Commercialisation

As part of its vibrant mix of uses, there are already commercial businesses operating at the Pavilion. This includes food and beverage outlets, merchandise shop and commercial recreation such as yoga and dance.

Many of these businesses are loved by the community and by visitors and many may choose to apply to trade out of the refurbished Pavilion. The concept plan will provides spaces for all these services.

Music and art programs to continue

Waverley Council is proud of its music programs and facilities. The proposed design will allow the continuation of music programs including:

- Bondi Wave Youth Music training
- Bondi Wave Conference
- Primary School Rock Stars
- Seniors Choir
- Seniors Concerts
- Carols by the Sea.

The exception to this is the single purpose music studios. The proposed theatre will have acoustic treatment, and community spaces could have such treatment. We’re also investigating options for music studios in other locations within the Waverley local government area.

We are also proposing to double the art and exhibition space.

No new car park

No underground car park is associated with the Bondi Pavilion project. As part of the Bondi POM, an underground car park was outlined in order to reduce the impact of cars on Bondi Park. Council intends to conduct a feasibility study on the possibility of pedestrianising Queen Elizabeth Drive and relocating car parking under Park Drive. This is a long-term project and no decision on this has yet been made.
As part of the next stage of implementation of the Bondi Park, Beach and Pavilion Plan of Management (Bondi POM), adopted in 2014, Council is working on a project to conserve the iconic Bondi Pavilion.

We want to ensure the facts are top of mind about this exciting stage in the history of the Pavilion.

Amount of bookable community space

Currently, these are the spaces available to be booked by community and commercial groups:

- High Tide Room
- Seagull Room
- Ocean Room
- Dolphin Room
- Music Studios
- Theatre (previously bookable only through Rock Surfers Theatre Company)
- Amphitheatre in courtyard

In the concept design, these are the multipurpose spaces which would be available in future, bookable by community and commercial groups:

- Community Meeting Space 1
- Community Meeting Space 2
- Gallery/Exhibition Space 1
- Gallery Exhibition Space 2 (depending on management approach taken)
- Theatre
- Theatre Foyer
- Two outdoor courtyard spaces
- Two amphitheatre outside the pavilion will also be available for cultural and community events due to the work currently being implemented at Bondi Park
- There is also the possibility of an upstairs meeting or function space


Community consultation on the Pavilion

The process of community consultation started in 2012, as part of the development of the Bondi POM. Throughout the several rounds of community consultation, there was one common theme in relation to the Pavilion: although much loved, the Pavilion needs to be carefully looked after.

The concept plan for the Bondi Pavilion was designed using the feedback Council received in this community consultation process. Once a concept design was created, Council invited key stakeholders to a briefing on Friday 11 December 2015. These stakeholders included precinct members, local businesses, government representatives and community organisations. We also talked with the commercial tenants, and regular venue hirers. The purpose of these meetings was to talk through the concept plan, take any questions, and encourage their feedback.

Since 15 December, these plans have been available for wider community feedback. Everyone who signed up to receive emails from the bondipom@waverley.nsw.gov.au database also received notification of this. At no stage were the concepts presented as final options, and we encourage the community to let us know their thoughts on the design.

The community consultation period will close on Sunday 13 March 2016, after three months. All feedback received will be collated into a report which will be presented to Council in April 2016.

New theatre being built; current theatre space being restored to original structure

The Bondi Pavilion Theatre was opened in 1974 in the former ballroom. It received some renovations in past decades, most recently a series of safety upgrades. The concept design sees a new, state-of-the-art theatre built on the ground floor. It will include fully retractable tiered seating for up to 200 people, and be usable in a flat-floor configuration in non-theatre mode for 250 people. This flexible, fully-serviced space connects both the interior courtyard and also the western outdoor area. With a lighting grid over the whole floor plan, it will provide maximum flexibility for all types of cultural and community uses, including drama, film, music and community events.

The current first floor theatre equipment and modern additions would be removed in order to reveal the original structure of the old ballroom.

Toilets

Our concept design doubles the number of female toilets, increases the number of female and male showers, and male toilets and urinals.

There will be three change rooms and an increase in family spaces. There are also dedicated toilets attached to the tenancy spaces, theatre and upstairs spaces.