AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT
STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Environment Strategic Reference Group will be held in the Flannel Flower Room on

THURSDAY 31 MARCH 2022

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

northern beaches council

Committee Members

Cr Kristyn Glanville (Chair)	Councillor
Mayor Michael Regan	Councillor
Cr Michael Gencher	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.

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Agenda for Environment Strategic Reference Group Meeting to be held on Thursday 31 March 2022 in the Flannel Flower Room Commencing at 6:00PM

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Nil

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7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING Thursday 2 June 2022

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 governance@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 governance@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 18 NOVEMBER 2021

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 18 November 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	**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO NEW COUNCILLORS - 15 MINS**
REPORTING OFFICER	**EXECUTIVE MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**
TRIM FILE REF	**2022/173602**
ATTACHMENTS	**NIL**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To introduce Councillors and members of the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG).

REPORT

Mayor Michael Regan, Cr Kristyn Glanville, Cr Michael Gencher and Cr Stuart Sprott have been appointed to the Environment SRG for this term. This agenda item provides an opportunity for SRG members and Councillors to introduce themselves prior to commencing meeting business.

We would like to thank past Councillors Natalie Warren, Alex McTaggart and Pat Daley for their contribution to the SRG during the previous term.

RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

That the information be noted.

ITEM 6.2	**OPTIONS FOR RECOVERY OF WASTE AND ORGANICS FROM THE RED BIN - 15 MINS**
REPORTING OFFICER	**EXECUTIVE MANAGER WASTE MANAGEMENT & CLEANSING**
TRIM FILE REF	**2022/154783**
ATTACHMENTS	**NIL**

PURPOSE

To report to the Environment SRG on the options for recovery of waste and organics arising from Council's red bin audit and red bins options analysis.

SUMMARY

Since reporting to the Environment SRG in May 2021 on red bin resource recovery options, Council engaged consultants to conduct a red bin audit and also to conduct a red bin options and feasibility analysis.

The red bin audit analysed the contents of the red bin over a select sample size in the Northern Beaches Council area. The options and feasibility analysis investigated options to recover more materials from residential, red-lidded bins with the goal of identifying preferred option(s) for trials and long-term implementation.

The purpose of this work is to inform the development of Council's new long-term Waste and Circular Economy Strategy to complement the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041.

The Waste Unit will seek feedback at the meeting on the options and feasibility analysis proposed by our consultants to date to inform the report to Council mid-year on its Waste and Circular Economy Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER WASTE MANAGEMENT & CLEANSING

That members of the Environment Strategic Reference Group consider the options for the recovery of waste and organics from the red bin options and feasibility analysis discussed at the meeting and provide feedback on options via email to Andrew.ward-harvey@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au by 10 April 2022.

ITEM 6.3	**SELECTION OF TWO NEW CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP PLEDGES - 15 MINS**
REPORTING OFFICER	**SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER**
TRIM FILE REF	**2022/162205**
ATTACHMENTS	**1 ⇩Cities Power Partnership Pledges and Potential Replacements**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To seek input from the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG) for the two replacement pledges proposed for Council as part of our participation in the Cities Power Partnership.

REPORT

In early 2018 Northern Beaches Council became a member of the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership (CPP) program. CPP is Australia's largest network of local councils leading the way to a net zero emissions future. It is a pledge-based program that is designed to support and promote energy saving and climate change mitigation initiatives in local Council's across the country.

Participation in the partnership requires Council to select at least five pledges, and progress towards achieving these pledges is captured via an annual survey. Since selecting our initial pledges in 2018 we have successfully met two of them and are therefore seeking to select replacements.

Discussion

The initial pledges were chosen with consideration for the following:

Community Strategic Plan (CSP): relating directly to CSP Goals to ensure we are working to deliver actions that are supported by the community.

Diversity: at least one pledge from each of the four different themes. This increases the breadth of impact achieved.

Impact: pledges which were predicted to deliver greater emission savings were selected.

Comprehensiveness: The pledges selected were chosen as the most comprehensive for that theme/subject.

We propose to select the two new pledges with consideration for the above criteria again, with the additional consideration of aligning with the Commitments and Aspirations from the Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

The table in Attachment 1 presents the initial pledges, their current status and outlines actions completed to date. Using the selection criteria discussed, we have identified four new possible pledges from the full list which can be viewed on the CPP website. The potential pledges have been included in Attachment 1 also and will be considered at the Environment SRG meeting with the view of selecting two preferred pledges to be put to Council for consideration. Note that the wording in some has been amended slightly to improve relevance to Northern Beaches Council.

RECOMMENDATION OF SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group identify their two preferred pledges to be considered as replacements for the two already completed pledges.

Attachment 1: Initial Cities Power Partnership Pledges and Potential Replacements

Initial Cities Power Partnership Pledges			
Theme	**Pledge**	**Actions to Date**	**Progress**

Renewable Energy	Provide council resources to educate and support the uptake of renewable energy, such as by hiring an internal renewable energy support officer or establishing an independent body (such as the Moreland and Yarra Energy Foundations).	• Set a community solar target: *50% of suitable premises with solar panels installed by 2030*
		• Developed the *Simplifying Solar* program that includes:
		  ○ providing free renewable energy and energy efficiency advice to the community through Australian Energy Foundation. Over the last 4 years:
		  • 767 residential solar and/or battery quote requests have been received, leading to 70 installs,
		  • 148 energy efficiency quote requests
		  • Over 1,294 attendees at information sessions
		  • Since commencing in July 2021, delivered over 100 solar conversations.
		  ○ providing free access to the SunSPoT tool
		  ○ Simplifying Solar Expo held in June 2021 with over 350 attendees
		  ○ Solar My School Pilot - three schools installed solar.
		• Updated the website to include more practical information and expanded links
		• Partnered with Ausgrid to deliver the first community battery trial on the East Coast of Australia. The Beacon Hill battery provides connected customers greater value for their solar energy investments, earning them up to and additional $200/year without having to pay for their own battery at home.
		• Provided grants to a number of local community groups to install solar
		• Results show our community continues to install solar:
		  ○ 1134 installed in 18/19
		  ○ 1637 installed in 19/20
		  ○ 2,459 installed in 20/21
		  ○ ~18% of suitable dwellings have installed solar
			Complete

Energy Efficiency	Adopt best practice energy efficiency measures across all council buildings, and support community facilities to adopt these measures.	• In 2019 Council completed energy efficiency audits at our 23 highest electricity using sites. • Since then we have completed 19 projects from the audit recommendations including 7 solar PV installations, 10 LED Lighting upgrades, 1 HVAC upgrade and installed 1 variable speed drive pool pump. These are resulting in annual savings of $201,677 in electricity costs and are expected to provide $1,136,211 in electricity cost savings over 10 years. Our solar installations are expected to provide $2,405,549 in electricity costs and 12,454 tonnes of carbon emission savings over their 25-year life. • Council intends to undertake an energy efficiency audit of the next priority sites in the 2022/23 financial year.	In progress
Sustainable Transport	Encourage sustainable transport use (public transport, walking and cycling) through Council transport planning and design. Substantial savings in transport energy use can be achieved by designing more compact cities with access to high quality public and active transport services and facilities.	• Adopted the Move: Northern Beaches Transport Strategy • Adopted the Walking Plan and Bike Plan to support the implementation of the Transport Strategy • Adopted the Shared Transport Policy • Implemented the NSW Taxi Council "Clean Air Taxi" electric vehicle initiative. From June 2020 electric taxi's started being trialled in Manly, Dee Why and Mona Vale. This scheme and the necessary signage and line marking was installed and managed by the NSW Taxi Council with the support of Northern Beaches Council • Adopted the Northern Beaches Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan • Partnered with Ausgrid and JOLT to deliver the first, free, GreenPowered, fast EV charger in Mona Vale. This initiative has been expanded to include five additional locations including Dee Why, Forestville and Freshwater with an additional two chargers soon to be installed in Mona Vale. • Continues to work to ensure new development will be EV ready in the review of the LEP and DCP	In progress
Work Together & Influence	Set city-level renewable energy or emissions reduction targets and	Council set targets to meet this pledge when it adopted the Protect. Create. Live – Northern Beaches Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040 in December 2019. It has since supported this with development of the Climate	Complete

Complete	sustainable energy policies to provide a common goal and shared expectations for local residents and businesses.	Change Action Plan.	

Work Together & Influence	Implement an education and behaviour change program to influence the behaviour of council officers, local residents and businesses within the municipality to drive the shift to renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport.	• Staff continue to facilitate the cross-departmental Energy and Water Efficiency Working Group.
		• Supporting local business collaboration and knowledge sharing with the Sustainable Business Network. There are currently over 100 business on the register.
		• Implemented the Swap for Good project:
		  ○ 170 businesses aiming to reduce 1,056 cubic metres of single-use plastics.
		  ○ 96% of businesses surveyed were interested in reducing single-use plastics in their business.
		  ○ 300 business representatives attended the Sustainable Solutions Expo. Post-event 83% said they would implement changes in their business.
		  ○ 170 registered for the Plastic-Free School Canteens webinar.
		  ○ The largest shopping centre on the Northern Beaches, as part of their Swap for Good action plan, installed 2 water refill stations, which will reduce the need for up to 12.4 million plastic water bottles.
		  ○ Other quick wins include the elimination of 9,000 plastic straws per year from a beachside caf6, the uptake of 'swap & go' coffee systems at almost 30 cafes and elimination of 9,000 plastic cups per year at a water refill station. In addition, one local cafe converted 2O% of their customers to their mug library, saving over $7,000 a year in disposable coffee cups.
		• Movie screening of '2040' on two occasions to over 165 people.
		• Administering the Environment Strategic Reference Group to assist environmentally related strategic decision-making by Council.
		• Updated web content to enhance sustainability, both to promote what Council is doing as well as provide information, tips and suggestions for community action.
			In progress

		• In 20/21 The Coastal Environment Centre:
		  ○ educated over 9,100 students and 300 residents.
		  ○ Community events included night walks at Warriewood Wetlands and Manly Dam, rock platform tours and screenings of the films Sustainable Solutions and 2040.
		  ○ 15 pre-schools enjoyed the new Tank the Turtle program on protecting marine life from plastic pollution.
		  ○ 3 local high schools conducted citizen science field surveys to explore microplastics present along our shorelines.
		The Manly Environment Centre has been temporarily re-located at Manly Library, and is fully accessible. Its resource collection is being digitised for greater public access.
		• Community workshops including beeswax wraps, clothes swaps, composting and worm farming, small electrical appliance fixing, solar for your home or business etc.
		• Progressing an application for Palm Beach Headland Urban Night Sky Place. The project aims to improve the lighting in the area, promote the night sky and showcase good lighting design.
		• Projects detailed in other pledges include:
		  ○ Ausgrid community-based battery trial.
		  ○ Ausgrid and Jolt fast EV Charging Stations
		  ○ NSW Taxi Council "Clean Air Taxi" electric vehicle initiative
		  ○ “Simplifying Solar” campaign, including solar expo
		  ○ Solar My Schools pilot	

* Moreland Energy Foundation developed Our Energy Future which is now known as the Australian Energy Foundation, of which Council is a partner.

**SunSPOT is an online tool which the community can use to estimate the energy production and cost of a solar PV system installed on their rooftop.

Possible Cities Power Partnership Pledges for Selection	
Theme	**Pledge**
Renewable Energy	Support community facilities, local businesses and residents to access renewable energy through incentives, support or grants
Renewable Energy	Provide incentives and/or remove barriers to encourage local businesses to take up solar power and battery storage.
Sustainable Transport	Provide and support provision of fast-charging infrastructure throughout the city at key locations for electric vehicles.
Work Together & Influence	Revise procurement documents, policies and procedures to ensure that suppliers align with council's sustainability goals

ITEM 6.4	**NORTHERN BEACHES COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS - 15 MINS**
REPORTING OFFICER	**MANAGER, COAST & CATCHMENTS**
TRIM FILE REF	**2022/172186**
ATTACHMENTS	**NIL**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide an update to the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG) on the status of Council's Coastal Management Programs (CMPs).

REPORT

The NSW Government updated the Coastal Management Framework in 2018 to include:

- Coastal Management Act 2016 (CM Act)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018
- NSW Coastal Management Manual
- Coastal Management Programs
- NSW Coastal Council
- Coastal and Estuary Grants Program.

Council has various strategies in place that now require updating the CMPs in order to comply with the framework:

- Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMP) for Bilgola, Basin, Collaroy-Narrabeen and Fishermans Beaches
- Coastline Management Plans for five North and Middle Harbour sites
- Estuary Management Plans (EMPs) for Lagoons, Clontarf/ Bantry Bay and Pittwater.

A number of CMPs are underway. Two are being completed with partner Councils including Hawkesbury Nepean and Greater Sydney Harbour Catchment. The third is being prepared for beaches identified as significant open coastal hazard locations. The CMP process is being fast tracked for these sites and includes Bilgola, Basin, Collaroy-Narrabeen and Fisherman's Beaches. During 2022 and 2023 Council will commence a CMP for the remaining areas; the open coast and lagoons between Palm Beach and Manly.

Development of a CMP includes five stages and is expected to take a number of years. Council will seek input from key stakeholders throughout the process.

Northern Beaches Council CMP Program

CMP Stage	Hawkesbury Nepean	Greater Sydney Harbour	Significant Open Coastal Hazard Locations	Open Coast & Lagoons
Stage 1	19-21	18-19	21-23	22-23
Stage 2	21-23*	21-22	21-23	2023+
Stage 3-4	2023+	2023+	21-23	2023+
Stage 5	2023+	2023+	21-23	2023+

Complete, Underway, Not started

RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGER, COAST & CATCHMENTS

That the information on Council's Coastal Management Programs be noted.

ITEM 6.5	**STAFF UPDATE - 20 MINS**
REPORTING OFFICER	**EXECUTIVE MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**
TRIM FILE REF	**2022/166980**
ATTACHMENTS	**NIL**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide an update to the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG) on key projects being undertaken by the Environment & Sustainability Division.

REPORT

Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Strategy

The draft Entrance Management Strategy (EMS) has been prepared by a consultant in consultation with Council, an expert technical advisory panel and the community. The report is a comprehensive document reviewing the importance of Narrabeen Lagoon, the complex nature of managing this dynamic environment, Council's current entrance management practices for short term mechanical openings and medium-term entrance clearances, with recommendations to improve the current practices for the longer term.

The draft EMS has been through a number of rounds of technical review and editing to prepare it for community consultation. During this review period staff have also prioritised the dredging of the Narrabeen Lagoon entrance, the public exhibition of the Wakehurst Parkway Feasibility study, the completion of the Draft Greendale Creek Flood Study and the response to the recent floods. The Draft Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Strategy will be brought to the April meeting of Council for its consideration with a request to place it on public exhibition soon afterwards.

Wakehurst Parkway Flood Mitigation update

Council was provided with $5 million in grant funding through the Stronger Communities Fund, provided in 2017 by the Office of Local Government, to investigate options to address the frequent flooding of Wakehurst Parkway. Council commissioned a Flood Mitigation Feasibility Study which was drafted in 2019. This draft Study found that a reduction in the frequency of flooding was achievable through a combination of culverts, levees and sediment removal across three sites (Oxford Falls, The Bends and the Sports Academy).

The potential options exceeded the available budget and so requests were made to Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) in December 2019 to determine if further funding was possible. In February 2021, TfNSW formally offered an additional $13.1m for Council to implement feasible options, should Council decide to proceed.

In March 2021, Council finalized the Draft Study and presented it to Council which endorsed to publicly exhibit the Feasibility Study, to test sentiment for the feasible options. Public exhibition was conducted between 28 May and 19 July 2021, and a Community Engagement Report was completed in October 2021. It was found that most respondents supported works to reduce flooding, but views diverged on the preferred option and there was significant concern about environmental impacts at The Bends. A Community Engagement Report has been prepared and presented to the Council meeting on 22 March 2022, with recommendations for next steps.

It is clear the community expects action on this issue, however given the community concern regarding environmental impact, it was recommended to Council that a more detailed peer and

technical review of options at The Bends be undertaken to determine if a better balance can be struck between impact and flood mitigation.

Whilst options for The Bends are being reviewed, it was also recommended that the design and environmental assessments for culvert upgrades at the Oxford Falls site (on Wakehurst Parkway) be progressed as a priority given it has considerably less complexity and there were no significant concerns reported for this site from the community consultation that was undertaken.

Flood mitigation options for the Academy of Sport site are likely to be influenced by the final option that is selected for The Bends. As such, this site will be reconsidered in conjunction with the review of The Bends options. Staff are now in the process of progressing these recommendations.

Key priorities/strategic program

Bushland Management

Council continues to maintain over 250 bushland reserves with 42 separate bushland management contracts. Weed outbreaks have been prevalent across the area due to the warm and wet weather conditions and contractors are working hard to keep weeds under control. A successful grant funded weed control program combined with an increase in water flows has seen a reduction in the aquatic weed *Salvinia* within sections of Warriewood Wetlands.

Council has recently signed off on 6 successful Crown Lands grant applications at the following locations:

- Beeby Park, Mona Vale
- Allenby Park Allambie Heights
- Lake Park Narrabeen
- Griffith Park
- Jamieson Park Narrabeen
- Curl Curl Lagoon Curl Curl

Biodiversity Planning

The Biodiversity Planning team have prepared draft mapping for Council new LEP/DCP process and also completed new guidelines ‘Biodiversity Requirements for Development Applications’ which will be published on Council’s website shortly. Staff have also commenced the preparation of the updated Northern Beaches Flying-fox Camps Plan of Management.

Bushfire Management

The new Northern Beaches Bush Fire Risk Management Plan is expected to be released on public exhibition in the coming weeks.

Fire agencies have undertaken two small hazard reduction burns on Council land since January 2022 at Freshwater and Newport. In addition active maintenance has continued on Council’s Asset Protection Zone network with 358 locations, including 253 extreme rated sites undergoing regular upkeep. Maintenance works continues on four fire trails with additional works planned on another three trails subject to funding and appropriate approvals.

Extreme weather event 8 March 2022

Across Council units have been working hard to provide the community with support during and following the storms which impacted our community on 8 March 2022. Countless requests have

been attended to for potholes, damaged infrastructure, fallen trees, and clearing away debris on roads and in public places.

The Environment and Climate Change group has been providing support to assist both during the storm event and in the ensuing clean up. This includes administrative and office staff who have been supporting the technical teams.

The Stormwater and Floodplain Management team were actively involved in providing intelligence to the Incident Management Team and to Emergency Services during the event, including through the night. The Flood team undertook actions prior to and during the event that helped manage the incidence of flooding, including lagoon openings and operating valves at Manly Dam. The Stormwater team have received more than 300 customer requests (CRMs) since 28 February for localised flooding issues, overland flow and inter-allotment drainage problems, and to attend to damaged or blocked stormwater infrastructure. The team has triaged all CRMs and inspected 80% of these requests, and is working through all requests to prioritise works as required.

Both Bushland & Biodiversity and Coast and Catchments teams have been responding to landslips and other geotechnical issues at various locations across the LGA, including in private and public settings. The rainfall event triggered critical geotechnical site inspections which have begun and will be completed in the coming days.

The Cleansing team have been busy cleaning up debris left as a result of flooding, including assisting with street sweeping to reduce sediment in the stormwater network. Following the storms more than 1200 customer requests (CRMs) have been received to remove flood damaged household/business waste from flood affected premises. 700 sites and 670t storm/flood damaged goods had been collected as at 21 March.

Great feedback was received on the cleanup and rectifications efforts thanks to Council staff who visited approximately 1,800 homes in the worst hit areas to conduct welfare checks of residents. A number of vulnerable people were identified as requiring additional support and we are coordinating that help through Council and other assistance agencies.

RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

That the information in this report be noted.