

MINUTES

COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held in the Manly Town Hall on

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2025

Minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee
held on Thursday 13 February 2025
in the Manly Town Hall
Commencing at 9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Sue Heins	Frenchs Forest Ward – Mayor - Chair
Cr Candy Bingham	Manly Ward
Cr Ruth Robins	Narrabeen Ward – Deputy Mayor (alternate)
Supt John Duncan	Northern Beaches Police Area Command
Aileen Ogilvie	Northern Beaches Community Drug Action Team
Sam King	Northern Beaches Youth Interagency
Michele Bell	Northern Sydney Community Network (Seniors sector)
Sarah Kingsbeer	Northern Sydney Housing and Homelessness Interagency
Eugene McGarrell	Northern Sydney Health Network Northern Sydney PHN
Libby Paulsen	Community Representative – Frenchs Forest Ward
Mary Brearton	Community Representative – Narrabeen Ward
Kylie Ferguson	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Peta Garrett	Representing Dr Sophie Scamps Federal Member for Mackellar
Nicola Penn	Representing Zali Steggall OAM MP Federal Member for Warringah
Kim Preston-Hiney	Representing James Griffin MP State Member for Manly
Matt Haran	Representing Jacqui Scruby MP State Member for Pittwater
Gypsy Bryant	Representing Michael Regan MP State Member for Wakehurst

Council Officer Contacts

Scott Phillips	Chief Executive Officer
David Kerr	Director Community and Recreation
Kylie Walshe	Executive Manager Community, Arts and Culture
Azmeena Kelly	Executive Manager Environmental Compliance
Jeremy Smith	Executive Manager Parks & Open Space
Will Wrathall	Manager Community Development
Kath Young	Community Safety Coordinator

Guests and Observers

Cr Joeline Hackman	Curl Curl Ward
Detective Chief Inspector Michael Boutouridis	Northern Beaches Police Area Command

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which the meeting gathered, and paid respect to Elders past and present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Cr Nick Beugeard	Curl Curl Ward
Cr Rowie Dillon	Pittwater Ward
Lucy Band	Community Representative – Manly Ward
Doug Brooker	Northern Beaches Liquor Accord
Wendy Finianos	Community Representative – Curl Curl Ward
Melissa Palermo	Northern Sydney Local Health District
Helen Askew	Community Development

The following members were not in attendance:

Matt Cross MP	State Member for Davidson
Sarah Sweeney	Northern Beaches Mental Health Interagency

The resignation of Narelle Hand, Northern Beaches Domestic Violence Network representative from the Committee was noted. A replacement representative is yet to be confirmed.

3.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2024

The amended minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2024, copies of which were previously circulated to all members, were confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Moved: Sam King, seconded Cr Bingham.

5.0 ACTIONS UPDATE

5.1 ACTIONS UPDATE

Progress against the actions of the 14 November 2024 meeting as included in the Agenda were noted by the Committee.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	PROGRESS
6.4.1	The Liquor Accord engage with relevant stakeholders to investigate options for a community education campaign.	Doug Brooker	Update advice has been requested.
6.4.2	That the Council resolution from 13 November 2024 on Graffiti Management be reported to the next Community Safety Advisory Committee meeting in 2025 for consideration.	Kath Young	Addressed at Agenda Item 6.4
6.5	Links to the E-micromobility Action Plan and P-CEP training opportunity be emailed to Committee.	Kath Young	Completed
7.1	Link to Manly Wharf Development Application DA2024/1249 be emailed to Committee.	Kath Young	Completed

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 POLICE REPORT - SUPERINTENDENT JOHN DUNCAN

Superintendent Duncan provided an update on Northern Beaches Police Area Command matters. It was requested the Committee hold in confidence discussion of policing matters which do not appear in these Minutes.

The Northern Beaches LGA Recorded Crime Statistics to September 2024 from NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) data included in the Agenda were noted and further current information highlighted:

- In relation to crime rates per 100 000 population, Northern Beaches LGA is currently ranking 120 of 128 LGAs across NSW which is a very positive indication of community safety.
- When compared to the NSW rate of crime per 100 000 population, the Northern Beaches ratios (0.3 to 0.8) are below the NSW average of 1.0 in all major crime categories.
- Heat maps in relation to Assault (non-Domestic) indicate that incident hotspots correlate with the areas of highest population density including Manly, Dee Why and Narrabeen.
- Manly and Dee Why have highest number of recorded incidents of Assault (Domestic assault), aligned with population density.
- Only 2 incidents across all licensed premises over the last month which reflects the significant work being done by Police and the Northern Beaches Liquor Accord in collaboration with venues.
- Other crime issues discussed included: theft of number plates, e-bikes and liquor; malicious damage/graffiti; emerging drug use.
- There has been an increase in mental health related reports. Discussed the Right Care/Right Person model for response and the value of the support provided by the local Police Ambulance and Clinical Early Response (PACER) team.
- The Committee was also provided with an update on emerging Police technology.

DISCUSSION

Bike thefts are now being recorded by types (e-bikes or push bikes).

It was noted that when community members raise concerns about incidents on social media and

with Councillors but do not report to Police, incidents are not captured in crime statistics

The recent incident involving a large group of young people at Manly Wharf was discussed. The investigation is ongoing and the Committee was advised there have been 4 arrests to date.

Question raised about who to call for assistance when dealing with distressed community members who contact local MPs, Councillors and other stakeholders. Supt Duncan undertook to circulate a list of Mental Health contacts to Committee members.

Discussed issues relating to underage alcohol consumption including significant issues with parental supply of alcohol to young people; Police are working with vendors on strategies to address use of false IDs; State MPs will continue to address issue of bulk access to alcohol in goods available in supermarkets.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Due Date
6.1	Circulate information to Committee to support their response to concerns for mental health.	Supt Duncan	ASAP

6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

The Executive Manager Environment Compliance provided an overview and presentation on compliance and regulatory statistics.

Companion Animal Management:

- 87 compliance actions were undertaken in the period November 2024 to January 2025.
- 48 dog attacks were reported to Council over this period, 17 of which occurred on private property.
- Rangers continued their patrols of local parks and beaches, targeting locations and times of day highlighted as being of concern to the community. 344 patrols were undertaken.
- During 2024, Rangers have been proactive in attending hot spot areas. A newly formed Ordinance Ranger team also focusses on animal related hot spot areas.
- A Companion Animals education program initiated during 2024 has received excellent feedback and has resulted in a decrease of incidents in public places.

School Zone Patrols:

- High visibility patrols of school zone patrols are continuing to safeguard students and members of the community.
- Over the past quarter 71 patrols were undertaken with 156 fines issued in relation to traffic related breaches.

Patrol of Alcohol Prohibited Areas (APAs):

- Proactive Manly night patrol statistics were noted and indicate a peak in compliance actions during December followed by a significant decline in January 2025.

Proactive Compliance:

- For the sixth year running, Council has participated in the mosquito surveillance program in partnership with NSW Health. The program traps mosquitoes at key locations to monitor numbers, and to identify viruses they may be carrying.
- Program commenced on 2 December 2024 and will run until April 2025, with sampling locations along Narrabeen Lagoon and Warriewood Wetlands.
- No instances of viruses such as Ross River fever or Barmah Forest fever were detected last year.
- During asbestos awareness week between 25-29 November 2024, staff ran an asbestos awareness session at the Narrabeen Bunnings store in partnership with Local Government NSW and Bunnings, providing helpful information and educational material on asbestos safety at worksites and DIY projects.

DISCUSSION

A question was raised on the difference between a menacing and a dangerous dog. Advice referred to The Office of Local Government which provides [definitions of menacing and dangerous dogs](#).

6.3 REVIEW OF ALCOHOL FREE ZONES

The Committee noted the information provided in relation to Alcohol Free Zones (AFZ) and the review process.

Northern Beaches Council currently has 19 Alcohol Free Zones (AFZs) in place throughout the LGA. AFZs apply only to road related areas such as streets, adjacent footpaths, laneways, and public carparks.

AFZs aim to reduce street drinking and associated antisocial behaviour and crime, to keep public spaces and streets safe and enjoyable for residents and visitors. AFZs are enforced by Police and Rangers and any person observed to be drinking in an AFZ may have the alcohol in their possession immediately seized and tipped out or otherwise disposed.

Council must adhere to the [Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones](#) when establishing or reviewing AFZs. A proposal to establish an AFZ must be supported by evidence of need and consider each AFZ according to its unique circumstances. The Guidelines outline restrictions on establishment of AFZs.

All existing AFZs across the Northern Beaches are due to expire between 31 August 2025 and 30 June 2026. Council is reviewing all AFZs in 2025 to provide consistency for community members. It was noted that the need for AFZs varies over time in response to changing community needs and behaviours.

Council and Police have consulted on assessments of each of the existing 19 AFZs and a summary of assessment outcomes was shared with the Committee indicating a proposal to decrease the AFZ program to reflect current community needs. A report is being submitted to an upcoming Council meeting seeking approval to place proposed AFZs on public exhibition.

It was noted that AFZs are distinct from Alcohol Prohibited Areas (APAs) which apply to non-road-related public places such as a park, beach or reserve. APAs are established in a separate process.

DISCUSSION

Further information on the assessment of each AFZ will be provided to the Committee and community during the proposed public exhibition of proposals.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Due date
6.3.1	Link to information on existing AFZs to be circulated to Committee.	Kath Young	ASAP
6.3.2	Advice on commencement of public exhibition of proposed AFZs be circulated to Committee.	Kath Young	On commencement of public exhibition.

6.4 GRAFFITI

At the November 2024 Council meeting, following consideration of a report on graffiti management, Council resolved (291/24) to request the Community Safety Advisory Committee include graffiti related issues as a standing item and consider establishing a subcommittee for graffiti related matters.

At the November 2024 Community Safety Advisory Committee meeting it was requested that information be provided at the February 2025 meeting to support consideration of these matters.

A presentation was provided to the Committee outlining the nature of graffiti and the incidence across the Northern Beaches. BOCSAR data indicates that reported incidents of graffiti across the Northern Beaches have been declining over the last 5 years, with recorded incidents over the last 2 years being the lowest in the last 10 years.

It was noted that there is currently a comprehensive range of strategies in place to address graffiti on the Northern Beaches including:

- Prevention strategies such as: the design of public spaces to deter graffiti; liaison with other stakeholders / landowners; community safety audits to consider actions to reduce incidents of graffiti at key locations; collaboration with local youth services in the provision of outreach services and activities to graffiti hotspots; grant funded public art in graffiti hotspots; five legal graffiti walls for creative expression; extensive research undertaken in the preparation of the report to Council.
- Response strategies such as: Rapid removal program; provision of photos / reports to Police to support enforcement; detection / apprehension of offenders; penalties including fines, community service, Community Clean Up Order (Graffiti Control Act 2008).

DISCUSSION

The Committee raised questions and discussed a range of issues relating to this matter including:

- Support provided to private landowners including Council's ability to remove graffiti on private property if adjacent to a Council property and accessible.
- Some Councils offer graffiti removal kits.
- Opportunities to engage in graffiti legally. It was noted that the location of legal graffiti walls requires careful consideration and that they can be an effective community project which provides an opportunity for education.
- Northern Beaches Youth Interagency to consider how to engage the voice of young people on the need for any further legal walls across the Northern Beaches and to report back to this group in future meetings.

Regarding the request that the Committee include graffiti related issues as a standing item:

- It was noted that the Police Council Operational meetings are the appropriate forum to consider graffiti related issues and that any strategic issues will be referred to the Community Safety Advisory Committee as they arise.
- It was agreed that the Committee will continue to include graffiti on the agenda of the next few meetings to consider the matter of legal graffiti walls across the Northern Beaches.

Regarding the request that the Committee consider establishing a subcommittee for graffiti related matters, it was agreed that establishment of a sub-committee was not required as it would duplicate work already being undertaken by Council and key stakeholders.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Due date
6.4	Northern Beaches Youth Interagency to lead the consideration on the need to establish more legal graffiti walls across the Northern Beaches.	Sam King Will Wrathall	November 2025

6.5 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

Community safety matters, as included in the agenda, were noted by the Committee.

A further Police Council Operational meeting was held on 6 February 2025 with the following key topics of discussion:

- Upcoming events to April 2025
- Installation of CCTV at Manly Wharf in January 2025.
- Manly Special Entertainment Precinct
- Antisemitic graffiti
- Arising issues of concern:
 - Community correspondence – bicycle security
 - Graffiti - Forestville
 - Assault at Manly
 - Glass at Freshwater Beach
 - Vandalism of cricket pitches
 - Kangaroo Street Reserve, Manly

The next meeting will be held on 3 April 2025.

DISCUSSION

CCTV at Manly Wharf, installed at the request of Police, provides extensive coverage of West Esplanade and is able to be viewed by Police. Discussed that while CCTV generally is a useful tool it requires someone to monitor it, requires evidence of need and has challenges relating to location of cameras and coverage.

It was noted that a [report on the proposed Manly Special Entertainment Precinct](#) (SEP) will be considered at the 18 February 2025 Council meeting (Agenda Item 12.4). The Committee was advised that the proposal is to establish an 18 month trial SEP in Manly which would involve testing for noise impacts, implementation of sound management strategies, community consultation, and extended operating hours for venues providing live music during the trial period.

Update: Please note that at the 18 February 2025 Council meeting, Council resolved at [Agenda Item 12.4](#) to endorse the lodgement of an application to seek funding to facilitate the establishment of a SEP trial in Manly, and endorsed the establishment of a SEP in Manly.

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Manly Waves, Malvern Ave

An update on Manly Waves, Malvern Ave was provided by Bridge Housing.

The Committee was advised that this site is no longer being used for Temporary Accommodation via external Sydney wide bookings and most residents have now moved to other sites. Bridge Housing is now collaborating with Mission Australia to provide supported temporary accommodation on the Northern Beaches. The new service which opened in late December 2024 has assisted 45 people achieving positive outcomes and rapid turnaround into the Supported Housing System, refuges etc. The service has demonstrated the effectiveness of a supported model for people requiring an emergency crisis response.

7.2 Warriewood

An update was requested from Police on the perceived increase in youth crime in Warriewood.

Police reported that reports of incidents in Warriewood have decreased following charges against a small number of people.

Discussed the use of the Young Offenders Act to address incidents involving young people. The Committee was advised that 85% of young people dealt with under the Young Offenders Act do not reoffend. The majority of the remaining young people do not offend more than once. The number of young people being processed under the Act can be viewed via the BOCSAR [Youth Offending webpage](#).

It was noted that the Youth Advisory Group are passionate about third spaces for young people on the Northern Beaches, this referring to spaces that are not home or school.

7.4 Special Rate Variation (SRV)

An update was provided to the Committee by Scott Phillips.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Due date
7.4.1	Link to relevant reports to be circulated with minutes	Kath Young	ASAP

Information on Council's application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Variation of rates can be found on [Council's website](#).

The Local Government NSW submission relating to the 2024 Inquiry into Ability of Local Governments to Fund Infrastructure and Services can be found on the [NSW Parliament website](#).

Information on the Standing Committee on State Development and its report on the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services is located on the [NSW Parliament website](#).

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.1	Circulate information to Committee to support their response to concerns for mental health.	Supt Duncan	ASAP
6.3.1	Link to information on existing AFZs to be circulated to Committee.	Kath Young	ASAP
6.3.2	Advice on commencement of public exhibition of proposed AFZs be circulated to Committee.	Kath Young	On commencement of public exhibition.
6.4	Northern Beaches Youth Interagency to lead the consideration on the need to establish more legal graffiti walls across the Northern Beaches.	Sam King Will Wrathall	November 2025
7.4.1	Link to relevant reports to be circulated with minutes	Kath Young	ASAP

The meeting concluded at 11:12am

This is the final page of the minutes comprising 9 pages numbered 1 to 9 of the Community Safety Advisory Committee held on Thursday 13 February 2025 and confirmed on Thursday 8 May 2025