



**Questions raised by the community at the
Victoria Ward Community Forum
held on Tuesday 29 November 2011**

Questions Raised	Council's Reply
<p>1. Are there particular projects to be funded by the continuation of the Environment and Infrastructure Levies?</p>	<p>Yes. It is a requirement of the special rate variation (SRV) application process that programs of work are submitted, detailing how the income raised through the SRV will be spent. The proposed programs of works for the Environment and Infrastructure Levies detail the works to be undertaken by Council in the short-medium term and are available at http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/www/html/7701-proposed-special-rate-variation-201213.asp</p>
<p>2. If the proposed SRV programs of works span ten years, what order of priority has been given?</p>	<p>The proposed programs of works indicate which projects are to be undertaken in which financial years and the approximate cost of each project. The prioritisation of the Environment and Infrastructure proposed levy programs was determined by community consultation undertaken to date including Council's 2011/12 SRV consultation program, consultations for the development of 2020 Vision and Delivery Program and the annual Operational and Budget planning process. The community has been given the opportunity to participate in all of these consultation programs and the draft plans, including budgets have been placed on public exhibition (for a minimum of 28 days) and feedback invited.</p>
<p>3. How long does a reconstructed seawall last compared to a rehabilitated seawall?</p>	<p>The approximate lifespan of reconstructed seawalls is 50-100 years while the the approximate lifespan of rehabilitated seawalls is 40 to 80 years.</p> <p>Generally the service life of assets depends on numerous factors. Much research is still to be undertaken in the industry on the service life of assets. Generally this research requires understanding of when assets are built (records in the past may not be available), how they were built, materials, environmental factors, loads, failure mode, failure date.</p> <p>The exact lifespan of a "rehabilitated" seawall is unknown. None of the walls that have been rehabilitated in the last 20</p>

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	<p>years are showing major signs of failure. At this stage it is difficult to establish an accurate deterioration model for a “rehabilitated” seawall that will lead to a meaningful lifespan. Some of the factors that affect the life of a seawall are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material type (some materials more durable) • Construction type (mass gravity wall or structurally designed) • Quality of construction • Quality of sea bed • Slope of sea bed • Height of wall • Slope of the face of the sea wall (some walls are vertical, others sloped) • Loadings on wall (some walls support roads) • Quality of jointing material • Level of exposure of wall to harbour (the toe of some walls is above the low tide level) • Location within the harbour (exposed to harbour traffic/ferries or relatively protected) • Alignment (concave, convex, straight) <p>Therefore the approximate lifespan of reconstructed seawalls can vary from 50 up to 100 years depending on the above factors. At this stage there is no evidence to suggest that the lifespan of rehabilitated seawalls is much less than this. As there is slightly less control or precision during construction when comparing a rehabilitated seawall to a reconstructed wall it is fair to assume that the lifespan of a rehabilitated wall is slightly reduced. At this stage the approximate lifespan of rehabilitated seawalls is assumed to vary from 40 to 80 years. As rehabilitated walls age and deteriorate the lifespan will be reviewed.</p>
<p>4. There are jetties/wharves at the bottom of Lavender Bay that have been in a state of disrepair for over twelve months, with signage by Council advising no access. Will this be looked at in the near or distant future by Council? Or is this not Council's responsibility?</p>	<p>Council considered a report on this matter at its meeting of 28 November 2011. Waterway Constructions Pty Ltd were engaged to carry out a condition assessment report on 14 of Council's marine structures including wharves, jetties (including those being referred to), boardwalks, pontoons, and bridges. The report detailed the works immediately required to address risk issues as well as the cost to maintain these structures over the next ten years. An additional \$202,000 is required to carry out urgent works. These works include the repair of unsafe structures currently closed to the public, installation of lifebuoys and ladders, as well as the removal of unsafe non-structural piles that could cause damage to boat users</p>

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	<p>or nearby structures. Council resolved to bring forward funds from the 2012/13 budget as well as utilise funds from savings in the current budget to address this issues by March/April 2013. The report is available at http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/resources/documents/EPS0485.pdf</p>
<p>5. With respect to Blues Point Reserve, are the fishermen who dig holes along the seawalls for their fishing rods destroying the integrity of the seawalls?</p>	<p>No, periodic investigation/monitoring since 1996/97 has found that these holes have not significantly affected the integrity of the seawalls. Council has had to undertake minor re-grouting of the walls due to the holes but nothing major.</p>
<p>6. Why does Council allow fisherman to continue to use the wharves. Doesn't Council have the power to restrict access within its parks and reserves?</p>	<p>Council does not exclude anyone from accessing and using its recreational facilities including parks and public spaces. Council's Rangers monitor behaviour, particularly in relation to fishermen littering.</p>
<p>7. The sensor lights in Bradfield Park are not working properly. Please investigate.</p>	<p>Council will investigate the lights and rectify as required.</p>
<p>8. The pathway, at the western corner of Lavender Bay near the tunnels, is badly eroded. There is the potential for injury. Can Council fix this?</p>	<p>Council will investigate the pathway and rectify as required.</p>
<p>9. When will the Lavender Bay Lighting Project options be available for community feedback?</p>	<p>Community consultation regarding the three proposed lighting options will be undertaken from 16 January to 9 February 2012. A public meeting (as part of the Lavender Bay Precinct Committee meeting) will be held on 2 February 2012. Further information will be made available at www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/onexhibition</p> <p>A report on the findings of the consultation will be presented to Council in February 2012. It is expected that tender advertising and evaluation will occur in March 2012 and construction will commence in April 2012.</p>
<p>10. Vegetation is damaged in Bradfield Park by NYE celebrations each year. What is Council doing to prevent this?</p>	<p>Council is aware of this issue. It is an impossible task to try to protect all vegetation during the NYE event. Public safety at the event is Council's top priority. Council requests that NYE visitors treat public property with respect. Council works to reinstate damaged vegetation after the event.</p>
<p>11. On NYE, during low tide, people jump in the water via the foreshore. This is potentially dangerous. Do Council and the Police monitor this behaviour?</p>	<p>Yes. Water Police monitor the foreshore from the water during NYE. Council, Police and contract security also monitor the water edge from the foreshore.</p>

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12. On NYE, will there be toilets available at the bottom of Blues Point Road as Council has done in the past?	Toilets will be located in Blues Point Reserve and near the train station as per previous years.
13. Is it possible to place extra toilets on the corner of Lavender and Walker Streets near the Indian Restaurant?	Unfortunately, no. Council understands the problems residents face with NYE visitors using gardens as toilets, but if Council starts providing infrastructure where we do not want the public to stop, then we have less ability to funnel visitors into the managed access areas.
14. How much does management of NYE at North Sydney cost Council?	Approximately \$250,000 per annum.
15. What happens if each site reaches capacity earlier than expected and there are still more people expected to arrive via train?	The majority of NYE visitors come by train. Once the venues are reaching capacity Council contacts RailCorp who in turn informs train passengers through audible messages on the trains that access isn't available. Council also uses variable message boards to display whether sites are full etc.
16. Once the crowds start to disperse after the fireworks it is very dark. Can more lighting be provided?	Council does hire lighting towers to illuminate the path between Bradfield Park and the train station.
17. On NYE is access to Bradfield Park ticketed?	No. Anyone can attend until capacity has been reached. The only ticketed NYE event coordinated by Council is the Family Fun Night at North Sydney Olympic Pool. Tickets have sold out for 2011/12. For more information visit http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/www/html/3894-2011-nye.asp
18. The proposed traffic arrangements around Shore School in William Street relating to the proposed development are of concern to many local residents. Shore's website is promoting the benefits of the proposed development, which is why residents need Council's support regarding the traffic issues. Request Council ask for an extension.	<p>The planning application at 20 Edward Street was considered at Council's meeting of the 5th of December. At the meeting council resolved to strongly object to the Part 3A Applications (MP 10_0149 and MP 10_0150). Full details can be found in the minutes of the meeting - http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/resources/documents/m_3593.pdf</p> <p>As Council is not the consent authority on this application residents who have concerns should raised them with the NSW Department of Planning.</p>
19. Our Church on Blues Point Road has experienced long standing difficulty regarding the ability to lease its former 'opportunity shop'. A tenant signed a lease back in September 2010 but has not yet been allowed to operate a laundromat from this	A report was considered by Council at its meeting of 28 November 2011, regarding a request for a review of the determination for refusal of DA 427/10 for change of use and fitout for a laundromat. It was recommended for refusal because the proposed use of the property was not compliant with the zoning in this area. Council has advised

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<p>location. What can be done about this? Also I wrote to Council in March 2011 and have not yet received a response from Council.</p>	<p>the property owner that the only way this decision can be overturned is for the property owner to provide existing rights to use it as a shop; otherwise such usage is not permissible. Council resolved to refuse development consent. The report is available at http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/resources/documents/PDS1458.pdf</p>
<p>21. Can a pedestrian crossing be installed at the south-end of Blues Point Road near Blues Point Tower because it is a blind spot?</p>	<p>Council is not the consent authority regarding approval for installation of pedestrian crossings. Council has to apply to the RTA for consent. Its application must meet set criteria to justify installation of a pedestrian crossing in this location. Council will investigate this request. An alternative may be a pedestrian refuge in place of a crossing.</p>
<p>22. Where do I find out when and where my local Precinct Committee meets?</p>	<p>For up-to-date information about Precinct Committee meeting times, venues and office bearer contact details contact Council's Community Engagement Coordinator on 9936 8100 and/or precincts@northsydney.nsw.gov.au; website http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/precincts</p>