



MINUTE OF THE MAYOR

Dated: 29 January 2019

RE: Improving the Water Quality at Hayes Street Beach, Neutral Bay

I read a report in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 29 December 2018 about the state of Sydney's beaches and was alarmed to see that the water quality at Hayes Street Beach has been downgraded to 'poor'.

A 'poor' grading indicates that the water is susceptible to faecal pollution, particularly after rainfall and even during dry weather conditions.

The Office of Environment & Heritage State of the Beaches 2017-18 report states that the level of enterococci bacteria, which are excreted in faeces, occasionally exceeded safe swimming limits after little or no rain, and regularly after 5mm or more of rain.

Contamination of recreational waters with faecal material can pose significant health problems to beach users because of the presence of pathogens (disease-causing microorganisms) in the faecal material.

Exposure to contaminated water can cause gastroenteritis. It can also cause eye, ear and skin infections when pathogens come into contact with cuts in the skin or ruptures of the delicate membranes in the ear or nose.

Now, I don't know about you, but this is not water I would like to swim in and I'm sure our residents feel the same.

I'm aware that there is a stormwater drain outlet located near the beach which is likely the main cause of contaminated water.

The nearest Gross Pollutant Trap at the end of Hayes Street has been identified (in the Optimal Stormwater Report of 2016) as being in need of a significant upgrade, which would help prevent more rubbish and litter from entering the waterway. The cost of the upgrade is around \$500K and is not budgeted for this financial year.

If Council were to resolve to apply to IPART for a Special Rate Variation (under the Scenario 2 or 3 proposal), and it was successful, the upgrade could be undertaken.

I would like to explore all options available to Council to try and mitigate this so our residents and their children can safely swim at Hayes Street Beach without fear of getting gastroenteritis or nasty skin infections.

I therefore recommend:

1. THAT Council staff explore all potential solutions to improve water quality at Hayes Street Beach in Neutral Bay and report back to Council detailing the solutions and associated costs. Solutions to be considered include:

1. Upgrading the Hayes Street Gross Pollutant Trap;
2. Moving or redirecting nearby stormwater drain outlets; and
3. More regular street cleaning.

2. THAT signage be placed at Hayes Street Beach to warn people of the risks of swimming at the beach, particularly after rainfall.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON
MAYOR**