



northern  
beaches  
council

**Places for People**  
Strategic Reference Group

# NOTES OF THE MEETING

## **PLACES FOR PEOPLE STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP**

held online via TEAMS on:

**THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2021**

**Notes of the Meeting of the Places for People  
Strategic Reference Group  
held online via TEAMS on Thursday 4 February 2021  
Commencing at 6:10pm**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee Members**

Cr Ian White (Chair)	Councillor
Mayor Michael Regan	Councillor
Cr Candy Bingham	Councillor
Merinda Rose	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Miranda Korzy	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Maryann Novakovic	Community Representative – Manly Ward
Richard Michell	Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society

**Council Officer Contacts**

Louise Kerr	Director Planning and Place
Andrew Pigott	Executive Manager Strategic and Place Planning
Steven Lawler	Executive Manager Parks and Recreation
Ben Fallowfield	Resilience and Emergency Management Coordinator ( <i>item 6.1</i> )
Phil Jemison	Manager, Strategic and Place Planning ( <i>item 6.2</i> )
Paula Moretti	Principal Planner ( <i>item 6.2</i> )
Damian Ham	Manager Open Space and Recreation Planning ( <i>item 6.3</i> )
Jessica Currie	Coordinator Recreation Planning ( <i>item 6.3</i> )
Ximena Von Oven	Governance Officer

*NOTE: The Chair advised that the meeting would proceed as an informal meeting due to a lack of quorum. as per the Strategic Reference Group Terms of Reference.*

## **1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

---

As a sign of respect, Northern Beaches Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and pays respect to Elders past and present.

---

## **2.0 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cr Sprott, S Cairns, C Ghatt, J Koopman and S Pearse.

## **3.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

## **4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **4.1 MINUTES OF PLACES FOR PEOPLE STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 5 NOVEMBER 2020**

*NOTE: Due to a lack of quorum this item was deferred to the next meeting.*

## **5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING**

Nil

## **6.0 AGENDA ITEMS**

### **6.1 NORTHERN BEACHES RESILIENCE STRATEGY**

#### **OVERVIEW OF UPDATE**

Ben Fallowfield, Resilience and Emergency Management Coordinator briefed Strategic Reference Group (SRG) members on this topic. A Resilience Strategy (the Strategy) is being developed by Northern Beaches Council in order to continue building the resilience of the community from the impact of short and longer term disruptions. The importance of collective resilience is highlighted in the Strategy. This means that all aspects of the community have a shared responsibility including government, business, groups and individuals.

A presentation on this topic was provided.

#### **ITEMS DISCUSSED**

The following items were discussed:

- Background of the Strategy
- Definition of resilience
- Importance of a resilient community

- Drivers for action towards a resilient community
- Community and organisational resilience
- Proposed community engagement
- Timeframe

**ACTION**

That the Places for People Strategic Reference Group members participate in further engagement activities to assist in the development of the Resilience Strategy.

**6.2 BROOKVALE STRUCTURE PLAN UPDATE****OVERVIEW OF UPDATE**

Phil Jemison, Manager Strategic Place and Planning, introduced the topic to the SRG members. The draft Brookvale Structure Plan (draft Structure Plan) commenced in 2015. It was placed on public exhibition in late 2017 and placed on hold in 2018 due to pending traffic and transport studies. The traffic and transport studies were required to respond to community feedback received during the public exhibition of the draft Structure Plan. State Government released an updated planning policy which required Council to review and amend the draft Structure Plan to be consistent with the State Government's new policy direction on employment lands.

P Jemison introduced P Moretti, Principal Planner to the group. David Attwood, Stefan Meissner and Chris Bain, Consultants from Ethos Urban were also introduced. Ethos Urban consultants provided a presentation on this topic.

**ITEMS DISCUSSED**

The following topics were discussed:

- Structure plan exhibition of 2017
- Employment study
- Development Principles of the Draft Structure Plan:
  - Distinguish Brookvale's employment lands
  - High amenity core
  - Cultivating spaces for people to connect, create and learn
  - Creating a walkable grid
  - Integrating the B-line
  - Linking the environment
- Vision and aspiration of the Draft Structure Plan

## 6.3 OFF-ROAD CYCLING ACTION PLAN UPDATE

### OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Jessica Currie, Coordinator Recreation Planning provided an update on this topic. An off road-cycling action plan (the Plan) is being developed as part of the Open Space and Recreation Strategy (the Strategy). The aim of the plan is to guide Northern Beaches Council in developing and managing off-road cycling facilities to meet current and future needs and reduce unauthorised trail building.

### ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Actions taken to understand riders needs which include: telephone survey, off road cycling survey, meetings with local biking riding groups, analysis of existing off-road cycling, internal stakeholder discussions, consultation with people attending the Northern Beaches Council vacation care program, audits of unauthorised trails.
- Results of the research undertaken highlighted that:
  - Off-road cycling is growing in popularity and the current riding facilities on the Northern Beaches do not meet rider's needs.
  - Riders want biking riding facilities that cater for a range of age groups and skill levels
  - Riders want more places to ride
  - Manly Dam mountain biking trail requires an upgrade
  - There has been an increase off road cycling during Covid-19
  - Unauthorised trail building and riding has increased
- Existing Northern Beaches Council bike riding facilities and committed ones
- Potential new bike parks and trails
- Proposed Strategy Plan

## 7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion about confidentiality on Agenda items particularly what can be discussed or not with other SRG members.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.1	That the Places for People Strategic Reference Group members participate in further engagement activities to assist in the development of the Resilience Strategy	B Fallowfield	ongoing

**Attachment 1** – Presentation on item 6.1 Northern Beaches Resilience Strategy

**Attachment 2** – Presentation on item 6.3 Off-road Cycling Action Plan Update

*The meeting concluded at 8:00pm*

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 6 pages numbered 1 to 6 of the Places for People Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 4 February 2021 and confirmed on Thursday 6 May 2021

# Northern Beaches Resilience Strategy

Withstand. Adapt. Transform

Ben Fallowfield

Resilience & Emergency Management Coordinator



northern  
beaches  
council



# Background





# What is Resilience?

*The capacity of individuals, communities, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and thrive no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience*

# Shocks and Stresses

## Shocks

(Sudden event)

- Extreme weather (bush fire, flood, storm, heatwave etc)
- Financial institution failure
- Infrastructure failure
- Disease pandemic
- Water crisis
- Communication network failure
- Cyber attack
- Terror attack

## Stresses

(Chronic pressures)

- Increasing health services demand
- Diminishing social cohesion
- Loss of housing affordability
- Increase chronic illness
- Lack of transport diversity
- Insufficient employment diversity
- Increasing geographic inequity
- Rise in drug and alcohol abuse

# What does a resilient community look like?

<b>Understands Risk</b>	Our community understands risks that may affect them and others
<b>Prepared</b>	Our community is prepared and knows how to respond during an emergency, and has plans in place to deal with crisis
<b>Collaborates</b>	Working in partnership to overcome crisis & adversity
<b>Participates</b>	The emergency management volunteer sector is valued and strong
<b>Demonstrated Leadership</b>	Resilience outcomes are embedded in decision making
<b>Plans for the future</b>	Communities are designed to reduce or avoid risks from known hazards
<b>Recovers quickly</b>	Services, infrastructure and functioning of our community is restored quickly
<b>Supports those in need</b>	Our community looks after those in need, and understands that support will be offered to the most vulnerable in the first instance

[National Strategy for Disaster Resilience](#)

# Drivers for Action

## Frequency & Intensity

Natural hazards are more frequent and intense as a result of climate change

## Increased Dependency

Essential services, systems and infrastructure that our community rely upon are interconnected and interdependent

## Risk Exposure

People and assets are becoming more exposed

## Cost

Costs of disasters are increasing

Momentum to address financial impacts of climate change is building

[National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework](#)

# Resilience Themes



# Proposed Engagement



# Proposed Timeframe

Phase	Action	Description	Approx. Timeframe
<b>Phase 1</b>	Project Planning & Background Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of existing information</li> <li>Develop project plan</li> <li>Develop engagement strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete</li> </ul>
<b>Phase 2</b>	Community and Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeted community and stakeholder engagement</li> <li>SRG engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>March - April</li> </ul>
<b>Phase 3</b>	Public Exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public consultation</li> <li>Review of submissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>July - August</li> </ul>
<b>Phase 4</b>	Adoption and Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy adoption by Council</li> <li>Commence actioning implementation plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption - September/October</li> <li>Implementation – ongoing</li> </ul>



# Questions & Discussion



northern  
beaches  
council





## Understanding Rider Needs

- Off Road Cycling Stakeholder Group
- Off Road Cycling Survey Feb 2020 – 1,800 responses
- Open Space and Recreation Strategy Telephone Survey
- Social Pinpoint idea gathering – 1,400 comments
- Meetings with bike clubs and groups
- Vacation Care consultation
- Spatial analysis of existing facilities compared to demand
- Review of locations of unauthorised trails
- Audit of unauthorised trails
- Written submissions

## Findings:

- Riders want more facilities catering to a range of riding disciplines with varied skill levels to allow progression
- At some locations unauthorised trails are evidence of unmet need
- Vacation Care kids (6-12 years) voted bike parks as their preferred recreation facility
- 21% of respondents over 15 ride off road (telephone survey)
- People living in bushland areas are more likely to ride off road, e.g.
  - 42% in Terrey Hills/Frenchs Forest catchments compared to 13% in Dee Why/Brookvale catchment

### During Covid-19

- Riding increased:
  - 24% said they rode more often
  - 14% said they rode less often
  - 11% stopped riding
  - 0% participated for the first time
- Laps of Manly Dam increased from 4,000 to 10,000 per month
- Anecdotally, bike shops sold more bikes



northern  
beaches  
council

## Facilities - Existing & Committed

Planning Catchment	Trail/Facility - Existing	Trail/Facility - Committed
<b>Manly</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manly Dam mountain bike trail</li> <li>• The Grove Bike Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manly Dam trail improvements</li> <li>• The Grove upgrade 20/21</li> </ul>
<b>Frenchs Forest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bare Creek Bike Park</li> <li>• Gahnia and Serrata trails (NPWS)</li> <li>• Belrose fire trails (NPWS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wyatt Ave, Belrose - Junior/Beginner Bike Park 20/21</li> </ul>
<b>Terry Hills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JJ Melbourne - BMX track, pump track, dirt jump track</li> <li>• Terrey Hills fire trails (NPWS)</li> </ul>	
<b>Mona Vale</b>		
<b>Brookvale - Dee Why</b>		



northern  
beaches  
council

Manly -18% participation in off road cycling  
 Frenchs Forest/Terrey Hills - 42% participation in off road cycling  
 Mona Vale - 24% participation in off road cycling  
 Dee Why/Brookvale - 13% participation in off road cycling

## Unauthorised Trail Building

- Increased since COVID-19
- Significant impact on bushland
  - Multiple locations and increasing
  - Council response is reactive
- Costly to close trails and remediate
  - \$89,000 annually for Bushland and Biodiversity team, not including Parks and Recreation unit costs
  - Time consuming for staff
- Trail closures often unsuccessful
- Anti-social behaviour



**\* Timely provision of additional facilities that are in demand and 'correctly' located and designed may deter unauthorised trail building**



## Potential Actions to better meet need

### POTENTIAL NEW BIKE PARKS

#### Seaforth / Manly Area

- Potential site includes near Seaforth Oval

#### Avalon

- Preferred locations are opposite Avalon Public School and Careel Bay

#### Warriewood/ North Narrabeen/ Elanora/ Newport/ North Curl Curl

- Feasibility work ongoing

#### Mountain bike event at Manly Dam

- Trial event being considered with view to potential annual event

### POTENTIAL NEW TRAILS

#### Deep Creek and JJ Melbourne Hills

- Potential formalisation of some unauthorised trails
- Closure of some unauthorised
- Draft audits prepared and being reviewed by Council
- Upcoming meeting with National Parks to discuss cross tenure linkages

#### Forestville Park

- Some trails awaiting funding for formalising
- Awaiting draft audit report for additional trails
- Closure of some unauthorised

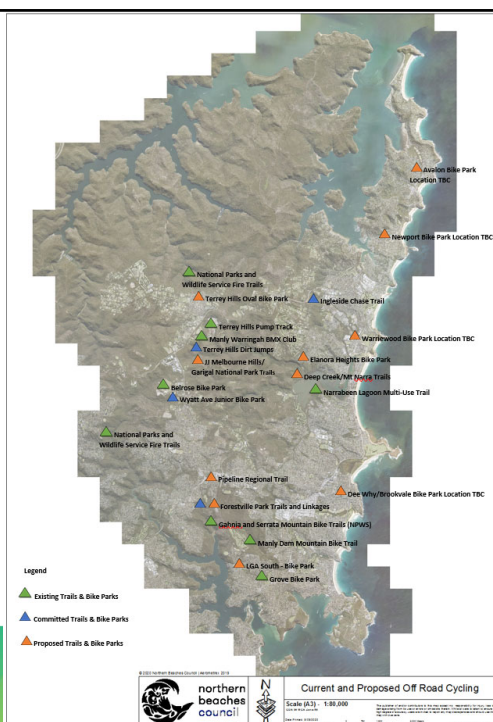
#### Ingleside Chase

- Potential formalisation of some unauthorised trails
- Feasibility work pending



## Proposed Strategy Plan:

- Current
- Upcoming
- Proposed



## Issues for consideration

- There are budget limitations for new works & new maintenance
- Timeline to deliver
- Increase in riding and trail building since COVID-19 in March 2020
- Ongoing unauthorised trail building
- Environmental impacts
- Objections from community & community angst
- Cross tenure opportunities and challenges
- Connectivity and access
- Beaches Tunnel impacts