MINUTES

ENVIRONMENT
STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held in the Council Chambers on

THURSDAY 31 MARCH 2022

Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group held on Thursday 31 March 2022 in the Council Chambers Commencing at 6:19pm

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Kristyn Glanville (Chair)	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 *(items 6.1 & 6.5)*
Yianni Mentis	Executive Manager Environment & Climate Change
Andrew Ward-Harvey	Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing *(item 6.2)*
Jodie Crawford	Manager Coast & Catchments *(item 6.4)*
Kara Taylor	Senior Sustainability Officer *(item 6.3)*
Ximena Von Oven	Governance Officer *(minute taker)*

Visitors

Nathalie Warren

NOTE: Cr Glanville introduced herself to the SRG members. She thanked the former councillors contribution and welcomed former councillor and SRG Chair, Natalie Warren.

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 Councillors Regan, Gencher and Sprott.

3.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Glanville declared a pecuniary interest in relation to item 6.3 *Selection of Two New Cities Power Partnership Pledges* and will remain in the meeting for the discussion of the item however, will not provide any input or comment on the selection of pledges, which will be done separate to the SRG. The reason provided was:

"She is a Director of Pingala Cooperative Ltd who are community solar company"

4.0 NOTING OF NOTES OF THE MEETING

4.1 NOTES OF THE MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 18 NOVEMBER 2021

NOTED

That the Notes of the Meeting of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 18 November 2021, copies of which were previously circulated to all members, are noted 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 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO NEW COUNCILLORS

DISCUSSION

Yianni Mentis, Executive Manager Environment & Climate Change, welcomed the new Councillors members of the Environment SRG.

Former councillor members of the SRG were thanked for their valuable contribution.

NOTE: The order of business was changed so that Item 6.4 was discussed before item 6.1.

6.4 NORTHERN BEACHES COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

UPDATE

Jodie Crawford, Manager Coast and Catchment provided an update to the group on this topic. In 2018, NSW Government updated the Coastal Management Framework in order to include several policies, acts and programs.

Northern Beaches Council has different strategies in place that require updating Council's Coastal Management Programs in order to comply with the NSW Coastal Management Framework.

The following strategies will be updated:

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

A presentation on this topic was provided.

DISCUSSION

- Coastal Management Framework in New South Wales
- Northern Beaches Council Coastal Management Plans and Strategies
- Coastal Risk Areas
- Coastal Management Programs
- Priority Coastal Issues

Action

To update Council's website in order provide more information regarding Council's existing Coastal Management Plans and Strategies.

6.2 OPTIONS FOR RECOVERY OF WASTE AND ORGANICS FROM THE RED BIN

UPDATE

Andrew Ward-Harvey, Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing briefed the group about the different options for recovery of waste and organics arising from Council's red bin options analysis.

Northern Beaches Council engaged consultants to undertake a red bin audit and 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, and red bin options and feasibility analysis investigated options for trials and long-term implementation.

A presentation on this topic was provided.

DISCUSSION

- Red Bin Audit

- Red Bin Options and Feasibility Analysis
- Food Waste Hierarchy
- Servicing Options for Red Bin
    - Business as usual
    - FOGO collection (food organics/garden organics collection)
    - FO and GO collection (food organics and garden organics collection)
    - One bin system
- Waste Processing Options
- Residual Management Issues
- Next Steps

SRG members discussed this topic and agreed that education is crucial to implement FOGO collection or any waste collection program that Council wants to implement. Members provided suggestions with regards to waste collection programs like for example the Japanese Garbage Disposal System.

Action

SRG members were requested to provide any feedback and options to: Andrew.ward-harvey@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au by 10 April 2022.

6.3 SELECTION OF TWO NEW CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP PLEDGES

NOTE: Due to a disclosure of interest Councillor Glanville did not provide feedback on the discussion of the item

UPDATE

Kara Taylor, Senior Sustainability Officer briefed the group on this topic. Northern Beaches Council is a member of the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership (CPP) program. Participation in the partnership requires Council to select five pledges. Progress towards achieving these pledges is captured via an annual survey. Council has met two of their selected pledges and now is seeking to select new pledges.

Four new possible pledges have been selected. Council is seeking input from the Environment SRG members to select two preferred pledges to put forward to Council for consideration.

A presentation on this topic was provided.

DISUSSION

- Aim of the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership (CPP) program
- Benefits of the program
- Original pledges undertaken by Council
- Potential new pledges for Council.

Action

SRG members were requested to read the potential new pledges and provide feedback on their decision to Yianni.Mentis@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au by Wednesday 13 April 2022.

6.5 STAFF UPDATE

DISCUSSION

Y Mentis provided an update to the group on the following topics.

Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Strategy (EMS)

EMS came as a result of the Narrabeen Lagoon Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan 2019 which identified the needed to have a strategy. The EMS has been prepared by a consultant in consultation with Northern Beaches Council, an expert technical advisory panel and the community. The EMS has been technically reviewed and edited for community consultation. Council staff have prioritised the dredging of the Narrabeen Lagoon entrance, the public Exhibition of the Wakehurst Parkway Feasibility study and the response to recent floods.
EMS will be presented to Council at the 26 April Council meeting.

Wakehurst Parkway Flood Mitigation Update

In 2017, Northern Beaches Council received grant funding through the Stronger Communities Fund to investigate options to address the flooding of Wakehurst Parkway. A Flood Mitigation Feasibility Study was drafted in 2019 (draft study). The result of the study was that a reduction in the frequency of flooding was achievable through a combination of culverts, levees and sediment removal.

Additional funding was provided to Council in 2021. The Draft Study was presented to Council and placed on public exhibition between May and July 2021. The Community Engagement report has been prepared and was presented to Council in March 2022. The recommendation to Council was for a more detailed technical review of options at The Bends to be undertaken to determine if a better balance can be achieved between impact and flood mitigation.

Bushland Management

With the recent tropical weather that the Northern Beaches area has been experiencing, weed outbreaks have been recurrent across the area. Council is aware and contractors are constantly working on weed prone areas to keep weeds under control.

Biodiversity Planning

New Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) are currently being prepared by Council staff. Northern Beaches Flying-Fox Camps Plan of Management is also being prepared.

Bushfire Management
The new Northern Beaches Bush Fire Risk Management Plan will be publicly exhibited in the following weeks

Weather Event – 8 March 2022

Council staff have been working extremely hard to provide the community with support during the recent storms. Numerous requests have been attended by staff regarding potholes, damaged infrastructure, fallen trees and cleaning away debris on roads and public places.
The Environment and Climate Change team has been providing support to assist during the storm event and the clean up events. Bushland & Biodiversity and Coast and Catchment teams have

been responding to landslips and geotechnical issues at various locations across the LGA.

Manly Hydraulic Laboratory

SRG members were provided with an overview of The Manly Hydraulic Laboratory website https://mhl.nsw.gov.au/

Manly Hydraulics Laboratory (MHL) provides specialist and impartial advice relating to coastal and water engineering and water flow assurance, utilising physical and numerical modelling.

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.2	SRG members were requested to provide any feedback and options to: Andrew.ward-harvey@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au by 10 April 2022.	Andrew Ward-Harvey	10/04/2022
6.3	SRG members were requested to read the potential new pledges and provide feedback on their decision to Yianni.Mentis@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au by Thursday 7 April 2022.	Yianni Mentis	13/04/2022
6.4	To update Council's website in order, provide more information regarding Council's existing Coastal Management Plans and Strategies.	Jodie Crawford	asap

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Presentation on Item 6.2 Options for Recovering Waste and Organics from the Red Bin

Attachment 2 – Presentation on Item 6.3 Selection of Two New Cities Power Partnership Pledges

Attachment 3 – Presentation on Item 6.4 Northern Beaches Coastal Management Programs

The meeting concluded at 8:45pm

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 31 March 2022 and confirmed on Thursday 2 June 2022

Attachment 1

northern beaches council

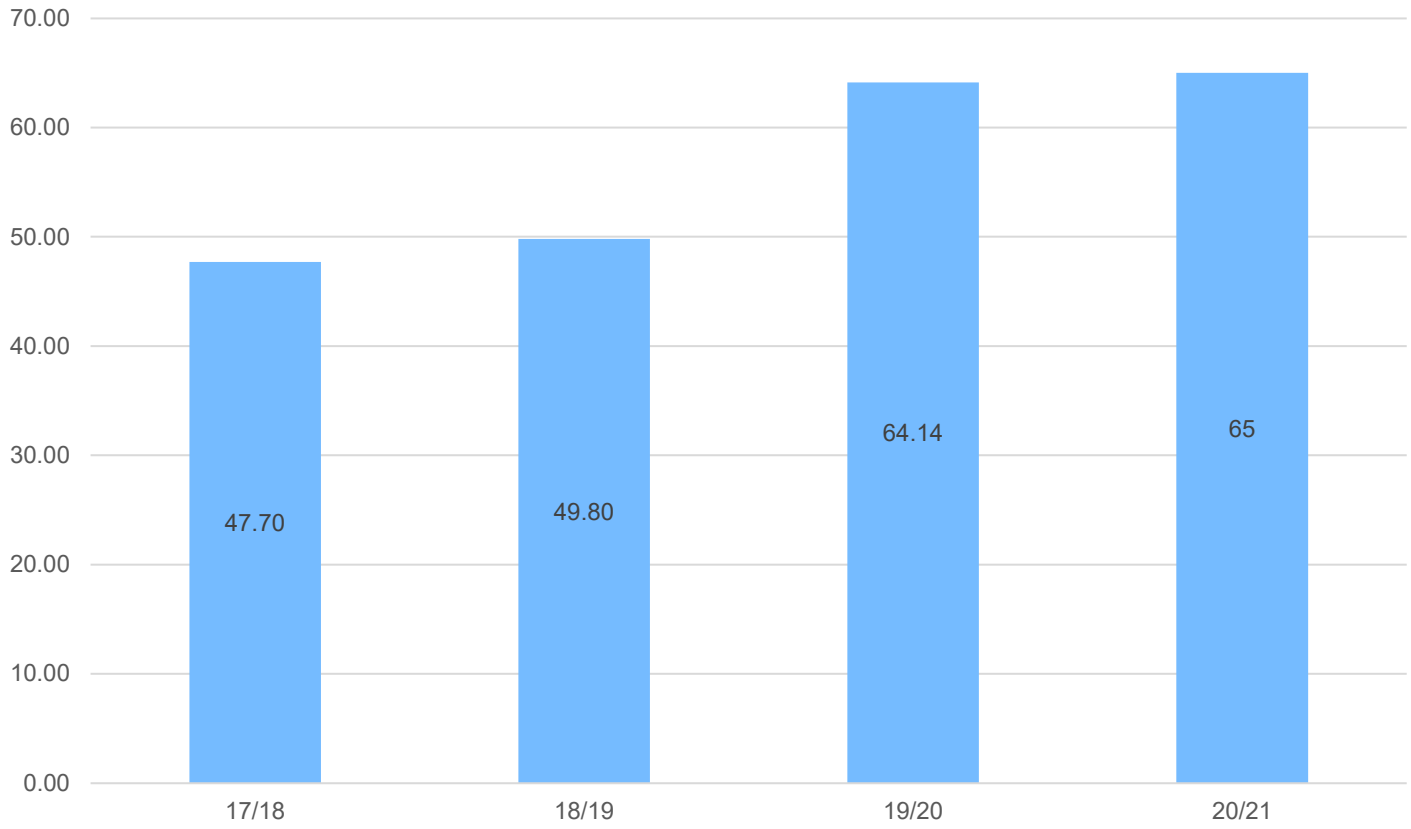
Red bin analysis

SRG Workshop 31 March 2022

Context

- Current contract with Cleanaway (formerly Suez) to process red bin waste
- Red bin collections tipped at the Belrose Transfer Station
- Sent to Eastern Creek where remaining recyclables extracted
- The remainder goes through a composting process to substantially reduce the volume of the waste and carbon emissions before being sent to landfill.

Increased Diversion from Landfill %



Can we do more?

- Almost 50,000 tonnes per year collected in red bins and around 30,000 tonnes going to landfill
- Can we divert more valuable material from red bin?
  - Food waste
  - Textiles
  - Other recyclables
- We have target to divert 85% of all waste from landfill by 2040
- New opportunities with Cleanaway/Kimbriki?

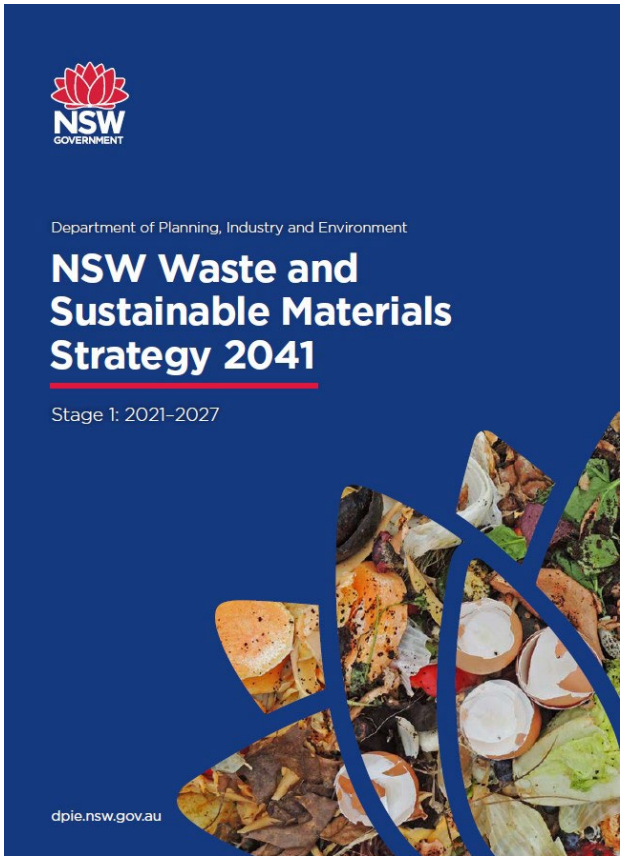
What have we investigated?

Red bin audit:

- Food/kitchen 48%
- Current recyclables >10%
- Soft plastic >7%
- Textiles >4%

Mandatory food waste collection

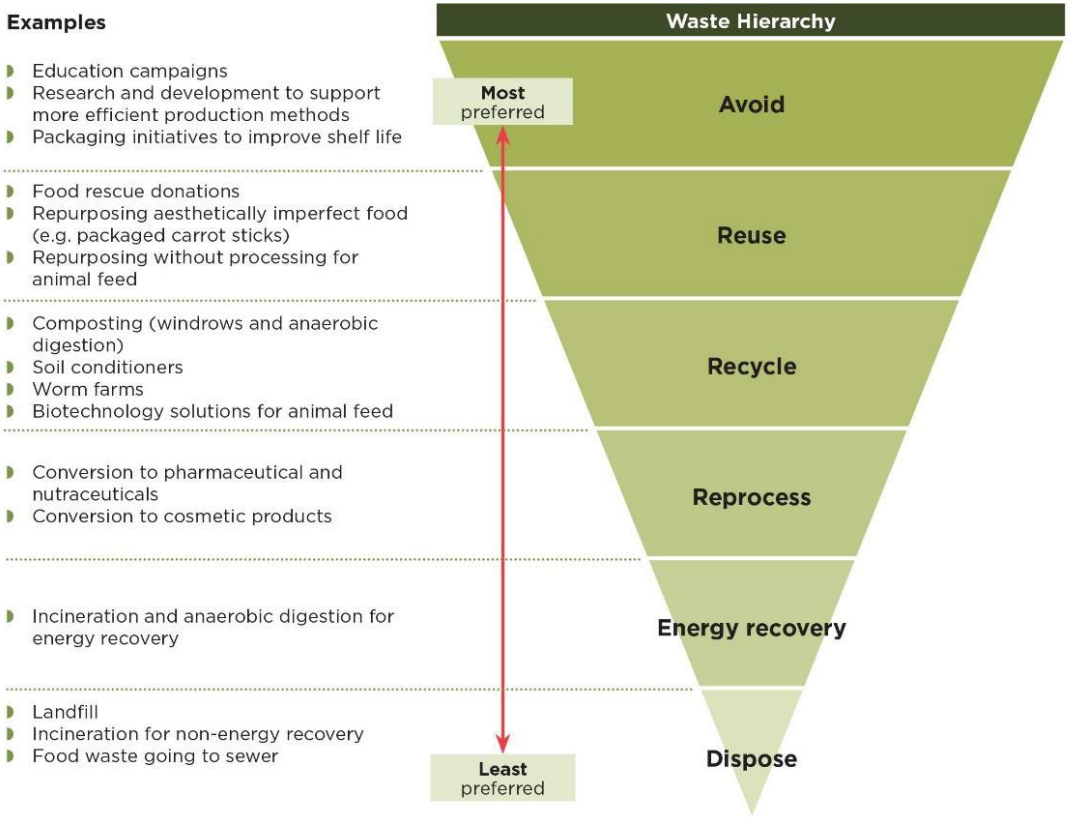
- NSW Government stipulated that they will require the separate collection of:
  - food and garden organics from all NSW households by 2030
  - food waste from targeted businesses and other entities that generate the highest volumes of food waste, including large supermarkets and hospitality businesses, by 2025.



Red bin Options and Feasibility Analysis

- WSP engaged in November last year
- Thorough analysis and feasibility study of options for improved red bin recovery, focussing on:
  - Removing organic waste from red bin
  - Recovering remaining residual items in red bin
- Study close to finalisation

Food waste hierarchy



Source: Australia Academy of Science

Red bin options

Servicing Option	Description
Business as Usual	No change to current kerbside collection
FOGO Collection	New weekly food and garden organics collection (replacing fortnightly vegetation bin collection) Fortnightly red bin, yellow and blue bin.
FO and GO collection	Dedicated Food organics bin and weekly collection Fortnightly red bin, yellow and blue bin.
One bin system	No household stream separation: either one bin collected 3 times per week or weekly collection of multiple bins

Options

Waste Collection Options:
Household Waste Stream separation

Scenario	Waste Stream				
1 Business as Usual No FO Collection	Garbage Weekly	Recycling Fortnightly	Cardboard Fortnightly	GO Fortnightly	
2 FOGO Collection Weekly FOGO Fortnightly Garbage	Garbage Fortnightly	Recycling Fortnightly	Cardboard Fortnightly	FOGO Weekly	
3 FO + GO Collection Weekly FO Fornightly GO and Garbage	Garbage Weekly	Recycling Fortnightly	Cardboard Fortnightly	GO Fortnightly	FO Weekly
4 One-Bin System All Household Waste Commingled	All Household Waste Weekly				

Initial findings

- Initial and ongoing education crucial to success – to maximise participation (>60%) and minimise contamination (<3%)
- FOGO or separate food collection will lead to:
  - improved resource recovery rates (extent dependant on participation)
  - Increased costs
  - Alignment with circular economy – keeping at higher value

Some processing options

Servicing Option	Waste	Description	Output
Home composting	FO/FOGO	Aerobic digestion in small containers. Council already provides worm farms/compost bins. Could be upscaled	Compost, wastewater
Aerobic digestion	FOGO	Uses heat loving composting bacteria to accelerate natural breakdown organics. Existing facilities (eg ANL, Cleanaway, Soilco) – significant funding for new facilities becoming available. Mature	Compost, wastewater
Anaerobic digestion	Food	One existing facility – limited remaining capacity (Earthpower). Food Recycle also investigating pelletisation for animal feed.	Digestate fertiliser, energy, sludge & w'water
Larvae	Food	Larvae consume waste in sealedcontainer. Some new and trial facilities (GoTerra, Cleanaway). Not mature	Pet food (insect protein)/fertiliser
Maceration	Food	Insinkerator to macerate waste to sewer (Sydney Water). Not at scale	Energy or biosolids
Autoclave	All	Sterilisation of combined waste through pressure and steam for 30 minutes to process safely and breakdown organics. About to set up in shoalhaven, subject to regulatory approvals. Not at scale	Wastewater, steam, some recylables, biomass, landfill

Issues – residual management

- What is the long term approach for residual waste?
  - Energy from waste
  - Role of landfill
  - Impact of separate food collection
  - Alternative waste treatment or autoclave

Next steps

- Finalising report to inform:
  - content for waste and circular economy strategy
  - Trial of food waste collection/processing
  - Emissions reductions initiatives
- Release of draft waste and circular economy strategy and proposed trial options mid year

Attachment 2

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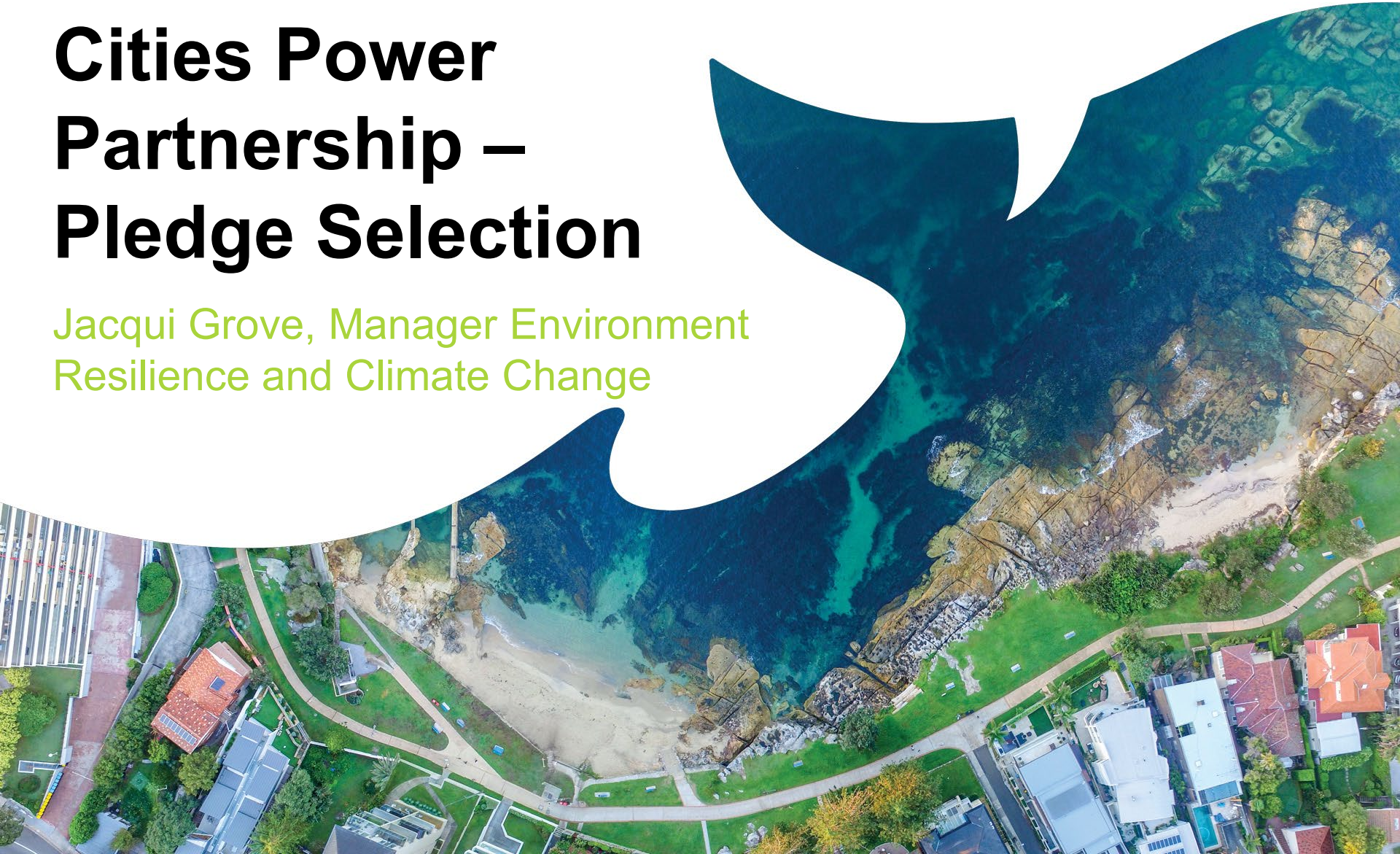
Cities Power Partnership – Pledge Selection

Jacqui Grove, Manager Environment Resilience and Climate Change



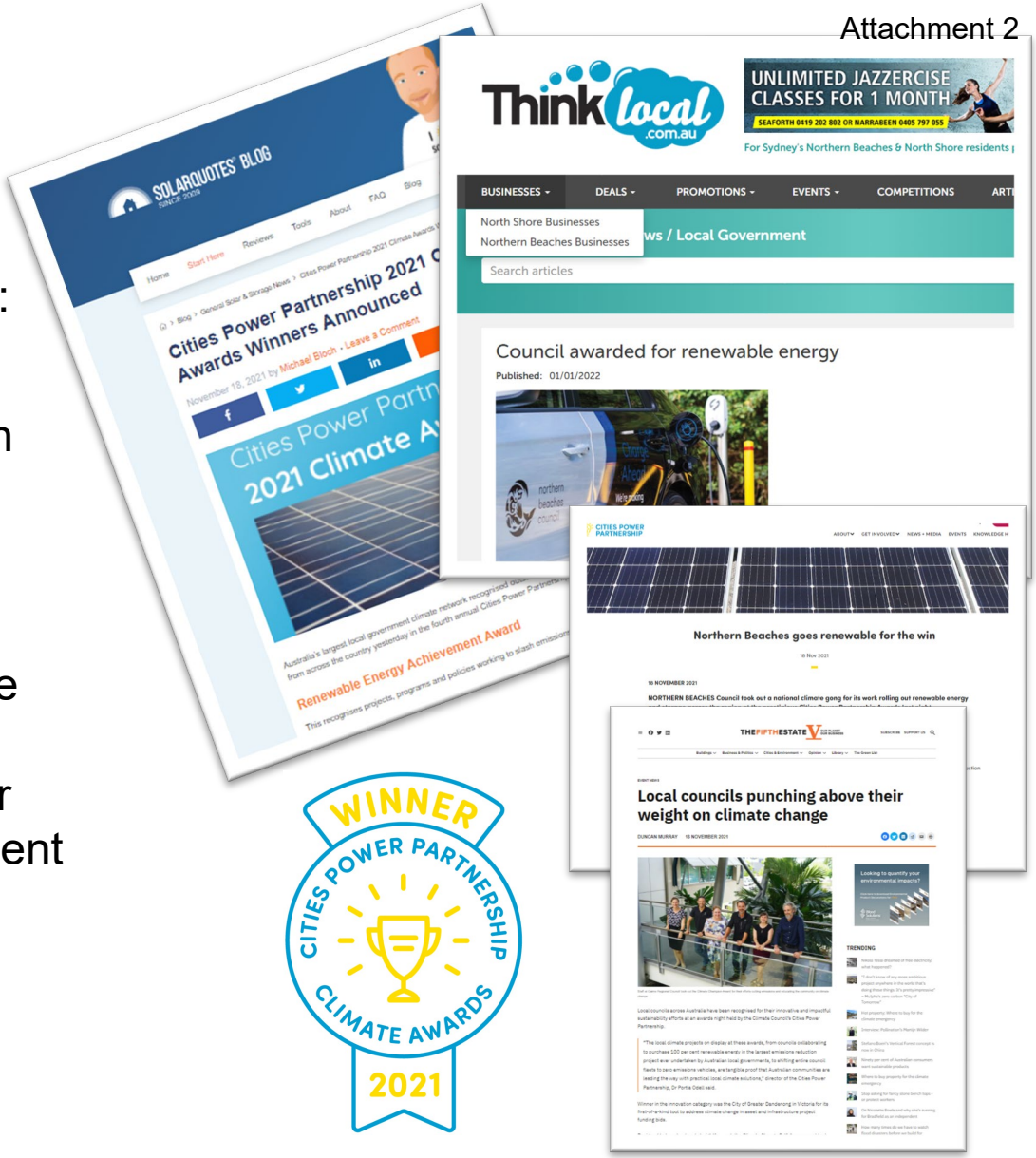
Cities Power Partnership

The CPP program aims to celebrate and accelerate emissions reductions and climate change mitigation measures of local governments, and their communities, throughout Australia. CPP is run by the Climate Council, an independent body that provides climate change information to the Australian public that is based on the best science available.

Benefits

As a Power Partner Council receives:

- Knowledge Hub and webinars
- Opportunities to collaborate with other members
- Promotion of achievements in local, state and national media
- Annual Awards (Council won the 2021 Renewable Energy Award and were highly commended for the Energy Efficiency Achievement Award)
- Bi-Annual Summit



Original Pledges

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).

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

Energy Efficiency
Adopt best practice energy efficiency measures across all council buildings, and support community facilities to adopt these measures.

Work Together & Influence
Set city-level renewable energy or emissions reduction targets and sustainable energy policies to provide a common goal and shared expectations for local residents and businesses.

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.

Potential New Pledges

Strategic Alignment

Diversity

Impact

Comprehensiveness

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

Renewable Energy
Support community facilities, local businesses and residents to access renewable energy through incentives, support or grants

Coastal Management Program

Environment Strategic Reference Group Meeting
31 March 2022

northern beaches council

Coastal Mgt in NSW

The framework comprises:

- Coastal Management Act 2016 (CM Act)
  - coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests area
  - coastal vulnerability area
  - coastal environment area
  - coastal use area
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018
- NSW Coastal Management Manual
- Coastal Management Programs
- NSW Coastal Council
- Coastal and Estuary Grants Program.

Existing Plans and Strategies

- CZMP x 3 (Bilgola, Basin, Collaroy/Fishermans)
- Coastline Management Plans (x5 Harbour, Manly)
- Estuary Management Plans (x6 lagoons, Pittwater and Bantry Bay)
- Plans of Management for public space
  - E.g. Dee Why Wildlife Refuge
  - Coastal Lands Plan of Management
- Pittwater Waterway Strategy

Coastal Risk Areas

- Bilgola – CZMP in place – CMP being drafted
- Basin – CZMP in place – CMP being drafted
- Collaroy – CZMP in place – CMP being drafted
- Fisherman's Beach – CZMP in place – CMP being drafted
- Newport – Hazard lines and planning controls in place
- Palm Beach – Hazard lines + Planning controls in place
- Manly (North Steyne) – Public assets + hazard lines
- Other beaches – Public space and assets
- Harbour, Pittwater and Cottage Point – Estuarine hazards mapped and planning controls in place or being developed
- Coastal Bluff, geotechnical – mapped and planning controls in place

Coastal Management Programs

- **Stage 1:** Identify the scope of a CMP
- **Stage 2:** Determine risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities
- **Stage 3:** Identify and evaluate options
- **Stage 4:** Prepare, exhibit, finalise, certify and adopt the CMP
- **Stage 5:** Implement, monitor, evaluate and report

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

Priority coastal issues

- Collaroy-Narrabeen public works
- Collaroy-Narrabeen private works (DA/construction mgt)
- Collaroy-Narrabeen beach management (nourishment)
- Fairy Bower seawall
- Great Mackerel Beach
- Newport SLSC
- Currawong Beach
- Sandy Beach
- Lagoon issues
  - Narrabeen Lagoon
  - Dee Why Lagoon
  - Curl Curl Lagoon
  - Manly Lagoon
- Geotechnical and landslip
- Development of new LEP and DCP, exhibition of draft estuarine hazard maps