously - once with the playground and again with the latest plan in Memorial area.	We suggest you consider the use of the water-ski access driveway to provide a simpler entry point for all ability users. This is significantly under utilised, and can only have 2 boats accessing at any one time anyway. SMDCC would like to be consulted as a Stakeholder. Our evidence shows there would be plenty of available time to allow this access safely.
47	I do not like the waste of public funds when there are other far more important and urgent uses of this money. The existing water ski access is ample and has plenty of parking nearby. The plan would waste grass and playing areas which children currently enjoy.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
48	I believe a better solution would be to share the use of the water-ski access, which is already there, and would provide parking closer to	<i>No further comment provided.</i>

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? No Which part of the proposal don't you like?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
	the access point. I believe able bodied users would just use the straight line from entry to path to access to water, further effecting available picnicking areas.	
49	Insufficient information tying in the proposed concept into the location map to make an informed view	Adopt bottom/up approach to get the most from ratepayers collective wisdom in future.....?
50	This construction would adversely impact the grass area affecting both play area and picnic area. A cheaper and less impactful solution would be to use the boat access for water skiing. The ramp already exists, there is parking nearby, and no more hard surfaces would be impacted on the War Memorial Park. With council's budget already compromised this seems a better solution all round.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
51	<p>This concept should be rejected and an alternative adopted as outlined below.</p> <p>The plan is a reasonable idea but totally in the wrong place. The amount of picnic area grass that will be impacted by a winding concrete path to access the swimming area in Section 1 in front of the playground makes little sense.</p> <p>There is a perfectly good access point with parking, at the waterski entry point.</p> <p>if this current proposal proceeds there will be a hugely detrimental impact on the grass open space area which is totally unnecessary- and surely we don't need more concrete in this much loved and environmentally sensitive place.</p> <p>The path will be concrete, with a fibre reinforced plastic (FRP) water access ramp and will isolate a huge area of grass currently used for picnics and play area.</p> <p>The access from the car park is complicated, and will have to go via the covered picnic area to stay on level ground.</p>	<i>No further comment provided.</i>

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? No Which part of the proposal don't you like?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
	<p>Previous feedback to Council rejected a complex entry point - responses identified that a kayak ramp was not required in the memorial space, as able bodied community members are happy to access the water via the small beach."</p> <p>Surely a better solution would be to share the use of the water-ski access which is already there and would provide parking closer to the access point. This would be more beneficial for non able bodied people.</p> <p>This proposal would facilitate better access, would be kinder to the environment and cheaper- thus negating the need for winding concrete paths.</p> <p>A "win win" solution.</p>	
52	<p>The pathway is too invasive of the grassed picnic area and in fact diminishes the space available for people to picnic on the grass. Every man-made intrusion is further destruction of the natural environment.</p> <p>Why can't the boat ramp be modified to allow for swimmers and kayakers to access the water? It would be much cheaper and not have such a big and destructive footprint.</p>	<p>Have you commissioned a survey yet to justify this expense? You better hurry up and get the biased survey underway so that you can claim that people have demanded this facility.</p>
53	<p>It will be a visual scar interrupting and removing space from what is currently an open grass area - more concrete in our bush playgrounds is not needed. There is already a ramp nearby for safe access for paddlers - can this not be shared, with any necessary modifications, by the user group you intend this for?</p>	<p>There are already accessible facilities and pathway plus an existing ramp which could be shared. Please don't further ruin this natural bush setting with more and more facilities, most people love the facility due to the bush setting.</p>
54	<p>You are taking away a large area of grass which is used extensively for picnics and play. You have turned the access from the car park to be complicated and you will need to go via the covered picnic area to stay on level ground. With the Council's</p>	<p><i>No further comment provided.</i></p>

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? No Which part of the proposal don't you like?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
	budget being in arrears this is a waste of rate payers money - which could be utilised in a much better way. Perhaps fixing all the pot holes! A solution would be to share the use of the water-ski access which is already there and would provide parking closer to the access point.	
55	Concrete access will be taking up limited grass area for families to have for picnics. There is access in other areas.	<i>No further comment provided.</i>
56	Please do not do anything that involves concreting or similar (even if using "eco-friendly" materials) - leave the grass and nature as they are.	There is a perfectly good access point with parking, at the waterski entry point. Share the use of the water-ski access, adding parking closer to this spot. Please do not waste money on this and use it to increase green friendly projects on the Nb or use it for safety issues such as making road crossings near schools safer.
57	NBC are correct in saying no trees are impacted - but fail to mention the detrimental impact on the grass open space area. The path will be eco-concrete, with a fibre reinforced plastic (FRP) water access ramp - but isolates a huge area of grass currently used for picnics and play area. The access from the car park is complicated, and will have to go via the covered picnic area to stay on level ground. This is a waste of community money (or even grant money) when there are insufficient funds in the Council's budget for many wanted and needed improvements in the Northern Beaches.	Whilst not objecting to modifications to walkways and access to swimming areas for disabled folk in other parts of the shire, eg Little Manly I object to these modifications at Manly Dam, This is a unique area of pristine bushland- ever rarer in a rapidly expanding Sydney. It should be kept as such and not turned into a quasi QLD 'Waterworld'. Northern beaches residents live here because we value and appreciate the natural environment and as custodians we want to preserve it for future generations.
58	There are similar access platforms on Narrabeen Lake and as a frequent lake user (sailing, kayaking, paddle boarding and running and cycling the path) I have never seen them used to support accessible access to the lake. Some able bodied folks may use them to launch paddle boards (I have myself), but the most frequent use for people to fish off of the platform. So the likely demand for such facilities in the community it likely not high.	If Council is determined to include such a platform it makes much more sense to install it near the water ski boat launch which provides easier and more direct access from existing parking.

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? No Which part of the proposal don't you like?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
	<p>Northern Beaches Council appears to have a love of paving just about every green space it can. The recent huge amounts of concrete poured in Freshwater in the reserves areas behind the beach are a blight on that community. While I am fully supportive of improving accessible access across public spaces, better thought and design needs to be employed to make such improvements. Concrete inevitably will begin the decay and in future years will be even more unsightly than it currently is.</p> <p>The same thing has been occurring in Manly Dam with the unnecessary and significantly opposed path crossing previously undisturbed bushland running to the section 3 picnic area. Manly Dam is being loved to death with all this fragmenting development.</p> <p>Open green space is constantly under threat everywhere and if you can maintain it in park, then where can one maintain it. The long curving concrete path will fragment and make pointless the existing open green area that is under frequent use.</p> <p>This is a waste of community money (or even grant money) when there are insufficient funds in the Council's budget for many wanted and needed improvements in the Northern Beaches</p>	
59	<p>I do not support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: The new accessible water access platform 2. The new accessible pathway linking the new water access platform to the existing accessible pathway and parking. 	<p>The winding path to access the water would fragment a well used area of grassed open space.</p> <p>Pedestrians would frequently take a short cut across the slope to avoid the longer route via the bend.</p> <p>Pedestrian use would denude the grass area within the curve of the winding path.</p> <p>The proposal for new turf to mitigate site disturbance is likely to be a waste of time and money.</p>

Comment No.	Do you support the proposed water access platform and accessible pathway upgrades? No Which part of the proposal don't you like?	Please provide any additional feedback you may have
		<p>The platform would extend beyond the foreshore and there is a risk that young children could fall or jump into deeper water.</p> <p>Currently children play in the sand on the foreshore or paddle at the water's edge.</p> <p>The ramp and platform is likely to be an attraction for younger children and would allow them to venture further from the foreshore.</p> <p>The path leading to the water would be located next to the playground and therefore highly accessible to children.</p> <p>The downhill path and ramp could also attract older children on skateboards or scooters.</p> <p>The path and ramp would have an intrusive impact on the grass slope and foreshore area respectively.</p> <p>The purpose is well intended but the proposal does not consider the impact on other users.</p> <p>The title 'safe access to water' is misleading, as the proposal is likely to compromise the safety young children and require extra vigilance for their supervision.</p> <p>The water ski access area could be a more suitable location and has an existing ramp.</p>

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