

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

THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER 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 Thursday 30 November 2023
in the Flannel Flower Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why
Commencing at 6:00pm**

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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 ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2023

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held on 6 September 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	LITTER ROADMAP
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER, CLEANSING SERVICES
TRIM FILE REF	2023/752179
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

Council is currently developing a Litter Prevention Roadmap to guide litter prevention priorities and actions for the region.

BACKGROUND

Both National and State governments have developed various strategies and plans to combat littering. The NSW Government has set its litter target to 60% reduction by 2030 and 30% less plastic by 2025. The State Government has put aside funding available to local councils to engage in litter prevention initiatives to contribute to reaching its goals.

Council, in its draft Waste and Circular Economy Strategy 2040 ('Waste Strategy'), sets out Council's approach to waste and littering on the Northern Beaches. This includes setting its litter reduction target at local hotspots at 60% by 2030 and increasing the resource recovery rate in public place litter bins by 50% by 2030. In addition, various actions centered around education, engagement, enforcement and source control are outlined in the draft Strategy.

Council was successful in obtaining funding from NSW EPA in its Litter Prevention Grants Program and is developing a Litter Prevention Roadmap as part of the grant funded activities.

DISCUSSION

For Council to reduce the impacts and costs of litter, we need to focus attention on prevention at the source and work with the community on reducing the production of the types of items regularly littered. This includes disposable food and drink packaging and other single use items. We also need to deter littering behaviours through education, compliance, and source control.

A key outcome of the draft Waste Strategy is for the Northern Beaches to have the cleanest public spaces in Sydney. To help achieve this, Council is currently designing a litter prevention roadmap, aiming at setting out high level targets and actions for Council to implement in the next 5 years, in order to prevent and reduce litter in the community.

Once the roadmap is finalised, Council intends to coordinate a program (subject to available funding) centred around the objectives of the Waste Strategy and roadmap and seek to address some of the key challenges to effectively combat litter in our local community.

The completion of Council's Litter Prevention Roadmap will also enable Council to apply for Stream 3 of NSW EPA's Litter Prevention Program funding and allow Council to implement and engage in these actions.

RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGER, CLEANSING SERVICES

That the Environment SRG note the report.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION & BIODIVERSITY

ITEM 6.1	BUSHLAND CONDITION MAPPING PROJECT
REPORTING OFFICER	ACTING MANAGER, BUSHLAND & BIODIVERSITY
TRIM FILE REF	2023/761791
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

To provide the ESG with an update on the bushland condition mapping project and the associated dashboard.

BACKGROUND

Council has committed to protecting and restoring local bushland and biodiversity through the 2018 – 2028 Community Strategic Plan, the 2019 *Protect Create Live* Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the 2020 Bushland & Biodiversity Policy. To report on this commitment, the team is developing a system that measures the change in condition of Council's bushland over time.

Council's Environment & Climate Change team have partnered with the Spatial Information team on a bushland condition mapping project including development of online web app and associated dashboard. The main objectives of this project are to:

- Map Council's natural areas in the asset management system and assign a condition rating
- Create a system that will enable Council to track changes in the condition of natural areas over time, and record work done on the assets
- Capture data on the condition of Council's natural assets which can be used to better inform management decisions and be utilised for reporting purposes.

DISCUSSION

Council undertakes an annual program of bushland regeneration. Council has responsibility for approximately 17km² of bushland. Council receives monthly reports on progress from bush regeneration contractors which includes maps that indicate the progress of work and site condition. Until now, Council has had no standardised reserve condition rating system or centralized system to store and track reserve condition.

This project is applying a standardised approach to mapping and tracking the condition of Council's bushland reserves. Council is using mobile GIS mapping technology to allow for in-field ground truthing and data capture based on agreed assessment criteria and condition ratings.

This project will better inform management decisions and demonstrate the effectiveness of expenditure on our reserves. Approximately 45% of the mapping is complete and the balance is expected to be completed over the next calendar year.

RECOMMENDATION OF ACTING MANAGER, BUSHLAND & BIODIVERSITY

That the Environment SRG note the report.

7.0 CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY

ITEM 7.1	ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING UPDATE
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE
TRIM FILE REF	2023/761679
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

To provide an update on electric vehicle charging as per Action 7.1 of the ESG meeting on 6 September 2023.

DISCUSSION

Council fleet and electric vehicle charging

Council is working to transition its fleet to electric vehicles (EV). This will help Council meet adopted corporate net zero targets and deliver against actions in the Climate Change Action Plan.

Council has recently increased its EV charging infrastructure with an additional 11 chargers installed at two sites this year to support our expanding EV fleet. The following chargers are installed at Council sites and facilities:

- Boonah Depot – 6 x 7kW chargers
- Cromer Admin – 9 x 7kW chargers
- Dee Why PCYC – 3 x 7kW chargers
- Whistler Street Carpark – 2 x 22kW chargers

Council is continuing to transition the fleet to electric with 14% of our passenger fleet now electric/hybrid. Of these vehicles, 18 are hybrid, 4 are plug-in hybrid and 21 are full electric.

Council support for electric vehicle charging for community use

Council is working to support EV uptake across the LGA. Council has worked with Ausgrid and private operators to install expand EV charging infrastructure across the Northern Beaches in accordance with our adopted [Northern Beaches Council Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan](#).

Eight Ausgrid distribution kiosks have been upgraded to JOLT electric vehicle chargers, providing 100% GreenPower free fast charging for our community. Council is looking to expand provision of similar charging stations at additional key locations across the LGA and 7 additional sites will be installed early 2024.

There will also be 7 additional chargers installed on street side power poles in the Northern Beaches as part of an EV charging trial funded by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, with installation to begin in December 2023. These chargers will also be 100% GreenPower.

Council is also working with a number of EV charging providers on applications to submit to the NSW Government's [Drive Electric NSW EV Kerbside Charging Grants](#).

RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE

That the Environment SRG note the report.

8.0 RESILIENCE AND NATURAL HAZARDS

ITEM 8.1	UPDATE ON FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
REPORTING OFFICER	TEAM LEADER, FLOODPLAIN PLANNING & RESPONSE
TRIM FILE REF	2023/761824
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

1. To provide the Group with a summary of floodplain studies and activities recently and currently being undertaken;
2. To resolve an action from 6 September 2023 requiring an update on sand pumping options in the Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Strategy.
3. To provide update on the Disaster Risk Reduction funding and associated projects

DISCUSSION

1. Council has statutory obligations to prepare and introduce Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans (FRMSPs) which outline actions intended to mitigate flood risk for residents of the Northern Beaches. Council is currently concurrently completing a number of such studies, outlined as follows:
 - Greendale Creek Flood Study (Curl Curl Lagoon Catchment)
 - Adopted in August 2023
 - Middle Harbour Flood Study (Stormwater Overland flow flood study)
 - Study being drafted. Working group to be established in February. Draft Report to go on public exhibition in June 2024, subject to Council approval
 - Manly to Seaforth Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan
 - Study being drafted. Working group to be established in March/April. Draft Report to go on public exhibition in August/Sept 2024, subject to Council approval
 - McCarrs Creek, Mona Vale and Bayview FRMSP
 - Currently on hold while the above higher priority studies are completed

A number of other studies for all catchments in the LGA have already been completed and also updated. Details about past FRMSPs are available at this [link on our website](#). Other such studies include Avalon to Palm Beach FRMSP; Newport Beach FRMSP and updated Flood Study; Great Mackerel Beach Flood Study and FRMSP; Narrabeen Lagoon FRM Study and Plan.

2. As outlined in the September ESG meeting, alternative methods for the Entrance Clearance works including sand pumping were considered in the Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Strategy (NLEMS) prepared in 2022. Regarding the sand pumping method, the report concluded that a Council-purchased sand pumping scheme would be considerably more expensive than the existing method of trucking the excavated sand. The NLEMS recommended that Council should review pricing from a Contractor delivered scheme or partnered scheme as a medium priority.

Council is committed to an investigation and review of the installation of mobile sand pumping equipment, and the most cost-effective way to achieve this. As part of the review, which is scheduled to be undertaken from July to December 2024, Council will review all potential options, including reconsidering a Council-owned scheme and partnering/contracting with other entities to achieve cost effective outcomes for Council. The review will involve significant staffing time and resources.

In the meantime Council continues to deliver Entrance Clearance Projects involving the transport of sand to the beach using trucks as the preferred method until a viable alternative is confirmed. The 2023 Clearance works are due to be completed by end of November, and another is scheduled for August to November 2025. By that time Council should have a good understanding as to whether Council owned or partnered sand pumping option is an appropriate alternative solution.

3. Council applied for and is being supported by funds from a state Disaster Risk Reduction Fund through the NSW Reconstruction Authority and is undertaking the following flood risk mitigation projects:
 - Flood Warning Improvements (recommendation of multiple FRMSPs)
 - Involves developing improvements to Council's flood forecasting models, including use the latest BOM products and improvements to Council's internal alarms service
 - Due for completion in Q1 2024
 - Investigation into increasing the flood storage potential of Manly Dam (recommendation of the Manly Lagoon FRMSP 2018)
 - Manly Dam Scour Valves Procedures Review
 - Due for completion in Q2 2024

RECOMMENDATION OF TEAM LEADER, FLOODPLAIN PLANNING & RESPONSE

That the Environment SRG note the report.

9.0 SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

ITEM 9.1	100% RENEWABLES POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER, GREENER COMMUNITIES
TRIM FILE REF	2023/761966
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

BACKGROUND

Council is supporting local businesses by helping to facilitate a group of buyers from the Northern Beaches business community to secure a 100% renewable, long-term electricity PPA.

DISCUSSION

Business Green Energy are leading this project supported by Northern Beaches Council, and this is believed to be the first NSW aggregated PPA tailored to local businesses supported by a Council.

Business Green Energy undertook a rigorous procurement process, assessing numerous energy provider offers, and found that Iberdrola presented the most competitive offer. Iberdrola is the same company that Council selected for its own PPA in Jan 2021 which is delivering significant financial and greenhouse gas savings for us in a 7-year deal.

Iberdrola have a good track record with Council and we hope that this also encourages our local businesses to look into the offer and see if it will work for them too.

Business Green Energy have secured a highly competitive and exclusive electricity deal for Northern Beaches businesses with Iberdrola.

Council is supporting Business Green Energy to recruit local businesses and by promoting the project through our networks and Council's communication channels (EDM, B-EDMS, Sustainability Business Network, Local Business Chambers etc.).

The 100% renewable power purchase agreement for local businesses project was publicly launched on 6 November 2023.

Businesses are encouraged to register their interest by 15 December 2023 directly with Business Green Energy. Following this, in February 2024, Business Green Energy will release the energy offer from Iberdrola for businesses to consider.

To support the launch Council is hosting four information sessions across our area during February and March. Business Green Energy will be leading these sessions, providing an overview of PPAs, outlining the details of the energy Offer from Business Green Energy/Iberdrola and provide the opportunity to pose any questions businesses may have regarding the project. Book through the What's On calendar on Council's website.

- Tuesday 27 February 2024, Manly Council Chambers, 7.30 – 8:30am
- Wednesday 28 February 2024, Dee Why Council Chambers, 6.30 – 7:30pm
- Thursday 29 February 2024, Mona Vale Community Centre, 7.30 – 8:30pm
- Thursday 7 March 2024, Glen Street Theatre, 7.30 – 8:30pm

A comprehensive media and marketing campaign is underway. Council has supported BGE by providing business contacts and advertising the program through our media channels. More details are available at this [link](#).

RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGER, GREENER COMMUNITIES

That the Environment SRG note the report.
