

MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

February 2025

Manly Community Forum 2025 Watch List

Welcome back. Hope everyone had a great summer. Here on the Eastern Hill we shared our open spaces, parks and beaches, both ocean and harbourside with thousands of visitors despite the storms and wet weather. The ferries maintained their cracking timetable even introducing a new route from Watsons Bay. Manly Wharf has changed dramatically over the summer and the changes keep coming with the demo of the Bavarian. Every local kid got an ebike for Christmas and Council put up their ebike code signs in the hope that this would encourage more helmet and clothing wearing. But now there is huge demand for ebike parking at those renowned youth haunts such as jump rock, the Wharf, West Esplanade and all beaches.

At the Extraordinary Council meeting in January half the councillors supported the Staff recommendation to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for a Special Rate Variation above the normal annual allowable increase. This application will now progress through the Tribunal where there will be an opportunity for ratepayers and others to make a submission. Those calling for an Independent review have now got one.

Council completed their pedestrian and vehicle data collection for the Eastern Hill and provided a preliminary summary of findings and recommendations for reducing speeding on our roads by upgrading the street scape. The Community Forum sub committee will be meeting with the Council staff to discuss the progress and any proposals in February.

The Manly Community Forum Watchlist for 2025 also includes monitoring as well as advocating for action and implementation of the following ongoing projects.

- **North Head Health and Wellbeing Precinct**
- **National Parks and Wildlife North Head Access Concept plan**
- **Repair of Heritage stone wall at Spring Cove by Catholic Church**
- **Eastern Hill streetscape upgrade and Darley Road speed reduction plan.**
- **Marine Parade improvements**
- **Shelly Beach landscaping and signs**
- **North Steyne area public access and amenity improvements**
- **West Esplanade former aquarium redevelopment**
- **e-bike management**
- **Summer crowd management in areas surrounding Manly Wharf**
- **Parking, Parking, Parking (all parking issues)**
- **Little Manly Master Plan - 34 Stuart St EOI and Tender**

FEBRUARY AGENDA

- Introduction to AVEO and discussion about the North Head Health and Wellbeing precinct
- IPART submissions to NBC Rate Rise
- 2025 priorities

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY

17 February 2025

7PM MANLY YACHT CLUB

editor: Cathy Griffin

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Parking Pain on the Eastern Hill

Council Rangers have been active over the busy summer period issuing fines on the Eastern Hill, first we didn't get any reminder that the Little Manly Resident permits were due for renewal at the end of September so in October and November the rangers fined everyone who hadn't renewed their permits! Since then they have been out fining all those who have been ignoring the various parking signs and this has caught a few locals out who have been parking in their driveways or a bit close to the corners. Disobeying a 'No Stopping' sign is a level 4 fine at \$320, while 'Stop on/across driveway/other access to/from land' also attracts a level 4 \$320 fine. The Community demanded that Council get the Rangers out and manage the Resident Parking Schemes so the schemes aren't abused by those without permits. So far in 2024/25 (July - Nov YTD) Council has made \$3.624million across the Northern Beaches from fines. In 2023/24 the total was \$6.355million. All fines can be challenged via the Service NSW website where drivers can also access all the photos taken by the Rangers.

We note that Tender for the Digital Parking schemes has closed with three applicants bidding. The 5 Resident Parking Schemes will be the first to be digitised.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY 17 FEB 25 AT 7PM AT THE MANLY YACHT CLUB

National Parks & Wildlife

Service - North Head Update.

NP&WS have installed some new signs near the new carparks at North head, reminding people that dogs are not permitted and why in the Sydney Harbour National Park.

But they win the award for the Best Bureaucratic Response to my question about the markings that recently appeared on the road just past the roundabout all the way to the lookouts that may indicate some roadworks might be about to be carried out.

Hi

Thank you for your correspondence and ongoing interest in North Head. I appreciate your feedback regarding the NPWS project to improve access and address public safety.

Visitor safety is our top priority and will be a key consideration in all aspects of the project. The upgrades under consideration, including the roundabout at the junction of North Head Scenic Drive and QS, and the relocation and upgrade of the bus stops, aim to enhance visitor access and safety. This area is a priority for the project.

We are also assessing access options, including the potential for a pathway adjacent to North Head Scenic Drive and connections to existing routes and destinations, to reduce risk to pedestrians and allow for improved and equitable community access.

The project is currently in its inception stage, with detailed assessments currently being undertaken or scheduled to ensure thorough consideration of all factors, including environmental assessment, engineering reporting, traffic analysis, land surveys, and safety assessments.

We are committed to considering environmental and heritage values, ensuring that impacts to vegetation, fauna and historic items are avoided or minimised. A dedicated project webpage will be developed, and stakeholders already identified, as well as those expressing interest, will receive updates. There will be focused engagement and wider community consultation once we have completed assessments and developed concepts for community consideration.

Please feel free to contact me anytime to discuss park matters.

Kind regards



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Manly Hospital Site to get going



The NSW Government has chosen Aveo as its project partner for the redevelopment of the Manly Hospital site. Aveo has committed to working with the community, local stakeholders, and Northern Beaches Council to create an intergenerational health and wellbeing precinct.

Aveo is engaging with local charities and architectural firms for the site's planning with the redevelopment including adaptive re-use of heritage buildings and potentially including seniors housing, affordable housing, a residential aged care facility, public open spaces, a health and wellbeing centre, community and retail spaces, and a childcare centre, all subject to planning approval.

The state government will retain ownership of the site, leasing it to Aveo for revitalisation.

Meanwhile, the construction of the Manly Hospice has been successful, and further hospital revitalisation is ongoing.

The Aveo CEO and the Senior Project team will present plans and answer any questions at the Manly Community Forum March 2025 meeting.

Council Rates rise - what now

A majority of Councillors voted at the Extraordinary Meeting of 28 January 2025 for Staff to submit an application for the Special Rate Variation to IPART. The significant thing here is that IPART is independent, with its own processes, and it will scrutinise the application and then say yes or no and how much.

IPART must assess Special Variation applications against specific criteria set out by the Office of Local Government (OLG). Councils can only apply to IPART for a Special Variation if the elected councillors pass a resolution to go ahead with the application.

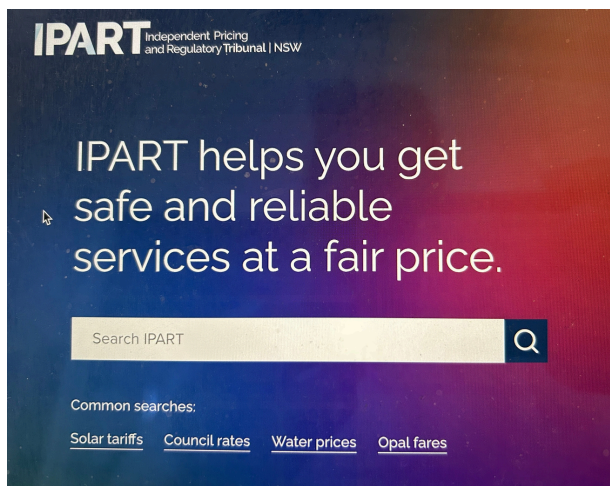
The OLG assessment criteria require councils to:

- demonstrate the need for the additional income
- provide evidence that the community is aware of the need for and extent of a rate rise
- establish that the impact on affected ratepayers is reasonable
- exhibit, approve and adopt relevant planning documents
- explain and quantify the council's productivity improvements and cost containment strategies.

In addition, the Tribunal will assess any other information it considers relevant, including submissions from ratepayers.

IPART can wholly or partially approve or reject a council's application. Decisions from the Tribunal will be announced around May 2025. The reasons will be published on the IPART website.

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) released its 2024 decisions on 9 NSW council applications for special variations to increase their general income by more than the rate peg. Of the 9 Special Variation applications, the Tribunal approved 5, approved a lower increase for 3 and declined one.



9 Bruce Avenue **Manly**



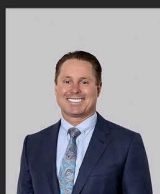
61 Seaforth Crescent **Seaforth**

THE AGENCY

Considering Selling?

Jake and his team have a proven track record of successfully selling properties across Manly and the lower Northern Beaches. From entry-level apartments to luxury homes, they handle sales across all price points.

If you're thinking about selling or would like a property appraisal, call Jake.



Jake Rowe

jakerowe@theagency.com.au

0414 612 546

Shop 1, 22 Darley Rd, Manly NSW 2095

Experience sells



Cleaning the Harbour pools



Shelly beach amenities block

The new amenities block at Shelly has done some hard yards since it opened last year and now the Council (contractors) will be working through a list of ‘rectifications’ and repairs in coming weeks.

These works will include:

- examination and rectification of the shower fittings and tapware
- repairs to tiling, rendering, grouting, waterproofing and painting where required
- Cleaning and removal of the green stains from the outdoor shower wall
- any other repairs as required.

No news on the repair of the Marine Parade footpath near Bower Lane and Bower Lane. Sydney Water finished their works last year and its now up to Council to sort the asphaltting on the walkway. And still no sign (sorry for the pun!) of any new wayfinding or compliance signs to replace the damaged ones at Shelly.

Brickbats and Bouquets

- **Bouquet** to Council for cleaning the Little Manly Harbour pool nets in a seahorse-friendly way. The contractor checks for seahorses in the nearby netting, ‘rehomes’ then if necessary, pulls out all the plastic and rubbish caught in the nets and then turns the power-cleaner onto each pylon.
- **Bouquet** to the Council employees for their amazing cleaning efforts at Shelly beach over the summer. These guys are legends for getting up before the sun rises and picking up after the grubs who leave their rubbish all over the beach, footpath, BBQ and grassy area. Also thanks to the team who clean East Esplanade.
- **Brickbat** to the people who disrupted the Extraordinary Council meeting on 28 Jan 25 with their shouting and booing. Protesting is fine but the poor behaviour and continued sledging and threatening of the Councillors and staff is not nice or even constructive. Stop yelling, get off the socials and send a constructive submission to IPART.
- **Brickbat** to all the authorities, Council, Sydney Water, AUSGRID and the property owner, who all pointed the finger of blame at each other and failed to fix the water spouting out of a leak in Darley Rd for over a month.
- **Brickbat** to the sailors and their mates who have difficulty sharing the open space in the corner of East Esplanade on weekends when parking their trailers and then moving their boats into the water across the shared path.
- **Brickbat** to the Council for not policing the “No Bike riding signs” and to all the selfish bike, including ebike, riders, especially along Marine Parade and the Fairlight Scenic walkway. Pedestrians could at least have their own space, bike free, for 2 out of 7 days.

Winner of the Best Café Dining & Best Casual Dining of the Year in NSW for 2024 at the Restaurant and Catering NSW Awards!

LITTLE MANLY, LITTLE STRESS.

ripples

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