10.10.Draft Foreshore Parks & Reserves Plan of Management - Post Exhibition Report

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ENDORSED BY	Gary Parsons, Director Open Space and Infrastructure	
ATTACHMENTS	1. Foreshore Parks & Reserves Plan of Management - Post Exhibition	
	[10.10.1 - 10 pages]	
CSP LINK	1. Our Living Environment	
	1.4 Well utilised open space and recreational facilities	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of submissions received during the public exhibition of the draft *Foreshore Parks & Reserves Plan of Management*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The draft *Foreshore Parks & Reserves Plan of Management* (PoM) is the sixth Crown land PoM to be prepared for North Sydney. When adopted, it will supersede Council's Foreshore Parks & Reserves PoM 2017.
- The new draft PoM has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Crown Land Management Act 2016.
- Minister's consent to publicly exhibit the draft PoM and adoption thereof (providing no significant amendments are required as a result of public exhibition) was received on 13 April 2023, on the condition that certain minor amendments were made to the draft document prior to public exhibition.
- Public exhibition of the draft PoM was undertaken from 4 July 2023 18 August 2023 in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Strategy.
- Ten submissions were received. The submissions all supported the PoM and/or proposed minor amendments.

RECOMMENDATION:

1.THAT the submissions report be noted.

2. THAT Council adopt the Foreshore Parks & Reserves Plan of Management.

Background

Section 3.23(6) & (7) of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (*CML Act*) requires all NSW Councils to adopt new PoMs for all reserves for which they are the appointed Crown Land Manager. The new PoMs must meet both the requirements of the *CLM Act* and the *Local Government Act 1993* (*LG Act*). The draft *Foreshore Parks & Reserves PoM* meets the requirements of both these Acts and considers advice from Council's Native Title Manager.

The draft *Foreshore Parks and Reserves PoM* applies to all public open space located on the North Sydney foreshore that is not addressed in any other Council Crown land PoM. Foreshore parks and reserves zoned C2 Environmental Conservation are included in Council's Bushland PoM, and there is a significant area PoM for Cremorne Reserve.

On 16 February 2022 Council resolved to refer the new draft *Foreshore Parks & Reserves PoM* to the NSW government department administering the *CML Act* (the landowner), attesting it had considered advice from Council's Native Title Manager, and seeking Minister's Consent to publicly exhibit the draft PoM, and then adopt the final PoM.

On 17 March 2022, the draft PoM was referred to the department. Following a long delay, Minister's permission for Council to publicly exhibit and adopt (providing no significant amendments were required because of public exhibition) was received on 13 April 2023. The permission was predicated upon certain additional minor amendments being made to the draft document.

Public exhibition of the draft PoM was undertaken from 4 July 2023 - 8 August 2023 in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Strategy. Ten submissions were received, all submissions either supporting the PoM or proposing minor amendments.

Report

A new draft Foreshore Parks & Reserves has been prepared specifically to:

- meet Council's obligations regarding public land management under the requirements of Section 36 of the *LG Act* and the *CLM Act*;
- ensure the requirements of the Native Title Act 1993 for the management of Crown land are addressed; and
- enable Council to renegotiate or enter into leases, licenses, and other use agreements.

The draft PoM identifies land management issues, sets out objectives, identifies and prioritises required works and actions, and nominates performance indicators. It incorporates a list of planned projects, initiatives, and programs, along with indicative time frames. Together with other relevant strategic documents including the forthcoming Open Space & Recreation Strategy, the PoM will guide the management and maintenance of foreshore parks and reserves in North Sydney over the next 10⁺ years.

From 4 July 2023 until 18 August 2023, Council invited community and other stakeholder feedback on the draft Foreshore Parks & Reserves PoM. A total of 10 submissions were

received. While the submissions were supportive of the draft PoM, several submissions identified new works they would like to see in specific foreshore parks and reserves.

This report details the key feedback received in the submissions and Council's intended actions and response to the issues raised.

Consultation Requirements

Community engagement has occurred in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Protocol. The details of this report provide the engagement outcomes for Council to consider before adoption.

1. Public Exhibition Period

The 42-day public exhibition period was held from 4 July 2023 to 18 August 2023. During this time, effort was made to ensure stakeholder and general community awareness of the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft PoM during the public exhibition period. Following a request from Bay Precinct to discuss the draft PoM at their General Meeting on August 21 2023 and to then provide a submission, a late submission was accepted on 29 August 2023.

1.1. Inform Reach

The following summary details the methods used to promote awareness of the draft PoM and the reach:

- Web page 342 page visits, including:
 - 188 downloads of the draft PoM
- Council eNewsletters, including:
 - Council eNews, July: 748 recipients, 10 unique clicks
 - o Council eNews August: 886 recipients, 6 unique link clicks
 - o Precinct eNews, 7 13 July 2023: 77 recipients opened, 2 unique clicks
 - Precinct eNews 14-20 July 2023: 70 recipients opened, 1 unique click
 - Precinct eNews 21 27July 2023: 82 recipients opened, 1 unique click
 - Precinct eNews 28 July 3 Aug 2023: 78 recipients opened, 4 unique clicks
 - Precinct eNews 4 10 Aug 2023: 77 recipients opened, 1 unique click
 - Precinct eNews 11 17 Aug 2023: 72 recipients opened, 1 unique click
- Social media posts:
 - o Facebook, July 27: 3934 reach, 4289 impressions, 287 engagements
 - o Instagram, July 27: 1880 reach, 2038 impressions, 94 engagements
- Civic Park 'Your Say' noticeboards
- Direct notification to:
 - NTSCORP Pty Ltd
 - MLALC (Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council)

- 47 individuals and groups who had previously registered with Council to be kept informed about the development of a new PoM for Foreshore Parks & Reserves
- o all members of Council's Sport & Recreation Reference Group
- all Councillors (Councillor Bulletin)
- o all NSC staff

1.2. Submissions

Ten submissions were received from a range of stakeholders including individuals in the community, Precinct Committees and Council staff. All submitters either live or work in the North Sydney LGA (Local Government Area). In summary:

- the submissions were generally supportive of the draft PoM;
- one submission supported the draft PoM unreservedly, while seven submissions raised additional works and/or issues that they felt should be included in the PoM;
- one submission provided additional detail relating to conservation and heritage issues and another submission provided clarification regarding two listed capital works projects; and
- no submissions opposed the PoM.

Issue raised	Response
Do not want kayak storage at the western end of the Hayes Street boardwalk.	This location is identified in Council's <i>Small Water Craft</i> <i>Storage Strategy 2018</i> . There is potential for a small storage facility to co-exist with the improvements that are being made in this area under the <i>Streets Alive</i> program.
Sawmillers Reserve should be designated as a 'No Fishing' space due to dogs off leash in fishing areas.	Sawmillers Reserve is particularly popular with anglers The issued raised was related to hazards created for dogs by debris left by Anglers. It is considered that the two activities can co-exist. North Sydney is a dog- friendly area, with numerous alternative parks where dogs can be exercised off-leash. Large, nearby parks including Waverton, Carradah, and Brennan Parks.
Would like to see a public amenities block constructed in Sawmillers Reserve (x 2).	Sawmillers Reserve is recognised as a local park with visitations primarily from people who live nearby, therefore the construction of a toilet block is seen believed warranted.
Council should review management of commercial events in Blues Point Reserve and Henry Lawson Reserve as they are diminishing public open space.	This issue is outside the scope of this general PoM and a specific PoM for Blues Point Reserve would more effectively address this submission. Council specific policies and procedures for this area would be documented in a future PoM.

A summary of issues raised in the submissions and the response to them follows:

Kayak storage facility in or near Oyster Cove Reserve	Council's <i>Small Water Craft Storage Strategy 2018</i> identifies King Street Road Reserve and Sugarworks Reserve (in the vicinity of Oyster Cove Reserve) as suitable locations for storage facilities. Construction of new storage facilities is currently occurring in order of identified priority.
Council should address issues in Tunks Park including drainage issues, making the southern service path more pedestrian friendly and building a new path along the northern edge of the park to create a pedestrian circuit.	As the submission notes, many of these issues are identified in the adopt <i>Tunks Park Masterplan/PoM</i> <i>2018</i> , and, along with other identified works, these are being implemented in priority order as resourcing permits. The Masterplan/PoM specifically addresses provision of a track on the north side of the park, integration of a catch swale at base of bush slopes to collect runoff, and improving the asphalt southern service path to ensure it is always usable, including addressing intermittent flooding issues.

2. Amendments

All submissions were collated and analysed in-house. Council's corporate submission assessment criteria was used to assess feedback on the draft PoM and to determine whether the document required amendment.

Amendments proposed are of a minor nature; two capital works projects will be clarified, and additional heritage and conservation background information will be included.

Options

Council has the following options in relation to this matter:

1. Take no action. The new draft PoM would not be adopted by Council, and the existing adopted Foreshore Parks & Reserves PoM 2017 would remain Council's guiding document.

2. Amend the PoM to incorporate all capital works proposed in the submissions.

3. Adopt the *Foreshore Parks & Reserves Plan of Management* with only minor amendments, as described in '2. Amendments.'

These options are assessed in the following table.

Option	Finance/Resourcing	Risk/Opportunity	Consultation
1.	- No additional financing	- Existing PoM does not	- The 42-day
	or resourcing implications	meet the requirements of	consultation period
	as no improvements to	the CLM Act.	occurred as detailed in
	the quality and/or	- No improvement to the	this report, raising
	facilities in foreshore	quality and facilities in	community expectations
	parks and reserves would	foreshore parks and	that a new PoM (and an
	be made.	reserves.	associated works

		-Lack of a PoM identifying	program) will replace the
		future works would	2017 PoM.
		negatively impact Council's	
		future grant applications.	
2.	- Carrying out all proposed works would require additional financial and human resources.	 The proposed works may not represent the best outcomes for all the community. If significant amendments are required to a draft PoM because of changes resulting from public exhibition, the PoM must be resubmitted to Crown Lands and Minister's Consent to adopt must again be sought. 	- Should this option be endorsed it would be appropriate to consider further consultation, as these works were not considered by all the community.
3.	 Projects listed for implementation in the PoM (in priority order) meet identified community needs. Implementation is ongoing, depending upon availability of finances and human resources. The addition of minor amendments noted in '2. Amendments' will not affect resourcing. 	- Listing projects for implementation in the PoM allows the community to see and understand Council's plans to manage, maintain and improve open space and facilities	- The 42-day consultation period occurred as detailed in this report, with support for the exhibited draft PoM.

Option 3, is recommended for the following reasons:

- It provides the community and other stakeholders with a greater understanding of how and why North Sydney's foreshore parks and reserves are managed the way they are.
- The implementation component of the PoM sets out the improvements to open space and facilities in open space that will help meet community and other stakeholder needs over the next 10+ years, in order of priority.

Financial/Resource Implications

There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendation in this report.

Capital projects identified within the PoM are subject to prioritisation and allocation of funds within future Delivery Programs.

Legislation

The draft *Foreshore Parks & Reserves PoM* meets the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

DRAFT FORESHORE PARKS & RESERVES PLAN OF MANAGEMENT (PoM) Summary of submissions received during public exhibition period (4 July to 29 August 2023)

The following criteria are used to analyse all submissions received, and to determine whether or not the plan would be amended:

- 1. The Draft Foreshore Parks & Reserves PoM would be amended if issues raised in the submission:
 - a provided additional information of relevance.
 - b indicated or clarified a change in government legislation, Council's commitment or management policy.
 - c proposed strategies that would better achieve or assist with Council's objectives.
 - d was an alternate viewpoint received on the topic and is considered a better option than that proposed in the Draft Plan or;
 - e indicated omissions, inaccuracies or a lack of clarity.
- 2. The Draft Foreshore Parks & Reserves PoM would not be amended if the issues raised in the submission:
 - a addressed issues beyond the scope of the PoM.
 - b was already in the PoM or will be considered during the development of a subordinate plan (prepared by Council).
 - c offered an open statement, or no change was sought.
 - d clearly supported the draft proposals.
 - e was an alternate viewpoint received on the topic but the recommendation of the draft plan was still considered the best option.
 - f was based on incorrect information.
 - g contributed options that are not possible (generally due to some aspect of existing legislation or government policy) or;
 involved details that are not appropriate or necessary for inclusion in a document aimed at providing a strategic community direction over the long term.

No.	Name and Address	Key Points Raised	Criteria
1.	Edward Genocchio 19/21 Hayes Street Neutral Bay	If council check the western side of Hayes street the residents have done substantial native vegetation planting and rubbish removal. We do not want kayak or boat storage to be constructed on what is now a beautiful little beach, waterfall, aboriginal cave and bush regeneration. In the past whenever there has been kayak storage the owners dump their kayak in disarray sometimes never to use them. I request leave the area along as it is being managed into a beautiful area why rip it up with concrete and steel? It would however be good to have steps down to the beach	2e
2.	Penelope Morris 14 Queens Ave McMahons Point	In general, I support the Plan's overall goals. It is however important that council prioritise the needs of local residents versus visitors to the area given it is the local residents who pay council rates from which improvements are largely funded. Council has rightly recognised that North Sydney is dog friendly on the basis that all foreshore areas are off leash with certain exceptions. Certainly many residents own and walk their dogs in McMahons Point where I live. The off leash exceptions plus the need to keep dogs on leash near any roads mean that in McMahons Point, there are really only 2 off leash areas - the upper section of Blues Point Reserve next to Blues Point Tower and Sawmillers Reserve. Both are problematic because of the high number of people coming from out of area to fish. Dogs cannot be allowed off leash when there are bait / hooks / fishing lines in easy reach and many dog owners have had the traumatic and expensive experience of seeing their dog swallow a fish hook. Waverton oval which is close by is also often unavailable due to organised sporting activities but at least dog walkers can generally work around those times and there is still the rest of the park (Carradah Park) to walk. Council's stated aim that all public areas are shared, fails to recognise that not all activities can safely occur in the same space. I would therefore ask that Council revisit this aim, acknowledge the high number of local residents using the above spaces for dog walking / dog socialising and designate Sawmillers Reserve as a NO FISHING space.	2e
3.	Euroka Precinct	6. General Business (a) CB noted that the exhibited draft Foreshore Parks & Reserves Plan of Management included Sawmillers Reserve in McMahons Point. It did not, however, address the on-going problem of lack of toilet facilities at the reserve. Instances of the definite need for a toilet at the site were noted by attendees at the meeting. The meeting agreed that Council be asked again to consider the installation of toilet facilities in the park. It was disappointing that this was not addressed as part of the draft plan of management.	2e

No.	Name and Address	Key Points Raised	Criteria
4.	Chris Bowdler 38 Princes Street McMahons Point	The draft PoM does not provide for an accessible toilet in Sawmillers Reserve There is a community need for an accessible single uni-sex toilet in Sawmillers Reserve to improve the amenity for current users. Public toilets are an important facility for members of the public, in particular, women, those with children, older people and disabled people. The lack of a public toilet in Sawmillers Reserve was taken up by the Union Precinct in 2021 without apparent success. It was proposed that the toilet could be connected to the main sewer line within the Reserve. At the time the Council advised the Precinct that there were no current plans for a public toilet in Reserve and that a new delivery plan is to be prepared during the next term of Council. This matter was again taken up at the Euroka Precinct's meeting on 2 August 2023. "The meeting agreed that Council be asked again to consider the installation of toilet facilities in the park. It was disappointing that this was not addressed as part of the draft plan of management." The draft PoM sets out Council's land management objectives, addresses current issues and identifies and prioritises required work. It includes the provision of access and amenity in parks by providing public toilets. There are three projects listed for Sawmillers over 2023 to 2029 - formalise path, replace tower and install exercise equipment. The Precinct has not been asked for further comment or received further advice during the preparation of the PoM on the issue. Sawmillers Reserve is a large and popular park with walkers, dogs, fishermen, picnickers and kayakers. The closest public toilet to Sawmillers is at Blues Point Reserve a 10 minute walk away, and longer for those with disabilities. The Waverton Park toilet is a few more minutes away. The lack of a toilet limits the number of older residents walking or picnicking in Sawmillers. It is one of only two harbour side parks that does not have a public toilet. There are nine other harbour side parks with public toilets. Sawmillers Rese	2e

No.	Name and Address	Key Points Raised	Criteria
5.	Lyn Huxham 14 Blues Point Road McMahons Point	 Reference to Sections 1.4, 1.5 & 3.5 Specific to Blues Point Reserve & Henry Lawson Reserve 1. There does not seem to be any reference to the management of commercial events at these Reserves. 2. Weddings are mentioned, however currently a permit is only required for groups over 60. There has been a proliferation of commercial events at these reserves most weekends & midweek. They include but are not limited to: weddings, "Marry Me", Teepee & tent style catered picnics. They include: seating, paths with candles & flowers, arches, large letters (eg. Marry Me), sound systems, lighting, alcohol, the commercial organisers signage advertising their services, serving tables. 3. All of the above are diminishing open public space. Not only is open park space used, but the viewing /seating platforms on hill sloping down to the harbour at Blues Point Reserve have been completely taken over by events so nobody else can use them. 4. No permits for these events, means the Council does not control the number at any given time. 5. There is extra filling of rubbish bins, use of toilet facilities and wear & tear on grass. 6. The time that these events occupy public space can be many hours as the commercial event organiser will often arrive early to stake out their spot plus then is the added time of the event - can be half a day to all day 7. Impact on traffic & illegal parking by the event organiser as they park at the bottom of Blues Point Road & in the Handicapped & No Stopping spots in Henry Lawson Avenue & a the Southern end of Blues Point Access here is often on to the actual park area near the wharf which is now dirt due to overuse. 8. Parking issues with oversized stretch limos waiting for "bridal" parties. 9. Each weekend the same event organisers are using the park with no permit and no payment to North Sydney Council. They do not adhere to any parking regulations & are very brazen in taking ov	2a

No. Name and Addres	Key Points Raised	Criteria
6. Bay Precinct c/o Brian Emanue Co-convenor	Bay Precinct's submission to the Foreshore Parks and Reserves Plan is attached. Thank you for the extension of the	2b

No.	Name and Address	Key Points Raised		Criteria
5.	Bay Precinct cont.	TUNKS PARK PRIORITIES	BAY PRECINCT August, 2023	
		Safe Pederatina Crossing Buesto existing exi	<figure><complex-block></complex-block></figure>	

No.	Name and Address	Key Points Raised	Criteria
	Bay Precinct cont.		

No.	Name and Address	Key Points Raised	Criteria
7.	David Manson Manager Parks & Reserves NSC	 Updates to 2 capital works projects: repair (not replace) the stair tower in Sawmillers Reserve clarify that it is the amenities block associated with the sportsfield in Waverton Park to be upgraded 	1a
8.	Lucinda Varley Conservation Planner/ Heritage Officer NSC	The document reads really well. I only have a few small heritage suggestions for you to consider: <u>Section 2.2 Significance of Foreshore Parks & Reserves</u> The AILA submission for the state heritage nomination of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Reserves has some very well thought out and articulated comments about these types of foreshore reserves. See: <u>https://aila.org.au/common/Uploaded%20files/_AILA/Resource%20library/Landscape%20Heritage%20Report%20</u> <u>Volume%201-2.pdf</u> The foreshore reserves are significant as a collective group, particularly when seen from the harbour. The AILA document refers to them as a 'green beaded necklace'. <u>State Heritage Listing</u> – As an update, Badangi Reserve/ Berrys Island/ Gore Cove Reserve and Smoothey Park are still being assessed by NSW Heritage for state listing. They are still negotiating with Lane Cove Council about their side of Berry Creek (Holloway Reserve) and Manns Point Bushland, but I have been advised that it should be state listed this year.(1 think it's been 4 years already since the original nomination.) <u>Section 3.1 Landscape Character & Heritage</u> Bushland- Is it worthwhile noting that the bushland landscape differs to that bushland at pre-colonial settlement as the Aboriginal cultural landscape involved regular burning. Perhaps Gareth and/or the Aboriginal Heritage Office can help with documenting this. The AILA document at p. 62 S5.4.5 discusses this too. Sydney Opera House Buffer Zone - Many of the foreshore reserves fall into the SOH buffer zone. Development in the buffer zone that is visible in the context of the SOH must use dark materials so that it contrasts against the white sails of the Opera House. See CMP notably Policy 2.2 Policy 2.2 in the Conservation Management Plan for the UNESCO listed Sydney Opera House requires that: 'Ail agencies of government involved in planning, assessing and overseeing the continued development of areas within the Sydney Opera House. World Heritage Area Buffer Zone have a statutory obligation to p	1a

Lucinda Varley cont. National Trust Sydney Harbour Landscape Conservation Area- This has no legal status but has an advisory role. It is worth considering as the National Trust has included all of the NS foreshore reserves that address Sydney Harbour. Unfortunately the register is not available on line but you can email an enquiry to advocacy@nationaltrust.com.au is you want more info. I copied their map from the AILA document
Figure 17: Map of Sydney Harbour Landscape Conservation Area - the red line forms the boundary of the National Trust Sydney Harbour Landscape Conservation Area is the red line forms the boundary of the National Trust Sydney Harbour Landscape Conservation Area listing. Mental Health – Section 3.4 Page 21 and Section 4.2.1 Page 40. Maybe also discuss mental health benefits/uses, especially after the Covid lockdown experience. Wildlife Corridors - Landscape & Vegetation P44 - Do we need to mention wildlife corridor connections into other LGAs as the foreshore reserves are a small part of larger interconnected urban bushland corridors that provide

No.	Name and Address	Key Points Raised	Criteria
9.	Surb Bhatti Conservation Planner/ Heritage Officer NSC	This is a very interesting document, and the document is noted.	2c
10.	Jennifer Borg Estate Manager, Wondakiah Estate, Wollstonecraft	I note that Council are proposing storage of water craft in Oyster Cove Reserve. Our Community Association wishes to consider storing kayaks for recreational purposes on the foreshore in, or near Oyster Cove Reserve and would like to see that option included in the plan of management, subject to a feasibility assessment. Please log our interest.	2b