

## 8.13. Managing Council's Parks: New Booking Arrangements and Proposed Fees - Post Exhibition

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**ENDORSED BY:** Ken Gouldthorp, General Manager

### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Feedback Form Findings [8.13.1 - 17 pages]
2. Submissions Summary - Managing Council's Parks [8.13.2 - 5 pages]

### PURPOSE:

This report details the findings of the public exhibition of Council's proposal to implement controls that would enable Council to more effectively manage the use of main harbour foreshore parks by large groups of people and commercial operators to ensure the parks remain both available and accessible to the broader community and minimise current inappropriate uses that result in damage to the parks and/or increased costs to council.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At its meeting of 22 February 2021, Council considered *MM01 - Managing Blues Point Reserve* which noted the increased use of Council's parks, particularly those on the main harbour foreshore for private events. In some cases, use of parks for special events and activities means that little space remains for casual community use.

At its meeting of 22 June 2021, Council considered Item 8.18 Managing Council's Main - Harbour Foreshore Parks and resolved to publicly exhibit the following proposal:

*2. THAT Council reduces the number of people who can gather in a park without a booking from 60 to 40.*

*3. THAT Council requires individuals and organisations wishing to use one of Council's prime, Sydney harbour foreshore parks for a special event or prescribed activity to make a booking, regardless of the number of people attending, activities include:*

- *Corporate promotional activities*
- *If a jumping castle/amusement/animal farm is present*
- *Weddings and commitment ceremonies*
- *Use for a film location*
- *Commercial Photography*
- *Special events and activities requiring payment of a fee to a service provider (including companies providing curated picnics, marriage proposal ceremonies, commercial dog walking, commercial fitness training, art classes, and yoga classes)*

*4. THAT commercial photography be defined with the intent to allow low impact commercial photography such as wedding parties and family photos.*

*5. THAT Council exhibit the proposed new restrictions and park fees for a period of 28 days and report the feedback from the exhibition process is reported to Council.*

Community feedback was sought between 7 September to 4 October 2021 via an online feedback form and general submission, to determine if there is support for the various elements of the exhibited proposal. The online feedback form was structured in accordance with the abovementioned Council resolution - respondents were asked to detail why where did not support elements of the proposal. They were not asked to detail why they supported the proposal.

A total of 193 submissions were received, of these 187 were online feedback forms and six written submissions, including from two Precinct Committees.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The additional fees received by the Council will offset the cost of administration of the booking system and the required follow-up compliance process.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**1.THAT** the number of people who can gather in any park in North Sydney without making a booking is reduced from 60-40 people and a \$195 booking fee is implemented for groups of 40-60 people.

**2.THAT** groups wishing to use one of Council's prime, Sydney Harbour foreshore parks for one of the following activities are required to make a booking (regardless of the number of people attending): corporate promotional activities, when a jumping castle or animal farm is present, weddings/commitment ceremonies, use for a film location and commercial photography (excluding wedding and family photography).

**3.THAT** groups wishing to use one of Council's prime, Sydney Harbour foreshore parks for one of the following activities will not be required to make a booking: commercial fitness trainers and commercial dog walkers.

**4.THAT** groups wishing to use one of Council's prime, Sydney Harbour foreshore parks for one of the following activities through the engagement of a commercial service provider will be required to make a booking and pay the \$100 booking fee: curated picnics, marriage proposal ceremonies and other celebrations.

**5.THAT** a booking fee of \$100 for less than 40 people gathering in one of Council's prime Sydney Harbour foreshore parks is applied for activities listed in Recommendation 2 only. Fees for activities listed in Recommendation 2 that already require a booking (amusement device or jumping castle, and commercial filming and photography) will remain the same.

## LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

### 1. Our Living Environment

1.4 Public open space and recreation facilities and services meet community needs

## BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 22 February 2021, Council considered *MM01 - Managing Blues Point Reserve* which noted the increased use of Council's parks, particularly those on the main harbour foreshore for private events. In some cases, use of parks for special events and activities means that little space remains for casual community use.

At its meeting of 22 June 2021, Council considered Item 8.18 Managing Council's Main - Harbour Foreshore Parks and resolved to publicly exhibit the following proposal:

*2. THAT Council reduces the number of people who can gather in a park without a booking from 60 to 40.*

*3. THAT Council requires individuals and organisations wishing to use one of Council's prime, Sydney harbour foreshore parks for a special event or prescribed activity to make a booking, regardless of the number of people attending, activities include:*

- Corporate promotional activities*
- If a jumping castle/amusement/animal farm is present*
- Weddings and commitment ceremonies*
- Use for a film location*
- Commercial Photography*
- Special events and activities requiring payment of a fee to a service provider (including companies providing curated picnics, marriage proposal ceremonies, commercial dog walking, commercial fitness training, art classes, and yoga classes)*

*4. THAT commercial photography be defined with the intent to allow low impact commercial photography such as wedding parties and family photos.*

*5. THAT Council exhibit the proposed new restrictions and park fees for a period of 28 days and report the feedback from the exhibition process is reported to Council.*

Fees for booking a park to hold a special event, activity or gathering in North Sydney are detailed in the *Permit for a Social Gathering in Parks and Reserves*. The exhibited proposal advised that existing fees and charges for parks and reserves for 60 or more guests would remain unchanged, and new fees introduced for fewer than 60 guests introduced, as exhibited, as shown in the following comparison table:

<b>New fees</b>	<b>Existing fees</b>
Less than 40 people in all other parks and circumstances: no charge	Between 61-100 people: \$299.00 Between 101-150 people: \$482.00 Between 151-200 people: \$738.00
Less than 40 people (where applicable*): \$100.00	Between 201-250 people: \$962.00 Over 251 people: \$1,240.00

New fees	Existing fees
Between 40-60 people: \$195.00	<i>Existing fees for hire of Wendy Whiteley's Secret Garden will also continue to apply.</i>

\*Council's prime Sydney Harbour foreshore parks include:

1. Blues Point Reserve
2. Henry Lawson Reserve
3. Kirribilli Foreshore (includes Captain Henry Waterhouse Reserve, Dr Mary Booth Lookout, Copes Lookout and Stanton Lookout)
4. Lavender Bay Parklands (includes Lavender Bay Foreshore and Quibaree, Clark and Watt Parks)
5. Cremorne Reserve

## CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement has occurred in accordance with Council's *Community Engagement Protocol*. The detail of this report provides the outcomes from the engagement for Council to consider prior to adoption.

## DETAIL

Community feedback was sought between 7 September to 4 October 2021 via an online feedback form and general submission, to determine if there is support for the various elements of the exhibited proposal. The online feedback form was structured in accordance with the abovementioned Council resolution - respondents were asked to detail why where did not support elements of the proposal. They were not asked to detail why they supported the proposal.

The opportunity to provide feedback was promoted, in accordance with the project-specific engagement strategy prepared for this proposal, as follows:

- direct email - sent to 152 Personal Trainers who indicated that they use Council's foreshore parks when supplying the *Trainer Declaration* as per Council's *Code of Conduct - Outdoor Fitness Training*; 20 pop-up picnic companies (whose webpages/social media included images of Council's foreshore parks);
- memo - sent to all Precinct Committees and Sport & Recreation Reference Group members;
- YourSayNorth Sydney site - 783 web page views, of these
  - the Council report of 28 June 2021 (Item 8.18) was downloaded 12 times
  - the Engagement Strategy was downloaded 7 times
- E-newsletters - including the September 2021 Council E-news with 47 link clicks from 1,357 subscribers; and the weekly Precincts E-news with a total of 4 link clicks;
- Social media posts -

- 15 September 2021
  - Facebook - 11,222 reach, 2,888 post clicks, 423 link clicks and 298 reactions/comments/shares
  - Instagram - 2,222 reach, 73 likes, 12 comments, 11 shares, 1 saved, 4 website clicks
  - Twitter - 737 impressions, 42 engagements (including 13 link clicks, 16 media engagements, 10 detail expands, 2 likes, 1 reply)
- 27 September 2021
  - Facebook - 4,408 reach, 708 post clicks, 110 link clicks and 80 reactions/comments/shares
  - Instagram - 1,765 reach, 68 likes, 6 comments, 4 shares, 2 saves, 2 website clicks

Formal feedback was invited via the online feedback form and submission. It is noted that informal feedback was provided in response to the social media posts however these have not been treated as submissions. Individuals interested in providing feedback were advised to do so via the online feedback form or submission.

## 1. Submission Analysis

There was a total of 193 submissions received of these there were 187 online feedback forms completed and six written submissions including from two Precinct Committees.

In accordance with the Council resolution the online feedback form asked respondents to identify their support for the proposal e.g. which activities/events they supported booking and fees for, and whether they supported the proposed fees and thresholds.

In summary, most elements of the proposal were supported. There was support for:

- reducing the number of people who can gather in a park without a booking from 60 to 40 and the additional fee of \$195 for this;
- weddings/commitment ceremonies, however some comments suggest the scale and duration of these should be considered;
- use for a film location, however it is noted that the Council's *Filming within Council Area Policy* currently sets fee scales in accordance with the mechanisms set out in the *Local Government Filming Protocol 2009*;
- the requirement to make a booking for corporate promotional activities; when a jumping castle, amusement or animal farm is present; weddings/commitment ceremonies; and use for a film location; and
- commercial photography (excluding community photos e.g. wedding parties, family portraits); this was slightly more supported; however it should be noted the *Local Government Film Protocol 2009* does not cover stills photography.

The following elements of the proposal were not supported:

- the introduction of a booking fee of \$100 for less than 40 people if gathering in one of Council's Prime foreshore parks. However, comments/responses for individual

elements of the proposal suggest this may be supported for some aspects such as corporate promotional activities, if jumping castle/amusement/animal farm is present, weddings with more than 20 people/infrastructure, or where a section of the park is required for exclusive use; and

- the requirement to make a booking for activities requiring payment of a fee to a service provider e.g. companies providing curated picnics, marriage proposal ceremonies, commercial dog walking, commercial fitness training, art classes, and yoga classes. However, comments suggest a permit/licence fee may be more suitable for some of these activities if reoccurring.

### 1.1 Online Feedback Form Findings

A total of 187 online feedback forms were received. This represents most of the feedback received (97%) and as such the collated analysis above represents aspects which were/were not supported. A detailed breakdown is provided in the table below, with further detail and verbatim comments provided in Attachment 1. As reasons for the proposal were highlighted in the report endorsed by Council for public exhibition, respondents were only asked to detail why they did not support or were unsure of any aspects i.e. *“If you answered no or unsure to one or more question, please tell us why and/or detail any other comment you wish to make”*.

Question	Yes %	No	Unsure %
1. Do you support reducing the number of people who can gather in a park without a booking from 60 to 40?	61%	39%	0%
2. Do you support the introduction of a new booking fee of \$195 for 40-60 people if gathering in any of Council's parks?	58%	42%	0%
3. Do you support the requirement for individuals and organisations wishing to use one of Council's prime, Sydney Harbour foreshore parks for a prescribed activity to make a booking, regardless of the number of people attending. Please answer per special event/prescribed activity:			
a. Corporate promotional activities	78.6%	21%	0%
b. If a jumping castle/ amusement/ animal farm is present	76%	24%	0%
c. Weddings/commitment ceremonies	69%	31%	0%
d. Use for a film location	77%	22%	0%
e. Activities requiring payment of a fee to a service provider e.g. companies providing curated picnics, marriage proposal ceremonies, commercial dog walking, commercial fitness training, art classes, and yoga classes	49%	51%	0%
f. Commercial photography (excluding community photos e.g. wedding parties, family portraits)	51%	48.6%	0%
4. Do you support the introduction of a booking fee of \$100 for less than 40 people if gathering in one of Council's Prime foreshore parks	39%	53%	8%

## 1.2 Written Submission Findings

Attachment 2 shows the six submissions received, including two by Precinct Committees.

In summary:

- five of the submissions supported reducing the number of people who can gather in a park without a booking from 60 to 40.
- one submission was unclear as to the position on the proposal but highlighted the need to restrict booking times.
- one submission supported most elements of the proposal except for the proposal to charge for commercial fitness training (personal trainers); highlighting the policies of neighbouring councils and suggested similar be implemented by the Council. It should be noted that some submission only dealt with specific areas of the proposal; and
- a detailed breakdown of the submissions is provided in the table below.

Question	Yes %	No %	Unsure/ not stated
1. Do you support reducing the number of people who can gather in a park without a booking from 60 to 40?	83% (5)*	0	17% (1)
2. Do you support the introduction of a new booking fee of \$195 for 40-60 people if gathering in any of Council's parks?	33% (2)*	0	66% (4)
3. Do you support the requirement for individuals and organisations wishing to use one of Council's prime, Sydney Harbour foreshore parks for a prescribed activity to make a booking, regardless of the number of people attending. Please answer per special event/prescribed activity:			
a. Corporate promotional activities	50% (3)*	0	50% (3)*
b. If a jumping castle/ amusement/ animal farm is present	50% (3)*	0	50% (3)*
c. Weddings/commitment ceremonies	50% (3)*	0	50% (3)*
d. Use for a film location	50% (3)*	0	50% (3)*
e. Activities requiring payment of a fee to a service provider e.g. companies providing curated picnics, marriage proposal ceremonies, commercial dog walking, commercial fitness training, art classes, and yoga classes	33% (2)*	17 (1)**	50% (3)*
f. Commercial photography (excluding community photos e.g. wedding parties, family portraits)	50% (3)*	0	50% (3)*
40 Do you support the introduction of a booking fee of \$100 for less than 40 people if gathering in one of Council's Prime foreshore parks	33% (2)**	16 (1)**	50% (3)*

*\*One respondent stated that fully support the proposal and another stated that they supported all elements except the requirement for personal trainer booking, has been assumed that these respondents have supported this element of the proposal*

*\*\*One respondent did not support the requirement for personal trainers to book or pay the \$100 fee, it is therefore assumed they did not support this element of the proposal*

Based on the feedback received from the community, the following is recommended:

**1. Reduce the number of people who can gather in any park in North Sydney without making a booking from 60-40 people and implement a \$195 booking fee for groups of 40-60 people.**

Reasoning:

This proposal received a high level of community support. Large groups not only limit the ability of casual users to find space in a park, but also require Council staff to undertake extra maintenance due to wear and tear on the park, and in terms of rubbish removal. The proposed fee will help cover these costs as well as the costs involved in administering the booking.

**2. Require groups wishing to use one of Council's prime, Sydney Harbour foreshore parks for one of the following activities to make a booking (regardless of the number of people attending):**

- Corporate promotional activities
- When a jumping castle, amusement or animal farm is present (Note: under Council's current conditions 'Permit for a Social Gathering in Parks and Reserves' Council already requires a booking to be made for these activities)
- Weddings/commitment ceremonies and the like
- Use for a film location
- Commercial photography (excluding community photos e.g. wedding parties, family portraits and the like). (Note: under Council's current conditions 'Permit for a Social Gathering in Parks and Reserves' wedding photographs are already excluded. Additionally, under Council's current conditions 'Permit for Filming and Still Photography' Council already requires a booking to be made for commercial photography).

Note: Bookings are currently not required (regardless of the number of people attending) for use of any park, including the prime Sydney Harbour foreshore parks on the following public holidays: - New Year's Eve - New Year's Day - Australia Day. There is no intention to change this.

Reasoning:

This proposal received a high level of community support.

If bookings are made, Council staff can exercise some control over the number of private events occurring in a prime, Sydney Harbour foreshore park at one time (i.e. they can limit the number of weddings happening in a particular park, ensuring there is enough room to comfortably accommodate not only the private event, but also the general community).

The special events described here often have an impact on the condition of the park, and they result in additional maintenance being required. This includes the need remove rubbish (from the park generally as well as from designated bins).



**3. Do not require groups wishing to use Council's prime, Sydney Harbour foreshore parks for one of the following activities to make a booking or pay a fee:**

- Commercial fitness trainers
- Commercial dog walkers

Require groups for all other activities requiring payment of a fee to a service provider (e.g. curated picnics, marriage proposal ceremonies and other celebrations to make a booking with Council and pay the booking fee of \$100.

Reasoning:

The proposal requiring the organisers of groups or individuals using a prime, Sydney Harbour foreshore park for activities such as personnel training and commercial dog walking received a low level of community support. There was concern that requiring a booking for activities that involved very few participants (e.g. walking several dogs, 1on1 fitness training) would be financially unrealistic, and logistically unworkable as many of these bookings are last-minute and are subject to the weather. While it was suggested that some of these activities (dog-walking, fitness training) could be subject to an annual permit/licence fee, Council has previously addressed this and has determined that having fitness trainers sign up to a Code-of-Conduct is all that is required as this regulates behaviour whilst encouraging community participation in health and fitness activities.

With regards to activities where commercial companies are engaged to provide serviced curated picnics, marriage proposal ceremonies and other celebrations it is considered after reviewing the feedback that these activities should as proposed be required to make a booking for a park in order that Council can regulate the number of events occurring at any one time and apply conditions through the booking process to ensure the activities are appropriate for the use and care of the popular *Sydney Harbour foreshore parks*.

**4. Introduce a booking fee of \$100 for less than 40 people gathering in one of Council's prime, Sydney Harbour foreshore parks for certain activities only. (Note, no fee is proposed for any activity involving less than 40 people in any of Council's other parks)**

Reasoning:

The proposal to introduce a booking fee of \$100 for less than 40 people gathering in one of Council's prime, Sydney Harbour foreshore parks did not receive a high level of community support. However, for activities where the community supported Council taking bookings, charging a booking fee should be considered.

The activities that most respondents were comfortable requiring bookings for (i.e. weddings/commitments ceremonies, jumping castles, animal farms, corporate promotional activities, use for a film location and commercial photography) are activities most likely to cause wear and tear on the parks. They also require a high degree of planning and organisation and are not spontaneous (when compared to a personal training session or similar) and it is therefore reasonable to require a booking.

There is a cost to Council involved in taking bookings. Council bookings staff work with people wanting to use a park for a special event to ensure the best outcome for them and for the wider North Sydney community. They negotiate to ensure special events are evenly spread throughout popular locations, and throughout the day, and that parts of these popular parks remain available for general community use. They work with Council Rangers as necessary to ensure events run smoothly and that the parks are left in good condition. Introducing a booking fee for selected activities helps to offset this cost.

Note: that Council already charges a fee for several of these activities. It is anticipated that these fees will remain unchanged, as follows:

- Under Council's current conditions 'Permit for a Social Gathering in Parks and Reserves': If an activity in a park includes an amusement device e.g. jumping castle) or animal farm a permit is required and there is a fee of \$155
- Under Council's current conditions 'Permit for Filming and Still Photography' an application must be made, and fees may be charged depending on the anticipated level of impact:
  - o Ultra-low (up to 10 people, minimal impact), no fee
  - o Low (11-25 people), \$150
  - o Medium (26-50 people), \$300
  - o High (more than 50 people), \$500

## Attachment 1. Online Feedback Form Findings

### 1.1 Feedback Summary

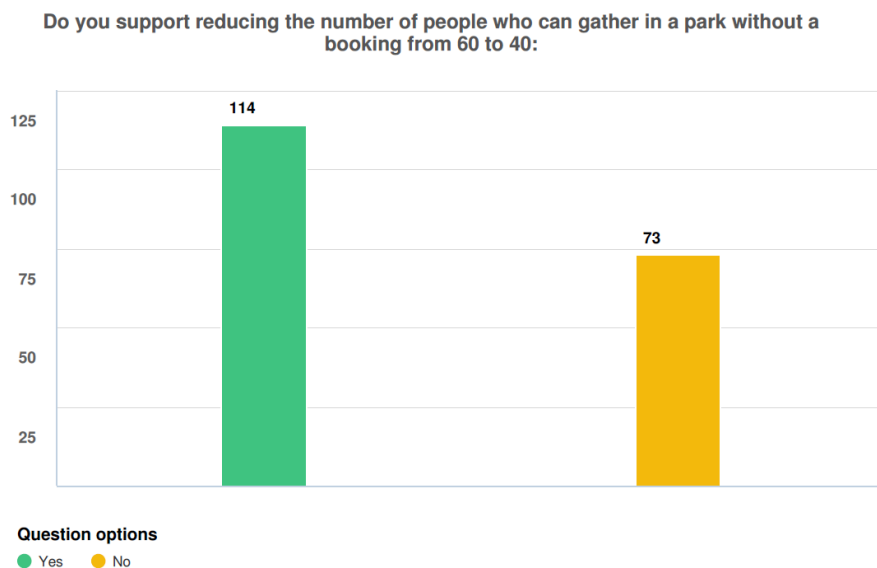
There were 187 respondents. The results have been analysed inhouse.

As the proposal involved several elements, each component was asked via a separate question to ascertain the level of support for each component.

Twenty people (10% of respondents) did not support overall i.e. did not support any element of the proposal; the results demonstrate varying levels of support for aspects of the proposal.

As reasons for the proposal were highlighted in the report endorsed for public exhibition by Council, respondents were only asked to detail why they did not support or were unsure of any aspects i.e. *If you answered no or unsure to one or more question, please tell us why and/or detail any other comment you wish to make.* Comments have been categorised on Attachment 2.

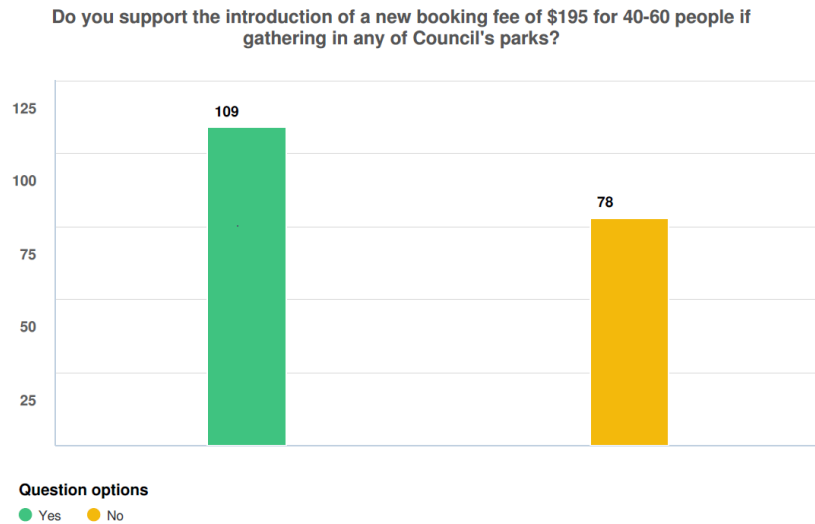
#### Q1. Do you support reducing the number of people who can gather in a park without a booking from 60 to 40:



Optional question (187 response(s), 0 skipped)

The majority of respondents (61%) supported reducing the number of people who can gather in a park without a booking from 60 to 40; 39% did not support. Of those that did not support the proposal, two people (1%) felt the threshold should be 20 people.

**Q2. Do you support the introduction of a new booking fee of \$195 for 40-60 people if gathering in any of Council's parks?**

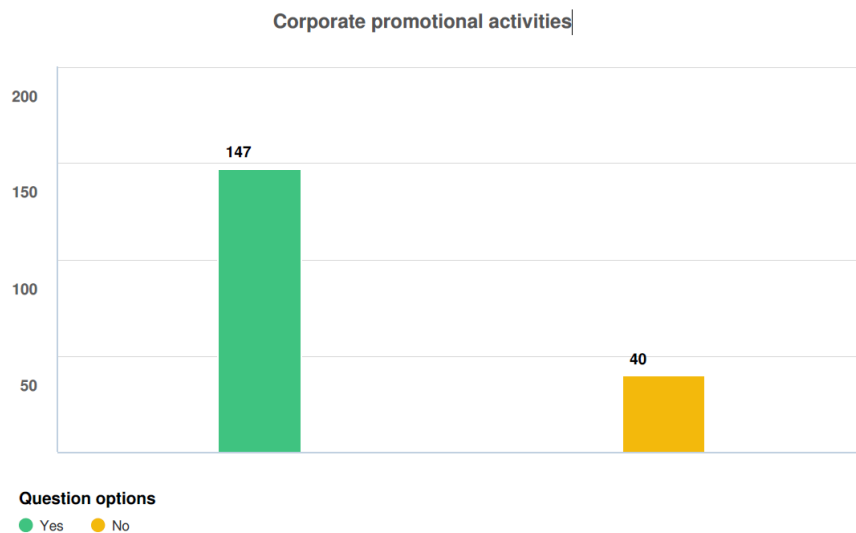


*Optional question (187 response(s), 0 skipped)*

The majority of respondents (58%) supported a new booking fee of \$195 for gatherings of 40-60 people in any of Council park; 42% did not support. Of those that did not support the proposal, one person felt the charge should be \$300 for commercial events above 20 people.

**Q3. Do you support the requirement for individuals and organisations wishing to use one of Council's prime, Sydney Harbour foreshore parks for a prescribed activity to make a booking, regardless of the number of people attending? Please answer per special event/prescribed activity:**

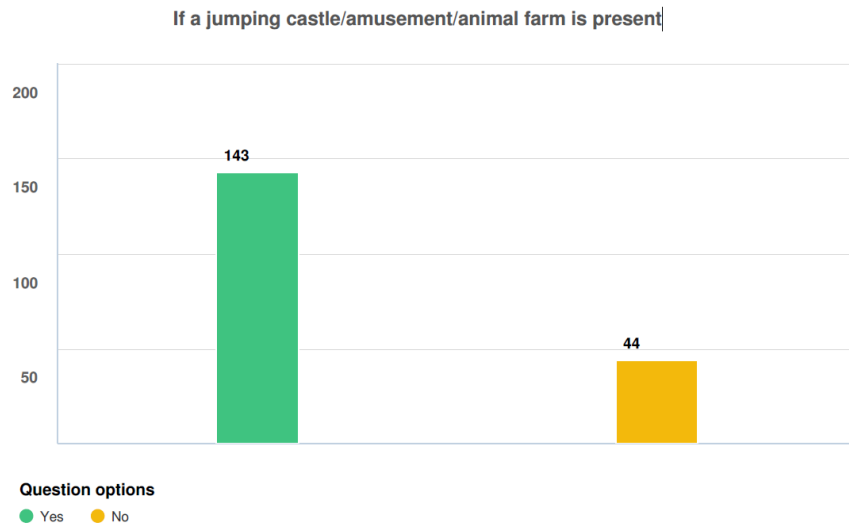
**3a. Corporate promotional activities**



*Optional question (186 response(s), 1 skipped)*

This was the most supported aspect of the proposal, with 78.6% supporting individuals and organisations wishing to use one of Council’s prime/foreshore parks for corporate promotional activities and 21% did not support. One respondent did not answer.

**3b. If a jumping castle/amusement/animal farm is present**



Optional question (187 response(s), 0 skipped)

This was another highly supported aspect of the proposal, with 76% supporting individuals and organisations wishing to use one of Council’s prime/foreshore parks for using a jumping castle/amusement/animal farm and 24% opposing. One respondent indicated that it is nice to see kids having fun whilst another highlighted that activities that mark the ground should attract a fee.

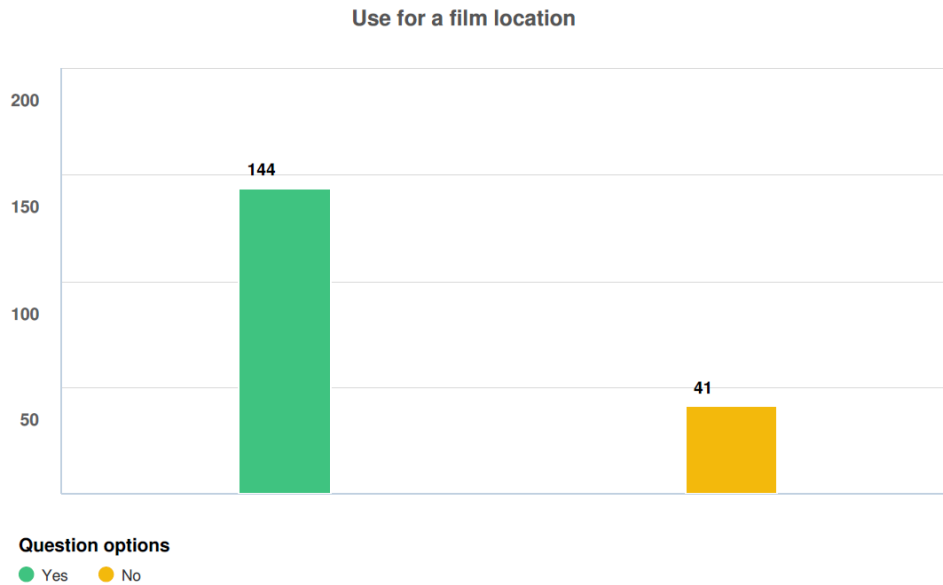
**3c. Weddings/commitment ceremonies**



Optional question (187 response(s), 0 skipped)

69% supported individuals and organisations wishing to use one of Council's prime/foreshore parks for weddings/commitment ceremonies and 31% did not support. Four respondents (2%), that did not support, indicated that small scale weddings should be exempt when they have no infrastructure, small numbers and short duration. One respondent who supported the proposal highlighted problems caused by plastic confetti entering the harbour.

### 3d. Use for a film location

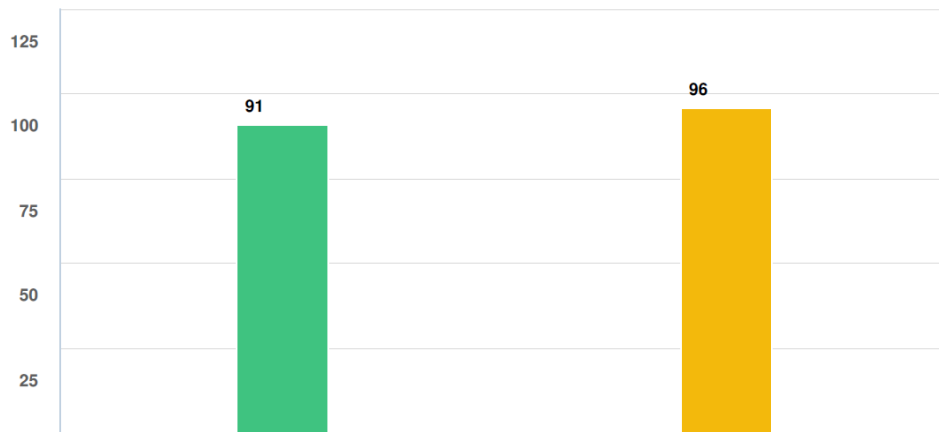


*Optional question (185 response(s), 2 skipped)*

This was the second most supported aspect of the proposal with 77% supporting and 22% did not support. Two people did not respond to this question, one of which highlighted that *film students should be able to film but other filming - large- should have to book and pay*. Another who responded indicated that *filming promotes the location to a wider community, crew would need booking, however, do not charge for this purpose*. It should be noted that the Council's *Filming within Council Area Policy* currently sets fee scales are in accordance with the mechanisms set out in the *Local Government Filming Protocol 2009*.

**3e. Activities requiring payment of a fee to a service provider e.g. companies providing curated picnics, marriage proposal ceremonies, commercial dog walking, commercial fitness training, art classes, and yoga classes**

Activities requiring payment of a fee to a service provider e.g. companies providing curated picnics, marriage proposal cer...



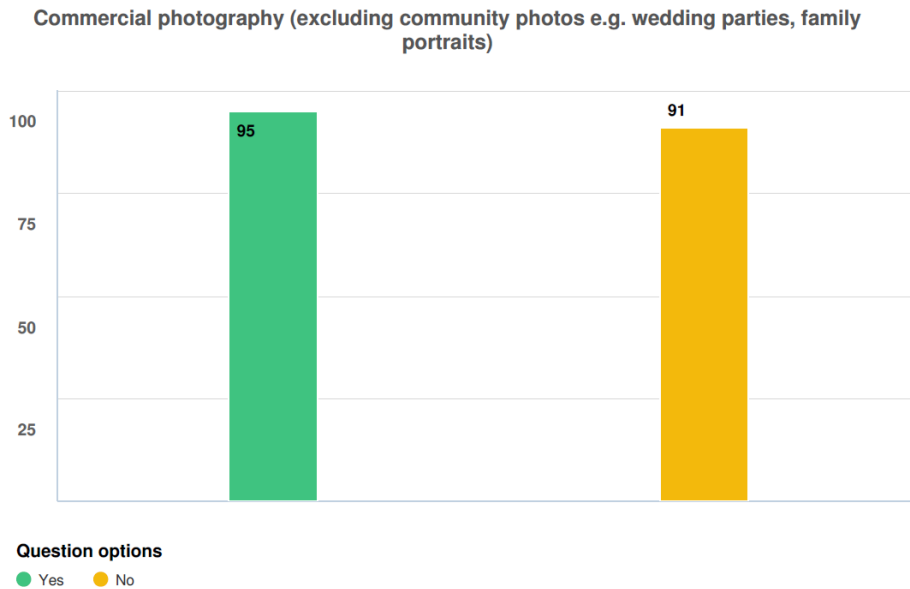
**Question options**

● Yes ● No

Optional question (187 response(s), 0 skipped)

This was the second least aspect of the proposal, with 49% supporting individuals and organisations wishing to use one of Council's prime/foreshore parks for activities requiring payment of a fee to a service provider, while 51% did not support. Of those that opposed, nine respondents (5%) specifically mentioned personal training, five (3%) mentioned small fitness classes, four (2%) mentioned dog walking (2%), and two (1%) mentioned yoga. With some expanding to indicate that clients and operators of small commercial businesses often come from the local area. One marriage proposal business indicated that booking and locations are often decided at last minute and moved due to weather factors. Seven respondents (4%) indicated that a permit/licence system could be used for regular usage by personal trainers/dog walkers etc.

**3f. Commercial photography (excluding community photos e.g. wedding parties, family portraits)**

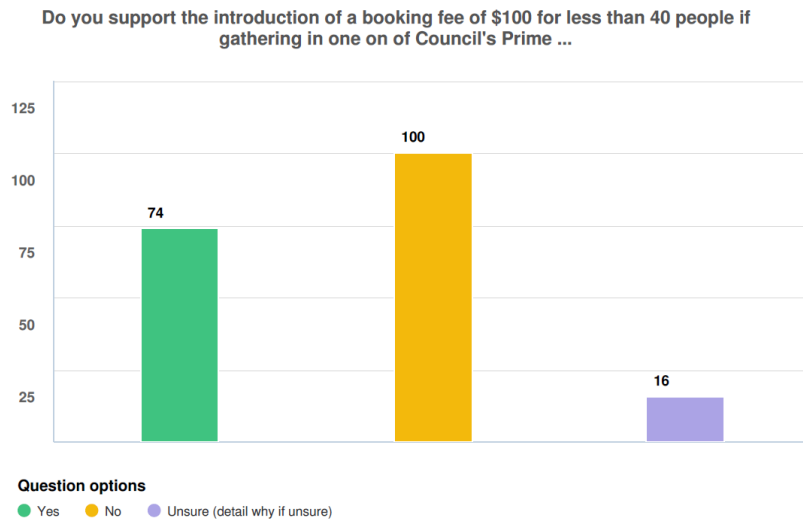


*Optional question (186 response(s), 1 skipped)*

This was slightly more supported by 51% of respondents, than was opposed by 48.6% of respondents; one respondent did not answer. One respondent commented that *commercial photography isn't encroaching on anybody else's use of the park*. Presently still photography does not require Council approval nor attract Council fees unless it involves additional activity such as blocking streets, constructing a set or additional parking. The *Local Government Film Protocol 2009* does not cover stills photography.



**4. Do you support the introduction of a booking fee of \$100 for less than 40 people if gathering in one on of Council's Prime foreshore parks\* for an activity as prescribed above?**

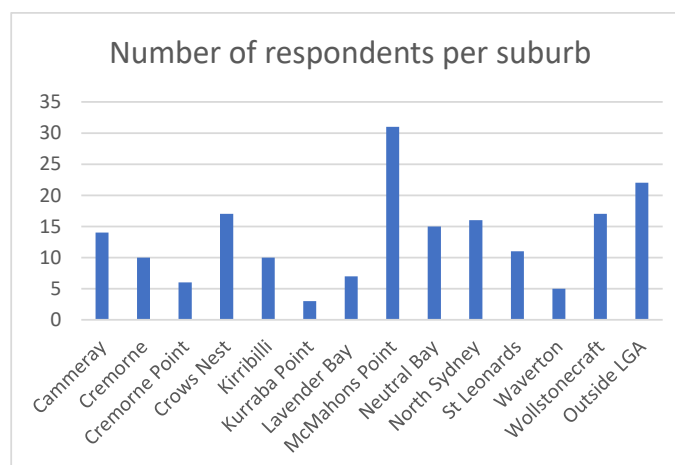


Optional question (186 response(s), 1 skipped)

\*Includes: Blues Point Reserve; Henry Lawson Reserve; Kirribilli Foreshore (includes Captain Henry Waterhouse Reserve, Dr Mary Booth Lookout, Copes Lookout and Stanton Lookout); Lavender Bay Parklands (includes Lavender Bay Foreshore and Quibaree, Clark and Watt Parks); Cremorne Reserve

This was the least supported aspect of the proposal with 39% supporting, 53% objecting and 8% unsure. However, the comments and level of support for some elements of the proposal suggest that this may be supported for some activities such as corporate promotional activities, if jumping castle, amusement, animal farm is present, weddings with more than 20 people and infrastructure, or where a section of the park is required for exclusive use.

**Respondent locations**



87% of respondents came from suburbs within the North Sydney LGA. 34% of respondents came from suburbs in which the proposal would apply; Cremorne/Cremorne Point, Kirribilli, Lavender Bay and McMahons Point.

## 1.2 Feedback Form - Comments

Note: respondents were only asked to detail why they did not support or were unsure of any aspects of the proposal i.e. *if you answered no or unsure to one or more question, please tell us why and/or detail any other comment you wish to make*

### Use of public land/space should be free; During/after COVID

- Most frequently aware of commercial bus tour parties (30 to 40 people) using the Cremorne Point reserve. The tranquillity of the walk is jeopardised by such large groups proceeding together - non-commercial groups would be OK as it could be a private social gathering hence why I would be unsure of invoking a \$100 fee. The reserves still need to be free for residents and visitors to the area as long as the activity is not commercially exploitative.
- These are areas we should be able to enjoy freely
- Parks need to remain as public. Council needs to find other ways to support these parks especially as more density is built.
- The foreshores should be for everyone - not just the privileged that can afford to live there
- Public space that is already paid for
- Nature and parks are free for any live creature, including human being
- The park areas should be free for public use, without bookings or fees
- Parks are public facilities. It should not be incurred with any bookings or payment for public usage
- As a resident of North Sydney I already pay rates. People who don't live in North Sydney pay rates in their areas which I can freely use. I see no justification for the alienation of public open space by council for the general public, including companies and groups. If an activity is obnoxious or disturbing then it shouldn't be allowed and should be dealt with as they occur.
- Because parks are there for everyone to use. Individuals shouldn't have to pay to use public spaces, it should be encouraged and accessible to all
- Park should be free to use by all
- There shouldn't charges for public spaces. Charging \$100 for small groups is unreasonable.
- Parks are public spaces, most of the residents already pay rates, the parks are not ridiculously crowded, there are already rules around NYE.
- Because parks are there for public use and they are there for public at no fees
- Parks are public property
- The park should be free to anyone
- Public open space are our free parks, gardens and sports fields, walkable shady streets, libraries, museums and galleries, which form the heart of our communities. Our public spaces make life more welcoming and accessible. They delight and connect people. They support our health and well-being, environmental resilience and prosperous local economies. Public spaces are all places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free. <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/premiers-priorities/great-public-spaces>, Wanting to charge for the activities above are contrary to the objectives of a public open space.

- While I think it's practical to require large groups to book a space to prevent overcrowding, as public land no fees should ever be charged, regardless of why it is being used.
- I think small groups should be free etc (they are public parks)
- Parks should be accessible to all. I think a ceremony with 60 guests is really no more impact on the turf than 40. Loads of people don't have a huge amount of spare \$. Parks shouldn't be for the exclusive use of those with money.
- The park space is for everybody, parking is already difficult/ usually high fees around these parks so these operators do pay in this respect
- These open air locations will be crucial for gatherings as Sydney returns to its pre-COVID normality and it's unfair of the council to capitalise on this.
- Considering the health advice is to gather outside for picnics it seems unreasonable to deter people away from this with stamping costly fees just to use the local surrounds.
- There is pressure on all parks during COVID-19 . Care must be taken to ensure that other parks are not overwhelmed by those wishing to avoid a fee

**Support charges for commercial enterprises; Fee for exclusive use/when large area unavailable to public**

- I think it is fair and warranted to charge a small fee to retailers who are profiteering off the use of public land - i.e. picnic or high-tea companies utilising Cremorne Reserve. I support businesses using public land but there should be a small fee. Possibly worthwhile prescribing a limited space to prevent people 'bagsing' spaces.
- I understand a fee for commercial events or large scale weddings, however for other reasons people should be able to enjoy the parks as they please and no fee should be attached .
- The foreshore parks are popular locations for wedding elopement style ceremonies with a handful of people present. These ceremonies do not include set ups with chairs, arches etc that would cause wear and tear on the lawns. Charging a fee for these small, minimal impact weddings that last around 20 minutes max is an unnecessary financial and bureaucratic burden on these marrying couples, and not justifiable when parks are public spaces for all to enjoy as they wish. People picnicking in the park are more of a burden with litter, damage to the lawns etc and there is no charge for this. Introducing a charge for larger weddings feels easier to justify. If any charges are introduced for weddings, they should also include exclusive use of the space booked as couples reasonably expect if they are paying a fee that they should have guaranteed access to the area booked.
- Larger weddings with big set ups can afford to pay the fee and it is fair, but for small numbers, the exemption is important
- I agree with Council that people who conduct activities in parks where they charge a fee for their services (and would otherwise be paying a fee elsewhere, i.e. church/venue hire for wedding ceremonies, fitness classes conducted outside instead of in a gym, etc) should be subject to a fee for the use of the space. I would hope this fee goes back into the excellent maintenance of our parks and gardens that North Sydney Council regularly undertakes.
- Larger events for people who are not local to the areas could be fairly paid for.
- Freedom to use parks should be the norm. Agree you should charge if for a commercial venture (filming movies or product launches), but not for weddings or kids having fun. We are already over governed. It is lovely to be in a park and see a wedding (e.g. the rotunda at Balmoral). It enhances a sense of community. Ditto kids at a petting zoo as I have seen at St Leonard's Park in the past.

- The key word for me would be "exclusive", meaning space is used at the exclusion of general public. Exclusive use should require a fee. Community, social and not-for-profit activities often result in more than 40 people turning up. If a number like that makes use of a park or public area, and don't need it exclude others from using the space, then it should be free and not require a permit. The line is crossed when a section of a park is cordoned off for use by a group exclusively; in that case, there should be a booking requirement and a sizeable fee that somehow systematically gets returned to rate-paying residents who'd lose that amenity for the period of time.
- Yes to booking fee for Corp Promotional activities, jumping castle/animal farm, weddings, film locations, but not curated picnics, marriage proposal ceremonies, commercial dog walking, commercial fitness training, art classes, and yoga classes
- I believe in fees being charged only when you require a certain area of the park being held for private use. For example, a wedding or picnic that will take over a specific piece of land. Commercial photography isn't encroaching on anybody else's use of the park.

**Free for small scale, fitness, yoga, photography and private local gatherings; Concern for financial viability of businesses if charges imposed; Personal Trainer booking fee not financially viable; Suggestion of licence fee for regular bookings e.g. personal trainers, pop-up picnics/alternate fee structure; Free for locals/rate payers/residents and not-for-profit groups**

- Fitness training, and yoga etc in small groups should be allowed, as well as professional photography. All others good to charge a fee
- Large-scale business activities such as corporate promotional activities should be treated separately from smaller scale events that are ultimately held for the enjoyment of individuals, such as curated picnics and fitness training. The latter serve an important purpose as an amenity for locals as outdoor recreation and benefit the whole community through providing access to activities and social gatherings, irrespective of whether someone is being paid to provide the experience. These activities should not attract a special fee as they are ultimately for the enjoyment and benefit of the community. However, activities such as corporate promotional activities, weddings and use of a film location are not held for the benefit of the local community and should attract a booking fee for the impact these activities have on the community through reduced access to the parks while these activities are being held.
- It's wrong to charge local community businesses who are providing a service, such as picnic providers, boot camps, art classes, dog walkers etc a fee to use a public area.
- I believe that small weddings and proposals (under 20 people) that have no or limited impact upon the environment or other patrons should be exempt from fees. Taking photos should not require a permit.
- We all own the harbour. So long as commercial use is in small groups it should be allowed. Wedding photography and personal trainers can least afford the extra costs, especially during COVID. Show some compassion.
- Those who wish to run exercise classes and yoga should be exempt from paying the fee for prime parks but I do believe the number of classes being run in those parks needs to be reduced and managed to ensure access to others and to reduce wear and tear on the grass.
- If it's a student film shoot definitely should be free. Dog walkers, small yoga classes etc are doing it tough in these COVID times. Should be able to have family picnics etc. At what number if it's below 40 would council require a booking fee? Need to define numbers. Artists should have access. Commercial photography also would affect them. Small businesses are struggling so I would not support charging. Have no problem with charging for big events that are commercially catered. Film students should be able to film but other filming – large - should have to book and pay.

- Another hurdle for people to get together and businesses to survive and function in these very difficult times by putting in place restrictions and fees to use public spaces?
- Entertainment industry is suffering and should not be burdened with fees by council, particularly as North Sydney council is known to have significant wealth
- I think PTs etc should still be able to access public space, kids birthday parties etc. However, big parties or events which demand a portion of space for their own exclusive use are a different matter
- Bookings should only be required in particular circumstances. I don't feel that taking photo's is a valid reason to charge someone. Especially if it is only a few people. Groups of over 40 people should be required to book regardless as this is a public venue and a group of 40+ poses a significant COVID risk. Bookings would ensure only those with a real valid reason to be there in that size are there
- Less than 40 people does not affect significantly the environment or sustainability of the community and parks. I will recommend instead an advise to leave everything clean and organise for future visitors. For instance, this rule will not even allow team players to enjoy a beer after a game. Yoga classes, social workers who like to gather in groups will be affected as this booking fee will be difficult to manage under the circumstances described above.
- Booking and fee unfair to small group personal trainers and couples who are looking to perform low key wedding ceremonies. These groups tend to take everything with them at the end of the session, leaving the area as it was found. Furthermore personal trainers and clients are for the most part local and so already will be making contribution to council for the use of these spaces.
- Charging for dog professional walkers, small gym classes and yoga classes should be exempt as they are generally run by individuals and small businesses in the north Sydney Council area and should not be penalised. If coming from outside the Council area then a small fee should be applied.
- Don't decrease the numbers allowed, there are non-profit running clubs who sometimes gather at different parks before and after a run, they might only use it for 15/30/45 minutes and should not be disadvantaged. So, perhaps specifically exclude community sport (who don't have a designated grounds). Example Northside Running Club. However, I support commercial companies paying.
- The situations outlined in question 11 [curated picnics, marriage proposal ceremonies, commercial dog walking, commercial fitness training, art classes, and yoga classes] are likely significantly smaller group sizes and would be unlikely to cause much disruption to public access. The activities are also in line with what a member of the general public might use the parks for themselves on a normal day, if they want some assistance from a vendor then that is their choice and is unlikely to cause much more disruption than if they had decided to do everything themselves.
- Adding a \$100 fee to small commercial activities like dog walking and fitness training will impact small business and local resident customers.
- In reference to a fee of \$100 for a gathering of less than 40 people. Speaking as a fitness trainer this would put me in the 'red' for each session I conducted. Not to mention the possibility of the client cancelling last minute for health, work or inclement weather reasons and the trainer still being liable for the booking fee.
- I run a small personal training business and only use Bradfield Park a few times per week . For a small business any fee would be impossible to pass on to one or two clients. Plus I never know what times a client wants to train .

- My interpretation from reading the proposed new arrangements is that fitness training for less than 40 people (i.e. including 1 on 1) will incur a fee of \$100 per booking if held in any of the locations listed above. If this is correct, it is totally unfeasible for me about I imagine most trainers. I only offer 1 on 1 training which would mean I am paying more for the booking than I am receiving from my client. Also, cancellations do occur in the personal training business often on short notice, so if booking are to be made a requirement, it would only be feasible if refunds were available to trainers or a credit system introduced where if a session does not proceed as planned, that session remains a credit for the trainer to use at another time.
- Sydney's foreshore are a beautiful resource that needs to continue to be shared and not tied up with so much red tape that it's too hard to use. As it stands it's brilliant to see the lively activity taking place at Bradfield Park, personal trainers and picnics. As a personal trainer that lives in Melbourne and visits Sydney when the Australian Ballet tour there, it's brilliant that I don't have to pay a fee to train clients. As I only ever train one or two clients (generally people I tour with or the occasional local theatre worker) while I am in Sydney it would no longer be practical and cost effective if I had to pay a fee and would stop training clients altogether. My clients and I would deeply miss this as training under the harbour bridge is something my clients and I look forward to every year.
- As a registered trainer with council and a property owner in McMahons Point my small business training local residents who are mostly over 60 and cancer survivors would not be able to survive if I had to pay council \$100 every time I want to train someone. The proposal is untenable. The result would be my business would not be able to continue to provide this service to local residents that enjoy to stay fit strong and positive in an outdoor environment. I am registered with council as a trainer and have been for about 10 years. With the lockdown we have had to move outside when the gyms closed for COVID-19.
- A fee of \$100 each time per gathering may be excessive if it's an activity that repeats such as a yoga or fitness class. Maybe a permit per trainer/instructor?
- Need a workable compromise for some activities such as fitness yoga, etc. Maybe a permit, ballot etc
- For one off then the fee but could have a 1/2 yearly or yearly rate reduced to encourage local business such as Pt and dog walking etc. Similar to parking permit, you need to balance the expansion of enterprise with the availability of the park space. Could be done by a booking and number system so space allocation type place or a yearly fee similar to parking permits for local business - \$150 for 12 months etc
- Those using these locations for a commercial purpose in an ad-hoc or regular pattern should register their intention to use the area to provide council a line of sight and ensure public amenity is maintained, however, suggest a more sophisticated fee structure for prescribed activities. A \$100 fee for one, one hour session of one on one personal training, or a dog walker with two dogs, for example, seems unreasonable and could inadvertently push these type of activities to other locations undesirably. However, if a PT, or other commercial enterprise was using a location repeatedly (or rotating through locations), then fees could reasonably be imposed as the pattern doesn't constitute 'casual use'. In setting the fee structure, consideration should be given to the timing, frequency, duration, and scale of the activities prescribed.
- Fees should be scaled by number of people e.g. 2 people who paid for picnic setup shouldn't have to pay as much as 20 people. Providers should have licence fee instead for classes or training or picnics of less than 6 people for example
- Less than 40 is too broad a classification. In principle I consider that any commercial operation should pay for usage but \$100 a time would seem excessive for say dog walkers and fitness people who use the parks regularly but have limited income from each session. Perhaps a monthly or annual fee.

- The category definitions are too broad. I think personal trainers who tend to be locals training locals (i.e. rate payers) should not have to pay an exorbitant daily fee. The same goes for dog walkers. You could perhaps look at an annual permit system like some of the other councils locally.
- Should be free for residents.
- Permits should be allowed for rate payers if North Sydney Council but people outside of the Council area should have to pay.
- Spaces should be open and free for use by local citizens for purposes such as celebrations and fitness classes etc
- Exclusions should be considered e.g. residents who pay council rates, not for profit agencies etc

**Change group size/charges applicable; Restrict times of usage/duration; Support booking but not fee/charge**

- I believe that if there are less than 10 people no booking fee or registration should be required. Only gatherings of more than 10 should require a booking fee and registration.
- Any gathering (non-commercial and commercial) should be registered & booked with Council when more than 20 persons NOT be reduced from 60 to 40. There are too many large gatherings that will overcrowd local parks to the detriment of locals who wish to enjoy the amenity of their local park. Unfortunately, there are many who will break the "40 person" limit.
- Should be exempt for smaller groups <15 [foreshore parks]
- I think a small wedding of 20 people or less should still be allowed to go ahead at no charge.
- Fees for commercial activities should be higher than \$100.
- Max number of people without booking (non-commercial) and commercial should not exceed 20 persons. Fees need or be applied for commercial events for groups over 20 persons.
- I support the number of people gathering to a maximum of 20. The park is small. There needs to be adequate space for those in the community gathering for a picnic. Commercial enterprises should pay a fee of \$200 for groups of 20. No payment for social gatherings of 20 people. If this number is to be 40 Commercial enterprises with groups of 20 or less should pay \$200 and groups up to 40 should pay \$500 for the use of public land. Parks are primarily for the community to enjoy not for Commercial enterprises, making a profit, to take space from families and groups of friends who gather in the park.
- I believe the maximum number of people for an activity should be 20. The proposed fees for an activity should be at least doubled.
- The maximum number of people for an activity should be 20. The fees for an activity should be at least doubled
- I believe such a fee for a group of minimal people i.e. 2 people is not a sum that is accessible for people. Especially during such a climate of a pandemic that has prevented people from working for months. I believe groups 6 and above such a fee would be manageable and appropriate.
- The amount of the fee should vary depending on the purpose (less for exercise or community events), duration (curated picnics may use the space for several hours for installation, picnic and pack down and should pay more compared to classes that may only be for an hour) and the cost of the service to the consumer (curated picnics may cost upwards of \$500 and should be charged more than exercise classes which are much less expensive). I also think curated picnic providers should pay a fee where they use park space to set up demonstration tents to advertise their business, regardless of there being effectively no people gathering.

- I would have liked to say No to decreasing from 60 to 40 as, although I strongly support registration for use of the park (in order to have some control) I feel the maximum should be reduced to 20. On Sunday, the first day of daylight saving, I was fortunate to be able to stroll through the park immediately below Blues Point Tower. This is a relatively small park yet approximately 8 groups of 2-5 people had spread picnic rugs and were obviously enjoying the first day of daylight saving. Everybody seemed to be enjoying the ambience, those picnicking, those walking through and the children playing in the park. This, to me, is how a park should be used by the community - it was a delight. In contrast, the commercial use of the park (the set-ups for weddings/commitments, 'pop-up' picnics, engagement and other celebrations) absolutely overwhelms the area and restricts the use of the park by all other members of the community. We therefore have one or two large groups (usually commercial) restricting the enjoyment of a public park by the public. If we must have commercial operations they should be restricted.
- Your questions did not give an option to nominate smaller groups of people. For example, the space is small at Blues Point Reserve and 40 people mean a takeover of the park by one group. That's why the group size for this park should be less. Maybe you should look at doing a pro-rata sized park population.
- Maximum time duration and from/to times need to be added. Parties after 10pm at night in Blues Point Reserve are very stressful for local residents.
- Applicable cap on time and event duration need to be managed and not after 10pm!
- The hours for groups to attend should be restricted to 9pm to respect the peace and quiet of the residents in the area.
- Activities shouldn't be allowed into the night i.e. no large organised parties etc please.
- I feel Council should restrict how late formal booked gatherings/events can run so as not to disturb locals.
- Booking is fine but should not need a fee. As long as they clean up after then all good. Maybe a refundable deposit if left clean
- I believe in needing a booking but not a fee
- Filming, promotes the location to a wider community, crew would need booking, however do not charge for this purpose.
- I think a booking is a useful data collection for Council but many of the smaller activities needn't pay if their impact is very limited

#### **Litter/park damage concerns**

- There should be conditions of hire (if a fee is to be charged); including placing all rubbish into Council bins (our bins on Lavender Cres are often used by park users; or they pitch their rubbish over our back fence where it stays on top of the bins, creating a danger to wildlife); and not using tree branches/light posts as makeshift resistance points/hanging posts (I've seen everything from boxing bags to heavy resistance bands hung from the trees in Watt Park and light posts on the Lavender Bay foreshore; at best, this may damage the trees and at worst (if a tree branch snaps when someone with the body type of Schwarzenegger is swinging their full weight from it), it could end in a nasty injury. Terms and Conditions for hire could include agreed conditions of use; and if these conditions are not adhered to, an additional fee to cover damage or a ban from using the park again might apply. I believe this is a fair approach, given the demands placed on the foreshore parks and the extensive upkeep required.
- I voted yes but want to clarify. As locals for 30 years it is infuriating that random people have massive gatherings rendering our parks unusable on many days. They are often not even from our LGA. Charge way more or ban them in COVID times.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You also need to set rules around how, picnic, wedding proposals etc operate. I picked up some plastic confetti which is going to wash straight into the harbour. I think that usage rules and monitoring the environmental impact is extremely important to local residents. We don't want to see our harbour and it surrounds damaged.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ranger enforcement required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council rangers will need to be vigilant and enforce these rules.</li> <li>Council must limit the number of groups irrespective of size and Rangers should monitor the groups to ensure they have a permit permitting them to use the park.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Support current arrangement/elements of current arrangement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The difference of 60 to 40 attendees to an event would have a negligible impact on acoustics and likely space taken up by said group. I have no issue with the size of the groups.</li> <li>The existing fee schedule and process is satisfactory and the proposed measures are not appropriate for these areas which are intended to be available to the public freely.</li> <li>Current fees, rules and policies in place are sufficient.</li> <li>We don't need to add more further fees than the ones are currently in place.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Perception of Council monetising public space/double dipping; Over governed/creates unnecessary work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We should be free to access public land as and when we please without an added administrative burden or revenue raising activity</li> <li>I feel we shouldn't be taking the opportunity to charge people to use public space paid for by the local community. I feel like this revenue raising.</li> <li>We are already paying council rates, why charge people more to be outside? We don't want to be an indoor community.</li> <li>These facilities should not be revenue generating, they are there for all to enjoy. You make enough money from parking fines and council rates. Find efficiencies elsewhere.</li> <li>Unless you can show that the fees will be directly used in the maintenance and improvement of these areas, a fee should not be taken. Ideally, all fees that you will be administering should go directly to this.</li> <li>It's sums up to privatisation of public space. Only commercial activities that generate a profit or a revenue for the organiser should be paying a fee or a booking needed</li> <li>Ridiculous idea. This should certainly not be imposed on North Sydney ratepayers who want to use our public spaces. It's a public area! As long as the people clean up after themselves and aren't using the area exclusively, then what is the issue? It would be appalling if these fees are brought in, especially if they are imposed on ratepayers. We pay rates to use our public spaces. Council should have bigger priorities.</li> <li>Council have become very commercially orientated and parks are for people to enjoy free of charge. It is double dipping. Enough money are pouring into the coffers from development applications...leave parks alone.</li> <li>Your reasons for wanting to charge are unclear other than to create a source of revenue from public users of these open space areas. Our local council tax fees pay for our use of these public open spaces, so unless there is a plan to reduce local council tax then these new fees will be double dipping in charging people for the maintenance and use of these spaces.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents are using the parks, whether privately or in an organised context, and should be allowed to do so. Stop trying to monetize greenspace that we pay rates to be able to enjoy. Stop trying to charge Personal Trainers and their local resident clients, dog walkers and their local resident clients, picnickers and their visiting families etc. Do you charge local schools when they take kids for outside classes? Stop sticking your fingers in every potential money grabbing opportunity.</li> <li>It's completely unreasonable to make groups of less than 60 people book to use the park. This will just create more work and paperwork for everyone involved and the introduction of further fees is unnecessary. Where are these fees going? I doubt it's in support of park maintenance considering North Sydney councils affliction with removing trees from streets. The last thing the community needs as we head out of lockdown is councils getting them to pay to use the parks.</li> <li>Excessive regulation of public spaces</li> </ul>
<p><b>General opposition to proposal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strongly disagree to the proposal. i would support scrapping the existing fees too.</li> <li>Let people enjoy the parks, and stop being a money hungry council pandering to the NIMBY whinging community members who have issues with everything, and people enjoying and having fun. Fees for groups of 40 or less is especially stupid. It's bad enough that councils have privatised the harbour parks (including Blues Point Reserve) for New Years Eve with fees and person limits (killing much of the atmosphere of previous years), but now because of a few whinging locals, council want to add more restrictions every other day of the year. Concentrate on road pot holes, and stop listening to the NIMBY's in the community with nothing better to do then complain about everything. What sad and miserable lives, unable to have fun themselves, so they want to push their depressing sad miserable lonely boring lives onto everyone else. No to parks being restricted even more to people having fun and enjoying public parks. Most normal sane people enjoy seeing the weddings, proposals, parties, people enjoying themselves. For the sad miserable people with problems with this, move elsewhere to a depressing location where you can all moan and complain about everything.</li> <li>Enough is enough, let people use these parks and reduce regulation. I do not support a Council ranger constantly checking and booking people as they use our parks.</li> <li>These areas are beautiful and people should be able to enjoy the and use them for any purpose and not have to pay a fee.</li> <li>Restricting public access to parks for family and social events is disgraceful. It make it less affordable to host events and these are shared places.</li> <li>It doesn't seem to be a problem at the moment, so why the need to add these usage fees?</li> <li>North Sydney Council should be opening public space currently being taken over by construction companies - example - Bradfield Park which is a disgrace. Also creating more open space such as developing the High Line area and opening the green space adjoining Luna Park.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other; Suggestion to include other areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These questions are way to specific, and group things which shouldn't be grouped.</li> <li>Weddings I think should be booked in advance to avoid overcrowding if the ceremony is more than 40 people</li> <li>As proposal planners we know that these bookings come to us very last minute - we would need a turnaround time of 24 hours in most cases for a permit, is this possible? Also, we often find that we may choose one location and then have to move due to bad weather rendering an outdoor</li> </ul>

location not possible, how will our permit be refunded if this happens? It is not fair that we would have to pay for a permit if it is not used. Also, how will council monitor this? Many businesses will just say that are not commercial business'. Our clients often choose your beautiful locations because of the views that they offer of Sydney, it is absolutely unfair to penalise them for having a picnic that someone else has set up for them to enjoy this view. Rather than charging for use of public spaces for two people to enjoy, we suggest informing these businesses of your requirement of use (such as rubbish, large structures etc.) Then, if someone doesn't adhere to your rules, they can be fined. Now that we are living with COVID and entering summer, use of outdoor spaces is encouraged, picnics and outdoor proposals are a standard activity (intimately shared by two people), they are not large weddings and so it makes no sense to us that someone would have to pay for a picnic, just because the view is nice. I understand that locals may have an issue with extensive use of their parks, however is this not the cost of living somewhere that offers the best views of Sydney?

- How will companies know about any changes, and, very importantly, how will the new rules be enforced?
- Berry Island Reserve should be included in the list of public spaces to be managed in this way.
- Those who use the area to launch their commercial canoe and kayak businesses should have to make a contribution as the wear and tear from their use on lavender bay at the moment is significant.
- Wonder why Kurraba Point not listed. Wouldn't want to see a diversion to Kurraba Point from other parks if fees imposed on them.

## ATTACHMENT 2

**Managing Council's Parks - Proposed Booking Fees and Arrangements**  
**Summary of submissions received during public exhibition period**  
**(7 September - 4 October 2021)**

No.	Name	Issue/Theme	Key Points Raised	Position
1	Alice Lim	Group size	Yes we should reduce the number of group to 40	Supports reduction to 40 people
2	Leanne Mitchell	Group size	Fully support the Council in its attempts to 'user pay' and restrict large gatherings in parks with an appropriate fee. I still think the 40 people limit before a fee applies is over generous - 40 people in a park is a significant number and in some cases would severely limit the ability of others to enjoy the space. The limit in my view should be closer to 25. I also do not agree with commercial venues being able to set up in parks or beaches or general public property - our increasingly narrow green and public space in our council, for our density, means these spaces will always be sought after so allowing commercial enterprises to encroach or 'creep' into this, in the guise of entertainment, is not inclusive for all parts of the community.	Supports reduction to 40 people Suggests further reductions Does not agree with commercial use being permitted
3.	Lavender Bay Precinct Committee	Group size Type of group requiring booking Ranger enforcement/signage required	To be successful, the proposal needs to be supported by location signage and Ranger enforcement. Support following aspects of proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing the number of people who can gather in a park from 60 to 40: Booking for corporate promotional activities, corporate jumping castles, etc, weddings/commitment ceremonies, for use as a film location. service providers, commercial photography:</li> </ul> Introduction of a new booking fee of \$195 for 40-60 people: and booking fee of \$100 for less than 40 people were not discussed at Precinct Committee meeting.	Supports reduction to 40 people Supports types of groups who need to book as proposed
4.	Milson Precinct Committee	Group size	Motion: Milson Precinct agrees with Council's decision to reduce the number of people who can gather in a park without booking from 60 to 40. Motion: The Precinct also seeks to clarify whether local schools need to book and pay for the use of our local parks.	Supports reduction to 40 people Seeks clarity on position with school bookings

No.	Name	Issue/Theme	Key Points Raised	Position
5.	Kate McDougall	Group size Parking Restrict times of usage	<p>I am a resident who lives very close to this area and my concern is that 20 people in a group is what should be included in the proposal. Why 20? This takes into account the very limited car parking - many couples and individuals are also using this area in addition to the group of 20. Taxi drivers, Uber drivers, ambulance paramedics, etc all come to 'sit' in addition to tourists, residents in the area and other visitors.</p> <p>The number of car parking spaces should dictate a well thought-out decision with the NSC decision.</p> <p>I am very much in favour of a closing time for use at night. 11pm, or possibly 10.30, should be the close down time for its usage. 10.30 means that by 11pm, the visitors have packed up and gone. This will, hopefully, also discourage people w noisy cars and parties on the foreshore. This timing should apply to all foreshore areas near this Reserve &amp; elsewhere in similar Sydney areas.</p> <p>I am all for public use of such areas - a zone that's positive with its many benefits.</p> <p>The Council has the power to implement better measures and ensure the space is used appropriately, so I am hoping for a far better outcome than currently exists.</p>	Unclear of group size Restrict usage times
6.	Nino Cvoro, Body Image Personalised Training	Suggests permit system for Personal Trainers  Examines neighbouring council polices	<p>McMahons Point resident and operator of Personal Training business at Quibaree Park approx. 15 years. Has signed Code of Conduct Personal Trainers and respects the local residents and park. Originally was pretty much only business there, training mainly locals that didn't like going to the gyms and wanted to use the beautiful outdoor space which we have access to in North Sydney area to get fit and healthy while enjoying the beautiful views of our harbour.</p> <p>Has seen increase in other fitness operators in past 5 years, most are respectful to parklands/locals, some are not, being loud/playing loud music early in the morning, bringing down large groups etc.</p> <p>In last two years, has noticed increase of companies providing curated picnics, only a matter of time before the locals start complaining of the space being taken up by these companies. Corresponded with Council's Manager Park &amp; Reserves in May 2021; concerned these companies taking up a lot of space at the foreshore parks including Quibaree and that something needs to be done because is getting worst and crowded. Operators tend not to be from the area and people that book these curated picnics are also not from the area, which is unfair on the locals trying to use the parklands.</p>	Supports proposal with exception personal trainers bookings  Suggests permit system for Personal Trainers

No.	Name	Issue/Theme	Key Points Raised	Position
			<p>Do not agree with inclusion of commercial fitness training requiring payment of a fee to a service provider under title of Special Events and Activities is included commercial fitness training.</p> <p>In all my years of training outdoors i have never seen a council introduce a booking system for Personal Trainers!! Most councils have a permit system for trainers and supports introduction of a permit system for Personal trainers and that way the council can limit the amount of trainers at a certain park by the permits issued.</p> <p>The booking system which council is suggesting will NOT work for Personal Trainers. I don't understand how it would work, so every time i train someone i need to pay \$100 for a booking which is the amount council is suggesting for capacity of people of 40 and under. I train my clients in the morning, lunch and evening so will that mean i will need to make a booking every single time!! it just doesn't make sense to me how it would operate. For curated picnics i understand how it can work and weddings, photography etc but not for Personal Trainers. Trains many locals and they all agreed that its silly and if the council was to charge me \$100 for each booking i will have to pass that cost onto the clients who already pay council rates, so they had a good point when they told me why should they pay to be allowed to exercise outdoors, they have no issue paying for my services but not for use of the North Sydney Parks.</p> <p>Has researched what neighbouring councils have implemented for the Personal Trainers for outdoor training and strongly suggests that Council take on board and look at how other councils are dealing with these issues.</p> <p><b>Mosman Council</b> - Here is the link to their website for an easy to use application which North Sydney Council can mplement. <a href="https://forms.mosman.nsw.gov.au/RunForm.aspx?formId=1360">https://forms.mosman.nsw.gov.au/RunForm.aspx?formId=1360</a> The fee: flat fee of \$550</p> <p><b>Waverley Council</b> - Website states they had the same issue as North Sydney. Personal fitness training is one of the strongest growth segments in the Fitness Industry. Increasing numbers of commercial fitness trainers using public reserves has raised a number of issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Equity of access issues</b> - e.g. potential conflict with displaced users, management of demand, domination and monopolisation of areas and exploitation of public land by commercial operators</li> <li>b) <b>Impact on the asset</b> - e.g. trainers (especially of large groups) are causing wear-and-tear to recreational facilities</li> <li>c) <b>Facility management</b> - scheduling of regular, seasonal and reactive maintenance</li> <li>d) <b>Public liability concerns</b> - e.g. trainers with insufficient insurance The need to regulate use of public reserves by organised or commercial fitness groups and personal fitness trainers has been identified. This policy responds to this need.</li> </ul>	

No.	Name	Issue/Theme	Key Points Raised	Position
			<p><b>Purpose/Objectives In implementing this policy</b>, Council aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) ensure equity of access to public parks and reserves</li> <li>b) Reduce the impact of commercial fitness activities on asset condition and maintenance</li> <li>c) Minimise public liability concerns</li> </ul> <p><b>Type of permits</b></p> <p><b>Category 1</b> 1-2 participants, no fixed location, no equipment</p> <p><b>Category 2</b> 1-6 participants with equipment and a designated training area</p> <p><b>Category 3</b> 7-12 participants with equipment and a designated training area</p> <p><b>Category 4</b> 13-18 participants with equipment and a designated training area</p> <p>Council will determine the number and size of groups that are issued a permit in any one area. However, a Permit will not be issued for groups that are greater than 18 participants.</p> <p><b>Allocation of Permits</b></p> <p>A permit will be valid for one year and will authorise each trainer to use Community and/or Crown Land for fitness activities in accordance with this policy on a non-exclusive basis. Applications for permits and the number of permits to be issued will be determined by Council officers taking into account the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Usage demand, intensity of use of the area and times requested</li> <li>2. Number of approved trainers already using the area</li> <li>3. Other activities (passive and active) being undertaken in the area</li> <li>4. Type of activities to be undertaken and the potential impact on other users and neighbouring residents during the times requested</li> <li>5. Whether the activities will contribute to increasing congestion or user conflict in the area requested</li> <li>6. Previous history of permit use i.e. warnings issued and/or complaints received</li> </ul> <p>As part of the approval process with consideration of the above, Council officers may determine to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. approve an application and issue a permit;</li> <li>2. offer an alternative permit stating a more suitable location for size of group, or suggest a small group size than requested or suggest another time with less impact on residential amenity or other users of the area;</li> <li>3. not approve the application.</li> </ul>	

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			<p>One trainer only may be authorised by Council to operate at any one time under the permit issued. However, the authorised trainer can nominate a replacement person in case of illness or leave. The trainer must notify Council within 24hrs of the scheduled sessions, quote the permit number and specify the replacement trainer. Alternatively, a Company can nominate a trainer/s that will be operating under the permit. The company must provide a roster listing the qualified trainers who will operate under the permit. All trainers must be insured and eligible to operate under the permit.</p> <p>Identification requirements - Each trainer will be issued with identification card. The trainer must carry the identification card whilst training and it must be shown to Council Officers when requested. The identification card will be colour coded and have the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Company Name</li> <li>2. Trainer's Name</li> <li>3. Trainer's Photo</li> <li>4. Permitted training area or state "non-static" permit</li> <li>5. Size of group</li> </ol> <p><b>Waverley Council Fees 2021/2022</b> - Organised or commercial fitness groups and personal trainers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-6 participants (fixed location, equipment) Taxable per year \$352.00</li> <li>• 7-12 participants (fixed location, equipment) Taxable per year \$1,020.00</li> <li>• 13-18 participants (fixed location, equipment) Taxable per year \$2,065.50</li> </ul> <p><b>Inner West Council Fees</b> - Commercial Fitness Trainers and Running Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group size 1-12 Participants per annum per commercial fitness training business (\$ per trainer per venue) - \$552.60</li> <li>• Group size 13-18 participants per annum per commercial fitness training business (\$ per trainer per venue) \$1,105.00</li> </ul> <p>As you can see, all of these councils have a permit systems in place that works and functions well and achieves the objectives North Sydney Council is trying to do without a need for a booking system for Personal Trainers which North Sydney Council is suggesting.</p>	