

Cronulla Special Entertainment Precinct Working Group

– Meeting #1 Notes

Project Title: Cronulla Special Entertainment Precinct

Meeting name and number: Cronulla Special Entertainment Precinct Working Group Inception, 1/1

Time and date: 5:30pm Wednesday 25th March 2026

Location: Sutherland Shire Council Administration Building

Present:

Sutherland Shire Council	
Stewart Rodham, Director Planning	Jordan Widenstrom, Senior Manager Urban Futures
Caleb Ball, Strategic Planning Team Leader	Jayden Price, Strategic Planner
Mark Skelsey, Communications Business Partner (Planning)	
Elected Representatives	
Councillor Carol Provan	Councillor Kal Glanznig
Sutherland Shire Police Area Command	
Casey Beldon, Sergeant – Licensing Unit	William Best
Residents	
Andrew Brien	Michael Forshaw
Candice Neels	George Pantazis
Warren Saxelby	Kim Williams
Community organisations	
Patch Clunes, President Cronulla Chamber of Commerce	Rob Stanley-Jones, Miranda Liquor Accord
Business owners and operators	
Paul Degan, Cronulla Sailing Club Commodore	Dean Markham, Northies
Adam Micola, Bobbys and Papa Js	Dale Sherman, Croydon Lane
Geoff Trio, Brass Monkey	

Apologies: Donald Faulds, Bradley Wishart, Craig Woodward, Natalie Tuffin, Michael Gooley, Bradley Bishop, Luke Hickel, Simon Johnston

1. Agenda

- Introductions & Housekeeping
- Presentation
 - Precinct Working Group
 - Cronulla Special Entertainment Precinct
 - Precinct Management Plan
- Activity #1 – Key features of the SEP
- Activity #2 – Measures for evaluating the trial
- Group discussion on activities
- Q&A & next steps

2. Presentation

- Query around extending liquor licence hours compared to trading hours in PMP. Notified that businesses and venues will need to apply for a liquor licence extension through Liquor & Gaming NSW.

3. Activity #1 – Key features of the SEP

- The group was provided with A3 printouts of each of the five key features of the Cronulla SEP: flexible trading hours, entertainment sound controls, precinct management, venue & community obligations and 12-month trial period
- Asked each of the groups to discuss “to what degree do you support the principles?”

A summary of the discussions is found in **Table 1** below. Copies of the activity worksheets can be found in **Appendix A** – Activity #1 worksheets.

Table 1 - Activity #1 discussion summary table

Key principle	Discussion
Flexible trading hours	• Concerns around outdoor trading hours and impacts to residents, particularly regarding noise • Statements around market influence determining which and how many venues will be able to stay open later • Consideration for summer extensions • Hours applying to both licenced and unlicenced venues encourages diversity
Entertainment sound controls	• Opposing views between businesses and residents, with businesses believing the sound controls are too restrictive, while residents are concerned around noise impacts on residential amenity

	• Suggestion to conduct sound testing during trial to establish a baseline and test against sound criteria in noise assessment • Seek clarification of internal noise criteria being measured with doors and windows closed • Query around if there's scope for areas to change sound category areas if activity increases • Challenges around interpreting the sound controls and how these impact on how businesses operate now • Requests for funding and resources for sound testing during the trial
Precinct management	• Uncertainty around some of the technical details of the Precinct Management Plan, particularly the noise controls • Suggestions to improve the data tables for sound controls through colour coding and better formatting • Queries around some of the sections of the PMP, particularly the complaints and compliance section • Encourage venues to have a dedicated mobile phone complaints line with register and provide public notifications with clear information for residents • Suggestion to develop a communication plan for the PMP
Venue & community obligations	• Concerns around the need for residents to speak to venues as the first port of call for noise complaints (from licenced venues) • Concerns that Liquor & Gaming NSW do not have enough resources to investigate complaints and undertake noise monitoring • Suggestion to set up a confidential hotline for complaints – concerns from residents about safety. Note that Liquor & Gaming NSW is establishing a one-stop-shop online portal for complaints • Some venues use excessive lighting outdoor – creates disturbances in apartments • Questions around leeway for venue response times to noise complaints
12-month trial period	• Discussions around what controls could be changed during the trial

	• The need to complete sound testing during the trial to set a baseline and understand if it is matching the limits in the Precinct Management Plan • Concerns that the 12-month trial may not be long enough as it only covers one summer period • Discussions around the need to support new venues that open during the trial • Query around whether meetings can be held every two months during the trial
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4. Activity #2 – Measures for evaluating the trial

- Provided A3 printouts of eight metrics that could be measured during the trial:
 - Crime and anti-social behaviour
 - Alcohol and health
 - Diversity of entertainment offerings including food, drink, entertainment, and retail
 - Footfall
 - Perceptions of safety
 - Volume and value
 - Employment
 - Access to transport
- Asked each of the groups to discuss “what metrics of the SEP should we measure during the trial?” and “What options are there and how can we measure and evaluate these?” How can we ensure the ongoing viability of the SEP?”

A summary of the discussions is found in **Table 2** below. Copies of the activity worksheets can be found in **Appendix B – Activity #2 worksheets**.

Table 2 - Activity #2 discussion summary table

Key metric	Discussion
Crime and anti-social behaviour	• BOCSAR data – assault (non-domestic violence related)* • Establishing what is a SEP related incident e.g. if footfall increases by 200%, do incidents also increase by 200%? • Loitering data – how can we encourage engagement?
Alcohol and health	• Ambulance call-out data between 6pm-6am to venues in the SEP*

	• Ambulance data regarding alcohol-related incidents/admissions • Community connection and pride • Alcohol sales – note that increased outdoor dining encourages greater food consumption
Diversity of entertainment offerings including food, drink, entertainment and retail	• Collect data on Google Search/audit of businesses at beginning of trial and compare to end* • Venue diversity snapshot – pubs/clubs, bars, takeaway premises, comedy clubs • All ages entertainment offerings • Need to focus on collecting data during SEP ‘extended hours’
Footfall	• Private data collection, feedback from venue patron counts* • Business reports/total sales • Encourage venues to use clickers to count footfall • Cell/mobile data • CCTV • TfNSW/Uber/Taxi data on trips to/from Cronulla
Perceptions of safety	• Private data collection (Safer Cities Audit), interviews with businesses, residents and stakeholders* • Lighting assessment • Sightlines/access points • Conduct visitor and patron surveys/interviews • Perceptions of vibrancy – what makes a place feel safe
Volume and value	• Audit of number of venues and operating hours, employment rates in precinct, sales turnover for venues* • Feedback from venues and update of businesses audit* • Consumer data – spending (amount, diversity) • Increase in venue attendees or turnover • Invite businesses to survey now, then 6-month trial milestone and 12-month trial milestone • Monitor vacancy rates and lease/sales activity for commercial property • New outdoor dining applications
Employment	• Night-time employment numbers* • Number of workers within the SEP • Number of hours worked per week

Access to transport

- Map taxi ranks, bus services and lighting for active transport connections*
- Night-time data on transport usage*
- Uber and taxi data
- Transport for NSW data – tap on/tap off
- State advocacy for later trains to/from Cronulla
- Provision of shuttle bus to/from key centres e.g. Miranda, Caringbah
- Parking turnover data
- Night-time courtesy bus
- Increase dedicated pick-up/drop-off areas for taxis/rideshare

*Note: points with an * were pre-supplied by Council*

5. Wrap up

- Next meeting confirmed for Thursday 4th June 2026 from 5:30-8:00pm, Sutherland Shire Council Administration Building

Appendix A – Activity #1 worksheets

Flexible trading hours

Businesses are more easily able to extend their operating hours when they comply with entertainment-related activity sound limits.

- Dining typically have 2 shifts. Hours should suit.
- Residents – welcome later trading for dining
 - concerns on 2am impact to a rise in anti-social behaviour.
- Requires operators to take on a responsible operators to comply with risk management & safety.



Flexible trading hours

Businesses are more easily able to extend their operating hours when they comply with entertainment-related activity sound limits.

Wait & see
Market will determine



Flexible trading hours

Businesses are more easily able to extend their operating hours when they comply with entertainment-related activity sound limits.

6am - 11pm weekday
6am - 2am weekend in
6m - 11pm outdoor weekend

- Beneficial with a clear approval path for licensed venues with LA
- 12am^{↑ outdoor dining} for non licensed venues would encourage participation mix
- Its a great start, could be reviewed to past 2am in future
- Summer extensions to midweek restrictions to match weekends
- More flexibility with outdoor dining, removing fees to encourage larger participation from smaller venues.
- It's like to hear what the projects come to venue activity is.



Entertainment sound controls

All venues must stay within set sound limits, and new developments are required to consider the need for sound-insulated design.

- There is challenge on understanding how these limits impact as we operate now.
- Will there be an opportunity to reassess the limits during & after the trial.
- Specifying / making limits public, could attract single^{few} complaints, measuring themselves.
- Request for funding / resources for further assessment during the trial.
- Agree on developers designing with sound-insulated design.



Entertainment sound controls

All venues must stay within set sound limits, and new developments are required to consider the need for sound-insulated design.

color code/
make clearer
sound metres

noise leaving
venue → Gerrard
Tonkin



Entertainment sound controls

All venues must stay within set sound limits, and new developments are required to consider the need for sound-insulated design.

- Some sections of the map are reductions on goals
- wording to ensure Internal is measured with Door/Window Closed
- Process to change Sound Categories, Venues have opened/Increased trading since Sound Report THIS IS A VERY GOOD POINT.



Precinct management

The Precinct Management Plan outlines roles and responsibilities for stakeholders, including how issues and complaints will be managed, along with clear sound controls and trading hours.

- Strongly agree with minor changes:
 - Remove / change wording on 1.5 point 3 regarding minors
 - 6.1 point 8: who is responsible manager?
 - 8.1 point 2: define police attended incident?
 - 8.3: individual venues being removed?



Precinct management

The Precinct Management Plan outlines roles and responsibilities for stakeholders, including how issues and complaints will be managed, along with clear sound controls and trading hours.

Funding for
proactive noise
levels → other rt work?



Precinct management

The Precinct Management Plan outlines roles and responsibilities for stakeholders, including how issues and complaints will be managed, along with clear sound controls and trading hours.

- Opportunity to define values for operators to behave/open.
- Would require a communication plan to socialise it, and have operators engaging & understanding it.
- Also comms to residents



Venue & community obligations

Venues are expected to follow clear 'good neighbour' practices to prevent impacts on nearby residents and resolve concerns quickly. Residents are expected to understand who to contact in the case of a complaint.

- I think most venues would be happy to be involved in this. As it would promote community engagement if used correctly.
- Have designated mobile phone complaints line with register
- Public notification with clear info for residents & land lords



Venue & community obligations

Venues are expected to follow clear 'good neighbour' practices to prevent impacts on nearby residents and resolve concerns quickly. Residents are expected to understand who to contact in the case of a complaint.

Outdoor
→ lights/party lights
on residents
ie. OGA purple light

Comms
channels
residents → venue

Competency
of operator,
keeping community
outside

Independent sand
dune



Venue & community obligations

Venues are expected to follow clear 'good neighbour' practices to prevent impacts on nearby residents and resolve concerns quickly. Residents are expected to understand who to contact in the case of a complaint.

- Is there leeway for response time?
- Could there be a common resource to receive complaints?
- There would need to be a process to handle harassing complainants.



12-month trial period

The precinct will run as a one-year trial so Council can assess its performance before deciding on the next steps.

Improving during
trial

How do we
support + manage
new venues?
→ build into future



12-month trial period

The precinct will run as a one-year trial so Council can assess its performance before deciding on the next steps.

- Potential to have meetings every 2 months? - Dependent on "success" metrics, →
- Good to start in Winter to get organised for Summer
- 12 months is adequate but only capturing one Summer.
- 2 years would be ideal with 1 year review, potential to extend hours & make small changes half way.



12-month trial period

The precinct will run as a one-year trial so Council can assess its performance before deciding on the next steps.

- Yes. at a minimum.
- Potentially only covering 1 summer, busy period, doesn't give fair opportunity to learn & improve.
- Extending 18-24 months might give a better indication. → improvement.



Appendix B – Activity #2 worksheets

Crime and anti-social behaviour

Measured through:

- Alcohol related violence (non-domestic) offences at night (6pm – 6am) – ABS, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, and reports from Sutherland Shire Police Area Command.
- XXX

- Measured during SEP extension (12am-2am)
- Focus on on premise instances
- Acknowledge there will be an increase in public place precinct issues.
- Current issue with public space loitering for under 18s on weekends. Intimidating adolescents.



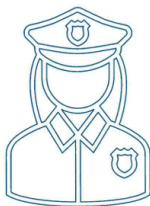
Crime and anti-social behaviour

Measured through:

- Alcohol related violence (non-domestic) offences at night (6pm – 6am) – ABS, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, and reports from Sutherland Shire Police Area Command.
- XXX

What is a SEP
issue v. something
else

Batter, unkey
Clean up.



Alcohol and health

Measured through:

- Ambulance call out data between 6pm – 6am to venues in the SEP – NSW Health.
- XXX

Community
connection/pride



Alcohol and health

Measured through:

- Ambulance call out data between 6pm – 6am to venues in the SEP – NSW Health.
- XXX

- Call outs 12am-2am (alcohol related only hard to track)
- Ensure venues practice RSA: SEP may attract rogue operators
- Increased alfresco encourages food consumption, not just alcohol
-



Diversity of entertainment offerings including food and drink, entertainment, retail at different times of the night

Measured through:

- Collect data on Google Search/audit of businesses at beginning of trial and compare to end.
- XXX

Map variety →
after any extras

Bands, DJs,
comedy? Go for?
Vinyl room?



Showcase
^{consumer}
demand →

How does council
advocate for
putt putt etc

Diversity of entertainment offerings including food and drink, entertainment, retail at different times of the night

Measured through:

- Collect data on Google Search/audit of businesses at beginning of trial and compare to end.
- XXX

- measure the mix before & after.
- Have we attracted more hospitality & entertainment operators during the trial?



Diversity of entertainment offerings including food and drink, entertainment, retail at different times of the night

Measured through:

- Collect data on Google Search/audit of businesses at beginning of trial and compare to end.
- XXX

1. Should be only relevant around SEP Month.
2. Should be measured against specific incidents
3. Encouraging all businesses to participate.
4. Camera Data.
5. Extra Public Transport During Trial
6. I think most venues would be happy to share data.



Footfall

Measured through:

- Private data collection, feedback from venue patron counts.
- XXX

infrastructure
gaps

* Use as metric
for crime/violence
baseline



Footfall

Measured through:

- Private data collection, feedback from venue patron counts.
- XXX

- Business reports
- Cell/mobile tower reports.
- City rail reports for impact on traffic.
- Uber
- Taxi council
- ~~Access~~ Request access of info. from Council & State Minister/member.
-



Footfall

Measured through:

- Private data collection, feedback from venue patron counts.
- XXX

- Private data collection / checkers could be useful to measure foot traffic.
- Maybe measure using total sales rather than foot traffic?
- Hard to judge w/ count construction + surplus of individuals?



Perceptions of safety not just safety, their perception of vibrancy

Measured through:

- Private data collection (Safer Cities Audit), interviews with businesses, residents, and stakeholders.
- XXX

- Surveys
- Interviews
- Ask patrons



Perceptions of safety

Measured through:

- Private data collection (Safer Cities Audit), interviews with businesses, residents, and stakeholders.
- XXX

Confidential
hot line?

Critical

Shyness to
contact venue

Tunnel?
Lighting/consultation

Perceptions of safety

Measured through:

- Private data collection (Safer Cities Audit), interviews with businesses, residents, and stakeholders.
- XXX

- NEED to have surveys, of residents & patrons on safety - is: do they feel safe in the precinct especially in later hours. (face to face; online).

•



Volume and value

Measured through:

- Audit of number of venues and operating hours, employment rates in precinct, sales turnover for venues.
- Feedback from venues and update of businesses audit.
- XXX

- Increase in PAX numbers or turnover
- + Invite all business to survey now, 6 months + 12 months! Gather metrics to benchmark operator sentiment, employment, outlook etc
- CCTV measured foot traffic in the mall by council
- New license applications
- + Monitor vacancy rates & lease/sales activity for commercial property
- New outdoor dining applications



+ Diversity of \$\$\$ costs of activities → low cost activities → Karaoke bars.
→ Putt putt golf etc breweries?

Volume and value

Measured through:

- Audit of number of venues and operating hours, employment rates in precinct, sales turnover for venues.
- Feedback from venues and update of businesses audit.
- XXX

Shady success
of trial in this
(→ aggregated



Employment

Measured through:

- Night-time employment numbers.
- XXX

* Increase in employment.

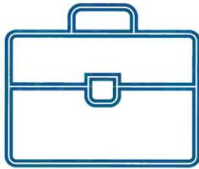


Employment

Measured through:

- Night-time employment numbers.
- XXX

starting → end
where are they (hrs)
located → local jobs



Created
new venues
(across a few)

Employment

Measured through:

- Night-time employment numbers.
- XXX

- Business Submit ^{Grant} ~~Grant~~ Reports on Employment hours during Extended hours
- Analysis on Business Profiles for Area Pre + Post Trial

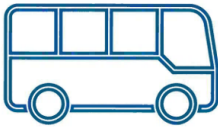


Access to transport

Measured through:

- Map taxi ranks, bus services and lighting for active transport connections. Have these increased in the trial or been more utilised?
- Night-time data on transport usage – Transport for NSW.
- XXX

- Night time "cortesy" bus
- Increase in dedicated pick up/drop off areas for taxi/rideshare.



Access to transport

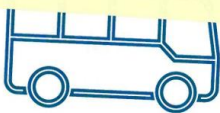
Measured through:

- Map taxi ranks, bus services and lighting for active transport connections. Have these increased in the trial or been more utilised?
- Night-time data on transport usage – Transport for NSW.
- XXX

Later train
from Cronulla
state advocacy

Shuttle bus?
to Caringbah, Minto

Uber data?



Parking, zones?
Times after sunrise
time

Access to transport

Measured through:

- Map taxi ranks, bus services and lighting for active transport connections. Have these increased in the trial or been more utilised?
- Night-time data on transport usage – Transport for NSW.
- XXX

- Final Train After 2am
- ~~Designate ~~for~~ USER pick up and~~
- USER/Taxi: number late night
- Train/Bus usage numbers

