

MINUTES

COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held in Manly Town Hall on

THURSDAY 8 MAY 2025

Minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee
held on Thursday 8 May 2025
in Manly Town Hall, commencing at 9:00am

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Sue Heins	Frenchs Forest Ward – Mayor - Chair
Cr Rowie Dillon	Pittwater Ward
Cr Nick Beaugeard	Curl Curl Ward
Cr Robert Giltinan	Representing Narrabeen Ward
A/Supt Michelle Mathieson	Representing Superintendent John Duncan Northern Beaches Police Area Command
Doug Brooker	Northern Beaches Liquor Accord
Sarah Sweeney	Northern Beaches Mental Health Interagency
Graham Barganna	Representing Northern Sydney Housing and Homelessness Interagency
Melissa Palermo	Northern Sydney Local Health District
Anya Rowlandson	Representing Sydney North Health Network
Libby Paulsen	Community Representative – Frenchs Forest Ward
Lucy Band	Community Representative – Manly Ward
Mary Brearton	Community Representative – Narrabeen Ward
Kylie Ferguson	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Peta Garrett	Representing Dr Sophie Scamps MP Federal Member for Mackellar
Kim Preston-Hiney	Representing James Griffin MP State Member for Manly
Gypsy Bryant	Representing Michael Regan MP State Member for Wakehurst

Council Officer Contacts

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

Visitors

Detective Chief Inspector Michael Boutouridis	Northern Beaches Police Area Command
Maeva Masterson	Executive Manager Library Services
Alison Hamilton	Library Digital Services Manager
Liz Cordoba	Manager, Strategic and Place Planning
Rebecca Sio	Strategic and Place Planning
Phillip Devon	Manager Transport Network

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

2.0 APOLOGIES

Representatives and visitors were welcomed to the meeting.

Apologies were received from

Zali Steggall OAM MP	Federal Member for Warringah
Jacqui Scruby MP	State Member for Pittwater
Cr Candy Bingham	Manly Ward
Cr Vincent De Luca OAM	Narrabeen Ward
Supt John Duncan	Northern Beaches Police Area Command
Eugene McGarrell	Northern Sydney Health Network, Northern Sydney PHN
Sarah Kingsbeer	Northern Sydney Housing and Homelessness Interagency
Sam King	Northern Beaches Youth Interagency
Michele Bell	Northern Sydney Community Network (Senior's sector)
Aileen Ogilvie	Northern Beaches Community Drug Action Team
Wendy Finianos	Community Representative – Curl Curl Ward
Scott Phillips	Chief Executive Officer

The following members were not in attendance

Matt Cross MP	State Member for Davidson
Representative	Northern Beaches Domestic Violence Network

3.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2025

The minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2025, copies of which were previously circulated to all members, were confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Moved: Mary Breaton, seconded Gypsy Bryant

5.0 ACTIONS UPDATE

5.1 ACTIONS UPDATE

Progress against the action as included in the Agenda were noted by the Committee.

MEETING OF 14 NOVEMBER 2024

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	PROGRESS
6.4.1	The Liquor Accord engage with relevant stakeholders to investigate options for a community education campaign.	Doug Brooker	The Liquor Accord have engaged with Police on the 'banned from one, banned from all' initiative. Advice will be communicated to Committee as the Liquor Accord community education project progresses.

MEETING OF 13 FEBRUARY 2025

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	PROGRESS
6.1	Circulate information to Committee to support their response to concerns for mental health.	Supt Duncan	Completed
6.3.1	Link to information on existing AFZs to be circulated to Committee.	Kath Young	Completed
6.3.2	Advice on commencement of public exhibition of proposed AFZs be circulated to Committee.	Kath Young	Completed
6.4	Northern Beaches Youth Interagency to lead the consideration on the need to establish more legal graffiti walls across the Northern Beaches.	Sam King Will Wrathall	Discussed at the May Youth Interagency Meeting. A survey is being developed to seek input from young people on this matter. Survey outcomes will be reported to the 14 August 2025 meeting.
7.4.1	Special Rate Variation - Link to relevant reports to be circulated with minutes.	Kath Young	Completed

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS**6.1 POLICE REPORT – A/SUPERINTENDENT MICHELLE MATHIESON**

Acting Superintendent Michelle Mathieson and Detective Chief Inspector Michael Boutouridis provided an update on Northern Beaches Police Area Command matters. It was requested the Committee hold in confidence discussion of policing matters which do not appear in these Minutes.

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

- Police noted the personal impact of crime that is not reflected by statistics.
- Domestic violence related assault: the statistical upward trend reflects local efforts to encourage the community to report incidents, including historical matters. Domestic violence

continues to be a high priority for Northern Beaches Police Area Command. Each report is thoroughly investigated and resources allocated to address this issue, including Operation Amarok.

- Discussed that statistics should be considered over the long term, for example Break and Enter Dwelling incident count was 240 for the 12 month period to December 2024. This was compared to figures in 1999-2000 where the count was around 1900. It was noted that modern forensics and technology are identifying offenders and improved Police and Court systems are contributing to improved results. Police use all available resources from around the State to address crime e.g. Strikeforce Sweetenham in relation to Break and Enter Dwelling offences.
- Police are working with local retailers on strategies to decrease the risk of theft.
- The NSW Government is currently reviewing the operation of *doli incapax*, which is the legal presumption that children between the ages of 10 and 14 do not sufficiently understand the difference between right and wrong to be held criminally responsible.

DISCUSSION

- Significant work is being undertaken by Licensing Police and the Northern Beaches Liquor Accord on implementing strategies to prevent the theft of alcohol from retailers.
- Seven Probationary Constables have recently joined the Northern Beaches Police Area Command and have been placed into vacant policing positions.
- The under reporting of domestic violence was discussed. Statistics indicate domestic violence incidents occur at least 26 times before the victim will call for assistance. A large number of non-government and government agencies provide support opportunities for those impacted.
- The sale of illegal tobacco was discussed. Community members are encouraged to report retailers suspected of selling illegal tobacco or vapes via the [NSW Health online portal](#). NSW Health Officers are responsible for investigating and seizing goods in these matters.

6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

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

Companion Animal Management for the period February to April 2025:

- 63 compliance actions were investigated in the period to with 16 infringements issued.
- 54 dog attacks were reported to Council, 12 of which occurred on private property.
- 299 proactive patrols were completed across beaches and parks with 9 penalties issued.
- Three information nights were held from March to May 2025 in conjunction with the Pets Professional Guild of Australia. The sessions held at Mona Vale, Dee Why and Belrose focussed on responsible pet ownership and dog park etiquette.
- Rangers and a local dog trainer attended two educational pop-up events in March at Rowland Reserve Bayview and North Curl Curl to provide educational information about responsible pet ownership.
- The NSW Office of Local Government recently undertook a review of the Companion Animals Act. Council made a submission advocating for a strengthening of statutory powers around the management of roaming cats, requirements for responsible dog ownership, training and education and strengthening provisions including penalties regarding the management of dogs.

School Zones

- 107 school patrols were conducted with 215 penalties issued around school zones.

Manly night patrols

- Ranger patrols reducing in line with the autumn/winter season.
- A reduction in statistics was noted.

Arbovirus Sampling Program

- Council has continued partnering with NSW Health to deliver the mosquito monitoring program in the Warriewood wetlands.
- In March 2025, trapping identified the [Barmah Forest virus](#). A safety alert and media release advised the community of the risk and protection information.
- NSW Health will assess the final samples collected and advise Council of any further risks.

Proactive Compliance

- Get the Site Right blitz held on 20 March 2025
 - Officers inspected construction sites across the LGA to assess sediment and erosion control measures.
 - Campaign seeks to prevent pollution by highlighting the importance of securing building materials and education on best practice controls.
 - 71 sites were visited with no major concerns identified.
- Asbestos Awareness stall held in April 2025
 - Hosted at Bunnings Narrabeen to raise awareness on asbestos safety with focus on home renovations
 - The event attracted a lot of positive interest from tradies and local residents.
 - Council will continue to participate in this initiative and hold similar future events.

DISCUSSION

The early morning presence of dogs on beaches was raised. Reports from the community inform Ranger presence across the Northern Beaches.

Deregistration of dogs was discussed. Legislation includes a requirement for owners to advise Council of the death of their dog. Council has engaged with vets and the community to encourage reporting.

Council has made submissions to the NSW Office of Local Government in relation to the detrimental impact of cats on the environment and strengthening powers to manage cats in the community.

6.3 MANLY SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCT

Council's Strategic and Place Planning staff presented information on the proposed Manly Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) and sought feedback on potential community safety issues.

At its meeting on 18 February 2025, Council resolved to seek grant funding from the NSW Government to establish a SEP trial in the Manly commercial centre. A SEP is a designated area where Council sets the maximum trading hours and entertainment sound controls in a precinct management plan, overriding existing planning controls, development consents and liquor licence conditions. The key features of a SEP include:

- Revised trading hours for all businesses within the precinct.
- Tailored sound controls for entertainment activity.
- Existing trading hour and sound control provisions in DA consents and liquor license conditions are turned off.
- Clear complaints and compliance processes.
- Benefits for eligible licensed venues (reduced licensing fees, extra hours of trading on nights with live performances).
- Comprehensive and mandatory stakeholder engagement.
- An "eyes wide open" clause to be inserted into planning certificates, acknowledging that the property is located in a vibrant precinct.

Early consultation identified community support for the concept of a SEP on the basis of increased

liveliness and vibrancy, variety and quality of nighttime offerings, and potential benefits to the local economy and live music/creative industries.

Concerns identified by the community during early consultations included sound management, safety, and antisocial behaviour relating to alcohol consumption.

The proposal for a SEP in Manly is aligned with the [Manly Place Plan](#) has the intention of improving the variety of offerings in the night time economy. A grant application has been submitted and the outcome of the application will be known in late May 2025.

A number of regions across NSW are rolling out [NSW Government Special Entertainment Precincts](#) with the Enmore Road SEP being the first to be operational in December 2023.

DISCUSSION

Should funding be granted, it is anticipated a trial would commence mid 2026 following public exhibition of proposed precinct management strategies. Evaluation during the 12-month trial period would include regular monitoring and further opportunity for input from the Committee.

The impact of SEPs on development applications and 24-hour liquor licenses was discussed. Additional work is being carried out by the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner and the next tranche of reforms is likely to address this matter.

In this planning phase, public transport considerations have been included. Council is required to consult with Transport for NSW to identify any gaps.

Police raised concerns about the potential for an increase in alcohol related violence and advised that a user pays model may need to be considered to meet any additional demand on their resources. It was also noted that while some policing response will be involved, Police are not the agency responsible for management of noise related issues and community education in this regard will ease any impact on them. It was also noted that not all activities will require Development Applications. Council is looking forward to consulting and working with Police and Liquor and Gaming on these issues.

All-ages and alcohol-free live music events in the area were discussed.

The [Inner West Council - Good Neighbour Policy](#) was raised. Council's Compliance team are in the process of developing a 'Good Neighbour Guideline' with the aim to support community members in resolving disputes.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.3	Provide an update on the development of a Good Neighbour Guideline	Azmeena Kelly	13 November 2025

6.4 24/7 LIBRARY SERVICES

Council's Library Services staff provided an update on the progression of expanding 24/7 library services across the Northern Beaches network.

Following the successful implementation of the Forestville 24/7 Library Service, Council has assessed all sites to identify options for further expansion of the 24/7 library service.

Information on the proposed site for the next 24/7 Library Service was shared with the Committee. A range of membership and security considerations were outlined and Committee input on potential community safety issues was invited.

A report is being prepared for an upcoming Council meeting, with a view to initiating a new trial site

in 2026.

DISCUSSION

24/7 member requirements and the positive experience with customer behaviour at Forestville 24/7 were discussed.

It was noted that 24/7 Library members:

- are required to sign a Terms and Conditions agreement and attend an on-site induction session.
- are aged 16 years and over.
- 24/7 membership is not available to community members with Light membership.
- children under 16 may attend with a parent or guardian who is an adult 24/7 member and must be supervised at all times.
- duress alarms and other security features are available at the library to support 24/7 members.

The Library as a 'third space' (a community gathering space outside of home and school) for young people was discussed.

6.5 E-BIKE SAFETY

The Transport Network Manager provided an update on the NSW Parliament inquiry into the use of e-scooters, e-bikes and related mobility options.

Council provided a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry and the [Inquiry Report](#) was released in February 2025. The NSW Parliamentary Inquiry produced 3 findings and 34 recommendations for the Government to respond. The NSW Government response is due in mid-May 2025.

Council's [e-bike safety](#) campaign including 'Know the e-bike code' was informed by market research that identified low levels of understanding of relevant road rules and safety matters among young people.

Rangers are not equipped to respond to e-bike matters however have been working with Police to deliver four beachfront education campaigns. Motorised scooters and modified e-bikes are currently illegal on roads and footpaths.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the feasibility of excluding e-bikes from specific areas for example at dog parks.

Council's Transport Team are working on another e-bike education campaign round with a view to launch during the summer period.

Discussed whether there is potential for inclusion of e-bike matters in existing cycle safety program such as the Federal [Ausbike](#) program for 5–12 year olds. Several schools are undertaking their own education campaigns in collaboration with Transport for NSW.

Police can only enforce what is regulated under legislation. There are age requirements for the issue of infringement notices which impact persons, particularly those under 16 years. Noted that *doli incapax*, as outlined at Agenda item 6.1, also relate to e-bike riding. Enforcement challenges related to safety of riders and Police were outlined.

6.6 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

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

An update on the Alcohol Free Zone (AFZ) Review 2025 was provided. The public exhibition of the proposal to establish AFZs has now closed, and a report is being prepared for Council's July 2025 meeting.

It was noted that the current Community Safety Plan which informs this Committee will expire in 2026. The review of the Plan is currently being planned and the Committee was advised that they will be engaged in consultation activities to assist the development of future direction.

The Primary Health Network is establishing the [Northern Sydney Wellbeing Collaborative](#) to bring together people across the health and social care sector, with community and local stakeholders to consider local health and social challenges and assist in the codesign of an early intervention response. The initiative will aim to create more connected, accessible, and person-centred services that address key health challenges locally, including chronic illness, mental health, aged care, alcohol and other drugs, and suicide prevention. To register your interest in joining the Northern Sydney Wellbeing Collaborative [click here](#).

Separately the Northern Sydney Local Health District is working towards a [Youth Mental Health Hub](#) at Brookvale, alongside the existing Safe Haven service. Community feedback on the design of the Hub can be provided at [Youth Mental Health Hub Feedback](#).

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
5	Report on outcomes of the survey of young people on legal graffiti walls.	Sam King	14 August 2025
6.3	Provide an update on the development of a Good Neighbour Guideline	Azmeena Kelly	13 November 2025

The meeting concluded at 11.05am

This is the final page of the minutes comprising 9 pages numbered 1 to 9 of the Community Safety Advisory Committee held on Thursday 8 May 2025 and confirmed on Thursday 14 August 2025