



Report to General Manager

Attachments:
Nil

SUBJECT: Hayes Street Beach Community Kayak Share proposal

AUTHOR: Rob Emerson, Director Open Space and Environmental Services

ENDORSED BY: Ken Gouldthorp, General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As a response to a Mayoral Minute (MM02 August 2018 Kayak Share Scheme) considered with NoM02 and NoM06 of the same meeting on 27 August 2018, Council resolved:

- 1. THAT Council officers investigate the feasibility of running a community share-a-kayak scheme on Hayes Street Beach in Neutral Bay.*
- 2. THAT the outcome of this investigation be reported back to Council in September 2018.*
- 3. THAT prior to the next Council meeting, Council conduct a meeting regarding Hayes Street Beach with interested Councillors, the Director Open Space & Environmental Services and representatives of the 'Kayak Share' Scheme.*

This report investigates and reports on the feasibility of the scheme, how the proposed Community Kayak Share Scheme could operate and the proposed safeguards that could be included in the conditions if Council approves the community operated scheme.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

The cost of the provision of a designated rack that can accommodate nine kayaks is approximately \$4,000 and can be sourced from the current capital budget available for small watercraft storage.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** Council issue permits to enable the Community Share Kayak Scheme for Hayes Street beach as detailed within the report.
 - 2. THAT** Council staff prepare a review of the Community Kayak Share Scheme after twelve months of operation and report the findings back to Council.
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LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

Direction: 1. Our Living Environment

Outcome: 1.4 Public open space and recreation facilities and services meet community needs

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement is not required.

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

The sustainability implications are of a minor nature and did not warrant a detailed assessment.

DETAIL

As a response to a Mayoral Minute (MM02 August 2018 Kayak Share Scheme) considered with NoM02 and NoM06 of the same meeting, Council resolved:

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- 2.THAT the outcome of this investigation be reported back to Council in September 2018.*
- 3.THAT prior to the next Council meeting, Council conduct a meeting regarding Hayes Street Beach with interested Councillors, the Director Open Space & Environmental Services and representatives of the 'Kayak Share' Scheme.*

In response to the Council resolution staff have met with the community members whom are advocating for the Community Kayak Share Scheme on two occasions including a scheduled meeting as specified by the resolution on the 19th September that was attended by Mayor Gibson, Clr Brodie, Henry Frieburg, Loretta Moy, Bernard Bradbury, Meryl Piggott and Rob Emerson. After the subsequent meetings it is the recommendation of the Open Space & Environmental Services Division that the proposal is feasible and potentially will be of benefit to the community whom are interested in kayaking for recreation.

This community group have undertaken a large amount of preparatory work on the premise that Council may provide approval including the incorporation of the community group/club "Kayak Share Club Incorporated" a constitution for the club has been established (based on the Fair Trading Model) and five inaugural office bearers of the Club have been nominated.

Additionally, the community group have attended meetings with PaddleNSW (the peak body for paddling sports in NSW), carried out training sessions with a certified PaddleNSW instructor to provide the club's duty of care on relevant safety education (paddling technique, harbour markings, weather condition etc) and report to have a group of volunteers ready to take on specified roles as public relations, kayak storage, instructors etc.

If the recommendation is approved, Council's responsibility will simply be for the issuing of authorised permits to store nine nominated Community Share Kayaks on the Hayes Street Beach and the provision of suitable racking to ensure the footprint on the beach that the kayakers will utilise is minimised. No other permits will be issued to authorise individually owned small watercraft to be stored on the beach.

In addition to the standard conditions for small water craft storage on Council property that are currently in place across a number of locations, the following additional conditions will also apply.

- **Fees**

No fees will apply for the storage of up to nine kayakers on Hayes Street Beach based on the applicant providing six monthly reports to Council that illustrate the Community Kayak Share Scheme is operating effectively and for the benefit of the broader community.

- **Council liability**

Council takes no responsibility for any theft of or damage to any craft or property stored on the Hayes Street Beach. The Kayak Share Club Inc. will need to provide evidence of a current public liability insurance to the public in respect of personal injury and property damage for a limit of indemnity of not less than \$20,000,000 million (AUD).

- **Permitted Storage**

The designated community share kayakers must only be stored and secured in the racks/space allocated and supplied by the Council.

- **Display of permit number on craft**

The community group must ensure that a permit is clearly displayed on all craft registered to the share scheme. Watercraft found unattended on Hayes Street Beach without an authorised permit will be removed and disposed of.

- **Length of kayakers for storage**

Each kayak in the community scheme cannot exceed a length of 4.5 metres.

- **Six monthly reporting**

The community group through the "Kayak Share Club Inc." is required to provide six monthly reports that provide substantive evidence to the Council that the Community Kayak Share Scheme is being implemented to meet the broader community's needs.

i.e.:

- That there is evidence of equitable community access to the kayakers available within the scheme.
 - That reasonable risk and safety processes are in place and being implemented to minimise the harm to users.
 - Evidence is provided of actual usage hours of each kayak included in the Community Kayak Share Scheme.
 - A condition report on each kayak within the scheme is provided that ensures that the share kayakers are fit for their purpose.
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Failure to meet the permit conditions to Council's satisfaction may result in the approved permits being rescinded and Council will retain the right to terminate the program or alter the permit conditions at any time through a resolution of Council.

The community group has identified how the Community Kayak Share Scheme will operate and how community members can access the scheme:

- The scheme will be advertised locally and regularly within the community.
- People that express an interest in the scheme will be provided the opportunity to participate in a 'introductory paddle session' in small groups on relevant safety education with an accredited trainer.
- If people want to participate further in the Community Kayak Share Scheme they will need to join the community club and pay an annual fee of approximately \$80 to cover insurances and the community club's operating costs. There are no further costs applied for the use of the kayaks.
- The organising committee of the Community Kayak Share Scheme will identify a list of conditions and standards required to be adhered to relating to the use of the kayaks and behaviour of members.
- Club members will be expected to have their own paddle and life-jacket to participate.
- Club members will book the use of the share kayaks through a club app and once the booking process is completed the Club members will be provided with a code to unlock the allocated kayak for their booked timeslot.
- All kayaks within the community kayak share scheme will be fundamentally donated by community members to the incorporated Club at no cost.

The Community Kayak Share Scheme to a large degree will rely on community members to do the right thing to ensure the Community Kayak Share Scheme is successful and that they are respectful to fellow community club members and the general public more generally.

It is the conclusion of the Council staff that the Community Kayak Share Scheme proposal has merit and it is recommended that Council issue the necessary permits to enable the scheme to be trialled for a 12-month period, as outlined within this report.
