



AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Environment Strategic Reference Group will be held online via Remote Audio Visual Link

MONDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2021

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

Committee Members

Cr Natalie Warren (Chair)	Councillor
Cr Alex McTaggart	Councillor
Cr Pat Daley	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
Viktorija McDonnell	Curl Curl Lagoon Committee
Marita Macrae	Pittwater Natural Heritage Association
Jacqueline Marlow	Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment
Billy Bragg	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Scott Markich	Community Representative – Narrabeen Ward

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 Environment Strategic Reference Group Meeting to be held online via Remote Audio Visual Link on Monday 15 November 2021

Commencing at 6:00pm

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NEXT MEETING

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

All members are expected to attend the meetings or otherwise tender their apologies to the Chair and Governance at councilmeetings@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au.

3.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Members should disclose any "pecuniary" or "non-pecuniary" interests in matters included in the agenda. The [Northern Beaches Council Code of Conduct](#) (the Code) provides guidance on managing conflicts of interests.

A **pecuniary interest** is defined in Section 4 of the Code as:

A pecuniary interest is an interest that you have in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to you or a person referred to in clause 4.3.

A **non-pecuniary conflict of interest** is defined in Section 5 of the Code as:

A non-pecuniary conflict of interest exists where a reasonable and informed person would perceive that you could be influenced by a private interest when carrying out your official functions in relation to a matter.

If you required further information or guidance about disclosing an interest please contact Governance at councilmeetings@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 19 AUGUST 2021

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 19 August 2021, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 6.1	SRG SUMMARY OF TERM - YIANNI MENTIS - 30 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	SENIOR ADVISOR - GOVERNANCE
TRIM FILE REF	2021/501948
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide the Strategic Reference Group (SRG) with a summary of its engagement inputs since the beginning of term and provide an update on next steps following the Local Government elections on 4 December 2021.

SUMMARY

The SRGs were adopted as part of Council's broader engagement framework in September 2017, with community and stakeholder representatives appointed to the SRGs in February 2018.

The purpose of the SRGs are to help inform Council's decision making on key projects and strategic direction.

In view of the forthcoming Local Government elections in December, this report seeks to summarise the contributions of the SRG and discuss highlights from their term.

RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group note the summary of their term to date.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The SRGs were established in November 2017 as part of Council's committee framework.

Each SRG is aligned to particular goals and outcomes of the Community Strategic Plan with the purpose of assisting Council in shaping plans, policies and strategic outcomes by providing advice and feedback on projects aligned to each of the SRGs.



The Environment SRG considers matters within the 'Protection of the Environment' and 'Environmental Sustainability' pillars of the CSP:

Protection of the Environment Environmental Sustainability	Community Outcome	Goal		Strategy	
We aspire to protect the natural and built environment from the risks and impacts of global and local pressures	1	Our bushland, coast and waterways are protected to ensure safe and sustainable use for present and future generations	a	Minimise the risk to life and property from storm events, floods, erosion, landslides, bushfires and impacts of climate change	
			b	Increase the resilience of the environment to the effects of natural hazards and climate change	
			c	Maintain productive partnerships with government agencies and the community to effectively manage and respond to natural hazards	
	2	Our environment and community are resilient to natural hazards and climate change	a	Protect and restore local biodiversity and bushland	
			b	Protect and improve ecological conditions in catchments, creeks and lagoons	
			c	Protect and manage the condition and safe access to the coast, lagoons, Middle Harbour, and Pittwater	
	3	Our community is well-supported in protecting the environment	d	Provide sustainable access to the natural environment, while recognising and protecting its cultural and heritage value	
			a	Encourage the community to protect the environment and minimise pollution	
			b	Invite community participation in restoring the natural environment through volunteering programs and education	
We aspire to be leaders in managing our resources sustainably and for the long term to ensure that development is balanced with our lifestyle and environment	4	Our Council is recognised as a community leader in environmental sustainability	a	Develop a culture of commitment to environmental sustainability and lead by example	
			b	Enhance financial and strategic capacity to deliver on environmental outcomes	
			c	Explore and invest in technologies and processes such as renewable energy and waste management that deliver long-term environmental benefits	
	5	Our built environment is developed in line with best practice sustainability principles	a	Ensure integrated land use planning balances the environmental, social and economic needs of present and future generations	
			b	Create green and resilient urban environments by improving tree cover, native vegetation, landscaping, and water management systems	
			c	Promote the benefits and savings of ecologically sustainable development	
	6	Our community will continue to work towards sustainable use of resources	d	Continually improve environmental standards and compliance in new and existing developments	
			a	Promote and support opportunities for more sustainable living	
			b	Provide incentives and programs to encourage our community to enhance, preserve and protect our natural ecosystems	
			c	Reduce waste and improve reuse and recycling	

Since April 2018, the Environment SRG has convened 19 times including: 15 ordinary meetings, 3 extraordinary meetings and 1 workshop regarding the Development of Draft Northern Beaches Council Bushland and Biodiversity Policy. Some SRG members may also have participated in other engagement activities run by Council and in SRG combination joint sessions, or special interest briefings conducted on a particular issue.

Breadth of Content

Goal 1 - Our bushland, coast and waterways are protected to ensure safe and sustainable use for present and future generations.	Goal 2 - Our environment and community are resilient to natural hazards and climate change.	Goal 3 - Our community is well-supported in protecting the environment.
Bushland and Biodiversity Policy*	Resilience Strategy*	Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040**
Wakehurst Parkway Flood Mitigation	Climate Change Action Plan*	Waste Strategy
Northern Beaches Water Management for Development Policy*	Dunes Condition Technical Report	Clear Waters GPT Program*
Draft Bushfire Management Principles	Northern Beaches Council Strategic Coastal Dune Management Plan	Environmental Impact Assessment
Sustainable Procurement Project*	Strategic Tree Management*	Wildlife Connectivity
*Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Strategy	Draft Urban Tree Canopy Plan	*Commercial Feasibility of the Provision of Water and Wastewater Services for Scotland Island
Local Priority Weed Management Plan	*Northern Beaches Environment Study	Wakehurst Parkway Flood Mitigation Study Community Consultation Update*
Goal 4 - Our Council is recognised as a community leader in environmental sustainability	Goal 5 - Our built environment is developed in line with best practice sustainability principles	Goal 6 - Our community will continue to work towards sustainable use of resources
Feasibility Study - Network of Recycling Centres	*Beaches Link Tunnel – Environmental Impact Statement	Social Sustainability Strategy Development
*Red Bin Strategy	*Cities Power Partnership Pledge Selection*	*Environmental Education and Sustainable Living Action Plan
Kimbriki Waste Management	Environmental Zones Review	*Bushland and Biodiversity Action Plan
*Zero Waste to Ocean Charter	Recovery of Problem Waste (Textiles and Plastic)	*Coast Action Plan
*Environment Centres	*Waste Community Dashboard	*Waterways and Catchments Action Plan
*Biodiversity Offsets program	Accelerated Street Light Improvement Program	

Broader strategy input		
Local Housing Strategy	Local Strategic Planning Statement – Towards 2040	Local Environment Plan
Marine Estate Reforms		Protection of Waterways and Riparian Lands Policy
Northern Beaches Resilience Strategy (and Action Plan)	"Move" Northern Beaches Transport Strategy - Public Exhibition of Bike Plan and Walking Plan	Development Control Engagement Program

Next Steps

The Local Government Election will be held on 4 December 2021. This was postponed due to COVID-19. Following the election, the elected council will undertake an extensive induction process.

The CSP will be reviewed during the 2021/22 financial year, with reviewed priorities reported to Council in June 2022. As part of this process, the elected council will determine their committee framework. Feedback provided during the SRG Review will help Council determine this.

An indicative timeline:



Thank you

The ESRG has been an important pillar in achieving environmental outcomes for Northern Beaches Council. As an important sounding board for staff and councillors, the ESRG's input and guidance has been invaluable and staff and Council wish to sincerely thank the group members for their commitment to the environment and to sustainable practices in our area, and look forward to your ongoing support and advice.

ITEM 6.2	WASTE - SUMMARY AND STATUS REPORT - 15 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	EXECUTIVE MANAGER WASTE MANAGEMENT & CLEANSING
TRIM FILE REF	2021/758176
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

PURPOSE

To present an update on Council's progress on initiatives raised in previous waste service briefings to the Environment Strategic Reference Group (SRG) over its first term.

SUMMARY

At the Environment SRG meeting, Council will provide a presentation on its progress on the various initiatives discussed in previous waste service briefings to the SRG, including:

- Development of a Northern Beaches Waste and Circular Economy strategy
- Realising a circular economy
- Swap for Good
- Recovery of problem waste
- Network of Recycling Centres
- Waste Community Dashboard

RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER WASTE MANAGEMENT & CLEANSING

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group note the report.

ITEM 6.3	ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE - CURRENT KEY INITIATIVES - 20 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	EXECUTIVE MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
TRIM FILE REF	2021/769917
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To present highlights of key initiatives currently being undertaken by the Environment & Climate Change Business Unit (ECC).

SUMMARY

At the Environment SRG meeting, staff will provide a presentation outlining progress against key initiatives currently being undertaken by ECC:

- Wakehurst Parkway Flood Mitigation project
- Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Strategy
- Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Clearance Works
- Draft Environment Study for public exhibition

REPORT

Wakehurst Parkway Flood Mitigation project

Wakehurst Parkway experiences flooding from Middle Creek and its tributaries frequently (6-7 times annually) leading to subsequent road closures. Council has received \$5 million in grant funding through the Stronger Communities Fund, from the Office of Local Government, to investigate options to address this frequent flooding. Using these funds, Council has completed numerous site investigations and detailed modelling which resulted in a Flood Mitigation Feasibility Study (Study) completed in 2021. The Study found that mitigation from frequent flooding (to a frequency of 1 closure every two years) was achievable through a combination of culverts, levees and sediment removal (to increase flood storage area). Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) has agreed to provide an additional \$13.1m (2020) for Council to implement a feasible option, should Council decide to proceed.

In March 2021, Council endorsed to publicly exhibit options following the Study. Public exhibition was conducted between 28 May and 19 July 2021. Analysis of community engagement results is currently ongoing and Council are working with TfNSW on funding arrangements. The community engagement results and recommendations for next steps will be presented at the February 2022 Council meeting.

Narrabeen Lagoon – Entrance Management Strategy

Managing the entrance of Narrabeen Lagoon is complex. In response to the Narrabeen Lagoon Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (2019), Council is developing the Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Strategy (the Strategy) to investigate all aspects of entrance management. This includes sediment transport, flood benefits, entrance efficiency and dynamics as well as the long term costs and sustainability of entrance specific options. A range of practices and options

have been investigated for the short term horizon (ie during extreme weather events); the medium term horizon (ie management and removal of marine sediment build up in the lagoon entrance and the subsequent placement of the excavated material on Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach) and the long-term time horizon. The assessment of alternative long term management options involved a detailed multi-criteria assessment to ensure that the resultant option represents not only the best value for money for the community but is environmentally and socially feasible.

The initial community consultation process has been extensive, with so far 4,115 visits to the Your Say page and 5,900 views of the educational video. Following the technical review workshop with expert peer reviewers in August, formal feedback was provided to the consultants with a request to undertake some additional modelling and analysis. The consultant is finalising the Strategy and a final draft is expected in the coming weeks. Once that has been received and staff and the review panel are satisfied that it addresses the matters raised during the first review process, staff will brief Councillors and the Northern Beaches Flood Management Committee and bring the Strategy to the next available meeting of Council with a recommendation to place it on public exhibition.

Narrabeen Lagoon – Entrance Clearance Works

The Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Clearance works is a project that occurs every 3-4 years based on existing conditions in the Eastern Shoal of Narrabeen Lagoon. These works are undertaken as weather patterns cause Narrabeen Lagoon to intermittently be filled with marine sand and reduce the ability to drain in rain events, causing flooding to both low-lying properties and public facilities. The Works underway currently began in late September 2021 and are proposed to run for approximately 12 weeks. The works involve the removal and replacement of up to 37,000m³ of marine sand. The sand is taken from the Eastern Shoal of Narrabeen Lagoon and placed and spread along Collaroy Beach.

The main aim of this project is in place to:

- Mitigate flood risk to the low-lying residential properties surrounding Narrabeen Lagoon
- Improve the water quality of Narrabeen Lagoon, conserve and enhance the biological diversity of the lagoon system
- Maintain or enhance beach amenity of Collaroy-Narrabeen

Soil Conservation Services has been employed to perform the works, and they have removed and replenished over 15,000m³ of marine sand to date. The works are scheduled to be completed by early December 2021 to enable the return of the amenity to the public for summer holiday period.

Northern Beaches Environment Study

The draft Northern Beaches Environment Study (the draft Study) has been prepared to support and inform the development of the new Northern Beaches Local Environment Plan (LEP) and the subsequent Development Control Plan (DCP) and to help meet a number of outcomes within the Environment & Climate Change (E&CC) Strategy. The draft Study:

- Describes the natural environment of the Northern Beaches local government area including the bushland and biodiversity, coasts, catchments and waterways.
- Describes the importance of open space and the connections between the natural and urban environment, the opportunities for a low-carbon community with high energy, water and waste efficiency as well as the impact of natural hazards and climate change.
- Describes the challenges that may impact the natural environment and discusses opportunities in relation to future growth.

- Recommends environmental planning actions to help deliver five planning priorities adopted in the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) - Towards 2040 and a number of outcomes in the E&CC Strategy.

The Northern Beaches area has a unique character and diverse natural environmental values, which set it apart from other areas of the state and even Australia. In particular, the coast, bushland and waterways are highly valued by the community and contribute to the sense of place. The vision, outcomes and strategies within the E&CC Strategy and the LSPS further highlight the importance of these environments to the community and is one of the primary attractions of the Northern Beaches. The E&CC Strategy includes outcomes and a suite of strategies to protect the natural environment and create sustainable built environments. A number of these strategies are being addressed through the development of this Study. The LSPS is aligned closely to the Greater Sydney Commission's North District Plan and includes four themes; Sustainability, Infrastructure and Collaboration, Liveability and Productivity; and within each of these are a series of planning priorities.

The draft Study recommends environmental planning actions spanning five identified sustainability planning priorities adopted in the LSPS. For each planning priority, the draft Study includes:

- The LSPS principles
- A description of the characteristics of the planning priority
- The challenges and opportunities
- Suggested environmental planning actions to help deliver the planning priority that demonstrate the link to the LSPS actions and the outcomes in the E&CC Strategy
- Timeframes for implementation being Short Term (< 3 years) or Ongoing.

The draft Study will be placed on public exhibition in the near future through Council's Your Say Page.

RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group acknowledges the content of this report.

ITEM 6.4	ENVIRONMENTAL TRUSTS - 30 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE
TRIM FILE REF	2021/759072
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide a background and seek input from the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG) on the Warringah Council Trust for the Acquisition of Environmentally Sensitive Land (the Warringah Trust).

REPORT

Northern Beaches Council supports two charitable environmental trusts, which provide opportunities for funding important environmental projects in the former Pittwater Council area, and the purchase of environmentally sensitive lands in the former Warringah Council area. The two trusts were established by former Pittwater Council and Warringah Council and have different purposes, and different relationships with Northern Beaches Council.

The Pittwater Environmental Trust was established in 2006 and is managed and operated by the Pittwater Environmental Foundation. To find out more about the projects that have been funded, please see pittwaterenvironmentalfoundation.org.au ([Opens in a new window](#)).

The Warringah Trust was created by the former Warringah Council in 2011 to collect funds from the public to promote the protection and enhancement of the natural environment including the conservation of indigenous flora and fauna. An important part of meeting this objective is the acquisition of key pieces of sensitive land. The Warringah Trust is administered by the Trust Authority that oversees the collection and allocation of funds, and the community is encouraged to make tax deductible donations.

The Trust Authority has been recently meeting to discuss various approaches to increase the community's knowledge of the Warringah Trust. The Trust has requested the support of the members of the ESRG in this matter, specifically with the following questions:

- Does the Trust need a new name?
- What would encourage you to donate to the Trust?
- How could we better market the Trust?
- Do you have any suggestions to encourage those who wouldn't normally donate?

The purpose of establishing the Trust, as specified in the Trust Deeds is:

- To promote the protection and enhancement of the natural environment or of a significant aspect of the natural environment and in particular the conservation of flora and fauna indigenous to the Local Government area of the Council

- Where appropriate enter into conservation agreements with the Minister for the purpose provided for under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)*.
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RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group participate in a workshop to consider the questions raised in the report.
