Minutes

Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park Advisory Committee Meeting

Held on Monday 26 May 2025 at Civic Centre, 725 Pittwater Road, Dee Why in the Flannel Flower Room and online commencing at 5:00pm

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Cr Robert Giltinan	Northern Beaches Council

Community Members

David Beharrell	Environment Representative
Paul Lidgard	Recreational Representative
Robert Baker	Community Representative

State Government Representatives

Mel Hall	NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service
Paul Harper	Crown Lands, Natural Resource Management Project Officer

Council Officers

Jeremy Smith	Executive Manager, Parks and Open Space
Damian Ham	Manager, Open Space Planning
Jodie Crawford	Manager, Coast & Catchments
Stephen Hartley	Manager, Parks Operations
Brendan Smith	Manager, Bushland & Biodiversity
Jodie Crawford	Manager, Coast & Catchments
James Brisebois	Team Leader, Catchments

Apologies

Cr Kristyn Glanville	Northern Beaches Council

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2.0 WELCOME

3.0 APOLOGIES

- Cr Kristyn Glanville, Northern Beaches Council - Council Representative

4.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

- None

5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS & PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Damian Ham updated the Advisory Committee on the status of the Actions including from the last meeting 3 March 2025 and updates on actions arising were provided by Council Officers in attendance:

ACTION 1: Council to share with the Advisory Committee the Bush Fire management Plan for Manly Dam.

UPDATE provided by Brendan Smith:

- The Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) for the area, which was previously on public exhibition, is awaiting final approval from the Rural Fire Service (RFS). Once released, it will supersede the legacy plan currently in force for the LGA.
- The current BRMP remains the operative document until the new version is formally adopted.
- Supporting documents and notes are available online, including a spreadsheet version. These can be accessed via the RFS website or by searching for "Warringah Pittwater Bush Fire Risk Management Plan."
- The Asset Protection Zone (APZ) design and fire management actions are now coordinated by the Council's Bushfire Coordinator, who works with park staff and contractors. The Parks & Open Space team coordinates APZ works at Manly Dam.

  New ACTIONS:

  - Council to confirm release status of the updated Bushfire Risk Management Plan
  - Council to request from RFS a copy or summary of the 12-month fire management schedule
  - Council to circulate a link to the RFS website and "Warringah Pittwater Bush Fire Risk Management Plan where notifications of burns are published.

ACTION 2: Council to review and enhance signage at Manly Dam trailheads to educate visitors on park regulations including for dogs and to examine signs at other locations including North Head.

UPDATE provided by Damian Ham:

- The project to review dog-related policies, including as they apply to Manly Dam, has recommenced.
- Stephen Hartley updated the committee that the entry signage is currently under review by the signage officer, in collaboration with design team, to ensure alignment with the style guide and accuracy of icons.

- The signage scope currently includes, dog signage, trailhead signage and entry signage
- Three main trailhead sites currently being worked on are, Wakehurst Parkway, Nyrang and Allambie Tennis Courts.
- Budget constraints mean other trailheads will be addressed in future phases.

- General discussion of signs including electronic signs for major trailheads and missing signs.

New ACTIONS:

1. Council to install signage along Warringah Street, and to consider a lit "closed" sign at the major eastern entry point and look at additional signage at key locations extending toward Manly Vale School.
2. Council to consider a trial of solar-powered electronic signage at key park entry points and trailheads.
3. Council to consider installing dog etiquette signage at key location(s).

ACTION 3: Investigate whether the Climbing Galaxias specific fish species at Manly Dam can be included in heritage listings based on their location and if they can be classified as a population by the Department of Primary Industries and report back at the next meeting.

UPDATE provided by Jodie Crawford:

- The original request was raised by Cr Glanville regarding whether the Climbing Galaxias species at Manly Dam could be listed under heritage protections or classified as a distinct population by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI).
- Council has received detailed correspondence from NSW Fisheries, which outlines that for the species to be listed as a distinct population, a robust scientific study would be required to demonstrate how the Manly Dam population differs from others in the state.
- There was discussion about the implications of listing and whether such a listing would have practical impact, especially in influencing development outcomes, and whether agencies like Sydney Water would be exempt from related controls.

New ACTIONS:

1. Council to circulate the copy of the DPI correspondence to Committee members.

ACTION 4: Council to provide an update on the outcomes from the EPA on Madison Way Basin at the next meeting.

UPDATE provided by Jodie Crawford:

- Council met with the EPA, who indicated they are pushing the contractor to clean out at least one section of the Madison Way Basin.
- The EPA has queried which contractor Council has engaged, but Council clarified that it is not their responsibility to undertake the works.
- The clean-up costs are expected to be in addition to fines already issued.
- Concerns were raised about the effectiveness of EPA enforcement, especially when pollution is pumped underground and difficult to trace

visibly.

- Council's Strategic Planning team is leading work on harmonising LEPs and DCPs, with updates expected in the second half of the year.

ACTION 5: Council to report back on bush regeneration or other works undertaken or planned for fire trails at Manly Dam and to provide the Advisory Committee with regular fire trail updates.

UPDATE provided by Stephen Harley:

- Stephen Hartley used a PPT presentation (attachment A) to update the Committee on data which was derived from contractor reports covering the past three months, detailing hours worked and areas treated across the North and South zones.
- There was discussion regarding the presence of any priority or declared weeds at Manly Dam under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*. Brendan Smith advised that no such weeds have been confirmed at this stage but would verify this information.

New ACTIONS:

1. Council to include in future updates to the Advisory Committee a summary of bush regeneration and fire trail maintenance activities at Manly Dam.
2. Council to confirm whether any priority or declared weeds under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* are present at Manly Dam, and report findings to the Advisory Committee.

6.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Advisory Committee Meeting held 3 March 2025 were adopted.

7.0 AGENDA ITEMS

7.1 Standing Items:

7.1.1 Water Quality Matters

- Jodie Crawford provided an update on a recent pollution incident at the new Forest High School site. The matter has been reported to the NSW EPA, who is the lead agency for this matter. Council's environmental compliance team is aware of this matter.
- The Manly Dam UTS Water Quality Project was discussed. Damian Ham noted that:
  - There is currently no funding allocated in the 2025–26 budget to proceed with Stage 2 of the project.
  - Due to financial constraints and competing priorities, the project has not been put forward for funding at this time.
  - Stage 2 was estimated in the order of $20,000–$30,000.
- The UTS report has been useful in informing the Aquatic Reserve Project and is being used as an ancillary document in related catchment health work.
- A request was made for clarifications on information within the UTS report, including:
  - Clarification of thresholds on charts
  - Updates to the location of monitoring sites
  - Council staff acknowledged the request and agreed to follow up and provide the requested updates.
- Discussion about the dam's reliance on the aerator system to maintain water quality, and the potential for degradation if that system fails.

- James Brisebois provided a Catchment plan project update and presentation (attachment B) on the Catchments Rehabilitation Plan, outlining its objectives and current progress. The committee requested that Manly Dam be given priority.

ACTIONS:

1. Council to obtain clarification about the UTS Water Quality Report, threshold values on monitoring charts and information on the location of water quality monitoring sites.
2. Council to provide an update at the next meeting on if Manly Dam has been prioritised in the Catchment project.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE:

1. Paul Harper to confirm whether Crown Lands has an existing arrangement for Ausgrid to access to its infrastructure at Manly Dam. The purpose is to clarify rights or responsibilities outlined for either party.

7.1.2 Strategic Planning

- Jeremy Smith provided a Strategic Planning update.
- No VPAs are currently under assessment within the Manly Dam catchment. We have 4 DAs under assessment, and we have had 4 additional approvals and additions approved in the last three months, these cover such things as pools in backyards and home extensions.
- A recent development application was received for 14 Aquatic Drive, proposing part of the site be converted into storage.
- Jeremy Smith updated the Committee on changes to Housing reforms led by the State government and how they may impact Manly Dam and the catchment, especially in Frenchs Forest.
- The strategic planning team has introduced a new draft DCP addressing town centres and the new housing reforms.
- These controls are currently out for exhibition and public feedback.
- Jeremy Smith updated the Committee that Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee have written to Council expressing concern over the sale of 2 Martin Luther Place in Allambie Heights. This is the site of a retirement village, and concerns were raised about its proximity to bushland and a fire trail on the land.

ACTIONS:

1. The Council's Strategic Planning team to provide an update on LEP, DCP and housing reforms at the next meeting.

7.1.3 Grants and Capital Works

- Jeremy Smith provided an update on the opportunities and constraints for future improvements to Picnic Areas 3 and 4, including guidance from the Manly Dam Plan of Management (Attachment C).
- Amenities Block F at Area 3 is scheduled for a $350K (approx.) upgrade in 2026/27, including a new accessible unisex toilet (dependent on the availability of funding and approvals).
- Amenities Block G at Area 4 is planned for a $200K (approx.) upgrade in 2031/32, maintaining current facilities with structural improvements (dependent on the availability of funding and approvals).

- The Committee discussed accessibility, the difference between fully independent and assisted access and design.
- Council will conduct community engagement with stakeholder groups such as the Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee and accessibility groups to gauge feedback on the proposal. Mel Hall also recommended engaging with schools.
- Community reps consider that it was inappropriate to use $150,000 of the mountain bike budget to fund the car park works at Bantry Bay.

ACTIONS:

1. Council to arrange a site visit for Committee members to assist in refining the scope and gathering input on the upgrades desired for picnic areas 3 and 4.
2. Council to engage with accessibility and other stakeholder groups in regard to the proposals for picnic areas 3 and 4.

Mountain Bike Trail

- Jeremy smith updated the Committee on the Mountain Bike Trail.
- A consultant has been engaged to prepare an REF for a trail diversion on Wakehurst Parkway to avoid a large fire trail section.
- This proposed diversion has been reviewed by Heritage NSW and appears to fall within the heritage exemption, although formal approval will still be required once the plan is finalised.
- The Committee noted their concern that the delivery of recent mountain bike trail upgrades did not meet the expected value for money.

ACTIONS:

1. Council to arrange a prioritisation workshop for future pedestrian and bike trails upgrade and renewals.

Brick Pit Reserve

- Jeremy Smith updated the Committee on the Brick Pit Reserve project.

7.1.4 Community Use Matters

- Damian Ham informed Committee members that Council's Sport and Recreation team has updated the online booking system for picnic tables at Manly Dam so that the public can now view availability and book and pay online.

Water Skiing

- Discussion was held about the possibility of adjusting water ski times to enable other use in the power boat zone and corridor access for non-powered activities.
- Committee supported reviewing water skiing again
- Jeremy Smith responded that both matters have been reviewed recently and are not an operational priority.
- Community reps disagree with the proposition by staff that the equitable community use of the lake, e.g, water skiing hours of use, has been resolved.

ACTIONS:

1. Staff to investigate safety of other water users adjacent to the eastern and western ends of the water ski area.

8.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

IPART Update

- Jeremy Smith provided an update on the recent IPART decision regarding Council's application for a special rate variation.
- IPART approved the proposed 25% rate increase, which will fund core services including asset renewal, maintenance, and risk management programs. However, under new NSW government guidelines, major infrastructure projects, such as the Manly Surf Life Saving Club and Warringah Aquatic Centre redevelopments, will require separate special variation applications.
- If in June 2025, Council adopts the budget, the variation will enable a limited uplift in compliance resources, including the recruitment of some additional rangers and compliance staff, which will assist with compliance enforcement across the Northern Beaches including at Manly Dam.

ACTIONS:

1. Council to provide the Advisory Committee with information on the Plan of Management restrictions related to amending water ski times and amending the area for water skiing at Manly Dam.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 25 August 2025	5pm - 7pm

Meeting concluded at 7.36pm