

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Public exhibition of Draft Youth Voice Action Plan - Shaping the Beaches' Future

Consultation period: 1 December 2022 to 14 March 2023

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1. Summary

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of the public exhibition of the Draft Youth Voice Action Plan 2028 – Shaping the Beaches’ Future (the draft Plan) between 1 December 2022 and 14 March 2023.

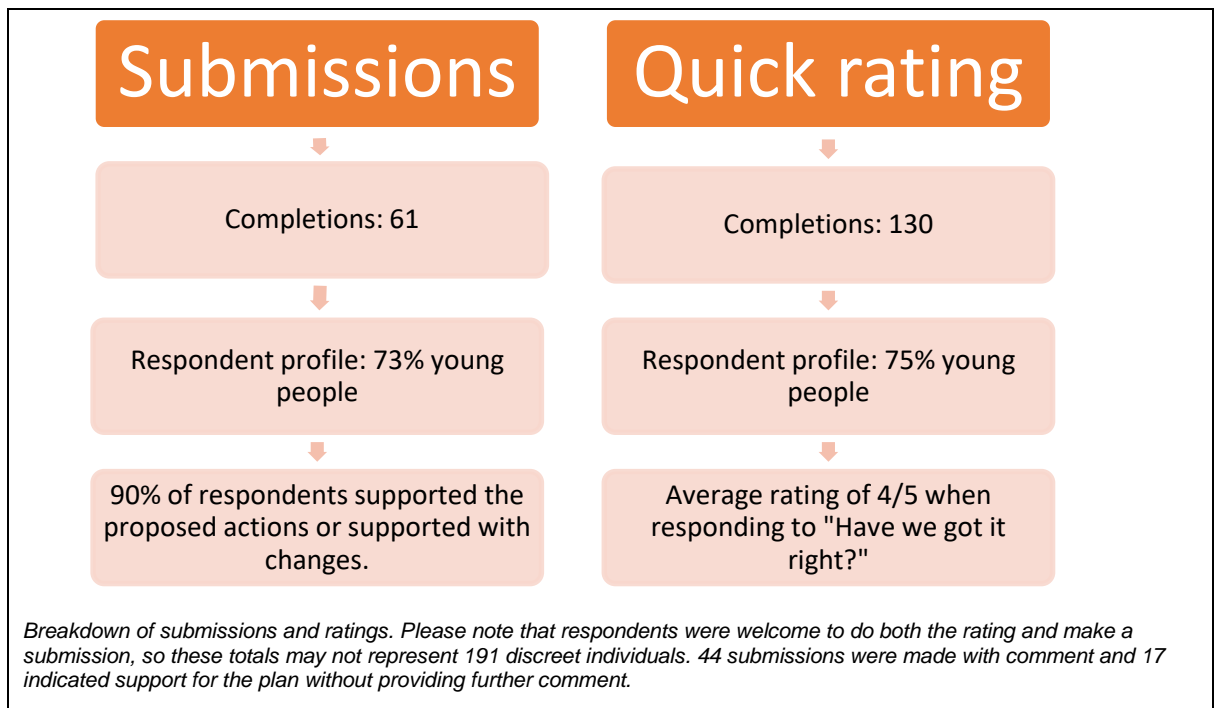
The draft Plan has been developed to outline five years of actions for youth development and capacity building that will support and engage young people to participate in community life and achieving the outcomes outlined in Better Together 2040.


Most submissions received during the consultation period were either supportive of the draft Plan or supportive with changes.

A summary of the key themes/issues raised throughout exhibition include:






- Agreement of the importance of supporting intergenerational connection.
- Recognition of the rich diversity that exists within the youth cohort.
- Confirmation of a core set of priority issues affecting young people’s ability to participate in community life, including concern for the environment, housing affordability, cost of living, and supporting mental health and wellness.
- Recognition that young people like to connect in different ways and acknowledge the value and importance of connection for their sense of belonging.
- Calls for commitment by Council to continue engaging with young people throughout implementation and delivery of the actions.


1.1. Key outcomes



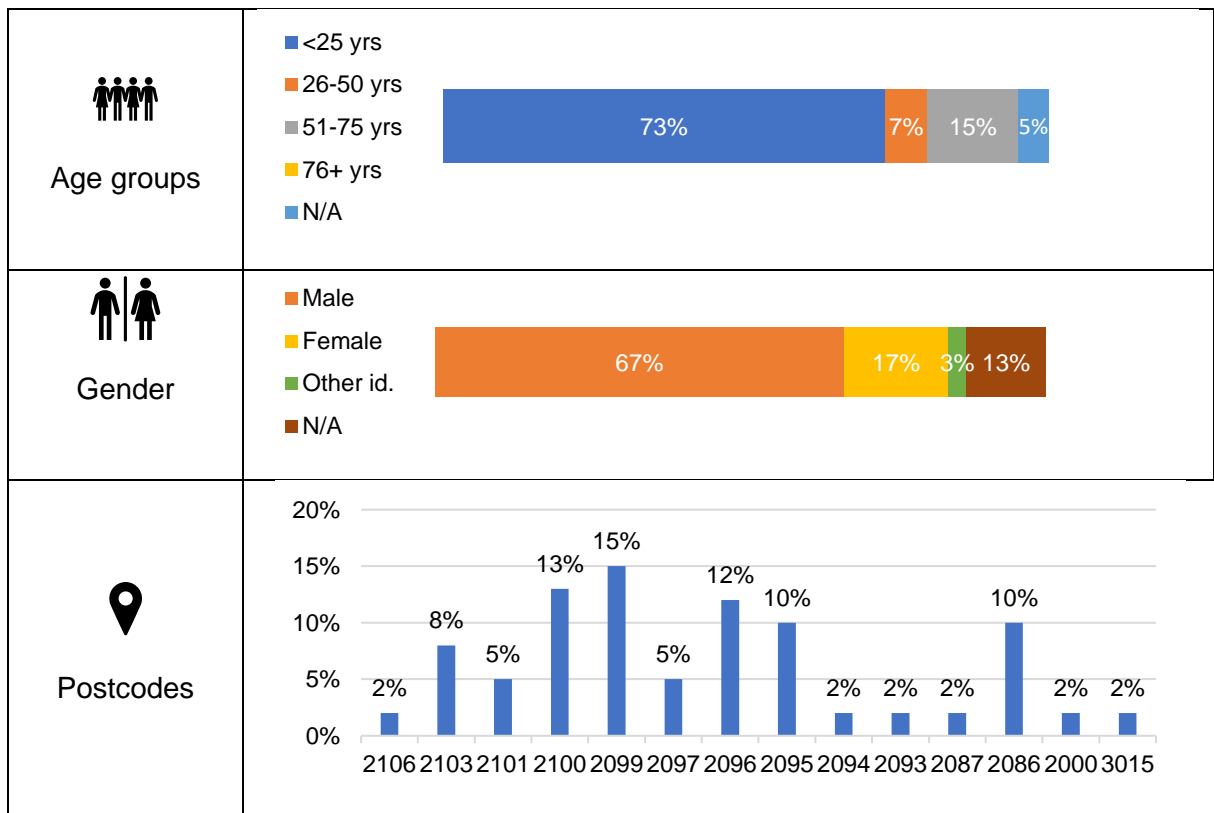
 <p>Feedback themes</p>	<p>Places and spaces</p> <p>Ways to connect</p> <p>Skills and Education</p>	<p>Priority Issues for young people, such as cost of living, housing affordability, environment, and mental health support</p> <p>Delivery of the Action Plan</p>
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1.2. How we engaged

 <p>Have Your Say: visitation stats</p>	<p>Visitors: 2360</p>	<p>Visits: 3198</p>	<p>Average time onsite: 53secs</p>
 <p>Social media</p>	<p>Council social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn</p> <p>KALOF social media channels, including Facebook and Instagram</p>		<p>Reach: 100,916</p> <p>Clicks: 1,035</p>
 <p>Videos</p>	<p>Overview video – Have Your Say</p>		<p>You Tube views: 191</p>
 <p>Electronic direct mail (EDM)</p>	<p>Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 6 editions</p> <p>Council (weekly) e-News: 6 editions</p> <p>The Wave – Council’s Disability Newsletter: 3 editions</p> <p>KALOF newsletter: 3 editions</p> <p>Northern Beaches Youth Interagency newsletter: 1 edition</p>		<p>Distribution: Approx. 22,000 subscribers</p> <p>Distribution: Approx. 61,500 subscribers</p> <p>Distribution: Approx. 1400 subscribers</p> <p>Distribution: Approx. 1800 subscribers</p> <p>Distribution: Approx. 180 subscribers</p>
	<p>Youth Advisory Group (YAG): 2 workshops</p> <p>Northern Beaches Youth Interagency: 1 workshop</p> <p>Better Together Leadership Group: 1 meeting</p>		

Key stakeholder engagement	Community Safety Advisory Committee: 1 presentation
 Pop up sessions	Pop up engagements at Council or community events: 11 School engagement: 8 formal sessions YAG members representing 12 schools on the Northern Beaches were also asked to promote the draft Plan and facilitate informal engagement sessions at their school.

1.3. Who responded¹



2. Background

The draft Plan was identified as a priority in the Better Together Social Sustainability Strategy 2040 as young people are active contributors and essential to a thriving and vibrant community. They are current and future leaders, innovators, creatives, and environmental caretakers. The experience of young people on the Northern Beaches is constantly evolving.

Co-created with over 1,000 young people over a period of six months, the draft Plan sets the direction and prioritises action for youth development for the next five years. It recognises the important role everyone in the community plays ensuring young people are a part of community life on the Northern Beaches. The draft Plan has four directions that represent

¹ The demographic data in this section was gathered in the online submission form only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail and is just an approximate snapshot.

areas of importance to young people and will deliver the support and resources advocated by young people.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities
- provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way
- identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values.

4. Engagement approach

This public exhibition phase of community and stakeholder engagement for the Draft Youth Voice Action Plan – Shaping the Beaches’ Future was conducted between 1 December 2022 and 14 March 2023 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).

An existing project page² was updated on our Have Your Say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format. This included a video, a snapshot document, and a breakdown of the proposed actions for each of the four (4) key directions in the draft Plan.

The project was mostly promoted through social media (both our Council and youth-focused KALOF channels) and a range of Council email newsletters (EDM), including Council’s weekly E-News and our fortnightly engagement newsletter.

Feedback was captured through an online submission form embedded onto the Have Your Say project page. The form included a question that directly asked respondents for their level of support on the proposal. An open-field comments box provided community members a space to explain or elaborate on their support, not support or neutral sentiment as well as any other feedback they wished to contribute.

To quickly capture the sentiment about the draft Plan, we also utilised a quick and easy rating tool asking people to answer the question ‘Have we got it right?’ on a scale of 1 to 5.

We did not limit people to just one of the commenting tools. We did however encourage people who gave the plan a quick rating of 3 or less to share their comments in the submission form so that we could address their feedback.

Email and written feedback were also invited. Contact details for the project manager were provided to allow people to speak directly with them and provide feedback over the phone.

Two workshops were held with Council’s YAG during the public exhibition. The second of these two workshops included Councillors, providing an opportunity to check with the members that the draft Plan addressed key concerns and to identify any gaps or additional actions required for the draft Plan. We also revised the Have Your Say project page in line

² <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/youth-voices>

with the YAG's advice to facilitate the capture of feedback from as many young people as possible.

We included information about the public exhibition of the draft Plan in several school newsletters, encouraging teachers to discuss the draft Plan with their students.

We ran engagement sessions at schools across the Northern Beaches and guided students to the Your Say page to provide feedback. YAG members were also asked to promote the draft Plan and facilitate informal engagement sessions at their schools, and with their various networks.

We presented about the draft Plan and key actions to various groups on the Northern Beaches, including the Northern Beaches Youth Interagency and the Community Safety Advisory Committee.

4.1. Reaching diverse audiences

We wanted to ensure we promoted the consultation and held conversations with a broad cross section of youth on the Northern Beaches.

We reached out to a range of organisations offering services to young people from diverse backgrounds, including LGBTQIA+ services, outreach services, disability services, mental health services and more.

We provided an Easy Read version of the draft Plan on the Your Say page and promoted the consultation in Council's monthly Disability Newsletter.

We held pop up sessions at various community events, including Council events and events organised by representatives of the social services sector on the Northern Beaches.

5. Findings

In addition to feedback collected through emails, community pop-ups and workshops, 44 online submissions and 130 quick ratings were received during the public exhibition period of the draft Plan.

Young people were highly engaged throughout the exhibition and represent the largest proportion of respondents, with the majority in support of the draft Plan. Overall feedback championed Council's commitment to increasing young people's visibility and participation within the community.

Sample comments made from young people aged 12-24 in support of the plan:

"The extent of the research and consultation process gives me confidence that these outlined strategies will deliver the results intended to benefit young people here."

"This plan seems highly effective as it targets the fundamental problems youth face today - feeling dis fragmented from society."

Sample comments made from non-youth community members in support of the plan.

“Having grown up on the Northern Beaches gay, when unspeakable prejudice and violence was occurring, this is a much needed and long-awaited initiative”.

“One plan for all northern beaches youth is great idea”.

A summary of the key themes/issues raised throughout exhibition include:

- Agreement of the importance of supporting intergenerational connection.
- Recognition of the rich diversity that exists within the youth cohort.
- Confirmation of a core set of priority issues affecting young people’s ability to participate in community life, including concern for the environment, housing affordability, cost of living, and supporting mental health and wellness.
- Recognition that young people like to connect in different ways and acknowledge the value and importance of connection for their sense of belonging.
- Calls for commitment by Council to continue engaging with young people throughout implementation and delivery of the actions.

In particular, the feedback related to key priority issues, the desire of intergenerational connection, and importance of shared places and spaces is consistent with the feedback received from young people and other stakeholders during the initial engagement period and development of the draft Plan. Most of the comments relating to these issues can be linked to existing actions already identified in the draft Plan.

All relevant submissions have been reviewed and will be considered in the development and review of other related strategies and actions.

In response to the feedback during exhibition, several changes are recommended to the draft Plan, including six additional actions to ensure that Youth Voice is responsive to what matters to young people on the Northern Beaches.

Table One below demonstrates how the themes that emerged from the feedback have been responded to, including where there is a corresponding change in the Action Plan.

Table One: Response to submission and recommendations for change

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council’s response
Environment	Feedback throughout the exhibition period suggested that there is a gap in the action plan relating to the importance of the environment and climate change for young people.	Direction 4 in the Action Plan works towards supporting young people to have their say on topics that impact their future - including climate change. Recommendations for change: 1. Highlight the environment and climate change as a key issue that young people feel impacts their future (page 10).

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
	<p>Suggestions included ensuring that young people were educated on the importance and significance of climate change.</p>	<p>2. Insert visual in Direction 1 to show Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Resilience Strategy as a related document (page 33).</p> <p>3. Additional actions in Direction 2 (page 39) and Direction 4 (page 47) that support inclusion of young people in the delivery of <i>Protect. Create. Live. and Withstand. Adapt. Thrive.</i></p>
<p>Places and spaces</p>	<p>It was raised that places and spaces for young people was potentially not adequately addressed in the plan, especially in relation to actions around third/bumping spaces for young people aged 18-24. One submission referenced the importance and current limitations of library spaces.</p> <p>Issues such as needing locations that were not related to alcohol, are outdoor, accessible by public transport, and consistency of availability were raised as important aspects of young people's needs.</p> <p>One submission requested the provision of places for car owners to meet off road and the provision of 4WD tracks.</p>	<p>Shared places and spaces are critical social infrastructure for a connected community.</p> <p>Young people have told us that they value having ways to connect both with each other, but with others in the community as well. Bumping Spaces is a term used for a communal space where people naturally bump into each other. These are important places in the community for building social connection.</p> <p>The requests for activities in open spaces are a matter for the recently adopted Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy. A strategic direction is to provide new and enhanced open space for all ages, including young people, and implementation is underway. Off road car activities are not included, with the requests referred for future consideration.</p> <p>Recommendations for change:</p> <p>4. Three additional actions and one amended action recommended for Direction 1 (pages 34 & 35) related to places and spaces and the engagement of young people on the delivery of library programs, services and spaces.</p>
<p>Ways to connect</p>	<p>Ways to connect was the most common theme across the submissions and verbal feedback.</p> <p>Respondents indicated that young people have a diverse range of passions that drives participation in activities that enable social connection. Examples include live music, art and creativity, exercise and</p>	<p>Many of the passions and activities that young people engage in for connection are delivered by groups and organisations outside of Council. Council will continue to work with these organisations to ensure that a range of programs and activities are available on the Northern Beaches to support the variety of interests.</p> <p>There is an action under Direction 1 (page 34) that will ensure Council delivers activities that are accessible and engaging</p>

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
	<p>sport, caring for and enjoying the natural environment, and interest groups such as Scouts.</p>	<p>for young people and complimentary to those provided by other stakeholders.</p> <p>Council will continually review activities and events delivered against the directions and seek ongoing feedback from young people about what they are passionate about and what connection opportunities are important to them.</p> <p>Recommendations for change:</p> <p>5. Add a clear commitment (page 48) ensuring ongoing engagement and consultation occurs with young people as the plan is delivered.</p>
<p>Skills and Education</p>	<p>Young people raised career planning as a gap in focus for Direction 3 - Skills and Education. In consultation with the Youth Advisory Group, career expos were raised as an important opportunity for sharing the diverse career opportunities available at Council.</p>	<p>Career planning is an important part of the transition to adulthood and identifying appropriate skills and education pathways.</p> <p>A stronger focus on the career component of these pathways will be included in the Action Plan.</p> <p>Recommendations for change:</p> <p>6. Amend action in Direction 3 for Youth Advisory Group (page 43) to include reference to short skills courses.</p> <p>7. Addition of an action in Direction 3 (page 42) to expand representation of career opportunities at Council at local careers expos.</p>
<p>Volunteering and mentoring</p>	<p>Volunteering was raised as an important avenue to support education, skill development, and the inclusion of young people in the community. We also heard that volunteering provides opportunities for mentoring and intergenerational connection.</p> <p>One submission expressed the value of young people supporting and mentoring peers.</p>	<p>We agree that volunteering is an important pathway for providing young people with education and skill development outside of the more commonly accessed education and training pathways such as work experience. Volunteering is also an important enabler for inclusion and mentoring.</p> <p>Recommendations for change:</p> <p>8. Amend action (page 43) to include mapping of volunteer pathways in addition to education and training.</p>
<p>Priority Issues</p>	<p>We received confirmation that there are a core set of</p>	<p>This is consistent with the feedback received in the initial engagement for development of</p>

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
	<p>priority issues that are currently impacting on young people's ability to participate in community life, including concern for the environment, housing affordability, cost of living and supporting mental health. Young people want to ensure they can contribute to discussion and decision making on these issues and others such as land use planning.</p>	<p>the Plan. The methodology undertaken and finding of this engagement are presented in the companion document "Youth Voice Engagement and Insight Report".</p> <p>There are several actions included in Direction 1 (page 35) and Direction 4 (page 47) that will enable young people to contribute to decision making on these important issues.</p> <p>Recommendations for change:</p> <p>9. Call out key topics of interest/concern to Young People in the document and highlight their importance (page 10).</p>
First Nations	<p>We received feedback from First Nations young people that the action relating to First Nations did not have a clear enough focus on young First Nations people and should be clearer.</p>	<p>The intention of this action is to ensure that young First Nations people are engaged with when developing programs and the wording can be amended to be more explicit about this.</p> <p>Recommendations for change:</p> <p>10. Amend language in action under Direction 2, (page 38) to emphasise working specifically with First Nations young people.</p>
Links to existing strategies	<p>A range of submissions commented on work already in progress across other Council strategies and plans relevant to young people, in particular safety and young people living with disability.</p>	<p>Council has a range of actions that impact on young people in the adopted Community Safety Plan and Disability Inclusion Action Plan.</p> <p>The Community Safety Plan is working towards achieving safety related outcomes for young people in the Northern Beaches.</p> <p>There are a range of actions in the Disability Inclusion Action Plan that support identification of employment opportunities for young people, including those living with disability.</p> <p>Recommendations for change:</p> <p>11. Insert reference to related strategies and plans for each of the four Directions (pages 33, 37, 41, 45).</p>
The title of the Action Plan	<p>One submission suggested that the title Youth Voice implied automatic agreement with the Voice of Parliament proposal.</p>	<p>The title Youth Voice was selected by young people at the start of the project and represents the language and terms identified by them that describes the purpose of the Action Plan.</p>

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
		<p>Recommendations for change:</p> <p>12. Recommendation to highlight the process undertaken for selecting the name on (page 7).</p>
Intergenerational connection	<p>Overall, there was agreement of the importance of intergenerational connection, both for challenging assumptions about young people and for providing young people access to mentoring and support as they transition to adulthood.</p>	<p>Intergenerational connection is a key outcome of Direction 1 (pages 34 and 35) and supports the comments made by respondents around the role and importance of intergenerational connection for young people.</p>
Social Services for young people	<p>There were submissions that recommended further consultation with social services to determine what adequate support looks like for vulnerable young people and supports they need.</p> <p>Another indicated the importance and benefit of regular programs and services in supporting young people, as opposed to one off events and activities which have less impact.</p>	<p>The social services sector participated in co-design of the plan and have been engaged throughout the public exhibition period. The social services sector will continue to be consulted in the delivery of the Action Plan as a key stakeholder.</p>
Action Plan layout	<p>Requests for more visual presentation of document, and to consider inclusion of more visual elements such as mindmaps.</p>	<p>We worked closely with young people to design the plan and provided a range of ways to access the key content. These included a shorter more visual snapshot document and an Easy Read version of the Plan.</p> <p>We will continue to work with Young People to ensure documents are engaging and inclusive of Young People.</p>
Council scope	<p>A small number of submissions from non-youth respondents were unsupportive of the plan suggesting they thought the Youth Voice Action</p>	<p>We are committed to supporting Young People to have a say about decisions that impact on them.</p>

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
	Plan is not within the scope of Council and added additional bureaucracy to decision making.	
Inclusion	Several of the submissions raised the topic of inclusion, especially how the plan would assist with ensuring that young people from a range of backgrounds and lived experience are able to connect with broader community life was raised for consideration.	When developing the strategies and plans we heard from groups with lived experience (pages 24 and 25), including young people from diverse cultural backgrounds, young people living with disability, and LGBTQIA+ young people. They provided feedback that recognising diversity within diversity and understanding that what we refer to as priority populations are not homogenous groups, was very important to their ongoing inclusion in community life.
Young people living with disability	One respondent wanted to ensure that young people living with disability had been included in research for the action plan	Targeted engagement was conducted with young people living with disability and their parents and carers in the development of the Plan (pages 24 and 25). To allow for people living with disability to further engage in the consultation process, an Easy Read document is available that has been developed with the Council for Intellectual Disability.
Purchase of community assets	One submission suggested the acquisition of land for the purposes of a youth centre	All community centres are available for the whole community, including young people, to access and utilise. This aligns with feedback from young people that they want to connect and participate in places that are part of the community and not spaces and places allocated for young people. Council has an adopted Community Centres Strategy which identifies the need for additional community centre space in Brookvale. The proposed mechanisms will ensure young people are involved in decision making on any additional community centre space. Any decision regarding Council acquiring property would be undertaken in line with the merit-based process provided by the adopted Property Management Framework.
Delivery of the Action Plan	There was strong support for the plan, however young people especially requested that ongoing	We will continue to ensure that we engage with a diverse cross-section of young people in the delivery of the plan, committed to in

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
	work was undertaken to ensure that implementation included ongoing check-in and consultation with young people about delivery of the Plan.	the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation section (page 48).

Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

A. Online submissions³

Number	Submission
1	I like the moral and the planning of the idea and how it was displayed, with problems and statements relating towards youth today and then your solutions, which was clear, easy to read and straight to the point. However I just wonder what exactly you mean by the solutions, such as what is going to be done to achieve your goal/ idea. How are you gonna solve the problems/ statements of youth that you said before? I'm just asking myself, how will this be done?
2	I agree with the proposed actions and I think it is important to keep checking up to see the changes are actually working
3	I think its good that the council is getting young people to engage into the community. At times people can be disconnected from their community, which is such an essential part of their life. This idea will allow young people to connect and form relationships and better the community as a whole.
4	I'd Love To See Some More Live Music On The Northern Beaches, more band nights and more medium/bigger bands come and play on our beaches especially ones who grew up here :) it provides a safe space for all ages and live music is so important but has dropped off massively in the last few years on the northern beaches.
5	I hope youth can join more social activities.
6	I do love the idea of helping out with young people and those of similar age to me. I believe all people including kids should have a chance to speak and be open with their ideas, no one should feel bottled up and unable to have their chance of sharing what they have to say.
7	I think it is an amazing idea! a suggestion is to also involve seniors in the program!
8	Make sure that actions are put through so that the plan goes ahead and is a success.
9	We could make school more enjoyable by including activities that make more students want to come to school. This sort of thing is incorporated into languages in year 7 and 8 at Saints in my experience. This makes me always look forward to my language period and could be done in other subjects.
10	As said in the doc, I think it would be important for young people to connect more with older people, this could help educate the younger people about what is to come in there lives and starting to develop strategies they could use to overcome those. Also about younger people standing up for themselves, It is important for younger people to feel safe when sticking up for themselves, they need to feel comfortable when taking action. For example, if there is something going on at home, if the younger person takes action, they would stick up for themself and feel comfortable expressing there feelings.
11	I think the plan sounds good. I'm not too sure about how well it will work though. Maybe some one-on-one support or talk might be good for shy young people.
12	I believe getting young people to communicate with older people will be a challenge within itself. I would love to hear the ideas for getting this plan into action
13	Support Youth Advisory Group to review Council Agenda monthly, and build capacity, participation and knowledge of Council process The single biggest issue to effect the mobility of youth on the Northern Beaches is being discussed at Council on 28 Feb 2023 by way of a Notice of Motion concerning e-bikes. One Councillor claims that the elderly citizens in a NB 'village' were living in fear of going to the shops because of the young people riding too fast on their e-bike. Council adopted its Bike plans and 'Move NB' Strategy in 2018. The community, in particular the young people of the NBs are way ahead of this plan and have embraced e-bikes as a means of

*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.

³ Some people only answered the sentiment question in the online submission form and did not provide further comments.

	<p>transport to and from school and their local haunts.</p> <p>They have embraced this form of transport and should be consulted about safe bike riding and provision of facilities to promote safe e-bike ownership and riding.</p> <p>No more reports that become meaningless and events overtake the actions and implementation plans.</p>
14	4wd tracks in the northern beaches
15	<p>Would love it if there could be a place on the Northern Beaches where people could meet with their cars and do drifting car shows etc. because then people would be able to do their burnouts at the facility and not on the roads endangering lives.</p> <p>Another place would be great to have would be a 4WD track somewhere on the Northern Beaches that is open to northern beaches 4wders maybe somewhere up near Belrose Terrey Hills. Because there is a big community of 4wders on the beaches who just want a place to go on the weekends and test their rigs.</p>
16	It is good
17	I think this movement is extremely beneficial for the upcoming generations of our society. The 4 man goals to achieve pursue true interest in the young minds and provide many opportunities for all
18	informative presentation maybe include a collaborative feature to keep students a bit more interested and alert.
19	Cool
20	i like it
21	Having grown up on the Northern Beaches gay, when unspeakable prejudice and violence was occurring, this is a much needed and long awaited initiative.
22	More inclusivity in the community is needed
23	There is lots good in this. Well done. However being older myself I feel youth need guidance and will benefit from the wisdom of those who have lived much longer and experienced much more. When I was young I thought I knew it all and knew better. With age and experience I realise that the younger generation can benefit from lessons learned by others.
24	<p>All of the main Australian surveys of youth people show climate change as the single most important issue for young people. For example, in the 2022 Mission Australia survey, 51.0% of young people identified climate change as the single most important issue in Australia. This 50-page document showcasing the 'voice of young people across the Northern Beaches' makes no reference at all to 'climate change', and the word 'environment' occurs just 5 times; twice in the introduction by the Mayor, twice relating to safe environments, and only once quoting a young person who is 'interested ... in the environment'.</p> <p>Why does 'Youth Voice' not in any way reflect the passion of young people like me on climate change as the single most important issue of concern to young people? Why are there no specific actions Council, young people and the community can take to collectively address this issue? I'm sure a lot of the mental health issues would be positively affected were we to start to unite together to address this issue. This is what young people want.</p> <p>Council either didn't listen, or they didn't ask the right questions.</p>
25	<p>what is the point of announcing a plan for 2028 that really need no real planning at all</p> <p>plans are like talk</p> <p>cheap</p> <p>for the amount of money you receive you can do better than this !</p>
26	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I don't like the term "Voice" - it implies automatic agreement with the controversial Indigenous voice to parliament of which nearly 40% of Australians (according to polls) disagree. 2. Wisdom comes from age, not from 15 year olds. 3. Added bureaucracy to Council affairs and actions 4. Added bureaucracy and delays if Youth Voice contradicts Council concerns. 5. Pressure on Council to accept the Youth voice, even if controversial.

27	Less paragraphs more visual features like mind maps
28	I am looking forward to seeing the action plan in action.
29	I think the introduction of this Youth Voice Action Plan will really benefit and help young people on the northern beaches. The extent of the research and consultation process gives me confidence that these outlined strategies will deliver the results intended to benefit young people here. I think if it's stuck to with consistent and reoccurring consultation with young people, to ensure and update the plan if it's not working, then it can have great impacts.
30	<p>Under Direction 3, I would suggest including an action that ensures education on the protection and value of the natural environment. It is no secret that conserving our natural environment is a key priority within young people, and in continuing to educate them about the scientific and cultural significance of the natural world will empower youth to take action and make decisions to ensure the promotion of our defining feature within the council. The natural prowess of the Northern Beaches is second to none, and ensuring informed perspectives will greatly benefit the local area.</p> <p>I support the Youth Action Plan as a vital means of ensuring the voices and opinions of youth are valued and heard.</p>
31	<p>I am a volunteer Scout Leader in Curl Curl. Scouts is a Youth Led organisation that has been working with youth on the Northern Beaches for over 100 years. Surveys have shown that young people that join scouts feel more included, help their communities more, and overall are more resilient. Scouting is inclusive no matter what your gender, race or religion. Best of all Scouts is Youth Led which means that young people decide what they want to do and adults help to facilitate that.</p> <p>I am not saying that Scouting is perfect but please think about it when finalising the 'Youth Voice'.</p> <p>Cheers XXXXX</p> <p>See reports on the effects of scouting: https://scouts.com.au/blog/2020/05/29/the-scouting-effect-scouting-builds-resilience-for-life/#:~:text=Resilience%20enables%20people%20to%20thrive,lead%20and%20learn%20by%20doing.</p> <p>https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/media/3677/welcome-to-scouting.pdf</p>
32	<p>The report does an excellent job at identifying key issues facing young people. The report notes several times in various contexts the importance of third places for young people, but the plan doesn't speak to this in any of the actions. It would be fantastic to see spaces for the 18-24 group experiencing delayed independence that are free or low cost, accessible, not centered around alcohol and indoor. In particular these would benefit LGBTQ young adults who may not be fully comfortable interacting with friends in the family home, young people with difficult or unsafe home life, young people with little disposable income and young people living with disability (who have fewer existing options). Libraries are a fantastic recourse but have a lot of limitations as a casual place for young people to hang out. I'd also like to note as this process continues that regular programs and services young people can engage with for multiple years will have a much greater impact than one off talks and events.</p>
33	<p>This plan seems highly effective as it targets the fundamental problems youth face today - feeling dis fragmented from society.</p> <p>What I have experienced is that youth are becoming greater delinquents on the northern beaches and the catalyst for this issue . Starts with the eshays and junkies that roam the streets. I also believe with this plan more kids will become tolerant to conforming to this drinking and drug culture.</p> <p>This plan seems like it will be highly effective as it shows the community and children that there is a proactive strategy to combatting the feeling of dissociation and isolation youth feel in today society</p>
34	<p>You need to have more import from social services. I don't think troubled kids are going to be resting coucil run programs. Coming from a young person of an alcoholic family I never saw any support for me. Everyone thinks northern beaches is easy and we fine. Kids aren't fine and no promotion to help them find support they need. Plenty if support for the in who is doing the drugs</p>

	but this left with nothing have no one to talk to, Social workers think we are all rich and suggest things that are not possible.
35	Suggestion: consult or collaborate with the persons with lived experience. As an example, what is it like to grow up with a disability? What is it like for a parent with a child who identifies as LGBTQI+
36	No teenagers going to any wholesome workshop to help them, but I do think creating a stronger community would be good. I also know that no young person is ever going to live on the northern beaches bc it is so expensive, but that's what makes it so good. I think supporting projects where teens could hangout would be good, as there aren't many of those in the NB. So far the only ones are Youth group and the mall, but I think we could do better. I have heard plans for a teen room where we could hang and play pool or whatever. Another great idea are table tennis tables. I really want these as they are easy to hang out at and easy to play.
37	The 'Youth Voice Action Plan' outlines the feelings of young people and a pathway into the future that benefits them. The paper could furthermore be improved by providing more statistics and numbers as it can help Council better understand where young people stand on such issues.
38	Isn't this something that parents should be doing and are responsible for?
39	I have been in the past a member of youth working groups and committees for Manly Council (MYC) and Northern Beaches Council (KALOF Committee, Interim Youth SRG) and I feel this document is light actions for providing opportunities for young people to engage in their passion whether that be performing in a band and getting an opportunity at one of Council's band nights or channeling a passion for art into an artwork for ArtDecko or working with some of council's youth workers on a street art project. these type of things have been important in the past and continue to be important.
40	one plan for all northern beaches youth is great idea
41	Really support these ideas. Love getting out on the beaches for some fitness and exercise with friends - appreciate all the great options for coastal walks and lake walks that allow me to bring my less fortunate Kuringai Council friends to the beaches to enjoy.
42-58	Submissions indicated support for draft plan, no comment provided.

B. Emailed submissions

Number	Submission
59	<p>Thank you for sharing the draft youth voice action plan. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] On reading the draft plan I have the following questions, and would be happy to discuss these in more detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan speaks to youth generally and then 'minority' groups, including people with a disability. How do we create a truly inclusive community where all people have an opportunity to connect broadly outside of their 'minority' group? • What employment opportunities exist in the Northern Beaches for people with a disability? What role does/can the council play in providing employment opportunities? • Have people with an intellectual disability been included in the research for this action plan? <p>Please let me know if you would like to discuss any of these topics in more detail before you finalise the 2028 action plan.</p>
60	<p>My name is [REDACTED] and I teach [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. My Year 10 students are working on an assessment task identifying a problem in the local community and drafting solutions to these problems. I wanted to let you know we have been using the Council's Youth Voice Action Plan website and documents as resources to demonstrate how this is done and to encourage the students that they do have a say in our local community. So firstly, congratulations on the great work you are all doing. I can see the incredible amount of working</p>

	<p>going into this and I wanted to acknowledge all your efforts. (People often forget to say thank you when things are going well, don't they!)</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>If you know who I could speak to about either of these requests, I would really appreciate it. All the best and good luck with your project!</p>
61	<p>I am most interested in Council actually being able to do something to make real the aims and elements contained in your Youth plan.</p> <p>My vision also connects with the future plan for the Brookvale precinct which speaks of being a place for community and a place of achievement to keep our youth here on the Northern Beaches. Our youth of today need opportunities for the future establishment of their ideas and endeavours.</p> <p>Please read my attached submission to your Have Your Say.</p> <p>Please include me in the discussions that could arise out of such a suggestion that Council could purchase and run a property which is at the moment for sale.</p> <p>Opposite Freshwater Campus, and has history attached! but importantly is the perfect chance to provide a real space for all your proposals to actually become real.</p> <p>When Council does this, the youth will actually believe in the good work that our Govt bodies CAN achieve. Not just words, but actions.</p> <p>We do not have a community space on the Northern Beaches for young people. The wonderful Curl Curl Pitt Rd Creative Space was just the first step in addressing this successful support to the importance of such a Centre.</p>

Document administration	
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Related Projects	Better Together: Social Sustainability Strategy 2040
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.