



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Osprey nesting platform, Avalon Beach

Consultation period: 29 May to 26 June 2024

Contents

1.	Summary.....	2
1.1.	Key outcomes	2
1.2.	How we engaged	2
1.3.	Who responded.....	4
2.	Background.....	4
3.	Engagement objectives	5
4.	Engagement approach	5
4.1.	Reaching diverse audiences	5
5.	Findings	6
	Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses	11

1. Summary




This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement on a proposed trial to support conservation of the threatened Eastern Osprey (*Pandion cristatus*) through the provision of a specialised nesting platform at Careel Bay playing fields near Hitchcock Park, Avalon Beach.

The draft proposal was exhibited for 28 days during May-June 2024. Feedback received was overwhelmingly positive, with a majority of responses indicating a high or very high level of support. Some respondents, while supportive of the intention to improve habitat for ospreys, raised concerns regarding the suitability of the proposed location and potential impacts to the birds.



A high proportion of the submissions also indicated strong support for additional osprey nesting platforms across the LGA, with suggested locations including sports fields, surf clubs and beaches. Several submissions also highlighted the benefits of installing cameras and educational signage to promote awareness of ospreys and their conservation.




Of the respondents who were not supportive of the proposal, many felt that Council budget should be spent elsewhere. Other submissions raised concerns about the lack of suitable natural nesting habitat (i.e. tall trees) within the LGA.

1.1. Key outcomes

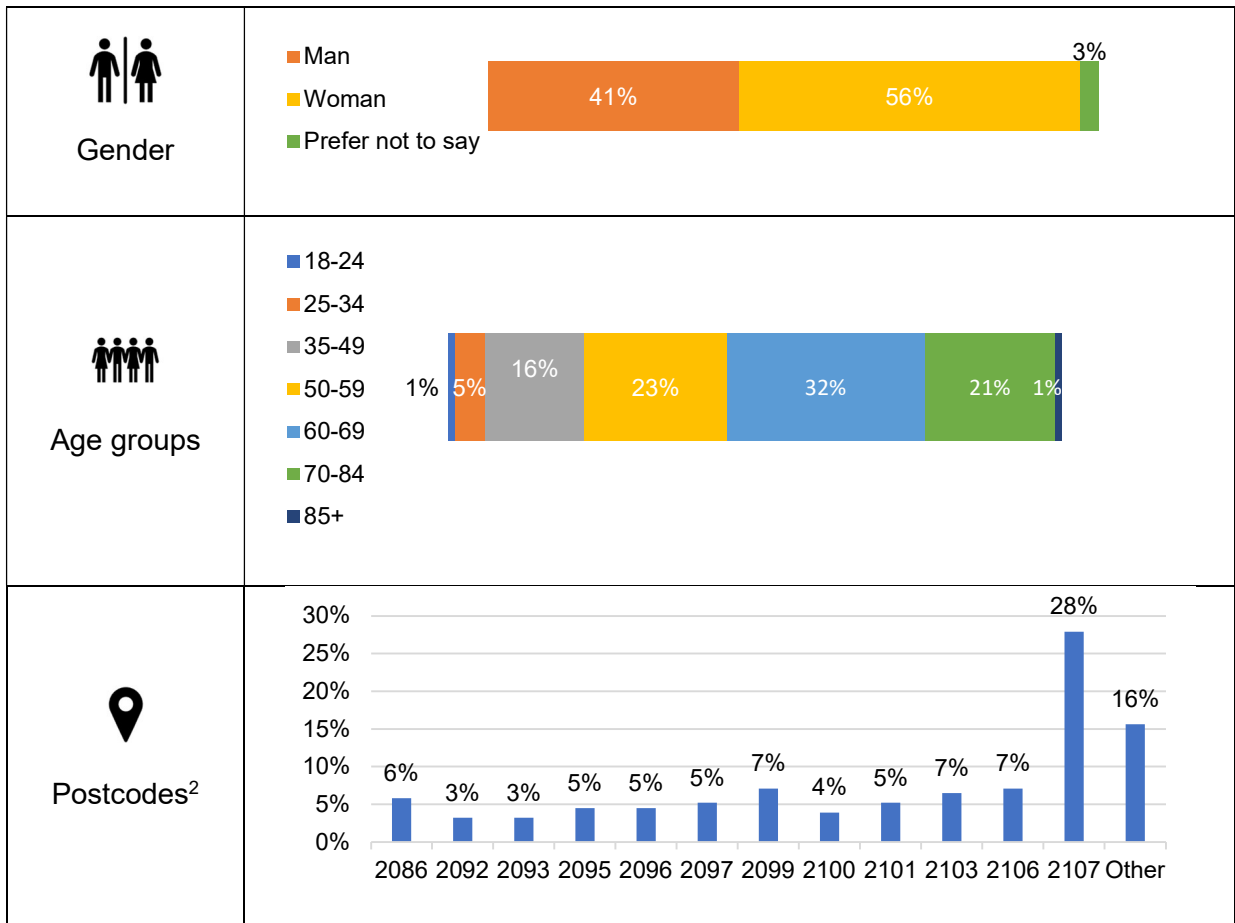
 Total unique responses	164	
 How responses were received	Your Say comment box Written responses (email/letter)	Completions: 157 Number received: 7
 Feedback themes	Support for initiatives to protect ospreys Community awareness and education Safety of the ospreys	Importance of conserving trees and wildlife habitat Costs associated with the proposal

1.2. How we engaged

 Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 1,416	Visits: 1,716	Average time onsite: 1 min 33 sec
 Facebook – Council			Reach: 11,648

Social media		
 Print media and collateral	Councillor bulletin Letterbox drop: 2107, 2108 Site signs used: Yes Manly Observer Article ABC Radio	Distribution: 147 Number of signs: 2
 Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2 editions Council (weekly) e-News: 2 editions KALOF Newsletter (monthly): 1 edition	Distribution: 22,500 subscribers Distribution: 58,503 subscribers Distribution: 1,700
 Key stakeholder engagement	Phone calls – ‘book a time to connect’ Emails to community groups Emails to peak bodies Emails to Resident Association Environmental SRG meeting (4 June)	Number: 1 Number: 8 Number: 1 Number: 1 Number attendees: 11

1.3. Who responded¹



2. Background

The Eastern Osprey (*Pandion cristatus*) is a threatened native bird of prey which occurs within coastal areas across eastern Australia. Ospreys typically build their nests in tall trees close to aquatic environments; however, in recent years there have been several instances where pairs have established nests on human-made structures such as sports lighting and construction cranes. This has the potential to disrupt osprey breeding cycles and create challenges for development projects when cranes need to be dismantled and removed from site.

To address this potential risk, we propose to take the lead and be the first Sydney council to install a specialised nesting platform for ospreys. Ospreys have successfully taken up artificial nesting platforms at numerous other locations in northern NSW, south-east Queensland and South Australia. It is anticipated that learnings from the trial will contribute to future similar projects elsewhere within the LGA and the broader Sydney region.

The project has received generous support from the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Biodiversity, Conservation and Science division of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEE).²

¹ Demographic data was gathered through the online comment form by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail.

² Postcodes with fewer than five responses are bundled and included in other

An environmental assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Part 5 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act), and is available upon request.

The draft proposal was exhibited on Council's Your Say page for 28 days during May-June 2024. Nearby residents and key stakeholders were contacted directly and, along with the broader community, encouraged to provide feedback on the proposed location and design.

The accumulated responses are collated and synthesised in this comprehensive report. The feedback received will be used to inform and refine the final project design.

3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- liaise with local residents, as well as start a conversation with the Resident Association on the pilot project to integrate relevant community feedback during implementation
- build wider community and stakeholder awareness of engagement activities regarding the pilot project
- provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way
- identify community and stakeholder concerns and test the appetite of future locations should the pilot be a success; and
- manage community and stakeholder expectations of the project, including the duration of the pilot project.

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement was conducted between 29 May and 26 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 project page³ was established on our Your Say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format. The consultation was pitched at qualitative engagement only.

The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletter (EDM) channels, Facebook, on-site signage and a letter mailout. Emails were also sent to the Avalon Preservation Society, relevant sporting user groups, environment groups, wildlife carers and Birdlife Australia. Community members were offered a 'book a chat with the project team' as part of the consultation process and a presentation was also given the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG).

Feedback was captured through an online comment form embedded onto the Your Say project page. The open-field comments box provided community members a space to share what they liked most about the proposal, as well as any concerns or suggested improvements.

Email and written comments were also invited in the interest of inclusivity.

4.1. Reaching diverse audiences

³ <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/osprey-nesting-platform-avalon>

A thorough stakeholder mapping exercise was completed to identify and understand the stakeholders and a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan was developed.

It was determined for this project that it was particularly important to hear from local residents, sporting groups which use the playing fields, environmental groups and the youth.

In addition to regular channels and engagement techniques to capture a range of views, we also advertised the exhibition and Your Say landing page in our youth newsletter, and targeted potential stakeholders through social media.

5. Findings

A total of 164 submissions were received, with approximately 95% in support of the proposal. Most of the respondents provided full support for the proposal in its current design and location. Many identified the need for additional habitat for threatened species in the locality and responded favourably to Council taking the lead in such an initiative.

Some respondents noted personal anecdotes of witnessing ospreys nesting on artificial structures including cranes and light poles at sporting grounds, highlighting a high level of community awareness of and concern for the welfare of our local ospreys.

A small percentage of submissions were in general support, however raised concerns relating to the proposed location, particularly around the potential for impacts to the ospreys from disturbances such as off-leash dogs, light pollution, lightning strikes and human interference.

Only a handful of submissions were not supportive of the proposal, mostly due to the perceived cost to rate payers.

Table 1: Issues, change requests and other considerations

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Project justification	Overwhelmingly positive sentiment for the project	The 'doing nothing' approach was not considered an appropriate option as this may limit the recovery of Eastern Osprey in the locality. The continued use of built structures for nesting may result in conservation and safety concerns for ospreys. Doing nothing may also hinder construction timeframes and the orderly development of land, should nests need to be manually removed to allow for dismantlement of cranes following construction.
Community awareness and education	Suggestions for the installation of a camera to live stream the nest to the community	Installation of a nest camera is proposed and will be further investigated subject to uptake of the platform by ospreys.
	Suggestion for on-site signage to educate the community and manage	Improving awareness of the conservation challenges for Eastern Ospreys is a key aim of this project. Proposed actions include

	potential impacts e.g. drones and human interference.	educational signage and opportunities for citizen science through regular monitoring.
Safety of the ospreys	Concerns that the location is not suitable and will potentially impact ospreys due to disturbances such as lightning, off-leash dogs, sports field lighting and human interference.	Ospreys in the Northern Beaches LGA are commonly nesting on artificial structures such as cranes and sports lights. A number of currently active nests are located within sports fields which have bright lighting, high levels of human traffic and dogs (both off-leash and on-leash). These ospreys are reproducing, and chicks are successfully fledging from the nests at such sites. As such, it is considered that the risk to ospreys is low. However, Council will closely monitor the site should ospreys take up the nest site, Council will intervene to manage disturbances where required. We will also continue to liaise with key State agencies and species experts to ensure the safety of any ospreys using the platform.
Conservation of trees and wildlife habitat	Large amount of support for the establishment of more osprey nesting platforms across the LGA.	Council is committed to the conservation of threatened species. This project is intended as a medium to long term trial and data will be collected to ascertain the success of the method. We are hopeful that the trial will be successful and that its outcomes can be replicated across the LGA and broader region, as required and subject to funding.
	Concern for the loss of tree canopy and wildlife habitat within the LGA and the need to protect and enhance habitat corridors.	The proposal aims to address ospreys nesting on artificial structures by providing a dedicated and safe space for them to nest. While tree preservation is outside the scope of this project, Council is committed to retaining and enhancing our local tree canopy, as evidenced by our Tree Canopy Plan which sets a target to plant 5,000 trees per year for 20 years.
Costs associated with the project	Support for the use of Council funds for wildlife conservation.	Council has an allocated budget for threatened species management and the project will be delivered using this approved budget, in addition to support from the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).
	Objection to the use of Council funds for the project.	

During the consultation/exhibition, Council received a number of questions either through direct contact or within feedback received.

Table 2: Questions raised and Council's answers

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
Can Council install a camera on the nesting platform to live stream to the community?	Installation of a camera is proposed and will be further investigated should ospreys successfully take up the platform.
<p>Will the ospreys be impacted by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports lights • Dogs • People (noise and interference) • Cars • Lightning • Fireworks • Predators? 	<p>Ospreys in the Northern Beaches LGA are commonly nesting on artificial structures such as cranes and sports lights. A number of currently active nests are located within sports fields which have bright lighting, high levels of human traffic and dogs (both off-leash and on-leash). These ospreys are reproducing, and chicks are successfully fledging from the nests at such sites. As such, it is considered that the risk to ospreys is low. However, Council will closely monitor the site should ospreys take up the nest site, and intervene to manage disturbances if required.</p> <p>We will also continue to liaise with key State agencies and species experts to ensure the safety of any ospreys using the platform.</p>
Will there be compliance officers to ensure there are no off-leash dogs illegally on the sandflats at Careel Bay?	The sandflats at Careel Bay are not part of the proposed project area, however compliance officers do patrol all of Council's parks and reserves and will continue to do so, issuing fines where required.
Can the nesting platform be installed on an existing pole?	This was investigated and considered not viable due to safety reasons including weight limitations on the existing poles which may not support an additional structure.
Was an environmental assessment undertaken by Council?	<p>Council prepared an Environmental Assessment under Part 5 of the EPA&A Act (Part 5, Div 5.1) which identified that the proposed nesting platform is permitted without consent in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 • Crown Land Management Act 2016 • Careel Bay Playing Fields & Hitchcock Park Plan of Management (PoM) 2002
How is the effectiveness of this structure to be assessed? What is the timeline for the assessment, who will be doing the assessment and who will the assessment be given to?	The effectiveness of the nesting platform will ultimately be dependent on ospreys nesting successfully on the platform. The timeline for this project is 5 years and will be undertaken by Council's Biodiversity Team in conjunction with key State agencies.

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
<p>If the structure fails to attract any nesting ospreys, will the structure be removed?</p>	<p>If there have been no nesting attempts by ospreys within 5 years of installation of the platform, we will consider removal and/or relocation of the structure.</p>
<p>Will more nesting platforms be installed within the LGA?</p>	<p>Council is committed to the conservation of threatened species habitat. This project is intended as a medium to long term trial and data will be collected to ascertain the success of the platform. We are hopeful that the trial will be successful and that its outcomes can be replicated across the LGA and broader region, as required and subject to funding.</p>
<p>Can it be designed to look a little more tree-like/made from wood or natural materials? Possibility to have a few different sizes in the same quadrant to make them look like a public artwork?</p>	<p>The proposed design is an aluminium basket on top of a timber pole which will minimise weight and improve resistance to wind loading. Aluminium also allows better ventilation to the nest and ease of cleaning and maintenance, if required. This design is based on best practice methodology which has proven successful across QLD, SA and northern NSW. We have consulted with experts on osprey habitat requirements and behaviour and it is not favourable for ospreys to have numerous nests in close proximity to one another.</p>
<p>Can Council reduce tree removals on public and private land to retain potential breeding habitat for Ospreys as an alternative to the nesting platform?</p>	<p>The proposal aims to address ospreys nesting on artificial structures by providing a dedicated and safe space for them to nest. While tree preservation is outside the scope of this project, Council is committed to retaining and enhancing our local tree canopy, as evidenced by our Tree Canopy Plan which sets a target to plant 5,000 trees per year for 20 years.</p>
<p>Would Council consider installation of waterway and shore signage to educate the community on the dangers of discarded fishing tackle?</p>	<p>Signage is proposed as part of the project to raise community education and awareness. Potential impacts to ospreys such as fishing gear entanglement is proposed to be highlighted as part of this signage.</p>

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
<p>Is there consideration for legally insisting on viable corridors as part of urban expansion? Lizard Rock area is a very strong example.</p>	<p>Whilst this is outside the scope of the project, Council has a strong commitment to protecting wildlife corridors and tree canopy, as demonstrated by our Tree Canopy Plan 2023 and the Northern Beaches Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040. Existing planning controls are in place to protect wildlife corridors and will be further consolidated as part of the new Northern Beaches LEP/DCP.</p>

Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Number	Submission
1	Great initiative! Well done team! Hopefully this is this first of many!
2	Yes please! We desperately need more environmental considerations as humans make such an impact. Thank you! Can't wait to see and enjoy it with the kids!
3	Fabulous idea! Can't wait to see it!!
4	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal to build an Osprey nesting platform in Hitchcock Park Avalon. Pittwater Natural Heritage Association supports this initiative, which is much needed to help the survival of this threatened species. Our members have observed Ospreys building nests on unsafe structures such as construction cranes which shows the desperate situation that they have found themselves in, caused by loss of suitable nesting sites within the Northern Beaches area, We hope the project leads to successful breeding of Osprey chicks and look forward to hearing about construction of more nesting poles in our area.
5	Great idea, supports wildlife, environment.
6	the nesting platform is a great idea! Please also install a camera for live streaming, as has been done for the Port Lincoln Osprey at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hidUvlerDcg and the Birdlife Sydney Olympic Park Sea Eagle. That could be accompanied by notices banning drones and pointing to the live stream for those who want a good view. I have discussed this idea with [REDACTED] the NBC Environment Centres Coordinator, who also thinks it is a good idea, and that it is of interest for the Coastal environment Centre.
7	How can anyone have an objection to this project? I regularly walk on Hitchcock Park and live very nearby.
8	Osprey Nesting Platform This is a great initiative & I hope we will see more projects that protect & enhance native animal habitat.
9	This is a brilliant idea, our wildlife need all the habitat they can get in such urban areas!
10	Hi, I am supportive of the proposal, we should be doing what we can for threatened and endangered species. This initiative is a good idea.
11	An Osprey nesting Platform at Avalon. Really? If NBC has that much money to spend on a bird platform at the expense of the maintenance and upgrades required urgently at Newport; would it not be better to have a nesting/display platform for NBC Councilors? It would be humorous addition to the facilities, vistas and scenery we already have - other than for us residents at forgotten Newport of course! What's next? A slip and slide bird bath?
12	Great idea I am in favour of this osprey platform . Should be more along the coast .
13	The selected position for the platform is not safe enough. Please seriously consider a more appropriate position!! Hitchcock Park might look nice and safe and quiet but at any given time there are dogs off lead on all the sports fields. Big dogs that could easily catch a wayward chick. I know this because I walk my dog on lead there everyday. What if the chicks come down onto the fields? The sport tower lights are on regularly until well into the evening. They are very bright and

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

Number	Submission
	<p>penetrating. I know this because they light up right across the mangroves to where we live. Surely this is too bright for nesting birds?</p> <p>On the weekends the fields are absolutely full of sporting matches. Parking is a big issue with cars parking all along Barrenjoey Road. No need to try to get a park at the dog park, there will be none! The noise on the weekends is intense. I know because we hear it all weekend. Surely this is too noisy and busy for nesting birds?</p> <p>Fireworks are let off in the evenings after particular celebrations as well. When this happens you can hear any birds that might be there fly up calling and screeching in fright!</p> <p>Hitchcock Park is not the oasis you might think it is. Please think about this!</p> <p>The platform needs to be in a more secluded spot, perhaps Bangelly Headland where there are no dogs, lights, cars and crowded football events!</p>
14	This is a wonderful development. Really pleased to see council supporting native wildlife in this way.
15	<p>An Osprey family set up on the construction crane that was set up next to Stokes Point. We used to watch them from our balcony, such amazing creatures. I think they enjoyed to ability to watch over the fish in the deeper water of Careel Bay.</p> <p>It was devastating watching the construction team dismantle the nest numerous times. Hopefully they like the new platform in the proposed location.</p>
16	<p>I think it is a great idea. As sustainability professional, I am very aware of the importance of supporting biodiversity. Well done NBC team.</p> <p>My questions are: Can the nest be installed on an existing pole? What's the impact on the environment of the installation of the new pole (eg size if the foundation, tree trimming etc)</p>
17	I support this proposal. Great initiative.
18	Great idea, but could potentially be moved further to the right behind the taller tree to screen the sight of the pylon from view. Also to reduce interference from people.
19	<p>Native birds are protected and should have extra attention for the breeding.</p> <p>I encourage the council to put in artificial nesting design for the future growth of birds that are potentially vulnerable to extinction</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
20	Protection of natural environment is of high importance but an artificial nest is the next best thing to protect threatened species such as Ospreys.
21	I support the idea. Has any consideration been given for lightning strikes?
22	<p>Great idea</p> <p>Also be good if key trees in the area that would be suitable or have been used by these birds , get special protection , so they are able to nest in trees as well as man made platforms</p>
23	With the clearing/removal of trees that are suitable for nesting for Osprey and other bird/animal species have had a dramatic impact on the survival of these species. With the installation of multiple nesting platforms will assist the Osprey without question. But the protection of other bushland areas as well has an impact on numerous species and their survival.
24	Great initiative. I fully support this project.
25	<p>Dear Council</p> <p>I strongly support installing a tall pole to provide a nesting habitat for the local Osprey in Avalon. What a great and easy way we can contribute to their survival.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
26	I support efforts to protect local bird populations and believe the design is fit for purpose.

Number	Submission
27	This project will fail unless you employ enough compliance officers to ensure there are no off leash dogs illegally on the sandflats at Careel Bay. Having witnessed a sea eagle trying to eat being chased off the same by a dog off leash, and countless people who are a law unto themselves at Careel Bay and the Careel Bay playing fields, you are putting the cart before the horse if you think success will be achieved before regaining these public spaces and the WPA status of Careel Bay foreshores. These areas are no longer safe for wildlife and species that once lived here have been chased out by dogs off leash and a failure by council to stop this from happening.
28	I look forward to the Osprey landing platform. I've seen one at Rany Bay, QLD it is a wonderful addition to our Community and save an endangered species. Perfect.
29	Support location and design as it provides access to both open space for surveillance and careel bay for feeding on fish, crustacean and also the open grasslands - reptiles, other species - rodents & mice. Nests can usually be up to 2metres in diameter . Could be a part of network of nesting sites not only for osprey but other local raptors.
30	Yes, go ahead. Great initiative.
31	Seems like a great idea.
32	This is an excellent initiative and I am very supportive. Would love to see more of this and more protection of our northern beaches trees which provide habitat for fauna.
33	I have seen these platforms used successfully in Europe. It's the right thing to do. But, make sure it doesn't create a traffic issue, as they become a tourist attraction (in Europe) and cars will stop to take photos.
34	<p>Osprey Nesting Platform</p> <p>Given the significant impact of urban development on the natural habitats of these magnificent birds, the proposed artificial nesting platform for the Eastern Osprey in Avalon Beach is both timely and essential.</p> <p>The installation of a 23-metre high pole with a specialised nesting basket in Hitchcock Park represents a thoughtful and well-researched effort to mitigate habitat loss and support the local osprey population.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing the positive outcomes from this initiative and hope it sets a precedent for other regions within the Greater Sydney Area to follow.</p> <p>Thank you for your dedication to preserving our native wildlife and for taking proactive steps to ensure the survival of the Eastern Osprey.</p>
35	If it's done appropriately, I'm very much in favour of the idea .
36	Great idea but shame its had to come to this. If the council stopped chopping down healthy, local tall trees (ie Ruskin Rowe) our wildlife wouldn't be fighting for survival
37	Great. initiative. Commonly practised in other countries
38	This is a fantastic initiative that I wholeheartedly support. I wish more work could be done to protect endangered/ vulnerable species. I am a rate payer living in Manly. Thank you for your work on this project.
39	Great idea, fully support this and more sites
40	<p>Hello, The proposed Osprey Nesting Platform is a very worthy and inspiring initiative. Over the past couple of years I have noticed an increasing frequency of Ospreys over Newport's Southern Headland. A joy of course. However I do wonder why? Is it possible shrinking of their neighbouring accessible environments hence compromising existing habit?</p> <p>So well done Northern Beaches Council, please put direct more of our rate money to further investigation into habitat and supply of wanted and much needed facilities for our native critters. Over the past few years it appears there is a decline in migratory bird numbers in the area a realistic shame.</p> <p>Would there be further thought for legally insisting on viable corridors (of course protecting and growing the appropriate vegetation) as part of urban expansion and often greedy development?</p>

Number	Submission
	Lizard Rock area is a very strong example. As well as enhancing habitat for Native Fauna and Flora as seen areas land projects like this Osprey Nest are of course extremely valuable in so very many ways for residents and visitors of all ages and heritage.
41	Great idea!
42	Hi, Please visit the light at St Matt's Farm, Cromer. The Osprey happily nests there without needing to build a special expensive nest. Council expenditure is becoming excessive.
43	This is awesome! Can it be designed to look a little more tree-like (like a silver gum) - possibility to have a few different sizes in the same quadrant to make them look like a public artwork. Can we also get them at Nolans Reseve, North Manly?
44	Please just put more trees on public land. Stop the cutting down and destruction of trees on both public and private land. This is so much cost effective and environmental friendly.
45	What a fantastic good news story and great use of council funds.
46	Don't stop at 1. Start restoring their natural habitat as well.
47	I agree with this structure and love the idea of helping these beautiful birds feel safe. I'm hoping we could perhaps consider a future structure at Mona Vale beach. As a pair has lived there for many years now.
48	Fully in support of this initiative
49	This is brilliant! Small intervention to make a massive difference. Hope to see these pop up all around the northern beaches.
50	Yes please! The cause is worthy and it looks like the design is well researched.
51	Every beach and sports oval should have these built!
52	Great idea, why not put one at every beach on the Northern Beaches? Maybe a tower can be installed above each surf club. We have birds, probably Osprey, nesting in the light towers at St Matts in Cromer across the road from where we live and they are great. I have also seen a similar tower at south Kingscliff Beach in the northern rivers region of NSW and it looks like its been there for many years. Why don't you get some feedback from their council?
53	Definitely a good idea to build a nesting platform. I'm all for helping our dwindling wildlife and doing whatever we can to support them.
54	Providing addition nesting platforms is a great idea! As many as possible
55	Fantastic project. Am enthusiastically in favour.
56	An excellent idea, in full support. You might also consider a nest cam, either installed and monitored by you, or invite a university.
57	Great idea! Could the nest at least not be made of wood or more natural materials? For aesthetics an for what the Osprey would prefer im sure. Also please leave more very tall trees in Avalon. So many Blue spotted gums been cut down for resident preference.
58	I am so happy that the council is doing this wonderful thing for our biodiversity!
59	Great news Let's do more to encourage all wildlife to find suitable habitats on the northern beaches
60	Excellent idea. Can we place a public camera for viewing the birds up there too. Is a pole like that safe from lightning strikes? It is certainly no worse visually than a football lighting system.

Number	Submission
	Will the poles be far enough away from lights like that at the sports grounds, so as not to bother the birds? Otherwise I support the idea.
61	I strongly support this initiative and hope council gathers data to support more of these types of projects. In July 2023, my son and I spent an afternoon watching two Osprey at Mona Vale beach. They were an adult and a juvenile, standing on one of the light poles above the pool, and flying between the pole and the side of the cliffs at the northern end of the Basin. We wondered if there was a nesting on the cliff. They were fascinating to watch - the juvenile was calling out and the adult was fishing. It would be good to encourage the return of more of these amazing birds in our urban environments. Too many have lost their habitat.
62	Fantastic. These need to be placed in more places on the northern beaches. Such beautiful animals!
63	I love this idea. There is a need for suitable nesting options for the local ospreys. We are very fortunate to have them around and they play an important part in the local ecosystem. I have seen these platforms work very well further up the coast near Forster where the birds happily adopted them.
64	This is a wonderful idea that I wholeheartedly support. As a resident of the Northern Beaches for 40 years and as an avid bird enthusiast, this is an initiative which promotes the survival of a threatened local species without negative environmental impact.
65	Great initiative, if it works should plan a couple of more locations. Would be great to see more of these birds
66	Great idea. Why install just one? Why not install several in different northern beaches locations?
67	I support the proposed plans for the Osprey Nesting Platform.
68	The term "pilot" implies this will be the first of many, ==if it is successful==. How is the effectiveness of this structure to be assessed? What is the timeline for the assessment, who will be doing the assessment and who will the assessment be given to? If the structure fails to attract any nesting ospreys, will the structure be removed. If not, why not? If the structure is successful, what are the next steps for installing additional platforms, or is this seen as a one-off for Northern Beaches and so a pilot for ==other== councils to follow?
69	I absolutely support this initiative & hope it is a success
70	Great idea. I fully support the Osprey nesting pole project and encourage NBC to plan more ASAP.
71	It's great for see nature being given a chance
72	I think it is a wonderful idea. As you know there are a number of osprey nests in the Northern Beaches on lights in parks. The osprey is a majestic bird and we need to ensure it's survival. Congratulations of the program
73	What a great idea. Thank you for implementing
74	Osprey Nesting Platform Thank You Northern Beaches Council for taking this initiative. There is a definite need for nesting platforms for Ospreys and Hitchcock Park seems like a suitable location. I have seen Ospreys establish a nest on a construction crane in Bayview, so I am sure a well designed platform in the proposed location will be a success.
75	Well done I think this is absolutely fabulous. We should do everything we can to care for our environment and the animals affected by habitat loss. My concern would be light pollution for the osprey from the sporting fields being used for night training and games but I trust that the wellbeing of this pair and future users of the nest has been fully considered by experts. I welcome more of these types of initiatives across the lga
76	Excellent idea!

Number	Submission
77	I support this project. I believe there also use to be Osprey at Manly Vale that nested on top of lights in the playing fiels on Pittwater Rd. Hope if not already provided - an osprey nesting platform could also be erected there.
78	Nice idea. I hope the community gets behind it. My concern is that making the nest such a visible feature in an easily accessible location puts the birds at further risk of people interacting with the animals. Crowds using human food to lure birds for Instagram shots is possible, or worse still, using them as target practice as we saw earlier with the sea eagles found to have been shot that died outside Dee Why Library and then again, a few months later at Dee Why Beach. https://www.northernbeachesadvocate.com.au/2022/08/24/sea-eagle-shot/ If this goes ahead i think CCTV cameras and signage educating people to leave the animals alone are needed.
79	A fantastic initiative and I fully support council. Instal more!
80	I think this is a fabulous initiative and fully support this as a means to assisting the Osprey. We were recently in the Canadian Rockies and observed these nesting platforms in many of the small towns.
81	I think an Osprey Nesting Platform is a fantastic idea I have recently seen these in Western Australia , where there are a lot of Osprey . they provide nests where a pair of Osprey will return year after year Great idea
82	yes to the Osprey nesting platform
83	I am in complete agreement with installing an Osprey Nesting Platform at Hitchcock Park, Avalon. Their natural nesting areas are rapidly disappearing so human assistance is extremely necessary.
84	Yes, this is an excellent idea. I have seen these birds nesting on construction cranes so the plan to provide something permanent is probably long overdue. Well done, you have my total support, but why stop at one? I do hope other sites may be considered to assist these magnificent birds
85	Sounds great!
86	I think it is wonderful to provide a nest for Ospreys my only concern it is very close to the unleashed dog park at Careel Bay especially when there would be juveniles learning to fly and hunt also there are some dogs which are unleashed in the area where the soccer fields are....
97	I think it's a wonderful idea. It all looks good to me.
88	I am generally supporting of installing habitats for animals when they have no where to go. But, I would love to see more done to protect the habitat that we currently have so that in future, we do not need to create habitats. There are still so many trees being removed in Pittwater. If you watch the community pages, you'll see people bring it up all the time. The trees in Ruskin Rowe are a recent example where council should step in an do everything in its power to protect these trees so the animals have habitat. Honestly, it's so easy to say 'no' to cutting down trees and such a hassle (and expensive!) to come up with all these proposals, surveys, feedback and habitat construction. It's actually so simple, but the council make it so complicated. Stop cutting down trees in the first place!!
89	What a good idea.
90	Please leave it to nature your kidding if you feel there is no where for them to nest . Use the money on something more worthy
91	I think everything proposed is fantastic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Number	Submission
92	I think this is a great idea as the Osprey is a magnificent bird and should be protected. The location is good as the Osprey is a shallow water fisher and Careel Bay should provide a good food source. If the tower proves successful may I suggest another be installed in the Palm Beach Golf club just at the back of the beach. This would again provide a rich fishing ground off the Pittwater beach.
93	This is a great idea to encourage wildlife in our area.
94	Please go ahead with this project, as more and more natural habitat is being lost to development it is the least we can do.
95	These work very well and provide sorely needed nesting sites. However, in order to ensure the birds safety perhaps CCTV should be installed to monitor the nesting site because people can not be trusted.
96	Fabulous initiative by council. Fully support the Osprey platform being built. Would love to see more platforms built throughout the LGA perhaps Bayview as a second location. Fascinating to watch these birds building their nests and raising chicks. Would also like to see the pole reintroduced at Mona Vale pool that the seabirds would perch on to dry their wings. Council has made it difficult with the solar lights.
97	Thank you for organising this important nesting site for the Ospreys. It would be wonderful if a webcam could be installed to follow their lives and birth of their chicks. Around the World webcams following Eagles and other large birds are extremely popular. This link to an osprey nest by Cottesloe Council WA is interesting https://www.cottesloecoastcare.org/ospreys/
98	Fully support this
99	Since this type of artificial nesting has been successful in other areas, I wholly support the endeavours of the Northern Beaches Council to erect such a platform for ospreys to breed. I see no reason whatsoever for anyone to be against such a noble plan and the folk of Avalon should feel privileged to be able to watch a nesting pair in their own backyard. Good luck with the project and we look forward to more such ideas to protect our endangered wildlife.
100	Please can we have a few more in our council. They are fantastic idea.
101	Yes , please install more of these nests
102	I fully agree with the proposal for an osprey nesting platform. Our family have observed these in other council areas. The ospreys are using them with great success and they provide locals and visitors with a wonderful opportunity to observe these majestic birds. My only additional comment is that I have heard the success of these platforms depends on the location in terms of providing the ospreys with the ability to evade predators. I am not an expert but I trust that NB Council will take the advice of experts in this regard.
103	I think this is a fantastic initiative and fully support this installation. Further, I think more of these nest poles should be installed at appropriate sites. It is imperative that we support as much of our local wildlife as possible to fit in with our urban landscape.
104	Excellent initiative
105	Wow, this is amazing, can we please have the all the way down the beaches to help more feathered families
106	Osprey nesting platform: Great idea.
107	Apart from the fact I'd rather the council just leave the ospreys alone, I ask why are they even in the osprey nesting business? Just stick to your core business please.
108	Sounds a great idea

Number	Submission
109	This is an excellent idea that has been shown to work in many other areas across NSW. Council should consider - as mentioned in the plan - expanding this project to provide more nesting sites across the Northern Beaches. It's great to see Council taking positive action to support wildlife!
110	Great idea. You should also build one at St Matthews Farm Reserve in Cromer as for years there has been an osprey (or ospreys) nest on top of the sport flood light (NW corner of field) and using another light (SW corner) to hold its catch of fish.
111	The Osprey family fly between the norfolk island pines regularly. It would be good to see one of these stationed at every beach too as we also have sea eagles on the heads that share with peregrine falcons. With so much building on our headlands, nesting locations are disappearing. It makes sense to also have infrastructure for wildlife seeing as this area literally brands and prides itself with its biodiversity.
112	I support this. Great idea!
113	This proposal for a dedicated Osprey nesting platform sounds like an excellent idea for NBC to implement. It aligns well with the management plan for the area, particularly for protecting our native wildlife in the wetlands. I think the proposed location is a great option. I think the installation of a couple of cameras on the pole so that our community and others further afield can watch the birds up close via a streaming channel, is absolutely essential. I believe this is an great way to increase community engagement, education and support for our wildlife, which I read is another aim of the local area management plan. Please take a look at this link to a live webcam for a pair of nesting peregrine falcons on Chichester Cathedral in England. I used to live there and these birds got a great deal of local and wider support after the cameras were installed as various media channels did stories on this when the birds had their first chicks on camera. https://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/chichester-peregrines One other consideration that may be worth investigation is that I believe Hitchcock Park is a drone congregation area for European honey bees to mate. I am a local beekeeper in Avalon Beach and I'm currently President of the Northern Beaches Beekeepers club. I don't know if honey bee congregation areas would potentially interfere with the nesting of these birds. I'd be happy to find out more, if NBC would like to suport to check this. Obviously the Osprey's are a priority over the bees, but it maybe worth considering/assessing this could be a potential barrier to the birds taking up residence. We want this nest construction to be successful.
114	I think it an excellent proposal.
115	Such a great idea that already works in other countries. Habitat loss makes this an essential way to encourage successful nesting outcomes. The poles are NOT ugly in the landscape (poles & wires are everywhere already). When you look up and see wildlife it's a miracle in the urban landscape
116	Fantastic idea! Would be great to get a camera on it like BirdLife Australia 'Sea Eagle Cam' or Orange Campus Charles Sturt University 'Peregrine Cam' and get some honours/masters students to do some research on nesting behaviour etc. Please send me a copy of the REF and Test of Significance for review:
117	What a fantastic idea! Although we don't live in the immediate vicinity of the proposed location for the Osprey nesting platforms, we are fully supportive of the initiative being taken, and would welcome further nesting platforms being established in other locations of the Northern Beaches.
118	Great idea. Go for it.
119	I fully support Northern Beaches Council's initiative to install an Osprey Nesting Platform at Hitchcock Park, Avalon. Ospreys are beautiful, unique birds which easily adapt to urban environments on the coast if the right habitat requirements are available. One of those requirements is a safe and secure nesting platform and artificial nesting platforms for Ospreys have been installed around the world with great success.

Number	Submission
	The Ospreys benefit and so too do the nature lovers. The Northern Beaches is alive with nature and this Nesting Platform would complement Council's other good environmental enhancement measures. Congratulations Council, this is a "win win" situation.
120	Yes yes yes! Love this
121	Great work on the initiative of this project. Would love to see it happen, and see greater protection if habitat trees.
122	I think it is a great idea - will it be accessible by camera for people to watch like the Sea Eagle cam in Paramatta?
123	If successful would further nests in other locations be considered?
124	I love this concept to keep wildlife within our neighbourhood- safe and resurrecting natural habitat
125	I think this is a great idea.
126	Great idea. Are there any specific criteria Osprey prefer? Away from public? Close to ocean? And would the post need to be fenced off to protect them?
127	Totally support this. We need to stop large trees being destroyed for development that is resulting in this alternate locations being required
128	This is a fantastic idea - I support this initial installation and as many more as the species can sustain in the area. Thank you for this. Excellent!!!
129	Fully support! Great initiative!
130	Fantastic idea!
131	Fabulous idea - I look forward to hearing of the progress
132	Absolutely wonderful. What a great initiative. Thank you!
133	I don't have any suggestions to improve the design, but whole-heartedly support the concept. I think it's a fabulous idea!
134	I think this is a wonderful idea. We have so many bird species on the Northern Beaches and anything done to promote breeding and conservation gets my vote.
135	Fully support
136	Brilliant idea. Strongly in favour.
137	
138	Excellent idea and if successful could be a good idea for other sports grounds
139	I'm in favour
140	Great idea! More like this please!
141	Why only one?! You could put 30 up for these gorgeous birds. You cannot have enough raptors in the area. Magnificent to see sea eagles, peregrine falcons and even seen a couple of goshawks too...please do as much as you can for our birdlife...and while you are at it get a proper organised program to eradicate Indian Mynas on the beaches. I used to run the trapping program here but it's just scratching the surface. Regards
142	I am in favour of the Osprey nest baskets
143	This is a wonderful and progressive initiative. We need more ways to help nature and humanity coexist.
144	Sounds great. Agree with the project. More healthy native animals is a good use of council funding.

Number	Submission
145	absolutely favorable, I'll be visiting it often
146	I would like to support this project. Very worthwhile for both humans and the birds, an initial trial can indicate the value of building more. Building the pole outside the field is a clever idea
147	I think this is a brilliant proposal. I like that you have it located off to the side of the field, close to where they are naturally nesting. I would like to see these in all the fields that currently have Osprey nests on the northern beaches.
148	I support the proposal give some reasons: there are insufficient trees of a height that are suitable, so a man made structure is a good idea. There are many pairs of Osprey that are currently nesting on the lights at sporting fields. They also would benefit from the building of more of these structures. Other areas of Australia have constructed man made platforms and these have been successful. Eg Sunshine Coast Qld
149	I support the provision of Nesting Platforms and Nesting Boxes for our threatened birds on the Northern Beaches in order to replace their natural nesting sites that continue to be destroyed by humans who sadly just don't care.
150	I think this is a great initiative and that with the right placement, monitoring and oversight this could help provide alternative breeding sites for this species. It would be fantastic if this program could be expanded to provide similar nesting places elsewhere. Thank you.
151	Yes, I fully support the Council building a nesting structure for ospreys to breed and raise chicks. I suggest that CCTV cameras are installed to capture the action for all to enjoy.
152	What a great idea, look forward to seeing them across the whole northern beaches
153	Good to see some innovative environmental projects happening. Let's do it!
154	Osprey Nesting Platform Brilliant. I know of their plight re lack of nesting sites and am also aware of these artificial nests and that they have been successful. Accessible site also for monitoring and if any issues occur. How about night time field lighting? (If there is any currently or planned?) Any thought to also ramping up local waterway and shore signage re dangers of discarded fishing tackle and ensuring there's waste bins at known fishing locations? If the nesting site is successful...makes sense to also look at measures to support safety of their food source and feed locations. Thank you Well done. Worth it!
155	What a wonderful initiative which not only protects the future of these magnificent creatures but also helps businesses such as construction as it provides alternative platforms. My only concern is whether you will place in the right positions.
156	A very good idea.
157	I totally support this project and thank council Whatever wildlife groups recommend, I support Hope this is the first of many such projects
158	I am so pleased to see the council directly taking action to help our wildlife. Such a great idea and location where these beautiful birds can be seen in a safe and natural habitat. Happy to see my council rate dollars go toward projects like this. Maybe we could make it mandatory that possum boxes are to be installed if a certain number of trees are removed from a property?

Number	Submission
159	Excellent. More of it please. How about Bilgola Beach area?
160	Dear NBC, I think that is a great idea. If the pilot is successful I hope it can be extended to the support Sea Eagle and Osprey population in the Collaroy and Long Reef areas. Regards
161	Dear sir/madam. By way of introduction may I introduce myself as follows. I am a Raptor biologist from Africa now living in Avalon. I have worked on several raptor mitigation programmes at several locations in different continents. The proposed platform , in terms of its construction is accurate and well known. Maybe you can consider an observation tower nearby AFTER the first successful breeding season(such as in Scotland) to create huge public awareness. Also consider a CCTV camera in the area where observers can watch daily activity of the birds. All done not to disturb the birds. Congratulations on the proposed project. I am available for any further input if required. ██████████ Raptor Biologist
162	It sounds like a great idea, however no mention is made regarding the cost to rate payers. How many quotes will the Council be obtaining for the structure? Will these be viewable by rate payers? Generally speaking anything Council funds turns out to be both extremely and abnormally expensive which is a great burden on rate payers, especially now we have been told, contrary to the promise made when the three councils were amalgamated , that rates will need to rise because Council has run out of money. On balance I would say no to anything that is not absolutely necessary until the CEO has got his act together and can manage our rates without needing to increase them. Thanks.
163	Dear Friends This brief note is to fully support your proposal for the erection of an osprey nesting platform at Hitchcock Park and in Avalon. This is a first class conservation action, and we would support other similar proposals to protect threatened habitats and species in Avalon and on the Peninsula.
164	Hi Biodiversity and Planning Team, The nesting platform is a great idea! Please also install a camera for live streaming, as has been done for the Port Lincoln Osprey at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hidUvlerDcg and the Birdlife Sydney Olympic Park Sea Eagle. That could be accompanied by notices banning drones and pointing to the live stream for those who want a good view. I have discussed this idea with ██████████ the NBC Environment Centres Coordinator, who also thinks it is a good idea, and that it is of interest for the Coastal environment Centre. Good luck with the project!

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