

AGENDA

EXTRAORDINARY ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary meeting of the Environment Strategic Reference Group will be held in the Guringai Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why on

THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2019

Beginning at 6:00pm for the purpose of considering matters included in this agenda.

Committee Members

Cr Alex McTaggart (Chair)

Cr Natalie Warren

Cr Pat Daley

Cr Stuart Sprott

Sophie Scott

Roberta Conroy Bayview Church Point Residents Association

Alan Jones

Tom Hazell

David Tribe

Anthony Petrolo

Nigel Howard

Viktorija McDonnell Curl Curl Lagoon Committee

Marita Macrae Pittwater Natural Heritage Association

Jacqueline Marlow Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

Billy Bragg

Scott Markich

Council Officer Contacts

Todd Dickinson Director Environment and Sustainability

Yianni Mentis Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change

Ximena Von Oven Governance Officer

Quorum

A majority of members including the Chair or one of the elected Councillors.

Agenda for Extraordinary Environment Strategic Reference Group Meeting

Strategic Reference Group Meeting

to be held on Thursday 28 November 2019

in the Guringai Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why

Commencing at 6:00pm

1.0	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	
2.0	APOLOGIES	
3.0	DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	
4.0	UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING	
	Nil	
5.0	AGENDA ITEMS	4
5.1	Review of Public Exhibition for the draft Protect Create Live - Environment and Climate Change Strategy	4
5.2	Draft Protection of Waterways and Riparian Land Policy	28
6.0	GENERAL BUSINESS	

NEXT MEETING Thursday 20 February 2020

5.0 AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 5.1	REVIEW OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION FOR THE DRAFT PROTECT CREATE LIVE - ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
REPORTING OFFICER	SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER
TRIM FILE REF	2019/673110
ATTACHMENTS	1 ↓ Summary of Key Themes - Submissions Protect Create Live Environment and Climate Change Strategy Draft

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide the Environment Strategic Reference Group with an overview of the outcomes of the public exhibition of the draft Protect. Create. Live. – Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040 (the Strategy).

REPORT

Council resolved at the 24 September 2019 meeting to place the draft Strategy on public exhibition. Exhibition of the Strategy commenced on Friday 27 September 2019 and closed on Sunday 10 November 2019, resulting in the Strategy being on exhibition for six weeks. During the public exhibition, the following tools were used and activities were undertaken to promote awareness of the Strategy:

- Have Your Say Project Page – with interactive document and submission form
- Email – to various interest groups, Council contact lists and community engagement register, including local schools
- Social media posts on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn – including promotion of a short video
- Drop In Sessions – Council staff participated in the 5 Local Strategic Planning Statement drop in sessions
- Promotion at Events – Council staff attended 4 other events to promote the Strategy

Council received 348 contributions on the Strategy from 181 different contributors. 134 were written submissions sent via email or using the project page feedback form. A further 214 comments were placed on the interactive document from 47 different people. The majority of submissions were in support of the Strategy directly, or for recommending actions to implement the Strategy.

The key themes in the submissions were:

- Bushland protection and wildlife corridors
- Action on climate change/climate change emergency
- Aboriginal heritage
- Waste and single use plastics
- Population growth

- Air quality and other similar pollution
- Greener neighbourhoods
- Public transport and active travel infrastructure

The attached document, for discussion during the meeting, presents a more detailed summary of the key themes and includes proposed responses.

RECOMMENDATION OF SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group support the proposed amendments being made to the draft Protect. Create. Live. – Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040 and the revised version being forwarded to Council for adoption.

Key Trends in Submissions to the draft Protect. Create. Live. - Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
PROTECT			
Bushland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were many submissions regarding the protection of bushland. Some submissions stated that we should not lose any existing bushland at all and the aspiration should be for "no loss of existing bushland". Some were stating they were not sure how Council could achieve the aspiration to have "No net loss of bushland", noting large upcoming projects. It was requested that offsets out of our region not be included in meeting the aspiration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The commitments were developed with the knowledge that, although still difficult, they could be achieved. The aspiration was developed as it is necessary to protect bushland, however with future major infrastructure works and development it is acknowledged that this will be highly challenging. No changes are proposed to the commitments and aspiration. The current aspiration of "No net loss of bushland" is referring to bushland within the Northern Beaches. To meet this aspiration, offsets will need to be within the LGA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change proposed to the Strategy. Detailed actions will be considered in the development of the action plans as well as forwarded to the relevant departments for consideration in current programs and works.

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Wildlife Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reiterating that connecting bushland with wildlife corridors, including through private property, is vital. This benefits biodiversity in supporting abundance and diversity in animal and plant populations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife corridors and connectivity are addressed in Theme 1: Bushland and Theme 4: Biodiversity with a commitment for "Improving the connectivity of wildlife corridors". Strategies in these two themes include addressing land-use planning, on ground works and education, engagement and collaboration. To improve understanding of where the action to improve and protect wildlife corridors appears relevant "We will..." items will be amended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the following in the Strategy to make it clear where action for wildlife corridors will be addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 1: Bushland, first "We will" dot point "Work to protect existing bushland, including wildlife corridors, and enhance..." Theme 1: Bushland second "We will..." dot point "Protect our bushland, including wildlife corridors, and its associated biodiversity..." Theme 4: Biodiversity, first "We will..." dot point "Prioritise high value conservation sites, including wildlife corridors, and implement on-ground works, such as bush regeneration..." Theme 4: Biodiversity, second "We will..." dot point "Prepare and implement a strategic approach to biodiversity land management, including identification and protection of wildlife corridors, and use this to inform our strategic land use planning and development controls"

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Tree Cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many submissions supported the retention of trees and tree canopy, including old growth trees. Requesting a percentage increase to be added to the commitment for urban tree canopy. Support to only planting locally native plant species in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting urban trees is captured in the Strategy in Theme 6: Green Neighbourhoods, including with the commitment on pg. 31 of "Increasing the existing urban tree canopy to expand the local green grid". It is also addressed in the "We will..." item on pg. 31 to implement relevant tree plans and strategies, including the Draft Northern Beaches Urban Tree Canopy Plan 2019. The draft Urban Tree Canopy Plan addresses the need to protect mature and existing trees. It also includes a Management Principle to "Encourage the use of native tree species local to the Northern Beaches (where appropriate)". Council recently received additional tree canopy data and is currently reviewing it. Once this information has been assessed we will consider adding a percentage to the commitment under Theme 6: Green Neighbourhoods for "Increasing the existing urban tree canopy to expand the local green grid" during the first review of the Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current change proposed to the Strategy. Council will continue to work to finalise then implement the draft Urban Tree Canopy Plan 2019 to facilitate action.

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Air Quality and other Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests to add in additional information for air quality, noise pollution etc., including specifically those from wood fire heaters. A request to include UV as an issue, noting that addressing shade also addressed urban heat, health and social benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> References in the draft Strategy are to be improved and expanded to various urban hazards, including air, noise, light, water, UV and soil. Insert information on how we will address them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include "air, noise, light, water and soil pollution and UV" into the second paragraph on pg. 27. Add in "We will reduce air, noise, light, water and soil pollution and reduce exposure to UV" on para. 2 on pg. 28. Add in a new "We will" to "Undertake proactive inspections, education programs and environmental auditing to minimise air, noise, water, light and soil pollution and reduce exposure to UV. This includes implementing the NSW Woodsmoke Reduction Program." Insert description of urban hazards into Theme 8 as "Our community will continue to be exposed to urban hazards from past and present development activities, such as air, noise, light, water and soil pollution and UV exposure. The hazards are heavily influenced by land use, with major road corridors linked to noise and air pollution, industrial areas posing risk of stormwater contamination and residential areas contributing to woodsmoke pollution, especially in winter. These hazards are discussed previously in Theme 2: Waterways and Catchments and Theme 5: Sustainable Built Environment." See also the amendment discussed below in the Beaches Link Tunnel and Frenchs Forest topic relating to the Beaches Link Tunnel.

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Circular Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve references for supporting a circular economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion includes reference to emissions from consumption. Further amendments will be made to Theme 7: Sustainable Living and in Council Operations to include supporting a circular economy. There is currently a strong focus on "Collaboration, education and engagement to motivate and mobilise our community" which will include education on supporting a circular economy and a commitment for "Increasing the frequency of everyday sustainable behaviours in our community". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add in to Theme 7: Sustainable Living, paragraph 4 "As a community we need to support a strong circular economy and where possible buy and source products locally". Add in a definition for a circular economy to the glossary as "A circular economy is an alternative to a traditional linear economy (make, use, dispose) in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life". Amend Council Operations "We Will..." statement to say "Monitor our waste generation and minimise waste, maximise recycling, reduce waste to landfill and support a circular economy."

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Beaches Link Tunnel and Frenchs Forest Precinct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submissions expressed generally not wanting more bushland lost to either the Frenchs Forest Precinct or the Beaches Link Tunnel. Further, the submissions do not support more cars in the Northern Beaches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frenchs Forest Precinct is being developed along its own planning process. This has included precinct specific studies. Council's endorsed position on the Beaches Link Tunnel is to support the project subject to public transport and the resolution of design matters and associated impacts (Local Strategic Planning Statement, A19.7). This Strategy is being updated to better address air quality issues and a specific reference to the tunnel is proposed in Theme 5: Sustainable Built Environment. Further, Northern Beaches Move Transport Strategy, referenced in this strategy, includes transitioning our community to lower emissions vehicle, increasing public and active transport and reducing private car use. For projects like this into the future there are various goals, commitments and strategies which relate to protection of the environment and building sustainably, which include the aspirations for "No net loss of bushland" and "Net zero emissions in our community by 2030". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend Theme 5: Sustainable Built Environment "We will..." dot point 4 into the following two items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Encourage state and federal governments to rapidly drive down emissions and water use and avoid pollution through actions such as better building standards for residential and non-residential buildings and relevant infrastructure e.g. increasing BASIX and implementing standards for non-residential development. Partner with all levels of government to deliver best practice infrastructure e.g. the Beaches Link Tunnel and the rapid public transport expansion and associated infrastructure."

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Single Use Plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for reducing single use plastics. Regarding our waterways, requesting to focus on keeping single use plastics, and other litter, out of our waterways in the first place as well as strategies for removing them once they make their way in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single use plastics are referenced primarily in Theme 2: Waterways and Catchments, Theme 3: Coast and Theme 7: Sustainable Living. In these themes there are commitments relating specifically to the reduction of single use plastics. There are accompanying strategies for how to meet these commitments which include education, engagement, collaboration, innovation, partnerships and removal works. Propose to amend the commitments for Themes 2 and 3 to make it clearer that this includes control actions at the point of origin as well as removal. Increase the scope of the Strategy in Theme 7: Sustainable Living to include disposable items and increasing use of reusable items as well as minimising single use plastics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend the commitment in Theme 2: Waterways and Catchments to "Actively working to keep single use plastics and other litter out of our network". Amend the commitment in Theme 3: Coast to "Actively working to keep single use plastics and other litter off our coast". Update the "We will..." in Theme 7: Sustainable Living on pg. 35 to read "Minimise the use of single use plastics and disposable items by promoting use of reusable items." Council will continue ongoing implementation of current programs to reduce single use plastics.
Dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submissions stated that the impact of dogs on native wildlife was not considered in a similar way to other threats including the need to keep dogs on leashes. Some submissions also addressed the issues of dogs on beaches, both for and against. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed to amend Theme 4: Biodiversity to refer to feral and domestic animals, therefore including dogs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend Theme 4: Biodiversity, paragraph 5, to "To protect our biodiversity we need to consider and protect each different scale, from the worms that process nutrients in our estuaries, to reducing the impact of feral and domestic animals on our native wildlife".
CREATE			

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Local Food Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These submissions requested the inclusion of greater reference to local food production and sales in the Strategy. The primary focus was to reduce food miles and in the case of community gardens, promote social connection and green infrastructure. Submissions also requested that education was needed in the community on how to buy without packaging etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include a specific mention of the importance of buying local, which includes through local food hubs/forests/production/markets and education in Theme 7: Sustainable Living. It is included currently in the dot point 7 to "Actively engage in partnerships, research and innovation opportunities to improve uptake of sustainable living choices". Further, it is acknowledged in its contribution to green infrastructure and the green grid in the definition on Theme 6: Green Neighbourhoods (pg. 30). There is a reference on pg. 12 that "It is also important that we address the emissions created in producing and transporting the food we eat...." Further we will consider actions on how to support this in the development of the action plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add in to Theme 7: Sustainable Living, paragraph 4 "As a community we need to support a strong circular economy and where possible buy and source products locally" (Note: this is also listed under the Circular Economy issue). Amend Theme 7: Sustainable Living, "We will..." first dot point to "Motivate, inspire, support and encourage our community to reduce resource consumption and emissions production. We will promote making choices to reduce waste production, energy and water use by buying and sourcing products locally. We will do this through engagement, education and incentives..."
Greener Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for green infrastructure, in particular vertical and roof gardens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 6: Green Neighbourhoods discusses improving our local green infrastructure. This does include vertical and roof gardens and reference to these will be made clearer in the relevant "We will..." item. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Theme 6: Green Neighbourhoods, second dot point under "We will..." on pg. 31 to "Support, encourage and enable green infrastructure development, including vertical and roof gardens, through our planning instruments and regulations."
LIVE			

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Emissions from other Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure reducing emissions from sources other than energy use and waste production are discussed. This includes emissions associated with consumption and purchasing of items such as clothes, building materials, diet, food etc. are being discussed and the community educated to reduce these emissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed to rename the infographic on pg. 29 to Environmental Footprint and add a definition on pg. 44. Discussion on both scales of emissions and resource use is currently included in the strategy. Examples include Theme 7: Sustainable Living with (updated version) "Motivate, inspire, support and encourage our community to reduce resource consumption and emissions production. We will promote making choices to reduce waste production, energy and water use, buying and sourcing products locally, diet, minimising long distance travel etc. We will do this through engagement, education and incentives. To do this we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review and maximise Council's environment centres and other programs to deliver the goals and commitments in this strategy; and support community groups to deliver sustainable living choices". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend the Strategy to include a definition on pg. 44 of Environmental Footprint as follows: "The effect that a person, company, activity etc. has on the environment, for example the amount of natural resources they use and the amount of harmful gasses they produce". Label the infographic on pg. 29 "Environmental Footprint". Update the Strategy as described in the topic Local Food Production above to include references to buying local.
Definition of Live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a potential to expand the Live statement on pg. 5 to include reference to natural hazards and being prepared for current impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the introduction on page 5 to the Live section to reflect that it refers to addressing current and future impacts of natural hazards as well as climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend the Live definition on pg. 5 to "We will live sustainably every day to reduce our waste generation and resource use, and so we are prepared for current and future impacts of natural hazards and climate change".

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Supporting Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embrace innovation to tackle the challenges faced. This includes through partnerships and collaboration on projects and initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting innovation is represented throughout the document in the "We will..." statements in most Themes, for example in Theme 3: Coast as "Actively engage in partnerships, research and innovation opportunities to improve the way we do things." Increase the Theme 8 "We will..." to include innovation here as well. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Theme 8 "We will..." dot point 3 to "Continually incorporate best available climate change and natural hazard knowledge and practices, including considering innovative solutions, into our strategic land use planning, development controls, construction and operations."
Coastal Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submissions discussed that Council needs to have a planned approach to managing coastal erosion. This includes considering the planned retreat and also included support both for and against building seawalls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitments in Theme 8: Adaptation and Resilience in the commitments "...actively managing risks from bushfires, coastal erosion and inundation...." and "Public infrastructure designed, constructed and maintained to address climate change". Further, in Theme 3, the "We will" item relating to undertaking works is being expanded to include protecting people and property from coastal processes. More detail on how we go about this, including through development and implementation of Coastal Zone Management Plans and Coastal Management Programs, will be considered in the action plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend the Theme 3: Coast, "We will..." dot point 3 to "Improve the condition of our coastal and marine environment using regeneration and habitat enhancement techniques, and minimise the impacts of coastal processes on people and property." Continue to develop and implement Coastal Zone Management Plans and Coastal Management Programs.

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for waste reduction, including composting. This included a strong focus on the need for education and engagement to achieve change. Queries regarding getting a residential food/organic bin collection service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste reduction is included in commitments in Theme 7: Sustainable Living which aim to reduce waste to landfill and the amount of waste generated per person. There are a number of relevant "We will..." items in this theme which address education, supporting innovation and service delivery. The concept of the circular economy has also been addressed (see previous discussion) and amendments proposed to include this in the Strategy. With regard to a residential organic waste collection service, this service is currently provided by post collection sorting of the red bins and future innovations and improvements to this process are captured in the "We will..." items in Theme 7: Sustainable Living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change proposed to the Strategy. Council will continue to deliver community waste education programs, implement the new waste service and seek opportunities for innovation.

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
COUNCIL OPERATIONS			
More ambitious Council Commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering Council has greater control over its own operations, than the greater community, the commitments for Councils Operations should be more ambitious. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current commitments were developed following detailed modelling for the Council operations. The commitments consider the scale of shift needed to achieve net zero emissions across Council and the complexity of infrastructure upgrades, low emission heavy vehicle opportunities, existing contracts etc. is deemed that achieving the proposed commitments will be ambitious. Council's water reduction target was developed considering water efficiency upgrades already completed, impacts of varying weather conditions over time on irrigation demands and large scale reductions being heavily reliant on significant infrastructure changes. Council's commitment was selected to be more ambitious than the community's and we will continue to seek opportunities to reduce our water use by 10%. No amendments are proposed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change proposed to the Strategy. Continue to seek opportunities to reduce our emissions and water use, including energy efficiency upgrades, the expansion of solar across Council assets and water saving projects.
GENERAL			

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support was expressed for one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of the Environment The whole Protect. Create. Live. - Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040 (the strategy) Climate Change Action Climate Change Declaration The significant majority of submissions were in support of the strategy. Submissions were considered to be in support of the strategy if they included a direct comment of support as well as if they directly addressed what the strategy is aiming to achieve. For example, a submission that discussed needing better bicycle path networks was taken as in support as this aligns with items included in the strategy and overall what it is aiming to achieve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strong support for the strategy, climate change action and the Climate Change Emergency is acknowledged. An amendment has been proposed to include reference to the Climate Change Emergency Declaration made by Council in August 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend pg. 10, 1st paragraph under Climate Change to read, "Council declared a climate emergency in August 2019 noting that we must take the opportunity to work collaboratively with the community and key stakeholders to accelerate action. We need to significantly reduce carbon emissions to minimise future risks and address long term predicted effects of climate change, including impacts from sea level rise..."

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Do not support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not support Council with regards to one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action on climate change. Supporting renewable energy. Prioritising other actions over collection of waste, maintenance of roads and collection of rates. Submissions were focussed on the following main areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-acceptance that human induced climate change was occurring It is not as bad as it is being made out. This is not an issue for local government to deal with. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council's Shape 2028 Community Strategic Plan, developed with extensive community consultation, includes Community Outcomes for Environmental Protection and Environmental Sustainability. These both include the need to address both protecting our environment and addressing climate change. Council's adopted position acknowledges that we are in a state of climate emergency that requires immediate action. Various legislation relevant to Council stipulates Council is to protect our environment and address climate change, for example through ecologically sustainable development principles and by considering impacts on future generations in decisions today. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend the Strategy to include at the start of pg. 8 under Our Strategic Line of Sight "Various legislation requires Council to take action to protect our environment and consider the impacts on future generations in the decisions we make today. Further..."

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Action Level Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of comments received proposed actions for Council to consider implementing as part of the Strategy. Comments varied from specific location comments, such as trees in a certain park, to general actions like supporting composting in schools and community gardens etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each suggestion was considered to ensure that the concept of the action being proposed was sufficiently represented in the Strategy. All action level comments are being recorded and will be incorporated when developing the relevant action plans. The strategy discussed the action plans in both the "Our Plans" section (pg. 9) and the Implementing the strategy section (pg42). Comments relating to work being undertaken currently will be forwarded to the relevant department for consideration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change is proposed to the Strategy. Where work is already being done we will continue doing this, for other actions they will be considered in development of the action plans.
Education, Engagement and Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reiterating how important education, engagement and collaboration is going to be to achieve the goals in the strategy. This included the importance of the environment centres as conduits for delivering the education, engagement and collaboration. It is important Council work with established community groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was considered during the development of the Strategy which has a strong focus on education, engagement and collaboration. This is introduced on page 14 under Council's ability to influence. As well as paragraphs about Education and Engagement and Collaboration there is a statement that reads "It will take mobilising our entire community to achieve the goals, commitments and aspirations in this plan. Collaboration, engagement and education has been incorporated throughout the themes to ensure the natural environment is protected, valued and enjoyed by our community, and the community is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change is proposed to the Strategy. Council will continue to partner with various local community groups and key stakeholders to leverage their knowledge, expertise and local connections.

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
		<p>motivated, inspired and supported to live more sustainably".</p>	

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Population Growth - Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsupportive of population growth due to concerns that infrastructure is currently inadequate. These submissions focused on the need to improve public transport and active travel infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategy discusses population growth on pg. 12 under Challenges and Opportunities. It includes "We need to manage any growth so it occurs in the right locations and is supported by sustainable infrastructure." and "To address this challenge, we need to: ... provide suitable supporting infrastructure." The challenge of our transport network is also discussed. This Strategy references the Move - Northern Beaches Transport Strategy in "We will..." items in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 5: Sustainable Built Environment "Implement the Northern Beaches Move Transport Strategy to improve travel infrastructure, public transport, mass transit and community behaviour"; and Theme 7: Sustainable Living "Implement the Northern Beaches Move Transport Strategy to accelerate our transition to low emissions vehicles and increase our active travel trips." This issue is also addressed in the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) in Priority 9 and Priority 19. These include promoting the regional public transport network which will promote north-south and east-west connections enhancing connections to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change is proposed to the Strategy, noting that Council will continue to deliver infrastructure improvements, for example improved shared path networks, and advocate to other level of government to do the same, for example through the expansion of the rapid transport network.

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
		<p>strategic and metropolitan centres to improve access to jobs and services. The public transport connections identified in Priority 19 not only guide planning decisions about future growth, but they also respond to existing settlement patterns and will enhance public transport for existing residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSPS includes a number of actions for the preparation of studies that will address both existing and projected needs. These studies include housing, employment, social infrastructure, green infrastructure and transport. They also include an LGA-wide land use infrastructure implementation plan which will set out a plan for funding and timing for delivery of new infrastructure. 	

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Population Growth - Environmental Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsupportive of population growth due to the fact this, and associated development, will make it hard to reach the goals, aspirations and commitments in the strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pressure of population growth is addressed on pg. 12 under Challenges and Opportunities. It notes that "We know that development can put significant pressure on our environment. This includes the impacts that come from increasing consumption and an expanding urban footprint." and continues to say we need to address this challenge through "ensuring housing is suitable and sustainable; provide suitable supporting infrastructure; and protect the natural environment." Population growth, and associated development, is a key driver for the Create section of the Strategy which acknowledges that "Development is a constant pressure of urban living. We have the opportunity to use our land use planning instruments and controls to design and build our neighbourhoods well so they fit within our natural environment, rather than damage and destroy it, and reduce resource use." Further the challenge is noted in Theme 7: Sustainable Living as "The amount we use and consume is set to rise as the Northern Beaches populations grows...". Actions which impact this are discussed as larger households with more people, owning and driving petrol or diesel cars, taking long flights and eating meat." The strategies in Theme 5 and 7 list ways in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With consideration for reducing resource consumption references supporting a circular economy have been improved as described in the "Circular economy" topic previously. No other changes to the Strategy are proposed.

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
		<p>which we will engage with the community around reducing consumption and emissions, how we will use land use planning controls to reduce resource use, work in partnership for innovative solutions and advocate other levels of government for influential change.</p>	

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Aboriginal Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requesting additional references to the Aboriginal Heritage of the Northern Beaches. This included acknowledging their strong connection to the past as well as protecting sites into the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council staff worked with the Aboriginal Heritage Office (AHO) to prepare appropriate updates to the strategy. It was recommended that changes recognise the long standing relationship Aboriginal people have with the land. Amend the Strategy to address the impacts on aboriginal sites from climate change and natural hazards and strategies to protect these. Guidance for this came from the recent Coastal Erosion of Aboriginal Heritage (AHO, 2019) report recently prepared The following existing two "We will..." statements are relevant to Aboriginal heritage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pg19, Theme 1: Bushland. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Consider scenic and cultural landscapes and heritage in strategic land-use planning, development controls and when undertaking works". pg39, Theme 8: Adaptation and Resilience. "Collect good quality, meaningful data and leverage local knowledge to support and enable decisions". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insert information on pg 6 in place of the current Strategy Time Line referencing Aboriginal Heritage. Amend the second paragraph under the Climate Change heading on pg. 10 to: "Climate change is affecting biodiversity and water quality as ecosystems respond to increased temperatures. Severe storms and rising sea levels have potential to erode Aboriginal heritage sites. We may see changes to insurance premiums and maintenance and repair costs, while heatwaves will impact public health." Add in additional discussion on Aboriginal Heritage sites to Theme 8: Adaptation and Resilience, paragraph 1 on pg. 38: "We will also see impacts on the diversity of our plants and animals (IPBES, 2019). Our local Aboriginal heritage sites will be exposed to more severe erosion (AHO, 2019)". Add in an additional "We will..." strategy to Theme 8: Adaptation and Resilience: "Continue to monitor and record Aboriginal and European heritage sites, salvage sites, undertake conservation works where appropriate, and deliver education and training programs". Insert a reference for the AHO report: "Aboriginal Heritage Office (2019) Coastal Erosion of Aboriginal Heritage, North Sydney 2019".

Issue Title	Issue description	Response	Recommendation
Youth Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the early stages of the public engagement we received a number of submissions requesting that Council engage with local youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to the early submission stating that they wanted more youth engagement we did the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posted to KALOF social media page for comments. Sent emails to local 'green' teachers encouraging them to promote making submissions to their students. Discussed the engagement to the Youth Advisory Committee at their meeting, including a follow up reminder email. Continued posts on other social media platforms. In addition, members of the Green Team, which is a youth-run, volunteer-based environment initiative, attended a community run workshop to prepare comments and submissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The promotion of the draft Strategy was expanded during the consultation period with consideration for youth. The final submission numbers showed that at least 30 of the written submissions came from people aged 25 and under.

ITEM 5.2	DRAFT PROTECTION OF WATERWAYS AND RIPARIAN LAND POLICY
REPORTING OFFICER	SENIOR ENVIRONMENT OFFICER - CATCHMENTS
TRIM FILE REF	2019/671896
ATTACHMENTS	1 ↓ Draft Protection of Waterways and Riparian Land Policy

ISSUE

A comprehensive policy review project is underway to ensure a concise and consistent approach on all policy matters across the Northern Beaches. As part of this project, a draft policy has been created that combines a number of existing policies relating to waterways and riparian areas.

BACKGROUND

Prior to amalgamation, the former Pittwater, Manly and Warringah councils approached the protection of waterways and riparian areas with the same intent but using different methods. Provisions were variously contained in Local Environmental Plans (LEPs), Development Control Plans (DCPs) or policies, depending on the individual council. Council intends to harmonise these inconsistencies by incorporating waterway and riparian protection into the new LEP and DCP in a consistent manner throughout the entire Local Government Area (LGA). In the meantime, the principles and general intent of the existing policies will be carried forward into a single new policy. However, there are no policy position changes.

The policies relating to protection of waterways and riparian areas that are being combined are:

- Pittwater Policy No 67 – Watercourse Preservation
- Warringah Policy No PL740 – Protection of Waterways and Riparian Land

The new Draft Protection of Waterways and Riparian Land Policy (the Policy) contains essentially the same provisions relating to waterway and riparian land protection as the above two policies. Any changes are simply to align with the new Policy format.

DISCUSSION

Council is currently investigating ways to improve protection of waterways and riparian land through the new LEP and DCP process. Principles in the draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) in Priority 1 relating to healthy and valued waterways set the direction for the LEP and DCP. The intention is to incorporate provisions into the LEP and DCP rather than having them contained in a policy. The LEP and DCP will afford a stronger level of protection than a policy would. For this reason, the draft Policy carries forward the principles and general intent of the previous documents it replaces.

The outcome of this work will be reported and discussed next year with the SRG as part of the LEP and DCP consultation process.

RECOMMENDATION OF SENIOR ENVIRONMENT OFFICER - CATCHMENTS

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group notes the draft Protection of Waterways and Riparian Land Policy.

Council Policy

Protection of Waterways and Riparian Land Policy

Policy Statement

Council aims to protect, enhance and restore waterways and riparian land while ensuring protection of public and private property across the Northern Beaches. This involves managing, protecting and restoring waterways and riparian land in a manner that allows them to function as natural systems where possible. It also involves considering risk from instability, erosion and flooding. It will lead to waterways and riparian areas that are healthy, resilient and valued by the community.

Council's commitment to the protection and restoration of waterways and riparian land is further outlined in *Towards 2040 – Local Strategic Planning Statement* and *Northern Beaches Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040*.

Principles

Council is committed to:

- Managing, protecting and restoring waterways and riparian land in a manner that allows them to function as natural systems where possible and considers risk from instability, erosion and flooding.
- Improving the quality of water discharged to our natural areas to protect the ecological and recreational condition of our beaches, waterways, riparian areas and bushland.
- Minimising the risk to public health and safety.
- Conserving watercourses or restoring them to their natural state where possible.
- Discouraging the piping of natural watercourses
- Prioritising the management of waterways and riparian areas that are:
 - Significant to threatened species,
 - Within mapped wildlife corridors,
 - Most closely represent natural conditions.

Scope and application

This Policy applies to all land containing waterways and riparian land. Where these lands have not been identified in a Local Environmental Plan or Development Control Plan, the riparian land widths are to be applied according to Attachment 1 to this Policy.

The application of the policy is as follows:

1. Protection of Waterway and Riparian Land

- a. Natural ecological processes of waterways and riparian land shall be maintained and enhanced to the greatest extent possible by:
 - causing no net loss to biodiversity;
 - supporting natural flow regimes;

- minimising bank erosion and promoting naturalistic bank protection works when stabilisation is necessary (i.e. soft engineering outcomes);
 - preventing alteration of watercourses (includes piping, channelling, relocation or removal);
 - improving plant communities through natural area restoration;
 - maintaining natural floodplains where appropriate.
- b. Bushfire asset protection zones shall be maintained outside of riparian land.
 - c. Piping of watercourses is discouraged, and piped or channelised watercourses shall be reinstated to more natural forms where possible.
 - d. Cultural heritage shall be preserved and opportunities created for appropriate public access and recreation in publicly owned land.

Note: Public access should be located outside riparian zones where possible except for crossing points or other strategic locations.

2. Protection of Life and Property

- a. Appropriate riparian setback distances shall be incorporated into new development to avoid damage to public and private property.
- b. Development shall be sited and designed to maintain the stability of watercourse bed and banks.
- c. Risks to life and property shall be minimised by observing floodplain development controls.

3. Development

- a. Where private property is at risk of being damaged, landowners may protect their property through appropriate protection works. This may require the submission of a Development Application to Council. The applicant is to clearly demonstrate through a suitably qualified engineer's report that the asset is at risk of being damaged. In addition the report is to clearly demonstrate protection works will cause no adverse impacts to neighbouring or nearby properties and the design is to use natural materials where possible.
- b. Development within waterways and riparian land should be avoided.

Parts 3c and 3d of this policy apply to Region 2 – Central Stormwater Region (see Map 1).

- c. Where development is proposed within waterways and riparian land, a Waterway Impact Statement shall be submitted with the development application. The Waterway Impact Statement should:
 - contain sufficient information so Council can assess how the application complies with the principles of the policy;
 - identify potential impacts of the development;
 - demonstrate how the development will enhance, or as a minimum, not adversely affect, ecological function or limit opportunities to reinstate the area in the future to the greatest possible extent;
 - where appropriate, contain an engineer's report showing that the proposed development is not at risk of damage from creek bank erosion;
 - For details refer to the Guidelines for Preparing a Waterway Impact Statement.

- d. Council shall routinely apply notations that include provisions in relation to Waterways and Riparian Land (for properties that are identified on the Warringah DCP 2011 Waterways and Riparian Lands map) to planning certificates under Section 10.7 of the *Environmental Protection and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW).

4. Compliance

Compliance matters including but not limited to reshaping, landscaping, dumping, piping, removal or clearing of waterways or riparian land will be prioritised and managed in accordance with Council's Compliance and Enforcement Policy and associated Compliance and Enforcement Guidelines.

5. Priority

To the extent, if any, to which there is any conflict or inconsistency between any of the principles set out above, the provisions contained in the section entitled 'Protection of Life and Property' shall prevail to the extent of the conflict or inconsistency.

References and related documents

- *Protect, Create, Live – Northern Beaches Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040*
- *Towards 2040 – Northern Beaches Local Strategic Planning Statement*
- *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
- *Water Management Act 2000*
- *Sydney Coastal Councils Group Model DCP: Protecting Sydney's Wetlands (2001)*
- *Guidelines for Preparing a Waterway Impact Statement (2014)*
- *Strahler System of Stream Order (1957)*

Definitions

Creek: see Watercourse

Estuary:

- (a) any part of a river whose level is periodically or intermittently affected by coastal tides, or
- (b) any lake or other partially enclosed body of water that is periodically or intermittently open to the sea, or
- (c) anything declared by the regulations to be an estuary.

High quality catchment: Catchments shown on the maps attached to this policy. These catchments have been identified in the Warringah Creek Management Study 2004, the Waterway Classification and Condition Assessment 2015, or as having high ecological value in their lower reaches and generally low intensity of development elsewhere.

Riparian Land: land comprising the riparian zone, riparian buffer and wetland buffer as identified on the Warringah Waterways and Riparian Land Map, or as defined in the Policy.

Riparian Zone: any land which adjoins, directly influences, or is influenced by a body of water. The width of the zone varies according to extent of riparian vegetation, flood levels, water quality, and channel form. This zone is taken to start at the highest bank of the watercourse (as defined in the Water Management Act 2000) (for ephemeral streams without a defined channel, the start of the riparian zone is the creek centre line). The riparian zone provides important habitat, protects the creek from water quality and hydrological impacts and has other functions including intrinsic value as well as providing bed and bank stability, woody debris to the waterway, and a buffer between development and waterways.

Riparian Buffer: any land which is additional to the riparian zone necessary to protect the values and health of the riparian zone. The primary purpose of the buffer is to protect the integrity of the riparian zone. The combined width of the buffer and riparian zone then constitute a key protective mechanism for the ecological values of waterway systems. The minimum width of a riparian buffer is generally 10 metres, and is dependent on the catchment characteristics, slope and environmental values associated with the riparian corridor.

The buffer is primarily designed to:

- a) Prevent water from affecting riparian vegetation (e.g. additional moisture, local erosion, nutrients, toxicants);
- b) Prevent weeds from invading the riparian zone; and
- c) Provide habitat for native fauna (thereby protecting it from external threats such as domestic animals).

River: has the meaning ascribed to it in the Act, and therefore includes:

- (a) any watercourse, whether perennial or intermittent and whether comprising a natural channel or a natural channel artificially improved, and
- (b) any tributary, branch or other watercourse into or from which a watercourse referred to in paragraph (a) flows, and
- (c) anything declared by the regulations to be a river, whether or not it also forms part of a lake or estuary, but does not include anything declared by the regulations not to be a river.

Waterbody (artificial): an artificial body of water, including any constructed waterway, canal, inlet, bay, channel, dam, pond, lake or artificial wetland, but does not include a dry detention basin or other stormwater management construction that is only intended to hold water intermittently.

Waterbody (natural): a natural body of water, whether perennial or intermittent, fresh, brackish or saline, the course of which may have been artificially modified or diverted onto a new course, and includes a river, creek, stream, lake, lagoon, natural wetland, estuary, bay, inlet or tidal waters (including the sea).

Watercourse: any river, creek, stream or chain of ponds, whether artificially modified or not, in which water usually flows, either continuously or intermittently, in a defined bed or channel, but does not include a waterbody (artificial). This may include drainage lines, concrete channels and ephemeral streams. First order watercourses are those with no tributaries, second order streams form following the confluence of two first order streams, third order streams form where two second order streams meet, and so on.

Waterway: the whole or any part of a watercourse, wetland, waterbody (artificial) or waterbody (natural).

Wetland: includes:

- (a) natural wetland, including marshes, mangroves, backwaters, billabongs, swamps, sedgelands, wet meadows or wet heathland that form a shallow waterbody (up to 2 metres in depth) when inundated cyclically, intermittently or permanently with fresh, brackish or salt water, and where the inundation determines the type and productivity of the soils and the plant and animal communities; or
- (b) artificial wetland, including marshes, swamps, wet meadows, sedgelands or wet heathland that form a shallow waterbody (up to 2 metres in depth) when inundated cyclically, intermittently or permanently with water, and are constructed and vegetated with wetland plant communities.

Wetland buffer: means 100m buffer of land, measured from the shoreline, surrounding a wetland which directly influences and protects a wetland.

NOTE: Where a term or expression listed above is defined in the Dictionary at the end of the Act, then, to the extent to which there may be any inconsistency or disharmony between the definition in the Act and that contained in this Policy, the definition in the Act prevails as a matter of law.

However, in all other respects, any additional material provided by way of amplification, explanation in any such definition, or in any other definitions set out in this Section 10 of this Policy, shall have full force and effect according to their tenor.

Responsible Officer

Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change

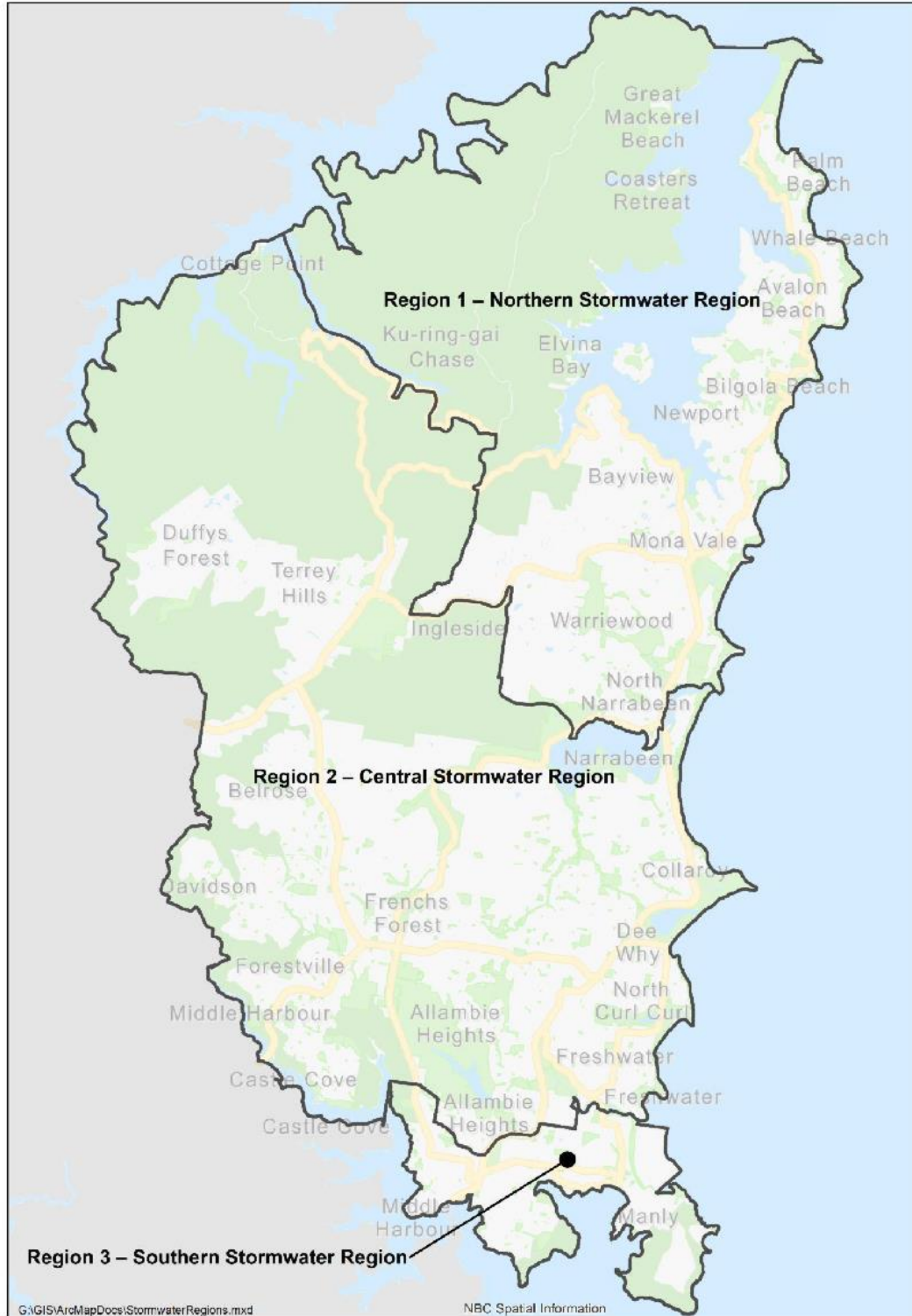
Review Date

December 2023

Revision History

Revision	Date	Status	TRIM Ref
1	17 December 2019	First draft Protection of Waterways and Riparian Lands policy	2019/639421
2			

Map 1 – Northern Beaches Stormwater Regions



Attachment 1

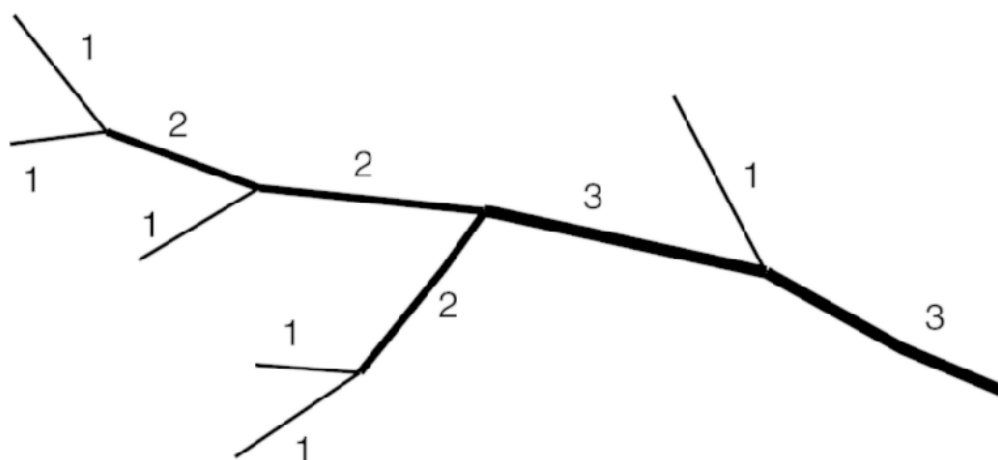
Table 1 Recommended Riparian Land widths

Type of watercourse	Riparian land width, measured from the highest bank on both sides of the watercourse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any first order¹ watercourse and/or where there is a defined channel where water flows intermittently 	10 metre riparian zone plus a 10 metre riparian buffer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any permanently flowing first order watercourse, and/or any second order¹ watercourse where there is a defined channel where water flows intermittently or permanently 	20 metres riparian zone plus a 10 metre riparian buffer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any third order¹ or greater watercourse, and/or where there is a defined channel where water flows intermittently or permanently (includes estuaries, wetland and any parts of rivers influenced by tidal waters). 	20 – 40 metres ² riparian zone plus a 10 metre riparian buffer

¹ as classified under the Strahler System of ordering watercourses (see Figure 1) and based on current 1:25 000 topographic maps

² merit assessment based on riparian functionality of the river, lake or estuary, the site and long-term land use.

Figure 1 The Strahler stream ordering system



Note: In the application of the Strahler stream order to hydrology, each segment of a stream or river within a river network is treated as a node in a tree, with the next segment downstream as its parent. When two first-order streams come together, they form a second order stream. When two second-order streams come together, they form a third-order stream. Streams of lower order joining a higher order stream do not change the order of the higher stream. Thus, if a first-order stream joins a second order stream it remains a second-order stream. It is not until a second-order stream combines with another second order stream that it becomes a third-order stream, and so on.