



MINUTES

ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

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

WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2023

Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group
held on Wednesday 7 June 2023
in the Flannel Flower Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why
Commencing at 6:08pm

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Kristyn Glanville (Chair)	Councillor
Mayor Sue Heins	Mayor (Remote)
Individual or organisation representatives with specific expertise/experience:	
Nigel Howard	Individual – Frenchs Forest Ward
Jamileh Jahangiri	Individual – Manly Ward
Roberta Conroy	Individual – Pittwater Ward
Joeline Hackman	Northern Beaches War on Waste (arrived 6:13pm and left 7:40pm)
Community members or group representatives with broad range of strategic views	
Natalie Warren	Community representative - Curl Curl Ward (Remote)
Malin Frick	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
Simon Gray	Acting Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change
Chris Munro	Manager, Bushland & Biodiversity
David Hellot	Senior Environment Officer - Catchments
Kara Taylor	Acting Manager, Environment Resilience & Climate Change
Scot Hedge	Manager, Stormwater & Floodplain Engineering
Gareth Birch	Resilience & Emergency Management Coordinator
Ed McPeake	Manager, Greener Communities
Rachel Treloar	Manager, Community Transport, Parking & Fleet
Anna Moore	Senior Advisor Governance
Lauren Reti	Senior Advisor Governance

Quorum

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

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, present and emerging.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cr Michael Gencher, Oscar Jones and Leigh McGaghey

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 27 APRIL 2023

OUTCOME

That the minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG) meeting held 27 April 2023, 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 WASTE & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

5.1 WASTE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY – ACTIONS, ASPIRATIONS AND TARGETS - ANDREW WARD-HARVEY - 20 MINS

DISCUSSION

Andrew Ward-Harvey, Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing provided an update on the Council's draft Waste and Circular Economy Strategy and outcomes of the recent ESRG workshop. Andrew advised that the next steps for the strategy would be to take it to a Councillor briefing then depending on the final drafting, intends to take it to the August Council Meeting for approval to go on public consultation during September.

The following topics and ideas were raised by members in the discussion:

- Embodied energy
- Construction waste and down cycling
- Modular building design for minimising waste
- Storage for recycled and/or reusable construction waste.

OUTCOME

That members of the Environment Strategy Reference Group (ESRG) note the key outcomes of the 25 May workshop with ESRG members.

ACTION

Andrew Ward-Harvey to provide an advanced draft of the Waste and Circular Economy Strategy to ESRG members before the next ESRG meeting in September 2023.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION & BIODIVERSITY**6.1 AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL GRANT - REWILDING SYDNEY - CHRIS MUNRO - 5 MINS****DISCUSSION**

Chris Munro, Manager Bushland & Biodiversity provided an overview of the Australian Research Council Grant – Rewilding Sydney, including the intention and length of the project as well as the councils and groups involved. Concerns were raised by Mayor Sue Heins and Jacqueline Marlow including:

- That animals in the Northern Beaches Local Government Area may be relocated to other areas and reduce the rare species within Northern Beaches Local Governance Area
- The biggest concern with rehabilitating and releasing animals in the local area is danger from foxes and cats therefore there is a need to ensure any relocated animals have somewhere safe to go and do not negatively affect our local Northern Beaches wildlife areas.

OUTCOME

That the ESRG note Council's participation in the Australian Research Council – Rewilding Sydney Linkage Grant.

ACTION

Chris Munro, Manager Bushland & Biodiversity to look into an FAQ that can be provided to the group.

6.2 PROSPERITY WETLAND UPDATE - DAVID HELLOT - 20 MINS**DISCUSSION**

David Hellot, Senior Environment Officer – Catchments gave a presentation on the Prosperity Wetland project, advising that the project, weather dependent, is due to be delivered by the end of June.

Points raised by members in the discussion included:

- The impact of El-Nino over the next 3-4 years and if Council had a facility to add water if we need to in future
- Monitoring of the wetland post completion.

OUTCOME

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

7.0 CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY**7.1 UPDATE ON ELECTRIFYING OUR FLEET - KARA TAYLOR - 20 MINS****DISCUSSION**

Rachel Treloar, Manager Community Transport, Parking & Fleet presented on Council's progress to electrify its fleet, the challenges Council is facing such as supply chain issues and no feasible utility or truck options, and how Council is supporting electric vehicles in the community.

During discussion the following points were raised by members:

- The challenges Linfox is having with tare weights of its industrial EVs
- The use of biodiesel for Council vehicles and whether Kimbriki could take waste oil
- Council's electric vehicles having wrapping which clearly displays that the vehicle is electric
- Insurance cost impacts moving to electric vehicles
- Bidirectional charging and looking at SA Standards.
- Making electric vehicles available for the public to view and or test drive to encourage take up in the community.

OUTCOME

That the ESG note the information outlined in this report and presentation.

7.2 TRANSITION FROM GAS PLAN PROJECT - KARA TAYLOR - 15 MINS**DISCUSSION**

Kara Taylor, Acting Manager Environment Resilience & Climate Change presented to members on Council's Transition from Gas Plan Project. The project will aim to transition Council's gas-using infrastructure to electricity to reduce Council's emissions, and with the renewable energy purchased by Council it is expected this will also produce cost savings.

Topics raised by members during discussions were:

- Embodied energy
- Timing of replacement of gas infrastructure
- Geothermal heating
- Public campaign about transitioning off gas
- Impacts of gas infrastructure to the community.

OUTCOME

That the ESG note the information in this report and the presentation.

8.0 RESILIENCE AND NATURAL HAZARDS

8.1 NARRABEEN LAGOON ENTRANCE CLEARANCE - OVERVIEW AND NEXT STEPS - SCOT HEDGE - 5 MINS

DISCUSSION

Scot Hedge, Manager Stormwater & Floodplain Engineering provided an update on entrance clearing operations at Narrabeen Lagoon, confirming sand removed from the lagoon will be taken to Collaroy (further south than previously, nearer to Frazer St). A program of communication notification will be undertaken including publishing the Review of Environmental Factors. It is expected to be reported to Council in August and works are anticipated to commence during September and be finalised prior to the summer holiday period in December 2023.

OUTCOME

That the ESG note the information outlined in this report.

ACTION

C Zones - Strategic Planning is working through C Zone submissions. (arose in discussion about the use of C Zones to manage hazards). Todd Dickinson will confirm how Strategic Planning will be handling responses to the community from the submissions raised and circulate the response to the group (raised by Jacqui Marlow)

8.2 DRAFT BUSH FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE - CHRIS MUNRO - 5 MINS

DISCUSSION

Chris Munro, Manager Bushland & Biodiversity provided an update to the group on the draft Bush Fire Risk Management Plan and confirmed that it is on public exhibition until Monday 17 July on the NSW Rural Fire Service website:

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/managing-bush-fire-risk/bush-fire-management-committees/northern-beaches> .

Members raised the following topics during the discussion:

- Updating the plan to keep up with fast changing climate
- That the plan relates to the responsibilities of land managers
- Reviewing the plan against NSW Bushfire Inquiry recommendations
- Cultural burning
- Vegetation community mix and whether it impacts fire intensity
- Government departments working against each other – one department working on reducing bushfire risk, and another department responsible for potential development in high bush fire risk locations (e.g. Lizard Rock).

OUTCOME

That the ESG note the public exhibition of the Northern Beaches Draft Bush Fire Risk Management Plan.

8.3 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICER/ DISASTER FUNDING - GARETH BIRCH - 5 MINS

DISCUSSION

Gareth Birch, Resilience & Emergency Management Coordinator provided an update to the group on the following projects that are underway to reduce and prepare for disaster risk in our Local Government Area:

- Flood warning tool upgrade
- Manly Dam scour valve investigation
- Online Disaster Dashboard.

Members raised the topic of emergency text messaging during the discussion. Todd Dickinson, provided an update on the governance of emergency text messaging and given this, Council has not adopted this as an emergency communication tool.

OUTCOME

That the ESG notes the information outlined in this report.

9.0 SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

9.1 UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF THE BUSINESS POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS NETWORK - ED MCPEAKE - 5 MINS

DISCUSSION

Ed McPeake, Manager Greener Communities gave an update to the group on the Business Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Business Green Energy was appointed in March 2023 as the aggregator, and Council is aiming to execute the PPA in early 2024. Council is now encouraging businesses to sign up to our buyers group.

Ed McPeake also updated the group on the Sustainable Business Network (SBN) which assists local businesses with their sustainability goals by connecting them with other businesses to learn from each other and share knowledge and experiences. An interactive map has been developed which acts as a searchable directory for like-minded businesses.

Members were encouraging of both initiatives and raised that promotion of both within the community could be increased. Promotional suggestions were:

- A stall at Narrabeen Markets
- Posters with QR codes.

OUTCOME

That Council continue to support the ongoing strategic progress of the Business PPA and Sustainable Business Network with the local business community.

10.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nigel Howard presented to the group on The Climate Emergency. The presentation covered the following topics:

- Location of “Climate Emergency” on the Northern Beaches Council website
- Northern Beaches Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040
- Disconnect between all levels of Government regarding targets
- Funding for climate emergency
- Volunteer groups working with Council
- Climate Dashboard – location on website and information on the dashboard.
- Council’s actions currently won’t meet its adopted targets, and the need to do substantially more particularly in relation to emissions across the Northern Beaches

The meeting concluded at 8:50pm

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 8 pages
numbered 1 to 8 of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting
held on Wednesday 7 June 2023 and confirmed on Wednesday 6 September 2023