

Minutes

Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park Advisory Committee Meeting

Held on Monday 25 August 2025 at Civic Centre, 725 Pittwater Road, Dee Why in the Flannel Flower Room and online commencing at 5:00pm

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Cr Kristyn Glanville Northern Beaches Councillor

Community Members

David Beharrell Environment Representative

Paul Lidgard Recreational Representative

Robert Baker Community Representative

State Government Representatives

Mel Hall NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service

Council Officers

Jeremy Smith Acting Director, Environment and Open Space

Stephen Hartley Acting Executive Manager, Parks and Open Space

Scot Hedge Manager, Park Assets – Planning Design & Delivery

Jodie Crawford Manager, Coast & Catchments

James Brisebois Team Leader, Catchments

Neil Cocks Manager, Strategic & Place Planning

Apologies

Cr Robert Giltinan Northern Beaches Councillor

Absent

Paul Harper Crown Lands, Natural Resource Management Project Officer

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2.0 WELCOME

3.0 APOLOGIES

- Cr Robert Giltinan, Northern Beaches Council - Council Representative
- Paul Harper, Crown Lands, Natural Resource Management Project Officer

4.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

- None

5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS & PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

The Advisory Committee were updated on the status of Actions and updates were provided by Council Officers in attendance:

ACTION	STATUS	UPDATE
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.	Ongoing <i>(Task assigned to Coordinator Parks – Operations)</i>	Council advised that water ski times at Manly Dam can be amended without changes to the Plan of Management, however, amending the designated water skiing area would require a new Plan of Management under current legislation. NEW ACTION: Council to investigate and provide options for improving safety at the water skiing area, such as installing buoys or creating a safe buffer to separate swimmers from the water skiing zone.
Council to arrange a prioritisation workshop for future pedestrian and bike trails upgrade and renewals.	Outstanding <i>(Task assigned to Admin)</i>	Council to arrange the pedestrian and bike trail prioritisation workshop within the next month to align with the upcoming budget cycle.
Council to engage with accessibility and other stakeholder groups about the proposals for picnic areas 3 and 4.	Completed	Council conducted a recent walkaround with community stakeholders regarding proposals for picnic areas 3 and 4 and will seek further input from accessibility-focused groups, including individuals with lived experience, to inform design considerations.
Council to provide an update at the next meeting on if Manly Dam has been prioritised in the Catchment project.	Completed	Council provided an update during the standing agenda item.
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.	Completed	Council reported that no priority or declared weeds under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 have been identified at Manly Dam to date, but monitoring will continue.
Council to consider installing dog etiquette signage at key location(s).	Completed	Council confirmed that dog signage for three park locations near Wakehurst Parkway has been fabricated and will be installed as soon as weather permits; additional signage across the site is under review, with Rangers requesting simple, clear messaging.
Council to consider a trial of solar-powered electronic signage at key park entry points and trailheads.	Outstanding <i>(Task assigned to Park Assets)</i>	Council to investigate the feasibility of trialing solar-powered electronic signage at key park entry points and trailheads, including backend setup requirements and cost considerations. Councillor Glanville proposed pairing signage with an education campaign, noting that signage alone may not reach all visitors. Council confirmed the appointment of a new Companion Animal Education Officer, who could lead education sessions at trailheads.
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.	Outstanding <i>(Task assigned to Park Ops)</i>	Council to install signage along Warringah Street and consider a lit “closed” sign at the major eastern entry point, with additional signage extending toward Manly Vale School to improve visibility and access awareness.

ACTION	STATUS	UPDATE
Council to circulate a link to the RFS website and "Warringah Pittwater Bush Fire Risk Management Plan" where notifications of burns are published.	Completed	<p>The Warringah Pittwater Bush Fire Risk Management Plan is available from https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/2402/warringah-pittwater-bfrmp.pdf</p> <p>NSW RFS website retains a list of scheduled imminent burns - https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/hazard-reductions</p> <p>Council maintains prescribed burns list that involve Council land, including their status of preparedness. This site is in the process of being updated to reflect the Annual Works Plan for 25/26 - https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/environment/natural-hazards/bush-fires/prescribed-burns</p>
Council to request from RFS a copy or summary of the 12-month fire management schedule	Completed	Council shared an extract of the Northern Beaches Hazard Reduction Program 25-26 with the Committee.
Council to confirm release status of the updated Bushfire Risk Management Plan	Completed	The updated Northern Beaches Bush Fire Risk Management was endorsed by the Northern Beaches Bush Fire Management Committee in April 2025. The Draft Plan is currently with the NSW Bush Fire Coordinating Committee for final review and approval.
Council to share with the Advisory Committee the Bush Fire management Plan for Manly Dam.	Completed	<p>Council's Reserve Bush Fire Management Plans will be progressively updated over the next 3 years. A new position funded under the Special Rate Variation is currently being recruited and will focus on this body of work.</p> <p>Council will look to prioritise important reserves that are identified as being a Focus Areas within the draft Bush Fire Risk Management Plan, such as Manly Dam.</p> <p>Previous versions of the plans are available from the link below - https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/environment/natural-hazards/bush-fires/bush-fire-management-plans</p>
Council to review and enhance signage at Manly Dam trailheads to educate visitors on park regulations including dogs and to examine signs at other locations including North Head.	Ongoing <i>(Task assigned to Park Ops)</i>	New / updated signs are being designed for certain sections of the mountain bike trail that have been recently upgraded.

ACTION	STATUS	UPDATE
Council to regularly invite a representative from agencies whose activities impact Manly Dam to future meetings e.g. Sydney Water.	Ongoing <i>(Task assigned to Admin)</i>	Sydney Water were invited to attend the current meeting and are expecting to send a representative to the November meeting. QUESTION ON NOTICE What is the status of the surplus land near the water tank and if there any intention to sell or repurpose this land, and what implications might that have for the surrounding environment?
That a plan for replacement of collection tanks at the Golf Course be developed by the Environmental Compliance Team.	Outstanding <i>(Task assigned to Park Assets)</i>	Council is continuing to seek input from the Environmental Compliance Team regarding the development of a plan to replace collection tanks at the Golf Course. The item remains unresolved due to internal coordination challenges between compliance and development assessment teams. Council noted that the Golf Course has recently undertaken significant rehabilitation efforts, including creek bed weed removal. QUESTION ON NOTICE Council to provide a report on the current use of 1080 pesticide, including its phase-out status, remaining applications, and potential alternatives for fox control at Manly Dam.

6.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Advisory Committee Meeting held 26 May 2025 were adopted.

7.0 AGENDA ITEMS

7.1.0 Standing Items

7.1.1 Water Quality Matters

James Brisbois presented an update on the Catchment Rehabilitation Plan project has been awarded to consultancy Applied Ecology Pty Ltd. The project commenced in August 2025 and will span 18 months, with final reporting expected in early 2027. Applied Ecology is currently conducting a literature review, desktop study, and developing a site assessment methodology. Their scope includes assessing approximately 100 km of creek line across the LGA.

Key activities will include:

- Evaluating creek health, including geomorphic features, habitats, and bed and bank condition, supported by a photo log.
- Performing water quality monitoring at three sites per creek, measuring DO, temperature, TN, TP, pH, turbidity, and conducting AUSRIVAS macroinvertebrate studies.
- Identifying degraded areas, conducting risk assessments, and prioritising future rehabilitation works.
- Delivering a report outlining creek condition and proposing a 10-year works program.

The findings will inform a ten-year prioritisation plan, identifying areas of degradation and erosion, and recommending staged rehabilitation actions. The program is supported by Council's new asset management system, which aims to include natural assets such as trees and creeks.

Jodie Crawford updated the Committee that the additional funding from the special rate variation (SRV) is supporting coastal and catchment programs, including creek rehabilitation, foreshore maintenance and beach scraping, and investigations into large-scale beach nourishment.

Discussion was held on mobilising Bushcare volunteers at Manly Dam, revisiting a previous proposal to recruit community members for regeneration efforts. Interest was expressed in establishing volunteer groups, with potential support for training and coordination. The matter remains on the action list pending further updates and strategic review.

Jodie Crawford updated the committee on the ongoing collaboration with EPA regarding sediment management at Madison Basin. The heavily vegetated basin has a blocked outlet and significant sediment buildup. Council has received one quote to clean it out and is currently seeking a second quote. The basin's design lacks maintenance access, complicating sediment removal. Water is settling effectively, and inspections confirm minimal downstream sediment flow. EPA engagement remains positive, with ongoing communication and responsiveness noted. Due to recent rainfall, water quality issues persist at Forest High, with sediment continuing to enter Manly Dam.

Development controls from a comparable site were shared with Schools Infrastructure, DPHI and EPA, of whom Schools Infrastructure and EPA responded positively. Community members emphasised the importance of documenting these efforts to highlight constructive outcomes.

ACTION:

1. Council to liaise with the Volunteer Coordinator regarding potential community involvement in asset protection zone work near the creek and explore opportunities to promote the program. *(Task assigned to Coasts & Catchments)*

7.1.2 Strategic Planning

Neil Cocks provided a comprehensive update on the draft Local Environmental Plan (LEP), Development Control Plan (DCP), and recent state-led housing reforms, with a focus on potential impacts to the Manly Dam catchment.

The LEP, which consolidates four existing plans across the Council area, was submitted to the Department of Planning in June 2024 and is awaiting a gateway determination. Public exhibition is expected early in 2025, pending departmental feedback. Neil noted that the LEP includes proposed controls on floor space ratios and landscaping in residential zones, which aim to reduce vegetation loss and manage development impacts.

The DCP is being revised to strengthen development standards such as setbacks, landscaping and car parking. A Councillor workshop is planned for November 2025, with formal exhibition of both the LEP and DCP anticipated early next year.

Neil also addressed the implications of the NSW Government's low and mid rise housing reforms, which override many of Council's existing planning controls. These reforms permit medium and high-density development within 800 metres of designated strategic centres, including Forestville, Frenchs Forest and Manly Vale. Neil explained that this could lead to significant growth in areas adjacent to Manly Dam, increasing recreational pressure and environmental risks such as stormwater runoff.

Councillor Kristyn Glanville raised concerns about the cumulative impact of increased development on the Manly Dam catchment and stressed the importance of using planning

instruments to protect the area. She also highlighted the need to consider infrastructure and green space provision to support growing populations in nearby centres like Manly Vale.

Neil Cocks confirmed that Council had recently adopted changes to the DCP to better manage medium density development in low density zones, including new setback controls and additional layers of regulation. He also noted that Council is exploring increased affordable housing and infrastructure contributions in areas affected by upzoning, with a feasibility study underway. If successful, this could lead to additional contributions through amendments to existing planning instruments, with outcomes expected in six to nine months.

The committee acknowledged the importance of strategic planning in protecting the ecological integrity of the Manly Dam catchment and welcomed further updates as the LEP and DCP progress.

7.1.3 Grants and Capital Works

Scot Hedge updated the Committee on works progressing on the Trig Trail ascent, including sensitive water management, rock armouring, and accessibility upgrades for adaptive bikes.

Completion of the Trig Trail has been delayed due to recent rainfall.

Water control measures on the Allambie side are being reviewed, with liaison underway with trail stakeholders.

New signage has been installed at Manning Street and along the Trig Trail and 19th Hole to improve trail navigation.

Bushland team will review the Trig Trail alignment and provide feedback for inclusion in the REF.

Approximately 30 metres of decking on the Trig Trail is scheduled for replacement.

Two new trail sections (20m and 49m) are being constructed to create gentler climbs for novice riders and adaptive bikes.

The Committee, in collaboration with the landscape design team, conducted a site visit to assess accessibility from Car Park 3 to key amenities including BBQs, viewing areas, and toilets.

It was proposed that a disability user be engaged to provide direct feedback on accessibility, with the aim of informing future upgrades and incorporating improvements. Discussion also addressed the potential reactivation of the old access road, with concerns raised regarding fragmentation and pedestrian-vehicle separation.

Discussion was held on the potential reactivation of the old access road, with concerns raised about environmental fragmentation and the need to separate pedestrian and vehicle pathways.

Pathway design options were considered, including minimum widths, passing bays, and suitable surface materials to ensure accessibility and durability.

The Committee noted ongoing issues with the boardwalk, including loose fasteners causing rattling. The original D&C contract missed the inclusion of rubber spacers, which had successfully reduced noise in similar projects. As maintenance progresses, faulty brackets will be replaced incrementally.

ACTION:

1. A summary of the recent Area 3 and 4 site visit to be circulated to the Committee for review and input. *(Task assigned to Park Assets)*

7.1.4 Community Use Matters

It was acknowledged that any reconsideration of water-skiing permissions would require a Councillor initiated notice of motion due to the significant resources involved in revisiting the issue.

The Committee discussed swimming access, noting that most of the foreshore is off-limits due to water skiing operations. While access from the new boardwalk is unrestricted, swimming is not permitted during water skiing times, which occur frequently.

Concerns were raised about the use of the water space due to water skiing, and it was asked that the issue remain open for future consideration.

Water skiing usage data for the past three months was presented, with a request to provide figures dating back to January for broader context.

An update from the bookings team indicated strong winter demand for picnic area bookings, though many refunds were issued due to weather-related cancellations.

The Committee discussed improving transparency around field bookings, including a proposal for a rule requiring bookings to be made at least one day in advance. This would allow unbooked areas to be used by the public.

The Committee raised concerns about the impact of recent fire trail maintenance, including vegetation damage and erosion. It was noted that RFS guidelines may lack sensitivity to heritage-listed bushland areas. Council will review internal protocols and contractor specifications to ensure better protection of natural and cultural assets.

Council has been unsuccessful in securing RFS grant funding for fire trail upgrades. Existing budget allocations from last year have been carried forward to support trail renewal works.

ACTIONS:

1. Council staff to provide the Committee with water skiing usage data dating back to January to support broader analysis and context beyond the previously presented three-month figures. *(Task assigned to Park Operations)*
2. Council to assess the feasibility of implementing a rule requiring field bookings to be made at least one day in advance, with the aim of improving transparency, enabling public use of unbooked areas. *(Task assigned to Open Space Planning)*

8.0 GENERAL MATTERS

No new business to discuss.

Meeting concluded at 6.50pm