

## **SUBJECT: Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy**

**Meeting:** Sustainable Towns & Villages Committee

**Date:** 13 October 2014

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

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

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### **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.

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## 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, carparks 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

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## 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.

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## **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
<b>SUBMISSIONS FROM LOCAL GROUPS</b>		
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"> <li>• Pittwater Council Delivery Plan and Budget</li> <li>• Plans of Management for Church Point, Bayview Park and Winnererremy Bay.</li> <li>• Draft Reserves Access Audit</li> <li>• Pittwater Arts Paper</li> </ul>
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.	<b>Amendment.</b> 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"> <li>• Policy for community gardens</li> <li>• Policy for walking tracks</li> <li>• Phone application with students from Macquarie University with historic photos.</li> <li>• See comments on the proposed aquatic centre under Reference 45 below</li> </ul>
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	<b>Amendment.</b> 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.  <b>Amendment</b> 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
<b>DOGS</b>		
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 I 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	Request dogs are allowed over still water beaches to board vessels.	<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>
<b>LAND RATIONALISATION</b>		
14. CABPRA	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.	<b>Amendment.</b> 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.

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
	Request upgrade of Clareville Beach barbecue area upgrade including stormwater outlet, posts, fencing, painting, garbage/cleaning, pruning, shrub screening, signage, barbeque tables, car park.	Noted. Council is currently preparing a concept plan to upgrade the barbecue area and carpark at Clareville Beach.
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>Indicative comments include - <i>Agree with the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment and cultural heritage.</i> <i>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><b>Amendment</b> 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>

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
	<p><b>Briniwa Street Reserve</b> Two of the 28 submissions oppose the sale of Briniwa Street Reserve, Mona Vale.</p> <p><b>Woolcott Reserve</b> Six of the 28 submissions oppose the sale of Woolcott Reserve, Newport.</p> <p><b>Pavich Reserve</b> Nine of the 28 submissions oppose the sale of Pavich Reserve including two submissions from the Pavich family.</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> <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>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
	<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 &amp; caring for our natural environment”?</p> <p>Apart from this one issue, the draft Strategy document is well presented .</p>	
<p>19. Resident</p>	<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>
<b>PLAYGROUND RATIONALISATION</b>		
<p>20. Five residents opposing the removal of playgrounds</p>	<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><b>Amendment (Page 95).</b> 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>
<p>21. Resident</p>	<p>Support the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.</p> <p>Support that Council is looking to the future.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
<b>CULTURE AND HERITAGE</b>		
<p>22. Budawa Aboriginal Signage Group</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Strategy does not include indigenous culture. Currently all existing local signage in Pittwater excludes Aboriginal heritage including the new phone app.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>3. Request an Indigenous signage strategy be developed with First People communities. Submission accompanied by a Powerpoint document on signage.</li> </ol>	<p>Noted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
<p>23. Avalon Beach Arts &amp; Cultural Precinct Group signed by 20 residents</p>	<p>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>	<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>

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
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"> <li>• Two art galleries – regional and community</li> <li>• Three class rooms with sinks, kilns and printing presses.</li> <li>• Art shop for books and materials</li> <li>• Café</li> <li>• Gardens</li> <li>• Music facilities</li> <li>• University annex.</li> </ul> <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>
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>

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
<b>OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO AVALON VILLAGE</b>		
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.	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> ).  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.
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.
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.

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
<b>HERITAGE</b>		
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.
<b>WALKING</b>		
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.	<p>Noted.</p> <p>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.</p> <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>



Reference	Submission Comments	Response
		<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	<p>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>	<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	<p>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>	<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	<p>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>	<p>Noted.  See References 34 to 36 above.</p>
38. Resident	<p>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.</p>	<p>Noted.  See References 34 to 36 above.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
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.
<b>CYCLING</b>		
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.
<b>EQUESTRIAN</b>		
44. Nine submissions including two from associations	See body of report	See body of report

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
<b>OLYMPIC POOL</b>		
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><b>Amendment</b> (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"> <li>1. <i>That Council consider the contents of this report in conjunction with Councils long term financial plan.</i></li> <li>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></li> <li>4. <i>That it be noted that the report recommends that any future aquatic facility be located in the southern area of Pittwater.</i></li> </ol> <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	<p>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.</p> <p>I request Council: - 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</p>	Noted. See Reference 45 above.

Reference	Submission Comments	Response
	<p>-examines funding options including public/private partnerships or private only, or a loan facility.</p> <p>-considers a voluntary levy for ratepayers or set up a fund for donations and fund raising activities.</p> <p>- allocate land and draw up plans for a minimalist facility with the possibility of upgrading the facilities at some point in the future.</p> <p>- 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.</p> <p>- construct more calm water baths in the Pittwater waterway and repair/reconstruct Bayview Baths.</p>	
<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>		
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</p> <p>Support envirocare, share facilities, Outdoor exercise equipment</p> <p>Table tennis</p> <p>Education/ Interpretations</p> <p>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 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. Also a few small permanent stages with electricity for lunchtime &amp; weekend performances by actors, schools, musicians. 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 &amp; enhance the natural environment and to ensure all open space is accessible 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. 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 &amp; expand public spaces for the benefit of the broader community, access for all, seniors, health benefits. Provide flexible, multipurpose public space, facilities &amp; programmes Provide increased opportunities for seniors 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 &amp; 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>