

NOTIFICATION PLAN

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55 ROBERTSON ROAD
SCOTLAND ISLAND

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PITTSBURGH COUNCIL

C10.4 Actions in Response to the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code

Meeting: Sustainable Towns & Villages Committee

Date: 13 October 2014

STRATEGY: **Flora & Fauna**

ACTION: To sustainably manage urban forest tree canopy and native bushland

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is in response to the recommendation of the Natural Environment Committee on 1 September 2014. Following an update on actions from the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code, the Natural Environment Committee recommended that:

1. *That the actions to date be noted.*
2. *That Council staff continue to make representations to the NSW Rural Fire Service to address the unintended consequences of the Code, and seek to mitigate these in line with Council's concern.*
3. *That the Council write to the Minister of Planning, The Honourable Pru Goward, the Assistant Minister for Planning, Rob Stokes MP and Premier, The Honourable Mike Baird, regarding the indirect impact on the planning processes for example, development applications, conditions and threatened species legislation as a result of the implementation of the 10/50 rule.*
4. *That a report be brought back to the Council meeting in October with an update on its progress.*
5. *That Council develop an education campaign regarding the benefits of maintaining the tree canopy and bushland in Pittwater.*

This report outlines the actions that have been undertaken to date in relation to the above and potential future actions.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Pittwater Council has a very good working relationship with the Rural Fire Service, particularly at the district level, and fully understands the need for effective bush fire management. The bush fire management practices currently undertaken by Council involving development controls, reserve specific bush fire management plans and hazard reduction programs were tailored to the local urban bushland environment and specific fire threats.
- 1.2 The recent 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice (Code) is in response to property loss associated with the bush fire in the Blue Mountains in 2013 and is State legislation developed by the NSW Rural Fire Service. It came into effect on 1 August 2014.
- 1.3 The Code has introduced additional measures that allows for the removal of trees for 10m and any vegetation less than 3m high for 50m from any residential structure.
- 1.4 The Code supersedes all other "clearing legislation" for example Council's Tree Preservation Order.
- 1.5 As announced by the Rural Fire Service on Tuesday 30 September 2014, changes were made to the 10/50 Code in recognition of some of the issues put forward by councils and other organisations. These changes are discussed in Section 2.12 below.

2.0 ISSUES

2.1 Council's main focus in seeking amendments to the Code has involved making representations to the appropriate Ministers. Representations were made in August to Rob Stokes Minister for the Environment and Stuart Ayres Minister for Emergency Services and these were previously reported to Council. Since then, representations were made to Pru Goward Minister for Planning and Mike Baird Premier of NSW. A letter of reply has been received from the office of the Premier (see **Attachment 1**) however no response as yet from the Minister for Planning. Council also received a second letter from Rob Stokes Minister for the Environment (see **Attachment 2**).

2.2 Council has continued its representations to the NSW Rural Fire Service to address the unintended consequences of the Code. Two members of RFS Planning and Development Department (NSW Head Office) visited Pittwater on Monday 1 September to look at issues raised by Pittwater Council in response to the introduction of the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code which came into effect in August 2014. I took the two RFS officers on a tour of Pittwater and we looked at a number of sites and examples of potential issues, including the following:

- Small linear coastal reserves such as Turimetta Headland and Bungan Beach, which due to being classed as bush fire-prone land have created large 300 metre buffers throughout the surrounding urban residential properties. These reserves are very low risk due to coastal aspect (bush fires will not come from the east, which is ocean), and vegetation type (littoral rainforest in the case of Bungan Beach which is moist and not prone to burning). The surrounding properties are at extremely low risk of bush fire attack from these reserves and the 300 metres is not justified in these cases.
- Examples of trees being removed to provide coastal views under the auspices of bush fire risk – including a live example of tree contractors removing a large Norfolk Island Pine at Bungan Head Road.
- The landscape/panorama of the peninsula from Newport north was pointed out and how trees dominate built form, something that Council has achieved via its LEP and DCP controls as well as enforcing the Tree Preservation Order, all of which will now be undermined by the 10/50 Code.
- Example of a large and highly significant Spotted Gum recently removed on a vacant lot in Hudson Parade, the subject of a development application refusal about to go to Land & Environment Court, as soon as 10/50 came into effect the tree was removed as it was within 10 metres of a neighbouring dwelling.
- A large urban reserve, Angophora Reserve, which has legitimate bush fire risk but is currently being managed through hazard reduction works and a bush fire management plan soon to be adopted. An asset protection zone along an urban interface was shown which contains minimal fuels due to effective hazard reduction works by the contractor.

Maps of all areas visited were then provided.

The Rural Fire Service officers said that several of their staff were visiting affected councils around Sydney that day, and they accepted that there were several shortcomings in the 10/50 Code to be addressed. They said that they had been informed that it would be reviewed as a matter of urgency by the Rural Fire Service. Council has yet to hear back from the Rural Fire Service as to any feedback from their visit.

2.3 Council staff have also written to the following organisations seeking support and advocacy:

- LGNSW;
- Sydney Metropolitan Mayors; and
- Urban Forrest Alliance Australia.

2.4 Council is also aware of numerous petitions circulating from organisations such as the Local Government Tree Resource Association as well as from private residents and have lent support to these.

- 2.5 Council staff have highlighted the shortcomings and potential impacts of the Code to those meetings of Council's Reference Groups which have been held since 4 August meeting.
- 2.6 Council staff have created a Geographical Information Systems layer of the 18 degree slope across Pittwater, to highlight where specific requirements of the Code are required. This mapping is provided as **Attachment 3**. Council staff will write to the Minister responsible, Stuart Ayres, seeking that this GIS layer be incorporated into the assessment tool so residents are aware of the issue.
- 2.7 Council staff are continuing to investigate tree breaches that occur outside the Code: as described in section 5.1 of the Code, existing controls still apply. However, this is difficult due to the ill-defined definitions in the Code (particularly slope) and the number of removals and complaints being received.
- 2.8 Council has provided a set of actions to remedy the adverse consequences and the lack of forethought in the Code's development. The ten actions are described below.
1. A more reasoned approach to the 10/50 Vegetation Entitlement Area in urban areas, for example:
 - pulling the entitlement area back to only bush fire prone lands in residential areas;
 - ensuring that the entitlement area is in line with scientific evidence particularly around flame height and ember attack;
 - exempting many LGAs where there is little to no fire risk. In Victoria, 21 metropolitan municipalities are exempt, based on the risk profile developed by the district Bush Fire Risk Management Committee.
 2. Variations in the distances including
 - utilising reduced distances for example large reserves in urban areas should be 10/30, from the Victorian system;
 - 10/50 could be utilised where there is a significant risk, for example in the Pittwater LGA on the western foreshore.
 3. The Code should not apply to properties that have been certified to meet the requirements of "planning for bush fire protection" and AS3959. In this regard the Code should only be available for properties built before 2006
 4. Take a much more considered approach to geotechnical issues, for example:
 - immediately identify slopes over 18 degrees. Council can provide an approximate 18 degree slope layer for use in the application tool. This information must be available as a matter of urgency. Council is already being swamped by instances of clearing on steep slope land.
 - the removal of groundcover can severely exacerbate geotechnical risk, ;
 - geotechnical hazard mapping currently prepared by LGA's should be used in conjunction with 18 Degree slopes.
 5. Due to the potential risks herbicide use should not be recommended.
 6. Development controls should be considered as a legally binding agreement to allow appropriate assessment and conditioning of development applications. Therefore, reinstate the wording contained in the draft 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code, that is *"Vegetation may not be cleared if the owner of the land on which vegetation clearing works may be carried out is under a legal obligation to preserve that vegetation by agreement or otherwise."*
- Heritage items should be exempt, including European Trees and specific natural heritage identified in appropriate heritage studies.

7. Potentially review the definition of bush fire prone vegetation and bush fire prone lands in coastal areas utilising bush fire risk management plans and amend the Guidelines for such determination as they can at times overestimate the risk.
8. There are no prescribed streams in metropolitan areas but there are clearly riparian lands in most LGAs. Most councils have these mapped and these should be included in the assessment tool as well.
9. Compliance needs to be addressed. Currently there are issues with people not using the Code correctly. It will now be up to local government to deal with compliance. Already council is seeing clearing and dumping in Council reserves increasing fire risk and misuse of the Code in steep terrain.
10. Residents need to be aware that the removal of trees in a well maintained yard, such as lawn, may increase their bush fire risk, for example:
 - Trees act as radiant heat shield reducing the heat their home may be exposed to;
 - Trees act as ember screens trapping large numbers of embers that may land on their home and cause ignition;
 - If a tree is cut down and stacked, not removed, the dead canopy may catch alight from ember attack and increase the radiant heat & ember exposure to their home.

- 2.9 Council is continuing to discuss the Code with other affected councils and requesting their advocacy in seeking to mitigate the unintended consequences of the Code. The proposed action plan in 2.8 above has been distributed to a network of councils in NSW and already received a favourable response from some outlining their support.
- 2.10 Council has brought to the attention of the Manly Daily several examples of large prominent trees being removed under the 10/50 Code but clearly not for bush fire reasons, the Daily have published a couple of examples to date, highlighting how the Code is being exploited.
- 2.11 In terms of an education campaign regarding tree and bushland preservation, Council already has several mechanisms in place, including:
 - Council website educational information such as the Environment and Health section which includes a sub-section on bushland. This includes several components including the importance of bushland on private property to retain habitat and provide passage for wildlife. The website also has a Trees and Tree Removal section which outlines Council's policy around trees on both public and private land.
 - A bi-monthly environmental newsletter "Cooee" which contains several articles in each edition relating to the benefits of trees and bushland in Pittwater.
 - An e-book "Native Plants For Your Garden" available on the Council website which outlines hundreds of locally native species suitable for planting into specified mapped areas of the LGA. The book includes information on each species including benefits to wildlife and amenity.
 - Council holds several free native plant giveaways each year around Pittwater. This involves informing residents about the benefits of trees and bushland on private property and for the local environment in general.

Other education ideas to be implemented include:

- Further development of Council's tree preservation policy and in particular planting on public land (currently in progress).
 - Increasing awareness of tree and bushland preservation via articles in Council's e-news letters to residents and/or publications included in rates notices.
- 2.12 Changes to the 10/50 Code were announced by the Rural Fire Service on Tuesday 30 September 2014 on their website and via a media release (see **Attachment 4**). The changes are:

- The 10/50 entitlement area for Category 2 Bush Fire Prone Land is now 150 metres, reduced from 350 metres.
- Councils will have the ability to reclassify smaller parcels of vegetation from Category 1 to Category 2 therefore reducing the entitlement area.

The changes are effective immediately and the 10/50 online property assessment tool has been updated to reflect the changes.

The original 300 metre applied to all Bush Fire Prone Vegetation covered approximately 14,551 properties across Pittwater. With a 150 metre buffer now applying to Category 2 Bush Fire Prone Vegetation, approximately 12,965 properties are now covered by the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code in Pittwater. With this change, approximately 1,586 properties have been removed.

The NSW Rural Fire Service has also brought forward the formal review of the 10/50 scheme to commence 1 October. This will provide communities across NSW the opportunity to provide comment and feedback. Details on where and how the community can provide its feedback can be found on the NSW RFS website.

In response to these changes, it is considered that the changes, whilst a small improvement, do not go far enough in addressing the concerns held for the Pittwater area. With the exception of giving councils the ability to reclassify smaller parcels of land, they do not incorporate any of the set of actions recommended by Council in Section 2.8 above. Buffer distances should be reduced for both Category 1 and 2 Bush Fire Prone Lands, in line with Bush Fire Prone Land Map buffer distances (100 metres for Category 1 and 30 metres for Category 2). Also the 10/50 Code should recognise the Threatened Species Conservation Act as well as protect trees listed as heritage items. It is recommended that Council continue to provide comment on the 10/50 Code and push for further amendments.

Council staff will also undertake reclassification of parcels of bush fire prone land from Category 1 to Category 2 land where possible, in liaison with Rural Fire Service staff and in line with newly reviewed Rural Fire Service Bush Fire Prone Land Mapping Guidelines due for release in next week or so.

2.13 Council staff will also undertake the following actions:

1. Approach Office of Environment and Heritage to determine the level of advice provided to government by them on the 10/50 Code. Given the rapid rate of tree loss, the impact on vegetation types, habitat and faunal populations are clearly unknown. It is unclear whether there has been any assessment of these issues in relation to the Code's implementation.
2. Ask the RFS to develop a more inclusive risk management approach. The previous hazard reduction certificate approach included an overall bush fire risk assessment. The Code is based on 99% of properties lost in bush fires being within 300m of bush fire prone vegetation. However the vast majority of these properties are destroyed by ember attack.

There are many issues that the Code does not adequately address that affect ember attack:

- building design;
- building maintenance;
- garden maintenance, etc.

A return to an actual assessment of these risks would be a better outcome for bush fire risk management with the entitlement area reduced to areas where flame contact and radiant heat are issues.

3.0 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

3.1 Supporting & Connecting our Community (Social)

The actions to date on the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code seek to improve legislation that may significantly affect the Pittwater community's sense of identity, culture and place through excessive tree canopy loss changing the character of Pittwater.

3.2 Valuing & Caring for our Natural Environment (Environmental)

The review of the 10/50 vegetation Clearing Code is an opportunity for Council to advocate for our desired environmental outcomes and express concerns regarding environmental conservation and management that may be affected by implementation of the Code, and highlight the potential impact of the Code on the flora and fauna of the Pittwater area, including the habitat of threatened species and endangered ecological communities.

3.3 Enhancing our Working & Learning (Economic)

The actions to date of the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code may impact on Pittwater scenic character, which may have knock-on economic effects.

3.4 Leading an Effective & Collaborative Council (Governance)

The actions provide an opportunity for Council to be proactive and clearly outline the issues and concerns we foresee before the state wide implications are promulgated. It highlights to the community that Council is sending a strong message to State level that the Code needs amending in the interests of our community and to protect our local environment.

3.5 Integrating our Built Environment (Infrastructure)

The actions seek to highlight and reduce deficiencies in the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code with the NSW Rural Fire Service. The consequences of the 10/50 Code could have negative impacts on the character and amenity of our built environment if nothing is done towards amending the Code.

4.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 4.1 This report details the activities that have been undertaken in seeking to mitigate the unintended consequences of the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code, which came into effect on 1 August 2014. To date Council's activities have revolved around the making of representations to the responsible Ministers and seeking support from appropriate organisations. Council staff have recently discussed the issue with the NSW Rural Fire Service, staff from the Planning and Development section who visited Pittwater on 1 September 2014 to be shown the specific issues and examples of concern. Changes to the 10/50 Code were announced on 30 September 2014 in response to council and community concerns, however these changes are not considered enough to address the issues faced in the Pittwater area and it is recommended that Council keep up the pressure until our issues are addressed appropriately.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the actions to date be noted.
2. That the amendment to the 10/50 Code on 30 September be noted.
3. That Council continue to make representations to the NSW Rural Fire Service to address the unintended consequences of the Code, and seek to mitigate these in line with Council's concern.

4. That Council as a matter of urgency seek a review of the bush fire prone land classifications of its bushland reserves.
5. That Council strongly encourage residents within areas covered by the 10/50 Code seek prior advice from the Rural Fire Service as to the actual fire risk of trees and bushland on their property.
6. That a further report be brought back to Council to provide an update on this matter and to explore alternate approaches to afford protection to Pittwater's tree canopy and bushland habitats.

Report prepared by

Matt Hansen
ACTING MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & EDUCATION



Mr David Elliott MP
Member for Baulkham Hills
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier



Reference: A961837

Mr Steve Evans
Acting General Manager
Pittwater Council
PO Box 882
MONA VALE NSW 1660

12 SEP 2014

Dear Mr Evans

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the 10/50 Clearing Code of Practice. I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Premier.

I have carefully considered the issues you have raised and appreciate the reasons that have prompted you to write.

The issues you have raised fall within the area of portfolio responsibility of the Hon Stuart Ayres MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services and I have forwarded a copy of your letter to him for consideration.

Thank you for bringing this matter to the Premier's attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Elliott".

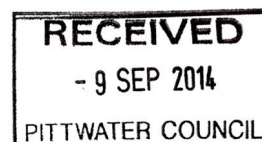
David Elliott MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

Suite 1, 25-33 Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153
Phone: (61 2) 9686 3110 Fax: (61 2) 9686 3212 Email: baulkhamhills@parliament.nsw.gov.au



MD14/5479

Rob Stokes MP
 Minister for the Environment
 Minister for Heritage
 Minister for the Central Coast
 Assistant Minister for Planning



Mr Mark Ferguson
 General Manager
 Pittwater Council
 PO Box 882
 MONA VALE NSW 1660

Dear Mr Ferguson *Mark,*

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Pittwater Council regarding the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Rule (10/50 Rule) and associated Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice for NSW (10/50 Code). I appreciate you bringing these concerns to my attention.

While the 10/50 Rule and Code are administered by the Rural Fire Service (RFS) under the NSW *Rural Fires Act 1997* (the Act), I can provide the following information.

The 10/50 Rule was initiated after recent severe bushfires in the Blue Mountains that resulted in significant loss of property. It was based on the NSW Government's view that the overriding objective should be the protection of life and property from bushfires. Under the 10/50 Rule, landowners may clear certain vegetation near residential accommodation and high-risk facilities (including child care centres, hospitals and schools) to reduce the risk of damage from bushfire. The 10/50 Rule applies within a '10/50 vegetation clearing entitlement area' as determined by the RFS Commissioner. It provides an entitlement to landholders to remove vegetation on their land but does not require them to do so.

Landholders who clear vegetation under the 10/50 Rule are required to comply with the 10/50 Code, which the RFS has prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act. The Code contains a number of environmental and heritage requirements, including that trees must be retained except within 10 metres of residential accommodation and high-risk facilities and that soil disturbance is not permitted. Threatened ecological communities and threatened species habitat which are bushfire prone are managed in accordance with the 10/50 Code.

I acknowledge your concern about a range of other issues in relation to the Code, including the extent of the urban councils' buffer zone within the clearing entitlement area, the inclusion of small native remnants, geotechnical questions around vegetation and land slip and amenity impacts. As this matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon Stuart Ayres MP, it is appropriate that Council has also raised its concerns directly with him.

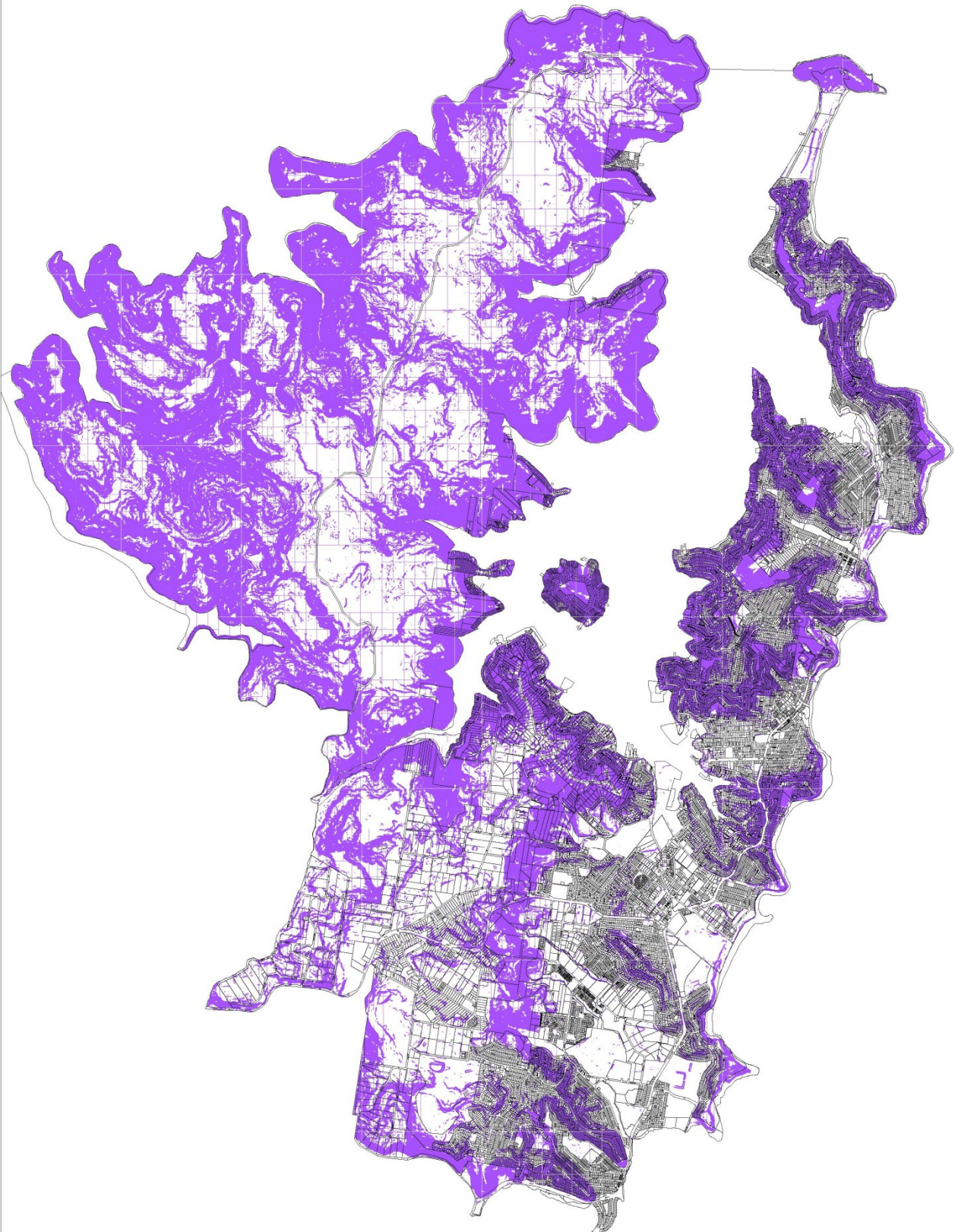
If you or your staff have any further questions about the protection of threatened species and ecological communities in NSW, Dr Tom Celebrezze, Senior Manager, Community, Compliance and Planning Services at the Office of Environment and Heritage, can be contacted on 9995 5446 or by email at tom.celebrezze@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Rob Stokes MP
Minister for the Environment

7th September, 2014.

Level 32, Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000
 Phone: (61 2) 9228 5253 Fax: (61 2) 9228 5763 Email: office@stokes.minister.nsw.gov.au

**Land Slope Map**

Identifying Land Greater than 18% Slope



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



MEDIA RELEASE

10/50 Vegetation Clearing Entitlement Code of Practice amendments

30 September 2014

The *10/50 Vegetation Clearing Entitlement* was created to provide people living near bushland with the ability to increase their level of protection against bush fires, following concerns raised by homeowners after devastating blazes destroyed more than 200 homes last year.

Introduced on 1 August 2014, the entitlement allowed property owners living within 350 metres of Category 1 and Category 2 Bush Fire Prone Land to remove trees within 10 metres of their home, as well as vegetation within 50 metres, without state or local approval, on their own land.

National research shows historically 99 per cent of homes destroyed by bush fires were located within 350 metres of bushland. It was for this reason that the entitlement area covers homes within 350 metres of Bush Fire Prone Land.

Since its introduction, a number of councils and community groups have raised concerns regarding the 350 metre entitlement area particularly on small parcels of land.

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons today announced changes to the *10/50 Vegetation Clearing Entitlement*, which have been made following site inspections, an interim review of the Code of Practice and community feedback.

The changes are:

- The 10/50 entitlement area for Category 2 Bush Fire Prone Land is now 150 metres, reduced from 350 metres
- Councils will have the ability to reclassify smaller parcels of vegetation from Category 1 to Category 2 therefore reducing the entitlement area.

(Category 2 is areas where the vegetation poses a reduced fire risk.)

The NSW RFS has also brought forward the formal review of the 10/50 scheme to commence 1 October. This will provide communities across NSW the opportunity to provide comment and feedback. Details on where and how the community can provide its feedback can be found on the NSW RFS website.

"These changes address council and community concerns while maintaining an appropriate level of protection for properties and the community," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

The 10/50 online assessment tool at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au has been updated to reflect the changes.



For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855
For current incidents or major fire updates visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

C10.5 Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy

Meeting: Sustainable Towns & Villages Committee

Date: 13 October 2014

STRATEGY: **Recreational Management**
 Flora and Fauna Management
 Land Use and Development

ACTION: For Council to consider adopting the Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy

PURPOSE OF REPORT

For Council to review the submissions and responses following the public exhibition of the draft Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy and to consider adopting the Strategy with the amendments as highlighted in the report.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The draft Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy was reported to Council on 5 May for review and consideration of public exhibition. The corresponding Council Report contains an outline of the project background and associated issues.
- 1.2 The draft Strategy was placed on public exhibition for six weeks from 10 May to 23 June 2014. During this time the draft Strategy was advertised widely, including:
- Mayoral Update 3 May
 - Manly Daily Mayors Column – 10 May
 - Manly Daily Editorial ‘Have Your Say on Public Space in Pittwater’ by Bryn Kay - May 13
 - About Pittwater e-newsletter - May and June editions
 - Pittwater Online News – May 25 - 31. Issue 164
 - Pittwater Customer Service Centres
 - Pittwater Council website – Documents on Exhibition page including online submission form
 - Pittwater Council Facebook
- 1.3 The draft Strategy was presented at the following Reference Group meetings where overall, it was well received:
- Leading and Learning - 27 February
 - Connecting Communities- 7 May
 - Natural Environment - 14 May
 - Planning an Integrated Built Environment Committee - 19 May
 - Sustainable Towns and Villages - 21 May

2.0 ISSUES

During the exhibition period, Council received **151** submissions including from Bayview Church Point Residents Association, Mona Vale Residents Association, Clareville and Bilgola Plateau Residents Association (CABPRA), Katandra Bushland Sanctuary, Pittwater Natural Heritage Association (PNHA), Budawa Aboriginal Signage Group, Ingleside Riders Group, North Shore Horse and Pony Association, Northern Beaches Hang-Gliding Club, SJB Planning, Avalon Veterinary Hospital, Pittwater Community Arts Inc. and Avalon Beach Arts & Cultural Group.

The issues raised in the submissions are summarised in **Attachment 1** and the main issues outlined below along with the proposed amendments to the draft Strategy where appropriate.

2.1 Land Rationalisation

Potential Sale of Public Land

Twenty nine (29) submissions commented on the sale of public land. CABPRA agreed in principle provided a number of conditions are met. Mona Vale Residents Association raised some concerns and also reiterated their opposition to the proposed sale of Lot 3 Kitchener Park.

Generally, objections from residents were based on the potential loss of the ecological and recreational values of local parks. Indicative comments include:

- *Local parks provide a space for the local neighbourhood to meet and socialise or play.* (Resident)
- *If small parks, such as these are lost they can never be replaced.* (Resident)
- *As the population changes so too will the use these areas.* (Resident)
- *Once they are gone they are gone forever.* (Resident)

In response, the draft Strategy does not contain a list of parks for potential sale; rather it brings land rationalisation into the public domain for discussion by the Council and the community. The sale of public land is governed by the *Local Government Act, 1993* and is a long process. Any identified land would need to be reclassified from community land to operational land and subject to a public hearing.

The Strategy acknowledges Council's responsibility to ensure the land rationalisation process continues to sincerely build on the good work to date in this area. Refer to the Strategy on page 45 which states:

Council's portfolio of property holdings be assessed in terms of their ongoing net community benefit to identify potential open space and road reserve holdings that could be sold or swapped. The proceeds from any sale should be restricted to the future purchase or embellishment of other community assets.

A further strategic initiative associated with property assets sales is to acquire some commercial land or commercial opportunities that provide a perpetual fund for the ongoing maintenance and servicing of open space.

To assist in clarifying Council's direction, the following text is recommended for inclusion on page 85 under Land Rationalisation.

Amendment - include the following text on page 87

It is recommended that Council formalise the land rationalisation process through a strategic plan for review and input by the Council and community. The plan is to consider the submissions received in relation to the Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy, 2014.

New Uses for Existing Facilities

Six submissions commented on the Strategy's recommendation to explore new uses for existing facilities, such as Avalon Golf Course. Indicative comments include:

- *I object to the conversion or adaption of existing open space and the investigation of more equitable use of golf courses.* (Resident)
- *Support equitable access to golf courses, provided the golfing community are involved.* (Mona Vale Residents Association)
- *Golf courses offer large swathes of green space that contribute to the local character and amenity.* (Resident)
- *Avalon Golf Course could be suitable for a criterium or series of cycle tracks catering for a range of abilities incorporating off-road cycling and walking and for commuters to avoid The Bends.* (Resident)
- *The clubhouse could provide alternative uses such as an art gallery and café.* (Pittwater Community Arts Inc.)

In response, these are examples of the type of ideas the community may wish to explore in the future to ensure the existing open space network is providing the most benefit to the community as a whole.

Commercialisation of Public Space

Mona Vale Residents Association objected to the commercialisation of public space, preferring to support existing businesses.

In response, this issue was discussed at the Reference Group meetings where commercialisation of selected public space to achieve community benefits it was generally supported. Pittwater's parks and reserves are valued at approximately \$2 billion (Ref. Delivery Plan & Budget 2012-16, page 7). Infrastructure across all Council management areas is valued at approximately \$382 million (Ref. 2012 audited statements).

This is a substantial asset base which could be generating more income than it currently does to help finance improve facilities. The addition of small-scale outlets such as cafes in larger parks value adds to the recreational experience as well as providing additional funds for maintenance and to continue improving Pittwater's open space network. Revenue can be raised from visitors to the area who generate wear and tear on facilities funded by rate payers, thus offsetting some of these expenses.

Community expectations have risen enormously over the past two decades, yet funding levels for open space management and development have remained relatively consistent (rates are capped by the State Government's rate pegging legislation). Despite funding limitations, many high quality facilities have been provided and Council is striving to continue this level of provision. Examples include land purchased and embellished at Winnererremy Bay (paid for by land sales), purchase of Warriewood Wetlands and Ingleside Escarpment, the synthetic oval at North Narrabeen High School, the high quality playgrounds at Winnererremy Bay, Bilarong Reserve and Governor Phillip Park, the Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Centre, the community centres at Newport and Avalon and the Coastal Environment Centre. These are high quality facilities, funded by the current generation that will continue to enhance the quality of life for future generations.

2.2 Objections to Potential Land Purchases in the Southern Buffer of Warriewood Valley

One submission from residents of Boondah Road, prepared by SJB Planning objected to potential purchase of land in Boondah Road for sportsgrounds. The submission reiterated issues raised by a local developer group in separate correspondence to Council. The submissions raised a number of specific issues under the headings as follows:

Draft Strategy Inconsistencies

The submission by SJB Planning proposes that there are inconsistencies between various documents and that the land identified for purchase in Boondah Road is for a LGA wide facility, referencing pages 71 and 77 of the Strategy. In particular that this land adjoins the existing sportsgrounds in Boondah Road and in this context, the submission proposes that this land will expand on the sports hub to cater for the needs of residents across the LGA rather than residents of Warriewood Valley.

In response, the draft Strategy supports the existing proposal to purchase land in Boondah Road for sportsfields to provide for the incoming residents of Warriewood Valley and not for regional facilities. Incoming residents will undoubtedly enjoy existing facilities at beaches and the like, but new facilities should also be provided for the incoming population. However, in consideration of the submission by SJB Planning and to clarify this, it is recommended to amend discussion under the heading Sportsfield Requirements.

Amendment (Pages 78 and 79)

Delete references to Boondah Road in the Strategy and separate discussion on Sportsfield Requirements into Older Established Suburbs and New Urban Release Areas.

Sportsground Provision for Warriewood Valley

The submission from SJB Planning proposes that Council has already satisfied the open space requirements across the LGA based on a sportsground provision of 0.78 hectares per 1,000 persons. Further, SJB Planning propose that the requirement for sportsfields have been met at Warriewood Valley at 5.3ha per 1,000 population through s.94 funds which have developed facilities at Narrabeen Sports High School and Warriewood Valley District Park, totalling 6.9 hectares.

The submission also asks Council to clarify how s.94 funds are used outside Warriewood Valley and raises inconsistencies with Planning Circular PS 07-018, 6/11/07.

In response, the previous Strategy dated 2000, referenced 0.78 hectares as the existing area of land taken up by sportsgrounds at the time compared with the population. It did not promote this as a 'standard'. There appears to be no official Standard to determine the quantity of sportsfields for a given population (Reference Thompson and Tregear, 2000). The adopted and much used standard applies to the total open space provision of 2.83 ha per 1000 population. The Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy, if adopted, will update and supersede previous documents.

In relation to SJP Planning's query on how Section 94 funds have been used outside Warriewood Valley, the use of s.94 funds outside Warriewood Valley urban release area is permitted under the guidelines for Section 94 subject to the nexus being demonstrated.

Council's management of Section 94 funds is consistent with Planning Circular PS 07-018 (6/11/07). The nexus and apportionment was considered and agreed to by HillPDA in their Independent Review of the WWV Section 94 Plan (Dec 2009), and in turn by the former Department of Planning.

Council Wide Sportsground Provision

The submission from SJB Planning opposes the method used in the Strategy to calculate the current and projected areas of land required for sportsfields and provides an alternative method based on their interpretation of the 2000 Strategy (page 60) where it states Pittwater's sportsgrounds equate to 0.78 ha/1000 population (as previously discussed). The submission also questions the projected population figures. The 0.78 is not a 'Standard'; rather it is a representation of the hectares per 1,000 residents at the time.

In response, the draft Strategy states that Pittwater contains approximately 28.9 hectares of sportsfields and 44.95 hectares of sportsgrounds within 70.05 hectares of reserves. Refer to the Strategy Appendix B2 which provides a comprehensive analysis of all sportsgrounds including how Council has calculated the sportsground and sportsfield areas. Sportsfields are defined as the flat grassy areas that accommodate the fields and the surrounding area that could be reconfigured to accommodate sportsfields. Sportsgrounds are defined as the sportsfield, surrounds, amenity buildings, access drives and parking areas.

The reserve precinct is the area within a named reserve. For example, Kitchener Park, Mona Vale contains not only the playing and training surfaces (sportsfields) but also the access roads, parking areas, amenity buildings, scout and girl guide halls, tennis courts, skate park, tennis courts and the surrounding creekline and bushland areas. Almost half of Pittwater's sportsground precincts are unsuitable for sportsgrounds due to topography, vegetation and other uses such as tennis courts and bowling clubs.

The projected population figure of 66,639 from the *Pittwater Local Planning Strategy Planning Strategy Pittwater towards 2031*, adopted July 2011 (page 25) is sourced from the Bureau of Transport Statistics, 2009. Whereas, the projected population figure of 81,950 by 2031 in the draft Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy is sourced from *NSW Government Planning & Infrastructure, August 2013, NSW in the future: Preliminary 2013 Population Projections*. Please note that "Predictions are continually being revised ..." as stated in the Strategy on page 33.

Council Open Space Dealings

The submission from SJB Planning requests Council explain why it is continuing to rezone and sell land, such as Lot 3 Kitchener Park and Fern Creek Reserve, when the draft Strategy claims Pittwater is well serviced by open space. It also asks why Council provides commercial arrangements (golf driving range) at North Narrabeen Reserve when there is a need for additional sportsfields, and suggests reconfiguring this reserve for additional sportsfields. Finally, SJB believe the draft Strategy fails to explore reconfiguration of existing facilities instead of further land purchases and states "There is no critical review of existing assets".

In response, the Strategy identifies that Pittwater is well provided with open space at 822.55 hectares. However, 496.3 hectares (61%) consists of conservation areas. Much of the remaining 326.26 hectares is steep due to the topography of the peninsula or includes beach areas, with only 29 hectares of sportsfields.

The Strategy concludes that Pittwater has a shortage of large areas of flat land, particularly for sportsfields. Refer to page 78 of the Strategy which states council should look to:

- optimise the use of existing sportsfields;
- purchase new land for sportsfields;
- provide more multi-use facilities;
- adapt other reserves and parks to accommodate sportsfields;
- investigate opportunities to share school grounds and facilities;
- use small areas of open space in either parks or sportsgrounds for training or mini fields;
- develop more synthetic surface fields;
- redistribute other facilities to provide new sportsfields;
- install netball courts in carparks; and
- install floodlighting where appropriate.

The potential sale of Lot 3 Kitchener Park is intended to fund a regional scale skate park. The intention at Fern Creek is to land swap part of the reserve with neighbouring land in order to better locate and extend the existing reserve in a linear configuration for improved recreational opportunities.

A further submission that raised issues with the proposed purchase of land in Boondah Road was received from Mona Vale Residents Association which states:

In 1994 a shortage of playing fields was identified in Pittwater. The land identified for more sport fields in Boondah Road, Warriewood is flood prone. This could interfere with the sporting calendar, many washed out games are impossible to make up. We perhaps need to look at land in Ingleside to make up for the shortfall in grounds.

In response, this land has been investigated as being more suitable for sportsfields than residential or commercial development due to the flooding risks since the initial planning stages of Warriewood Valley. The Strategy recommends additional fields are also purchased at Ingleside to service the incoming residents there.

Investigation of alternatives

The submission from SJB Planning refers to a statement made at the Sustainable Towns and Villages reference group on 21 May 2014 that 'Council requires an additional 4.7 hectares, and there are a few options available, one being on Boondah Road'.

In response to correspondence received in relation to the Southern Buffer, all references to the said land in Boondah Road have been deleted from the Strategy.

Amendment

The sportsground requirements for the older established suburbs and new urban land release areas have been separated in the Strategy. Refer to pages 78 to 79)

2.3 Playground Rationalisation

Five submissions oppose the removal of small playgrounds. The comment below is an indicative example of the type of concerns raised:

- *Playgrounds are made best use if they are close by and community spirit is better fostered in a small local environment compared to a large central one.*

In response, the more advanced equipment that is provided in larger playgrounds is highly sophisticated, being designed to develop children's physical, mental and social skills. Larger playgrounds provide children with opportunities to interact with each other, and provide additional amenities such as shade, landscaping and places to sit. It is unsustainable to maintain 58 playgrounds, some of which do not comply with the Australian Standard. Some are also extremely small and under used. It is preferable to reduce the number of small playgrounds and focus more on the development of larger playground areas that can provide a greater variety of equipment and increased opportunities for social interaction.

Amendment - add the following text into the Strategy on page 96

"A playground strategy is currently being prepared for consideration by the Council and for public exhibition. The Strategy will analyse the network of playgrounds in consideration of their location, ease of access by the neighbourhood (radius/walking distance), condition of the equipment, safety and amount of use".

2.4 Walking, Cycling and Equestrian

Ten submissions support improved conditions for walking, cycling and equestrian activities including submissions from CABPRA, Mona Vale Residents Association, Bayview, Church Point Residents Association, North Shore Horse and Pony Association Inc. and Northside Riding Club.

Submissions also requested a safe cycling route from Avalon to Palm Beach and an Adopt a Pathway Program which is recommended in the Strategy. One resident suggested a whale watch walk and another the completion of the Mona Vale to Church Point Walk, suggesting the Walk terminate at Botham Beach.

In response, the Pittwater Council Public Roads Active Transport Strategy (incorporating the Road Reserve Walking Sub Plan, Schools Footpath Sub Plan, Pedestrian Amenity Sub Plan, Footpath Asset Management Sub Plan, Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Sub Plan, Bus Stop Upgrade Sub Plan and Road Reserve Cycling Sub Plan) provides the programs to upgrade footpaths on road reserves. Over the past two years approximately \$1,500,000 has been spent on the construction of concrete footpaths.

Local residents have walked Pittwater and provided Council with a list of recommended works to improve the recreational walking network through reserves, reserves for access – which are the narrow passage ways between properties, as well as road verges.

A recreational walking policy and guidelines is being prepared in consideration of the above projects. In the meantime, Council has been working with students from Macquarie University to develop a phone application – Walking Pittwater. Last year's students developed an Android app. and this year's students have refined the Android app and are close to completing the iPhone app.

Nine submissions were received from the equestrian community including Ingleside Riders Group and the North Shore Horse and Pony Group. Submissions included maps showing the preferred bridle paths. The groups also sent the submissions to Council's Planning and Assessment Unit. The submissions support the draft Strategy's recommendation to undertake a feasibility study to investigate safer riding links from Ingleside to the National Parks and facilities in Warringah.

In response, equestrian activities have been considered during the recreational planning for the Ingleside urban release area. The feasibility study is proposed to be undertaken at the appropriate time during further planning of the Ingleside urban release area. Further information on walking, cycling and equestrian activities is available from the Pittwater Delivery Program & Budget 2014-2018.

2.5 Skate Parks at Avalon and Mona Vale

Fourteen submissions request an art gallery and associated infrastructure be established in the Avalon Beach area including submissions from Pittwater Community Arts Inc. and the Avalon Beach Arts & Cultural Precinct Group (signed by 20 residents). A further three submissions request improvements to Avalon Beach village including parking.

In response, Pittwater Council's 'Emerging Issues Paper – Arts' was adopted in 2013 as part of the Pittwater Council Social Plan. The Arts Paper identifies the opportunity to use existing spaces for cultural outcomes. Pittwater Council's 2014 – 2018 Delivery Plan and Budget identifies that a masterplanning process will be commenced in Avalon during 2016 – 2017. Through this place planning exercise the community may identify Avalon as a cultural precinct and opportunities for cultural tourism. Community groups, business and Chambers of Commerce may continue to drive creative outcomes through places in Pittwater, and have the potential to work with the Enliven Pittwater strategy to realise goals.

2.6 Avalon Skate Park

One submission on behalf of skaters using the Avalon Skate Park requests expanding and upgrading this facility with input from the local skaters. Council has also received numerous emails and letters requesting that Council develop the approved skate park at Kitchener Park, Mona Vale.

In response, Council does not have plans to upgrade Avalon Skate Park at this stage. Rather, it is proposed to upgrade the skate park at Kitchener Park, Mona Vale to a regional facility at a cost of approximately \$2 million. Mona Vale was selected because it has good access for the broader Pittwater skating community being centrally located with public transport and local shops in close proximity. Pittwater has to date not secured grant funding for the Mona Vale facility; therefore the construction is dependent upon the sale of Lot 3 Kitchener Park to provide funding.

2.7 Dogs

Council received 32 submissions from residents from Avalon Beach and surrounds including Avalon Veterinary Hospital requesting an area where dogs can run freely and access the water. Residents would prefer Station Beach or north Palm Beach to the existing area at Careel Bay (which residents feel is too small with too much vegetation and ticks).

In response, Station Beach was investigated in 2009; however State Government agencies were not supportive due to the sensitive marine environment. Some local residents, Palm Beach Golf Club and the Palm Beach Association also raised strong objections to the proposal.

On a broader note, the *Companion Animals Act 1998* requires councils to provide one dog off-leash area. Pittwater has seven dog off-leash areas:

- With water access: Dearin Reserve, Rowland Reserve and Mackerel Beach (6.30am - 9.30am and 5pm- sunset). The western end of McCarrs Creek Reserve (9am-5pm Monday to Friday) is a trial dog use area.
- Without water access: Careel Bay, South Mona Vale Headland and Progress Park

Additional activities include the dog training area at Deep Creek Reserve, restricted to allocated times for dog training sessions (not an off-leash dog walking area). The annual Dog Day at the Bay is held for dog owners and their dogs and Rowland Reserve. A new trial permits dogs to be tied in an area behind Bilgola Beach while the owners use the beach and rock pool.

The management of dogs in the public domain is not straightforward and Council has a duty of care for the broader community. Council has conducted extensive consultation with residents on whether to allow dogs access to beaches in the past. However, the majority of residents objected due to hygiene, comfort and safety issues. Over the past four years, Pittwater residents have reported 353 dog attacks (239 animals and 159 humans).

2.8 Indoor Aquatic Centre

Five submissions request an indoor aquatic centre.

In response, Council has conducted extensive consultation on this issue and to date no agreement has been reached. Council currently spends about \$2 million a year on aquatic facilities including seven ocean rock pools. Consultants reports indicate that an aquatic centre would cost from \$7 - \$20 million to build (depending on the level of infrastructure) and \$660,000 to \$800,000 in annual maintenance costs (Reference Report 6/2/13). When this project is revisited, it is suggested Council determine how many residents would benefit from the pool, and what facilities the community as a whole agree to forfeit to fund the pool. This will help to ensure an equitable distribution of resourcing for recreational opportunities across the LGA.

On reviewing the Strategy in relation to the potential aquatic centre, it is agreed that the draft document does not reflect the Council's most recent Recommendation. It is recommended a summary of the Council Recommendation be inserted on page 97 of the Strategy for future reference.

Amendment – the following recommendation be added on page 97

Page	Existing Paragraph	Proposed Paragraph
97	An indoor heated pool was requested as part of the consultation process. Council has investigated this in the past and the proposal was found to be financially unsustainable due to the small resident population (58,000) and geographic isolation of the LGA.	Council will reinvestigate the opportunity for an indoor aquatic centre facility. The investigation is to commence by June 2017 in accordance with Council's resolution of 6 February 2013

2.9 Katandra Bushland Sanctuary

Two submissions from Katandra Bushland Sanctuary and Pittwater Natural Heritage Association request Council acquire bushland adjacent to the Sanctuary at 119 Mona Vale Road for an extension of the Sanctuary. Submissions further request support for a fauna bridge across the proposed upgraded Mona Vale Road in the area and for Council to support their petitions to other governing agencies for the preservation of local bushland.

In response, the adjacent land as described is owned and managed by the State Government and private groups. Council has a strong tradition of supporting Pittwater's natural environment as demonstrated in the purchase of natural area reserves and the more recent success in saving Currawong. Council will continue to work with Government agencies in support of Pittwater's natural environment including discussions with land owners and government agencies to help conserve, protect and enhance natural areas, fauna and flora where possible.

2.10 Paragliders and hang gliders

A submission was received from the Northern Beaches Hang Gliding Club requesting improved maintenance of existing launch sites in accordance with relevant legislation at:

- Newport (Eric Green Reserve) SE launch
- Mona Vale (Mona Vale Headland Reserve) S E and NE launch
- Mona Vale (Robert Dunn Reserve) ENE launch
- Warriewood / Turimetta (Turimetta Headland Reserve) SE and NE launch) Request additional launch sites.
- Consideration of additional sites

In response, on reviewing the draft Strategy, it is noted that paragliding and hang gliding has not been addressed and there are no formalised sites provided for these activities. Therefore it is recommended the following text be inserted on page 89 under Activities, Natural Conservation Areas.

Amendment – that the following recommendation be added on page 91

“Develop a policy and/or guidelines for activities on headlands and coastal areas incorporating vegetation management, iconic public views and sporting activities such as hang gliding and paragliding”.

2.11 General Comments

Apart from the main issues raised as outlined above, many submissions contained comments that are valuable for reinforcing Council's direction. Indicative comments include:

- *We appreciate the community was consulted.*
- *The Strategy is inclusive and demonstrates Council listens to Community.*
- *A top priority is to conserve, protect and enhance the natural environment.*
- *The strategy identified great opportunities for Council to create and improve its current public space and recreational areas.*
- *Three submissions requested outdoor exercise equipment and table tennis tables, interpretative signage and educational programs.*
- *Residents support philosophically based directions such as upgrade and expand public spaces for the benefit of the broader community that considers the needs of the community for activating social interaction, including provision of access for all, health benefits ...*
- *Amenities in larger parks needs to be consistent – large scale play equipment, free barbeques, seating and tables, cafes to provide revenue to manage the parks and toilets.*
- *Prepare an action plan for alternative uses for golf courses, allow mountain bike riding on fire trails, implement exercise equipment in parks, support light commercial activities to provide revenue, encourage evening walkers, encourage people to walk or ride to the park – footpath strategies. I particularly support the goals and objectives in the Strategy under 7.11*
- *The Heritage Park Trust in New Zealand contains 'The Book of Trees' – the name of a tree donor will be entered in this book along with the number of tree plantings, date and reason for planting, a map of the park will allow the tree's location to be referenced. The park is used to commemorate special events such as wedding anniversaries, graduations or as a place to visit. This could be used in Pittwater to reinforce canopy trees and help defray the cost.*
- *Objection that hang-gliding / paragliding activities have not been covered in the draft Strategy.*

In response, the majority of general comments received in response to the content of the draft Strategy, were in agreement with the recommendations proposed. Generally residents agree that the natural environment is a main priority, that development is sensitive to the environment and that they have opportunities to live a healthy outdoor lifestyle, with sport and recreation playing a key role.

2.12 Park Hierarchy

The park hierarchy, landscape setting definitions and a number of associated reserves were amended on pages 14 to 16 of the Appendices.

3.0 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

3.1 Supporting & Connecting our Community (Social)

- 3.1.1 Pittwater's vision is to be a vibrant community of connected villages inspired by bush, beach and water. In this context, Pittwater's open space and recreation is vitally important for social well-being and supporting a healthy, active and creative lifestyle. In particular our beaches, waterways and bushland are of regional and state significance and thereby attract large number of visitors to our locality. Public spaces are taking on an even higher importance as population and density increases and 'backyards' diminish.

- 3.1.2 Pittwater contains 822.55 hectares of open space of which 496.3 hectares (66%) is bushland. While there is a good supply of passive open spaces, the Strategy has identified a lack of large flat areas suitable for active recreational facilities such as sportsgrounds. As such it is important that new land releases such as Warriewood Valley and Ingleside provide the necessary quantum and standard of active open space to support the new incoming communities and thereby not place an additional burden on existing active open space.

3.2 Valuing & Caring for our Natural Environment (Environmental)

- 3.2.1 Pittwater has often been described as part of the 'lungs of Sydney' and its environment is a fundamental reason why people want to live, work and recreate in Pittwater. The Pittwater environment underpins our social and economic activity, in particular those associated with open space and recreation.
- 3.2.2 Pittwater contains 25% of the Sydney coastline. With its nine ocean beaches, dominant headlands; Pittwater Estuary (the same size as Sydney Harbour north of the Bridge); National Parks and bushland reserves and significant wetlands, there is a diversity of native flora and fauna, marine habitats, terrain and geological formations with spectacular scenery. These landscape settings provide a vast array of recreational opportunities.
- 3.2.3 The key is to continue to protect and enhance the environment which is our greatest asset, whilst at the same time providing opportunities for compatible recreational pursuits that don't undermine that intrinsic and highly valued environmental significance.

3.3 Enhancing our Working & Learning (Economic)

- 3.3.1 Pittwater's open space network and associated recreational opportunities supports a raft of economic activity, including tourism, ocean beaches, foreshore reserves, marine and waterway activities on Pittwater Estuary; town and village centres with their specialty shops and markets; outdoor and indoor sport, adventure and fitness activities and commercial operations. It is therefore important that these activities be in harmony with the environment and be equitably distributed for the benefit of all residents and visitors.
- 3.3.2 Managing a large portfolio of open space and recreational facilities is expensive with ongoing maintenance, servicing and improvement costs. It is therefore important to have a broad based funding strategy to afford the strategic outcomes envisaged. Funding needs to consider the increasing pressures on rate income; the importance of user pays and grant funding; private sector provision; commercial returns from facilities such as kiosks and restaurants on reserves; further partnership opportunities; volunteering; property asset rationalisation, etc.
- 3.3.3 In managing open space it is also important to consider the net community benefit of existing open space, future needs and intergenerational equity. In this regard revisiting the existing spatial distribution of open space, its use and future needs and 'whole of life' asset costs is a responsible approach.

3.4 Leading an Effective & Collaborative Council (Governance)

- 3.4.1 Having a robust Strategy toward open space and recreation and linking this to Council's Community Strategic Planning framework provides transparency and confidence in the future directions and opportunities as well as helping to pre-empt and address the many challenges along the way.

3.4.2 The previous 2000 Strategy highlighted the benefits of providing a set of visionary objectives. These objectives were achieved via numerous initiatives including:

- The former Environment Levy, land swaps and State Government assistance to help acquire the Ingleside Escarpment
- Partnering with the State Government and providing Council property asset to help acquire Currawong
- Supporting the Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Centre (NBISC)
- Shared use of school ovals and facilities
- Sale of property assets to acquire and embellish the Winnererremy Bay foreshore.

3.4.3 Responsible fiscal and asset management includes managing open space assets, in particular providing the community with a good net return from its assets. In this regard the benefit of property asset rationalisation needs to be considered in the overall context of what the open space and recreation strategy is seeking to achieve and how this can be funded.

Where there is an existing low net community asset it makes sense to consider what alternative outcomes of a much higher net community benefit could be achieved on an asset for asset justification basis.

3.4.4 The latest Strategy has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders and has considered comments received during the public exhibition period.

3.5 **Integrating our Built Environment (Infrastructure)**

The provision of infrastructure is a vital ingredient to realise not only the opportunities for open space and recreation but also social, economic and environmental sustainability. This includes:

- Beaches with their dunes, surf clubs, rock pools, carpark and amenities
- Meeting places, spaces and streetscapes in town, village and neighbourhood centres including libraries and community centres to encourage social interaction, events and economic activity
- Connecting roads, footpaths and cyclist facilities to link important nodes
- Sensitive tracks, trails and boardwalks to experience natural areas, in particular the coastal walkway, foreshore walkways, wetland and escarpment walks
- Bushland areas and bush regeneration activities
- Parks and playgrounds, in particular regional parks with their highly popular and well used facilities
- Sportsgrounds with improvements to irrigation, drainage, lighting, clubhouses amenities and the latest addition being the synthetic oval at Narrabeen Sports High
- Wharves, boat ramps and waterway facilities to access and enjoy the Pittwater waterway and Narrabeen Lagoon
- Indoor sport facilities
- Sydney Lakeside Park and Currawong catering for the accommodation and holiday needs of visitors to our area

4.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4.1 Council received **151** submissions in response to the exhibition of the Draft Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy. The submissions are summarised in **Attachment 1** and the main points outlined in the body of the report, being:

- Land rationalisation
- Objections to the potential land purchases in the southern buffer of Warriewood Valley
- Playground rationalisation
- Walking, cycling and equestrian
- Avalon Village art and culture
- Avalon skate park
- Dogs
- Indoor aquatic centre
- Katandra Bushland Sanctuary
- Paragliding and hang gliding
- General Comments

4.2 Amendments

Several editing changes and a number of amendments are proposed in response to issues raised in the submissions and staff discussions, the key amendments include:

Amendment – amend text on pages 78 and 79

Delete references to Boondah Road in the Strategy, and separate discussion on sportsfield requirements into Older Established Suburbs and New Urban Release Areas.

Amendment - include the following text on page 87

It is recommended that Council formalise the land rationalisation process through a strategic plan for review and input by the Council and community. The plan is to consider the submissions received in relation to the Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy, 2014.

Amendment - add the following text into the Strategy on page 96

“A playground strategy is currently being prepared for consideration by the Council and for public exhibition. The Strategy will analyse the network of playgrounds in consideration of their location, ease of access by the neighbourhood (radius/walking distance), condition of the equipment, safety and amount of use”.

Amendment – the following recommendation be added on page 97

Page	Existing Paragraph	Proposed Paragraph
97	An indoor heated pool was requested as part of the consultation process. Council has investigated this in the past and the proposal was found to be financially unsustainable due to the small resident population (58,000) and geographic isolation of the LGA.	Council will reinvestigate the opportunity for an indoor aquatic centre facility. The investigation is to commence by June 2017 in accordance with Council's resolution of 6 February 2013

Amendment – that the following recommendation be added on page 91

“Develop a policy and/or guidelines for activities on headlands and coastal areas incorporating vegetation management, iconic public views and sporting activities such as hang gliding and paragliding”.

Amendment - Park hierarchy

Amend the park hierarchy, landscape setting definitions and a number of associated reserves on pages 14 to 16 of the Appendices.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy, as amended and referred to in Section 4.2 of this Report, and the relevant recommendations referred to in pages 87 to 100 of the Strategy, be adopted.
2. That the recommendations contained in the Strategy be considered when Council’s delivery plans are being compiled.

Report prepared by
Jenny Cronan, Landscape Architect

Les Munn
MANAGER, RESERVES AND RECREATION

Summary of Submissions

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
SUBMISSIONS FROM LOCAL GROUPS		
1. Bayview Church Point Residents Association	Retain the visual aesthetics of Pittwater Estuary including foreshore reserves and still water swimming pools. Protect environmental, natural and cultural heritage and provide interpretative signage. Increase community access to open space. Share facilities and extend hours. Encourage community gardens. Annual outdoor sculpture walks such as the Mona Vale to Church Point Walk and the Bicentennial Coastal Walk. Install exercise stations, table tennis and designate areas for tai chi.	Noted. The submission reinforces a number of Council's existing strategies. Refer to the following documents which contain the values and management practices for these areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ Pittwater Council Delivery Plan and Budget▫ Plans of Management for Church Point, Bayview Park and Winnererremy Bay.▫ Draft Reserves Access Audit▫ Pittwater Arts Paper
2. Mona Vale Residents Association	Object to the sale of small parks due to their environmental values. Request Council identify parks proposed for sale. Object to the sale of Lot 3 Kitchener Park. Object to commercialisation of public space, preferring to support existing businesses. Prefer to acquire land in Ingleside rather than Warriewood for sportsfields due to flooding. Support minimal facilities placed carefully to retain green space Support efforts to ensure new facilities are affordable, multi-purpose and intergenerational, improve sportsfield surfaces. Support adopt-a-pathway and suggest develop new public pathways. Retain Mona Vale Village Park as open space with no more development. Support equitable access to golf courses provided golfing community involved. Support indoor heated pool, support shared gardens, support the investigation of an art gallery/studio near Mona Vale bowling club. Would like to see more historical references in connection to the open space network.	Amendment. Page 85. It is recommended Council formalise the land rationalisation process through a strategic plan for review by the Council and public exhibition. The plan is to consider the submissions received in relation to this Strategy. Noted: Flooding has been taken into consideration in the investigation of land for sportsfields in Warriewood Valley. Council has consulted the community regarding the proposed sale of Lot 3 Kitchener Park and will further consult the community prior to any sale. Council is currently developing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ Policy for community gardens▫ Policy for walking tracks▫ Phone application with students from Macquarie University with historic photos.▫ See comments on the proposed aquatic centre under Reference 45 below
3. CABPRA	CABPRA provided four submissions: 1) Active Transport (Walking and Cycling) 2) Adopt a Pathway 3) Cycling Strategy and Safe Cycling Route – Avalon to Palm Beach Loop 4) Clareville BBQ Area Make Over. The above submissions have been made in the first place to the 2014/2018 Draft Delivery Program and Budget.	Noted. These are key topics in the broader submission range and therefore repeated with responses under these headings below. In relation to Clareville Beach, Council is preparing a draft concept plan for community comments.

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
4. Katandra Bushland Sanctuary	Request Council acquire bushland adjacent to the Sanctuary at 119 Mona Vale Road for an extension of the Sanctuary. Request a fauna bridge across the proposed upgraded Mona Vale Road in the area. Request Council's support for our petitions with other governing agencies for the preservation of local bushland.	Noted. The adjacent land is owned and managed by private and State Government groups. Council would be willing to communicate with both bodies in regards to wildlife habitat and vegetation management. Council will discuss the bridge with the RMS. Council has a strong tradition of supporting Pittwater's natural environment as demonstrated in land purchases and more recently Currawong. Council will continue to work with Government agencies in support of Pittwater's natural environment.
5. Pittwater Natural Heritage Association	Support the submission by Katandra Bushland Sanctuary Trust – Reference 4.	Noted. See Reference 4 above.
6. Budawa Aboriginal Signage Group	Request indigenous interpretative signage and cultural programs. See Reference xxx below.	Noted. See Reference 22 below
7. Northern Beaches Hang Gliding Club	Request improved maintenance of existing launch sites in accordance with relevant legislation at: 1. Newport (Eric Green Reserve) SE launch 2. Mona Vale (Mona Vale Headland Reserve) S E and NE launch 3. Mona Vale (Robert Dunn Reserve) ENE launch 4. Warriewood / Turimetta (Turimetta Headland Reserve) SE and NE launch) Request additional launch sites. 5. Consideration of additional sites	Amendment. Page 89. Develop a policy and/or guidelines for activities on headlands and coastal areas incorporating iconic public views and sporting activities such as hang-gliding and paragliding. Note. There are no formal designated areas for gliding activities.
8. North Shore Horse and Pony Association Inc. and Northside Riding Club	Nine submissions including two from associations approve the Strategy's recommendation to undertake a feasibility study to improve safety conditions for riders. Submissions include maps showing preferred bridle paths.	Noted. The feasibility is scheduled to be undertaken at the appropriate time during the masterplanning of the Ingleside Urban Release project.
9. Avalon Beach Arts & Cultural Precinct Group	Request art gallery and associated studio and café. See Reference xx below.	Noted. See Reference 23 below.
10. Pittwater Community Arts Inc.	Request art gallery and associated studio and café. See Reference xx below.	Noted. See Reference 24 below.
11. S.J.B. Planning	The issues raised in this submission are covered in body of the report. 1. Draft Strategy Inconsistencies 2. Sportsground Provision for Warriewood Valley 3. Council wide sportsground provision 4. Council Open Space Dealings	Noted. The responses to this submission are covered in the body of the report. Amendment Delete references to Boondah Road in the Strategy, and separate discussion on sportsfield requirements into Older Established Suburbs and New Urban Release Areas.

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
DOGS		
12. Thirty submissions from dog owners	<p>Thirty (30) submissions from dog owners residing in Avalon and surrounds. The Strategy indicates people requested a comfortable, pleasant place to integrate dogs into their park experience. We reject this in favour of a linear area to allow dogs to run freely off-leash with water access. Suggest Station Beach or North Palm Ocean Beach in the evenings and early mornings and / or the path through Des Creagh Reserve from the skate park to Tasman Road. Careel Bay is too small with ticks, Mackerel Beach and Bayview are too far away and walking along the roads is becoming more and more unsuitable.</p> <p>Eight submissions request a community meeting with Council to discuss dog issues.</p>	<p>Noted. Council has recently investigated dog off-leash areas.</p>
13. Resident	<p>Request dogs are allowed over still water beaches to board vessels.</p>	<p>Noted. Council has recently investigated dog off-leash areas currently.</p> <p>Currently, dogs are not permitted under current conditions as these beaches are designated as swimming reserves and dogs are prohibited (leashed and unleashed, carried or moved in any other way) to enter the area. If, for example, the classification of Clareville Beach were changed to permit dogs to move from the road or adjacent reserve to the water then they are permitted on the beach. They must be leashed, because it remains a public place, but they are permitted to be there. Council could change the provision for part of the beach or at varying times but there is a risk that this would create confused compliance issues.</p>
LAND RATIONALISATION		
14. CABPRA	<p>Agree in principle to the sale of public land, provided it adheres to the principles outlined in the Strategy and safeguards are put in place to ensure compliance. Oppose sales for commercial developments, carparks, pathways linking roads, destruction of environmentally sensitive reserves. Suggest a project to better qualify the usage of community land to enable realistic commercial decisions and trade-offs.</p> <p>Request upgrade of Clareville Beach barbecue area upgrade including stormwater outlet, posts, fencing, painting, garbage/cleaning, pruning, shrub screening, signage, barbeque tables, car park.</p>	<p>Amendment. Page 85. It is recommended Council formalise the land rationalisation process through a strategic plan for review by the Council and public exhibition. The plan is to consider the submissions received in relation to this Strategy.</p> <p>Noted. Council is currently preparing a concept plan to upgrade the barbecue area and carpark at Clareville Beach.</p>

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
15. Twenty eight submissions from residents opposing the possible sale of small parks	<p>28 submissions oppose the sale of small parks. Most submissions objected to the sale of small reserves due to their ecological and social values. Mona Vale Residents Association is generally not in favour, and reiterated their opposition to the proposed sale of Lot 3 Kitchener Park.</p> <p><i>Indicative comments include - Agree with the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment and cultural heritage. A neutral space for children and adults from the local neighbourhood to meet and socialise / play. Small parks foster independence as often the first place children go to unsupervised. They develop social skills and encourage a healthy active lifestyle in a way that an outing to a larger regional park does not. Teenagers may hang out in small parks to talk. I am greatly concerned at the thought of selling existing reserves no matter how small, even as green space they are valuable.</i></p> <p><i>If small parks, such as these are lost they can never be replaced. As the population changes so too will the use these areas. Once they are gone they are gone forever.</i></p> <p><i>Object to the sale, swap or purchase of land unless the net result is the same or preferably more land area for recreation. Investigate alternative or additional use of land, such as golf courses as long as it doesn't entail selling off any of the open space for residential or commercial use. Must be kept for recreation only.</i></p> <p><i>Pavich Reserve represents Warriewood's historic market gardening community and their hard work. Our father's ashes are buried under our family sign. Development would destroy his place of rest and be very upsetting for our families.</i></p> <p><i>Pavich Reserve provides a green space in an industrial area covering Frankston Place and Bassett Street.</i></p> <p>Briniwa Street Reserve Two of the 28 submissions oppose the sale of Briniwa Street Reserve, Mona Vale.</p> <p>Woolcott Reserve Six of the 28 submissions oppose the sale of Woolcott Reserve, Newport.</p>	<p>Amendment Page 85_ It is recommended Council formalise the land rationalisation process through a strategic plan for review by the Council and public exhibition. The plan is to consider the submissions received in relation to this Strategy.</p> <p>Note. Most of the submissions objecting to the sale of public land oppose the sale of local parks. To place this in context, at the time when most of Pittwater was subdivided for housing, developers were required to provide a block of land for a park within their subdivision. Some of the parks were developed as playgrounds and others left as a vacant block of land for neighbourhood use.</p> <p>In contrast, today new urban release areas are pre-planned with developers' funds being pooled (under s.94 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1993</i>) and used by councils to purchase suitable land for reserves and associated infrastructure in the new release areas. Today the intention is to provide a network of parks and facilities that are consistent with contemporary environmental and recreational trends particularly linear spaces offering wildlife habitat and corridors and walking / cycling paths, canopy trees and large parks that provide for multi-use spaces such as parking, community buildings, markets, formal sport and informal activities.</p> <p>Community expectations are much higher today than they were in the mid-twentieth-century when most of Pittwater was subdivided. The Strategy identifies that we have an opportunity to develop a broader range of landscape settings and associated infrastructure. Pittwater contains a wide range of landscape settings covering 808.5 hectares. Sixty-one percent is held in conservation areas, but many of the grassy parks suitable for recreation are steep due to the rugged topography of the peninsula. As a result, Pittwater has a critical shortage of large areas of flat land particularly for sportsfields. Most of the sportsfields are on low lying land subject to sea level rise as well as low nutrient soils and low water holding capacity. Therefore the Strategy recommends Council sell some land of lower or limited environmental or social values to purchase land with higher values as well as upgrading existing parks.</p> <p>The Strategy recommends rationalising playgrounds by continuing to build large-scale facilities and removing some of the playgrounds that are not well sited or non-compliant. This will provide a more sustainable network of play opportunities across the LGA.</p>

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
	<p>Pavich Reserve</p> <p>Nine of the 28 submissions oppose the sale of Pavich Reserve including two submissions from the Pavich family.</p>	<p>The Strategy also recommends exploring new uses for existing reserves such as Avalon Golf Course. Much of this site is also steep, but one submission suggested a criterium, or a series of cycle tracks incorporating off-road cycling and walking for commuters. Another idea was to use the clubhouse as an art gallery and café. These are examples of the type of ideas the community may wish to explore at a later date to ensure the existing land provides the most benefit to the community as a whole.</p>
16. Resident	<p>Upgrade Beaconsfield Street Reserve as it is close to Newport Arms and related facilities.</p> <p>Support Council's concentration on integrating public spaces around the water better to add value for the public and work within the existing infrastructure such as commercial, residential, social and landscape-based features.</p>	<p>Noted. The Strategy does not contain a list of parks suitable for sale; rather it puts land rationalisation on the table for discussion.</p> <p>Beaconsfield Street was part of the land swap with the State Government for Currawong.</p>
17. Resident	<p>I believe Beaconsfield Reserve is now under the state government ownership due to the Currawong swap – please advise?</p> <p>Please clarify the result of the Mayoral Motion, Council's Meeting on 13th February, 2006, that included the following provisions, viz:</p> <p>"1. That no further action be taken on the proposed reclassification and sale of Beaconsfield Reserve, Newport; Pavich Reserve, Mona Vale; Woolcott Reserve, Newport; and Gretel Park/Road Reserve, Ross Street, Newport."</p> <p>"3. That the General Manager be requested to review and report back on the Strategic Property Rationalisation Program within three months."</p>	<p>Noted. See References 15 and 16.</p> <p>The Strategy recommends an in-depth strategic review of the open space network with Council and community input. (Page 45). This will update and supersede any previous property rationalisation programs.</p>
18. Resident	<p>Object to clause 7.2 "Convert or Adapt existing Open Space "with investigation of more equitable use of golf courses". Reject possible rezoning for urban development similar to NSW State Planning for 52 Cabbage Tree Road Bayview for 50+ units in a seniors living complex on Bayview golf course land.</p> <p>The Pittwater Council has significant achievements with saving the Ingleside Escarpment and protection of the Winnererremy Bay Foreshore. But, between both is a high priority wildlife corridor that will close if this large complex is approved. What ever happened to "Valuing & caring for our natural environment"?</p> <p>Apart from this one issue, the draft Strategy document is well presented .</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Strategy proposes exploring alternative uses for public land. This would be a formalised process and any proposals would be debated by the Council and community.</p>

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
19. Resident	<p>Support public use and access to Pittwater's waterways</p> <p>Object to the management of Pittwater's ocean pools, maintenance and upgrades</p> <p>Request improvements to beach lifeguard and lifesaving facilities - patrol towers and platforms which could also be used as public furniture when not in use.</p> <p>Support the use of developer contributions (sect 94 funds) for recreational facilities like skate parks and aquatic facilities associated with the Warriewood Valley land release and neighbouring suburbs.</p> <p>Ticket parking fees and fines should be used on improving facilities in that particular reserve rather than going into general revenue. Council should appoint a grants manager position to coordinate all grant funding available.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Strategy is based on landscape settings with a dedicated chapter on beaches.</p> <p>The use of s. 94 funding is governed by legislation and generally restricted to the related urban release area for the benefit of incoming residents.</p> <p>Council has a grant officer and as part of this strategy a grant writing workshop was conducted for local organisations and groups.</p> <p>Council has not received any formal requests to provide patrol towers by SLSCs</p> <p>The funds from ticket parking fees and fines are used to for various purposes including the open space network.</p>
PLAYGROUND RATIONALISATION		
20. Five residents opposing the removal of playgrounds	<p>Five submissions oppose the removal of smaller playgrounds in order to have larger scale facilities. Representative comments include:</p> <p>Playgrounds and open spaces, irrespective of the size are made best use of if they are close by and easily accessible thus serving a wider section of the community. I believe the strategy of creating larger-scale playgrounds would not provide local benefit when patrons would need to travel to these making a visit more of an excursion than a casual visit on a more regular basis</p> <p>Community spirit is better fostered in a small local environment compared to a large central one.</p>	<p>Amendment (Page 95). A playground strategy is currently being prepared for consideration by the Council and for public exhibition. The Strategy will analyse the network of playgrounds in consideration to their location, ease of access by the neighbourhood (radius / walking distance), condition of the equipment, safety and amount of use.</p>
21. Resident	<p>Support the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.</p> <p>Support that Council is looking to the future.</p>	Noted.
CULTURE AND HERITAGE		
22. Budawa Aboriginal Signage Group	<p>1. The Strategy does not include indigenous culture. Currently all existing local signage in Pittwater excludes Aboriginal heritage including the new phone app.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>1. The preparation of the Draft Strategy included a comprehensive community consultation program that was widely advertised. The Aboriginal community did not partake in the survey or workshops during this time.</p>

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
	<p>2. Request the Strategy include Council's Statement of Reconciliation, educational programs that foster Aboriginal social and cultural heritage, place names and interpretative signage. Those places of cultural, archaeological and spiritual significance be protected.</p> <p>3. Request an Indigenous signage strategy be developed with First People communities. Submission accompanied by a Powerpoint document on signage.</p>	<p>2. Pittwater Council Social Plan 2012 – 2016 outlines key social and community concerns at section 2.4 Celebration of Diversity and Culture and 2.5 Cultural awareness and appropriate practice. Council currently contributes to and supports the Aboriginal Heritage Office with links through the Strategic Planning and Natural Environment areas of Council. The AHO provides an education program.</p> <p>3. The Powerpoint document on signage by the Aboriginal Budawa Group dated 18 June 2014 will be compiled with Council's other reference tools for signage. However, Council will continue to work closely with the Aboriginal Heritage Office to ensure signage is consistent with official records.</p>
23. Avalon Beach Arts & Cultural Precinct Group signed by 20 residents	Submission signed by twenty residents including representatives from other local resident associations. The Group request an Avalon Arts and Cultural Plan and precinct. The proposed precinct extends from Avalon Golf Club to Barrenjoey High School, Avalon Bowling Club and Avalon Beach including Bangalley Headland focusing on alternative uses of under-used public buildings to provide education, heritage, cultural and tourism related activities.	<p>Pittwater Council's 'Emerging Issues Paper – Arts' was adopted in 2013 as part of the Pittwater Council Social Plan. The 'Arts Paper' identifies the opportunity to utilise existing spaces for cultural outcomes.</p> <p>Pittwater Council's 2014 – 2018 Delivery Plan and Budget identifies that a masterplanning process will be commenced in Avalon 2016 – 2017. Through this place planning exercise the community may identify Avalon as a cultural precinct and opportunities for cultural tourism.</p> <p>Community groups, business and Chambers of Commerce may continue to drive creative outcomes through places in Pittwater, and have the potential to work with the Enliven Pittwater strategy to realise goals.</p>
24. Pittwater Community Arts Inc. and twelve supporting submissions	<p>Pittwater Community Arts request a purpose built arts/cultural area including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▣ Two art galleries – regional and community ▣ Three class rooms with sinks, kilns and printing presses. ▣ Art shop for books and materials ▣ Café ▣ Gardens ▣ Music facilities ▣ University annex. <p>A further twelve submissions support the group including the three submissions below.</p>	<p>'Emerging Issues Paper – Arts', in the <i>Pittwater Social Plan 2012 – 2016</i> addresses how Pittwater's creative community (across a range of disciplines) are interested in more opportunities to present their work (4.4, Chapter 5).</p> <p>Section 5.6 records Pittwater Community Arts' desire for a purpose-built space, and unpacks the motivations for a purpose built space. The Chapter acknowledges the challenges of financing a large-scale, purpose built, Council managed facility, both in terms of capital spend, and ongoing staffing, programming, curatorial and maintenance costs. An additional challenge is competing cultural and community interests. Opportunities for cultural facilities within town or village centres will be explored through the place planning process – Mona Vale 14/15 and Avalon 15/16.</p> <p>The Paper identifies opportunities to think creatively about existing sites for the use of presentation of creative practice/industries</p>

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
25. Resident	Support Pittwater Community Arts Inc. submission. Also request a performing arts theatre to teach drama, dance and music.	As above.
26. Resident	Request a National and International Artists in Residency Program for Avalon. Similar to <i>resartis (A.I.R. Vallauris)</i> in France or the Katoomba Cultural Centre with cafes and bar for commercial benefits for Avalon.	<p>'Emerging Issues Paper – Arts', in the <i>Pittwater Social Plan 2012 – 2016</i> addresses how Pittwater's creative community (across a range of disciplines) are interested in increased professional development opportunities (section 4.4) and presentation opportunities (sections 4.4, and Chapter 5).</p> <p>These opportunities have provided the impetus for Pittwater Council to partner with Pittwater Community Arts to deliver the <i>Young Emerging Artist Grant</i> and exhibition in 2014, and to deliver the Eramboo/Enliven Pittwater Artist in Residence program and presentation in 2014.</p>
27. Local visual arts teacher	<p>Request an evening college (perhaps at Barrenjoey High as an annexe of Warringah Evening college), specialising in cooking, ceramics, design, arts, film, horticulture / bush regeneration. Also, holiday courses with students camping in the school grounds which contain a canteen, bathrooms, gas outdoor kitchen. Bush regeneration of Barrenjoey Headland / lighthouse could be considered.</p> <p>A purpose built art shed exists with a ceramics room and a potential printmaking studio, which is yet to be equipped. Suggest Council fund a part-time facilitator. .</p>	<p>'Emerging Issues Paper – Arts', in the <i>Pittwater Social Plan 2012 – 2016</i> looks at rates of "creative participation" at section 3.6.</p> <p>There are high rates of participation in the arts (music, literature, dance, visual arts etc.), and correspondingly high provision of classes and learning environments.</p> <p>A range of education services, community organisations, and businesses deliver social and education courses in Pittwater and the region. Details are included in Pittwater Social Plan and Economic Development Plan. Key groups include: U3A, NBBEN, Youth Reach, Northern Beaches Community College.</p>
OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO AVALON VILLAGE		
28. Resident	Request to improve Avalon - a market feel, partial road closure, art work, colourful painted shops, pop-up stalls, native trees, more picnic areas with playgrounds and fitness equipment, improve link with bowling, croquet and <i>petanque</i> clubs, stage, walks, cyclists, educational signs, adopt a path, improve public transport, link to beach, giant chalk/whiteboard, more seats, cultural activities.	<p>Pittwater's community has expressed interest in making parts of Pittwater "more distinct and reflective of the colourful people that live here" ('Arts Paper', <i>Social Plan</i>).</p> <p>The 'Arts Paper' and Enliven Pittwater strategy identify opportunities and pathways for enhancing the social, recreational and cultural offerings in our town and village centres.</p>
29. Resident	Request children's artwork highlighting Avalon walks. Name and label walks to and from Avalon Beach using stencils by local children. Whales for instance could be used for ocean-walks, and trees for Angophora walk. Local artists could provide maps which could be placed in the village. A contest could be held for the artwork and local businesses could be included on the map.	As outlined in the 'Arts Paper', many residents believe that the natural environment is a logical backdrop to cultural activities. While there are opportunities to leverage the natural environment as a backdrop to cultural events, Pittwater Council recognises the strong conservation ethos that exists in Pittwater and appreciates the need to make outdoor events environmentally sustainable.

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
30. Resident	Request improved parking at Avalon Village. Resolve the traffic issues to enable Avalon fulfil its potential to become a truly special village. Avalon needs a masterplan for parking, pedestrians, street planting and improved outdoor dining and café facilities. This would improve business. Avalon should be a destination of international note such as Santa Barbara, <i>Cinque Terre</i> , <i>Arles</i> and many more.	Pittwater Council's 2014 – 2018 Delivery Plan and Budget identifies that a masterplanning process will be commenced in Avalon 2016 – 2017. In the lead-up to the place-planning process, opportunities have been identified and will continue to be realised through the 'Arts Paper' and Enliven Pittwater strategy.
31. Resident	Although the skateboarders at Avalon skatepark are already relatively satisfied and grateful for the skate park ... there are far too many skateboarders for it to be functional to its full extent. We propose a plan to increase the quality and like-ability of Avalon skatepark and we wish to have a say in the design. Accepting our offer and giving us a chance will definitely benefit the community greatly and a new found respect will also be found for Pittwater council.	Noted. See body of report for response.
HERITAGE		
32. Resident	List of historic places along the Bayview to Church Point Walkway. Four reserves are under-represented in the Strategy – Griffin Park, Botham Beach, Browns Bay Rainforest Reserve, Browns Bay Wharf. In 2005 discussions were held regarding interpretive signage, copy of data attached they may be suitable for the phone app. Botham Beach is a suitable finishing point for the Bayview to Church Point Foreshore Walk for its peaceful place to sit and contemplate in spotted gum forest. The 156 bush at the top of the track will return to Manly.	Noted. See body of report for response.
33. Resident	The Heritage Park Trust in New Zealand, (mainly Akaroa and Banks Peninsula) 'The Book of Trees' – the name of a tree donor will be entered into his book along with the number of tree plantings, date and reason for planting, a map of the park will allow the tree's location to be referenced. Used to commemorate and event wedding anniversary graduation or visit. This could be used in Pittwater to reinforce canopy trees and help defray the cost o.	Noted. See body of report for response.
WALKING		
34. CABPRA	Support for the Adopt a Pathway program as recommended in the Strategy. Suggest initial funding of \$20K establish the program and a resident advisory group. Suggest look at the work of Dan Burden on Walkable and Liveable Communities for walking and cycling.	Noted. Council is currently developing a recreational walking track policy and guidelines based on the work by local residents who walked Pittwater and provided a list of recommendations. Submissions from the draft Public Space and Recreation Strategy will be taken into consideration during further development of the walking track policy and guidelines.

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
		<p>Council continues to upgrade walking and cycling facilities each year. Refer to Pittwater Council's 2014 – 2018 Delivery Plan and Budget which identifies a range of improvements proposed for the next four years.</p> <p>Projects identified for the 2014-2015 financial year include:</p> <p>Phone application – Walking Pittwater. Bicentennial Coastal Walkway upgrade for \$15,000 Bushland track upgrades for \$50,000 Cycleway grant application – if successful will provide \$200,000</p> <p>Concrete footpaths: Grandview Dve Newport - \$172,399 Pittwater Rd, Bayview - \$90,000 Vineyard St, Mona Vale - \$90,000 Rickard Rd, N. Narrabeen \$68,000 Vesper St, MV - \$60,000 Elanora Rd, Elanora Hts - \$77,000 Hudson Pde, Clareville \$100,000 Nareen Pde, N. Narrabeen - \$20,000 Bus stop upgrades - \$20,000</p>
35. Resident	Create a whale watch walk. From the bush track / stairs at Bilgola Beach to Avalon via the A. J. Small Lookout. A further walking track through Avalon Golf Course will provide a link walk connecting to Avalon village. Further walks include to North Avalon, Whale Beach and Palm Beach. Promote tourism.	<p>Noted. The Bicentennial Coastal Walkway (BCW) is used for whale watching and the viewing platform at Turimetta Headland was specifically installed for whale watching. Bilgola Headland also has an excellent viewing area. Council will continue to upgrade the BCW as funds allow.</p> <p>There are a few difficulties in relation to the suggested walk. People cannot walk through golf courses for safety reasons. It is not possible to construct a path behind 80 The Serpentine to 530 Barrenjoey Road because this area is too close to the cliff. Council has plans to construct a path from the northern end of Bilgola to the right of way adjacent to 54 The Serpentine when funds allow. This will improve public safety by avoiding the blind corner on The Bends.</p>
36. Resident	Walking and Cycling are the top priority as these are clearly the favourite activities shown in your survey. Yet there is no real strategy or costing to encourage cycling or walking around Pittwater.	<p>Noted. Support for walking and cycling noted. Council will continue to improve conditions for walkers and cyclists. See Reference 34 above.</p>
37. Resident	The top priority is for accessible natural walking paths linked to local shops. Pittwater has many fit retirees who want to continue to walk with safety, ideally with vistas of our gorgeous waterways, not just our abundant bush with ticks!	<p>Noted. See References 34 to 36 above.</p>

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
38. Resident	Request footpath through Riddle Reserve, sinkholes filled and public toilet for picnickers. Request footpath connecting Golf Ave with Robert Dunn Reserve in Coronation Street Mona Vale. This route is heavily used by walkers who risk walking along the edge of the golf course fairway. Request sand based walk along the beachfront between the dune and the fairway at Mona Vale Golf Course.	Noted. See References 34 to 36 above. Footpaths on roads are only provided if included in the current version of Council's Road Reserve Footpath Strategy. Note. The sinkholes have been investigated and filled. Mona Vale Golf Club is proposing to redesign the fairway and provide safety fences to enable the public to walk from Golf Avenue to South Mona Vale Headland.
39. Resident	The provision of safe, off-road walkways - not necessarily concrete, is the most important day-to-day amenity for the community. Crescent Road is the only connection between Newport and Mona Vale, but it is unsafe for pedestrians. It is safer to walk along Barrenjoey Road with its noise and exhaust fumes. The Avenue and walking tracks behind Waterview Street link to Mona Vale, but trees and obstacles make it difficult.	Noted. Support for safe walkways noted. See References 34 to 36 above. The provision of a footpath in Crescent Road is included in the draft list of streets to be updated when the Walks & Rides Plan is next reviewed. Pedestrian pinch points in other roads are addressed in Council's Pedestrian Amenity Plan.
CYCLING		
40. Resident	Avalon Golf Course is now underused and would be suited to a bitumen race track test skill and stamina and races - imagine Grand Prix Cycling! Cyclists would also be able to avoid the Bends and its dangerous corners. The clubhouse would provide healthy food and refreshments for the many people drawn to the new facility including cycle clubs. The natural environment can be incorporated into the scheme.	Noted. The Strategy recommends investigating alternative uses for existing open space. Avalon Golf Course has the potential to accommodate new facilities such as the cycle course, restaurant and nature walks. This can be investigated through Council's strategic planning process.
41. Resident	Build an off-road, through reserves as a cycle way from Palm Beach to the edges of Pittwater Council (map attached). Provide bike rentals at Avalon, Newport and Mona Vale Recreation Centres and the CEC provide bike lockers at public transport hubs.	Noted. This is not a practical option at present as Council's current priority is pedestrian access to shops, schools and public transport.
42. CABPRA	The Pittwater area and coastal road system are scenically stunning and offer huge potential for cycling. Suggest similar system as that used in Brisbane – stencil (depicting person on bike) for bike routes, supplemented with signage for off-road tracks. An Avalon to Palm Beach Loop Route is proposed of 25 km. including road bikes, mountain bikes and optional side routes.	Noted. All streets identified as cycle routes in Council's Walks & Rides Plan have had signs erected and logos installed already.
43. CABPRA	Specialists walking and cycling groups. Priority 1 Walking, 2 cycling, 3 public transport 4 private cars. That Council allocate an additional \$750,000 for footpaths and \$80,000 for cycling and to establish a resident based advisory groups in both areas.	Noted. This is consistent with Council's Road Reserve Footpath Strategy. Funding allocations are subject to Council's budget process each year.

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
EQUESTRIAN		
44. Nine submissions including two from associations	See body of report	See body of report
OLYMPIC POOL		
45. Resident	<p>Support Aquatic Centre and associated infrastructure/ facilities.</p> <p>I have been told that the olympic pool near St Mary's Cathedral runs at a profit. The operator told me he would be happy to run such a Centre in Pittwater -- at a profit.</p> <p>Knox Grammar School has an Aquatic Centre with ".....more than 1,700 learn to swim swimmers and 200 squad swimmers and many community groups and schools visiting the centre every week" Refer May Issue Peninsular Living page 64.</p> <p>Note too that Barker College, only a few kilometres away, also has a swimming pool/s which is used for squad training and by the community.</p> <p>It is said that the Warringah Aquatic Centre runs at a loss. Warringah rate payers must accept any loss as it is still open after 30-40 years.</p> <p>The rock pools and surf beach swimming probably also runs at a loss. No Pittwater property owner with a parking sticker pays to swim and the pools and beaches are cleaned very regularly, at a cost. We just accept the situation, possibly believing that parking fees from outsiders cover the costs. Do they?</p>	<p>On reconsidering the pool, it is noted that the Strategy does not reflect the Council's recommendation of 6/2/13.</p> <p>Amendment (Page 97 Item 7.10 Add to Point 2).</p> <p><i>However, at the Council meeting of 6 February 2013 it was recommended:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>That Council consider the contents of this report in conjunction with Councils long term financial plan.</i> 2. <i>That Council endorse the recommendation of the consultant noting that the recommendation is:</i> <i>"That Council should not consider the development of an indoor aquatic centre until at least the end of the 2017 financial year.</i> 4. <i>That it be noted that the report recommends that any future aquatic facility be located in the southern area of Pittwater.</i> <p>Income from parking fees goes into Council's consolidated revenue and used for various purposes including the management of the open space network.</p>
46. Resident	Support an Olympic Swimming Complex. The strategy dismisses this as too expensive and suggests residents should travel to Warringah, Manly or even Mosman. No mention of possible improvements to ocean pools or more/better baths. Despite having this huge waterway, there are almost no swimming baths, other than Taylor's Point and Paradise Beach. Bayview Baths is derelict, unusable and in need of reconstruction.	Noted. See Reference 45 above.

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
	<p>I request Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - considers the cost of an alternative basic facility, an outdoor Olympic pool with change rooms and solar rooftop heating for minimal winter swimming temperatures e.g. 20C -examines funding options including public/private partnerships or private only, or a loan facility. -considers a voluntary levy for ratepayers or set up a fund for donations and fund raising activities. - allocate land and draw up plans for a minimalist facility with the possibility of upgrading the facilities at some point in the future. - improve existing ocean pools so it is possible for more people to swim laps in peak periods such as marking lanes on the bottom where it is possible to do so, for example Bilgola. - construct more calm water baths in the Pittwater waterway and repair/reconstruct Bayview Baths. 	
GENERAL COMMENTS		
47. Resident	<p>Reject the sale of small parks. Amenities in larger parks needs to be consistent – large scale play equipment, free barbeques, seating and tables, cafes to provide revenue to manage the parks and toilets. Support initiatives to improve the ambience and activity in our town centres and engage older people. Encourage residents to volunteer for land care programs or adopt areas to empower residents. Suggest Mona Vale library and Village Park as a cultural hub for Mona Vale and for arts, public performance and busking. Consider strategies to bring young people back on the weekends, prepare an action plan for alternative uses for golf courses, allow mountain bike riding on fire trails, implement exercise equipment in parks, support light commercial activities to provide revenue, encourage evening walkers, encourage people to walk or ride to the park – footpath strategies. I particularly support the goals and objectives in the Strategy under 7.11</p>	Noted.
48. Resident	<p>The environment underpins recreation, promote geo tourism, e.g. Barrenjoey tombolo Support envirocare, share facilities, Outdoor exercise equipment Table tennis Education/ Interpretations Support that Council listens to Community views</p>	Noted.

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
49. Resident Member Northern Beaches Volleyball Association	<p>Support multi-purpose uses of existing resources</p> <p>Beach volleyball has been left out of ocean beaches. It is a healthy social sport that can be played by all ages.</p> <p>Support more artistic - like the recent La Luna exhibition at Long Reef.</p> <p>Also a few small permanent stages with electricity for lunchtime & weekend performances by actors, schools, musicians.</p> <p>Just a simple wooden platform with electricity at local beaches.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Support for volley ball noted. The Northern Beaches Volley Ball Association has been trailing volleyball at Newport Beach.</p>
50. Resident	<p>Support to protect, conserve & enhance the natural environment and to ensure all open space is accessible</p> <p>The Strategy misses community gardens.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Strategy supports community gardens. Refer to page 97.</p>
51. Resident	<p>Stop inappropriate development.</p> <p>The Strategy precludes the beach as a form of passive recreation. The Strategy relies on everything being a controlled activity. Please manage vegetation on the dunes – it now meets the sea - we have no sand left to enjoy and play in.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Pittwater's natural environment is unique. The Strategy recognises this by organising discussion and recommendations by landscape setting. Ocean Beaches are covered in Chapter 6.3, pp. 58-60 and 93 are devoted to Ocean Beaches.</p>
52. Facebook	More workout stations	Noted
53. Resident Member Mona Vale Residents Association	<p>Support to upgrade & expand public spaces for the benefit of the broader community, access for all, seniors, health benefits.</p> <p>Provide flexible, multipurpose public space, facilities & programmes Provide increased opportunities for seniors</p> <p>The Strategy contradicts itself proposing to purchase properties adjacent to existing sportsfields and grouping facilities to create hubs. Yet, Council proposes to sell lots 2 & 3 Kitchener Park which are adjacent to a large sportsground. Council should keep this land. Why doesn't Lot 3 appear in the reserve inventory on page 44 of the Appendices?</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Lot 3 is part of Kitchener Park, and is included under the park name, consistent throughout the Strategy. The reserve inventory provides a list of infrastructure, not land allotments. The land area or study area is shown in the maps, and Lot 3 is in the map on page 44.</p>

C10.6	Submission to Transport for NSW - Draft Hawkesbury River, Pittwater and Brisbane Water Regional Boating Plan
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Meeting: Sustainable Towns & Villages Committee

Date: 13 October 2014

STRATEGY: Beach & Coastal Management

ACTION: Provide planning, design, investigation and management for beaches, coastline and estuaries.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide for the consideration of Council, a copy of a submission to Transport for NSW in regard to the Draft Hawkesbury River, Pittwater and Brisbane Water Regional Boating Plan (refer **Attachment 1**).

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Draft Hawkesbury River, Pittwater and Brisbane Water Regional Boating Plan (the Plan) has been prepared on behalf of Transport for NSW by the Maritime Management Centre.
- 1.2 The Plan is one of eleven regional boating plans that have been prepared to cover the coast, estuaries, inland lakes, dams and major rivers of NSW.
- 1.3 On 19 August 2014 staff from Transport for NSW conducted a briefing session on the Plan for Pittwater Council staff prior to hosting a public information session for Pittwater residents at the Royal Motor Yacht Club.
- 1.4 Transport for NSW sought submissions and/or comments on the Plan by 31 August 2014.

2.0 ISSUES

- 2.1 Due to the submission closing date not aligning with Council's meeting cycle a submission was lodged under the delegated authority of the General Manager.
- 2.2 Transport for NSW indicated that significant grants for boating facilities and boating infrastructure would be made available for eligible projects in Pittwater under a new Boating Infrastructure Partnership Program.
- 2.3 The new program will replace the former Better Boating Program and will utilise the regional boating plans to evaluate and inform projects that will provide the greatest strategic benefits for each region.
- 2.4 Council's submission raises a number of matters which should be considered in finalising the Plan, including statutory environmental planning and management constraints for increasing boating infrastructure within and around the Pittwater waterway, boating pollution issues, ongoing maintenance funding for boating infrastructure as well as opportunities for increased utilisation of existing facilities at private clubs and marinas.

3.0 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

3.1 Supporting & Connecting our Community (Social)

The Hawkesbury River, Pittwater and Brisbane Water are some of the most significant regional waterways in NSW catering for the recreational demands of boat owners and other waterway users from within and well beyond the nine local government areas that bound these waterways.

3.2 Valuing & Caring for our Natural Environment (Environmental)

The health of the estuaries that constitute the region defined by the Plan should not be compromised in developing new boating facilities and infrastructure or by increased usage of the waterway by recreational boaters.

3.3 Enhancing our Working & Learning (Economic)

An increase in recreational boating activity could make a significant contribution to the local economy. The proposed infrastructure partnership program could help local government to meet the high costs of providing recreational boating infrastructure, particularly if the program assists in meeting the whole-of-life costs of providing such infrastructure.

3.4 Leading an Effective & Collaborative Council (Governance)

Council must ensure that the environmental and social values that help to define the Pittwater area are maintained and carefully balanced against the potential economic benefits of increased grant funding for boating facilities and infrastructure.

3.5 Integrating our Built Environment (Infrastructure)

In providing greater recreational access to waterways and new boating facilities and infrastructure, all associated impacts on the natural amenity and functionality of the existing built environment must be considered and appropriately managed.

4.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4.1 Transport for NSW has exhibited and sought comment on the Draft Hawkesbury River, Pittwater and Brisbane Water Regional Boating Plan.

4.2 Council staff have prepared a submission seeking that matters to do with the protection of the regional waterway environment and equitable funding arrangements for the provision of recreational boating infrastructure are given greater consideration by the Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the information provided in this report and the submission appended as **Attachment 1** be noted.
2. That the submission to Transport for NSW in response to the Draft Hawkesbury River, Pittwater and Brisbane Water Regional Boating Plan be endorsed.
3. That Council continue to be engaged in the preparation of the Regional Boating Plan and work with Transport for NSW to develop appropriate projects that may be eligible for funding under the Boating Infrastructure Partnership Program.

Report prepared by
Paul Hardie – Principal Officer Coast & Estuary

Jennifer Pang
MANAGER, CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

Paul Hardie, Principal Officer - Coast & Estuary
8am to 5:30pm Monday - Thursday, 8am to 5pm Friday
Phone 9970 1375 Mobile 0407 205 963

1 September 2014

Jonathan.ussia@transport.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Ussia

Re: Draft Hawkesbury River, Pittwater and Brisbane Water Regional Boating Plan

Further to issues discussed with Pittwater Council staff at the meeting held on 19 August 2014 at Council, the following general matters are raised for the consideration of the Maritime Management Centre in regard to the draft Hawkesbury River, Pittwater and Brisbane Water Regional Boating Plan (RBP).

Pittwater Estuary Coastal Zone Management Plan

Council has received a grant, made available through the NSW Estuary Management Program, to review and update the Pittwater Estuary Management Plan (2010) as a Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) in accordance with the Guidelines prepared by the NSW Government. Once certified, the CZMP must be considered when LEPs and DCPs are prepared as well as in the assessment of development applications for properties in the relevant coastal areas.

The Plan will, amongst other matters, determine appropriate criteria to measure the environmental health of the Pittwater estuary and recommend sustainable management actions to conserve and enhance estuarine ecological communities, especially threatened communities. These aspects of the Plan may affect the location and types of on-water boating infrastructure developed in the future.

Council will be pleased to support the key actions outlined in the draft RBP to the extent that they do not conflict with or compromise existing or future environmental values as established by the current estuary management plan and through the preparation of the Pittwater Estuary CZMP.

Land Use Planning Provisions for the Pittwater Waterway

Pittwater LEP 2014 came into effect on 27 June 2014 and is now the primary planning document guiding land use and development (through zoning and planning standards) in the Pittwater LGA including lands below the MHWL in the Pittwater estuary. As Pittwater LEP 2014 was prepared in accordance with the standard template direct translation from the previous Pittwater LEP 1993 has not been possible.

In order to address waterways zoning and land use inconsistencies that have arisen since the new document came into force, Council will undertake a strategic review of land use planning provisions for the Pittwater waterway commencing July 2015.

The review could have important implications for the future development of both water-based and land-based boat storage facilities as well as other recreational boating infrastructure. The involvement of Roads and Maritime in the preparation of the CZMP as well as the Strategic Land Use Review will be essential if the objectives of the RBP are to be met.

Pollution Management Opportunities

Apart from the regulatory and educational measures recommended in the RBP to improve navigation and safety for boaters in the region, the environmental impacts of recreational boating activities should be similarly addressed. Opportunities exist to better manage boating activities to include improved environmental outcomes, particularly in regard to boat effluent discharges and litter reduction.

In the past, the then Maritime Services Board and later Waterways Authority funded and conducted waterways clean-up programs which included the Pittwater estuary. Flotsam, jetsam and navigational hazards were routinely collected and removed from the waterway utilising a dedicated barge and cleaning crew. The condition of many regional waterways is all the poorer for the loss of these services.

Given the increasing environmental impacts of waterborne gross pollutants, especially plastics, regular clean-up and educational campaigns need to focus on all regional waterways. Boat effluent discharges, particularly in poorly flushed parts of estuaries, can have significant impacts on local marine ecologies, water quality and natural amenity. The state regional boating plans provide an ideal vehicle to address these issues in a consistent and co-ordinated manner for all NSW waterways.

The RBP should aim to deliver innovative and sustainable programs to arrest and remediate environmental degradation and pollution impacts from recreational boating activities. This objective should be supported by an appropriate key action.

Joint Funding Arrangements for the Ongoing Maintenance and Management of Boating Infrastructure

Coastal councils such as Pittwater are often responsible for providing and maintaining boat launching facilities, public wharves and jetties, dinghy storage facilities, commuter and cargo infrastructure as well as foreshore public open space. These facilities service the recreational demands of boaters from all over the metropolitan region and not just residents of the particular LGA.

Whilst grants are available for new infrastructure, these projects usually require local government to be a 50% equity partner. Even if projects are 100% funded by a grant program, the ongoing financial burden of maintenance and management costs remains the sole responsibility of the council.

A key action of the RBP should be to investigate more equitable ways of affording the whole-of-life costs of providing boating infrastructure so that individual councils are not unfairly burdened.

General Matters

The RBP cites many (but not all) existing public access and storage facilities in the region, but appears to omit those provided by private clubs and commercial marinas. Significant access facilities including boat ramps, jetties, wharves and pontoons, trailer parking and visitor berths/moorings are also provided by some of the larger private clubs and commercial marinas.

The Royal Motor Yacht Club, Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, Pittwater Aquatic Club and Bayview Yacht Racing Association all provide these facilities which should not be overlooked when compiling boating facility inventories. This type of infrastructure should be a major consideration in the development of the boat storage strategy for Pittwater and the potential for increased public access to and use of these facilities should be investigated.

Council takes this opportunity to thank Transport for NSW for briefing staff on the draft RBP and looks forward to working constructively to improve boating infrastructure and recreational boating opportunities in the Pittwater Waterway.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHT', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Hunt
DIRECTOR - URBAN & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS

C10.7 Pittwater 21 Development Control Plan (Amendment 15)

Meeting: Sustainable Towns & Villages Committee

Date: 13 October 2014

STRATEGY: Land Use & Development

ACTION: To deliver a comprehensive suite of development controls that improve the liveability of the area

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To amend the Pittwater 21 Development Control Plan (Pittwater 21 DCP) to rectify inconsistencies and erroneous omissions associated with the implementation of Pittwater 21 DCP (Amendment 11) and to make other minor amendments to controls (e.g. new references to documents).

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 18 November 2013, the outcome of the public exhibition of the proposed amendments to the Pittwater 21 DCP, associated with ensuring consistency with the provisions and terminology of the Pittwater Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2014, was reported to Council.
- 1.2 The report sought Council's endorsement that the proposed amendments be implemented in conjunction with the Pittwater LEP 2014. Council's resolution was:
1. *That the proposed amendments, including changes to Control C1.8 Dual Occupancy Specific Controls, to the Pittwater 21 Development Control Plan (...), be adopted by Council.*
 2. *That a public notice be placed in the Manly Daily within 28 days of Council adopting the amendments, specifying that the amendments to the Pittwater 21 DCP will come into effect once the draft Pittwater LEP 2013 commences.*
 3. *That a second public notice be placed in the Manly Daily once the date for the commencement of the draft Pittwater LEP 2013 is known, specifying the commencement date of the amended Pittwater 21 DCP.*
 4. *That a notice to repeal the Pittwater DCP No. 22 – Exempt and Complying be placed in the Manly Daily, following the commencement of the Pittwater LEP 2013.*
 5. *That a copy of the Pittwater 21 Development Control Plan, as amended, be forwarded to the Director General of the Department of Planning, once the plan comes into effect.*
 6. *That Council endorse the intention to amend clause 4.3 Height of Buildings of the draft Pittwater LEP 2013, following the second public exhibition, to limit the height of secondary dwellings, rural worker's dwellings and dual occupancies (detached), by inserting the following after subclause (7):*
 - (8) *Despite subclause (2), the height of a secondary dwelling or rural worker's dwelling must not exceed 5.5 metres if it is separate from the principal dwelling.*
 - (9) *Despite subclause (2), within a dual occupancy (detached), the height of the second dwelling must not exceed 5.5 metres.*
- 1.3 The amendments formed Amendment 11 to the Pittwater 21 DCP.
- 1.4 Pittwater 21 DCP (Amendment 11) came in to force on 27 June 2014.

2.0 ISSUES

- 2.1 During the implementation the Pittwater 21 DCP (Amendment 11), inconsistencies and erroneous omissions were identified, including:
- Incorrect references to land use terms, for example:
 - Reference to 'land subdivision' rather than 'subdivision' in subdivision controls
 - Reference to 'dual occupancy' in control D16.4 Side and rear building lines – Warriewood Valley Residential Sectors
 - Adding land uses to the list to which a control applies, for example:
 - Adding 'group home' to control B3.21 Flood Category 2
 - Adding 'dual occupancy (detached)' and 'secondary dwelling' to control B5.6 Rainwater tanks – Water Supply
 - Adding 'seniors housing' to a number of Warriewood Valley controls
- 2.2 In addition, other required minor amendments to controls have been identified, including updating reference to guidelines and reference documents, State agencies and legislation, and amending text for clarity.
- 2.3 Subsequently, a number of amendments are proposed to the Pittwater 21 DCP (**Attachment 1**) to improve the application and readability of the Pittwater 21 DCP.

3.0 FORWARD PATH

- 3.1 Should Council agree to the recommendation of this report, the proposed changes will go on public exhibition for 28 days, in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2000*. A written notice will be placed in the Manly Daily, letters sent to registered community groups, and the proposed changes made available on the Pittwater Council website and copies made available for viewing at the Customer Service Centres.
- 3.2 Following the completion of the public exhibition, all submissions received will be reviewed and considered before reporting back to Council.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

4.1 Supporting & Connecting our Community (Social)

The Pittwater 21 DCP is an integral component to evaluating the likely impacts of development, including social impacts in the locality. The Pittwater 21 DCP maintains and enhances the community lifestyle and built form character that enhances the health and wellbeing of the community.

4.2 Valuing & Caring for our Natural Environment (Environmental)

The Pittwater 21 DCP is an integral component to evaluating the likely impacts of development, including environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments in the locality. The Pittwater 21 DCP includes provisions that aim to reduce our ecological footprint, protect our bushland and biodiversity, as well as improve the health of our beaches and waterways.

4.3 Enhancing our Working & Learning (Economic)

The Pittwater 21 DCP is an integral component to evaluating the likely impacts of development, including economic impacts in the locality. The Pittwater 21 DCP facilitates participation in employment, local business opportunities and quality educational opportunities.

4.4 **Leading an Effective & Collaborative Council (Governance)**

The Pittwater 21 DCP is an integral component for the management of the assessment of development to ensure the decision making is ethical, accountable and transparent in the local community. The Pittwater 21 DCP facilitates community participation, collaboration and engagement.

4.5 **Integrating our Built Environment (Infrastructure)**

The Pittwater 21 DCP is an integral component to evaluating the likely impacts of development, including infrastructure impacts on both the natural and built environments in the locality. The Pittwater 21 DCP aims to enhance the liveability and amenability of our villages by promoting effective, efficient and connected transport choices through the improved mix of appropriate land use and development.

5.0 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 5.1 The Pittwater 21 DCP (Amendment 11), associated with the introduction of the Pittwater LEP 2014, came in to force on 27 June 2014.
- 5.2 During the implementation the Pittwater 21 DCP (Amendment 11), a number of inconsistencies (e.g. uses to which controls apply) were identified.
- 5.3 In addition, other required minor amendments (e.g. new references to documents) to controls have been identified.
- 5.4 Subsequently, a number of amendments are proposed to the Pittwater 21 DCP (**Attachment 1**) to improve the application and readability of the Pittwater 21 DCP.
- 5.5 Should Council agree to the recommendation of this report, the proposed changes will go on public exhibition for 28 days, in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2000*. A written notice will be placed in the Manly Daily, letters sent to registered community groups, and the proposed changes made available on the Pittwater Council website and copies made available for viewing at the Customer Service Centres.
- 5.6 Following the completion of the public exhibition, all submissions received will be reviewed and considered before reporting back to Council.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the statutory process to amend Pittwater 21 Development Control Plan be commenced.
- 2. That the proposed changes to Pittwater 21 Development Control Plan (**Attachment 1**) be placed on public exhibition for 28 days with submissions invited from the public and notified in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policies.
- 3. That following the period of public exhibition and consideration of any submissions received, the draft Pittwater 21 Development Control Plan be reported back to Council for further consideration.

Report prepared by
Andreas Olsen, Senior Planner (Strategic)

Andrew Pigott
MANAGER, PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

Proposed Changes to the Pittwater 21 Development Control Plan (DCP)

#	Development Control	Amendments		Reason				
1)	Table of Contents	Replace Newport Commercial Core Management Plan with Newport Commercial Core Masterplan		Administrative				
2)	5.2 Referral to the NSW Police Service	<div>Under Controls</div> <table><tr><td>Remove</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">Residential flat buildings, <u>multi dwelling housing</u> and <u>shop top housing</u> (more than 20 new dwellings)Mixed use developments with 20 or more dwellingsNew or upgraded commercial/retail developments (<u>Major works</u>)Business development with <u>works</u> over \$1 million value or amusement arcades, brothels/<u>restricted premises</u>, convenience storesNew <u>industrial development</u> with multiple industrial unitsSchools (new or upgraded)Transport interchangesLarge sports and community facilitiesClubs, pubs (extended hours, gaming rooms, intensification)Service stations (convenience stores and fast food outlets)Hospitals and Medical CentresTourist accommodation (backpackers, hostels)New/refurbished shopping centre or mall or other public placeUnusual developments (such as arcades, brothels, amusement centres, upgrade of Department of Housing property estates etc)Places of Public Entertainment (licences premises)Any other buildings open to the public not specified above</td></tr><tr><td>Insert</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">Residential flat buildings, <u>multi dwelling housing</u> and <u>shop top housing</u> (with 75 or more dwellings)Mixed use developments with 75 or more dwellingsNew or upgraded commercial/retail developments (<u>Major works</u>)New <u>industrial complexes</u> with multiple industrial units (i.e. multiple industrial works, floor space in excess of 8,000m²)New or upgraded schools (major works)Large sporting and community facilitiesClubs/hotels (extended hours, change of use, gaming rooms etc.)Service stations/convenience storesHospitalsUnusual developments (such as arcades, brothels, amusement centres, upgrade of Department of Housing property estates etc.)</td></tr></table>		Remove	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Residential flat buildings, <u>multi dwelling housing</u> and <u>shop top housing</u> (more than 20 new dwellings)Mixed use developments with 20 or more dwellingsNew or upgraded commercial/retail developments (<u>Major works</u>)Business development with <u>works</u> over \$1 million value or amusement arcades, brothels/<u>restricted premises</u>, convenience storesNew <u>industrial development</u> with multiple industrial unitsSchools (new or upgraded)Transport interchangesLarge sports and community facilitiesClubs, pubs (extended hours, gaming rooms, intensification)Service stations (convenience stores and fast food outlets)Hospitals and Medical CentresTourist accommodation (backpackers, hostels)New/refurbished shopping centre or mall or other public placeUnusual developments (such as arcades, brothels, amusement centres, upgrade of Department of Housing property estates etc)Places of Public Entertainment (licences premises)Any other buildings open to the public not specified above	Insert	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Residential flat buildings, <u>multi dwelling housing</u> and <u>shop top housing</u> (with 75 or more dwellings)Mixed use developments with 75 or more dwellingsNew or upgraded commercial/retail developments (<u>Major works</u>)New <u>industrial complexes</u> with multiple industrial units (i.e. multiple industrial works, floor space in excess of 8,000m²)New or upgraded schools (major works)Large sporting and community facilitiesClubs/hotels (extended hours, change of use, gaming rooms etc.)Service stations/convenience storesHospitalsUnusual developments (such as arcades, brothels, amusement centres, upgrade of Department of Housing property estates etc.)	Administrative as per advice from NSW Police (9 July 2012)
Remove	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Residential flat buildings, <u>multi dwelling housing</u> and <u>shop top housing</u> (more than 20 new dwellings)Mixed use developments with 20 or more dwellingsNew or upgraded commercial/retail developments (<u>Major works</u>)Business development with <u>works</u> over \$1 million value or amusement arcades, brothels/<u>restricted premises</u>, convenience storesNew <u>industrial development</u> with multiple industrial unitsSchools (new or upgraded)Transport interchangesLarge sports and community facilitiesClubs, pubs (extended hours, gaming rooms, intensification)Service stations (convenience stores and fast food outlets)Hospitals and Medical CentresTourist accommodation (backpackers, hostels)New/refurbished shopping centre or mall or other public placeUnusual developments (such as arcades, brothels, amusement centres, upgrade of Department of Housing property estates etc)Places of Public Entertainment (licences premises)Any other buildings open to the public not specified above							
Insert	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Residential flat buildings, <u>multi dwelling housing</u> and <u>shop top housing</u> (with 75 or more dwellings)Mixed use developments with 75 or more dwellingsNew or upgraded commercial/retail developments (<u>Major works</u>)New <u>industrial complexes</u> with multiple industrial units (i.e. multiple industrial works, floor space in excess of 8,000m²)New or upgraded schools (major works)Large sporting and community facilitiesClubs/hotels (extended hours, change of use, gaming rooms etc.)Service stations/convenience storesHospitalsUnusual developments (such as arcades, brothels, amusement centres, upgrade of Department of Housing property estates etc.)							
3)	A3.3 Pittwater context	<table><tr><td>Remove</td><td>2020 Strategic Plan-Our Sustainable Future</td></tr><tr><td>Insert</td><td>Pittwater 2025: Our Community Strategic Plan</td></tr></table>	Remove	2020 Strategic Plan-Our Sustainable Future	Insert	Pittwater 2025: Our Community Strategic Plan	Administrative	
Remove	2020 Strategic Plan-Our Sustainable Future							
Insert	Pittwater 2025: Our Community Strategic Plan							
4)	B2.1 Subdivision - Rural and Large Lot Residential Land	<div>Under Controls</div> <table><tr><td>Remove</td><td>land subdivision</td></tr><tr><td>Insert</td><td>subdivision</td></tr></table>	Remove	land subdivision	Insert	subdivision	Consistency with <i>Pittwater LEP 2014</i>	
Remove	land subdivision							
Insert	subdivision							
5)	B2.2 Subdivision - Low Density Residential Areas	<div>Under Controls</div> <table><tr><td>Remove</td><td>land subdivision</td></tr><tr><td>Insert</td><td>subdivision</td></tr></table>	Remove	land subdivision	Insert	subdivision	Consistency with <i>Pittwater LEP 2014</i>	
Remove	land subdivision							
Insert	subdivision							