

## Out and About to 13-8-21

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**Photo:** Smoke, Waitara oval upgrade, algae bloom



## Gday Everybody.

Hope everyone is going ok in lockdown. Bit scary with over 400 reported Covid cases. Haven't done a lot of Out and About but have had various discussions on Zoom and the phone. Did notice the smoke from Hazard reduction at Kur-ring-gai National Park (photo) in preparation for the fire season. Good Job.

The August Council Meeting Report is available from the council web site above and some elements of item 10 'On Site Sewer Management Systems' are discussed below.

We look at vaccinations, solar power, climate change, Berowra Creek water quality and algal bloom, Local Government, and some HSC community projects.

**Vaccinations:** are going well at Hornsby Hospital and in the Hornsby Local Government Area (see below).

They are doing between 400 and 500 vaccinations a day at Hornsby the Hornsby Hospital clinic and local doctors and clinics are very busy. So are other important front line who works in shops, transport, infrastructure, services and so on. Good job and I have to say "**What a great job all our front line workers and supporters are doing. Thank you**" !!!!!

## NSLHD – as at 9<sup>th</sup> of August

| Statistical Area 4 (SA4) | People aged 15 years and over with at least one dose % | % people aged 15 years and over fully vaccinated |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| North Sydney and Hornsby | 57.6 %   | 32.0 %   |
| Northern Beaches         | 53.7 %   | 25.6 %   |
| Ryde                     | 51.3 %   | 28.0 %   |

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-geographic-vaccination-rates-9-august-2021>

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**Solar Power:** One of Zoom meetings I attended was with the new Berowra Sustainability Co-Op who want all houses and buildings in Berowra and Hornsby Shire to have Solar power as well as environmental stuff. Sounds Great. They are looking to being able to Bulk Buy and pass the discount on to those buying the Solar power. We have had solar power for 20 years and it has more than paid for itself and the Australian made panels withstood the Berowra hail storm and have never faulted and are still going strong. Solar power is now a third of the price twenty years ago and is a very good investment. They have a Facebook site 'Berowra Sustainability Co-Op' or you can call me and put your name on the list for more information and a good deal.

**Bad News on Climate from the United Nations:** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has released its long-awaited report. From accelerating emissions to intensifying disasters to rising sea levels, its authors lay out the new findings.

The report finds the planet is very likely to warm by 1.5°C in the early 2030s; the planet has already warmed by 1.09°C since pre-industrial times; and many changes such as glacier melt are virtually irreversible.

Climate change is now pummelling every continent, every ocean, and affecting every facet of the weather.

**Comment:** The Federal government and all political parties will need to replace carbon producing energy with clean energy such as solar. Tell them!!! And more bad news below.

**Berowra Creek Water Quality:** At the Council Meeting on 11/8/21 it was disclosed that water quality in Berowra Creek Measurements between Berowra Waters and Crosslands for the period between the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (12 months) are as below: Pollution was possible or likely 100% of the time over the last 12 months. No enjoy you swim 100% of the time in the last 12 months. Sad.

- **0% of the period - 'Pollution is unlikely, enjoy your swim'**
- 15% of the period - 'Pollution is possible, take care'
- 85% of the period - 'Pollution is likely, avoid swimming today'

Sewage treatment plant discharges, flooding, stormwater run off, on site sewer treatment systems, agriculture, industry and us using toilets, showers, washing, increased populations and so on, all contribute to it not being recommended to swim at Crosslands 100% of the time. Bit sad. The proposal for regular testing of on site treatment was discussed at the 10/8/21 council meeting. The motion was deferred to enable further discussions with key stakeholders. It be noted that whilst discussions about the formulation of the draft Policy continue, Approval to Operate Licences requiring renewal will be issued as 3-year Licences and Council's current reactive inspection program will be maintained.

**Algal Bloom:** A potentially toxic algal bloom had been detected in the vicinity of Berowra Waters. The community was notified through Councils' website, facebook and social media channels. Signs have been installed at all access points around Berowra Waters. The bloom appears to be localised in the area around Collingridge/Neverfail Bay area hence council believes signage (photo) at Crosslands, will not be warranted. It's been pointed out that an algal bloom at this time of year is very uncommon.

**Did you know:** NSW Local Government such as HSC employs more than 55,000 people

- Local government in NSW looks after more than \$136 billion of community assets
- Local government in NSW spends more than \$1.9 billion each year on caring for the environment, including recycling and waste management, stormwater management and preserving and protecting native flora and fauna
- NSW has 450 council-run libraries that attract more than 34.8 million visits each year
- Local government in NSW is responsible for about 90% of the state's roads and bridges
- NSW councils manage an estimated 3.5 million tonnes of waste each year
- NSW councils own and manage more than 600 museums, galleries, theatres and art centres

**A Bit of Good News:** People now have a sign-up option for a weekly email update on current items and events.

[www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/yoursay](http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/yoursay) . This includes all exhibitions listed on the Have Your Say page, as well as links to DAs received and determined and to the Application Enquiry System. We will be evolving this email over time to include more content, including project updates and Council meeting outcomes.

**SunSpot:** Council has also partnered with the Australian PV Institute to deliver the [SunSpot](#) 'impact of shading tool' for Hornsby Shire residents over the next three years. The tool uses 3D spatial mapping technology to identify your rooftop, its angle and tilt, and determine the impact of shading from buildings and trees throughout the year. It is available on Council's [website](#) and will be promoted through workshops and Council's usual communication channels.

**Mark Taylor Oval Surface Upgrade:** These works have started at Waitara Park and include:

- Renewal of the existing sub-surface irrigation and drainage system;
- Laying of natural grass across the oval using an improved sports turf species;
- Construction of an improved turf wicket table;
- Construction of a low retaining wall around the northern end of the oval; and

Installation of 3m high netting around part of the northern, eastern and western boundaries to assist in retaining balls within the oval (Photo).

**Cheltenham Oval:** The former haulage road to support the M2 tunnel construction near Cheltenham Oval will undergo revegetation and maintenance. The work will be undertaken by a combination of qualified bush regenerators and Bushcare volunteers, overseen by Council's Natural Resources team, with a funding contribution provided by Sydney Metro. A NSW Government grant for \$142,000 will aid the restoration of remnant rare and critically

endangered Blue Gum High Forest and Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest. Stakeholders include, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, private landowners, Bushcare groups and educational institutions.

**Brooklyn Board Walk:** Councillors are advised that works started on the Brooklyn boardwalk upgrade on Friday 16 July, then placed on hold due to COVID restrictions, but will now shortly recommence.

Upgrades will include replacing the existing tread surface with fibre reinforced plastic grid mesh, replacing the hand rail system, replacing the joists, bearers and some reinforcement piles as requested. The end result will extend the life of the current infrastructure by 50 years.

**Beecroft Fearnley Reserve Track Head:** Work will improve pedestrian safety, usage and track definition. It will improved access to the nearby playground and facilitate local bush regeneration efforts in the area. by reducing the amount of bushland impacted by pedestrians.

**Cowan Great North Walk Track Head:** Improvements include, a new fire trail gate, trail re-surfacing and fencing, woody weed removal, erosion control measures and approximately 800 plants from Warada Ngurang (HSC nursery) have been planted. These works will improve the serviceability of the fire trail for bush walkers and vehicles whilst improving the visual aesthetic and encourage pedestrian access to the Great North Walk and local facilities.

That's about it for now.

Keep safe and get jabbed.

Beyond Blue;1300 224 636; Lifeline 131 114 & visit <https://www.lifeline.org.au>

The Covid info from Service NSW is [service.nsw.gov.au](https://www.service.nsw.gov.au) **13 77 88**

Allthebest Mick