



northern  
beaches  
council

**Environment**  
Strategic Reference Group

## **ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP**

held in the Flannel Flower Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why on

**THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2023**

**Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group**  
**held on Thursday 27 April 2023**  
**in the Flannel Flower Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why**  
**Commencing at 6:00pm**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee Members**

|                                                                                |                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Cr Kristyn Glanville (Chair)                                                   | Councillor                                                |
| Cr Michael Gencher                                                             | Councillor (left 8pm)                                     |
| Individual or organisation representatives with specific expertise/experience: |                                                           |
| Alan Jones                                                                     | Individual – Curl Curl Ward                               |
| Nigel Howard                                                                   | Individual – Frenchs Forest Ward                          |
| Jamileh Jahangiri                                                              | Individual – Manly Ward                                   |
| Oscar Jones                                                                    | Individual – Manly Ward                                   |
| Roberta Conroy                                                                 | Individual – Pittwater Ward                               |
| Joeline Hackman                                                                | Northern Beaches War on Waste                             |
| Leigh McGaghey                                                                 | Pittwater Natural Heritage Association and Canopy Keepers |
| Community members or group representatives with broad range of strategic views |                                                           |
| Natalie Warren                                                                 | Community representative – Curl Curl Ward                 |
| Malin Frick                                                                    | Community representative – Manly Ward                     |
| TBC                                                                            | Community representative – Manly Ward                     |
| Billy Bragg                                                                    | Community representative – Pittwater Ward                 |
| Jacqueline Marlow                                                              | Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment representative      |

**Council Officer Contacts**

|                    |                                                  |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Todd Dickinson     | Director Environment and Sustainability          |
| Yianni Mentis      | Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change |
| Andrew Ward-Harvey | Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing   |
| Tony Walmsley      | Manager Waste Services                           |
| Emma Mackay        | Coordinator Waste Education                      |
| Lesley Milbourne   | Manager Governance                               |
| Anna Moore         | Senior Advisor Governance                        |

**Quorum**

A majority of members including the Chair or one of the elected Councillors.

## 1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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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, present and emerging.

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## 2.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mayor Michael Regan and Cr Stuart Sprott

## 3.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Members submitted their disclosures via the Disclosure App.

Oscar Jones disclosed that a family member worked in textile recycling and as such during the discussion relating to this matter in item 6.1 Oscar left the meeting.

## 4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 4.1 MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 2 JUNE 2022

#### OUTCOME

That the minutes of the previous Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG) meeting held 2 June 2022 (prior to the establishment of this SRG) be reported to Council.

## 5.0 INTRODUCTION

### 5.1 SRG MEMBER INDUCTION

#### DISCUSSION

The Chair, Cr Kristyn Glanville, introduced herself and invited all those present to introduce themselves. Lesley Milbourne, Manager Governance provided members with a brief induction into the SRG. All members were invited to submit a disclosure of interest via the Disclosure App and to be mindful of the importance of disclosing any perceived, real or potential conflicts for all meetings. The Governance Team can help with any queries.

#### OUTCOME

That SRG Members:

1. Note membership and meeting details.
2. Familiarise themselves with the SRG Charter and Terms of Reference, Council's Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interest online form.
3. Sign their Member Agreements.

## **6.0 WASTE & CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

### **6.1 WASTE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY**

#### **DISCUSSION**

Andrew Ward-Harvey, Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing gave a presentation to members on the draft Waste and Circular Economy Strategy. Members were invited to break into 4 groups to partake in two workshops:

- Activity 1 - Challenges and Opportunities related to Waste and Circular Economy
- Activity 2 – Review of the 4 Directions of the Waste and Circular Economy

Members took part in the workshop discussions and provided feedback to the group. A copy of the notes from the two workshops are included as an attachment to these minutes.

The Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing thanked members for their considered feedback.

#### **OUTCOME**

That a separate workshop on the draft Waste and Circular Economy be organised for SRG members.

## **7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION & BIODIVERSITY**

### **7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION & BIODIVERSITY UPDATE**

#### **DISCUSSION**

Due to the short time remaining in the meeting Yianni Mentis, Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change provided a brief update to members, reflecting the status detailed in the report and that updates will be provided to each meeting.

#### **OUTCOME**

That the ESRG notes the information outlined in this report.

#### **ACTION**

Staff to call Oscar Jones to discuss weeding and tree replacement for bats in Manly area.

## **8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY**

### **8.1 CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE**

#### **DISCUSSION**

Yianni Mentis, Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change provided a brief update and stated that the team is preparing a Climate Change Policy within a few months which will be

brought to the group.

## **OUTCOME**

That the ESG notes the information outlined in this report.

## **9.0 RESILIENCE AND NATURAL HAZARDS**

### **9.1 RESILIENCE AND NATURAL HAZARDS UPDATE**

#### **DISCUSSION**

Yianni Mentis, Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change provided a brief update on considerations within this area – the numerous hazards in the environment, that Council was preparing for a dry bushfire season with Asset Protection Zones (APZs) in order and fire trails prepared but keeping vigilant; he also mentioned the Resilience Strategy.

#### **OUTCOME**

That the ESG notes the information outlined in this report.

#### **ACTION**

Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change to report to the SRG at the June meeting on the Coastal Management Program, including the coastal areas not in the NSW Government-rated coastal erosion 'hotspots' of Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach, Bilgola Beach and Basin Beach at Mona Vale.

## **10.0 SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY**

### **10.1 SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY UPDATE**

#### **DISCUSSION**

Yianni Mentis, Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change provided a brief update noting that whilst there was more that can be done in this area Council is working on a number of programs and projects as detailed in the report. He mentioned the business power purchasing agreement and plans to grow this using the sustainable network.

#### **OUTCOME**

That the ESG notes the information outlined in this report.

*The meeting concluded at 9:01pm*

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 5 pages numbered 1 to 5 of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 27 April 2023 and confirmed on Wednesday 7 June 2023

## Workshop Notes

### Activity One: Challenges and Opportunities related to Waste and Circular Economy.

|                | Challenges                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Opportunities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Group 1</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• overflowing public bins</li> <li>• illegal littering when people move</li> <li>• transient community</li> <li>• cost/rates</li> <li>• return and earn – not central spots</li> <li>• rubbish trucks run on petrol</li> <li>• putting a price on 2<sup>nd</sup> hand materials</li> <li>• encouraging people to buy 2<sup>nd</sup> hand</li> <li>• reaching % of people who don't care about environment</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• look at the Nordic Countries</li> <li>• 2nd hand mall (centre)</li> <li>• food waste collection</li> <li>• highest literacy + high wfh rate – easy to reach people</li> <li>• reverse garbage centre</li> <li>• build community around shared values</li> <li>• schools, teachers now aware, protect environment + cc</li> <li>• bioelectra is future (NSW govt levies) new tech</li> <li>• \$ funding, Fed, State, Local, Private, Business</li> <li>• cost of living crisis could actually drive environmental change, ie 2nd hand goods</li> <li>• rubbish trucks + buses to run on local biogas</li> <li>• NB communications, values environment, highly special</li> <li>• Market weekly, eg Narrabeen 2nd hand</li> </ul> |
| <b>Group 2</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• facilities to recycle too far away</li> <li>• organic food waste goes into red bin, especially in high density living</li> <li>• soft plastics taken to Kimbriki, too far away</li> <li>• red/yellow bin integrated in high food traffic zones eg Manly</li> <li>• waste education to the 'general public'</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prioritise recycle facilities close to the LGA or develop with State/Fed \$</li> <li>• organic waste (food scraps/veg) into green bin, turn into compost that goes on Council assets</li> <li>• local drop offs for soft plastics</li> <li>• workshops at schools/aged care/other non converted</li> <li>• Council facilitate independent companies</li> <li>• electric appliances going to companies not Council</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Group 3</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• do we consider the impact of the diesel burnt for collection</li> <li>• do we do more damage by recycling some things</li> <li>• how to make waste economic</li> <li>• is there a waste audit? Do we know the quantities? 48%</li> <li>• different strategies for different demographics eg engage teenagers</li> <li>• visitors - tourism vs rubbish</li> <li>• no individual responsibility 'council should look after it'</li> <li>• how to move beyond strategies &amp; targets to actual initiatives</li> <li>• gasification &amp; pyrolysis</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consolidate pick up zones</li> <li>• locals agree and manage</li> <li>• ownership of problem</li> <li>• save truck stops – fuel maintenance</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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| <b>Group 4</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affluenza (book by Prof Clive Hamilton &amp; Richard Dennis)</li> <li>• FOGO seen as too difficult</li> <li>• get more/larger ROCS to be able to put the machine mentioned by Roberta Conroy in for pyrolysis systems</li> <li>• laziness and apathy</li> <li>• communicating with wider community</li> <li>• as teachers are overloaded already, create a unit to put into schools that saves teachers having to, possibly send a council volunteer to do it</li> <li>• single residence vs strata</li> <li>• create 'Council auxiliary' positions for environment, volunteers who have been trained in specific projects to communicate with the community which increase the amount of environment staff</li> <li>• fewer chances to compost in strata</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• find a company that recycles fabrics &amp; have collection bins</li> <li>• recycle building waste, instead of going into landfill at Kimbriki</li> <li>• large manufacturing base locally → attract circular economy businesses</li> <li>• large rate payer base to pay for solutions</li> <li>• bulky goods recycling centres &amp; repair centres</li> <li>• community food scrap areas</li> <li>• discourage non-native plant &amp; veg</li> <li>• encourage adaptive reuse rather than demolition</li> <li>• support repair</li> </ul> |
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## Activity Two: Direction Review

### Direction 1 – Eliminating Waste

The best way to manage waste and its impacts is to avoid creating it in the first place. Council's approach prioritises avoiding and reducing waste as the most preferable approach.

Outcomes:

- Avoiding waste: Our community is empowered to make better choices when buying and using products and Council is a successful advocate for waste reduction.
- Circular economy: A local circular economy is activated, facilitating widespread reuse, repair and recycling of local products and materials.

| Direction 1:                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Eliminating Waste                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Council's Role</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• provide local education + networking + access to new customer opportunities</li><li>• collect food waste &amp; change to gas that local buses run on</li></ul> | <b>Actions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• lower 'bin rates- the more house</li><li>• grant * funds incentivise</li><li>• work with local businesses for solutions</li><li>• plastic free co-ops run by councils</li></ul>                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Community's Role</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Residents take responsibility</li><li>• Educate themselves about materials + if they're recyclable</li></ul>                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• send people to the economic development dashboard + combined with waste + circular economy e.g. businesses so we can choose who to support</li><li>• support eco friendly businesses first → promote businesses on the Council biz dashboard</li><li>• underground bins, shared residents eg 10+ households</li></ul> |
| <b>Business Role</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Design circularity into the product from the beginning</li></ul>                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• education + contract for Strata Managers</li><li>• responsibility packaging</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## Direction 2 – User Friendly Waste Service

Council will focus on providing reliable, convenient, innovative, and sustainable waste collections & recycling.

Outcomes:

- Collection: Convenient, reliable, accessible, and innovative domestic waste collection service
- Recycling: Opportunities to sustainably recycle domestic waste are realised, with supporting local infrastructure and transparent information provided to the community

| Direction 2:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | User Friendly Waste Service                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Council's Role</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• easy to access &amp; inclusive</li><li>• fulfills community expectations to recycle &amp; divert from landfill</li><li>• provide education</li><li>• provide opportunity to reduce waste</li></ul> | <b>Actions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kimbriki tours to educate</li><li>• geographical fairness</li><li>• bulky goods recycling &amp; repair centre</li><li>• engage multi cultural communities</li></ul> |
| <b>Community's Role</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• take responsibility</li><li>• educate themselves</li><li>• be proactive</li><li>• combat cognitive dissonance</li></ul>                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• environmental education in schools, TAFE (like ethics classes) leverage motivation eg CDS, rate credits</li></ul>                                                                  |
| <b>Business Role</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• take responsibility</li><li>• exceed imposed standards</li><li>• differentiate SME vs corporate</li></ul>                                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• subsidies for smaller businesses to encourage waste reduction</li><li>• business awards</li><li>• rate discounts</li></ul>                                                         |

## Direction 3 – Transition for Organics, Plastics, and emerging waste types

Ensuring our community is ahead of the game in organics, plastics and emerging waste (eg solar panel, textiles)

Outcomes:

- Organics: Our households have the tools to minimise their organic waste, reuse their organics at home and access a flexible collection and recycling service which maintains the value in organics
- Plastics: Our community has viable alternatives to single use plastics, and we can recycle the plastic that remains into valued products
- Emerging waste: Our community have viable options to reuse, repair and recycle emerging waste types (including electronics, textiles, engineered timber and solar panels)

| Direction 3:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Organics, Plastics & Emerging Waste                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Council's Role</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• purchasing policy – criteria (lead by example)</li><li>• promotion &amp; adverts to encourage greener choice</li><li>• arranging programs to allow pick up of emerging waste</li></ul> | <b>Actions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• looking at best practice + repeating</li><li>• address issues for MUDs &amp; SUDs</li><li>• more localised drop-offs</li><li>• assist schools with circular processes to embed best behaviours</li></ul> |
| <b>Community's Role</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• working with councils as volunteers to assist with waste programs (trained)</li></ul>                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• important to own/be responsible for their actions</li><li>• mindset (rethinking!)</li><li>• volunteers + groups</li></ul>                                                                                               |
| <b>Business Role</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• work with Council to reduce those waste streams</li><li>• also lead by example</li></ul>                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• consider using local businesses to assist with drop-offs, collection</li></ul>                                                                                                                                          |

## Direction 4 - Green and Clean Environment

Council will work with the community and business to shift our focus on managing litter and illegal dumping, towards preventing litter and illegal dumping.

Outcomes:

- Litter and Illegal Dumping: Cleanest public places in Sydney
- Environment and climate change: environmental and climate change impacts from managing waste are minimised.

| Direction 4:                                                                                                                                                  | Green and Clean Environment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Council's Role</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• road map</li><li>• partnerships with key players</li><li>• assess</li><li>• education</li></ul> | <b>Actions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• bin access – makes it easier</li><li>• find litter hotspots in close proximity to high natural value sites for bins</li><li>• better enforcement for littering/dumping through CCTV in dumping spots – rangers fining for littering</li></ul> |
| <b>Community's Role</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• personal responsibility to keep natural assets clean by not littering</li></ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• enable reduction champions</li><li>• find influencers – what they know</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Business Role</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• business sustainability training</li></ul>                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |