



northern
beaches
council

MANLY SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCT (SEP)

Precinct Working Group (PWG) Meeting #1

3 September 2025
Workshop Report

Proudly funded by:



**Acknowledgement
of Country**

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Gayamaygal people, and pay our respects to elders past and present.

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INTRODUCTION

This workshop was the first meeting of the Manly Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) Precinct Working Group (PWG).

The Manly SEP will trial targeted and localised interventions to support local businesses and civic life.

The participants of this PWG have been selected through an open expression of interest process.

PRECINCT WORKING GROUP #1

Held Wednesday 3 September

6:30 – 8:30pm

Manly Town Hall

Facilitated by Cobalt Engagement:

Nicole Dennis - Facilitator

Mia Stevens - Engagement Support

Forum Objectives

- To get to know each other.
- To clearly explain the Manly Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) Trial and the Manly Precinct Management Plan (PMP), the timeline and key project milestones.
- To provide an overview of the role of the PWG and how they will input and influence the PMP Trial, the program and expected time commitment.
- To understand some key background information on how and why the PWG has been established.
- To input into creating the shared values and goals of the PWG.
- To imagine what we want the Manly Special Entertainment Precinct to be in the future.

Forum Agenda

- Introductions
- Ice breaker
- Meeting Objectives
- Overview of the Manly Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) Precinct Management Plan (PMP)
- Activity 1 - Precinct Working Group (PWG) values and goals
- Activity 2 - What do we want to see Manly become?
- Q&A





PWG Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Cathy Griffin	Manly Community Forum - Chair	Leanne Miller	Resident
Kandy Tagg	Manly Community Forum - Secretary	Sam Stow	Resident (apologies - Susan Chrysiliou atteneded in place)
Ramsie Taylor	Manly Business Chamber	Ben Collis	Boathouse Group
Chris Harper	Musician, band management	Zoe Hudson	Manly Theatre Group
Claire Morris	Venue & entertainment manager, programmer, and artist liaison	Conor Farrell	Sydney Opera House - General Manager of Event Operations & Planning (apologies)
Elodie Quintard	Performing artist, songwriter and artist booker	Matthew Hill	Nimbus Co (on behalf of Lyndsay Dalton)
Noel Purcell	Resident	Lyndsay Dalton	Nimbus Co (apologies)
Angela Williams	Resident	Dean Romeo	Felon's (apologies)
Michael Dalichau	Resident	David Lee	Leeway Mind and Body Mastery (apologies)
Claire Taverner	Resident	Molly Linton	Funky & Green
Mats Ernarsan	Resident	Joe Bruzzese	Belgrave Cartel
Susan Chrysiliou	Resident	Adam Gainsford	Hotel Steyne

Northern Beaches Council Attendees			
Mal McDonald	Strategic and Place Planning - Executive Manager	Mayor Sue Heins	Mayor of Northern Beaches Council
Liza Cordoba	Strategic and Place Planning - Manager	Cr Candy Bingham	Councilor - Manly Ward
Emily Newman	Place & Economic Development - Acting Manager	Cr Sarah Grattan	Councilor - Manly Ward
Mel Dunn	Senior Community Engagement Advisor	Cr Bonnie Harvey	Councilor - Manly Ward (apologies)
Kate Mercieca	Principal Planner		
Rebecca Sio	Planner		
Ainsley Eakins	Student Planner		

PWG values and objectives

- In pairs, participants were given worksheets listing values. With discussion they circled their top 3 personal values. The worksheet is available in the appendix - 5 minutes.

- The room discussed what values were shared - 5 minutes.

- In rotating pairs, participants talked about their favourite place in Manly town centre - 5 minutes.
- The room discussed, "what are our favourite places?" -5 minutes.

The participants showed a clear prioritisation of working together, with "community" and "collaboration" being the top picks on the work sheet, and both "communication" and "shared prosperity" being added by participants.

From the response, a short draft values statement has been made: “We are a community rooted in trust, respect, and inclusion, where our collaboration and creativity will drive shared prosperity and wellbeing”.



Value	Times Chosen	Value	Times Chosen	Value	Times Chosen	Value	Times Chosen
Community	14	Fun	3	Loyalty	2	Humility	1
Collaboration	8	Gratitude	3	Openness	2	Justice	1
Creativity	6	Growth	3	Perseverance	2	Learning	1
Trust	6	Accountability	2	Resourcefulness	2	Pride	1
Optimism	5	Adventure	2	Vision	2	Reliability	1
Respect	5	Cooperation	2	Wellbeing	2	Security	1
Authenticity	4	Ethics	2	Adaptability	1	Success	1
Balance	4	Fairness	2	Diversity	1	Teamwork	1
Family	4	Generosity	2	Financial stability	1	Truth	1
Inclusion	4	Health	2	Freedom	1	Additional values added	Communication, Integrity, Humility, Shared Prosperity, Safety, Sustainability
Kindness	4	Honesty	2	Friendship	1		
Equality	3	Humour	2	Harmony	1		

Your favourite place in Manly

Through the room discussion, favourite places in Manly were noted. Importantly, some locations were tied to a time, like sunrise and sunset. Others were tied to an activity; socialising in the queue at Messina, and swimming by the West Esplanade.

Favourite places in Manly
The Manly Oval
Town Hall
The Messina Queue
The lanes
East Esplanade
The Old Boat Shed
West Esplanade - swimming in the harbour
Shelly Beach
50/ 50 built and natural
Wharf sunset
Many South sunrise



ACTIVITY 2

What do we want to see Manly's 24-Hour economy become?

- Working in small groups, participants brainstormed activities and things to do that they would like to see over 24-Hours for weekdays and weekends and noted the responses on worksheets (available in the appendix) – 15 minutes.
- Responses were captured as both a 24-Hours in Autumn/ Winter and in Spring/ Summer. Separate space was provided to also suggest season specific events.
- The results were reported back to the room and discussed – 15 minutes.

Summary

The participants' responses to this activity were provided in various ways; some using the 24-Hour planner structure of the work sheet, and others simply describing the activities or gaps they would like to see examined.

The results described here are a synthesis of this input, and are categorised into four types of activity:

- Physical recreation, e.g. jogging.
- General entertainment, e.g. see a movie.
- Dining and cafes, e.g. grabbing coffee.
- Other recreation, e.g. pottery classes.

Other comments that did not fall directly into activity types were focused around specific themes:

- Street furnishings - Lighting was mentioned 6 times, along with the less common, signage, outdoor seating, and outdoor public chess.
- Other infrastructure - Night transport, safety and accessibility upgrades, and improved cycling/ pedestrian shared spaces.
- Destinations - The library opening 24/ 7 was mentioned 6 times, and an amphitheater mentioned 3 times.
- Youth - kids' activities were mentioned 5 times, and support to youth (and emerging) bands was mentioned twice.

Suggested seasonal events often reflected the same sorts of activities as mentioned in the 24-Hour breakdown e.g. a marathon, an open-air movie night, or a food festival. In this sense many of the suggested events were celebrations of what attendees saw as the Manly lifestyle and identity.



24-Hour Manly - Spring/ Summer

The responses for Spring and Summer activity heavily weighted toward early morning physical recreation and coffee, and entertainment and dining from 6pm onwards.

Where specific suggestions were made, they are listed here:

- Physical recreation - Yoga, walking, swimming, running, surfing, dog walking.
- General Entertainment - Live music (including busking), nightclubs, comedy, movie theatre, dancing, viewing sports, trivia.
- Dining and Cafes - Coffee, organic produce, food markets, late night dining.
- Recreation (other) - Library, shopping/ groceries, drinks, nature walks, kids' activities, meditation, community gardening, workshops, art gallery.



Spring/ Summer Response Count

Time	Activity Grouping			
	Physical Recreation	General Entertainment	Dining and Cafes	Recreation (other)
6 to 8 am	15		12	2
8 to 10 am	4	1	6	1
10 am to 12 pm	2	1	3	1
12 to 2 pm	1	1	4	2
2 to 4 pm	2	3	1	
4 to 6 pm		2	2	2
6 to 8 pm	1	7	6	
8 to 10 pm		7	7	2
10 to 12 pm		7	2	
12 to 2 am		4	3	
2 to 4 am		3	1	
4 to 6 am		2	1	

Events in Manly - Spring/ Summer

The event opportunities identified by the participants varied, though there was overlap with the basic activities within the 24-Hour Manly responses.

Festivals

- Food + wine festivals
- Jazz festivals
- Sculpture by the sea
- Breaky raves
- Unplugged music festival
- Full moon party
- Funky boat race
- Concert series
- Book fairs
- Themed weeks

Sports and outdoor activities

- Swimming carnival and on water activity
- Surf culture and history events
- Running events
- 24-Hour fitness challenge
- Surf and skate competitions
- Salsa by the beach

Other

- Adult education workshops
- Outdoor chess competitions
- Professional development
- Open air cinemas

24-Hour Manly - Autumn/ Winter

The activity responses for Autumn and Winter generally reflect Spring/ Summer responses, with a few key distinctions:

- Many answers stipulated “indoors” both for specific activities like yoga, and as a general need.
- The morning coffee, which was prominent in the Spring/ Summer responses, was nearly absent from Autumn/ Winter responses.
- Night time entertainment was less present in the Autumn/ Winter responses, and there were no mentions of night clubs, which was the second most common in Spring/ Summer.

The specific activities mentioned were:

- Physical recreation - Running, yoga, ice rinks, walking, golf, pilates, beach volleyball, tennis, croquet.
- General Entertainment - Live music, theatre, busking.
- Dining and Cafes - Tea houses, wine tasting, coffee.
- Recreation (other) - Painting, pottery, adult education classes.

Autumn/ Winter Response Count						
Time	Activity Grouping					
	Physical Recreation	General Entertainment	Dining and Cafes	Recreation (other)		
6 to 8 am	6					
8 to 10 am	1		1			
10 am to 12 pm		1				
12 to 2 pm			3			
2 to 4 pm	1	1				
4 to 6 pm	1	2	1			
6 to 8 pm		4	1		1	
8 to 10 pm	1	3	2			
10 to 12 pm		2	1			
12 to 2 am		2	1			
2 to 4 am		1				
4 to 6 am		1				

Events in Manly - Autumn/ Winter

The suggested events were:

Festivals and seasonal events

- Christmas in July
 - Solstice festivals
 - Winter lantern festival on the harbour
 - Winter ball
- Jazz festivals
 - Vivid in Manly
 - Unplugged music festival
 - MOFO festival

Markets and pop ups

- Night markets
 - Shopping trails
- Alleyway pop ups

Outdoor recreation

- Ice skating
- Beach to beach race

Tours

- Restaurants of Manly tour
- Heritage tour

Q&A

Question: Tell us exactly where the precinct is.

The draft SEP Precinct boundary is in the presentation (reshown), it will be discussed and refined at PWG #2.

Question: What do the pink areas mean?

The Precinct applies to the 'pink' areas on the map. All the controls in the PMP will apply to these areas. For example trading hours and sound controls will be within this area.

Question: In 2027 who can appeal once the plan is rolled out?

If Council resolves to make the Manly SEP permanent after the 18-month trial period, the SEP will likely remain in place for years to come.

The purpose of the SEP trial is to work with all stakeholders to ensure that what is adopted after the trial is supported by all stakeholders, so that further legislative changes are not needed.

Council, in consultation L&GNSW, NSW Police, Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner, the community and local businesses, can amend the precinct management plan and suspend or revoke a business premises from the Manly SEP, in the event that ongoing compliance and evaluation issues cannot be resolved. This means that those businesses will not be able to take advantage of the incentives provided under the precinct management plan, including extended operating hours.

Council is committed to the long-term viability of the Manly SEP and will explore all options for remediation before the suspension or revocation of business premises from the Manly SEP.

Question: Can we share case studies of other precincts?

- We can share Enmore Road case study at the next workshop.

Question: What is our measure of success and how will the PWG be measuring success for Manly?

- Shared measures to discuss and identified in the next workshop.
- How compliance is achieved will be a big part of the PMP and discussed at later PWGs.

Question: How will this be funded?

- Instigated by funding from NSW Government with the aim of giving confidence to the local community/private sector.
- Additional funding will be in conversation with State Government. The PMP and Trial when complete provides a framework for Council to apply for further funding, however, the primary objective is to provide legislative and policy certainty for the private sector to invest.

Question: Who decides the acoustic conclusions?

Acoustic monitoring is being undertaken. This will be addressed at PGW #2.

Question: What is the population of the precinct itself?

To be answered at PWG #2.

Question: Is the acoustic impact managed by the venues? How is it managed?

To be answered at PWG #2.



Upcoming meetings:

- PWG #2 Monday 22 September 6:30 – 8:30pm
- PWG #3 Wednesday 22 October 6:30 – 8:30pm
- PWG #4 Wednesday 3 December 6:30 – 8:30pm

NEXT STEPS



APPENDIX

ACTIVITY 1

Worksheet

Activity 1 - Our shared values

Work in pairs to share three personal values – circle your top 3 on your worksheet – 5 minutes.
Room discussion – what values do we share? 5 minutes.

Accountability	Cooperation	Friendship	Kindness	Resourcefulness	Wealth
Achievement	Courage	Fun	Knowledge	Respect	Wellbeing
Adaptability	Creativity	Generosity	Leadership	Responsibility	Wisdom
Adventure	Dignity	Gratitude	Learning	Security	Or write your own:
Altruism	Diversity	Growth	Legacy	Self-expression	
Authenticity	Efficiency	Harmony	Loyalty	Spirituality	
Balance	Equality	Health	Openness	Stewardship	
Belonging	Ethics	Honesty	Optimism	Success	
Caring	Excellence	Hope	Patience	Teamwork	
Collaboration	Fairness	Humuility	Peace	Thrift	
Commitment	Faith	Humour	Perserverance	Tradition	
Community	Family	Inclusion	Power	Trust	
Compassion	Financial stability	Independence	Pride	Truth	
Competence	Forgiveness	Joy	Recognition	Vision	
Confidence	Freedom	Justice	Reliability	Vulnerability	



ACTIVITY 2

Worksheet

Activity 2 - What do we want to see Manly’s 24-hour economy become?

Working on your table groups brainstorm activities and things to do over 24-hours. Write it on your Activity Sheet – 15 minutes.
Choose someone from your table to report back to the room – 15 minutes.

Spring / Summer

	Everyday activities	Events
6am - 8am		
8am - 10am		
10am - 12pm		
12pm - 2pm		
2pm - 4pm		
4pm - 6pm		
6pm - 8pm		
8pm - 10pm		
10pm - 12am		
12am - 2am		
2am - 4am		
4am - 6am		



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PWG #1 EVALUATION

How would you rate tonight’s session out of 10 for?

Facilitation

Content and focus

Evaluation feedback										
Scores	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Facilitation						1	9	3	8	
Content and focus				1		3	8	4	5	

Score Averages

Facilitation - 8.9/ 10

Content and focus - 8.4/ 10

Comments

- Very well run (7 mentions)
- Microphone needed (8 mentions)
- More quick idea collection processes needed (3 mentions)
- Process a little vague (1)
- Larger name tags needed (1)
- Senior council employees seemed jaded and made discouraging comments (1)
- Lack of focus because people kept talking, microphone may help (1)
- Questionable relevance of the first two activities (1)



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