



MINUTES

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held in the Flannel Flower Room on

THURSDAY 2 JUNE 2022

**Minutes of the Environment
Strategic Reference Group
held on Thursday 2 June 2022
in the Flannel Flower Room
Commencing at 6:10PM**

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Kristyn Glanville (Chair)	Councillor
Roberta Conroy	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Alan Jones	Community Representative – Curl Curl Ward
Tom Hazell	Community Representative – Curl Curl Ward
Nigel Howard	Community Representative – Frenchs Forest Ward
Marita Macrae	Pittwater Natural Heritage Association
Margaret Wood	Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment
Billy Bragg	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward

Council Officer Contacts

Todd Dickinson	Director Environment and Sustainability
Yianni Mentis	Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change
Andrew Ward-Harvey	Executive Manager Waste and Management Cleansing (<i>item 6.4</i>)
Ximena Von Oven	Governance Officer
Sean Granger	Coordinator Invasive Species (<i>item 6.1</i>)
Kristie King	Biodiversity Officer (<i>item 6.2</i>)
Gareth Birch	Resilience and Climate Change Officer (<i>item 6.3</i>)

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As a sign of respect, Northern Beaches Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and pays respect to Elders past and present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cr Regan, Cr Sprott, S Scott and S Markich.

3.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 31 MARCH 2022

Unanimously confirmed

That the minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 31 March 2022, copies of which were previously circulated to all members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Nil

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Sean Granger, Coordinator Invasive Species briefed the group on this topic.

In accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, Northern Beaches Council (Council) has a general biosecurity duty (GBD) with regards to preventing, eliminating, and minimising the biosecurity risks and impacts posed by weeds and pest animals on lands Council manages.

Council is the local control authority for the management of weeds. Council has implemented several programs to manage pest animals and weeds.

A presentation on this topic was provided.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

- The *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) provides detailed mandatory measurement for the control of weed species and the prohibition on the sale or trade of specific plant and animal species.
- The Act identifies Council as local control authority with regard to weed management.
- Weed Management Control Plan

- Pest Animal Management Control Plan
- Fox Control Program
- Rabbit Control Program
- Priority Weed Management Program
- Future Invasive Species Projects.

6.2 FLYING-FOX CAMP MANAGEMENT

OVERVIEW OF DISCUSSION

Kristie King, Biodiversity Officer briefed the group on this topic.

The 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*.

Northern Beaches Council (Council) is the land manager for three flying fox colonies at Avalon, Warriewood, and Balgowlah.

The Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) requires land managers to have a Camp Management Plan (CMP).

Council is drafting a new Flying Fox CMP which will provide guidance for the management of the flying fox colonies and will also identify actions to minimise conflict with nearby residents and improve awareness of flying fox conservation issues.

A presentation on this topic was provided.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Flying fox colonies at Burnt Bridge Creek, Balgowlah
- Flying fox colonies at Cannes Reserve, Avalon
- Flying fox colonies at Warriewood Wetlands
- Policy and legislative context for the management of flying fox species
- Objectives of Council's flying fox CMP
- Overview of actions undertaken with regards of management and conservation of flying fox species.

6.3 CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENT

OVERVIEW OF DISCUSSION

Gareth Birch, Resilience and Climate Change Officer updated the group on this topic.

Climate in NSW is changing on a frequent basis. These changes imply new risks that Northern Beaches Council (Council) must manage.

Council is reviewing the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) approach of the three former

councils to consolidate and align them to the current situation and needs.

Council's approach to climate change is a dual approach of mitigation and adaptation.

Council's CCRA project approach has three main objectives which are to: reassess our climate change risks; develop specific monitored actions to adapt to our assets, operations and services; and incorporate risk and actions into the Enterprise Risk Management Framework.

The objectives will allow Council to monitor and report on actions undertaken to identify risks.

This project will be undertaken in the 2022/23 financial year. Workshops will be conducted to identify the risks and determine adaption actions to address climate change risks to Council's operations, assets and services.

A presentation on this topic was provided.

6.4 WASTE - SUMMARY AND STATUS REPORT

OVERVIEW OF DISCUSSION

Andrew Ward-Harvey, Executive Manager Waste provided an update to the group on the following topics:

Red Bin Options

The final draft of the Red Bin Strategy has been prepared. This document reviews and analyses the different options that can be undertaken for organics and resource recovery from red bins.

Audit of Litterbin Network

As a result of Council's Council meeting resolution from October 2021:

"That Council undertake a review of public litter bin contents from a small number of key locations on the Northern Beaches to obtain more detailed information on the amount of takeaway coffee cups and other waste streams present in these areas."

Council staff are currently researching and assessing what is being placed in the litter bins to decide if more recycle stations and litter bins need to be installed in some specific areas.

Soft plastic trial

An Expression of Interest has been undertaken to review what options are currently used and offered in the market with regards to the recycling of soft plastics.

Bulky good timber trial

The trial will begin in June and will be conducted across the LGA.

Waste and circular economy strategy

- Single use plastic bags were banned in NSW from 1 June 2022. From 1 November single use plastic bowls, plates and cutlery will be banned.

6.5 STAFF UPDATE

ITEMS DISCUSSED

Yianni Mentis, Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change and Chris Munro, Manager Bushland and Biodiversity provided an update to the group on the following topics:

Currawong

Council has engaged Thompson Berril Landscape Architects to develop a Masterplan and detailed project plan for Currawong.

The final draft plan has been completed. The draft plan includes different topics like creek bank stabilisation, bushland regeneration works, improved access and footpath network, native tree planting and landscaping, information shelter at the entrance to Currawong.

The draft plan has been sent to NSW Crown Lands for approval and comment.

Valley View Reserve Wetland

The wetland is located in Warriewood Valley. Council has engaged an environmental contractor to design and construct an engineered wetland to treat the water quality of Narrabeen Creek. Construction designs and a review of environmental factors have been finalised and the wetland construction phase will begin in July.

Action

Y Mentis, to inform Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Committee about the construction of an engineered wetland to treat the water quality of Narrabeen Creek at Prosperity Park.

2022/23 Environmental Grants

Council will be undertaking the Environmental Grant Program in the 2022/23 FY. Council is currently seeking nominations from community members of the Environment SRG to assist in the evaluation panel. Grants will be open for submissions between June and August. \$50,000 have been allocated to the program.

Climate Councils Cities Power Pledges

Council staff will present a report to the June Council meeting on the two additional pledges for the Climate Council Cities Power Pledges.

Northern Beaches Resilience Strategy

The Strategy is currently on public exhibition and submissions are open until 8 June.

<https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/resilient-northern-beaches>

World Environment Day

5 June

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.5	Council to inform Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Committee about the construction of an engineered wetland to treat the water quality of Narrabeen Creek at Prosperity Park.	Yianni Mentis	In due course

The meeting concluded at 8:11pm

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 2 June 2022.