



Avalon Preservation Trust

Incorporated as Avalon Preservation Association

Bulletin 111 February 2023



A number of events are set to bring change to our community:

- ◆ **State election** on 25th March with new faces seeking to represent our electorate of Pittwater
- ◆ Northern Beaches Council decisions about **Conservation Zones**
- ◆ Finalisation of **Streets as Shared Spaces** – One-way shared zone building works on Old Barrenjoey Rd
- ◆ **Ray Brownlee**, NBC CEO, resigns at end of March

MEET THE PITTWATER ELECTORATE CANDIDATES FOR MARCH 25 NSW ELECTIONS

Pittwater Community Alliance is hosting this event, not to be missed

Place: Newport Community Centre, Main Hall

Date: 7 - 9pm 15 March 2023

Avalon Preservation Association is represented along with other local community groups in this alliance.

Think up questions that affect you, your community and NSW, and should be asked.

In December 2023 **Rob Stokes** announced his resignation. Rob has represented us since 2007. In January Rob met with our umbrella community organisation PCA - Pittwater Community Alliance - and indicated he would stay in the community and is interested in staying involved with local community groups.

Candidates:

Rory Amon Liberal, **Dr Hilary Green** The Greens, **Jeffrey Quinn** Labor, **Jacqui Scruby** Independent.

APA will engage with all candidates to advocate for our area. The issues we want to know their views on:

- * Inappropriate & overdevelopment (residential, seniors, commercial)
- * Urban tree canopy (loss)
- * Sustainable transport - electric vehicles, cars, buses, charging stations - cycling, electric bikes
- * Walking, footpaths
- * Opposition to PEP11 or similar projects offshore
- * Need for involvement with community groups

CONSERVATION ZONES REVIEW PROPOSAL

APA continues to follow the discussion on this proposal. At a recent meeting organised by councillor Miranda Korzy, an environmental lawyer James Ryan pointed out there is no requirement for councils to harmonise LEPs (Local environment plans). We will ask for justification for this proposal, who will benefit from this and engage with councillors to let them know we are concerned about the detrimental impact of this proposal. This could result from changes to Residential from Conservation, with it giving council the green light to approve denser residential developments and also making the land subject to developments prohibited by NBC regulations but permitted under State Environmental Planning Policies, (SEPPS) such as Seniors Living, with loss of trees and other vegetation.

From an NBC email to the community on February 18:

We received and analysed 935 submissions on this proposal from 837 individuals. A copy of the submissions will be available on our [project website](#) by the end of February 2023, along with a Consultation Report which summarises key issues and Council's response.

We anticipate many of the issues raised can be resolved by changes to the draft Conservation Zones Review methodology currently being investigated by Council. Where areas of dispute remain about the accuracy of Council mapping of criteria used in the review, we will engage relevant consultants and contact those landowners to arrange a site inspection. We are expecting to undertake these inspections between April and June 2023. The outcomes from the Review will help us in discussions with the Department of Planning and Environment in the development of the draft Northern Beaches Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan, which will be presented to Council and exhibited for community feedback in 2024.

NORTHERN BEACHES CEO Resigns

Ray Brownlee has been NBC CEO since 2019 and he spoke at our AGM in 2019. We understand he is returning to Randwick Council. We wish him well and will engage with the new CEO when announced.

BARRENJOEY LIGHT HOUSE COTTAGES

Local residents let their voices be heard on January 22. We will continue to keep a watch on developments. APA believes that the current amenity allows the public access to the entire site and that to limit access to the public will be detrimental to the community and business. A community reference group will be formed to discuss the issue.



PEP 11

On Tuesday 6 February, the Commonwealth Government reached a Federal Court settlement to reinstate the PEP 11 offshore oil and gas exploration licence. The NSW government opposed the extension of PEP-11 in 2022 and re-affirmed its opposition on February 4. **APA will advocate with all candidates to oppose any such projects.**

LOCAL MATTERS

Old Wharf Reserve dinghies: Is yours here?

There are many dinghies stored in the access stairs to the beach next to Avalon Sailing club and on the rock platform adjacent to the stairs. Council indicated their process is to identify owners, advise owners to remove their dinghies and impound those whose owners cannot be identified. We will keep track of progress



Access to Woolworths from carpark – drainage. Council claims drainage issues have been addressed. We will monitor and take photos of flooding events.

Trial One Way Shared Zone in Avalon The building works resumed on 13 February. Shade shelters and seating have been installed and the place is taking shape. There is mixed feedback from the community on social media but we will take time to settle in with the changes. We remain concerned about the following issues and will continue to advocate with council:

10Kph zone at the crossroads Council has promised to install a VMS (electronic variable message sign) to remind residents. We are concerned this may only be a temporary arrangement.

Drainage Council are working on a storm water review. We will continue to monitor this.

Trial These changes are meant to be a trial. We have been told various factors including feedback from the community will be used to assess if it is a success. We will continue to ask what factors, how community feedback will be assessed.

NBC Customer Service Centre: Use it or Lose it!

Following action from the community, Council has agreed to leave the Avalon Service Centre hours as is but ONLY until March, when we understand patronage will be reassessed.

If patronage doesn't increase Council may reduce hours or close this centre altogether, as a cost saving measure.

We advise all residents to use the centre as often as possible. Council tracks every interaction at their service centres so that they have statistics to argue for closure when/if patronage drops off!

Image: NBC



Watkins Rd Crown Land Reserve

An application by a property owner to acquire the crown land adjacent to the property was rejected. APA will advocate with council to install a sign that this strip of crown land which runs from Watkins Rd to Bangalley Headland is Public Land.

The aims of APA are to

- ◆ **Preserve the natural beauty of the area through promoting proper planning of all future development**
- ◆ **Express positively and in appropriate quarters the point of view of residents with regards to any proposed development and to protect the residential amenity of the area**
- ◆ **Work with and assist local government in any efforts to improve and beautify the locality and where appropriate instigate such improvements**

◆ **APA depends on your support. Donations of time, money and expertise always welcome**

PO Box 1 Avalon Beach 2107 <http://avalonpreservationassociation.org.au/> and on Facebook