



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

HELD THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER 2009

NOTE: All minutes are subject to confirmation at a subsequent Council or Planning and Strategy Committee meeting.

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Jean Hay AM, Mayor	Manly Council – Chair
Cllr Alan Le Surf	Manly Council
Cllr Barbara Aird	Manly Council
Cllr Hugh Burns	Manly Council
Cllr Dr Peter Macdonald	Manly Council

Other Representatives

Superintendent Dave Darcy	Manly Police
Leading Senior Constable, Danielle Fletcher	Crime Prevention Officer, Manly Police
Melissa Palermo	Northern Beaches Health Promotion
Mike Baird	Member for Manly
Malcolm Pearse	Department of Corrective Services
Richard Wallace	The Corso Precinct
John McShane	Manly Warringah Taxis
Ray Mathieson	Community Member
Doug Robertson	Community Member
Amanda Barnao	State Transit Authority
Brian White	State Transit Authority
Doug Brooker	Manly Liquor Accord
Sidar Demirbag	Late Night Food Traders representative
Jacquiline Smith	Manly Community Centre
Margot Stolle	Manly Chamber of Commerce

Council Staff

Henry Wong	General Manager
Terry Jones	Manager, Ranger Services
Beth Lawsen	Divisional Manager, Human Services & Facilities
Sue Johansson	Community Safety Coordinator
Tony Pavlovic	Manager Compliance & Enforcement

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Safety Committee** met on Thursday 10 December, 2009, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 8.00am.

ITEM 1	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE	ACTION
	No apologies received. Welcome extended to Amanda Barnao, State Transit Authority.	
ITEM 2	DECLARATION OF INTEREST	
	There were no declarations of interest.	
ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2009 AND MATTERS ARISING	
	The minutes of the Community Safety Committee from 12 November 2009 were adopted by Council at the Planning & Strategy meeting of 7 December 2009.	
	MATTERS ARISING	
3.1	Item 4: Liquor License and Development Application consent conditions	
	A report prepared by Council's Manager Compliance & Enforcement was tabled and discussed by the Committee.	
	The Committee recommended that a working group be formed to progress the matter and report back to the Committee on the issues raised by The Corso Precinct.	
	Members of the working group to include:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Dr Peter Macdonald • Richard Wallace • Cllr Hugh Burns • Cllr Barbara Aird • Ray Mathieson • Superintendent Dave Darcy • Manly Council staff representative 	
	Recommendation	IBM
	The Committee recommends to Council that a working group be formed to discuss the issue of liquor licence and development application consent conditions and report back to the Community Safety Committee.	
ITEM 4	MANLY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP	
	There was considerable discussion regarding the intention of the Manly Community Safety Partnership, with main points being:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several members of the Committee expressed concern that the Manly Community Safety Partnership was being initiated in place of the Section 79 Disturbance Complaint being heard. • Both Manly Police and Manly Council remain firmly behind the Section 79 Disturbance Complaints which were submitted to request earlier closing times for licenced premises (2.00am cease service of alcohol for 2.30am close) • Both Manly Police and Manly Council will be formally requesting the Director General of Communities NSW reconvene the Section 79 proceedings and that a conference date be set • The Manly Community Safety Partnership meetings had been considering a proposal put forward by AHA that its members operate a 3.00 cease service of alcohol for a 3.30am close, 	

- however this was opposed by Manly Police.
- Manly Council has continued to state its position requesting 2.00am cease service of alcohol and 2.30am closure of licensed premises as per the Council Resolution 39/09 at the Ordinary Meeting of 20 April 2009
 - The late night shuttle bus suggestion by Manly Liquor Accord and Manly Police is still unresolved as no communication has been received from Ministry of Transport & Infrastructure to provide advice on legislative issues to allow this operation to proceed.
 - There was disappointment expressed by the Chair of the Committee and the Member for Manly that the Community Safety Partnership had excluded the involvement of the elected members of the community from this process.
 - Manly Liquor Accord welcomed the introduction of the Manly Community Safety Partnership, in particular the way the partnership has brought all key partners together to discuss issues.
 - The Police Association was due to meet on 14 December 2009 to discuss its concern about injuries to police officers when dealing with alcohol related violence.

ACTION

Recommended

The Community Safety Committee recommends to Council that:

IBM

- representation of elected community members be sought for the Manly Community Safety Partnership
- the Director General of Communities NSW be invited to address the Community Safety Committee
- the conditions set down as part of the Manly Venue Management Plan are re-endorsed

ITEM 5 POLICE REPORT

Police recorded the lowest assault rate for December in recent years. However the recent brawl with over 50 people in Henry Afrikas was of major concern to the Police.

Resolved

That the information is received and noted.

ITEM 6 RANGERS' REPORT

Rangers' Report included the following for the month of November:

Abandoned vehicles	117
Fines, boards, bikes, blades	0
General warnings boards, bikes and blades	338
Dangerous Dog investigations	1
Noise complaints night rangers	60
Homeless persons complaints	7
Smoking cautions/fines	2
Raglan Street Taxi Rank	17
AFZ Enforcement	60

Resolved

That the information is received and noted.

ITEM 7 Manly Liquor Accord Report

The Manly Liquor Accord has put several proposals to the Manly

Community Safety Partnership, which will next meet on 17 December 2009 for discussion.

ACTION

The annual santa pub crawl is happening on Saturday 12 December in Manly, raising funds for Stewart House. There is expected to be over 1000 people participating. Licensing Police and members of the Liquor Accord have been consulted by organisers.

The Manly Liquor Accord has appointed an administration officer.

The Liquor Accord is still trying to determine membership fees for some its members and Council has provided the Place of Public Entertainment (POPE) licence details which provided numbers of seats which helped significantly. However not every premise has a POPE licence (and POPE licences have now been abolished), so it has proved difficult to determine accurate membership fees for some.

The draft Action Plan for the Manly Crime Prevention Plan has been provided to the Liquor Accord Executive for comment.

Resolved

That the information is received and noted.

ITEM 8 REPORT – Late night Community Safety Audit

Manly Police tabled the report from the late night Community Safety Audit conducted on Saturday 14 November 2009 (see attached). There were a range of recommendations made, the key issues being litter and lighting.

Litter

Council has written to all Late Night Food Traders who signed the Action Agreement in 2007, asking for them to manage litter as per their agreement.

There were concerns raised regarding the amount of litter generated by McDonalds at Manly Wharf, and Council in the past has received complaints about this. Council Rangers do not have the jurisdiction to enforce this area, with the Manly Wharf Management previously involved in requesting better management. Council is sourcing the DA's for Hungry Jacks in The Corso and McDonalds at Manly Wharf to reinforce conditions of consent relating to litter management.

The Late Night Food Trader representative reported that most traders attempted to clean away litter as much as possible.

It was requested that Council investigate additional bins be located:

- Outside Ser-Bar Kebabs in Sydney Road.
- Along Darley Road leading into Manly as people come into Manly with their 'traveller' or bottle of beer, then have no bins to dispose of them before they enter The Corso area.

**Community
Safety
Coordinator**

The style of new bins being installed was mentioned as a concern as the small side opening made it difficult to dispose of large items of rubbish. At Shelly Beach this was a very obvious concern, with plastic shopping bags of food scraps left on top of and around the base of these bins being ripped and spread out over a large area by possums.

Lighting

Improvements to lighting which were identified during the safety audit and have been implemented by Council include:

- Small floodlight with a motion sensor for 1 minute duration installed at playground in The Corso to deter public urination
- Centenary lighting (down lights at the end of The Corso close to The Steyne above the benches) are now all working

Belgrave Street Taxi Rank

During the safety audit, it was observed that there were over 80 people in the vicinity of the taxi rank at 3.00am. At this 'change-over' time there appeared to be a noticeable drop in numbers of taxis coming to the taxi rank.

Pedestrian safety at the Belgrave Street taxi rank was raised as a significant concern, and it was recommended that RTA be requested to install a fence or barrier from the traffic lights at the pedestrian crossing at the side of Council Chambers along to the traffic lights at East Esplanade.

The Community Safety Coordinator and Crime Prevention Officer (Manly Police) will follow through with recommendations from the Community Safety Audit report (as tabled) to ensure completion.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends to Council that to improve pedestrian safety at the Belgrave Street taxi rank, RTA be requested to install a fence or barrier from the traffic lights at the pedestrian crossing at the side of Council Chambers along to the traffic lights at East Esplanade.

ACTION

**Community
Safety
Coordinator/
Crime
Prevention
Officer**

IBM

ITEM 9 REPORT – Meeting of key stakeholders to plan for Australia Day 2010

Minutes of the meeting on 25 November 2009 with key stakeholders to plan for Australia Day 2010 and the 2009/2010 summer were discussed.

Resolved

That the information is received and noted.

ITEM 10 GENERAL BUSINESS brought to the attention of the chair prior to the start of the meeting and approved for consideration

10.1 Manly Community Centre and homelessness

The Manager of the Manly Community Centre wished to acknowledge the support of Superintendent Darcy and his officers in their work with the homeless community.

Resolved

That the information is received and noted.

10.2 Thanks from the Committee Chair

The Chair of the Committee extended season's greetings to all Committee members, along with thanks for the contribution made towards community safety throughout the year.

Resolved

That the information is received and noted.

ITEM 11 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Thursday 11 February 2010

Time: 8.00am – 10.00am

Venue: Councillor's Room

Meeting closed at 10.00am

Community Safety Audit

Manly Central Business District
Saturday 14th November 2009
11.45pm – 3am



With your help a Safer Community

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Executive Summary

This report reflects the findings and recommendations of a Community Safety Audit team consisting of 9 members of the community who conducted an audit on Manly Central Business District and surrounds on Saturday 14th November 2009.

The audit was commissioned in relation to concerns raised by members in relation to community safety and crime in the Manly area. Community Safety Audits are an excellent means to document the existing and potential harm that may be in the area.

The area that the audit team focused was in the Manly Central District and covered the following area:

- The Corso
- Manly Wharf
- West Esplanade and Oceanworld
- North and South Steyne
- Raglan Street Taxi Rank
- Shelly Beach
- Wentworth Street & Rialto Lane
- Belgrave Street taxi Rank and Gilbert Park
- Henrietta and Market Lanes

Audit Team Representation

The audit team consisted of:

Superintendent Darcy	Manly Local Area Command
Sergeant Walters	Manly Local Area Command
Leading Senior Constable Fletcher	Manly Local Area Command
Councilor Le Surf	Manly Council
Sue Johansson	Manly Council
Richard Wallace	Resident – Member of The Corso Precinct
Ray Mathieson	Resident – Member of Little Manly Precinct
Robert Tagg	Resident – Member of Little Manly Precinct
Doris Hemberger	Resident – Member of Fairlight Precinct

Introduction

The primary purpose of this audit was to identify and evaluate safety and security in the location in an attempt to reduce the opportunities for crime, anti-social behaviour and other threats in the area.

The Manly CBD has a large number of licensed premises which are in close proximity to the beach front. The main area of the licensed premises is around The Corso which is the main thoroughfare into Manly from the ferry terminal, bus stops and taxi rank.

There are also a number of late night food outlets that are in the area where the audit was conducted. The audit team was able to observe the impact these traders have on the community particularly in relation to litter left by patrons.

Location



The audit was conducted in the area that is marked in orange.

Observations & Recommendations

1. General Impressions of Safety

Generally the community audit members did not feel too unsafe in the area. Notably, although it was quite a warm day it was not an overly busy night for Manly compared to days of similar warmth. The most noted issues that arose were lighting in certain parts of Manly, the safety and order at the taxi ranks, availability of toilets in the area, and the excessive amount of litter in the area. These are outlined in more detail below with recommendations for resolving the issue.

2. Lighting

Members of the audit team noted deficiencies in lighting in a number of areas in Manly and also included where lights could be used more effectively. Most of the lighting found to be deficient is the responsibility of the council however it was also observed that there are other businesses which can assist with lighting in the Manly Central business district.

- The Corso was quite well lit however it was noted that at 1.30am a number of business premises lights went off and reduced the lighting particularly close to their shop front where intoxicated person would be likely to urinate against. The stores whose lights were seen to turn off at 1.30am were Billabong and Hungry Jacks,
- On the Corso at the beachfront end, outside The Steyne Hotel, Manly Kebabs and Surfction) there was a whole section of down lights which were not working.
- The playground in The Corso was not sufficiently lit as the lighting was quite high above the shelter.
- St Matthews Church is lit by the lights on The Corso and also had lights in their garden area however they were quite dim. The southern side of the church on Darley Road is also quite dark.
- The shelters on the beachfront on South Steyne were not lit.
- Lighting along South Steyne is very dim. From the intersection of Wentworth Street to Manly Surf Club the lighting is dim and it then lights up where temporary fencing is.
- On South Steyne there was a light which was broken (opposite the Shore Club).
- Lighting along beachfront is high which assists with it not being vandalized however could be brighter.
- Henrietta and Market Lanes had good lighting.
- There is good lighting at Belgrave Street taxi rank.
- In Rialto Lane there is an alcove on right side of shoe repair shop which is dim.

- Overhead lights of The Steyne Hotel are not working and reducing lighting.
- Lighting outside toilets at beachfront was not working.
- The toilets at both Oceanbeach and Rialto lane were both well lit.
- Shelly beach toilets lighting is sufficient. It has also been suggested that there was insufficient lighting in the park area at Shelly Beach however the barbeques close in the evening and to stay well lit would only encourage further activity at the location.
- On West Esplanade near the Manly Waterworks is quite dark and could use further lights however this may be rectified when the construction in the area is completed.
- On East Esplanade it is dark amongst the trees.

Recommendations:

- Effective lighting contributes to public safety by reducing fear, increasing activity, improving visibility and increasing the possibility of detecting offenders.
- It is recommended that all lighting that has been identified as broken be repaired to be restored to its maximum effectiveness. There were broken lights in The Corso near the Steyne Hotel and Surfexion, South Steyne opposite The Shore Club, near Ocean beach toilets,
- It is recommended that The Steyne Hotel put on its large light on top of the building during the night.
- It is recommended that businesses in The Corso be requested to leave the lights of their store on overnight, particularly on weekends, as it provided much more lighting to the area and may deter intoxicated person urinating on the front of their stores or conducting any other anti-social behaviour or criminal activity.
- It is recommended that lighting be installed at the playground area. It is suggested that sensor lighting may be effective as it may startle any person entering the playground to urinate.
- It is recommended that sensor lights and lighting be installed around St Matthews Church. It is frequently used by intoxicated persons to urinate and more lighting may assist in reducing this behaviour.

3. Visibility & Sightlines

The visibility in and surrounding the Manly Central Business district is quite good. The beachfront of North and South Steyne have clear views north and south on the walkway and it is reasonably straight with limited structures interfering with the view.

Closed Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV) is a good option for areas that may be at risk. The Corso may be at risk due to the large volume of people that frequent the area and particularly of a night when they are intoxicated. The Corso has closed circuit television cameras that cover a significant part of the area. It was suggest however that perhaps they could be mapped in conjunction with a map of crime in the area to ascertain f they are covering the areas of most concern.

It has previously been stated that there is CCTV above the North Steyne taxi rank however this could not be sighted.

It was noted there was an alcove in Rialto Lane and due to it being very dim it may be used to either urinate or for other antisocial behaviour.

The visibility in Henrietta Lane is reduced as there are a number of cars from The Steyne Hotel that park to the side of the laneway. The vehicles could be used as concealment for offences and other antisocial behaviour.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended that the alcove in Rialto Lane be better lit or CCTV to increase surveillance to reduce people using the laneway for undesirable activity.
- It is recommended that a comparison be made of the location of the CCTV against where the crime is occurring to ensure there is not “blind spots” where crime is occurring.
- It is recommended that the vehicles parking in Henrietta Lane be limited to avoid persons concealing themselves behind them to urinate or conduct other undesirable activities.

4. Signs

There are quite a few signs in the Manly area however some of them are either poorly positioned or not clear.

The deficiencies are:

- Not enough signs available to direct visitors to toilets in Manly.
- Signs on West Esplanade to that state no drinking and other activities that are not permitted are positioned well near entries to walkway however there were still a group drinking within several metres of signs. The signs for no dogs/bicycle are not clearly displayed.
- Gilbert Park not clearly signed for no consumption of alcohol in the area.
- At Shelly Beach new signage is needed at entry point with lighting.
- Insufficient signage at the North Steyne taxi rank.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended that there be more signs for the toilets in the Manly CBD and for the signs to include the universal symbols to ensure as many people as possible understand what the sign is pointing to.
- It is recommended that it be considered to place a sign of activities not permitted be positioned along the walkway and not just at the entry points.
- It is recommended that at Shelly Beach the sign on the bins near the barbeques be cleaned and also placed at the entry from the Marine Parade side of the beach.
- It is recommended that there be better signage at and giving directions to the North Steyne taxi rank.

5. Traffic Movement

During the audit there were not significant issues that arose in relation to the traffic flow. Traffic did not appear to be a problem. The only issue may be the safety of persons attempting to flag down taxis outside of the taxi rank. Due to their level of intoxication this may pose as safety risk.

This appears to be a problem as people do not wish to wait in the queue as they wish to obtain a taxi quicker. It creates two problems that the taxi is not picking up people at the taxi rank and also that it is a safety risk for the people trying to flag down taxi.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended that taxis collect passengers from the supervised taxi rank and therefore reducing unsafe practices by the people.

6. Transport Services

The audit area is serviced by public transport by way of ferries, taxis and buses. The main concern of the safety team in relation to transport services was the taxi services. Manly has two designated taxi ranks for the time in which the audit was conducted. They are located in Belgrave Street and on North Steyne near the intersection of Raglan Street. Due to the late hours of weekend nights the taxi ranks have security personnel which assist in the management and safety of the service.

- Belgrave Street
 - As previously mentioned there is an issue of lack of taxis attending the rank close to the change over of drivers at 3am. There was a notable decrease in taxis attending the location around that time. At 2.50am there were 80 people in the general vicinity of the taxi rank and specifically 65 were queued waiting for a taxi.
 - It was also observed that whilst people are waiting they tend to shuffle forward which can then create problems in terms of assaults after people encroach on each others personal space.
- Raglan Street
 - The security appear to have difficulty in getting the taxis to stop at this location as most drove west on Raglan Street.
 - The security appeared to struggle in keeping the intoxicated persons in a clear line. This could create problems with people disagreeing about who was next to get a taxi and lead to aggression whilst waiting.
 - There was not a closed circuit television camera in the area although members of the audit team had previously been advised there was one.

Recommendations:

- The security are providing a good services in ensuring safe flow on the queue and for this to continue as people grow patient.
- It is recommended that persons may need to be reminded to get their taxi prior to the difficult time near 3am.
- It is recommended that CCTV be installed and monitored at Raglan Street taxi rank.

7. Provisions of Services

The audit area was predominantly encompassing the licensed premises and the late night food traders in the area. Due to the time that the audit was conducted the audit team was able to observe how the persons in Manly between 12am and 3am utilised the services. A problem which was observed was that people consume alcohol prior to attending the licensed premises for the evening and do not dispose of their bottle or cans, which therefore leaves a trail of rubbish as they enter the Manly CBD.

- A main concern was the amount of litter in the Manly Central Business District and at Shelly Beach. On some occasions it was noted the bins were not properly positioned however on most occasions there was a bin nearby but it simply had not been used.
 - Shelly Beach – There are new bins located at Shelly Beach which give a clean new look however it is difficult to get large items into the bins so much of the rubbish was left on top of or around the base. There was an excessive amount of rubbish strewn across whole Shelly Beach area. This was creating further mess as the possums were scavenging amongst it.
 - Manly Wharf – There was a large amount of litter located outside McDonalds on the seats between the eatery and the bus stop. Bins area located in the area however not closely to some of the seating provided.
 - The Corso – There was a large amount of rubbish through out The Corso. It was evidently from the late night food traders. Some of the rubbish included bottles which are particularly not safe as they could be used as a weapon.
 - Oceanbeach toilets had rubbish and bottles. This appeared to be from people drinking prior to attending the licensed premises.
- There are a number of toilet facilities in the Manly area, however they were not always opened or closed as documented with the Council.
 - Whistler Street Car park toilets – These were closed when attended at 1am and 3.15am, however according to Manly Council schedule they are meant to be unlocked on Friday and Saturday nights.
 - Rialto Lane toilets. These were unlocked when attended at 1.20am. According to the Manly Council schedule these should be closed at 10pm.
 - Ocean Beach toilets – These toilets remained open throughout the night however as previously mentioned there was an amount of litter located at them and did not have adequate supply of toilet paper.
 - Marine Parade toilets – The toilets were still open when visited shortly after midnight however it was observed they appeared unclean.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended that the agreement with the Late Night Food Traders be revisited to remind them of their responsibilities in cleaning up the litter provided by and used outside their location.

- It is also recommend that any Late Night Food Trader not previously involved in this agreement be approached to take responsibility for their stores litter.
- It is recommended that Manly Council facilitate the opening of toilets near Whistler Street carpark during the nights.

8. General Maintenance

The audit team considered the general maintenance of the Manly Business Area to be reasonably maintained except for issues already discussed in this report. There is lights not working and excessive amount of litter in the area.

In relation to graffiti and other damaged properties the audit team did not notice any problems of this nature.

Recommendations:

- As previously discussed it is recommended that any lights not working be repaired and the issue of litter be addressed with the food outlets responsible for providing it.

Summary

The Manly Council has a vital interest in ensuring the safety of members of the community and their property. By using the recommendations contained within this document, any person who does so acknowledges that:

It is not possible to make areas evaluated by the Community Safety Audit Team absolutely safe for the community and their property.

Recommendations are based upon information provided to, and observations made by Community Safety Audit Team members at the time the audit was conducted.

The Community Safety Audit Team hopes that by using the recommendations contained within this document, criminal activity will be reduced and the safety of members of the community and their property will be increased. However, it does not guarantee that all risks have been identified, or that the area audited will be free from criminal activity if its recommendations are followed.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members of the community involved in conducting this Safety Audit to improve community safety.