



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, Civic Centre, Dee Why on

WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

Committee Members

Cr Kristyn Glanville (Chair)	Councillor
Mayor Sue Heins	Mayor
Cr Michael Gencher	Councillor
Cr Stuart Sprott	Councillor

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
Sarah Baker	Individual – Frenchs Forest 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
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
Lauren Reti	Senior Advisor Governance

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 Wednesday 6 September 2023
in the Flannel Flower Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why
Commencing at 6:00pm**

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NEXT MEETING Wednesday 6 December 2023

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 7 JUNE 2023

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 7 June 2023, copies of which were previously circulated to all members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

5.0 WASTE & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

ITEM 5.1	DRAFT WASTE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY - ANDREW WARD-HARVEY - 15 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	EXECUTIVE MANAGER WASTE MANAGEMENT & CLEANSING
TRIM FILE REF	2023/548442
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

PURPOSE

To provide an update to the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG) on the status of Council's draft Waste and Circular Economy Strategy.

SUMMARY

Further to the workshop held at the last ESRG meeting on 7 June 2023, the following actions have been undertaken in developing the Strategy:

- Edge Consulting was engaged to collaborate with Council to refine the actions, targets, and narrative of the Waste & Circular Economy Strategy which were developed after a community survey and workshops. This included bringing a knowledge of the waste and circular economy environment, refining, improving, and providing guidance on feasibility of Council's proposed Strategy actions and targets to ensure they are measurable and represent best practice, and guide Council in finalising a Strategy structure.
- ARUP Australia was engaged to carry out an independent peer review of the Organics Options & Feasibility Analysis previously completed by WSP. ARUP also carried out their own modelling of costs and carbon emissions as well as sensitivity analysis on predetermined options.
- A Special Interest Councillor briefing was held.

The below directions and outcomes have been developed in the process as the basis for the Strategy.

	Direction	Outcomes
1	Eliminating waste	• Council is a leading advocate, and supports our local community and businesses, in reducing the amount of waste created in the Northern Beaches • A thriving local circular economy which facilitates widespread reuse, repair and recycling of local products and materials
2	Easy to use waste service	• Council's household waste collection service is reliable, accessible and flexible • Sustainable recycling options for household waste are implemented, with supporting local infrastructure and information about recycling provided to the community

	Direction	Outcomes
3	Tackling priority wastes	• 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 • Our community has access to viable and sustainable options to reduce single use plastics and to recover resources from genuinely recyclable plastics
4	Green and Clean environment	• The Northern Beaches has the cleanest public spaces in Sydney • Council minimises the environmental and climate change impacts from managing waste
5	Council leading the way	• Council demonstrates leadership by reducing, reusing, repairing and recycling more in its operations and advocacy • Council facilitates best practice waste reduction and waste management in its local planning framework and in Council's built infrastructure

The draft Strategy document is currently being designed and will be taken to the October Council Meeting. Public consultation is planned to run from 30 October till 10 December 2023 to gain feedback from the community.

RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER WASTE MANAGEMENT & CLEANSING

That the Environment SRG note the update provided.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION & BIODIVERSITY

ITEM 6.1	BUSH FIRE SEASON PREPARATIONS AND BUSH FIRE RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTCOME - CHRIS MUNRO - 5 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER, BUSHLAND & BIODIVERSITY
TRIM FILE REF	2023/544765
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

Update on Council's bush fire management preparation for the upcoming bush fire season, and outcomes of public exhibition of the draft Northern Beaches Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (BFRMP).

BACKGROUND

We may expect to see heightened fire danger ratings this season due to predicted above average temperatures and below average rainfall. The Bureau of Meteorology has declared an El Niño watch, meaning we are likely to experience a drier season after a several years of above average rainfall associated with La Niña. Increased rainfall has promoted vegetation growth and led to quicker than normal fuel load accumulations throughout the state, particular in areas recovering from fires in 2019/20 season. These factors combined with recent international wildfire events and media attention on the seasonal outlook has led to heightened community awareness about the upcoming bush fire season.

As reported previously, the public exhibition of the BFRMP closed on Monday 17 July 2023. A BFRMP is a strategic document prepared by the multi-agency Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) in accordance with legislation. The plan identifies assets and values at risk from bush fire, and outlines coordinated objectives and treatment strategies to reduce risk over a 5-year period. Once approved, the plan will replace the two existing plans that currently remain in effect throughout the Northern Beaches, being the Warringah Pittwater Bush Fire Risk Management Plan 2010 and the Manly, Mosman, North Sydney Bush Fire Risk Management Plan 2010

DISCUSSION

Bush Fire Management Update

Council engages in year-round preparation for the bush fire season through several hazard reduction initiatives. These include:

- **Asset Protection Zone Maintenance:** An Asset Protection Zone (APZ) is a fuel reduced area surrounding a built asset or structure. This can include any residential building or major building such as farm and machinery sheds, or industrial, commercial or heritage buildings. Council currently maintains 256 APZs, including 239 priority sites in higher risk locations across the LGA. Each of these APZs is planned to be maintained quarterly to reduce fuel loads, and all sites are scheduled to be maintained before 30 September 2023.
- **Fire Trail Maintenance:** Fire trails are an important part of ensuring firefighters can access fires and safely contain them. They are also used to assist with management of bush fire risk across the landscape. Council is currently responsible for over 15km of trails spread across 38 fire trails. All trails are currently in trafficable condition following recent maintenance and upgrades are being investigated throughout Manly Dam and Elvina Bay under the BFMC Fire Access and Fire Trail (FAFT) Plan. Further, all fire trails will be inspected ahead of the

upcoming fire season to ensure they remain passable, and to identify maintenance requirements.

- Prescribed Burning: Council collaborates with the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS), Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) and other land managers to plan, prepare and undertake prescribed burns across Council land. These burns are primarily targeted at reducing fuel loads to manage bush fire risk; however, they also have important ecological benefits to maintain biodiversity. Five prescribed burns have been completed on Council land since the start of the financial year, resulting in over 11.5 ha of Council land being fuel reduced and 301 properties protected. 26 prescribed burns have also been prepared and are awaiting implementation by fire agencies as weather conditions and operational priorities allow with planning commenced for 12 additional sites.

Council also responds year-round to community bush fire hazard concerns, ensuring all complaints are referred to the RFS in accordance with legislative requirements. Council acts promptly to ensure any bush fire hazards identified by the RFS are mitigated in accordance with recommendations.

Given the forecast increased fire risk this season, a supplementary fine fuel collection is also being organised by Council's Waste Team for offshore residents throughout Scotland Island and the Western Foreshores. The collection is expected to be undertaken in late Spring and is in addition to scheduled biannual green waste collections. This will encourage residents to continue prepare their properties for bush fire through the removal of fine fuels (i.e. leaf litter, twigs, small branches).

Council's Bush Fire Management Team are also preparing an updated 'Bush Fire Preparation' community engagement flyer to be distributed to residents with the October rates notice. The flyer covers home preparation, public and private bush fire management responsibilities, preparing a bush fire survival plan and what to do in an emergency. Last year's flyer can be found on Council's website.

Northern Beaches Bush Fire Risk Management Plan Update

The BFMC is in the process of reviewing submissions received during the eight-week public exhibition period which closed on 17 July 2023. 25 submissions were received through the RFS online portal, with three agencies including Council, also providing submissions. The RFS will be providing acknowledgement letters to all submitters on behalf of the BFMC.

The BFMC met on 28 August 2023 to review and discuss submissions. As a result, the committee has moved towards investigating a number of minor amendments to the publicly exhibited document, including some of the recommendations proposed by Council. The RFS and partner agencies have also resolved to follow up any specific enquiries or concerns such as bush fire hazard complaints which for example will be locally investigated by the RFS. Council has also identified a number of submissions which relate to fire management programs throughout Manly Dam and propose to organise an informal meeting with interested parties.

Council expects that a further update will be provided to the BFMC by the RFS at the next ordinary meeting of the BFMC on 6 September 2023.

RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGER, BUSHLAND & BIODIVERSITY

That the Environment SRG note the information outlined in this report.

7.0 CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY

ITEM 7.1	ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY - ACTION PLAN PROGRESS - JACQUELINE GROVE - 5 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE
TRIM FILE REF	2023/544779
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

To provide the Environment SRG with an update on the Environment & Climate Change (ECC) Strategy Action Plan progress.

BACKGROUND

Council adopted Protect. Create. Live – the Northern Beaches Environment and Climate Change Strategy in 2019. Since this time, five action plans have been developed and are being implemented to guide our four yearly Delivery Program and annual Operational Plans. These plans deliver action across all the themes within the ECC Strategy to enable us to work towards our aspirations and commitments.

DISCUSSION

Progress towards the action plans can be seen in the table below. In total, there are 184 actions within these five plans, with 41% completed and 49% of actions started.

Action Plan	Total actions	Actions started	Actions completed	Actions outstanding
Climate Change Action Plan	46	42	4	0
Bushland & Biodiversity Action Plan	37	20	15	2
Environmental Education & Sustainable Living Action Plan	45	3	39	3
Coast Action Plan	29	10	18	1
Waterways & Catchments Action Plan	27	15	0	12

Key highlights include championing renewables through our Simplifying Solar program that has reached more than 3,840 people to help achieve the target of 50% of suitable premises with solar by 2030; providing over \$135,000 through 34 grants for our community to undertake environmental and sustainability projects in the local area and educating more than 92,000 people through our Environment Centres since 2016. In addition, Council has reduced corporate emissions, prioritized resilience through the adoption of the Northern Beaches Resilience Strategy, and protected our bushland, coast and waterways.

RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE

That the Environment SRG note the presentation.

ITEM 7.2	ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY DASHBOARD - JACQUELINE GROVE - 5 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE
TRIM FILE REF	2023/544787
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

To provide the ESRG with an update on the Environment and Climate Change (ECC) Strategy Dashboard.

BACKGROUND

The Environment and Climate Change Strategy Dashboard (the Dashboard) was developed, in house, to demonstrate how Council and the community are tracking on the commitments and aspirations in the ECC Strategy.

The Dashboard currently covers data in four areas – Sustainable Living, Sustainable Built Environment, Coast, Waterways and Catchments and Council Operations. The data in the Dashboard is updated at varying timescales from 6-12 months depending upon when new data is available.

DISCUSSION

The dashboard was launched in December 2022 with further promotion to occur once updated to Version 2.0. Feedback has been received from internal and external stakeholders and minor updates will be processed in the near future.

Version 2.0 is currently in development and will include significant changes including additional pages to highlight progress towards the key commitments for all themes within the ECC Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE

That the Environment SRG note the report and continue to provide feedback on the Dashboard.

8.0 RESILIENCE AND NATURAL HAZARDS

ITEM 8.1	UPDATE ON NARRABEEN LAGOON - KEVIN FERNANDO - 10 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	ACTING MANAGER, STORMWATER & FLOODPLAIN ENGINEERING
TRIM FILE REF	2023/544801
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

Provide an update on Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Strategy.

BACKGROUND

The Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Strategy (RHDHV, 2022) (EMS) was adopted by Council in September 2022. The EMS recommends actions to be implemented to mitigate impacts of flooding in the catchment. This report is to provide an update on key actions being undertaken from the EMS.

DISCUSSION

Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Clearance Works

The EMS recommends an 'increased frequency of dredging with a lesser volume' which focusses on the western shoal. Tender was approved at August 2023 Council meeting with works anticipated to occur between September and mid December 2023. Aiming to remove 22,500m³ of sand, with 12,800m³ from the western side of the Ocean Street Bridge and 9,700m³ from the eastern side.

Mechanical Lagoon Openings

The scour (pilot) channel position for breakouts has been amended to reflect the recommended configuration within the EMS. It involved shifting the channel to the north to work with natural entrance channel alignment and minimise disruption to the surf break.

Flexible trigger options for openings are to be developed. We currently operate within a relatively flexible range, however will progress with further adjustments. Changing the process will require a Review of Environmental Factors and this is anticipated to commence in mid 2024.

Birdwood Dune

Council will reshape and revegetate the main denuded part of Birdwood Dune in Autumn 2024. This is to align with the recommended growing season for dune plantings and is supported by grant funding.

Review mobile sand pumping option

This is a low priority action in the EMS, however staff have undertaken some initial research on existing sand pumping systems, such as at Noosa Beach in Queensland. We will commence reviewing this process in more detail during in mid-late 2024.

RECOMMENDATION OF ACTING MANAGER, STORMWATER & FLOODPLAIN ENGINEERING

That the Environment SRG note the information outlined in this report.

ITEM 8.2	COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS - BEN FALLOWFIELD - 5 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER, COAST & CATCHMENTS
TRIM FILE REF	2023/544813
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

This report is to update the ESRG on the status and forward path of the Coastal Management Plans currently under development.

BACKGROUND

NSW Coastal Management Program aims to provide for strategic and integrated coastal management over the short and medium terms with a strategic view of long-term conditions.

Existing [Coastal Zone Management Plans](#) (CZMPs) will be replaced by Coastal Management Plans (CMPs) and will cease to have effect after 31 December 2023.

DISCUSSION

Purpose of a coastal management program

CMPs set the long-term strategy for the coordinated management of the coast, with a focus on achieving the objects and objectives of the *Coastal Management Act 2016* (CM Act). In particular CMPs:

- identify coastal management issues and the actions required to address these issues in a strategic and integrated way.
- detail how and when those actions are to be implemented, their costs and proposed cost-sharing arrangements and other viable funding mechanisms.
- establishes specific roles and responsibilities for relevant Ministers, the NSW Coastal Council, public authorities and local councils, as well as providing opportunities for communities to participate when preparing and implementing a CMP.

The preparation of a CMP consists of 5 distinct phases:

1. Identify the scope of the study, review progress made in managing issues in coastal areas, develop a shared understanding of the current situation, identify the focus of the new CMP.
2. Determine risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities.
3. Identify and evaluate options.
4. Prepare, exhibit, finalise, certify and adopt the CMP.
5. Implement, monitor, evaluate and report.

Status of Northern Beaches Coastal Management Program

The following provides an overview of the status of each CMP that involves the Northern Beaches.

Hawkesbury- Nepean

Hornsby Council are leading 8 participating Councils in the preparation of this CMP. Stages 3 and 4 are being planned for delivery in 2023 and beyond. This CMP will look to address complex issues such as erosion and recession at sites like Great Mackerel Beach and Sand Point.

Greater Sydney Harbour

Sydney Coastal Councils Group are leading a group of Council and State Government partners in preparation of this CMP. Preparation of this CMP has stalled at stage 2 due to funding issues. This CMP will look to address complex issues related to the consistent management of Sea Level Rise and Water quality across Sydney Harbour.

Northern Beaches Significant Open Coast Hazard Locations

This scoping study is being finalised and is expected to recommend that a CMP be immediately prepared for Collaroy- Narrabeen Beach as the highest priority.

This CMP for Collaroy-Narrabeen will eventually be integrated into the Northern Beaches Open Coast and Lagoons Scoping Study.

Northern Beaches Open Coast and Lagoons

Northern Beaches Council has received grant funding from the Department of Planning and Environment for preparation of a Stage 1 Scoping Study for a Northern beaches Open Coast and Lagoons CMP. A request for quotation is being prepared.

In parallel to the Collaroy-Narrabeen only CMP, the Northern Beaches Open Coast and Lagoons CMP will be commenced. The Northern Beaches Open Coast and Lagoons CMP is expected to take 3+ years and, on completion, supersede the Collaroy- Narrabeen CMP. A separate CMP for Fisherman's, Bilgola and Basin Beaches is not currently being considered, these locations will be covered by the Northern Beaches Open Coast and Lagoons CMP.

Timeframe for Delivery

The following image illustrates the shows the staged timeframe for each CMP.

CMP Stage	Hawkesbury-Nepean	Greater Sydney Harbour	Collaroy-Narrabeen	Open Coast and Lagoons
Stage 1	2019 – 21	2018 – 19	2020 – 2023	2023 – 24
Stage 2	2023	2019 – 22	2023	2024+
Stage 3&4	2023+	2023+	2023	2024+
Stage 5	2024+	2023+	2023+	2024+

- Complete
- Underway
- Not Started

RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGER, COAST & CATCHMENTS

That the Environment SRG note the content of this report.

9.0 SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

ITEM 9.1	MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE UPDATE - ED MCPEAKE - 10 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	ENVIRONMENT CENTRES COORDINATOR
TRIM FILE REF	2023/544832
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

PURPOSE

To provide an update to the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG) on the next steps for the Manly Environment Centre (MEC).

SUMMARY

- Over last 12 months MEC has continued to operate events and activities out of the current Library location:
 - Taste of Manly event stall
 - Cabbage Tree Bay Volunteers
 - Ocean Festival
 - Rock platform walks at Fairy Bower
 - Manly Dam Flora and Fauna Series – 3 night walks plus five talks
 - Project Penguin – Collaboration with National Parks/Taronga – 8 local schools
 - NBC Eco Awards
- Currently reviewing Council buildings with the property team for appropriate relocation.
- Funds are still available to ensure the new Manly Environment Centre is equipped with latest resources and technology to help drive sustainable living and engage with as wide an audience as possible. This includes school education as well as community and corporate sustainability education programs and offerings.

RECOMMENDATION OF ENVIRONMENT CENTRES COORDINATOR

That the Environment SRG note the content of this report.

ITEM 9.2	ECO SCHOOLS GRANT SURVEY RESULTS - ED MCPEAKE - 10 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	ENVIRONMENT CENTRES COORDINATOR
TRIM FILE REF	2023/544845
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

PURPOSE

To provide an update to the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG) on the outcomes of the Eco Schools Grant Survey Results.

SUMMARY

All local schools were sent a survey about Council's Eco Schools Grant program - findings as follows:

- 34% response rate and 23% completion rate from schools.
- 78% of responses were aware of Council's Eco Schools grant program.
- 55% felt \$2,000 was a sufficient budget to run a sustainability project in a school.
- Term 1 was highlighted as the best term to launch a grant in – Council currently launches grant in Term 4.
- Catholic schools now must have all grant applications approved by the Diocese of Broken Bay.
- Grants are still considered a good way to assist schools with their sustainability projects however, it was repeatedly noted that they need ongoing on the ground support from Council to assist with the projects.
- 58% of responses stated that time was a barrier to grants. This applied to applying for and managing the implementation of the project. 27% said there were no barriers to applying for the grants.
- Currently less than 10% of local schools benefit directly from the Eco Schools grants annually.
- Teachers' lack of time was a reoccurring theme throughout the survey –

Options:

- Retain Eco Schools Grants using current model and funding - \$10,000 total (up to \$2,000 per school) – actions include increase comms to improve uptake and change timing of grant to facilitate more school engagement
- Re-allocate funding to sustainable education programs currently in place and offer services to all schools on first in first served basis. Services to include Eco Incursions, creation of northern beaches teacher sustainability network, teacher professional development in sustainability and environmental learning, signage/equipment – use existing \$10,000 grant plus additional funds from current community sustainability budget if required.

RECOMMENDATION OF ENVIRONMENT CENTRES COORDINATOR

That the Environment SRG note the content of this report.
