



MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

July 2022

State Government Budget news for Manly

Manly Wharf 3 Upgrade

The old timber wharf at Manly is set for an upgrade before the end of this year following the most recent state budget. This project is part of the \$205 million NSW Government funding for maritime infrastructure and safety upgrades. Community consultation on the project has concluded and the various investigations around the wharf area have also been completed.

The upgraded wharf will be designed to:

- Improve access for mobility impaired customers and customers with prams.
- Improve customer amenity such as protection from the wind, rain and sun, seating and waiting areas.
- Quicker and more efficient boarding and disembarking.
- Improve pedestrian access around the wharf.
- More efficient interchange with other modes of public and private transport.
- Consideration of Manly place making opportunities.

Former Aquarium site

The State Budget also locked in \$4.3million in funding to demolish the old Aquarium site and create new open space on our Harbour. Since the Aquarium was closed in 2018, it has remained vacant and been declared not fit for any reuse. The building is dilapidated, still housing the custom built tanks and enclosures, rapidly deteriorating not easily adapted to a future new use. It also blocks sight lines to the heritage buildings behind.

After extensive consultation the State Government has developed designs which create a new public space area for relaxing and recreation right on the Harbour. The proposal includes removing the aquarium building and extending the boardwalk with enough width for outdoor dining and a recreational edge with access to the water. This proposal would provide a safe, family friendly space which maintains and celebrates the local heritage of the area.

The NSW Government has concluded environmental investigations and is currently preparing the Environmental Impact Report required prior to the works commencing. Consultation on the final design will occur in the coming months, with demolition to be underway before the end of the year.

This design does not include a boardwalk from Manly Wharf to Federation Point proposed by a local Councillor and costed at \$12million by the Northern Beaches Council.

AGENDA

- Council works update
- Future of Hop Skip Jump Bus
- Royal Far West DA
- Darley Rd speed limit update

North Head National Park

If it ever stops raining long enough the works at North Head will be completed soon, with new footpaths, lookouts and bus stops installed.

The upgrade was expected to be completed by June 2022, however the works include;

- the reconfiguration of car parks to provide more accessible parking spaces and overflow parking
- extending the open landscape by reducing carpark areas to provide a space for visitors to enjoy views across the harbour
- the installation of pedestrian crossings and a pedestrian path to improve safety, access and pedestrian circulation
- upgrades to the existing bus stop, including shelter and seating
- improvements to the entry of the Fairfax Walking Track.

Manly Village Public School

Our local Primary School, Manly Village, received more than \$5 million in the State Budget to expand the teaching space for students at the School. This funding is being used to refurbish the former Manly Community Centre on Wentworth Street and will become a part of the School.

The repurposing of the former Manly Community Centre for the School is wonderful to see and a good use of the building which may have otherwise been sold or used for other purposes.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY 18 JULY AT 7PM AT MANLY YACHT CLUB

Council Budget news for Manly

Resident Parking Scheme Fees rise

The Northern Beaches Council Budget was passed at the recent June meeting. After some advocacy by our Manly Ward Councillors the fees for the Manly Resident Parking Schemes were not increased as much as had been exhibited. The first permit is now \$47 the second and third \$110 each. Business parking permits \$230. These fees will go some way to making the administration of the scheme cost neutral, although there is still some confusion as to how much the scheme actually costs to administer.

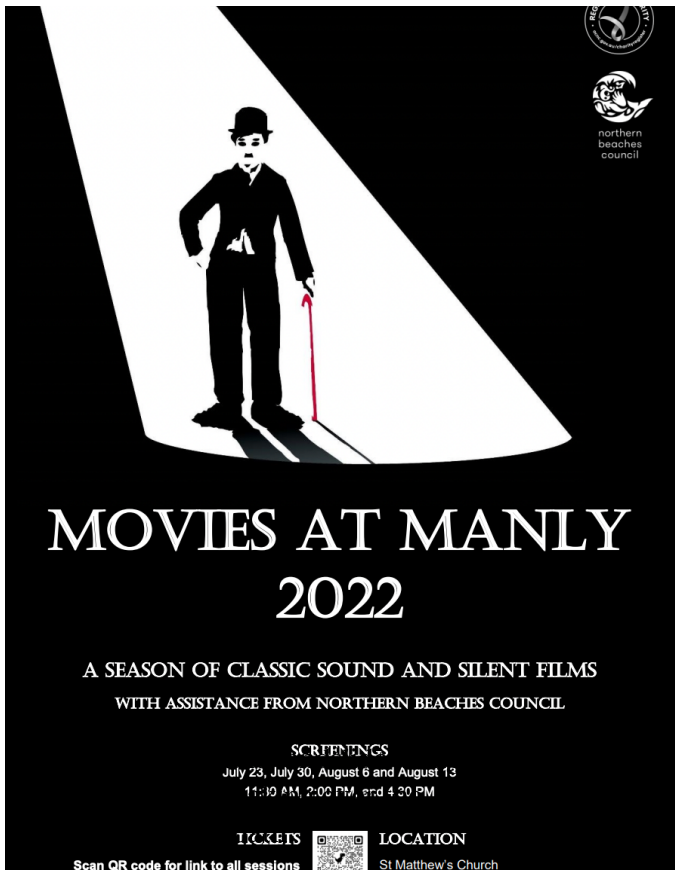
The two ratepayer beach parking permits remain free with the rates unless they get lost and a replacement is required. There is a \$112 fee to replace them.

Hop Skip Jump Bus just survives

Also discussed at length at about 11pm at the Council meeting was the future of the Hop Skip Jump Bus. One councillor argued that he didn't understand why this HSJ service existed at all for such a small number of people in a small area of Manly, when other transport services are provided by clubs, retirement villages, business courtesy buses, the NDIS and more. He asked why there was no funding for playgrounds or toilets and other services in what he called 'forgotten areas' of the Northern Beaches.

However the statistics and evidence obtained by Councillor Bingham suggested that there was wide local support by the Manly Community for the Hop skip Jump Bus with many of the passengers stating they would be devastated if it were to be discontinued. This service is available for everyone on the several routes travelled by the HSJ buses, not just those in aged care or retirement villages, or those wanting to go to a club, it is well patronised by the many and varied, young and old residents and visitors in our community. Councillor Gratton argued that the service met many of the Council's Strategic Plan goals. One Councillor reminded the meeting that as part of the amalgamation process, no services would be 'lost'.

The original motion was amended to remove the paragraphs suggesting the funds saved by cancelling the HSJ be redirected into the repair of potholes and new footpaths. The Councillors finally voted to support a review of the service and the need to find alternative funding to make it financially sustainable, including charging a fee for service by the end of the year. Council staff will now have discussions with TPTfNSW to determine if the Council can become a transport provider which would allow for a fee to be set for passengers to pay via their Opal cards.



MOVIES AT MANLY
2022

A SEASON OF CLASSIC SOUND AND SILENT FILMS
WITH ASSISTANCE FROM NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL

SCREENINGS
July 23, July 30, August 6 and August 13
11:30 AM, 2:00 PM, and 4:30 PM

TICKETS LOCATION
Scan QR code for link to all sessions St Matthew's Church



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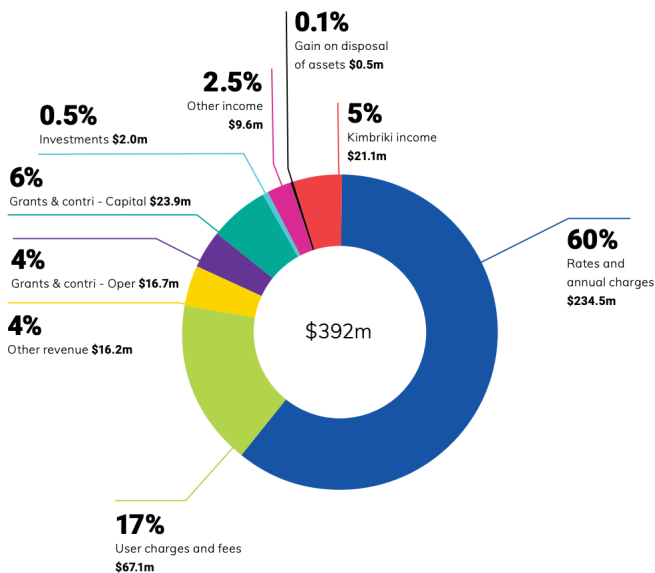
Outdoor dining fees reduced by 50%

Also agreed at this Council meeting was a 50% reduction in Outdoor Dining Fees till the end of the year. This is to support Manly's local businesses during the current tough times. Council agreed to forgo this revenue and reduce the library 'book budget' by \$173,000. This means that the Library's annual book budget of approximately \$700,000 didn't get its annual increase for the next FY. It was noted that the Council had foregone revenue of \$2.1million to the end of this year in Outdoor Dining Fees as the fees had been suspended during the COVID period. The Manly Chamber of Commerce supports a review of outdoor dining fees in the Manly area as currently different fees are charged per square metre for different locations in the CBD, ranging from \$463 per sm for the outer non CBD areas to \$1275 per sm in the main CBD and beachfront areas. Another reason for a review is that some cafes have permanent outdoor areas fenced off compared to other businesses where the tables and chairs occupy the public space at different times of the day and are removed when not in use.

Funding summary for 2022/23

The following charts show the breakdown of funding sources for Council and how the money will be allocated in 2022/23.

Where does the income come from?



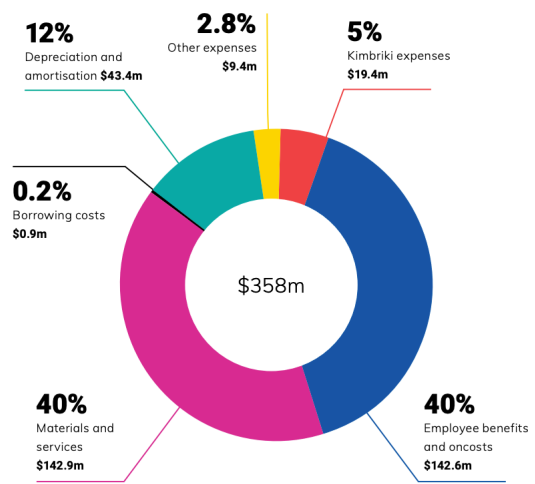
Rate rise again

We can expect a rate increase of 2.4% which equates to an average increase of \$37 per year for ratepayers. Each year the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) sets the maximum amount rates can be increased for all Councils in NSW.

In December 2021 they announced the limit would be 0.7% for the 2022/23 financial year, however this was based on outdated inflation information. With inflation currently at 5.1%, the Minister for Local Government has established a process through the IPART for Council's to apply for a higher increase that is consistent with the Council's expected level of rating income (to a maximum of 2.5%). Council has resolved to apply to IPART for approval to increase rates by 2.4%.

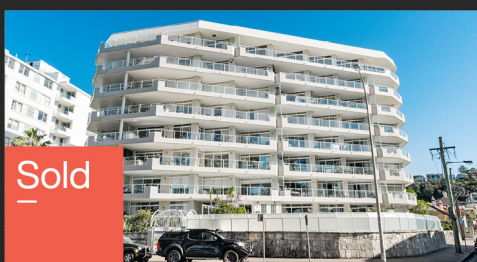
graphic taken from NBC Delivery Program 2022 - 2026

Where is the money spent?



Sold

11/62 North Steyne Manly - \$3,025,000



Sold

11/69-74 North Steyne Manly - \$4,250,000

We have just had two excellent sales of apartments on Manly beachfront – both apartments were sold within three weeks on the market.

Jake has sold over 500 properties in the Manly area over the past 20 years. If you are looking for an agent with an exceptional track record, look no further than Jake Rowe.



Jake Rowe

The Agency Manly

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New pedestrian crossing



Brickbats & Bouquets

- **Bouquet** Despite the rain local families were lined up at 7am to watch the fencing come down and then be first to try out all the new equipment at the brand new Little Manly Point Park playground. Everyone is very excited to now enjoy this new and improved playground. Just in time for school holidays the playground is packed with happy kids and their carers. But beware of ticks, they too seem to be enjoying the playground popularity.
- **Brickbat** Marine Parade continues to be battered by the East Coast Low, escalating the need for a concerted effort to upgrade and improve the area, particularly the stormwater infrastructure, both public as well as those pipes coming directly from private landholdings into the bay.
- **Bouquet** Lots of new raised pedestrian crossings installed along the Steyne, including across Victoria Pde.
- **Bouquet** to all the passengers supporting the new Emerald Ferry timetable. The weather has been wild and so have the seas, but the big swells on the harbour haven't dampened the enthusiasm of commuters for the ferries. A revised timetable along with the faster trips is seeing more commuters starting to catch the Emerald Ferries, with the daily average of passengers peaking at 10,864 in April but dropping back to 8,018 in May this year. This does not include the Fast Ferry passenger numbers.
- **Bouquet** to Council for installing temporary stairs into Cabbage Tree Bay at Bower lane

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