

Port Kembla Beach

Community Action & Partnership

Port Kembla Beach is of high interest to local media. This was evidenced by the number of interviews. ABC radio Morning Program, ABC News and a local community radio station featured interviews with the judge and others present at the beach. Prime 9 and Wollongong Channel 7 both provided coverage. Prime was particularly supportive in that a TV crew interviewed the official party on the beach. Port Kembla Community and Wollongong city news papers - conducted extensive interviews, took photos on the beach and printed supportive articles. The Illawarra Mercury and Wollongong Advertiser both published positive articles. This media activity is an indicator of the local community's interest in 'their beach'.

Port Kembla beach is managed by Wollongong City Council who employ an Environmental Education Officer to facilitate council and community activities. As a former surf champion, this council officer has strong personal relationships with other community leaders and individuals who are strong supporters of Port Kembla Beach. A strong partnership with the PK SLSC is maintained. Nippers do a weekly litter parade along the beach. Community links are also developed and maintained through the swimming pool and facilities.

There is a cooperative working relationship with local indigenous people who look after the southern part of Port Kembla Beach.

'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention

A Multilingual sign advises visitors to 'leave only footprints'. The Council used well-known fishing and surfing identities to convey this message to the community by TV and radio. The early response was positive. Consideration could be given to increasing the number of these signs and the use of graphics.

Regular council and nipper litter patrols ensure there is no major problem with litter. Four local community groups were involved in the 'Rise and Shine' project to get the community involved in litter collection.

Port Kembla uses a number of small bins actually on the sand beach near the people. Some reporting of the effectiveness of this innovative approach would be useful

Small amount of litter observed discharging from stormwater drain onto beach during judging. Consideration could be given to addition of a gross pollutant trap as the drain discharges most of the water falling in the hilly catchment behind the beach.

Council has strong community and school education program with a specially appointed environmentally qualified education officer.

Reported strong media and school campaigns focussed on litter prevention but noted drop off in behaviour as time goes on

Resource Recovery & Waste Management

Indigenous plant seed are recovered and propagated for beach planting.

The council officers assist Fisheries officers by reporting illegal abalone fishing off the rocks adjacent to the beach. This assists with achieving sustainable extraction of this valuable resource.

Environmental Innovation & Protection

The positioning of the major stormwater outlet so it discharges onto rocky outcrop at end of beach seems to be effective in reducing likelihood of beach scouring.

Port Kembla Bushcare are actively involved with council in dune stabilisation with native plants and Marin Grasses. Intensive weed management with good signage to help community identify major weed pests seems to be effective.

Steep rise of land up from beach suggests that the community is unlikely to experience significant problems from direct sea level rise with changing climate. However, the beach area may be limited.

Drains have been stencilled with environmental messages eg fish don't smoke; the drain is for rain, you know you are swimming in it. Community groups and schools adopted areas in which they then stencilled the messages.

Water Conservation

Port Kembla beach is somewhat unique in having swimming pool on beach so patrons can swim even when beach is closed.

The pool is now filled with sea water instead of fresh water from the town supply. This conserved large quantity of potable water and avoids the community having to pay unnecessary treatment costs for drinking quality water to swim in. The water can also be 'turned over' twice a day.

The topography of the beach catchment suggests that some consideration of stormwater harvesting for reuse may be useful.

Energy Innovation

Energy efficient lighting is being introduced.

Heritage & Culture

SLSC has life saving patrols over weekends while Council takes responsibility for life saving during the week.

Nippers program remains strong and the nippers do litter parade to keep beach clean at weekend.

Young Legends

Local schools are heavily involved in a number of programs.