



northern
beaches
council

Environment
Strategic Reference Group

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held in the Online via Teams on

THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2021

**Minutes of the Environment
Strategic Reference Group
held online via TEAMS on Thursday 18 February 2021
Commencing at 6:04pm**

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Alex McTaggart <i>(Acting Chairperson)</i>	Councillor
Sophie Scott	Community Representative – Manly Ward
Roberta Conroy	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Billy Bragg	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Scott Markich	Community Representative – Narrabeen Ward
Alan Jones	Community Representative – Curl Curl Ward
Tom Hazell	Community Representative – Curl Curl Ward
Nigel Howard	Community Representative – Frenchs Forest Ward
Jacqueline Marlow	Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

Council Officer Contacts

Yianni Mentis	Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change
Ben Fallowfield	Resilience & Emergency Management Coordinator <i>(item 6.1)</i>
Patrick Stuart	Senior Floodplain Management Officer <i>(item 6.2)</i>
Andrew Ward-Harvey	Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing <i>(item 6.3)</i>
Jacqueline Grove	Manager, Environment Resilience & Climate Change <i>(item 6.4)</i>
Ximena Von Oven	Governance Officer

NOTE: Cr McTaggart chaired the meeting as Cr Warren was an apology.

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As a sign of respect, Northern Beaches Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and pays respect to Elders past and present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cr Warren, Cr Sprott, T Dickinson, D Tribe and M Mcrae

3.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 19 NOVEMBER 2020

DECISION

That the Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 19 November 2020, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting subject to the below amendment:

Item 6.5 to read:

Climate Change

SRG members raised concerns on this topic. Northern Beaches Council has declared a Climate Emergency, however some members noted that this is not being reflected on Council's website, in the Protect Create Live Strategy or in the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).

Action

T Dickinson to arrange meeting with N Howard, Y Mentis, L Kerr and A Pigott to discuss climate change and how Council can better respond in its planning documents, in its strategies and action plans and on the website.

5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

21 January 2021 Teams Meeting

Nigel Howard, Billy Bragg, Alan Jones and Jacqueline Marlow met with Todd Dickinson, Director Environment and Sustainability, Yianni Mentis, Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change, Jacqueline Grove, Manager Environment Resilience and Climate Change, Andrew Piggott, Executive Manager Strategic Place and Planning, Louise Kerr, Director Place and Planning, Neil Cocks, Manager Strategic and Place Planning and Suzy Lawrence, Principal Planner, met via Teams to discuss the lack of consideration of the Climate Emergency within the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).

Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG) members considered there was still an opportunity to incorporate their feedback to the LSPS, however this was not feasible anymore.

Another opportunity for the ESRG member to incorporate their feedback into the planning documents would be through the Development Control Plan (DCP) and Local Environment Planning (LEP).

A follow-up face-to-face meeting was requested to discuss other aspects of Council's response with regards to Climate Emergency, Protect Create Live Strategy, Transport Strategy, Housing Strategy, DCP and LEP and whether these were on a trajectory to meet the community net zero aspirations to 2030 and commitments to 2050.

1 February 2021 Meeting (Flannel Flower, Dee Why)

Nigel Howard, Billy Bragg, Alan Jones and Jacqueline Marlow met with Yianni Mentis, Jacqueline Grove met to consider the wider issues. A detailed spreadsheet was reviewed with the attendees. The below points were discussed:

- Scale of community emissions from different activities and the estimated potential for reductions to 2030, 2040, 2050 which highlighted that current initiatives and actions were not close to adequate and that there were significant sectors (e.g. business - 44% of community emissions) for which there seemed to be little to no initiatives.
- Review of the current website from a climate emergency perspective and a proposed restructure of content and where new content was needed for it to appropriately address the climate emergency.
- References to information sources and a review of the high level policies being adopted in all of the other Local Government Areas that have made a Climate Emergency Declaration.

ESRG members advocated that there is no other issue for which the Council has made an "Emergency Declaration" (even COVID) and that there not enough acknowledgement and initiatives to respond to the Climate Emergency. Climate Emergency is a big issues and constitutes an existential threat to our entire species and 90% of others and unfortunately Council's response is not even close to commensurate with the scale of the challenge. Y Mentis, agreed to consider the presentation and spreadsheet, and adjust website to reflect emphasis on climate change.

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 NORTHERN BEACHES RESILIENCE STRATEGY

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Ben Fallowfield, Resilience and Emergency Management Coordinator briefed the Strategic Reference Group (SRG) members on this topic. A Resilience Strategy (the strategy) is being developed by Northern Beaches Council to continue building the resilience of the community to the impact of short and longer term disruptions. The importance of collective resilience is highlighted in the strategy. This means that all aspects of the community have a shared responsibility, including government, business, groups and individuals.

A presentation on this topic was provided.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

The following items were discussed:

- Background of the strategy

- Definition of resilience
- Importance of a resilient community
- Drivers for action towards a resilient community
- Community and organisational resilience
- Proposed community engagement

Timeframe.

ACTION

That members of the Environment Strategic Reference Group participate in further engagement activities to assist in the development of the Resilience Strategy.

6.2 NARRABEEN LAGOON ENTRANCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Yianni Mentis, Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change provided an introduction on this topic. Patrick Stuart, Senior Floodplain Management Officer was introduced to the SRG members. Council is in the process of developing the Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Strategy (the strategy). The strategy will investigate all aspects of entrance management, including emergency response arrangements, clearance work improvements and the long-term costs and sustainability of entrance specific options.

A video regarding Narrabeen Lagoon management was presented to the group.

Council's website - Your Say

https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/narrabeen-lagoon-entrance-management-strategy?utm_source=northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au&utm_medium=301&utm_campaign=Website

You Tube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXcSLDlMlqQ&feature=youtu.be>

ITEMS DISCUSSED

Members highlighted that the surfer community, flood situations and ecological factors should be considered when developing the strategy.

6.3 NORTHERN BEACHES WASTE STRATEGY

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Y Mentis introduced Andrew Ward-Harvey, Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing to the SRG members. Council is in the process of preparing a Waste Strategy (the strategy) which will align with the NSW Government's 20 year Waste Strategy.

A presentation on this topic was provided.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

The following items were discussed:

- Background of the strategy
- Process and Challenges of developing the strategy
- Vision of the strategy
- Areas on which the community can improve with regards to waste reduction
- Guiding principles
 - Keep Northern Beaches clean and protected from waste
 - Maximise circularity of materials and resources
 - Efficient Waste Management System
- Focus Areas of the strategy.

Recycling of waste, promotion of a circular model economy, impact of plastic waste on wildlife, polystyrene packaging and its impact on the environment were topics highlighted by the SRG members.

SRG members expressed their interest in meeting with A Ward-Harvey to further discuss the strategy.

ACTIONS

- SRG members requested to meet with A Ward-Harvey to further discuss the Waste Strategy.
- A Ward-Harvey to contact Louise Kerr, Director Place and Planning to discuss the amount of waste generated from construction projects.

6.4 STAFF UPDATE

DISCUSSION

Y Mentis updated the group on the following topics:

- The draft Climate Action Plan is undergoing final edits for completion and uploading on Council's website.
- Outcomes of the public exhibition of the Draft Bush Fire Management Policy and Draft Bushland and Biodiversity Policy will be presented to Council at its February meeting.
- Preparations for the 2021 bushfire season have included ongoing maintenance of Asset Protection Zones, hazard reduction burns and fire trail maintenance works. Council's contractors completed maintenance works on 250 extreme risk sites ahead of the fire season. Fire agencies have undertaken 14 hazard reduction burns on Council land. Fire trails have been inspected and found to be passable for fire-fighting purposes.
- The Local Environmental Planning (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) will identify key issues and concerns that Council will need to address to implement the actions contained in Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement – Towards 2040 and to consolidate Council's 4 current LEPs and DCPs into a single plan.
- Council is investigating grant opportunities with the New South Wales Government for co-funding a micro-factory at Kimbriki to recycle community problem wastes (including plastics).

An online portal for the Northern Beaches network of recycling and reuse facilities is being finalised. This will be an interactive portal for the community to locate recycling and reuse facilities across the Northern Beaches.

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

The following items were discussed:

Northern Beaches Eco Awards

This award acknowledges outstanding environmental and conservation efforts to protect the Northern Beaches unique environment. There are four categories to submit entries: bushland, oceans, waterways and biodiversity. Winners will be announced in May 2021.

<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/environment/sustainability-and-climate-change/sustainability-awards>

SRG members were requested to express an interest in being part of the judging panel for the awards. Expressions of Interest should be forwarded to Y Mentis.

Ausgrid Community Battery Project

The Ausgrid community battery will harness and store solar power from local homes, providing bill savings and allowing more renewable energy into the grid. The launch of the community battery marks the start of a two year trial being run by Ausgrid which aims to transform the way solar energy is stored, reduces residents' hip-pocket costs and is a big step towards cost-effectively increasing the amount of clean energy that goes into the grid. A community battery has been installed at Beacon Hill.

<https://www.ausgrid.com.au/About-Us/News/community-battery-trial>

Urban Night Sky Project

Project is progressing.

Beaches Link Tunnel

- Impact of the construction of the Northern Beaches tunnel on the environment (loss of bushland, greenhouse gas implications, traffic problems and potential reduced public transport use). Council has prepared a submission. Council's response to the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Connection - Environmental Impact Statement - public exhibition concludes on 1 March 2021.

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10456>

- Overpasses should be constructed when building the Northern Beaches tunnel as currently the project only shows underpasses (Wakehurst Parkway).
- Manly Dam bushland will be isolated. There will be no connectivity for small birds and micro bats.
- Land available in the deferred lands at Redhill (which are under the control of the Local Environmental Plan 2000) could be used as local offsets for the Northern Beaches tunnel.

Improvement of biking trails in the Northern Beaches.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

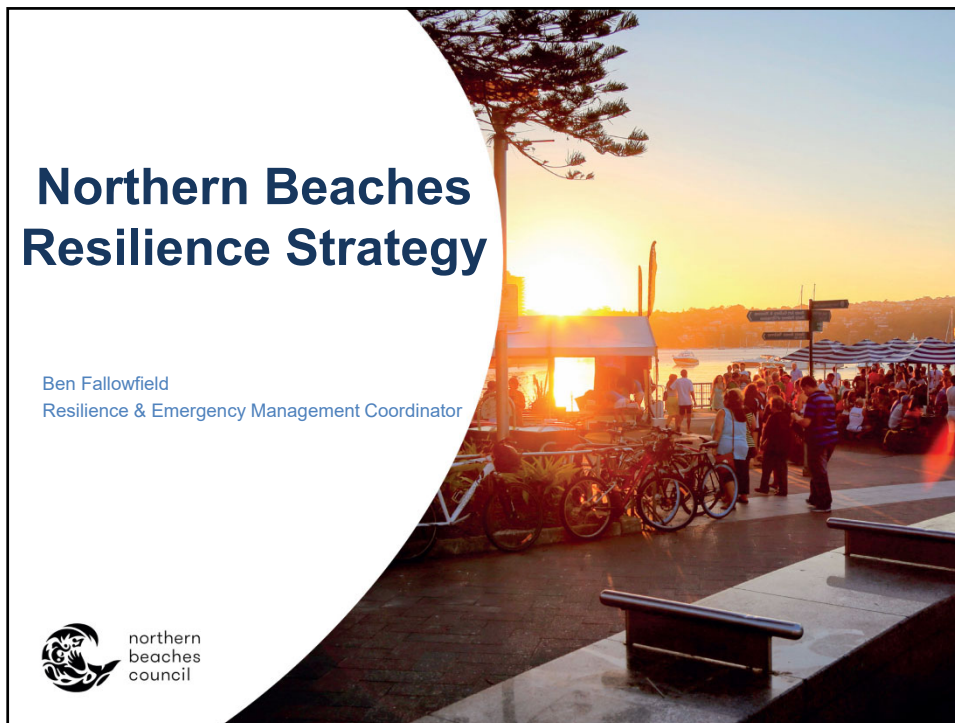
ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.1	That members of the Environment Strategic Reference Group participate in further engagement activities to assist in the development of the Resilience Strategy.	B Fallowfield	Ongoing
6.3	SRG members requested to meet with A Ward-Harvey to further discuss the Waste Strategy.	A Ward-Harvey	Ongoing
6.3	A Ward-Harvey to contact Louise Kerr, Director Place and Planning to discuss the amount of waste generated from construction projects.	A Ward-Harvey	As soon as possible

Attachment 1 – Presentation on item 6.1 Northern Beaches Resilience Strategy

Attachment 2 – Presentation on item 6.3 Northern Beaches Waste Strategy

The meeting concluded at 8:30pm

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 8 pages numbered 1 to 8 of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 18 February 2021 and confirmed on Thursday 20 May 2021



What is Resilience?

The capacity of individuals, communities, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and thrive no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience



Stresses

Challenges that weaken the fabric of a city on a day to-day or cyclical basis	Health Services Demand	• Increased rate and distribution of chronic illnesses and mental well being
	Social Cohesion	• Complex issue with many interconnected influences
	Housing Affordability	• Decrease in housing affordability and diversity of housing supply
	Transport Diversity	• Unequal access to multimodal transport options
	Employment Diversity	• Employment opportunities are failing to respond to a changing workforce.
	Geographic Inequity	• Rising income disparity and unequal access to service & infrastructure
	Drug/Alcohol Abuse	• Pressure on society with an increase in domestic and drug and alcohol related crime



Shocks

Sudden events that threaten a city.	Extreme Weather Event	• Natural hazards are more frequent and intense
	Financial Crisis	• Failure of a major financial mechanisms or institution
	Pandemic	• Rapid and massive spread of infectious diseases
	Critical Infrastructure	• Failure of critical infrastructure that our community rely upon
	Water Crisis	• Drought and water contamination concerns
	Information & Communications	• Failure of critical information infrastructure and networks
	Cyber Attack	• Emerging risk with the potential wide spread effects
	Terror Attack	• Terror attacks have emerged over the past decade as a significant risk for cities and their communities



What does a resilient community look like?

Understands Risk	• Our community understands risks that may affect them and others
Prepared	• Our community is prepared and has plans in place to deal with crisis
Collaborates	• Working in partnership to overcome crisis & adversity
Participates	• The volunteer and community service sector is strong and valued
Demonstrated Leadership	• Resilience outcomes are embedded in decision making
Plans for the future	• Communities are designed to reduce or avoid risks from known hazards, promote connectedness and affordable housing options
Recovers quickly	• Services, infrastructure and functioning of our community is restored quickly following significant disruption
Supports those in need	• Our community looks after those in need, and understands that support will be offered to the most vulnerable in the first instance

[National Strategy for Disaster Resilience](#)



Resilience Themes

Community Resilience

Communities,
Groups &
Individuals

Environment

Local
Economy

Infrastructure
& Planning

Organisational Resilience

Workforce

Environment

Finance

Infrastructure
&
Assets

Technology

Land Use
Planning

Services

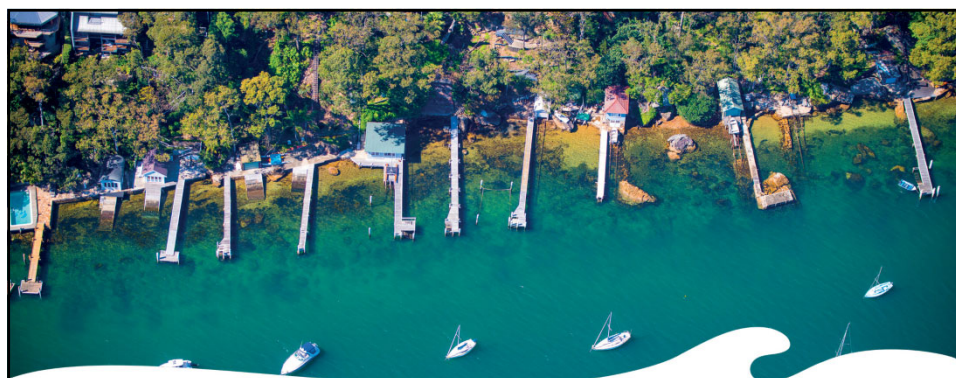


Proposed Engagement



Proposed Timeframe

Phase	Action	Description	Approx. Timeframe
Phase 1	Project Planning & Background Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of existing information Develop project plan Develop engagement strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete
Phase 2	Community and Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted community and stakeholder engagement SRG engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March - April
Phase 3	Public Exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public consultation Review of submissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July - August
Phase 4	Adoption and Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy adoption by Council Commence actioning implementation plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption - September/October Implementation - ongoing



Thank you





Context

- SRG briefing last year on Council waste services and programs
- NSW Government 20 Year Waste Strategy:
 - Draft due for release in next few months
 - Key themes: Sustainable, reliable, affordable

Developing waste strategy

- Leverage off process for Environment and Climate Change Strategy and SRG – strong community collaboration
- Clear roles of Council, community, business and other layers of government
- How optimise each element of waste hierarchy and stage in supply chain



Challenges

- Take, make, dispose culture
- Limited end markets for recycled material
- 'Red bin' management
- Climate change impact



What are we good at?

- Community awareness and participation – particularly around plastics
- Keeping streets, ocean and waterways clean
- Efficient waste collection service
- Local recycling - Kimbriki



Where can we improve?

- Reuse waste locally
- Waste reduction - Less disposable items, food waste and unnecessary consumption



Vision

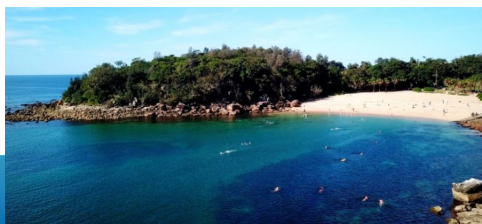
- Identify vision for Northern Beaches:
 - Align with NSW 20 Year waste strategy?
 - Adopt our own vision tailored to our unique environment/community?



Guiding Principles

1. **Keep Northern Beaches clean and protected from waste**

- Quality bin and collection infrastructure
- Waste and Cleaning services
- Education
- Problem waste management



Guiding Principles

2. Maximise circularity of materials and resources

- Develop and facilitate efficient sharing networks and hubs in the region, promoting local employment and financial opportunities
- Collection systems promote circularity
- Promote recycling opportunities for end of life materials
- Education on waste reduction
- Strong community engagement and participation



Guiding Principles

3. Efficient waste management system

- Waste collection is reliable and adaptable to meet community needs
- Maximise reuse/recycling of waste close to source to minimise transport costs and emissions
- Recycling and other waste management minimises externalities (including excess energy/water use)



Mechanisms

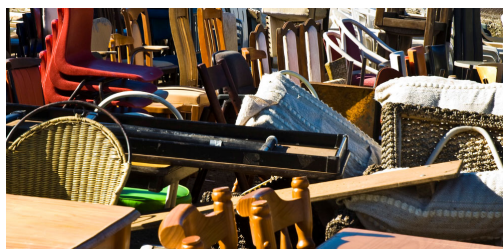
Base on Environment and Climate Change Strategy:

- Advocacy
- Leading by example
- Education
- Levers (including planning process)
- Funding
- Engagement and collaboration



Key Focus Areas

- Food Waste
- Sharing economy and reuse of recycled material
- Plastics
- Circular Economy Targets



Feedback

- Guiding Principles?
- Process?

