

Bronte Ocean Pool Upgrades



W A V E R L E Y
COUNCIL



Community Consultation Report

December 2023

Waverley Council acknowledges the Bidjigal, Birrabirragal and Gadigal people, who traditionally occupied the Sydney Coast, and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders both past and present.

Contents

Executive summary	3
Project Background	4
Engagement methods	5
Detailed results – Online survey	7
Detailed results – Onsite community information session.....	8
Detailed results – Emails	9
Conclusion.....	9
Appendix A – Onsite poster	11
Appendix B – Flyer	12
Appendix C – Online survey	13
Appendix D – Social media posts	14
Appendix E – newsletter stories	18

Executive summary

Established in 1887, Bronte Pool is a treasured destination in the Waverley LGA for residents and visitors alike and is one of Sydney's most frequently used ocean pools throughout the year.

Between 15 November and 12 December 2023, Council sought community feedback on concept design plans for proposed upgrades to the Pool's pump, pumphouse and maintenance stairs. Council also used the consultation period to advise the community of improvements to the pool surface that will take place in winter 2024.

The primary methods used to gather feedback on the pump, pumphouse and maintenance stairs concept design plans were:

1. A survey on the Have Your Say (HYS) page: haveyoursay.waverley.nsw.gov.au/bronte-ocean-pool-upgrades
2. Notes taken during the onsite community information session on 7 December
3. Emails to majorprojects@waverley.nsw.gov.au

Over the 28-day period, Council had:

1213 visitors to the HYS page
225 downloads of the Project Background and Concept Design Plans
616 downloads of the Concept Design Plans only
54 completed surveys
8 email submissions to Major Projects
12 notes taken during the onsite community information session

There was strong support for the upgrade works to proceed, however, there was also anxiety around the works not being completed on time and regular users being deprived of an important exercise and recreation facility for two long stretches. There was also a strong theme throughout the feedback (although not within the current project scope) for Council to (1) do more to prevent young people from jumping from rocks into the pool (2) provide ways for people with disabilities to also enjoy the pool (3) improve the amenities block next to the pool (4) honour the pool's history, despite the new pumphouse having a more modern design.

Word Cloud extracted from HYS submissions:



Project Background

Bronte Ocean Pool is one of the only ocean pools in NSW that depends on a pump system. Most ocean pools rely on tides to flush seaweed, sand and other debris from the pool. It is crucial that Council keep this important community asset in excellent condition so that pool users can swim in the clean and clear water they have become accustomed to.

The Bronte Park and Beach Plan of Management (PoM), that was adopted by Council in July 2017, identified the vulnerability of the pool infrastructure to storm and extreme weather damage, along with safety issues for staff accessing the pumphouse. Part 6 of the PoM requires that facilities be well-maintained across Bronte Park and Beach. This necessitated a review of the pump location, as well as the overall operation of the system to reduce maintenance requirements and improve serviceability.

In December 2021, an assessment and report by a specialist pump consultancy identified that recent upgrades had improved the operation of the pump and pool water quality, but concluded that short-term fixes and part replacements would not:

- Address the long-term structural issues with the pumphouse;
- Adequately improve pump performance (especially during low tides);
- Resolve the difficulties with long lead times and obtaining replacement parts for the current pump system.

At the 1 November 2022 meeting of the Finance, Operations and Community Services Committee, it was agreed to proceed with upgrading the pumphouse and replacing the pump.

Pump and Pumphouse dilapidation pictures



Engagement methods

In accordance with Waverley Council's adapted IAP2 model of engagement, three methods were used to gather community feedback:

1. Online survey through the Have Your Say (HYS) platform
2. Onsite community information session with Council officers, the design architects and the Mayor from 8-11am Thursday 7 December
3. Emails to majorprojects@waverley.nsw.gov.au

A number of Council communication channels were used to reach residents and encourage them to visit the HYS page, complete the survey, attend the information session, or email Major Projects.

Communication method	Overview	Date/s	Response
Posters	Six posters were produced, with four placed along the Bronte Beach promenade, one at the bus terminus and one just after the zebra crossing facing the stretch Bronte Beach cafes	15 Nov – 12 Dec	Over the consultation period, the QR code placed on the poster and the notification flyer got 340 scans
Notification flyer delivered to Bronte Beach cafes	250 flyers (Appendix A) distributed among the Bronte Beach cafes for customers to scan/take The flyer had a QR code linked to the HYS page	20 Nov	As above
Notification flyer letterbox drop	1400 of the same flyers (Appendix A) dropped into letterboxes in the streets surrounding the pool	20 Nov	As above
HYS monthly e-newsletter	Story in the November edition	13 Nov	4783 emails opened (unable to supply the number of people who clicked on this story specifically)
Stakeholder outreach	Email to Bronte Splashers and Bronte Swimming Club Email to Bronte Splashers, Bronte Swimming Club, Bronte Surf Life Saving Club and Bondi to Bronte Swim	16 Nov 28 Nov	None
Stories in Waverley Weekly e-newsletter	Stories encouraging readers to click the link to the HYS page and attend the onsite community information session	23 Nov	248 link clicks

Social media posts	Four posts were scheduled for Council's Facebook and Instagram accounts Details in Appendix C	18 Nov 22 Nov 5 Dec 10 Dec	Combined reach 20,504 Combined post engagements 1124
Engagement method	Overview	Date/s	Response
Online survey	The survey asked people their connection with the pool and gave them an opportunity to comment on the concept design plans for the pump, pumphouse and maintenance stairs.	Survey was open from 15 Nov – 12 Dec	54 surveys completed
Onsite community information session	This was held on Bronte Beach promenade, close to the pool entrance and opposite the amenities block. Council officers, the Mayor and a representative of PanovScott architecture firm answered questions about the concept design plans for the new pump, pumphouse and maintenance stairs. They also explained the need to make improvements to the pool surface.	7 Dec	12 hand-written feedback submissions
Emails to Major Projects inbox	Over the consultation period the Major Projects team received seven emails, some from individuals and others from swimming clubs.	Between 15 Nov – 12 Dec	8 emails

Detailed results – Online survey

The online survey (see Appendix C) asked participants their connection to the pool and their **views on the concept design plans for the pump, pumphouse and maintenance stairs**.

The number of online feedback submissions was low, considering the high number of page visits (1213) and document downloads (841). The 54 submissions mean only 4.45% of people who visited the page felt compelled to provide feedback. This can be interpreted to mean that the vast majority of people were comfortable with the project background information and the concept design plans. In addition to this, many of the respondents didn't refer to the concept design plans, but were using the survey as an opportunity to make other comments/suggestions about the pool and the project timing. These responses have been considered to be 'Neutral', as it was difficult in some cases to determine the sentiment towards the actual concept design plans. Looking at the 54 submissions, the results were:

Positive = 24

Neutral = 27

Negative = 3

Example responses – Positive
The project sounds amazing and I can't wait to see it all happen. The photos really do show the need for an upgrade !
The baths are a pillar of our local community. As a regular user of the pool, I am fully supportive of the proposal. Work is needed. I would encourage the council to consider the construction timing and process very carefully – efforts should be made to minimise disruption through efficient construction using e.g. night works and pre-fabrication where possible.
I like the new design and stairs which will be softer to climb when wet. It's also important to include the provision to prevent people jumping into the pool from the rocks next to the stairs. Although fun for the jumpers it is extremely dangerous for them and the unwitting swimmers below.
The design looks excellent – good luck
This is a highly utilised and much loved community resource. Doing the work over winter makes sense although some of us swim all year round, so ensuring there is loads of communication (seems good so far) and the work progresses on schedule so we have the pool back as soon as possible are the key factors. We are all keen to ensure that the pool is working well into the future.
Its clear, the upgrades are to fix the pool. Not to change its shape form or design. They look good! Where am I going to swim in Winter, will have to be the bogey hole LOL
Use the pool every day and am excited about the repairs/ upgrade. Thank you for looking after our little piece of heaven!
It needs doing, this is the world's best beach, so let's make sure we have the best pool and pump room! Looks like a major improvement. Pump house could be an art project, and painted as a mural.
Looks good!

Example responses – Neutral (feedback about the pool, but not specifically about the concept design plans for the pump, pumphouse or maintenance stairs)
Would be great if swimmers could access by the other stairs to allow a better flow in summer.
Please keep accessible stairs with multiple hand rails. Give good options for people of all ages and capabilities
Keep it simple. Let people manage themselves without any nanny state rubbish please. Focus on pool water refresh, and maximum hours of availability. And fix the bathrooms too - they are shockingly poor, rusted out, etc. and be sure there is hot water for both M/F change rooms. It's not that hard. But you have a poor track record. Don't screw this up Council!
The design needs to be suitable for large ocean tides. I am also concerned that if its like other projects it will not be completed to schedule. I can swim in the bogey but some of the older swimmers cant.

Please do all you can to make the necessary changes to the safety use of Bronte Pool. There are adults and kids on daily basis jumping from the top rock ledge into the pool putting swimmers at risk of serious injury or worse. It's only a matter of time before something of extremely serious nature occurs. The pool pump room as it stands with a flat concrete rooftop is also a major concern with people climbing onto the rooftop then taking a run up and jumping from rooftop into the pool.

We have such beautiful facilities in Tamarama and unsure why the toilets near the bath remain so dated. Is there plans to upgrade whilst the council spend millions for the surf club with which the public cannot use?

Pump house and stairs design looks fine, but can you please come up with a nicer solution to the fence above the pool that has been put up to stop people jumping into the pool? The fencing solution at the moment is an eyesore, combined with the left over barbed wire on the rock above the pool. I think that should be addressed as part of this upgrade.

Two Negative Responses

I don't think the pumphouse fits with existing surroundings: It has a curved roof - there are no smooth curves that exist in the rocks and cliffs in the vicinity. It is grey - there is no such colour that exists in the rocks and cliffs in the vicinity. It will be an eyesore.

Why does the pump house work take so long? March to Nov closure is a long time.

1. Find a better contractor who will do the pump house work in a shorter time. 2. Leave the stairs as is. Seems like overkill to do all that work on them. It's an ocean pool and doesn't need to be perfect. 3. Leave the lining as is. It's an outdoor pool and does not need to be perfect. Of swimmers want perfect lining then go to ABC pool. Plus council and contractors have had a go at sorting out the lining before and it has not worked. So why would it work this time? 4. Has the council who briefed the lining project in the past and the contractor who did the work been held to account? Both parties don't seem to have done their job properly. What a waste of money!

Thanks

Detailed results – Onsite community information session

Between 8-11am on Thursday 7 December, Council officers together with the Mayor and a partner of the PanovScott architecture firm, set up an information booth for members of the community to view the concept design plans, ask questions and provide feedback about the planned upgrades to the pump, pumphouse and maintenance stairs.



Dozens of visitors came to the booth and there was keen interest in the project from locals and tourists alike. People were encouraged to visit the HYS page to lodge their feedback formally. For those who didn't take up that option, there was a hardcopy form they could fill out. Twelve people did this. There were no negative responses from this form of feedback collection. There were six positive and six neutral responses. Two examples of each are below.

Example responses – Positive
I think the upgrade is a GREAT idea! Thank you!
Very happy with the plan

Example responses – Neutral
Keep the historical pictures on the new pumphouse
Consider access to the pool for people with disabilities

Detailed results – Emails

During the community consultation period, Council received eight emails to the Major Projects inbox – including one from the Bronte Splashers winter swimming club. Some emails provided feedback on the upgrade plans, however, others were primarily focused on concerns and suggestions with the pool and its surroundings that are currently outside the scope of the project – but Council will take into consideration nonetheless. Some were similar to the concerns and suggestions raised via the HYS platform and during the onsite community information session with people wanting Council to: ensure the new pumphouse can withstand extreme weather conditions; do more to stop people from jumping into the pool from the rocks and stairs; and ensure the new pool surface improvements still allow for the swimming lane markers to be seen; reduce the amount of pool closure times if possible. There were no negative emails per se, only emails that were generally supportive of the upgrades, but with suggestions for either improved functionality or visual appeal.

Conclusion

As mentioned in the Executive Summary, the small number of feedback submissions (74 combined HYS, hardcopy and email submissions) compared to the 841 document downloads from the HYS page is a good indication of general community acceptance/agreement with the proposed upgrades. Of the 74 overall responses, there was an overwhelming majority of either positive or neutral sentiments expressed.

Positive = 31

Neutral = 40

Negative = 3

Recommendations

It is recommended that Council proceeds with the planned upgrades. Council officers have not received a groundswell of opposition to the project and most respondents had a fond attachment to the pool and a keen desire to see it functioning well into the future.

In regard to the proposed pumphouse design, feedback was mostly centred on ensuring the new one could withstand extreme ocean conditions. There were mixed reviews on whether the proposed sloped roof would be better, or the existing squared roof shape is preferable in this regard.

There was also mixed feedback on whether the new pumphouse should be hidden within the natural environment or made more prominent, so it can continue to be a visual marker for lap swimmers and those doing ocean swims.

Council should also consider, where feasible, the broader concerns and suggestions by community members that this consultation raised. The main ones being:

1. Improved safety for swimmers, namely by doing more to prevent people from jumping into the pool from the rocks and stairs. Some community suggestions included issuing fines, better signage and more security patrols.
2. Improved disability access to the pool so all can enjoy.
3. Ensuring the historical significance of the pool is displayed onsite.

Naturally, pool users are attached to this fantastic community facility and many expressed concerns about the two stages of works being completed on time. Some referred to the extreme delays in completing the Nielsen Park Shark Beach seawall project and were worried something similar might happen to the Bronte Ocean Pool project.

It will be crucial to manage the community's expectations throughout the construction process. Council should commit to regular communication efforts to keep the general public up-to-date using onsite posters, social media and flyer drops, in addition to more targeted communications to the swim clubs.

BRONTE OCEAN POOL UPGRADES

Another Waverley Renewal Project



Pool surface improvements
Winter 2024

Pumphouse and
maintenance stair renewal
Winter 2025



Scan for details

haveyoursay.waverley.nsw.gov.au/bronte-ocean-pool-upgrades
majorprojects@waverley.nsw.gov.au



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Appendix B – Flyer

BRONTE OCEAN POOL UPGRADES



To avoid closures and bring the infrastructure up to best-practice standards, Council is planning upgrades to improve the safety, sustainability and functionality of Bronte Ocean Pool.

Scan the QR code for
project information and
to provide feedback on
the pumphouse and
stair concept design by
12 December, 2023



Visit haveyoursay.waverley.nsw.gov.au/bronte-ocean-pool-upgrades
Email majorprojects@waverley.nsw.gov.au



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Appendix C – Online survey

Open

Submit your feedback by 12 December on the new pumphouse and stair design

What is your connection to Bronte Ocean Pool? Tick all that apply Required

- ☐ I belong to a swim club that uses the pool
- ☐ I use the pool regularly
- ☐ I use the pool occasionally
- ☐ I use the pool more often in summer
- ☐ I live within five minutes of the pool
- ☐ None of the above, but I live in the Waverley area
- ☐ None of the above




Submit your feedback in the text box below Required

You have 1,000 characters left

Submit

Appendix D – Social media posts

Facebook

<div><div> Waverley Council</div><div>18 Nov · 🌐</div></div> <p>Bronte Ocean Pool is a much-loved recreation destination in Waverley for locals and visitors alike 🏊🏻☀️. To avoid closures and bring the infrastructure up to best-practice standards, Council is planning upgrades to improve the safety, sustainability and functionality of the pool. We're seeking community feedback on the concept design plans for the proposed new pumphouse and maintenance stairs. To read more about the project background and to give feedback before 12 December, please visit: bit.ly/46olBGh</p> <p>Bronte Splashes Winter Swim Club Bronte Swim Club Bondi to Bronte Ocean Swim</p> 	<div><div> Waverley Council</div><div>22 Nov · 🌐</div></div> <p>Bronte Ocean Pool Upgrades on-site community information session. 8-11am Wednesday 29 November Council Officers will be outside the pool to chat about the planned upgrades, answer questions and record your feedback. Follow the link to learn more about this two-stage project bit.ly/46olBGh</p> <p>Bronte Splashes Bronte Surf Life Saving Club Bondi to Bronte Ocean Swim</p> <p>22 November</p> <p>Post reach 2552</p> <p>Likes 9</p> <p>Comments 1</p> <p>Shares 5</p>
<p>18 November</p> <p>Post reach 6516</p> <p>Likes/Loves 44</p> <p>Comments 11</p> <p>Shares 9</p>	



Waverley Council

5 Dec · 🌐

We hope you can join us down at Bronte Pool between 8-11am this Thursday morning for the community information session about the planned upgrades to the pump, pumphouse, maintenance stairs and pool surface. It's a great opportunity to chat to Council Officers and provide feedback on the plans. For more information about the upgrades visit: bit.ly/46oIBGh

Bronte Ocean Pool onsite community info session
8 - 11am

Thursday 7 December

Outside the pool at the end of the promenade (opposite the amenities block)

Bronte Splashers Bronte Surf Life Saving Club Bondi to Bronte Ocean Swim Bronte Swimming Club Bronte Summer Swimming Club Bronte Summer Swimming



5 December

Post reach **2121**

Likes **13**

Comments **4**

Shares **5**



Waverley Council

10 Dec · 🌐

Thanks to everyone who came down and spoke to Council Officers on beautiful Thursday morning about the Bronte Ocean Pool Upgrades project 🤔👏👏. It was a great opportunity to hear your thoughts and answer questions whilst viewing the plans for the new pump and pumphouse. The community consultation period for this project is ending at 10pm Tuesday 12 December. Click to view the plans online and submit your feedback: bit.ly/46oIBGh



10 December

Post reach **1115**

Likes **4**

Comments **0**

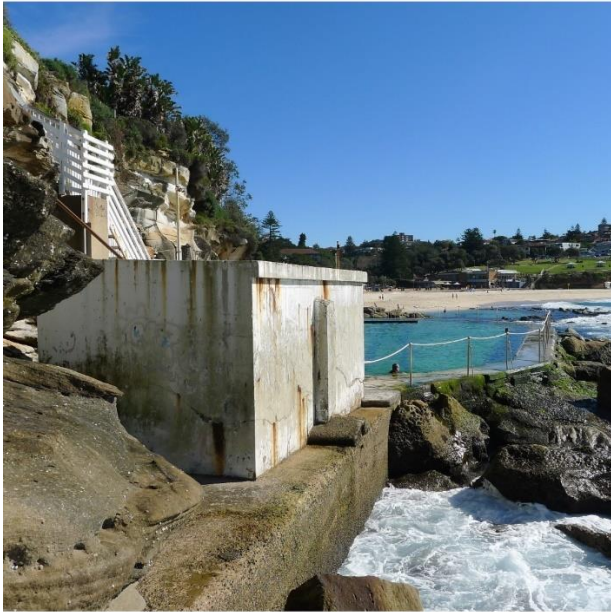
Shares **1**

Instagram

<div data-bbox="132 203 181 250"> </div> <div data-bbox="188 212 359 239"> waverleycouncil </div> <div data-bbox="708 219 737 232"> ... </div> <div data-bbox="118 264 756 898"> </div> <div data-bbox="137 913 295 954"> </div> <div data-bbox="137 967 229 994"> 161 likes </div> <div data-bbox="137 994 730 1238"> <p>waverleycouncil Bronte Ocean Pool is a much-loved recreation destination in Waverley for locals and visitors alike 🏖️😎. To avoid closures and bring the infrastructure up to best-practice standards, Council is planning upgrades to improve the safety, sustainability and functionality of the pool. We're seeking community feedback on the concept design plans for the proposed new pumphouse and maintenance stairs. To read more about the project background and to give feedback before 12 December, please click the link in our bio. @bronteswimclub</p> </div> <div data-bbox="105 1281 280 1314"> 18 November </div> <div data-bbox="105 1335 308 1368"> Post reach 3702 </div> <div data-bbox="105 1388 225 1422"> Likes 161 </div> <div data-bbox="105 1442 266 1476"> Comments 0 </div> <div data-bbox="105 1494 231 1527"> Shares 23 </div> <div data-bbox="105 1547 204 1581"> Saves 1 </div>	<div data-bbox="815 217 865 264"> </div> <div data-bbox="877 224 1054 253"> waverleycouncil </div> <div data-bbox="1431 230 1460 244"> ... </div> <div data-bbox="799 280 1476 631"> </div> <div data-bbox="818 647 986 687"> </div> <div data-bbox="818 701 911 730"> 39 likes </div> <div data-bbox="818 732 1383 788"> <p>waverleycouncil Bronte Ocean Pool Upgrades on-site community information session.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="818 788 1173 815"> <p>8-11am Wednesday 29 November</p> </div> <div data-bbox="818 815 1425 918"> <p>Council Officers will be outside the pool to chat about the planned upgrades, answer questions and record your feedback. We hope to see you there! Follow the link in our bio to learn more about this two-stage project.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="818 916 1418 972"> <p>@brontesplashers @brontesurfclub @bonditobronteswim @brontesummerswimmingclub @bronteswimclub</p> </div> <div data-bbox="818 976 948 1003"> <p>22 November</p> </div> <div data-bbox="785 1041 962 1072"> 22 November </div> <div data-bbox="785 1093 989 1126"> Post reach 1273 </div> <div data-bbox="785 1146 892 1180"> Likes 39 </div> <div data-bbox="785 1200 948 1234"> Comments 0 </div> <div data-bbox="785 1254 898 1288"> Shares 3 </div> <div data-bbox="785 1308 884 1341"> Saves 1 </div>
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waverleycouncil



44 likes

waverleycouncil We hope you can join us down at Bronte Pool between 8-11am this Thursday morning for the community information session about the planned upgrades to the pump, pumphouse, maintenance stairs and pool surface.

It's a great opportunity to chat to Council Officers and provide feedback on the plans. For more information about the upgrades click the link in our bio.

Bronte Ocean Pool onsite community info session
8 - 11am
Thursday 7 December

5 December

Post reach **1943**

Likes **44**

Comments **0**

Shares **9**

Saves **2**



waverleycouncil



17 likes

waverleycouncil Thanks to everyone who came down and spoke to Council Officers on beautiful Thursday morning about the Bronte Ocean Pool Upgrades project 🤙🏡🐬. It was a great opportunity to hear your thoughts and answer questions whilst viewing the plans for the new pump and pumphouse. The community consultation period for this project is ending at 10pm Tuesday 12 December. Click the link in our bio to view the plans online and submit your feedback.

10 December

10 December

Post reach **1282**

Likes **17**

Comments **0**

Shares **0**

Saves **0**

Appendix E – newsletter stories

23 November edition of Waverley Weekly e-news



Bronte Ocean Pool Upgrades

Bronte Ocean Pool is a much-loved destination in Waverley and we're committed to keeping this important space in a safe and functional condition.

We're proposing to upgrade the pool so that the infrastructure is up to best practice standards, and can better sustain extreme weather events, such as storms, in the years ahead.

To learn more about the proposal and have your say, click the link below.

[MORE](#)

6 December edition of Waverley Weekly e-news



Community info session: Bronte Pool Upgrade

Thursday 7 December, 8am - 11am
Bronte Pool
Free

Come down to the entrance of Bronte Ocean Pool and talk to Council Officers about our proposed upgrades to the pool surface, pump and pumphouse.

This is your chance to learn more about the project, ask questions and provide feedback.

[MORE](#)

Have Your Say November Update



New rocket ship installed on 20 October as part of the Waverley Park playground upgrade works

PROJECT MILESTONE for WAVERLEY PARK PLAYSACE UPGRADE

It was a big day at Waverley Park with the delivery and installation of the new rocket ship. Children from the local kindergarten, Wee Care, came to look on, as did many residents who were walking and jogging through the park. The playground is still in-construction, but we're excited for the re-opening in early December (weather permitting). The project is proudly co-funded by the NSW Government, through the NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program, in association with Council.

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Upcoming: Bronte Ocean Pool Upgrades (consultation opens on 15 November)

From 15 November - 12 December Council will be seeking community feedback on proposed upgrades to the pool surface as well as the pump, pumphouse and maintenance stair. The upgrades will be undertaken in two stages, with the aim of bringing the pool infrastructure up to best-practice standards, improve safety and avoid closures. From 8 - 11am on Thursday 23 November, Council officers will be outside Bronte Pool to talk about the upgrades and answer questions. We hope to see you there.