



# MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

*A community led monthly newsletter for Manly residents*

February 2026

## NSW Shark Management Program and Manly Beach Safety Arrangements

The NSW Government, through the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries, funds the NSW Shark Management Program, recognised as the largest and most comprehensive initiative of its kind globally. On Sunday, 7 December 2025, the NSW Government announced a \$2.5 million enhancement for the 2025/26 Program. This funding supports an extended Surf Life Saving NSW (SLS NSW) summer drone program, boosts the Surfing NSW drone fleet and pilot training, triples funding for Community Shark Bite Kits in regional areas, and expands the SharkSmart education program with summer pop-up beach events and improved features in the SharkSmart app.

### Surf Life Saving NSW Procedures for Shark Incidents

Surf Life Saving NSW publishes 'Public Safety Standard Operating Procedures', including guidelines for managing shark incidents and recognising risks associated with sharks. The document uses the term 'shark' broadly, acknowledging that not all sharks are dangerous. In NSW coastal waters, nearly all shark bites are attributed to three types: whaler sharks (including bull sharks), tiger sharks, and great white sharks (also known as white pointer or white shark).

According to SLSNSW procedures, a shark alarm is triggered when a civilian or lifesaving personnel spot an object in the water believed to be a shark. Immediate action is taken to ensure public safety and to confirm the identity of the object. A shark sighting is determined when the presence of a shark has been confirmed, usually following a shark alarm. Duty officers are available to support Patrol Captains and Council lifeguards in managing shark issues and sightings.

### Beach Closure Arrangements and Shark Alarms

Northern Beaches Council is currently reviewing beach closure arrangements for shark sightings at Shelly Beach and is considering the installation of a shark alarm there. At present, there is no shark alarm at Shelly Beach. Closures and notifications to swimmers at Manly and Shelly beaches are managed by Council Lifeguards from Manly Beach. Both Council lifeguards and SLSNSW volunteers advise and encourage swimmers to leave the water as directed for personal safety reasons, and this advice should not be ignored.

There are no procedures for, or monitoring the harbourside beaches. Swimmers should swim in the netted enclosures.

## AGENDA

- Happy New Year (even though we are 2 months into 2026)
- Local (Eastern Hill ) updates
  - Bower side
  - Little Manly side
  - North Head
- AVEO Health and Wellbeing Precinct (former Manly Hospital site) update
- MLSC update
- NB Council Beach Services in Manly update

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Everyone welcome

23 February 2026, 7pm Manly Yacht Club

### Key features of the 25/26 Shark Management program

- 305 SMART drumlines deployed in 19 coastal local government areas (LGAs) from Tweed to Bega, including 30 drumlines along the Northern Beaches, 10 between Dee Why and Manly, and three drumlines off Manly Beach.
- Shark nets installed at 51 beaches across eight LGAs between Newcastle and Wollongong, operating from 1 September 2025 to 31 March 2026. The Northern Beaches have 15 nets, with one net at Manly Beach, 150m long and 6m deep, with a mesh size of 60cm approximately 500m from the shore.
- Surf Life Saving NSW has drone patrols at 50 beaches during school holidays, with drones in every coastal LGA. These patrols operate seven days a week and will continue through to the end of the April 2026 school holidays. The Australian Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle Service (AUAVS), an operational unit of Surf Life Saving Services Pty Ltd (SLSS), provides the largest coastal UAV (drone) surveillance program in the Southern Hemisphere.
- SLSS has 7 drone locations currently operating on the Northern Beaches. A drone is currently being operated from North Steyne monitoring the length of Manly Beach as well as from the Freshwater headland covering Freshwater, north & south Curl Curl. Northern Beaches Council lifeguards do not conduct drone operations as the Council beach service is not resourced for this function.

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY 23 FEB 26 AT 7PM AT MANLY YACHT CLUB**

## Surfing NSW

Surfing NSW has been allocated \$650,000 to expand its aerial surveillance (drone) program. This funding will support the staged rollout of drone capability across surf clubs and surf schools, alongside pilot training and education. Surfing NSW is currently undertaking procurement, training, and rollout. Local Manly surf schools and clubs are now operating drones during surf competitions and while teaching students in the surf at Manly.

### Shark Listening Stations and Data Management

NSW DPI Fisheries operates 37 tagged shark listening stations, with at least one in every coastal LGA. These receivers detect tagged sharks within a 500-metre radius and provide real-time updates to the public and beach authorities via Twitter (@NSWSharkSmart) and the SharkSmart app. Data from these stations offers valuable insights into shark movements in NSW waters. DPI also manages several hundred VR2W listening stations, which require retrieval from the seabed to download data. This retrospective data provides detailed information on shark movements and habitat use, aiding understanding of shark distribution and interactions with humans. Three listening stations are located off the Northern Beaches, including one at North Steyne off Manly Beach since 2022. There is also a listening station in Sydney Harbour.

### Community Education and Lifeguard Operations

The SharkSmart community education program has held events at the Corso end of Manly Beach throughout the 2025/26 summer season. Northern Beaches Council Professional Lifeguards patrol the beaches beyond the surf zone using jetskis and rubber duckies. Council lifeguards have access to a jet ski located in the MLSC and a rubber duckie.



**Outer Sydney Harbour  
Coastal Management  
Program  
Sydney Coastal Council  
group  
Your Say**



## Visitor access improvements to North Head

NPWS is planning to carry out works to improve pedestrian safety, public transport connections, whole-of-headland links and stormwater management along North Head Scenic Drive: The proposal includes;

- construction of a 1.8m footpath on the southern side of Scenic Drive from the white picket fenced entry to the North Head Sanctuary to the Bella Visit Cafe at North Fort. Connecting to the existing footpath networks; the works will improve all-abilities access throughout the headland. The footpath will not be a shared path and there is no bike lane proposed.
- all the current bus stops will be upgraded. Including both the north and southbound stops near the North Head Sanctuary entry. A raised pedestrian crossing near the North Head Sanctuary picket fence entry will be installed.
- a new bus stop southbound near North Fort entry road (near the Bella Vista cafe). Currently there is no bus stop there and patrons visiting North Fort or the cafe have to go all the way around the lookout loop before alighting at the northbound stop.
- the Q Station northbound bus stop will be relocated. Currently located on the roundabout, the new bus bay will be moved to a safer location, north, past the stone wall.
- a raised pedestrian crossing will also be installed a few hundred metres south of the roundabout along the new footpath to provide better linkages into the North Head Sanctuary precincts and walking tracks.
- construction of kerb and gutter along the footpath to improve stormwater drainage and treatment.



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## Manly Yacht Club wharf upgrade

The Manly Yacht Club wharf is on track for a significant repair and upgrade, thanks to the approval of their DA submitted in 2023 and a recent \$400,000 funding grant for boating Infrastructure from Transport for NSW and oversight by Northern Beaches Council.

The project involves demolishing 18 ageing timber piles and a section of timber decking measuring 6.5m x 16.5m, replacing them with eight new steel piles and new decking. There will be no change to the wharf's footprint or public access.

In accordance with Northern Beaches Council's planning guidelines and policies a contribution under the Section 7.12 Contributions Plan 2022, means that \$2,635 will go towards new and improved public infrastructure.



## Marine Parade

Council staff have reported to Councillors on their Notice of Motion 38/2021 regarding a masterplan for the Manly to Shelly Beach Walk (Marine Parade). Now recognising the importance of this site, a project for Marine Parade will be proposed in the draft 2026 -2027 Delivery Plan for Council's consideration. Sydney Water who own the sewer asset beneath the walkway have declined to contribute funds despite requests from the Council and Local Member. We look forward to Council consulting the community on this masterplan.

## Manly Health and Wellbeing precinct

Since the update in late 2025, the Manly Health and Wellbeing Precinct project has progressed across planning, design and technical assessment streams.

Aveo's technical consultants have finalised the project's due diligence program. All the major technical reports for the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) as well as the technical studies, covering the built form and visual impact, traffic and transport, biodiversity, heritage, and social impact are progressing well toward lodgement as part of the formal DA.

Aveo is now completing the Concept State Significant Development Application (SSDA) which outlines how the project meets State and Local planning requirements, minimises environmental impacts, and responds to community and stakeholder feedback.

The updated Masterplan concepts and design will be displayed and discussed at the 23 Feb Manly Community Forum.

Lodgement of the concept SSDA, a major milestone marking the formal transition from early investigations to the statutory assessment phase, is likely mid 2026. The community will then have direct opportunities to 'have your say' and make submissions providing feedback once the application is placed on public exhibition by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

As the project enters this next phase, Aveo states they remain committed to open, ongoing engagement with the Manly community. They value the feedback shared so far and look forward to continuing these conversations throughout 2026.

A meeting with local stakeholders will be held at the Town Hall the week before the MCF meeting.

A copy of the presentation from the Manly Community Forum meeting will be published on the AVEO website after 23 February.



29/23 Iluka Avenue, 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

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# Brickbats and Bouquets

- **Bouquet** to Felons for finally opening the new public toilet at the Wharf. The design and location is perfect. This is how you do public toilets. The public just have to keep them nice now.
- **Brickbat** to Council and Transport for NSW for creating Manly's newest beachside 24/7 parking area on the West Esplanade promenade without due consideration and zero consultation. (cue 'you cant park here mate' comments.)
- **Bouquet** To Council for the beautiful new five meters of curb at Little Manly Beach Hop Skip Jump bus stop. Great to see that Council is moving through the backlog of road and footpath infrastructure maintenance improvements.
- **Bouquet** to Council Lifeguards. Legends
- **Brickbat** to Manly beach for the most smelly public bins in Sydney



- **Bouquet** Bouquet to LocalKind for working with the social housing and other service providers to try to find housing for the homeless in the Manly area despite a persistent lack of funding and resources. Lets hope Councillors vote to continued to fund both LocalKind and the Manly Womens Shelter this week.
- **Brickbat** to the sharks for ruining the vibe in Manly.



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

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