

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

For those of us lucky enough to call the Sutherland Shire home, there are plenty of things we have to be thankful for, and having some of the country's most spectacular beaches right on our doorstep has to be just about the top of the list.

Over the weekend, Council's lifeguards pulled down the flags on what has been a mammoth summer beach season. Since commencing summer patrols in September last year, our incredible lifeguards team were kept busy keeping a staggering 4,854,200 visitors safe as they descended on our beaches. We know there is still demand from those looking to brave the waves during winter, but in the interests of public safety I urge beachgoers to stick to areas where Council lifeguards will still be on patrol over this period – particularly Cronulla Beach – and to only swim between the flags when displayed.

While it's clear that most beachgoers are keenly aware of the importance of staying safe in the surf, our lifeguards must still remain vigilant to respond to those thankfully quite rare occasions when an emergency arises. Over the past summer season, our lifeguards saved a staggering number of lives, performing 842 individual rescues of those who found themselves in danger in the surf.

Our lifeguards were also called upon to perform first aid on beachgoers suffering an injury or experiencing a medical episode 4,358 times across the summer season, with 88,568 individual preventative actions taken to keep beachgoers safe.

It's a challenging workload, but one that our highly trained and experienced Council lifeguards take on each year without hesitation or complaint.

In recent weeks we have seen amazing displays of heroism from our first responders, showing courage in the face of imminent danger. The quick thinking and selfless responses we have seen from police officers, paramedics and security guards who have thrown their lives on the line to keep members of the public safe in a crisis has rightfully been recognised and celebrated.

Similarly, we should give thanks to our local lifeguards, who perform such vital work in keeping all those who visit our beaches



safe, throwing themselves headlong into often perilous conditions when called upon to save those in danger.

While their heroic efforts often go unheralded, they are certainly not unappreciated by all those who enjoy spending time visiting our beautiful local beaches, safe in the knowledge that help is at hand when needed.

For more information on our beaches, including updates on patrol times over the winter months and tips on how to stay safe when you take to the water, please visit or scan the QR code:

<https://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/beaches>



**Sutherland Shire Mayor Councillor
Carmelo Pesce**

Council Meeting - Monday 20 May 2024 at 6.30pm

Residents who are interested in attending ordinary Council Meetings as part of the Public Gallery can register their interest via Council's website. For more information regarding attendance, meeting dates, and to read Council Meeting minutes and business papers visit: [sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/council-meetings](https://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/council-meetings)

