



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

HELD THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 2010

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Jean Hay, Mayor
Cllr Dr Peter Macdonald
Cllr Hugh Burns

Manly Council (Chair)
Manly Council
Manly Council

Other Representatives

Inspector Luke Arthurs
Snr Constable Danielle Fletcher
Ray Mathieson
Doug Robertson
Doug Brooker
Sam Johns
Doug Edmonds
Melissa Palermo
Drew Johnson
Malcolm Pearse
Jacquiline Smith
Jay Zmijewski
Sidar Demirbag
Amanda Watkins
Richard Wallace

Crime Manager, Manly Police
Crime Prevention Officer, Manly Police
Community Member
Community Member
Manly Liquor Accord
Manly Liquor Accord
Manly Warringah Cabs
Northern Beaches Health Promotion
Manly Chamber of Commerce
Department of Corrective Services
Manly Community Centre
State Transit Authority
Late Night Food Traders representative
Manly Drug Education & Counselling Centre
The Corso Precinct

Council Staff

Sue Johansson
Beth Lawsen
Tony Pavlovic
Jonathon Noyes

Community Safety Coordinator
Divisional Manager, Human Services & Facilities
Manager Compliance & Enforcement
Youth & School Aged Services Coordinator

Visitors

Peter Ramshaw
Errol Ince
Julie Armstrong

CEO, NSW Taxi Council
Manly Night Shuttle
Manly Night Shuttle

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Safety Committee** met on Thursday 14 October, 2010, 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

Apologies were received from Cllr Barbara Aird, Cllr Alan Le Surf, Mike Baird Member for Manly and Superintendent Dave Darcy.

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2010

The minutes of the Community Safety Committee meeting held on 9 September 2010 were confirmed by members. These minutes were adopted at the Ordinary meeting of 11 October 2010.

ITEM 4 Report and discussion – Late Night Transport

The Committee heard presentations by the three key transport providers (STA, taxis and Manly Night Shuttle) scoping issues and possible solutions for late night transport:

1. Jay Zmijewski, Regional Traffic and Services Manager, State Transit Authority

Departure point for all late night STA services is on the corner of Belgrave Street and Raglan Street.

Security/supervisors currently provided by STA: 6 staff on Friday and Saturday nights.

Route 151

Operates between 1:00am to 5:30am, 7 nights with additional services on weekends

Approx 30 minute frequency – Manly to Mona Vale

Approx 15 minute frequency – Manly to Dee Why

2.27am and 3.02am are the most popular departures from Manly

Route 130 'Pumpkin Bus'

Late Friday and Saturday night loop service linking Manly,

Freshwater, Dee Why, Narrabeena and Allambie

Operates between 1:30am to 3:00am

Approx 30 minute frequency

1.30am most popular departure from Manly

Routes 155/156/142/139/136/131

Services end between midnight and 12:30am when replaced by 151 and 130

Overall Issues

- Departure point is at cnr of Raglan and Belgrave Street, not central to Manly
- low patronage perhaps due to lack of marketing
- Intoxication leading to antisocial/offensive behaviour
- Loading time / fare payment when dealing with intoxicated patrons
- Graffiti / Vandalism
- Object Throwing - 89 incidents in the past 12 months, and increasing
- Passenger / Driver Assaults - 13 employee assaults/13 Passenger assaults in the past 12 months
- Increased violence on buses in the Dee Why Area, not

necessarily in Manly

Suggested Solutions

- Better promotion to improve patronage:
 - Use of licensed premises security guards to direct patrons to departure points for late night transport
 - Consider reprinting 'Late Night Transport Options' wallet card produced by Council's Road Safety Officer in 2009 as the STA timetable is still current
- Departure point at cnr Belgrave and Raglan Streets (outside Tennis courts) is not central to Manly.
- Gilbert Park STA bus stops was suggested as a departure point for late night STA buses
- To speed up loading time, and to not delay services, peak period services of 2.27am and 3.02am should be subsidised and free to patrons.
- Increased Police presence / rapid response
- Consider integrated approach with other LGA Safety Committees
- Arrangement between key stakeholders to prepay tickets to improve boarding times (Manly Liquor Accord representative advised this scheme had been tried in Manly previously, and was unsuccessful)

Recommendation:

That Council write to Communities NSW and recommend that the Manly Precinct Liquor Accord implement the following strategies:

- subsidise the STA bus number 151 Saturday night 2.27am and 3.02am services
- Develop a coordinated approach to the promotion of all late night transport options

2. Doug Edmonds, Manly Warringah Cabs and Peter Ramshaw, NSW Taxi Council

The secure taxi ranks in Manly and other locations around NSW are partly funded by the fees from the taxi industry. In the last 7 months records reported approximately:

- 2,500 – 4,000 passengers per month used the Raglan Street (North Steyne) secure taxi rank;
- 7,000 – 10,000 passengers per month at the Belgrave Street secure taxi rank;

Regulations governing taxis do allow for multiple or shared hiring and rates can be established. Willoughby Council currently run a shared taxi service to allow passengers to ring up and book for a shared scheme which operates Tuesday to Friday 10.00am – 3.30pm. The advantage of such a scheme is that it is a regulated service, run by accredited operators and drivers with cameras and alarms for safety. It also provides the community with a high level of confidence in the service.

Issue:

- The current changeover time of 3.00am was acknowledged as a problem, however there are now 300 new taxi licenses granted who may not have a changeover of between 2 – 4am.

**Community
Safety
Coordinator**

- Many taxi drivers refuse to come to Manly because of the risk of anti-social behaviour by passengers.
- Taxis also sometimes get fined for picking up passengers in areas other than the ranks. It is difficult to turn around after collecting from the Belgrave Street rank. Many taxis wish to head to the city, rather than north of Manly.

Proposed Solution:

- At the July Committee meeting, Manly Warringah Cabs proposed splitting the Taxi rank at Belgrave Street in order to have a north and south bound pick up point. The proposal remains with Council's Traffic Department for consideration.
- Maxi cabs can transport up to 12 passengers and were suggested as an option to speed up clearing the taxi rank. However, unlike the Manly Night Shuttle, it is illegal for a taxi to tout for patronage. This could be the role of the 'concierge' suggested by Manly Warringah Cabs in the July Committee meeting. A local scheme could be commenced, with security personnel at the ranks issuing a pre-paid docket to maxi cab drivers to encourage them to return to the rank and collect more patrons.

Recommendation:

That Council writes to the Taxi Council to investigate and report back to the Committee on the introduction of incentives to attract late night taxis to Manly.

**Community
Safety
coordinator**

3. Errol Ince, Manly Night Shuttle

This service commenced as a result of the original discussions with Communities NSW and the Manly Community Safety Partnership (now the Manly PLA). The service has an exemption under the provision of Part 4 of the Passenger Transport Act 1990 until the end of April 2011.

The service operates between 11.00pm until 3.00am and transports up to 150 passengers on Saturday nights. Their bus seats up to 13 passengers. Whilst a designated and signed departure point exists on The Corso (3 spaces outside Hamlets Pie Shop), the shuttle tends to collect patrons from surrounding streets in Manly. Patrons then pay the driver \$5.00 to go to three destinations: Harbord, Dee Why or Seaforth.

The operator of Manly Night Shuttle does not believe that his service is competing with other providers. Some patrons would prefer to use a shuttle to return home, rather than an STA bus or a taxi.

Issue:

- No promotion at present which means most patrons are unaware of the Manly Night Shuttle,
- Departure point on The Corso is signposted, but not used.
- Shuttle picks up patrons from various points around CBD

Solution:

- Marketing and promotion of service to educate patrons
- Raise awareness of licensed premises security staff to promote and direct patrons to pick up points

Summary of Key Issues:

- Various departure points for different modes of transport home (e.g. Belgrave or Raglan Street/North Steyne for taxis, cnr Raglan and Belgrave St for STA buses, or surrounding streets for Manly Night Shuttle).
- Low patron awareness of late night transport options

Possible solutions:

- Consolidate pick up points for all three forms of transport (Manly Night Shuttle, taxis and STA buses)
- Educate patrons and licensed premises security staff to promote all late night transport options

In order to progress this issue, the Chair moved to establish a working party to scope issues and possible solutions for late night transport options for Manly. The Working Party will include the following representatives:

- Doug Brooker, Manly Liquor Accord
- Doug Edmonds, Manly Warringah Cabs
- Melissa Palermo, Northern Beaches Health Promotion
- Errol Ince, Manly Night Shuttle
- Danielle Fletcher, Manly Police
- Sue Johansson, Manly Council

Recommendation:

That the General Manager consider the establishment of a Working Party to include Council staff representatives with the appropriate expertise in transport to develop an integrated late night strategy for Manly to then report back to the Community Safety Committee.

**General
Manager/
Community
Safety
Coordinator**

ITEM 5 Report – Section 79 Disturbance Complaint

OLGR have provided verbal advice to Council regarding Council's request to receive a presentation by OLGR to clearly advise the Council on the way to lodge a Section 79 complaint.

If or when Council considers lodging another Section 79 Disturbance complaint to OLGR, the complaint must meet the requirement to provide clear and direct evidence linking the particular disturbances by person to specific licensed premise/s.

The submission from Council must be cogent/recent/focussed evidence/ with specific evidence to support the Section 79 complaint. Alternatively Council could support a Manly Police Section 79 Disturbance Complaint.

OLGR advised that is no need to swamp them with information, the key factor is linking the behaviour to the premises, and good quality evidence collected and produced, not quantity.

Council's previous Section 79 was deemed invalid because it did not name the venues in the original submission.

OLGR also advised that they declined the invitation from Council to meet with Council and Police, as the defence lawyers would cite the Council was "coached" in their submission by OLGR.

Recommendation:

That the information is received and noted.

ITEM 6 Report – Manly Precinct Liquor Accord

Council staff attended a Manly PLA meeting convened by Communities NSW on 12 October 2010

In attendance was the community representative nominated by the Committee, Manly Police, key licensees, Manly Liquor Accord representatives, LNFT representative, Manly Night Shuttle, MDECC and AHA.

There was a discussion of issues, participants identified priorities and scoped possible solutions. How the actions would be evaluated and how responsibilities for actions would be allocated were not discussed.

Issues identified in order of priority:

1. Late night transport
 - Taxi changeover times
 - Lack of awareness by patrons/police/security staff of Manly Night Shuttle
 - 'Trial' period of Manly Night Shuttle
 - Request for Manly Ferry/ Fast Ferry operation past midnight
 - Taxi ranks not functioning effectively (particularly Raglan St)
 - Status of STA 'pumpkin bus'
 - Security issues on long weekends (e.g. need for increased Police and increased security at taxi ranks)
2. Individual responsibility
 - Pre-fuelling
 - Drinking in AFZ/ACPZ
 - Visitors, backpackers, language schools
 - Binge/risky drinking
 - Fail to quit
3. Police presence/ Night Rangers and security
4. LNFT – rubbish & security
5. Toilets and Lighting
6. Negative media re: late night Manly

Possible solutions identified:

- Lobby for later Ferries
- Extend 'trial' period of Manly Night Shuttle
- Educate licensed premises security personnel to promote Manly Night Shuttle and other transport options
- Increase Police presence in the Manly PLA boundary
- Introduce Safer Bars programme to Manly
- Improve RSA training
- Introduce 'code of respect'/ patron code of conduct
- Reinforce voluntary drink restrictions of licensed premises

Communities NSW indicated that the next meeting will be held in 3 weeks to discuss solutions and funds will be allocated. Funding is expected to be 50:50 Manly PLA and licensees

Recommendation:

The Committee supports Council staff and the community representative in working towards a solution for the Manly PLA.

ITEM 7 Report – Working Party to discuss Development Application and Liquor Licence consent conditions

This item will be deferred until the November Committee meeting.

Recommendation:

That the information is received and noted.

ITEM 8 Police Report

Inspector Luke Arthurs, Crime Manager at Manly Police presented an overview of crime statistics for the Manly LAC for July, August and September 2010 (see attached).

Discussion points:

- Police have increased bike patrols
- Targeting juveniles who should be on curfew
- Dealing with frequent offenders for robbery and theft.
- Some residents still leave their doors unlocked, making it easy for thieves.
- 75% of alcohol related assaults occur in public space, possibly due to patrons being refused entry due to intoxication, who then become aggressive.
- Manly Community Centre will be making a presentation on domestic violence to the Committee in December.

Recommendation:

That the information is received and noted.

ITEM 9 Rangers' Report

The Manager Compliance & Enforcement presented Rangers statistics for September 2010.

Recommendation:

That the information is received and noted.

ITEM 10 Manly Liquor Accord Report

The Liquor Accord representative reported that an Executive meeting of the Accord was held on Tuesday 21 September 2010.

Manly has experienced an increase in restaurants (on-premises licenses) opening. The Liquor Accord has been conveying the need for strict RSA and their responsibility to reduce anti-social behaviour.

The Liquor Accord representative reported that Sydney Road and Market Lane remains poorly lit at night, with most premises closed and no lighting spilling onto the pedestrian areas.

Recommendation:

That the information is received and noted.

ITEM 11 Report - Matters Arising: Items for Update

Outstanding items reported back to the Committee included:

Members of the Working Party

Community Safety Coordinator

Recommendation that Council investigate securing graffiti removal kits for sale to Manly residents to allow them to follow Council's policy of rapidly removing graffiti from their property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pdf version of Report Graffiti and Graffiti Removal kit flyers emailed to Precincts for use in newsletter • Report Graffiti and Graffiti Removal kit flyers distributed by email to surf clubs, sporting clubs, and schools
Recommendation that the Committee investigate the use of two parking spaces in front of the Police Station, along with a trial of two locations for north and south bound late night taxis at Belgrave Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With Council's Traffic Department for consideration.
Recommendation to install additional signs to direct both taxis and patrons to the Raglan Street taxi rank.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Graphic Artist have drafted high visibility signage at the rank, along with a flyer to be promoted in licensed premises directing patrons to Raglan Street taxi rank
Proposed extension to the Alcohol Free Zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions closed on 20 September 2010. • Report provided to Council's meeting on 11 October 2010 • Council resolved to include extension in the AFZ to be valid until 11 September 2014. • AFZ postcards to be sent out with rates in October, postcards and A4 posters to be distributed widely around Manly – licensed premises, bottle shops, backpackers, language schools, Precincts, sporting and surf clubs. • Letters to be sent to licensees, stakeholders, Precincts, all those who commented advising of extension. • Public notice to be inserted in Manly Daily advising community of AFZ extension. • Signage to be completed and installed for extension
Recommendation that Council write to the Minister for Health to reject the practice of promoting alcohol consumption at sporting functions and through sporting facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter prepared for General Manager's signature.

Recommendation:

That the information is received and noted.

ITEM 12 GENERAL BUSINESS brought to the attention of the Chair prior to the start of the meeting and approved for consideration.

12.1 Feedback from Mike Baird, Member for Manly.

Mr Baird has previously addressed Parliament on licensing and safety issues relevant to Manly. He has also tabled a substantial petition strongly supporting the joint effort of Manly Police and Manly

Council to require pubs to cease serving alcohol no later than 2am and close no later than 2.30am. Mr Baird has also requested an extension of the Liquor License Freeze to the Manly CBD, which the Minister declined (as reported by Ray Mathieson).

Recent reported incidents of aggressive gangs of girls - difficulties Police have in apprehending violent and youth offenders.

Mr Baird will work on improving Legislation controlling laws and Police authority. Mr Baird is also currently involved in the issue of offensive/anti social behaviour in and around Collins Beach and Jump Rock. The Collins Beach area is of particular concern as it is NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service controlled, with little assistance from Council Rangers or Police due to the isolated location.

Recommendation:

That the information is received and noted.

Due to time constraints, the Committee did not complete the Agenda. Two items as follows were deferred to the November Community Safety Committee meeting for discussion:

12.2 Section 96 regarding Manly Wharf Hotel

Section 96 Modification has been lodged to modify approved closing hours of the Manly Wharf Hotel restaurant deck and south facing deck from 10pm to 12pm midnight Monday to Sunday.

12.3 Anti-social behaviour as recently reported in the Manly Daily

A community representative requested that the Committee discuss recent incidents of vandalism and graffiti on local services as reported in the media, and the consideration of support for Neighbourhood Watch.

ITEM 13 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Thursday 11 November 2010
Time: 8.00am – 10.00am
Venue: Councillor's Room

Meeting closed at 10.15am