



northern
beaches
council

MANLY SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCT (SEP)

Precinct Working Group (PWG) Meeting #3

5 November 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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Activity 2 – How do we measure the Trial's success?

- In new table groups complete Activity Sheet 2. Review the draft measures for success and add your own. Consider the measure and form of measurement – 20 minutes.
- Room discussion: each table to present back to the room. 15 minutes.

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INTRODUCTION

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

The Manly SEP Trial 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 #3

Held Wednesday 5 November

6:30 – 8:30pm

Manly Town Hall

Facilitated by Cobalt Engagement:

Nicole Dennis - Facilitator

Mia Stevens - Engagement Support



Forum Objectives

- To feedback the key outcomes from the second PWG.
- To provide an update on the project and program.
- To present the draft PMP trading hours for feedback.
- To work together to create the measures for evaluation for the Trial.

Forum Agenda

- Introductions of any new attendees
- Workshop overview and objectives.
- Council update and presentation of draft controls.
- Activity 1 – PMP Trading Hours
- Activity 2 - Measures for evaluating the Trial
- Q&A.



PWG Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Cathy Griffin	Manly Community Forum - Chair	Leanne Miller	Resident (apologies)
Ramsie Taylor	Manly Business Chamber (apologies)	Sam Stow	Resident
Chris Harper	Musician, band management	Ben Collis	Boathouse Group (apologies)
Claire Morris	Venue & entertainment manager, programmer, and artist liaison (apologies)	Zoe Hudson	Manly Theatre Group (apologies)
Elodie Quintard	Performing artist, songwriter and artist booker (apologies)	Lyndsay Dalton	Nimbus Co (apologies)
Noel Purcell	Resident	Dean Romeo	Felon's (apologies)
Angela Williams	Resident	David Lee	Leeway Mind and Body Mastery (apologies)
Michael Dalichau	Resident	Molly Linton	Funky & Green
Claire Taverner	Resident	Joe Bruzzese	Belgrave Cartel (apologies)
Mats Ernarsan	Resident	Adam Gainsford	Hotel Steyne
Gary O'Brien	Resident (apologies)		

Northern Beaches Council Attendees			
James Farrington	Director of Planning and Place	Kate Mercieca	Strategic and Place Planning - Planner (apologies)
Mal McDonald	Strategic and Place Planning - Executive Manager	Rebecca Sio	Strategic and Place Planning - Principal Planner
Liza Cordoba	Strategic and Place Planning - Manager	Mayor Sue Heins	Mayor of Northern Beaches Council (apologies)
Emily Newman	Place & Economic Development - Economic Development Advisor (apologies)	Deputy Mayor Candy Bingham	Deputy Mayor of Northern Beaches Council (apologies)
Max Payne	Environmental Compliance - Team Leader	Cr Sarah Grattan	Councillor - Manly Ward (apologies)
Mel Dunn	Community Engagement - Senior Community Engagement Advisor (apologies)	Cr Bonnie Harvey	Councillor - Manly Ward (apologies)

ACTIVITY 1

PMP Trading Hours

Working in table groups with maps of the draft Study Area, the participants responded to the following questions on Activity Sheet 1:

1. Do you propose any changes to the draft Trading Hours?
2. Are there certain areas where outdoor dining should be later or earlier and why?
3. Are there certain areas that indoor venues should be earlier or later and why?

Each table then presented their discussion and ideas back to the room.

Proposed maximum trading hours for discussion

All businesses in the SEP can trade:

- 5am-midnight Sunday - Wednesday
- 5am-2am Thursday - Saturday

All outdoor dining areas in the SEP can be open until 11pm, 7 days a week.

Summary

The participants provided comments and held discussion on the following topics:

General comments on proposed hours

- Overall, all participants were supportive of venues being open to 2am.
- Some were comfortable with outdoor dining also being open to 2am, and some had concerns about interfaces with residents and believe that outdoor dining trading hours have the most impact on residents.
- A Development Application option should be made available for venues wishing to close later than 2am.
- Outdoor dining should align with 2am trading hours, unless interfacing with residences, e.g. Felons.
- Outside music should have different / reduced hours compared to general dining.
- There is a risk that restaurants would act as nightclubs if not effectively managed if the blanket 2am closing

time is applied to all venues.

- There are no additional incentives for existing pubs to provide live music if the blanket trading hours are extended to 2am (e.g. extended hours for booking live music).

Transport and Closure Times

- The venues need to organise a staggered closure for transport safety, as all venues closing at 2am would involve many people needing taxis at the same time. There are very limited night rider buses.
- 2am is the taxi change over time, that could compound wait periods.
- It is preferable to keep patrons inside when waiting for transport.

Precinct improvements/ considerations

- Need better lighting and police supervision.
- The precinct needs to be managed well with these trading hour and trading hours need to be checked and enforced.
- When outdoor dining is reintroduced to the Corso it should not have any fencing. This not only can look ugly, but it clutters the public space.
- Outdoor dining rates should be increased, and furniture should be removed when not being used.
- Consider pedestrianising Wentworth Street and Victoria Parade.

ACTIVITY 2

Measures for evaluating the Trial

Working in table groups participants were asked to consider what we should measure and what form of measurement/ data would be suitable including qualitative and quantitative options.

The worksheets provided draft measures from the Purple Flag assessment process to which attendees were invited to comment on and add to. The questions posed were:

- 1. What should we measure?
- 2. What options are there for how we can measure and evaluate?

Each table then presented their discussion and ideas back to the room.

Summary

Participants identified that multiple stakeholders would be impacted by the SEP changes, and need to be engaged both before and after implementation. These were:

- Local businesses
- Residents
- Visitors
- Entertainment providers
- State government departments
- Police

- Transport providers and Taxi association

Other considerations identified were the functional impacts on noise, transport and safety, as well as the quality of place branding and identity, governance, ongoing consultation and management.

This activity and the group discussion that followed highlighted that implementing the SEP planning changes in isolation without ensuring clear communication, and a process for stakeholders to collaborate could create complications as these planning changes move to a deregulation approach.

The groups discussed that deregulation and potentially later ‘blanket’ trading hours must be supported by clear and consistent communication, strategy on marketing and audience attraction, engagement and collaboration.

Items marked with an asterisk were included as potential options on the worksheet. All other items are participant additions.

What should we measure?	How can we measure or evaluate it? With what data?
* Crime and anti-social behaviour	Measured through • * Alcohol related violence (non domestic) offences at night 6pm - 6am - ABS, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research) and reports from Local Area Command Police. • Other crimes statistics including theft and drug use. • Longitudinal changes. • Complaints to Council about vandalism.
* Alcohol and health	Measured through • * Ambulance call out data between 6pm and 6am to venues in the SEP - NSW Health. • Venue data/ interviews on incidence of problems.

Table continued on the following page.

* Diversity of entertainment offerings including food and drink, entertainment, retail at different times of the event, night and early morning	Measured through * Collect data on google search/ audit of businesses at beginning of trial and compare to end. - Diversity of entertainment options recorded, including age target, whether they are new talent, style and genre. - Number of live events. - Size, ownership, offering, opening hours and price point changes of venues and businesses. - Number of new liquor licences.
* Footfall	Measured through * Private data collection, feedback from venue patron counts. - Surveillance tracking of visitor count.
* Perceptions of safety	Measured through * Private data collection (Safer Cities Audit), interviews with businesses, residents and stakeholders. - Longitudinal changes. - Before and after survey of local businesses.
* Volume and value	Measured through * Audit of number of venues and operating hours, employment rates in precinct, sales turnover for venues. Feedback from venues and update of businesses audit. - Before and after community survey on vibrancy, quality of life and social cohesion.
Employment	Measured through Night-time employment numbers.





* Access to transport	Measured through * Map taxi ranks, bus services and lighting for active transport connections. Have these increased in the trial or been more utilised? - Public transport patronage at differing hours.
Manly's reputation, marketing and brand perception	Measured through - Social media clicks and views. - Online reviews (Trip advisor, google reviews etc). - International tourism data. - Diversity of patrons and visitors (age etc).
Diversified spending across retail, hospitality and other local businesses	Measured through Credit card / Visa transaction counts from venues.
Satisfaction / dissatisfaction with the SEP	Measured through - Changes in number and types of complaints and venue recorded problems. - Survey of local residents, businesses and property owners.
Northern Beaches Council management quality	Measured through Targeted surveys of and feedback from venue/ entertainment provider, residents and property owners' experience in the precinct.
Sound impacts	Measured through - Before and after sound assessments to track changes. - Track and compare noise complaints before, and during the trial.
Increase in live music, new live music venues and support of emerging talent	Measured through - Data from social and traditional media of venues. - Before and after poll of venues. - Survey/ feedback from performing artists on working conditions, pay, consistency and attendance.

Q&A

These are a summary of the Q&A with that occurred during the workshop and the responses from Council.

Question: Why do the colours differ across the areas (red, orange, yellow and green on the draft PMP noise criteria map?)

Quieter areas indicate lower tolerance for noise levels. The colour differentiation reflects varying noise sensitivity across the precinct.

Question: What is the decibel tolerance for each coloured area? What does the green area represent in comparison to residential areas outside the precinct?

This will be addressed in the next session when we step through the noise monitoring data and the methodology behind why these tolerances were selected.

Group discussion: What do we think of the proposed trading hours?

Overall, no group expressed discomfort with the proposed late (up to 2am) trading hours, and no participants expressed opposition to night-time activity being open until 2am. Some are concerned about outdoor areas in certain specific locations with direct entertainment and residential conflicts, such as private outdoor areas near residential balconies in site specific areas - these need to be managed.

It was noted that the SEP requires good lighting and police presence during the extended hours. It was also noted that If all venues close at 2 am, there may be a surge of patrons leaving simultaneously, creating transport and anti-social behaviour issues that need to be considered. Some venues in Manly already operate 24 hours or under extended licences, and these arrangements will remain unchanged. It was suggested

that some of these venues with additional trading time beyond 2 am could help stagger departures.

Group discussion: How should outdoor dining be regulated?

There was a discussion on outdoor dining returning the The Corso. The group shared that future outdoor dining should be unfenced to maintain an open and accessible public space, venues should pay Council per hour for the use of outdoor space, and furniture should also be removed when the outdoor dining licence period ends.

Question: Why is the Oval not included in the SEP?

Currently, there are no plans to activate the oval through the SEP mechanism. The existing Council event approval process is considered sufficient to manage any special events or activations in this location and does not require inclusion in the SEP boundary.

Group discussion: What do you think if the SEP boundary were to be expanded to include the Manly Life Saving Club, more areas along Pittwater Rd and public areas (beachfront, reserves)?

There were no objections to more areas being included in the SEP boundary.

Council confirmed that entertainment sound during events would continue to be managed through existing approvals and any associated noise management plans, however entertainment noise occurring in outdoor dining areas would be subject to the sound criteria in the SEP Precinct Management Plan.



Upcoming meetings:

- PWG #4 Wednesday 3 December 6:30 – 8:30pm

NEXT STEPS



APPENDIX

PRESENTATION

Manly Special Entertainment (SEP) Precinct

Precinct Management Plan

Precinct Working Group (PWG) Meeting #3

Wednesday 5 November 2025

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Agenda

- Workshop overview and objectives
- Council update and presentation of draft trading hours
- Activity 1 – Trading Hours
- Activity 2 – Measures for evaluating the Trial
- Q&A

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Being together

- Assume positive intent.
- Remain curious.
- Listen respectfully and non-judgmentally.
- Address issues and topics, not people.
- Learn something new.

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PWG meetings overview

- *PWG #1 Wednesday 3 September: Overview of the project, program, establish the group and shared objectives for the future of Manly*
- *PWG #2 Monday 22 September: Technical focus with Arup technical presentation on creating the PMP and Enmore Case Study*
- **PWG #3 Wednesday 5 November: Trading Hours and Measures for Evaluating the Trial**
- **PWG #4 Wednesday 3 December: TBC**

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Tonight's objectives

- To feedback the key outcomes from the second PWG.
- To provide an update on the project and program.
- To share the outcomes of the noise modelling.
- To present the draft PMP trading hours for feedback.
- To work together to create the measures for evaluation for the Trial.

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PWG 2 – What we heard

- We have updated the SEP Study Area based on your feedback from last meeting.
- We heard from you, areas that you want to see more activity and what kinds of activities.
- Q&A with Glenn Wheatley from Arup answered some questions.
- Council will now provide an update on the acoustic study and the Precinct Management Plan.

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Council update

- **Precinct Management Plan** under preparation with the aim to be exhibited at the end of 2025/beginning of 2026, and then again in early-mid 2026
- **Consultation** with government agencies (Transport for NSW, NSW Police, Liquor & Gaming, Northern Sydney Local Health District) and internal business units (Arts & Culture, Economic Development, Waste & Cleansing)
- New tranche of **Vibrancy Reforms** expected to be in effect by the end of 2025.

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Sound management in a SEP

- Preparation of the sound management is underway, for inclusion in the Precinct Management Plan.
- Includes maximum fixed decibel levels that venues must adhere to, and sound attenuation requirements for new development.
- Sound levels vary based on location, use, time of the day and day of the week.
- Sound levels in the Precinct Management Plan override any conditions related to sound levels in development consents, complying development consents and liquor licences.
- Entertainment sound in outdoor dining areas for venues (footpaths, courtyards) will be subject to the same provisions as the associated venues under the SEP Precinct Management Plan.
- Entertainment sound from events in the public realm e.g. beachfront, will be managed through the event approval.

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SEP Boundary - Feedback from PWG #2

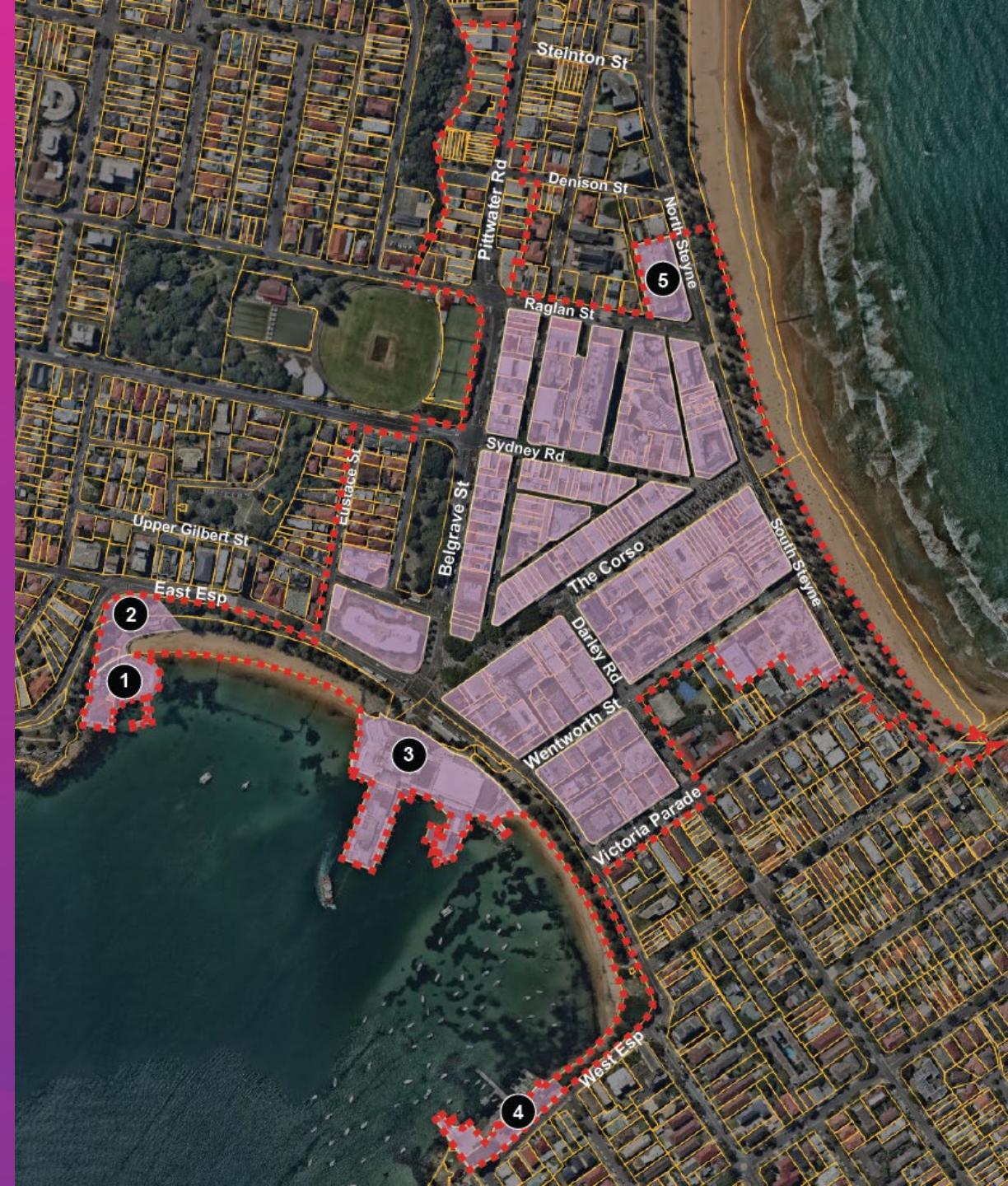
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-  Additional areas suggested
-  Proposed Study Area boundary

Proposed amendments to SEP Boundary

- No residential zoned land.
- Includes the public realm (The Corso, roads, beachfront and the Harbour parks/reserves).



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Proposed maximum trading hours (for discussion)

All businesses can trade:

- 5am-midnight Sun-Wed
- 5am-2am Thu-Sat

All outdoor dining areas can be open until 11pm, 7 days a week

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Trading hours – existing controls/regulations

Codes SEPP

Trading between 6am-10pm in the Manly commercial centre is allowed without approval/modifying the development consent. Excludes pubs, registered clubs and small bars.

Manly DCP - “Manly Town Centre Entertainment Precinct”

- Hotels & Nightclubs: 5am-2am with a restricted entry policy for nightclubs after 12:30am.
- Restaurants & Food Outlets: 4am-1am.
- Balconies, verandahs, any roof top areas and any external access: 8am-10pm.

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Max. trading hours in SEP Precinct Management Plan

- PMP will override hours in development consents but not liquor licenses.
- Eligible licensed venues in a SEP that regularly host live music/cultural arts events can trade an extra 1 hour every day, and 2 extra hours on nights when they host the event, within the maximum hours in the PMP.
- Businesses that are already allowed to trade longer set by the PMP, can continue to do so per their consent.

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Activity 1 – Draft PMP Trading Hours

Mark on the A1 map using post-its – do you propose any changes to the draft Trading Hours?

Are there certain areas where outdoor dining should be later or earlier and why?

Are there certain areas that indoor venues should be earlier or later and why?

20 minutes to discuss in groups.

15 minutes feedback to the room.

Proposed maximum trading hours (for discussion)

All businesses in the SEP can trade:

- 5am-midnight Sun-Wed
- 5am-2am Thu-Sat

All outdoor dining areas in the SEP can be open until 11pm, 7 days a week.

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Activity 2 – How do we measure the Trial's success?

- In new table groups complete Activity Sheet 2. Review the draft measures for success and add your own. Consider the measure and form of measurement – 20 minutes.
- Room discussion: each table to present back to the room – 15 minutes.

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Questions?

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Evaluation

Thanks for your time! Please complete the meeting evaluation on your table.

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Thank you and next steps

Upcoming meetings:

- PWG #4 Wednesday 3 December 6:30 – 8:30pm

Feedback? Please reach out to Council.

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ACTIVITY 1

Worksheet



Write any additional comments here.

Manly Special Entertainment Precinct



Legend

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 Manly Pavillion & Former Manly Sea Life | 4 Manly 16ft Skiff Sailing Club and Manly Yacht Club | Manly SEP boundary (Early consultation period) |
| 2 Manly Art Gallery & Museum | 5 Manly Pacific Hotel | Draft Amended Manly SEP boundary |
| 3 Manly Wharf | | |

ACTIVITY 2

Worksheet

Activity 2 - How do we measure the Trial’s success?

In new table groups complete Activity Sheet 2. Consider the measure and form of measurement including entertainment business performance and trading, increase in businesses and offer, increase in footfall, increase in events and activations, limited impact on residents, increased visitation from locals, region and beyond, more things to do, safety and more. Consider qualitative and quantitative measurement options including surveys, tracking new businesses and operational hours, revenue, sound complaints, level of support from the community and stakeholders – 20 minutes.

What should we measure?	Options for how can we measure/ evaluate it? and what data
Crime and anti-social behaviour	Alcohol related violence (non domestic) offences at night 6pm - 6am - ABS, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research) and reports from Local Area Command Police.
Alcohol and health	Ambulance call out data between 6pm and 6am to venues in the SEP - NSW Health
Diversity of entertainment offerings including food and drink, entertainment, retail at different times in the evening, night and early morning.	Collect data on google search/ audit of businesses at beginning of trail and compare to end.
Footfall	Private data collection, feedback from venue patron counts.
Perceptions of safety	Private data collection (Safer Cities Audit), Working Group can audit data, interviews with businesses, residents and stakeholders.
Volume and value	Audit of number of venues and operating hours, employment rates in precinct, sales turnover for venues. Feedback from venues and update of businesses audit.
Access to transport	Map taxi ranks, bus services and lighting for active transport connections. Have these increased in the trial or been more utilised?

PWG #3 EVALUATION

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

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

Facilitation - 8.7 / 10

Content and focus - 8.8 / 10

Comments

- Great session.
- Groups worked well and constructively.
- The envelope could be pushed to seek more stretching initiatives.
- More information is needed about the sound zones, especially with regard Henrietta Lane
- The room’s acoustics were challenging for group conversations.
- A recap of the previous session was needed.
- A scribe was needed for conversations - it felt like points were being lost.
- Ensure the change of meeting date notification goes to all participants.



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