

# Northern Beaches


Resilience Strategy  
- snapshot

Withstand. Adapt. Thrive.



northern  
beaches  
council





### **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians and their Country on which we gather today. By these words we show our respect to all Aboriginal people. We acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging and the spirits and ancestors of the Clans that lived in this area.

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## Northern Beaches Resilience Strategy

Withstand. Adapt. Thrive.

### What is resilience?

Resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt and thrive no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience (Resilient Cities Network).

Resilience in this sense, means having a keen awareness of our strengths, our vulnerabilities, and having an understanding of the shocks and stresses that threaten the values and wellbeing of our community. It also means having robust structures, plans and supporting measures in place to deal with these vulnerabilities in the face of hardship.

### Developing this strategy

Over 1,300 community members have contributed to the development of this strategy across a range of engagement activities. This has enabled an in depth understanding of our strengths, vulnerabilities and where we need to prioritise our actions.

### Purpose

We've developed a Strategy that will help support and prepare our community to face challenges that have the potential to significantly impact the wellbeing of our community such as natural disasters, housing affordability, climate change and critical infrastructure failure.

The Strategy outlines ways to:

- increase community connection and cohesion to enable us to support one another in times of crisis, particularly our vulnerable
- ensure our community is aware, prepared and able to adapt to the impacts of shocks and stresses
- strengthen critical infrastructure, assets and services so they can continue to function in the face of significant disruption
- protect and enhance our natural environment
- facilitate safe and accessible public places and spaces that support our social, emotional and physical wellbeing
- create thriving, productive and safe communities through improved land use planning provisions

### Vision

Empower our Northern Beaches community to **Withstand, Adapt** and **Thrive**.

## Resilience Challenges

Shocks and stresses that threaten the wellbeing of the Northern Beaches community.

### Shocks

Any sudden, intense, short-term events that significantly impact our community.



Bushfires



Digital network failure



Terror attacks



Storms  
(including floods, coastal erosion and inundation)



Financial institutional failure



Tsunamis



Heatwaves



Water crisis



Earthquake



Disease pandemic



Cyber attacks



Utilities and infrastructure failure



Landslides

### Stresses

Systemic, interconnected and complex issues that impact our community on a daily or cyclical basis.



Housing Affordability



Drug and alcohol abuse



Lack of transport diversity



Climate Change



Employment diversity



Increasing Health Service Demand



Environmental degradation



Social cohesion



Mental health



Inequity



## Direction 1: Planning for our future

Resilient land use planning reduces the impact of natural hazards on our community and enables access to a broad range of housing, employment, education, and transport options that support individual and community needs.



Key Priorities	Key Actions
1. Avoid intensification of development, inappropriate development and incompatible land uses in areas exposed to natural and urban hazards	1a. Establish planning controls that limit intensification, inappropriate development and incompatible land uses to reduce or avoid risks from natural hazards (S-M)
2. Carefully manage population growth without compromising our local environment, wellbeing and lifestyle of our community	2a. Establish planning controls that limit impact on our local environment and the wellbeing and lifestyle of our community (S)
3. Integrate resilience principles into land use planning processes	3a. Establish resilience assessment processes within Council's planning and development application frameworks (S)
4. Develop a mature understanding of climate change risks and its influence on strategic land use planning	4a. Undertake a Climate Change Risk Assessment to inform planning controls with a focus on bush fire, flood, urban heat, coastal erosion and inundation (S-M)
5. Improve disaster recovery provisions within the planning process	5a. Implement "build back better" provisions into the local planning framework to reduce future risk and improve community recovery (S)
6. Increase the resilience of infrastructure to support current and future communities	6a. Engage with infrastructure providers to ensure critical infrastructure on the Northern Beaches achieves the objectives of the NSW Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy (S-L)
7. Improve social and affordable housing options particularly for very low to moderate income earners and essential workers	7a. Deliver the Housing Strategy that establishes mechanisms to increase affordable housing options to support our low to moderate income earners and essential workers (M-L)
8. Improve transport accessibility & diversity within, and out of the Northern Beaches	8a. Advocate for improved transport accessibility & diversity within and out of the Northern Beaches area (M-L)
9. Increase local food production to increase food security and reduce reliance on regional and global supply chains.	9a. Explore urban agriculture initiatives to increase local food production such as increasing community growing spaces, partnering with private enterprise, engagement and education, promotion of existing community gardens (M).

### Key

(S) Short term actions - action to be undertaken within five years

(M) Medium term actions - actions to be undertaken between five to 10 years

(L) Longer term actions - actions that will likely take 10+ years to implement

(O) Ongoing actions - actions that will be undertaken on a regular or continuous basis



## Direction 2: Get Ready Northern Beaches

Our community understands the risks they face and works together to prevent, prepare, respond, and recover from significant disruptions.





Key Priorities	Key Actions
1. Empower our communities to enable them to effectively prevent, prepare, respond and recover from shock events	<p>1a. Continue to support the Emergency Services in delivering community prevention and preparedness campaigns (O)</p> <p>1b. Develop a “Get Ready Animals” program to improve the preparedness of owners of domestic and large animals (S)</p> <p>1c. Develop a “Get Ready Business” program to ensure local business owners are aware of the risks to business continuity and are able to identify and implement strategies to minimise the negative economic impact of shock events (S)</p> <p>1d. Continue to work with vulnerable facilities including aged care facilities, childcare centres and schools to ensure they have plans in place to respond effectively to shock events (O)</p>
2. Increase understanding of the cascading impact of shock events and their interconnectedness with stresses	2a. Undertake local risk assessment to increase understanding of community’s awareness of risks, improve response protocols and identify mitigation/adaptation initiatives (S)
3. Focus investment on disaster prevention activities to avoid or minimise the impacts of shock events	3a. Seek to increase natural hazard prevention activities by maximising grant funding opportunities (O)
4. Improve emergency planning and response arrangements to reduce impacts on our community	<p>4a. Work with the emergency service organisations and supporting agencies to continue to improve emergency planning and response arrangements to reduce impacts on our community (O)</p> <p>4b. Continue to strengthen Council’s Incident Management and Business Continuity arrangements (O)</p> <p>4c. Invest in technologies that improve access to natural hazard information, emergency communications, monitoring and forecasting capability (S-M)</p>
5. Further develop local disaster recovery arrangements to ensure our community is able to recover from significant shock events	5a. Prepare a Northern Beaches Recovery Plan in line with the requirements of the NSW Recovery Plan and Toolkit (S)
6. Increase regional resilience through prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities with regional partners	6a. Actively engage with Councils in the region to build relationships and capability, and establish resource sharing arrangements to build regional capacity (S-M)

### Direction 3: Connect for strength

Connected communities are stronger together. We look after each other in good times and bad, and care for those of who may need extra support.



Key Priorities	Key Actions
1. Strengthen social cohesion, community and cultural connection in alignment with Council's Better Together 2040 - Social Sustainability Strategy (2021a)	1a. Continue to undertake the actions identified in Council's Better Together 2040 - Social Sustainability Strategy (2021a) (S,M,L & O) 1b. Celebrate the diversity of our community and increase inclusivity through activities, events and programs that promote connection, engagement and participation (O)
2. Increase recognition of our First Nations Australians and their connection to country	2a. Develop actions (such as a Reconciliation Action Plan or treaty) that improves recognition, relationships, respect and opportunities with First Nations Australians (S)
3. Support programs that maximise the community's motivation to participate in volunteering activities	3a. Support agencies and programs to maximise the community's motivation to participate in volunteering activities (O) 3b. Continue to celebrate and acknowledge the commitment of our volunteers and their contribution to our community (O)
4. Increase the resilience of our priority populations to shocks and stresses	4a. Engage with our priority populations and initiate capacity building and support programs to increase their resilience to shocks and stresses (S)
5. Build the capacity of the community services sector to support priority populations to strengthen relationships, personal resilience and increase wellbeing	5a. Engage and partner with the social service sector to build capacity to support priority populations when needed (O)



## Direction 4: A strong and dynamic local economy

Our local economy is diverse and offers rich opportunities for innovation, education and career growth, and community vitality.



**Key Priorities****Key Actions**

1. Increase the resilience of our local businesses to effectively prepare, respond and recover from shock events and adapt to a changing climate

1a. Prepare an Economic Development Strategy that reflects our local resilience challenges, opportunities and priorities (S)

1b. Develop a “Get Ready Business” program to ensure local business owners are aware of the risks to business continuity and are able to identify and implement strategies to minimise the negative economic impact of shock events (S)

1c. Continue to undertake natural hazard mitigation and adaptation actions in areas that support economic development (O)

1d. Support local businesses to transition to a green economy and adapt to climate change (O)

2. Increase the resilience of infrastructure that supports our local businesses, particularly telecommunications and energy supply

2a. Undertake a critical infrastructure risk assessment and partner with infrastructure providers to undertake mitigation/adaptation to increase business resilience and continuity (S-L)

3. Protect critical employment lands to strengthen economic growth and industry diversity

3a. Review planning controls to ensure critical employment lands are protected and encourage innovation (S)

4. Increase affordable housing options for our essential work force

4a. Deliver the Housing Strategy that establishes mechanisms to increase affordable housing options for our essential workforce (M)

5. Increase education options on the Northern Beaches to address skill gaps, promote local training and jobs opportunities, particularly for our youth

5a. Investigate opportunities and partnerships to increase job skill, education and training opportunities (M-L)

6. Support community and economic vibrancy through diverse night-time and weekend activities

6a. Explore opportunities to increase night-time and weekend economies, in appropriate locations (S-M)

## Direction 5: Adaptive services, assets and infrastructure

We partner with key agencies and providers to protect our diverse portfolio of services, assets, and infrastructure so that we continuously, and through significant disruptions, can meet the needs of our community.





**Key Priorities****Key Actions**

1. Ensure critical infrastructure is not placed in areas that are exposed to current and future risk	1a. Undertake a Resilience and Climate Change Assessment across all of Council's infrastructure and assets that identifies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- risks and vulnerabilities to critical assets as a result of natural disasters and climate change impacts</li> <li>- critical assets that will have a consequential impact on the community due to the failure</li> <li>- adaptation/mitigation actions strategies that minimise impact on the asset and community to ensure continuity and reduce recovery time (S).</li> </ul>
2. Focussed adaptation and mitigation investment for critical assets and infrastructure to ensure they are resilient to natural disasters and climate change impacts	2a. Update Council's Asset Management Strategy (2018b) and plans to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- embed resilience as a core principle</li> <li>- articulate adaptation/mitigation actions identified in the Resilience and Climate Change Assessment,</li> <li>- include "build back better" processes to reduce future risk and aid recovery (S).</li> </ul>
3. Build understanding of system and asset risks, interdependencies and vulnerabilities and identify opportunities to improve service continuity, redundancy and scalability	3a. Engage and partner with critical service and infrastructure providers to increase resilience investment across all critical asset and service portfolios within the Northern Beaches (M-L, O)
4. Ensure assets, services and infrastructure are adaptive and multifunctional to meet the varied and changing needs of our community	4a. Continue to focus on resilience outcomes through the implementation of Council's Community Centre Strategy, asset and delivery plans with a focus on supporting priority populations (O)

## Direction 6: A resilient natural and built environment

We live in balance with our natural and built environments, and proactively take steps to protect and enhance our environment, cool our suburbs and green our buildings.



Key Priorities	Key Actions
1. Focussed investment on natural hazard and climate change mitigation and adaptation actions to avoid and reduce future risk	<p>1a. As per Direction 5 - Undertake a Resilience and Climate Change Assessment across all of Council's infrastructure and assets that identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- risks and vulnerabilities to critical assets as a result of natural disasters and climate change impacts</li> <li>- critical assets that will have a consequential impact on the community due to the failure</li> <li>- adaptation/mitigation action strategies that minimise impact on the asset and community to ensure continuity and reduce recovery time (S).</li> </ul> <p>1b. Continue to enhance Council's approach to how we manage natural hazards with increased focus on prevention and mitigation/adaption actions (O)</p>
2. Our local environment is resilient, protected and enhanced in recognition of its contribution to community wellbeing and support of critical ecological processes	<p>2a. Increase investment in programs that protect and enhance our natural environment in alignment with the Council's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy (2021d) (S,M,L,O)</p> <p>2b. Continue to deliver environmental education activities to foster awareness, understanding and ownership of our environment (O)</p>
3. Buildings and precinct-scale developments are adaptive and ready to transition to a low carbon future	<p>3a. Develop planning controls to improve energy, water and waste efficiencies in new developments, support the push for net zero buildings and require sustainability certification for certain developments (threshold to be developed) (S)</p> <p>3b. Prepare decarbonisation plans for existing precincts to identify opportunities for retrofitting and precinct scale opportunities (e.g. community solar) - as per the GBCA Climate Positive Roadmap for precincts (new and existing) (S-M)</p>
4. Ensure the natural environment is recognised as key priority within disaster recovery plans and programs	4a. Include environmental recovery strategies within the Northern Beaches Recovery Plan (S-M)
5. Our community has sustainable access, recreation and engagement opportunities in natural areas	5a. Prepare an Open Space and Recreation Strategy that enables sustainable access, recreation and engagement opportunities in natural areas (S)
6. Invest in urban heat mitigation programs to cool homes, streets and public spaces	6a. Develop an urban heat mitigation program to reduce the impact of urban heat stress, improve amenity and increase ecological function (M)



## Direction 7: Activated places and spaces

Our safe and accessible public places and spaces support our social, emotional and physical wellbeing.



Key Priorities	Key Actions
1. Create environments that connect us to place and to each other, enriching our community and sense of belonging	<p>1a. Continue to undertake the initiatives within Council's Creative Arts Strategy (2021f) to cultivate creativity, identify opportunities for arts and cultural expression and connect our diverse communities (S,M,O)</p> <p>1b. Continue to hold a diverse range of public events that activate and increase vibrancy of public spaces, provide economic benefits to local business and bring the community together in line with Council's Events Strategy (2018c) (O)</p>
2. Our community has access to places and spaces that inspire creativity and connection	2a. Investigate options to increase opportunities for our community to access places that encourage and inspire creativity and connection
3. Places and spaces are designed to promote accessibility and inclusion and cater to the varying needs of our community	3a. Continue to deliver on the actions within Council's Community Safety Plan (2021e) and Disability Inclusion Action Plan to create safe and accessible places for our community (S,O)
4. Celebrate our cultural heritage through creative expression in public places and spaces	4a. Increase opportunities to recognise our diverse cultural identities in public spaces in alignment with Council's Public Space Vision & Design Guidelines (2021h) (O)
5. Facilitate active and passive recreation to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of our community	5a. Prepare an Open Space and Recreation Strategy that embeds resilience as a core principle and acknowledges the importance of quality, safe, accessible and inclusive open space and its contribution to the physical and social wellbeing of our community (S)



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