



northern
beaches
council

MANLY SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCT (SEP)

Precinct Working Group (PWG) Meeting #5

11 March 2026
Final wWorkshop 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 fifth 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 #5

Held Wednesday 11 March, 2026

6:30 – 8:30pm

Manly Town Hall

Facilitated by Cobalt Engagement:

Nicole Dennis - Facilitator

Laura Hartley - Engagement Support

Glenn Wheatley, Arup - Specialist presentation

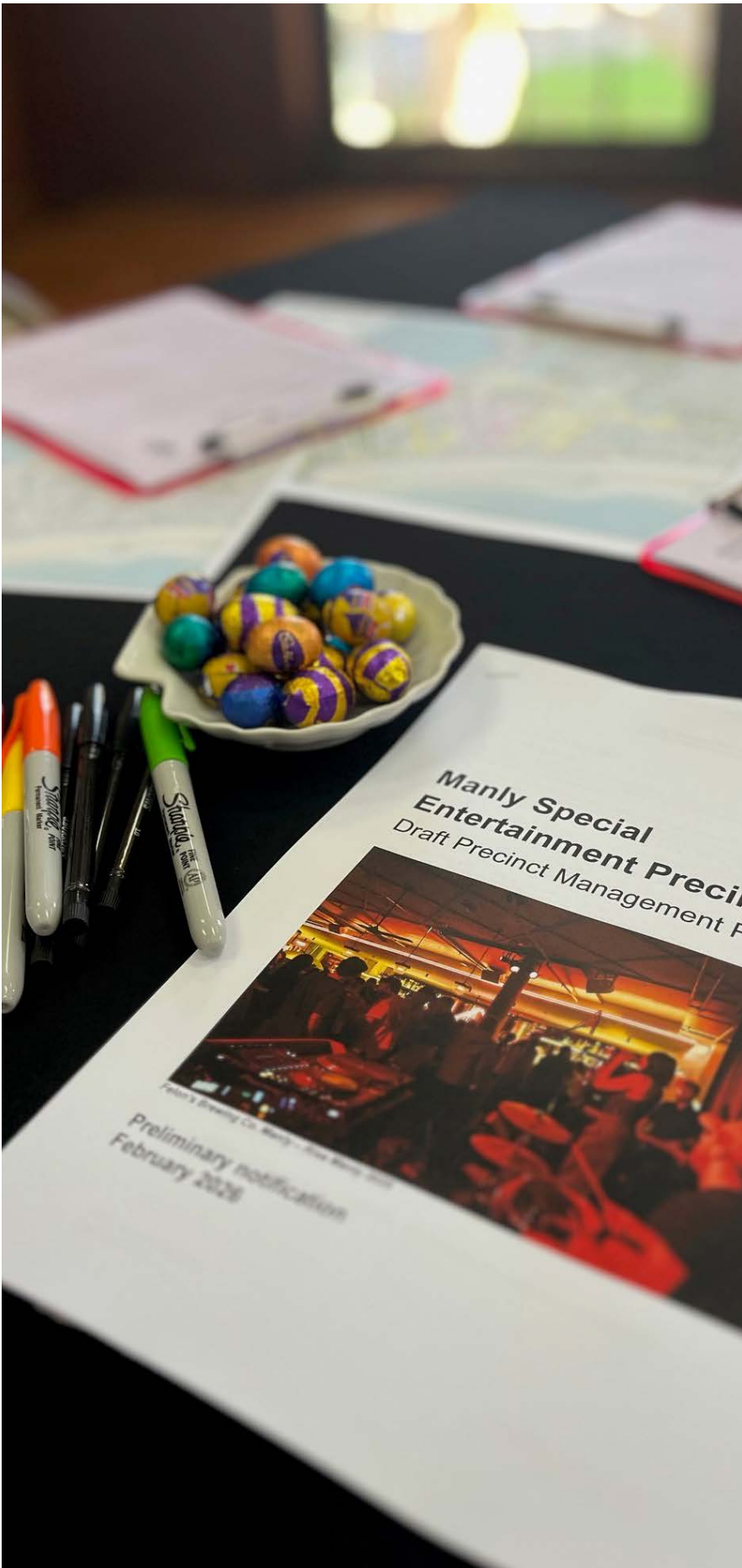


Workshop Objectives

- Explain the Draft PMP and what is currently on public exhibition as part of the Manly SEP.
- Provide an update on the PMP program and future opportunities for feedback and consultation.
- To answer specialist questions on sound controls from Arup, acoustic specialists.

Workshop Agenda

- Introduction and workshop overview
- Council update: Overview of PMP and SEP
- Presentation: Proposed sound limits
- Facilitated Q&A: Noise limits, trading hours and other questions
- Next steps
- Breakout for additional questions, tea and snacks



PWG Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Cathy Griffin	Manly Community Forum - Chair	Leanne Miller	Resident
Ramsie Taylor	Manly Business Chamber	Sam Stow	Resident
Chris Harper	Musician, Band Management	Ben Collis	Boathouse Group
Claire Morris	Venue and Entertainment Manager (apologies)	Zoe Hudson	Manly Theatre Group
Elodie Quintard	Performing Artist and Artist Booker	Lyndsay Dalton	Nimbus Co (apologies)
Noel Purcell	Resident	Dean Romeo	Felons
Angela Williams	Resident	David Lee	Leeway Mind and Body Mastery (apologies)
Michael Dalichau	Resident	Molly Linton	Funky & Green (apologies)
Claire Taverner	Resident (apologies)	Joe Bruzzese	Belgrave Cartel (apologies)
Mats Ernarsan	Resident	Adam Gainsford	Hotel Steyne (apologies)
Gary O'Brien	Resident	Anthony Jose	Artemus Group
Sam Wilkins	Live music/ entertainment / arts		

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



Additional Guests			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Kandy Tagg	Manly Community Forum - Secretary	Bobby Summerfield	Manly Theatre Group - Sound Engineer
Christina Franze	St Matts, Business Manager	Amir Colombo	Property Owner
Nancy Wright	Resident	Antony Jones	The Boathouse Group - CEO
Sam Cousens	The Boathouse Group - Head of Transformation	Lindsey White	The Boathouse Group

ROOM DISCUSSION

Following presentation on proposed sound limits

The PWG engaged in a robust discussion, following the presentation on the proposed sound limits that were put on public exhibition in the Precinct Management Plan (PMP) by Glenn Wheatley from Arup. Key discussion points were:

- Noise limits
- Enforcement, monitoring and evaluation
- Impact on residents
- Outdoor dining rules
- Balance between nightlife and liveability and resident experience and comfort

Key community concerns raised

Residents raised several strong concerns about the adequacy of the proposed sound controls and the way that the limits had been estimate, and the methodology for how the recommendations were made. However, residents did make it clear that they were supportive of the SEP and that it is important to achieve the balance between residential amenity and the ability for entertainment venues to trade.

Noise already too high in some areas

Some residents expressed that:

- Some existing venues already exceed limits they had under their DAs, and that Liquor and Gaming is not dealing with exceedences. ie management of non-compliance is not effectual.
- Baseline measurements that were collected by Arup as part of the process to recommend the proposed sound controls may reflect existing illegal or excessive noise in some locations.

Enforcement, governance and monitoring

Major question: Who will monitor and enforce the noise rules?

Concerns from residents included:

- Police previously enforced noise complaints but are now less involved and their resourcing is stretched.
- There is currently a lack of clarity on monitoring and compliance mechanisms that will operate within the Trial and afterwards.

- There is a need for noise monitoring throughout the Trial to make informed decisions and recommendations from the Trial based on independent evidence. Residents asked for a more detailed monitoring and evaluation framework for the Trial that demonstrates how the trial sound controls will be checked and how breaches will be dealt with.
- It was discussed that Liquor and Gaming is responsible for breaches and monitoring, however, residents noted that currently they are not dealing with venues that are already routinely exceeding their sound controls.

Impact on residents

Some residents reported:

- Noise causing people to move out of the area.
- Fear that increased entertainment activities will worsen the noise breach problem.

Outdoor dining rules

Residents suggested:

- A single closing time across the precinct may not work.
- Different areas might require different limits.
- The group requested that a map with different outdoor dining areas and closing times could be prepared.

Balance between nightlife and livability

There was a recurring tension between:

- Some residents want stronger protections and management of noise breaches.

ROOM DISCUSSION

- Venue operators and residents are supportive of PMP: and there was concern that strict limits could make venues non-viable.
- Most residents and venue operators expressed that they wanted to achieve balance within the SEP.
- There are some venues and site specific concerns that require separate meetings including The Espy, Hotel Steyne and the Manly Life Saving Club to further understand where existing conflicts between venue operations and residential amenity exist.
- Residents noted that many venues are dealing with sound well like Felons and that they did support vibrancy and the SEP, however, this needs to be balanced by good operations by venues and sound controls that protect residential amenity.

Council's clarifications

Council representatives emphasised:

- This is a preliminary consultation phase and there will be another round of public exhibition before the Trial starts.
- The framework may change based on community feedback and that this workshop and the submissions are being reviewed and considered.
- Council will come back to the PWG with a clear roadmap for the next steps to engage.
- Council will come back and clarify some of the questions not answered during the workshop.



ACTIVITY 1

PMP Feedback sheet

Working individually with maps of the draft SEP boundaries and proposed sound categories, and the draft PMP, participants responded to the following questions on Activity Sheet 1:

- 1. What elements of the PMP do you support?
- 2. What could be improved and why?
- 3. Do you have any questions?

Worksheets were then handed back and collated by Cobalt Engagement.

Summary

18 completed worksheets were returned in total from the 26 workshop participants. The outcomes are presented by question, with the findings grouped and summarised. Bracketed numbers after a finding indicate the number of submissions or respondents that expressed or supported the feedback comment, suggestion or question.

Across the three questions, the main themes to emerge were noise and sound controls (23), the need for balance and collaboration (10) and vibrancy (9). There was also support to move to trial phase (6) and a question about pausing the trial (1).

Q1. What elements of the PMP do you support?

All 18 worksheets responded to this question, with almost all displaying support for the PMP’s aims (15), two provided support for specific aspects (2) and one fell outside the scope of the question (1). Of these, several offered strong support for the current PMP (7). Overall, vibrancy (8) was the top theme across responses to this question, followed closely by noise (7) and collaboration (5).

- Overall, most participants cited vibrancy as something they support from the PMP (7), with one submission stating they support protecting residents from unreasonable impacts of vibrancy (1).
- Specific aspects about vibrancy that were highlighted as reasons for support (with some submissions listing multiple) include increased entertainment (3),

increased cultural benefits (2), supporting live music and performers (2), better nightlife (2), increased visitation (1), increased late night dining (1), and increased outdoor dining (1).

- References to noise were split between those supporting protections for residents against noise intrusion (3), continuing sound monitoring (2), and those calling for more ambitious sound levels (2).
- There were suggestions that a collaborative process that balances the needs of residents against venues (5), as well as against the benefits to the wider community (1) is needed.
- There was some support for increased trading hours (3) and increased venue capacities (1).
- Support for increased safety was shared amongst some (2), along with increased transport (1) and better accessibility (1).
- There was support to move to the trial phase (2).
- Additional reasons for supporting the PMP included relying on the data (1), and reversing the “nanny state” (1).

All verbatim comments from the worksheets are included in the Appendix.



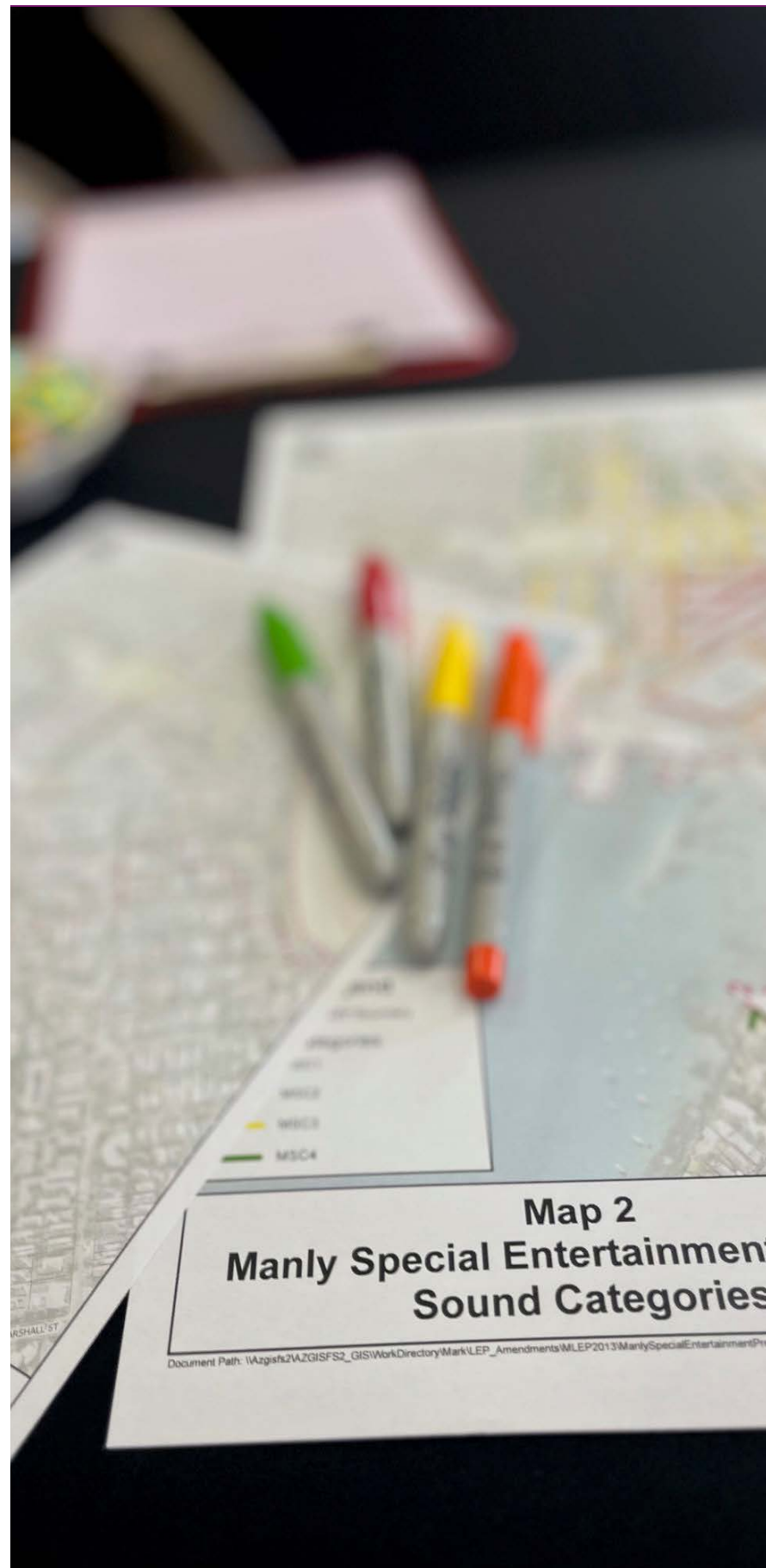
Q2. What could be improved and why?

16 worksheets responded to this question, with noise and sound being the dominant theme (11). There were many suggestions for changes, amendments or inclusions to the current PMP (9), coupled with acknowledgments that there are unresolved issues with the PMP (2), giving an overall sense that the current proposal still needs some work (11). However, there was also support to move ahead to the trial (3), with cited reasons including that plans need to be tested in practice in order to move forward (1), and that “venues will lose interest in creating and contributing in a meaningful manner” (1).

Outside of the PMP, there were several submissions highlighting a need for better communication across the PWG but also with Council (7).

- Of the respondents who suggested improvements or amendments to the current PMP (9), everyone made a noise/sound-related suggestion (9), with several suggesting multiple (5). Several of these respondents also suggested additional changes to other aspects of the PMP (6).
- The most common noise/sound-related improvements to the PMP were: further exploration of sound attenuation measures for both venues and to be provided by Council outdoors (6), including the suggestion of financial assistance to venues for this purpose (1), and making sound-proofing of outdoor venues a condition of DA's (1); and strong support for more clearly defining the plan to ensure compliance, enforcement of sound limits, and resolving complaints (6).

- Other noise/sound-related improvements included regular monitoring of sound levels (2); different conditions for outdoor and indoor venues (2), such as restricting live music to indoor venues (1), or applying different decibel limits and time restrictions on outdoor venues (1); the suggestion of conducting further sound tests (1); and that churches should be exempt from the SEP and granted protection from noise pollution (1).
- While sound limits dominated the discussion in the room, only a few written worksheets made reference to changing these (3). This is understandable as many participants would have ensured that they use the written sheets to emphasise items that may have not come up completely in the room discussion. The optional individual sheets can not be interpreted as ‘votes’ for certain approaches. Of those, one was a specific suggestion that sound limits should not be based on “non-compliant noise levels” (1), one was a general suggestion that decibel limits should be “responsible” (1), while the third warned that some of the changes to sound limits that were proposed in the room would make it difficult for venues to provide live music (1).
- Suggestions for improvements to other areas of the PMP included improved lighting (2), greater police presence (1), more relaxed trading hours (1), reducing the SEP boundary (1), increasing venues on the Corso (1), and a greater focus on family-friendly initiatives instead of licensed premises (1).



- Several submissions highlighted a sense of discordance (7), with some calling for a more balanced approach to the process (2). Other suggestions included establishing smaller break-out groups to focus on niche, localised issues (such as the West Esplanade area) (1), and increased communication between venues and residents (1).
- There was some frustration expressed over an impression that residents are being obstructive (1), while others suggested resident concerns were not being heard (1), or that greater detail (particularly around sound attenuation measures) could alleviate resident concerns (1). Additionally, a need for increased communication from Council was expressed, particularly for responses to issues raised at PWG meetings (1).



Q&A

These are the questions submitted on the PMP feedback sheet, with answers supplied by Council.

Given the scale of the opposition, why would we not pause the trial and redefine the framework first?

The SEP trial has not started yet, and the PMP has not been finalised. Council is developing the controls in the PMP in consultation with the PWG, one-on-one meetings with key stakeholders and the wider community through the preliminary notification period. If the SEP trial planning proposal progresses, the controls in the PMP will be placed on public exhibition again and Council will continue to engage with key stakeholders before the SEP trial begins, and throughout the trial.

Why are we not addressing venue containment first?

For existing venues, many conditions related to noise and amenity cease to have effect as a result of the NSW [Vibrancy Reforms](#). Under the SEP, venues will be required to operate within the proposed sound criteria. This may result in venues choosing to turn music levels down, require patrons to move inside after 10pm, install sound additional insulation and reorient speakers.

The PMP also includes development controls that ensure that venues are designed to mitigate impacts of entertainment sound (see Section 3.5.1 Acoustic requirements for venues in the PMP).

Please explain how the framework meets SEP objective 3?

The SEP framework identifies reasonable and achievable sound limits that aim to balance the need to support vibrancy and residential amenity. With clear parameters, venues will know how loud they can operate and manage impacts on residents.

As a result of the NSW [Vibrancy Reforms](#), certain noise-related development consent conditions are no longer in effect for all venues throughout NSW, including decibel-based maximum noise limits, such as LA10 noise criteria. Without clearly defined sound limits, the impacts of noise on residents would be assessed more subjectively by noise regulators (Council and L&GNSW).

How does someone/resident reliably measure sound levels if they are affected? Is there an app they could use?

Reliable sound measurements can only be taken using suitable equipment and measurement methods, usually by qualified acoustic consultants or professionals who measure and analyse environmental noise for statutory purposes.

Can funding be made more easily available to absorb noise both in and outside venues?

Council will notify venues of any external funding opportunities when they arise.

Have you read the Byron Bay SEP that has been withdrawn by Byron Council?

Yes, Council is aware of Byron Shire Council's decision to not progress the Byron Bay Town Centre SEP and both Councils have been liaising regarding their respective SEPs and to share knowledge since mid-2025.

The Byron Bay Town Centre SEP planning proposal was refused at the Gateway determination stage by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure as

Q&A

These are the questions submitted on the PMP feedback sheet, with answers supplied by Council.

they submitted sound limits below those recommended by their acoustic consultants with the potential to disadvantage existing venues. In their [Council report](#), they also noted that the proposed maximum trading hours would provide minimal opportunity for uplift in business trading.

Will Council charge venues for use of outdoor space?

Council charges venues for the use of public land in line with the relevant adopted [fees and charges](#).

People will be testing sound level on their phones at their property boundaries. What will happen if the levels exceed maximum levels?

If residents are concerned about noise levels, they should try talking to the source of the noise first. If there is not resolution, they can make a complaint to the appropriate regulator (Council for entertainment sound in unlicensed premises, L&GNSW for entertainment sound in licensed premises).

More information about dealing with noise disturbances from premises is found here: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/business-and-economy/liquor-and-gaming/liquor-licensing/sound-regulation-for-licensed-venues/community-guide-to-noise-disturbances>

And here: <https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/environment/pollution/noise>

How do we come to a happy medium where venues can put on live music and keep residents happy?

The SEP framework ensures that everyone knows when businesses can operate and how much sound from entertainment activity can be made, which gives more certainty for businesses, venues and the community. The SEP trial provides an opportunity to test entertainment sound and trading hour parameters, allowing for coordinated and collaborative monitoring and evaluation.

Setting expectations for what levels of entertainment activity is reasonable in a vibrant, mixed-use precinct reduces land-use conflict in the long term.

Could our questions and concerns be addressed in a regular email or newsletter to attendees or at the next meeting?

Yes, if the SEP trial planning proposal is progressed, Council staff will provide regular email/newsletter updates to PWG members.

If members keep suggesting delaying the trial, how likely would it be delayed? And what is the process for delaying the timeline?

The decision on whether the SEP trial progresses is made through Council resolutions. If progressed, Council is required to meet timeframes as part of the SEP Kickstart Grant Program obligations.



Upcoming meetings:

- To be confirmed.

NEXT STEPS



APPENDIX

ACTIVITY 1

Feedback sheet

Responses are typed verbatim on the following pages for each participant who completed their individual worksheet. Where respondents’ answers addressed a different question to the one they that they were writing under, those answers were re-attributed to the correct question during analysis.

Where no response was provided for a question, the table below will state [blank].

Manly Special Entertainment Precinct Trial Precinct Working Group #5 Feedback sheet



Working on your own sheet, please share your feedback on the Manly SEP Precinct Management Plan (PMP). Please write your questions below during the presentation to share in the Q&A.

What elements of the PMP do you support?

What could be improved and why?

Do you have any questions?

FEEDBACK SHEET RESPONSES			
Q1. What elements of the PMP do you support?		Q2. What could be improved and why?	Q3. Do you have any questions?
1	Vibrancy - without noise intrusion.	Venue sound containment - including grants.	- Given the scale of the opposition, why would we not pause the trial and redefine the framework first? - Why are we not addressing venue containment first? - Please explain how the framework meets SEP objective 3?
2	Vibrancy for Manly both in nightlife and entertainment.	I think the PMP covers all aspects of how a vibrancy reform for Manly. At least points that are not identified were brought up as items we are being worked on, which is great.	[blank]
3	Hearing out the both side [sic]. Working the best solution.	Working out the pros and cons of the SEP from these meetings.	[blank]
4	Bring in the trial ASAP. Manly needs more vibrancy. Rely on the data.	Relaxed operating hours. Responsible db levels. Venues held accountable.	[blank]
5	Working with residents and venues.	Faster!	No
6	I support PMP remaining ambitions with extended trading hours and sound levels, in order [sic] incentivise greater vibrancy and usage. There might be 8,000 residents in the SEP who may incur some impact, but there are hundreds of thousands of potential visitors (the community) who will benefit, not to mention the performers and venue employees.	Some resistance is inevitable from a percentage of residents, so care and balance will be required to manage the impacts - e.g. complaints process, fix hot spots, acoustic treatments, etc.	[blank]
7	I support the intention to promote the night-time economy and also extend the ability to trade later and with higher capacities.	Some proposed noise levels will be difficult to achieve and still remain as live music venues and/or create an appealing ambiance within the venue.	[blank]
8	- Much later trading laws - to 2am. - Supporting late music/entertainment venues/businesses. - Making Manly a more culturally interesting place to live.	- The transparency of the complaint process to L&G/Venue so that residents know if/how they are being dealt with. - Need more experiments with sound attenuation options for outdoor spaces. If there was confidence in measures, concerns for residents could be reduced. It could be a condition of venues to ensure such measures for outdoor DA/dining/entertainment options.	- How does someone/resident reliably measure sound levels if they are affected? Is there an app they could use? - Can funding be made more easily available to absorb noise both in and outside venues?

FEEDBACK SHEET RESPONSES (cont.)

Q1. What elements of the PMP do you support?	Q2. What could be improved and why?	Q3. Do you have any questions?
9 - Objective 3, protecting residents from unreasonable impacts of vibrancy. - Objective 5, activate and improve safety and accessibility in venues and public spaces.	Compliance. No outdoor music in “venues” after 10pm. Venues to install sound attenuation. Council to attenuate sound in awnings above/along public spaces = outdoor dining. Reduce SEP boundaries.	- Given the scale of the opposition, why would we not pause the trial and redefine the framework first? - Why are we not addressing venue containment first? - Please explain how the framework meets SEP objective 3?
10 The whole PMP - need to trial it and enforce the sound levels.	Lighting needs to be improved. Sound monitoring essential.	People will be testing sound level on their phones at their property boundaries. What will happen if the levels exceed maximum levels?
11 All. Agree there has to be a happy medium with residents.	Assistance to venues with attenuation. Communication between venues and residents.	How do we come to a happy medium where venues can put on live music and keep residents happy?
12 There are varying degrees of providing services to this community. Some venues can be closed. The area at West Esplanade is an open area. The noise cannot be contained. There should be a different level of noise and timing to closed venues and open venues.	More venues on the Corso. There have to be a balanced approach to allowing businesses to trade and residents to be considered in terms of their need and right for quiet time.	Yes, lots of questions!
13 All	[blank]	[blank]
14 - I am in support of noise and acoustic measuring. - I am NOT in support of recommended noise caps being based on non-compliant noise levels.	I believe the SEP is NOT family friendly. The SEP will only apply to venues who have liquor licenses because they are the ones that can afford staff and labour after hours. Manly requires more family friendly venues, events that do not include liquor.	- Churches to be exempt from SEP. - Venues in the vicinity of churches to be considerate of service times and weddings and funerals as an absolute avoidance of noise pollution.
15 a) Providing more live venues. b) Increasing outdoor eating options, particularly near and in the Corso and the back lanes and streets. c) Providing more late night eating options, not just take-away food facilities.	a) Frequent monitoring of noise volumes particularly policing of sound levels at new venues and policing of these. b) Keeping live music internal rather than external. c) Listening to residents and acting on their concerns on noise levels. d) Ensuring a police presence near to late night venues. e) Lighting - make the Manly key areas more vibrant and more exciting. Making sure venues use noise protection facilities.	- I would live to see answers to the above points and other points raised in previous meetings. This could be addressed in a regular email or newsletter to attendees or at the next meeting. - It's important attendees establish Council are reacting to issues/points raised at meetings.

FEEDBACK SHEET RESPONSES (cont.)			
	Q1. What elements of the PMP do you support?	Q2. What could be improved and why?	Q3. Do you have any questions?
16	I support an increase in sound! To me the whole incentive is to brighten up the area to create culture and bring a bit of change, make this place feel alive like other parts of the world and not feel like a “nanny state” but residents in this room just won’t let that happen!!! It’s very frustrating to listen to.	I think we’re going to have to experience some trials physically to get a better understanding because people are just looking at decibel numbers and overestimating.	[blank]
17	I enjoy the open format.	There seems to be some known issues between some residents and a few particular venues that occupy a lot of the discussion time. Would it be more worthwhile to have separate smaller meetings to address their specific concerns and bring the dot points to the meetings.	I am concerned that if the timeline gets pushed on, the venues will lose interest in creating and contributing in a meaningful manner. If members keep suggesting delaying the trial, how likely would it be delayed? And what is the process for delaying the timeline?
18	Generally the whole thing.	[blank]	[blank]

PWG #5 EVALUATION

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

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

Facilitation - 8.2 / 10

Content and focus - 7.5 / 10

Comments

- More sessions and targeted to areas and major issues raised.
- Perhaps it might be best to strictly hold off questions until the presentation has finished.
- Some questions, whilst making strong points, dominated the session. Would be good to hear MORE from venues. I honestly think venues and residents need to speak to each other MORE so that complaints can be addressed more easily. FACE TO FACE preferably. Can venues provide residents nearby with a hot line/complaint process online to help and info on mitigation actions they are doing? This would calm residents. Everyone needs to be talking more: Council <-> venue <-> residents -> Council.
- The session descended into back and forth a bit too much. Would have been safer to stay balanced.
- It didn’t appear that the people who were doing the audit were aware of the new outdoor venues opening up at the West Esplanade. These venues are causing lots of problems for the residents. There needs to be a multiple of resolutions for different venues.
- Well Run. Thank you!
- It got too derailed by the discussion about West Esplanade, which clearly are able to operate even with no SEP regulations.
- Well done for trying to keep us on point.
- Advice on sound monitoring for residents.
- Looks like trial is going ahead regardless of community feedback. This will be very hard to retract once it is underway. Liquor venues are breaching noise caps. Fine them and handicap them in the new SEP noise caps. The SEP is NOT family friendly. It doesn’t support a family friendly environment. Family friendly events are limited to large scale events. Council should try to support venues, restaurants and small business that do NOT have a liquor license.

PRESENTATION

PRESENTATION

Manly Special Entertainment (SEP) Precinct

Precinct Management Plan

Precinct Working Group (PWG) Meeting #5

Wednesday 11 March 2026

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work the **Gayamaygal** people and pay our respects to elders past and present.

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Agenda

- Introduction and workshop overview
- Council update: Overview of PMP and SEP
- Presentation: Proposed sound limits
- Facilitated Q&A: Noise limits
- Trading hours overview and table discussions
- Feedback to the room and next steps
- Breakout for additional questions, tea and snacks

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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 4 November:** Draft Trading Hours and Measures for Evaluating the Trial
- **PWG #4 Wednesday 3 December:** Perceptions of safety audit and PMP update and next steps for 2026
- **PWG #5 Wednesday 11 March:** PMP Public Exhibition Feedback and Q&A

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Tonight's objectives

- Explain the Draft PMP and what is currently on public exhibition as part of the Manly SEP.
- Provide an update on the PMP program and future opportunities for feedback and consultation.
- To provide a program for the SEP Trial and Roadmap of ongoing engagement.

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Council update

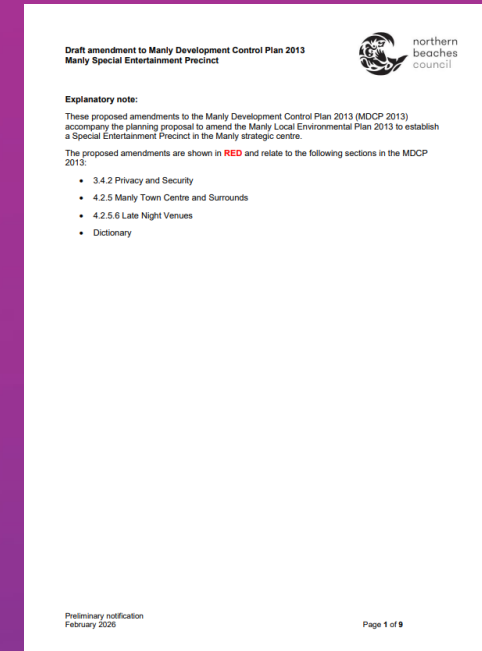
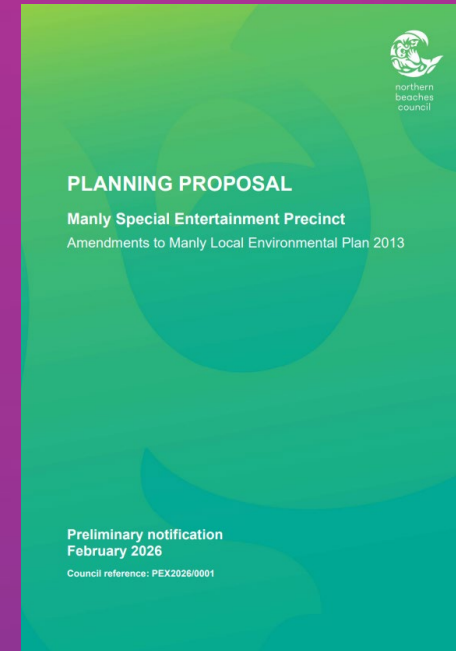
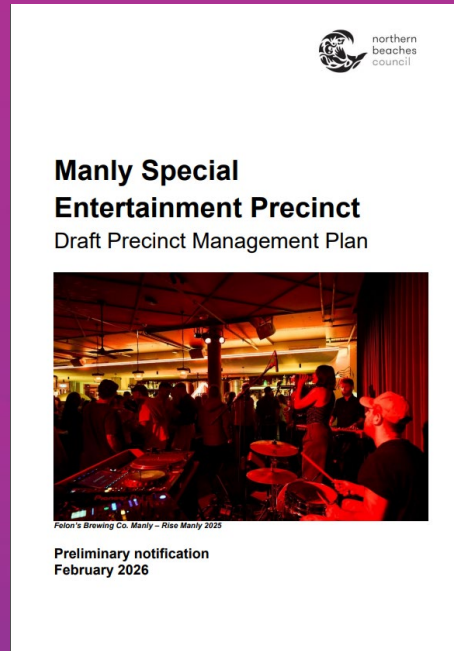
- Transport for NSW advice: Manly is well-serviced by transport at night, will respond to need for increased transport services if required.
- TfNSW Grant (Safer Cities: Her Way 2): Manly lighting improvements.
- Manly Movement & Place study.
- Recent NSW Government Vibrancy reforms
 - noise and amenity conditions on liquor licences prior to 2022 switched off
 - changes to eligibility for extended liquor trading incentives
 - ability to increase patron capacity without development consent for outdoor dining
 - some events on public land don't require development consent
- Upcoming NSW Government Vibrancy reforms
 - One-stop-shop venue sound complaint portal

Proudly funded by:



Preliminary notification period

- Tue 17 Feb – Mon 9 Mar (21 days)
- Over 7500 notification letters sent
- Purpose: Collect preliminary feedback on draft documents and summarise for report to Council in May.



Proudly funded by:



Key themes from preliminary submissions

- Sound limits are too high and will allow venues to operate louder
- Council should fund sound attenuation of existing residences
- Notification period was too short
- Concerns about alcohol-related anti-social behaviour e.g. drug use, littering, public urination, violence
- Late trading hours will impact sleep, especially late outdoor trading
- The SEP area encroaches on residential areas
- Noise complaints aren't handled well
- Supportive of vibrancy but the sound limits and trading hours should be reduced

Proudly funded by:



Manly Special Entertainment Precinct Sound Management Plan

Precinct Working Group #5

Overview

- Explanation of external sound categories
- Derivation of external sound categories
- Explanation of internal sound criteria



Legend

 Manly SEP Boundary

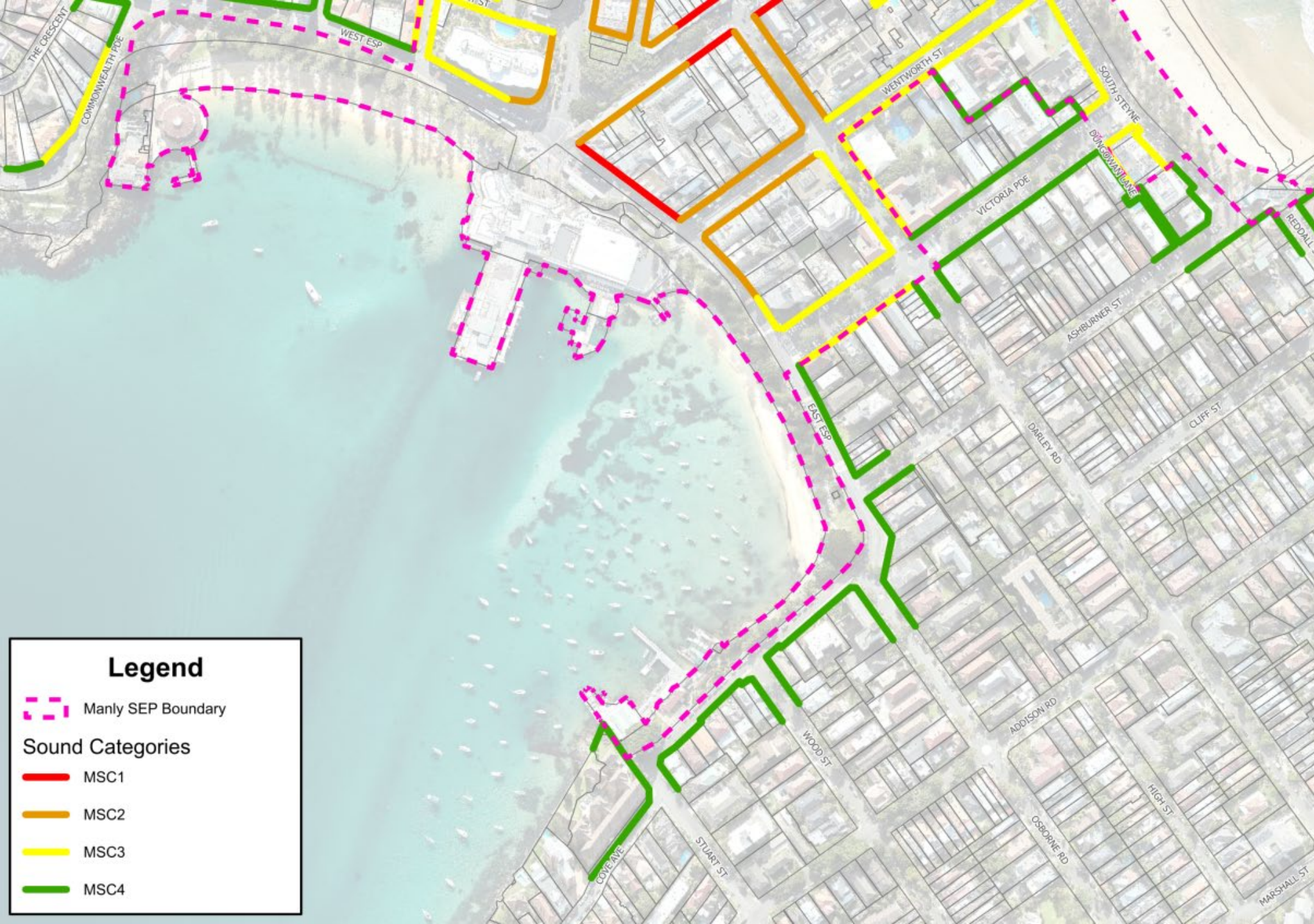
Sound Categories

 MSC1

 MSC2

 MSC3

 MSC4



Legend

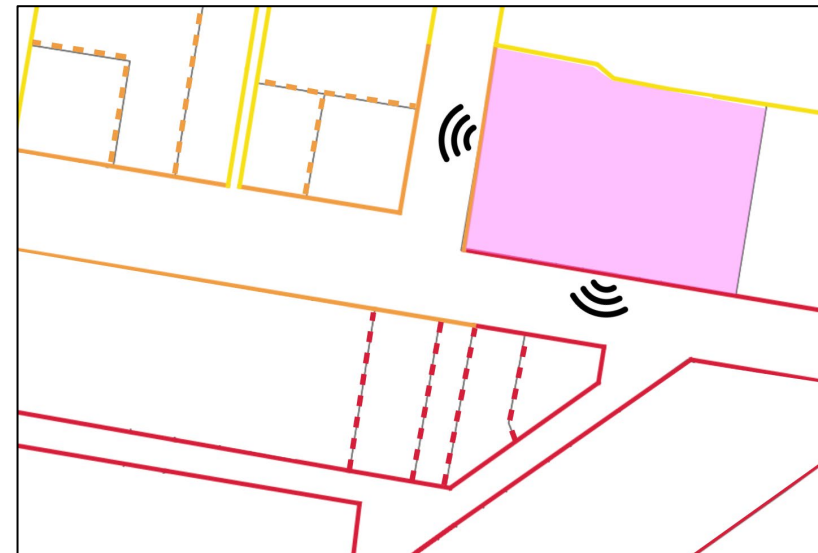
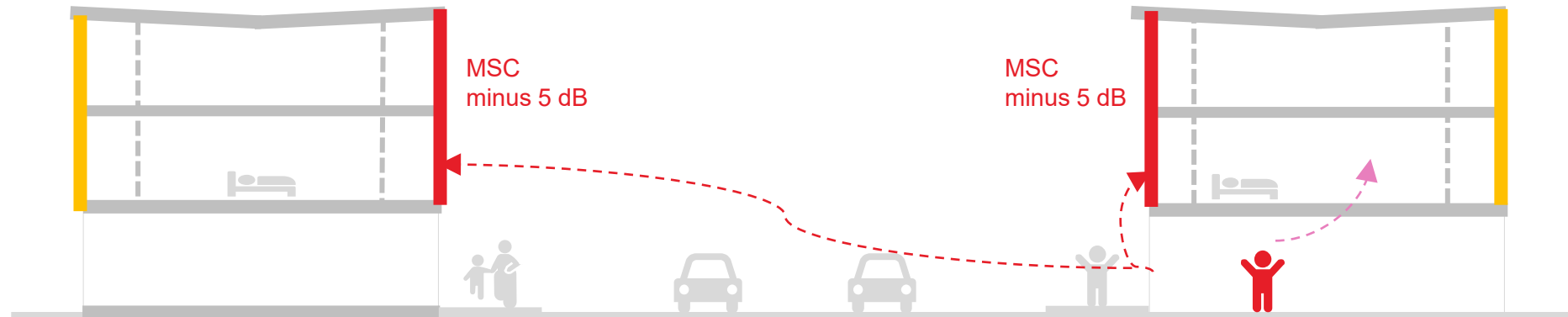
 Manly SEP Boundary

Sound Categories

-  MSC1
-  MSC2
-  MSC3
-  MSC4

External sound categories

Assessment locations



External sound categories

Sound level comparison



The MSCs are cumulative levels. Where more than one venue is located in similar proximity to a receiver, the maximum external sound level for a single venue shall be 5dB below what is specified in Table 2 for that venue.

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Manly Sound Category 1 (MSC1)												
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Weekend					70	74	73	71	60	64	63	61
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Weekend					55	59	58	56				

To be defined consistent with IWC.

INNER WEST

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Table 4: Sound categories – venue external levels

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External sound categories

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Manly venues: 0- 3 dB higher on weekday only

Manly venues: 0- 3 dB higher on weekday only

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External sound categories

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Manly venues: 0 - 3

Manly venues: 0 - 3 dB higher

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Manly venues: 2 - 5 dB lower



Derivation of external sound categories

Long-term baseline measurement data



DA NOISE DATA

● DA_LAeq Day/Evening/Night

● DA_LA90 Day/Evening/Night

LAND USE CATEGORIES

ACCOMMODATION

- Residential
- Shop top housing
- Hotel

COMMERCIAL

- Hospitality
- Retail and day-to-day services
- Professional services/offices/medical
- Arts/Culture/Entertainment/Recreation
- Civic (Offices)
- Civic (Town Hall)
- Vacancy

OTHER

- Educational
- Library
- Place of worship
- Community
- Infrastructure

Derivation of external sound categories

Long-term baseline measurement data



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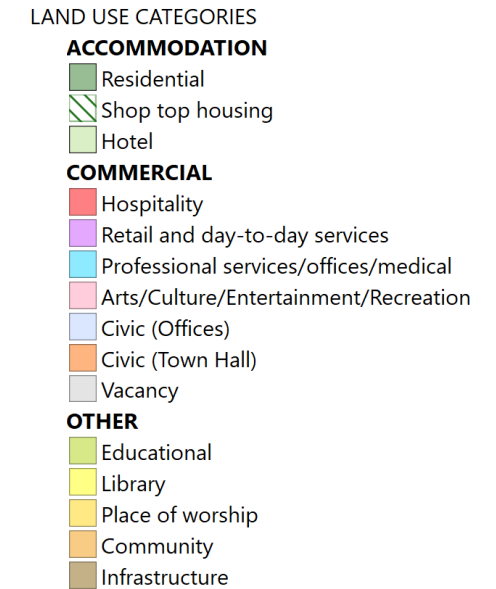
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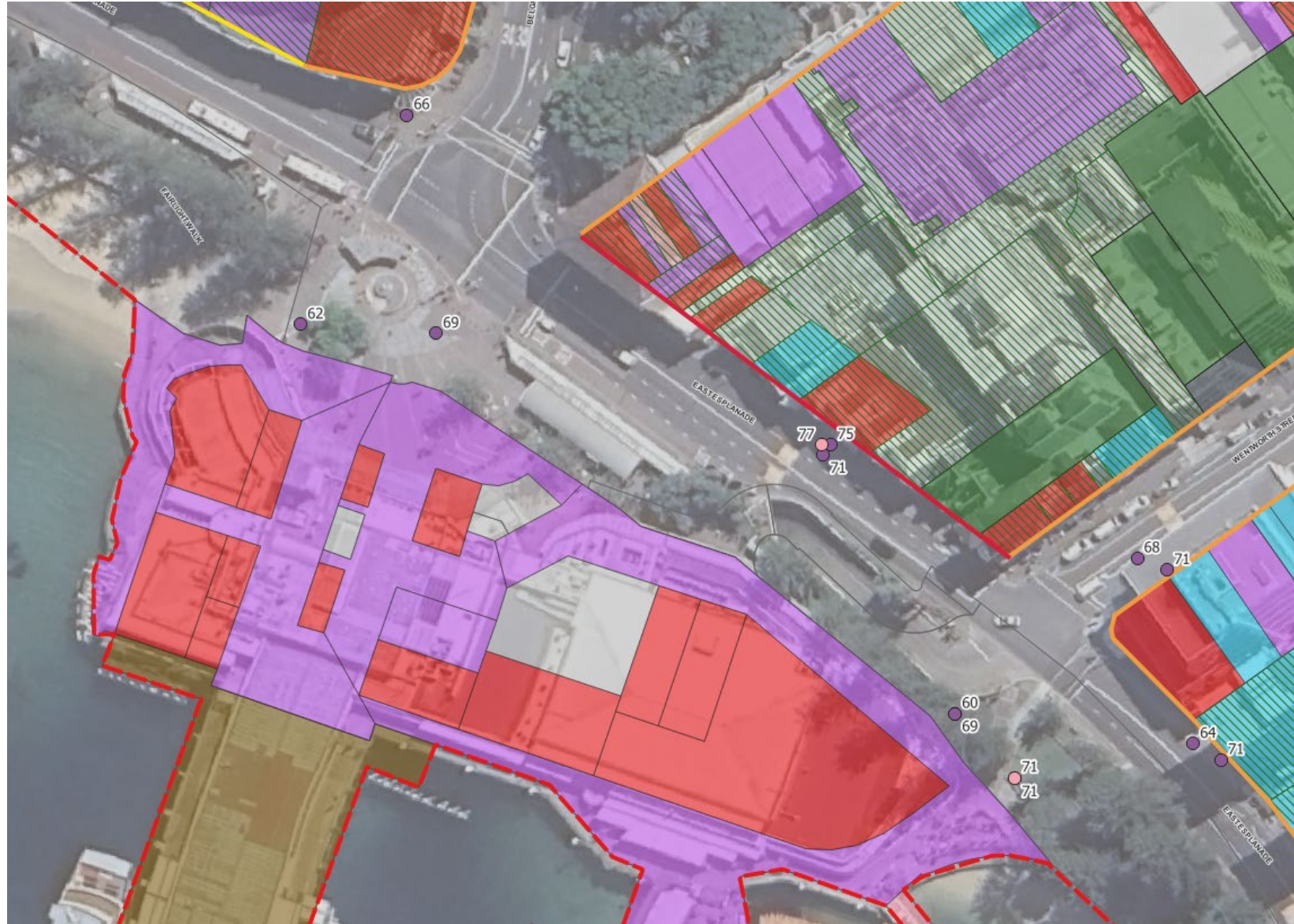
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Sample attended noise measurements - L_{Aeq}



Derivation of external sound categories

Sample attended noise measurements - L_{Aeq}



LAND USE CATEGORIES

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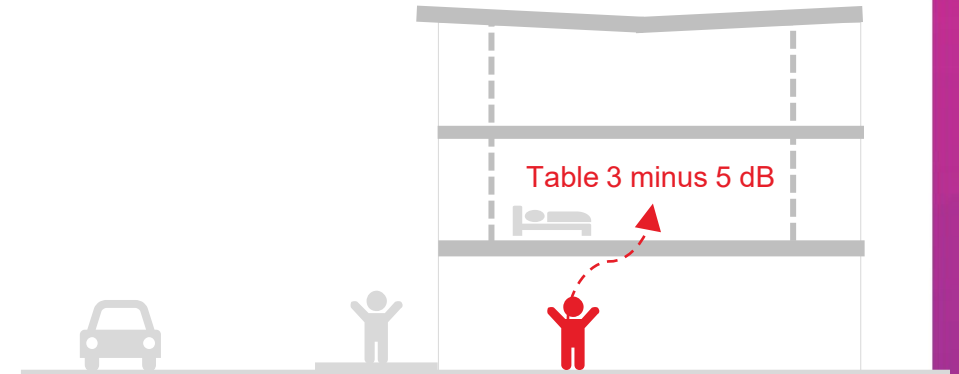
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Internal sound levels

Comparisons and assessment locations

Table 3: Internal sound levels for sensitive receivers

Sensitive Receiver	Period	Broadband dBL _{Aeq,15min}	Octave band centre frequency (Hz), dBZ ²		
			31.5	63	125
Residential accommodation (excluding hotels and hostels) – habitable rooms excluding bedrooms	7am to 10pm	35	59	52	46
	10pm to 7am	35	59	52	46
Residential accommodation (excluding hotels and hostels) – bedrooms	7am to 10pm	35	59	52	46
	10pm to 7am	30	54	47	41



- Venues to be 5 dB below sound levels for common walls / floors
- Sound levels informed by WHO guidelines, German standards and international research on low frequency sound (DEFRA)
- Not achievable with windows open, current or future
- Cumulative levels in Table 3 are:
 - 5 dB lower than NSW road and rail requirements¹
 - 15 dB lower than NSW road and rail criteria with windows open¹

1. State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 and Department of Planning - Development Near Rail Corridors And Busy Roads – Interim Guideline, 2008

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.

Next steps

- You can make a submission until Wednesday 25 March
- Make any necessary refinements to planning proposal and PMP based on:
 - Need to improve clarity, legibility and correct errors
 - Preliminary stakeholder, community, government agency and PWG feedback
- Seek a recommendation from the Local Planning Panel
- Continue meeting with stakeholder groups e.g. Keolis Downer, Manly Fast Ferry, Manly Business Chamber, Liquor Accord
- Report to Council for approval to seek a Gateway determination from the NSW Government (around May)
- Receive Gateway approval
- Place documents back on public exhibition for 28 days and make any necessary refinements (around July)
- PWG meeting
- Report to Council to commence SEP trial (around September/October)

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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

Feedback? Please reach out to Council.

Proudly funded by:





northern
beaches
council

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work the Gayamaygal people and pay our respects to elders past and present.

Proudly funded by

