

MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

March 2026

Road Transport (General) Amendment (Micromobility Shared Arrangements) Regulation 2026 under the Road Transport Act 2013

aka

Lime e-bikes are coming to Manly soon



While the Northern Beaches Council has been a leading advocate for stricter state-level regulations for e-bikes, specifically pushing for speed limits on footpaths, registration, age limits and better enforcement of e-bike rules, in Nov 2025 TptforNSW released its draft legislation for the use shared micromobility vehicles, that is e-bikes and scooters.

This legislation standardises Regulations, establishing clear rules for the operation of **shared e-bikes and e-scooters**, ensuring safety and compliance as well as;

- Introducing a unified standardised smartcard payment system for users, making it easier to rent eBikes.
- Setting guidelines for public space management such as parking and usage in public areas, reducing clutter and enhancing safety.

AGENDA

- Local (Eastern Hill) updates
 - Bower side
 - Little Manly side
 - North Head
- MLSC update
- shared e-bikes and e-scooters

Everyone welcome

16 March 2026, 7pm Manly Yacht Club

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e-bikes continued

- Promoting awareness and responsible usage among users to minimize accidents and ensures operators equip the bikes with approved helmets and displaying necessary safety information.
- ensuring vehicles/e-bikes or scooters are in good working order and the operator addresses maintenance issues promptly
- expecting operators to share data with Transport for NSW and local authorities, including usage statistics and crash reports.
- Ensuring public liability insurance is maintained as operators have to cover incidents involving their micromobility vehicles
- collecting fees set at \$0.60 per eligible journey payable to Transport for NSW, and \$0.20 to local authorities.

<https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/e-micromobility-ssf>

Adopt a Beach become a Team Leader at Little Manly



Volunteer 3hrs a month on the beach clean sessions at Little Manly. 1st Sunday of the month.

To keep the Adopt a Beach program running smoothly throughout 2026 the local Surfrider Foundation is seeking Team Leaders at each of 9 beach locations, Little Manly included.

Surfrider is looking for passionate ocean loving locals to join us in taking the Adopt a Beach community powered program to the next level and amplify its impact on protecting and restoring our Northern Beaches coastline.

Share your love of Little Manly and 'leaving the beach cleaner than you found it' by leading the monthly beach clean sessions at Little Manly.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY 16 MARCH 26 AT 7PM AT MANLY YACHT CLUB

NB Council's 7 Objectives of the Manly Special Entertainment (SEP)

1. Attract investment from businesses that will meet the needs and wants of locals, workers and visitors.
2. Protect existing creative spaces and create opportunities for live music, performance and entertainment.
3. **Protect residents from unreasonable impacts of vibrancy.**
4. Provide venues and residents with certainty and consistency when it comes to sound management and compliance.
5. Activate and improve safety and accessibility in venues and public spaces.
6. Build capacity for businesses, the community and Council to deliver more exciting, unique and diverse night-time experiences outside of traditional business hours and peak periods.
7. Encourage communication and collaboration between all stakeholders.

Amendments to Manly Development Control Plan 2013 - Manly Special Entertainment Precinct - Precinct Management Plan

The draft SEP introduces four **Sound Management Categories** (MSC1–MSC4). Each category permits different external sound levels at different times of day. At the highest category (MSC1), external sound can reach 70 dB(A). Lower categories cascade down from that level.

In simple terms: If 70 dB is adopted as the maximum level for the highest category, it becomes the calibration point that cascades through the other sound categories. The proposal also modifies and **removes** some existing **protections** in the Manly Development Control Plan (DCP).

Currently venues with decks, balconies, verandas, any rooftop areas and any other external access thereto **must close these space to patrons between the hours of 10pm to 8am.**

The SEP proposal intends to override these trading hours permitted in any outdoor dining approval or licence. **No approval will be required** to modify the hours to 2am in any outdoor dining approvals or licence if a business is trading within the hours outlined in this SEP Precinct Management Plan. There are no sound controls for the public open space.

The current **8,000 patron cap will be removed** and the Liquor Accord would no longer be mandatory for venues operating the the SEP.

On the plus side trading hours would be able commence at 5am.



Manly Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) boundary.

Submissions close 9 March 2026

The draft Manly Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) is currently on exhibition. Have Your Say. It proposes external sound levels of up to 70 dB(A) in parts of the Manly CBD.

Once adopted, these sound settings may remain for years.

This is the time to make your voice heard.

Around 8,000 residents live inside the proposed boundary, more directly adjacent to it.

This affects people living on the Corso, Central Avenue, West & East Esplanade, Tower Hill, and surrounding streets.



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SEP Sound Management Framework.

Council describes the Sound Management Framework as a shared responsibility model, stating it takes a balanced approach to managing sound where the responsibility of mitigating and managing sound impacts in a vibrant night-time precinct is shared between emitters and receivers, that is, the venues and the residents. The key components of the sound management framework for the Manly SEP include fixed external and internal sound criteria for emitters, and sound attenuation requirements for new development in the precinct. In practice this will mean residents will need to close their windows and doors and rely on mechanical ventilation such as air conditioning.

If residents have a complaint about the sound they are experiencing as a 'receiver' then Council suggests residents to contact venues directly, suggesting that often venues, even if it is three adjacent venues, will address the issue with neighbours on the spot. Persistent issues or problems can be referred to Liquor & Gaming NSW, NB Council or the NSW Police as a last resort.

Why Does 70 dB Matter? 70 dB is Intrusion, it's not vibrancy

The key issue isn't vibrancy: It's sleep.

The World Health Organisation recommends that internal **bedroom noise should not exceed 30 dB(A) during night time hours to protect sleep**. Many Manly homes and older buildings in the SEP boundary have standard single glazing (approximately 70-75% of residential stock) Independent modelling undertaken by residents indicates that:

If 70 dB is adopted as the maximum external level, approximately 70-75% of homes within the boundary may exceed WHO internal sleep targets during early night periods.

By contrast, a maximum of 55 to 60 dB materially improves internal outcomes, particularly between midnight and 7am.

A difference of 10 dB is not small (twice as loud to the human ear) It changes whether thousands of residents can sleep properly.

Why Amplified Music Is Different

Even at the same decibel level, amplified music behaves very differently from everyday noise. Low-frequency bass does not simply fade away. It travels through walls, it carries through floors and ceilings, it reverberates within buildings. Unlike steady background sound, such as noise from a truck or construction noise which can be intermittent, bass pulses and repeats. Over time, this disrupts sleep, increases stress, and reduces the ability to use living spaces normally. Residents in parts of Manly are already experiencing this effect.

Reducing the maximum calibration from 70 dB to 60 dB (cascading across categories) would give residents immediate protection during the trial and prevents 70 dB becoming embedded as the benchmark along with containment of the sound within the venues.

Manly Sound Category (MSC)	Days of Week	70 dB(A) = FAIL COUNCIL PROPOSED		60 dB(A) = Max Sound Level we MUST Achieve	
		Early Night (10pm to midnight)	Late Night (midnight to 7am)	Early Night (10pm to midnight)	Late Night (midnight to 7am)
Cat 1:	Sun (7am) to Thurs (7am)	50	40	40	30
	Thurs (7am) to Sun (7am)	55	45	45	35
Cat 2:	Sun (7am) to Thurs (7am)	45	35	35	25
	Thurs (7am) to Sun (7am)	50	40	40	30
Cat 3:	Sun (7am) to Thurs (7am)	40	30	30	20
	Thurs (7am) to Sun (7am)	45	35	35	25
Cat 4:	Sun (7am) to Thurs (7am)	35	30	25	20
	Thurs (7am) to Sun (7am)	40	30	30	20

= World Health Organisation (WHO) Compliance | 30dB(A)

Note: Based on typical single-glazed attenuation of 10-15 dB(A). Approximately 70-75% of residential stock within the SEP is single glazed.



Two new venues now operating adjacent to each other with different sound systems and no sound attenuation



12/132 Bower Street, Manly

Auction



8 Upper Gilbert Street, Manly

For Sale

THE AGENCY

Considering Selling?

Jake and his team have a proven track record of successfully selling properties across Manly and the lower Northern Beaches. From entry-level apartments to luxury homes, they handle sales across all price points.

If you're thinking about selling or would like a property appraisal, call Jake.



Jake Rowe

jakerowe@theagency.com.au

0414 612 546

Shop 1, 22 Darley Rd, Manly NSW 2095

Experience sells



Brickbats and Bouquets

- **Bouquet** to Felons for triple glazing of their venue and installing all the sound attenuation in the Barrel Room venue. Will the other side be done as well?
- **Bouquet** to Council for commencing work, or at least dropping of the big sandstone blocks for the sand loss mitigation project at the Little Manly boat ramp. And to the streetsweeper and blokes with brooms for doing a more thorough job of clearing car park area of sand and other debris.
- **Brickbat** to Council Waste Management people responsible for the 'we like binned butts' effort. How's that going, seems the smokers don't get it judging from the number of cigarette butts on the ground around these bins.



FYI - Exercise Kakadu International Naval Fleet Review celebrates 125 years since the foundation of Australia's Navy. From the 21 March 2026 the largest gathering of international warships will be on Sydney Harbour for a Fleet Review. The Review will culminate in a ceremonial gun salute at 3.34pm after a column of ships has sailed through the Heads and then along the main channel west towards the Harbour Bridge. Grab a view of the spectacle from the North Head lookouts during the day.



- **Bouquet** to Council for funding the three charities, LocalKind, Manly Womens Shelter and Avalon Youth Service for an additional 12 months. But dragging out the uncertainty for future funding with the requirement to submit an EOI along with everyone else competing for funding next year deserves a brickbat.
- **Brickbat** to the sharks for still ruining the vibe in Manly. But the water is so warm 😊 (Cheers to the drone operators)



Winner of the Best Café Dining & Best Casual Dining of the Year in Australia for 2024 at the National Restaurant and Catering Awards!



LITTLE MANLY, LITTLE STRESS.

RIPPLES

rippleslittlemanly.com.au • On the beach, Stuart Street Manly • @rippleslittlemanly



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