



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 2 JUNE 2022

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

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.

**Agenda for Environment
Strategic Reference Group Meeting
to be held on Thursday 2 June 2022
in the Flannel Flower Room
Commencing at 6:00PM**

1.0	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	4
2.0	APOLOGIES	4
3.0	DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST	4
4.0	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	
4.1	Minutes of Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 31 March 2022	4
5.0	UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING	
	Nil	
6.0	AGENDA ITEMS	5
6.1	Invasive Species Programs - 20 mins	5
6.2	Flying-fox Camp Management - 15 mins.....	8
6.3	Climate Change Risk Assessment - 15 mins	9
6.4	Waste - Summary and Status Report - 15 mins	10
6.5	Staff Update - 20 mins	11
7.0	GENERAL BUSINESS	

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 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 31 MARCH 2022

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 31 March 2022, 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	INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAMS - 20 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	COORDINATOR, INVASIVE SPECIES
TRIM FILE REF	2022/304410
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide an update to the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG) on Council's Invasive Species Program. Staff will provide a presentation covering the item.

REPORT

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, Council has a general biosecurity duty (GBD) to prevent, eliminate or minimise the biosecurity risks and impacts posed by weeds and pest animals on lands we manage. Council, as the local control authority, has a function to implement and enforce compliance of weed management on all lands in our LGA.

Pest Animal Control Program

Council controls pest animals as identified in the Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Pest Animal Plan. Controls are undertaken in bushland reserves, parks and dunes, where it is safe and reasonably practical to do so. Council engages the services of three contractors through its Natural Environment Services Panel to help manage pest animals such as foxes and rabbits.

Council is a member of the Sydney North Vertebrate Pest Committee. This committee comprises local, state and federal government agencies. The aim of the group is to coordinate fox and rabbit control programs in the region, share information and develop the skills to manage pest animals.

The main target species of our pest animal control program are rabbits and foxes. Primary methods of control are shooting, baiting and fumigation at:

- 102 sites risk assessed for shooting
- 136 release sites for the rabbit baiting using the biological control RHDV
- 18 sites suitable for 1080 fox baiting
- fumigation undertaken upon locating an active den or warren

1080 fox baiting in Council reserves had been halted during COVID lockdowns due to increased visitation and usage of our reserves. Baiting is planned to resume in November 2022 as part of the Sydney North Regional Fox Baiting Program. Council does not use Pindone poison baits to control rabbits due to the off target risk posed by available delivery methods.

Cage trapping for foxes is seldom used on public land as it is labour intensive and has a low success rate with many foxes being trap shy. Soft jaw traps have been used on previous occasions. Council offers a cage trap hire service to support residents to undertake control of individual or small populations of rabbits on their land.

Council, in conjunction with NSW DPI and Greater Sydney Local Land Services, participated in a fox control webinar for Northern Beaches residents held in April 2022. The webinar aimed to improve residents' understanding of:

- fox control on public lands in urban areas
- actions to deter or control foxes on residential properties
- reporting fox sightings using the FoxScan website

This was a first for this type of event/webinar being delivered to a non-rural based community. 36 residents registered with 19 in attendance.

Council liaises with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services to control emerging pest animal species. Red-eared slider turtles (REST), an emerging pest species in Greater Sydney, have recently been observed and captured in Manly Dam and Curl Curl Lagoon. Ongoing surveillance for REST is being undertaken in these locations.

Priority Weed Management Program

Council has a priority weed control program in place to ensure that it complies with its GBD and to exercise its functions as a local control authority. Priority Weed management activities include:

- targeted weed control programs for one state and 10 regional priority weed species
- control of local priority weed species through Council's bush regeneration and parks and reserves maintenance programs
- proactive and reactive inspections of private properties, businesses and lands managed by state government agencies to ensure compliance with their GBD

On average Council undertakes 300 property inspections per year. Inspection numbers are down on previous years in response to COVID restrictions. Council's Weed Officers commonly achieve voluntary compliance by property owners and businesses as a result of the information and advice provided during inspections. Since the Biosecurity Act was enacted in 2017 there have only been 8 occasions where a Biosecurity Direction has been issued for failure to comply with the GBD or to prevent the sale of non-saleable species.

Council is a member of the NSW Weed Biocontrol Taskforce (the Taskforce). The Taskforce funds and promotes weed biocontrol research, the mass rearing of biocontrol agents and capacity building for the release and monitoring of biocontrol agents. The Biological agents released by Council are:

- Salvinia weevil, Warriewood Wetlands
- Madeira vine beetle, Burnt Bridge Creek and Warriewood Beach
- Trad smut at 14 sites across the LGA

The Taskforce membership demonstrates a commitment to an integrated weed management program that utilises a variety of control techniques, reducing the reliance on herbicides for the control of weeds.

Future Invasive Species Projects

- Investigate the feasibility of a cage trap hire program for residents to assist with fox control on private property
- Trial the use of net traps for fox control in residential areas
- Use of wireless trail cameras for monitoring fox activity and baiting programs

- Develop and expand the use of weed biological control agents
- Develop the knowledge and capacity to use drones for surveillance and control of priority weed species

RECOMMENDATION OF COORDINATOR, INVASIVE SPECIES

That the information on Council's Invasive Species Program be noted.

ITEM 6.2	FLYING-FOX CAMP MANAGEMENT - 15 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER
TRIM FILE REF	2022/305659
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To brief the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG) on management of flying-fox colonies (the Camp) on Council land and development of the Northern Beaches Flying-fox Camp Management Plan (CMP).

REPORT

The grey-headed flying-fox is a threatened species listed as Vulnerable under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. It is a keystone species which plays an important role in maintaining the health and diversity of eucalypt forests and rainforests across eastern Australia through long-range dispersal of pollen and seeds.

Council is the land manager for three reserves containing grey-headed flying-fox colonies at Avalon, Warriewood and Balgowlah. The Avalon and Balgowlah camps are managed in accordance with the Cannes Reserve Flying-fox CMP 2015 and the Balgowlah Grey-headed Flying-fox CMP 2016, respectively. There is currently no CMP for the Warriewood camp.

The Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) requires land managers to have a DPE-approved CMP in place before they will issue any threatened species license for management activities or works at a flying-fox camp on public land. Such works include routine maintenance such as mowing, trimming of hazardous vegetation and bush regeneration.

Council's existing CMPs are now out of date and as such, staff have commenced preparation of a new Northern Beaches Flying-fox CMP. The new CMP will provide a consistent and comprehensive approach to management of all three flying-fox camps on Council land, whilst identifying actions to minimise conflict with nearby residents and improving broader awareness of flying-fox conservation issues.

Environmental consultants, Ecosure, have been engaged to prepare the CMP, which will be consistent with the NSW Government's Camp Management Plan Template (also prepared by Ecosure) and Flying-fox Camp Management Policy. It is anticipated that the draft CMP will be publicly exhibited in Q3 of 2022, with the final CMP proposed to be presented for adoption by Council during Q4 2022.

RECOMMENDATION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

That the information in this report and accompanying presentation be noted.

ITEM 6.3	CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENT - 15 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE
TRIM FILE REF	2022/306305
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide information via presentation to the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG) on the Climate Change Risk Assessment Project (the Project).

REPORT

The climate in NSW is changing with extreme weather events more frequent and intense, as well as long-term changes to weather patterns evolving. These changes can exacerbate existing risks and create new systemic risk and opportunities for Council.

Climate change is increasingly shaping our community and has the potential to impact our services, assets and infrastructure. The rise in Australia's average temperatures has accelerated in recent decades and current temperatures are about 1.4°C higher than they were in the 1950s and further warming is expected.

The three former councils each had their own Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). They were prepared to address identified risks and meet requirements set by the State Government at the time. Through the Project, Council will be updating and revising the CCRA to reflect current knowledge and climate change projections, protect assets and align with recently adopted strategic documents.

The objectives of the Project are to:

- Develop a clear understanding of climate change risks to the operations, assets and services.
- Develop an adaptation plan to address climate change risks to the operations, assets and services.
- Include identified climate risks into Council's Risk software to enable regular monitoring and reporting of actions undertaken to address the identified risks.

These objectives will allow Council to demonstrate leading by example and will provide a strong basis for further public engagement on climate risks and how to address them.

The project will be undertaken in the 22/23 financial year and will include a series of workshops involving subject matter experts from across Council. These workshops will identify the risks and determine adaptation actions to address the climate change risks to Council's operations, assets and services.

RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE

That the information in this report and the presentation is noted.

ITEM 6.4	WASTE - SUMMARY AND STATUS REPORT - 15 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	EXECUTIVE MANAGER WASTE MANAGEMENT & CLEANSING
TRIM FILE REF	2022/311037
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

Staff will provide a brief verbal update on Council's progress on five initiatives raised in previous waste service briefings to the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG).

SUMMARY

Staff have previously provided updates to the ESRG on a number of initiatives that are being undertaken to support our strategic waste objectives. Further updates will be provided on the following:

1. Red bin options
2. Audit of litterbin network
3. Bulky goods timber trial
4. Waste and Circular Economy Strategy
5. Soft plastics trial

RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER WASTE MANAGEMENT & CLEANSING

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group note the update.

ITEM 6.5	STAFF UPDATE - 20 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	EXECUTIVE MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
TRIM FILE REF	2022/299559
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

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

REPORT

Currawong Update

Council and Currawong State Advisory Committee members have agreed that Council would prepare a list of proposed environmental projects for consideration by the Committee and for presentation to Friends of Currawong (FOC) and Pittwater Environmental Foundation (PEF).

To ensure all proposed environmental projects are well considered and cohesive it was agreed a comprehensive Masterplan was required for Currawong. Local Landscape Architects, Thompson Berrill Landscape Architects (TBLD) were commissioned to develop the Masterplan and detailed project plan.

The final draft concept plan is now complete and was developed in consultation with both FOC and PEF. The plan includes the following items:

- Foreshore stabilisation including a vegetated sand dune
- Creek bank stabilisation including riparian restoration and planting
- Improved access and footpath network
- Bushland regeneration works throughout the park
- Native tree planting and landscaping
- Install Interpretive signage throughout park (History & Environmental)
- Improvements to the Lodge so it can be used as an environmental education facility and information centre
- Welcome/information shelter at entrance to Currawong

The plan was recently sent to NSW Crown Lands for approval and comment. When we receive these, the plan will be posted on Council's 'Your Say' page and our project manager will coordinate the next stage, including detailed design and construction works.

Valley View Reserve Wetland

Council has engaged an environmental contractor (Total Earth Care) to design and construct an engineered wetland to treat the water quality of Narrabeen Creek low flows while complementing the existing flood management function of the site. Detailed construction designs and a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) have been completed for the project. Council is moving into the wetland construction phase however this has been hampered by wet weather and very moist

ground conditions. The works will be managed and coordinated to minimise any environmental impacts as outlined by the REF. The wetland will be integrated into the existing environment however, construction works will involve some disruption to pedestrian access to the area and the removal of some stands of vegetation. As part of the project Council is committed to planting over 125 suitable shrubs and trees in the project area as well as creating additional pathways and a viewing platform for the local community.

2022/23 Environmental Grants Program

Council will be undertaking the Environmental Grants Program again in the 22/23 financial year and are seeking nominations from the community members of the ESG to assist on the evaluation panel. The grants will be open for submissions between late June and early August. Nominees will need to be available between mid-August and early-September to review the submissions and meet with the evaluation panel. The final recommendations will be reported to Council in October.

Climate Council's Cities Power Pledges

At the previous ESG meeting, staff reported the need to nominate two additional pledges and asked for input from the ESG members. Following this consultation, Council staff have prepared a report for the June Council meeting recommending the following two pledges:

- Work Together and Influence: Revise procurement documents, policies and procedures to ensure that suppliers align with Council's sustainability goals.
- Renewable Energy: Provide incentive and/or remove barriers to encourage local businesses to take up solar power and battery storage.

Northern Beaches Resilience Strategy

Consultation on the draft [Northern Beaches Resilience Strategy – Withstand. Adapt. Thrive](#) commenced on Monday 9 May 2022 and closes Wednesday 8 June 2022. The exhibition was facilitated by Council's decision at the meeting held Tuesday 26 April 2022.

We are inviting the community to learn more about the draft Strategy, its proposed Strategic Directions, Key Priorities and Actions and to provide a submission.

ESG members are encouraged to visit the [Your Say project page](#), review the Strategy and provide a submission via the submission form by 8 June.

Upcoming Events

We are celebrating [World Environment Day](#) (5 June 2022) with a week long program of events. The theme is Only One Earth.

The 2022 World Environment Day campaign calls for collective, transformative action on a global scale to celebrate, protect and restore our planet.

Please join us at one of our fun environmental events to either start, or continue, your sustainable journey, and to celebrate our extraordinary environment.

RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

That the information in this report is noted.
