

The threat to Pittwater from these reforms



Proposed changes to planning laws mean:

- A shift from the current emphasis on 'orderly development' to one of 'economic growth'
- Reduced local protection of bushland, threatened species, coastal areas, waterways and building design
- Consultation about the future character of Pittwater driven by sub-regional boards representing up to 500,000 people - with only one Pittwater representative
- Community consultation at the DA stage of development either eliminated or substantially reduced
- Substantially reduced notification of developments to neighbours
- Sweeping powers for the NSW Minister of Planning, including allowing the approval of prohibited developments under so-called 'compatibility certificates'

Proposed amalgamation of Pittwater with Warringah and Manly Councils means:

- Greatly reduced local representation to ensure protection of Pittwater from over-development
- Pittwater rates likely to increase due to higher land values than the rest of the northern beaches and the possible removal of rate-pegging
- Pittwater residents will no longer have an independent Council representing their interests
- A shift in spending on infrastructure to regional priorities elsewhere eg. Warringah Aquatic Centre upgrade; Dee Why Town Centre Masterplan and community hub; Glen Street Theatre and Belrose library upgrade; PCYC at Dee Why
- Reduced access to community and health services due to centralisation in other areas of the northern beaches eg. Dee Why/Brookvale and Frenchs Forest

What you can do!

To find out more come along to

Pittwater Council's Community Forum

Councillors and senior staff discuss the reforms and take your questions. Find out how the reforms will affect you.

➔ **Tues 28 May - 6.30pm to 8pm - Mona Vale Memorial Hall**
1 Park Street, Mona Vale

Show your support for Pittwater

Independent Local Government Review Panel Hearing

➔ **Tues 4 June - 5pm to 7pm - Warringah Council Chambers**
725 Pittwater Road Dee Why

Pittwater Council is providing buses for residents wishing to attend. Book online www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/bus or phone 9970 1157.

Note - You must pre-register online if you wish to speak at the meeting at www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au

Make an online submission by Friday 28 June

Planning changes

➔ www.planning.nsw.gov.au
- "A New Planning System for NSW - White Paper"

Proposed amalgamation

➔ www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au
- Independent Local Government Review Panel Paper

Contact State Government representatives

Member for Pittwater

Mr Rob Stokes, MP
pittwater@parliament.nsw.gov.au Ph: 9999 3599

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

The Hon. Brad Hazzard, MP
office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au Ph: 9228 5258

Minister for Local Government

The Hon. Don Page
office@page.minister.nsw.gov.au Ph: 9228 3403

Premier of NSW

The Hon. Barry O'Farrell, MP
office@premier.nsw.gov.au Ph: 9228 5239

Submissions close on Friday 28 June 2013

Impacts on Pittwater from NSW Government reforms

The NSW Government is currently in the middle of two major reforms that will significantly affect Pittwater and change the face of our community.



Read on to find out why we need to protect Pittwater and how you can have your say!



www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/reform

The reforms

Planning Reforms

NSW planning laws will be replaced by a new system aimed at fast-tracking development by the end of this year.



The main changes are:

- 80% of DAs approved without neighbours input
- Developments of up to 20 townhouses or units approved without consultation
- Wider residential zones, meaning in theory a factory could be built next to a house
- If a council refuses a development, the state government can override the decision.

Council Reforms

The NSW government has commissioned an independent report on local councils. The report recommends:



- Amalgamate Pittwater with Warringah and Manly Councils
- Create a northern beaches council of 250,000 residents
- The removal of rate-pegging, meaning rates could rise annually by around 6%

A final report will be delivered to the government in September, after which the government will consider its position.

The White Paper & independent report are on exhibition for public comment until 28 June 2013.

Pittwater's position

At its meeting on 6 May 2013 Pittwater Council voted unanimously:- "That Council remains committed to a strong independent Pittwater Council providing local representation and delivering local services to the people of Pittwater."

Pittwater's History

Pittwater Council was formed in 1992 after two decades of lobbying by local people - the first new Council in 100 years.

Previously, Pittwater was part of the 'A Riding' of Warringah Shire Council, one of four Ridings. In comparison with the others, A Riding had a large backlog of work – yet the highest rates.

The movement for a separate council began in the mid 1980s.

People's concerns centred around

- over-development and inappropriate development
- protecting Pittwater's sensitive environment,
- the lack of spending on infrastructure in Pittwater,
- a low level of service compared with the rates paid by Pittwater residents
- lack of community consultation.

These concerns reached a height in the late 1980s, following approval by Warringah Shire Council of the 8-storey Peninsula Plaza at Mona Vale and a unit development at Palm Beach. These approvals were partly the cause for the second dismissal of Warringah Council in 1987.

A voluntary poll resulted in over 73.5% of voters asking the state government for a separate council, which came into being in 1992.

Pittwater's Financial Health

Over the past 4 years Pittwater Council has had its finances independently reviewed by both IPART and more recently the NSW Treasury (TCorp).

TCorp's 2013 Financial Sustainability Report rates Pittwater Council as one of the top 30 Councils for financial sustainability in NSW.

Pittwater's Achievements

- Acquired over 140 hectares of land including Currawong, Warriewood Wetlands, Winnereremy Bay and Ingleside Escarpment for environmental protection and public use
- Helped to save Mona Vale Hospital from closure
- New community centres built at Avalon and Newport
- New libraries at Avalon and Mona Vale
- Progressive town & village centre upgrades focussing on pedestrian safety, traffic management and landscaping
- Major new playgrounds at Winnereremy Bay, Governor Phillip Park, Apex Park, Bilorong Reserve and Warriewood Valley
- New or refurbished surf clubs at Bungan, Newport, Bilgola and North Palm Beach - and soon for Avalon
- Partnering with Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Centre and building new sportsfields at Narrabeen and Warriewood
- Creation of village greens at Mona Vale and Avalon
- Upgrades to Pittwater's 28 wharves, new boat ramps and dinghy facilities
- Major makeover of Newport and Mona Vale shopping centres
- Community events such as Food & Wine Fair and markets
- Partner of and supporter of over 7000 Pittwater volunteers
- Funding and support for 36 Bushcare groups for bush regeneration, planting days and community events
- Recognised in 2003 as Best and Most Progressive Metropolitan Council in NSW (Bluett Award)

