

BRONTE BEACH PRECINCT MEETING PRECINCT

4TH MARCH 2025 7PM

LUGAR BRAE CHURCH HALL

Acknowledgement of Country

Previous minutes passed

Guest: Water scientist Dr Ian Wright

Topic was beach pollution, particularly at Bronte Beach, due to inadequate sewage treatment and ocean outfalls. Dr Wright spoke about tar balls, fatbergs, sewage overflows, heavy rain, microplastics, PFAS and forever chemicals and their impact on Sydney's beaches and waterways.

Dr Wright highlighted that Sydney Water discharges 9,261 tons of oil and grease annually, and 2,600 tons of phosphorus, exceeding environmental standards. Sydney Water's pipes are old and cracked and leak in storms, spilling sewerage.

The community expressed concern over the lack of frequent testing, with current tests conducted every six days.

A motion was proposed to urge the state government to increase testing frequency and ensure effective action against ocean pollution.

Motion: BBP requests Council to work with Beachwatch to enable more frequent testing of beach water quality during and after significant rainfall or observed beach pollution.

Moved by Michael van L, seconded Susan H

Motion: BBP urges Council to call on State Government to take effective action to tackle challenge of increasing ocean pollution

Moved by Ed D, seconded Sam B

Death At Bronte Pool

The meeting also addressed the need for better supervision at Bronte Pool to prevent accidents after the death of a young Irish man on Christmas Day. Background: The lifeguards have requested Council to employ personnel to prevent bombing into Bronte Ocean baths. Residents report there is rarely anyone tasked with stopping this activity. There was a tragic death on Christmas day when a 'backpacker' fell while climbing to make the jump. One resident has written to the current mayor, former mayor, the GM and the state member for Coogee without a considered response.

Motion: Given the years of danger to swimmers in Bronte Pool and a recent death, BBP

calls on Council to:

- 1) take urgent and effective action to end the practice of people jumping from the rocks into the Bronte pool and to ensure that people cannot climb over the picket fence.
- 2) employ pool guards at times of heavy use such as summer weekends and school holidays.

Moved by Ed D, seconded by Sam B

Heritage Tree Preservation

On January 22 the owner of 109 Henrietta St outrageously removed a mature and healthy Magnolia tree from the neighbouring property at 111 Henrietta St. Schedule 5 of the LEP lists 111 Henrietta St as a heritage item, and therefore a development consent is required for any work. Under S4.2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, arguably a Tier 1 penalty applies because the LEP specifically requires consent for work on a heritage item. The Tier 1 maximum penalty is up to \$1m for an individual or \$5m in the case of a corporation. Council could take action against the owner of 109 Henrietta St in the Land and Environment Court under the EPA Act where this extreme case of deliberate damage to a neighbour's heritage property may result in a significant penalty. However, Council has advised that because it has already levied a \$3000 fine it will not proceed further.

Motion: BBP requests the fine for the removal of the Magnolia tree at 111 Henrietta St be reviewed in light of the heritage item status.

Moved by Virginia Milson, seconded by Utta