

Minutes

Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park Advisory Committee Meeting

Held on Monday 3 March 2025 at Civic Centre, 725 Pittwater Road, Dee Why in the Flannel Flower Room and online commencing at 5:00pm

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Cr Kristyn Glanville Northern Beaches Council - Council Representative

Community Members

David Beharrell Environment Representative

Paul Lidgard Recreational Representative

Robert Baker Community Representative

State Government Representatives

Mel Hall NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service

Paul Harper Crown Lands, Natural Resource Management Project Officer

Council Officers

Damian Ham Manager, Open Space Planning (Chair)

Jodie Crawford Manager, Coast & Catchments

Stephen Hartley Manager, Parks Operations

Brendan Smith Manager, Bushland & Biodiversity

Jodie Crawford Manager, Coast & Catchments

James Brisebois Team Leader, Catchments

Apologies

Cr Robert Giltinan Northern Beaches Council - Council Representative

Jeremy Smith Executive Manager Parks & Open Space

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2.0 WELCOME

- Damian Ham (DH) welcomed all attendees to the meeting and stood in as Chair
- DH acknowledged Paul Harper (PH) attending the meeting from Crown Lands
- DH acknowledged Stephen Hartley (SH) recently appointed to the position of Manager, Park Assets at Northern Beaches Council.

3.0 APOLOGIES

- Cr Robert Giltinan, Northern Beaches Council - Council Representative
- Jeremy Smith, Executive Manager Parks & Open Space

4.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

- None

5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS & PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

DH updated the Advisory Committee on the status of the Actions from the last meeting 5 August 2024 and updates on actions arising were provided by Council Officers in attendance:

Water Quality

- Council to report back to the Advisory Committee about the actions Council and the committee can take to prevent such pollution events occurring again.
 - Jodie Crawford (JC) updated the Committee on matters related to proposed developments, we are developing a harmonised Local Environment Plan (LEP), Development Control Plan (DCP) and technical guidelines along with water quality targets including for the Frenchs Forest precinct. Council will continue to push for state significant developments (SSD) to have more stringent controls in place while noting we are not the consent or compliance authority for SSDs.

Catchment Plan Project

- Council to provide a copy of the Catchment Rehabilitation Plan presentation to the Advisory Committee and regular updates on this project and any relevant rehabilitation works within the Manly Dam catchment.
 - The Catchment Rehabilitation Plan presentation was emailed to the Advisory Committee 30/8/24.
 - James Brisebois (JB) updated the Committee on the Rehabilitation Plan, noting that a request for quotes has been sent to six consultants, closing on 18 March 2025. The plan, covering all catchments in the LGA, will focus on physical catchment, erosion, and prioritising works for our 10-year plan.
- Council to provide the Advisory Committee with an update on how Council is planning to action the recommendations from the Manly Dam UTS project.
 - JC updated the Committee that the UTS report is being reviewed, with a recommendation for future monitoring in Stage 2 (based on availability of funding). Park & Open Space are working on a Project Plan and budget to determine funding required for this recommendation. The final recommendation includes to enhance riparian land plantings, and we are advising the Parks & Open Space team.

Grants and Capital Works

- Council to report to the Advisory Committee at the next meeting about what is planned for the boardwalk where it ends at picnic area / section 3.
 - Eliza Halsey (EH) updated the Committee on the Boardwalk project, noting there are questions regarding the boardwalk FRP panels, the team are working with the contractor to find solutions. Planning has commenced for a future upgrade of picnic areas three and four, with a focus on connectivity. An options paper will be presented at the next meeting for the Advisory Committee's review.

ACTIONS

- Council to check access to SharePoint Action Log spreadsheet and redistribute access to Committee members.
- Council to present an Options Paper on the future upgrade of picnic areas three and four at the May 2025 meeting.
- Council to regularly invite a representative from agencies whose activities impact Manly Dam to future meetings e.g. Sydney Water.
- Council to report back on bush regeneration or other works undertaken or planned for fire trails at Manly Dam and to provide the Advisory Committee with regular fire trail updates.

6.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Advisory Committee Meeting held 5 August 2024 were adopted.

7.0 AGENDA ITEMS

7.1 Standing Items:

7.1.1 Water Quality Matters

- **Forest High School site - Pollution Incident update**
 - (JC) advised the committee that in November 2024 the EPA fined ADCO (the Department of Education's contractor) \$30,000 for runoff containing sediment.
 - Council requested EPA to use the \$30,000 fine on the creek rehabilitation, including monitoring the Climbing Galaxias fish species. The EPA declined but advised that they are wanting to discuss cleaning out Madison basin.
 - ADCO were also required to install treatment machinery onsite.
 - There was another event recorded in January 2025 where the Council contacted the EPA, after an inspection by the EPA, ADCO were given the all clear.
 - JC confirmed that a meeting will be held with the EPA in the following week to discuss Madison Way basin.
 - JC commented on learnings, that it would be beneficial to provide stronger recommendations when input is requested on state-significant development projects. For example, the outcomes at 181 Allambie Road demonstrated improvements when more robust conditions were applied, including staging requirements and having a project ecologist present on-site.

ACTION

- Council to provide an update on the outcomes from the EPA on Madison Way Basin at the next meeting.
- Investigate whether the Climbing Galaxias specific fish species at Manly Dam can be included in heritage listings based on their location and if they can be classified as a population by the Department of Primary Industries and report back at the next meeting.

7.1.2 Catchment Plan Project

- JC responded to Robert Baker's (RB) question regarding the Council's stance on comprehensive catchment management planning for development controls and compliance matters. JC advised that the Council is preparing the new LEP/DCP and technical guidance to ensure greater vigilance especially on large developments and their pollution management.
- JC responded to RB's question about Grade A Catchments and what is being done to protect the waterways. JC outlined various measures taken outside the park, including implementing sediment controls, taking compliance action when building sites are not up to standard, street sweeping, general water quality management, and managing contaminated sites. Within the park, efforts include bush regeneration, water quality monitoring, track maintenance, and the installation of trash racks.
- JC responded to RB's question on water quality issues, updating the committee that we are continuing to work with agencies on matters relating to Aquatic Reserve.

7.1.3 Planning Matters

- No planning matters presented.

7.1.4 Grants and Capital Works

- **Mountain Bike Trail Upgrade Project**
 - EH updated the Committee on the Mountain Bike Trail upgrade project. The 19th hole has had 250 metres of flow trail created, and some bush regeneration work and drainage improvements. This section of trail was built to also accommodate adaptive bikes, allowing disabled riders to access it. This work has been completed.
 - In the same area as the 19th hole, a green line has been created around the rock drop. A rock platform has been carved out, and two small approach ramps have been built. Another ramp will be completed in March 2025, and a large prefab ramp will be installed by June 2025.
 - From the bottom of the 19th hole to Cootamundra Drive, Council has upgraded drainage, built a new bridge, installed rock armouring, and resurfaced the trail.
 - From Cootamundra Drive to Nyrang Road, approximately 200 metres of trail has been resurfaced.
 - New sections of the FRP Boardwalk on the trail have been installed, and drainage upgraded. Work on this section is continuing.
 - The Manning Street section upgrade is nearing completing and was designed to provide mountain bike riders with a climbing single track, separating them from pedestrians on the roadside. The new single track is approximately 400 metres long.

- Two new bridges have been constructed. This section is maintained with sandy loam, and the bank turns at the small downhill sections. In terms of timing, most of the work is completed, with only minor reshaping remaining.
- The Bantry shared zone is very popular with residents and Bantry Oval users. Speed control pads have been installed, along with 15 formal car spaces and a disability space.
- Per the Bantry Oval Master Plan, bike crossing safety islands, a new asphalt surface, curb and gutter, and improved water management have been implemented, with work completed in June 2024.
- Bantry Oval re-route involves a new section of single track, approximately 420 metres long, which includes a new downhill flow section. Additionally, rock armouring and a raised FRP platform have been installed to get past the swamp areas during rain events, along with bank turns, flag drains, and three sections of golf mesh fencing installed. This work was completed in December 2024.
- Trig Trail, minor upgrades were made to accommodate adaptive riders, along with drainage improvements, removal of rocks and dead trees, and the creation of a green line around the rock drop and rock climb. This work is anticipated to be completed by May 2025.
- Remaining budget is expected to be used for the review of environmental factors for future works, particularly along Wakehurst Parkway, possibly linking the trail to the pipeline next to Aquatic Reserve (Question was raised about the Plan of Management and these works).
- RB raised concerns about the costings and the expenditure on areas such as the 19th hole and the carpark and the value for money.
- Community representatives have significant concerns that the quantity and quality of mountain bike track works delivered to date represents poor 'value for money'.
- RB initiated a discussion on whether Council would consider a mixture of both staff and contractors in the build and design of future projects as a way to make budgets go further and to always look for continuous improvements in project / works management.
- EH agreed that the Council will go through a lesson learnt process (for the trail upgrade project) at the end of this financial year, in an effort to continually improve how we deliver our projects.
- RB spoke to concerns on signage. EH said that the trail signage process has started and is being worked through by Council Officers with a view to install new signs / upgrade existing signs when funds are available.
- Signage proposed for the Mountain Bike Trail to be shared with Paul Lidgard before manufacturing.
- Stephen Hartley (SH) introduced himself as he has recently been appointed to the role of Manager, Park Operations. SH advised that his team will be overseeing the maintenance of Manly Dam (including trails) and will set up schedules for maintenance.
- A separate trail project meeting was proposed to discuss mountain bike trail matters, in particular about the works (current and future) and the

budget. Councillor Glanville requested that a representative from Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee be invited to attend.

- **Memorial Shelter Project**

- This project has been completed.

- **Water Access Ramp**

- This ramp has been completed and opened just before Christmas 2024.

ACTION

- Council to arrange a trail project working group meeting to discuss mountain bike trail matters, with a focus on current and future works and the budget and a representative from the Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee be invited to attend.

7.1.5 Community Use Matters

General Matters

- A discussion took place regarding water skiing, and public access issues. The potential need to explore this matter was noted, particularly with the new Council now in place.
- RB suggested that the Council compare actual bookings on the site and encourage the Water Ski Club to share the water with others.
- David Beharrell (DB) raised concerns about the safety of water skiing and the need for an exclusion zone. He observed water skis going close to buoys, posing a safety issue. He suggested installing exclusion signs on both sides. He also noted that few people use the water ski jump, and more people use the area for swimming, kayaking, and paddleboarding. He emphasised the need for better access points and highlighted his concern for the safety of the general community.
- DB also made comment the Water Ski Club need to understand that their heritage will remain intact but emphasised the need for them to start sharing the water with other users, such as kayakers, who often struggle to find appropriate launching pads and time on the water. He highlighted that water skiers have access to the water all day, which limits opportunities for other activities.
- DH confirmed that changing water ski hours and days would require a Council resolution (as set out in the Plan of Management).
- The group inquired about signs to indicate where swimming is permitted. DH mentioned that existing signs were reviewed in 2024, then existing signs were updated, and new signs installed with maps indicating swimming areas. The map was shared. We are wary of having too many signs in the picnic areas. He pointed out that swimming access is limited to specific sections of the lake and noted that access from the boardwalk is also restricted.

7.1.6 Policies, Strategies and Community Engagement Matters

- No matters discussed.

8.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- RB asked for an update on the protocols in place for how Council interacts with other government instrumentalities. Brendan Smith confirmed that there has been no progression on this matter.

- Paul Harper (PH) confirmed that entities like Transgrid have legislative powers for land access and clearing for maintenance, resulting in limited liaison between land management bodies.
- *Fire trail works*
 - BS updated the Committee that there is an ongoing request to inform them of any future works, including necessary maintenance.
 - Different options are being considered regarding drainage and cross banks.
 - Our Bushfire team, now part of the Resilience & Natural Hazards team, is working closely with the Parks Operations team, and the RFS regarding fire trail maintenance and management. Some fire trails are to be suitable for large Category 6 trucks where required.
 - DH confirmed that requests regarding maintenance at Manly Dam, including will come through to the Parks Operations team for action.
- *General Track Maintenance*
 - RB initiated a discussion on the fuel load on the track to the waterfall. BS commented that the hazard reduction burns, which are typically lower intensity, result in groves of casuarinas and banksias appearing as dead sticks until they fall over, and juvenile plants emerge. While fallen banksias and casuarinas provide good shelter and a nursery, making it hard for wallabies and other animals to access seedlings, they can be unsightly. The larger debris doesn't generally contribute to future fuel loads, which are more based on fine fuels.
- *Dogs Off-Leash*
 - RB raised concerns about off-leash dogs at Manly Dam, which negatively impact local wildlife. He suggested examining North Head signage that explains the importance of controlling dogs, recommended Ranger's issue fines, and proposed using the Manly Observer forum to educate people.

ACTION

- Council to share with the Advisory Committee the Fire Plan for Manly Dam.
- Council to review and enhance signage at Manly Dam trailheads to educate visitors on park regulations including for dogs and to examine signs at other locations including North Head.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 26 May 2025	5pm - 7pm
---------------------	-----------

Meeting concluded at 7.02pm