



northern
beaches
council

Environment
Strategic Reference Group

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held online via Zoom on

THURSDAY 19 AUGUST 2021

Minutes of the Environment

Strategic Reference Group

held online via Zoom on Thursday 19 August 2021

Commencing at 6:00pm

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Natalie Warren (Chair)	Councillor
Cr Stuart Sprott	Councillor
Sophie Scott	Community Representative – Manly Ward
Roberta Conroy	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Alan Jones	Community Representative – Curl Curl Ward
Tom Hazell	Community Representative – Curl Curl Ward
Nigel Howard	Community Representative – Frenchs Forest Ward
Marita Macrae	Pittwater Natural Heritage Association
Jacqueline Marlow	Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment
Scott Markich	Community Representative – Narrabeen Ward

Council Officer Contacts

Todd Dickinson	Director Environment and Sustainability
Yianni Mentis	Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change
Andrew Ward-Harvey	Executive Manager Waste Management and Cleansing (<i>item 6.3</i>)
Chris Munro	Manager Bushland and Biodiversity (<i>item 6.1</i>)
Jacqueline Grove	Manager Environment Resilience and Climate Change (<i>item 6.4</i>)
Brendan Smith	Team Leader Biodiversity and Planning (<i>item 6.2</i>)
Pamela Bateman	Weed Management Officer (<i>item 6.1</i>)
Ximena Von Oven	Governance Officer

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 Daley.

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 20 MAY 2021

S Markich / A Jones

That the Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 20 May 2021, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Nil

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 PRIORITY WEED MANAGEMENT ON THE NORTHERN BEACHES

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Chris Munro, Manager Bushland and Biodiversity and Pamela Bateman, Weed Management Officer provided an update to the group on this topic.

The NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 (the Act) and the Biosecurity Regulations 2017 (the regulations) provides the legal framework for priority weed management on the Northern Beaches.

The Act provides the prevention, elimination and minimisation of biosecurity risks. It embeds the principle of shared responsibility for biosecurity risk across government, industry and community stakeholders.

Northern Beaches Council's Local Priority Weed Management Plan 2021-2026 (the Plan) was developed to identify weed species that pose a biosecurity risk within the Northern Beaches Local Government Area (LGA). The Plan aims to assist Council to meet their General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) obligations by identifying the biosecurity risk posed by specific weeds and actions that can be taken to prevent, eliminate and manage their risks. It provides a framework for the development and implementation for weed control programs across the Northern Beaches LGA.

A presentation on this topic was provided.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Weed Management reforms in NSW
- Biosecurity Act 2015
- General Biosecurity Duty
- NSW Weed Risk Management
- Management of Priority Weed Species
- Local Priority Weed Management
- Northern Beaches Council Weed Program

SRG members raised questions about the process for reporting weeds in public areas, algae blooms being regarded as part of the weeds management program, local priority weeds and conflict between weeds and soil stability.

6.2 BIODIVERSITY OFFSETTING

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Brendan Smith, Team Leader Biodiversity and Planning briefed the group on this item.

The Biodiversity Conservation Reforms commenced in 2017 introducing a new approach to land management and biodiversity conservation in New South Wales. A Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) was introduced. The BOS aims to balance biodiversity loss from development with gains resulting from conservation and management of land. Landholders who develop or clear vegetation on their land are required to offset biodiversity losses. Under the BOS the biodiversity impacts of a development of vegetation clearing is measured with biodiversity credits and land that is proposed to be conserved for the future.

A presentation on this topic was provided.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

- New South Wales Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS)
- Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements
- Strategic Opportunities
- Biodiversity Credits
- Offsetting council Reserves

6.3 NSW WASTE AND SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS STRATEGY AND PLASTICS ACTION PLAN - UPDATE

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Andrew Ward-Harvey, Executive Manager of Waste Management and Cleansing updated the group on this topic.

The New South Wales (NSW) government released the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 (the Strategy) and NSW Plastics Action Plan (the Plan) in June 2021. The Plan aims to transition NSW to a circular economy in order that resources are used efficiently and productively. The Plan also aims to reduce plastic waste and leakage and improve the understanding of the future of plastics.

Three focus areas of the Strategy are to meet future infrastructure and service needs, reduce carbon emissions through better waste and materials management and protect the environment and human health from waste pollution.

NSW government has requested the separate collection of food and garden organics from NSW households by 2030 and the separate collection of food waste from targeted businesses. Councils, businesses and services providers across NSW will be consulted with regards to transitioning to these future arrangements.

A presentation on this item was provided.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Waste Strategy focus areas
- Targets of the Waste Strategy and Plastics Action Plan
- Plastics Action Plan Outcomes
- Council initiatives with regards to waste reduction and single use plastics

6.4 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ACTION PLANS - UPDATE

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Yianni Mentis, Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change and Jacqueline Grove, Manager Environment Resilience and Climate Change updated the group on this item.

Draft actions for the Action Plans regarding Coast, Waterways and Catchments, Bushland and Biodiversity and Environmental and Sustainable Behaviours were presented to the Environment SRG members at the May meeting.

Feedback was received and incorporated into the draft Action Plans which will be available on Council's website in the following weeks.

SRG members suggested that a dedicated section referencing the Climate Change Strategy Action Plans is provided on Council's website.

SRG members raised concerns about widespread damage to bushland reserves by bike riders in recent months. Need to implement more signs in bushland reserves to avoid damage was also discussed.

6.5 STAFF UPDATE

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Y Mentis, updated the SRG members on the following topics:

Marine Parade Warning System

Northern Beaches Council received the "Highly Commended" Local Government Excellence Award for Manly Beach (Marine Parade) Wave Overtopping Early Warning System and Response – Disaster Recovery Emergency Response Management Category

The project has been implemented at the Shelly Beach promenade.

This project has been undertaken in collaboration with University of NSW Water Research Laboratory, Sydney Water, cross Council teams, community groups, local businesses and members of the coastal engineering and insurance community.

Careel Creek

In May 2021, Council engaged a contractor to undertake sediment and vegetation removal works at Careel Creek in Avalon. The works were the first stage of remediation works to improve environment flows and enhance the condition of the creek and surrounds. First stage of the project has been undertaken. Second stage of the project will be undertaken in the coming months

Preparation for bush fire season

The Asset Protection Zone (APZ) maintenance program is underway in preparation for the bush fire season. Extreme risk sites have been identified and being maintained quarterly. Back burning will commence in the following weeks.

Bush fire prevention brochure will be distributed with the October Northern Beaches Council rates.

Draft Northern Beaches Environment Study (the draft Study)

The draft Study is being prepared to support and inform the development of the Northern Beaches Local Environment Plan (LEP) and the subsequent Development Control Plan (DCP).

The Study describes the natural environment of the Northern Beaches including the bushland, biodiversity, coasts catchments and waterways. It provides environmental planning actions linked to the Environment Climate Change Strategies.

The draft Study will be presented to the September Council Meeting.

Waste Strategy

Results of the red bin audit were received in July.

The following initiatives will be released in August by Council's Waste and Cleansing team will release the soft plastics "whole of supply chain" request for proposal, red bin study request for tender and the waste community dashboard.

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.4	Implementation of a section referencing the Climate Change Strategy Action Plans on Council's website.	Yianni Mentis	As soon as possible

The meeting concluded at 8:13pm

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 7 pages numbered 1 to 7 of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 19 August 2021 and confirmed on Thursday 18 November 2021