



northern
beaches
council

Environment
Strategic Reference Group

ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

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

THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2023

Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group
held on Thursday 30 November 2023
in the Flannel Flower Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why
Commencing at 6:20pm

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Kristyn Glanville (Chair)	Councillor
Cr Michael Gencher	Councillor (<i>not in attendance</i>)
Cr Stuart Sprott	Councillor (<i>not in attendance</i>)

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
Roberta Conroy	Individual – Pittwater Ward
Sarah Baker	Individual – Frenchs Forest Ward
Joeline Hackman	Northern Beaches War on Waste

Community members or group representatives with broad range of strategic views

Natalie Warren	Community representative - Curl Curl Ward
Malin Frick	Community representative – Manly 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
Chris Kraus	Coordinator Bushland Management
Patrick Stuart	Team Leader, Floodplain Planning & Response
Brendan Smith	Acting Manager Bushland and Biodiversity
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 Mayor Heins, Leigh McGahey and Oscar Jones.

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 6 SEPTEMBER 2023

OUTCOME

That the minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held on 6 September 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 LITTER ROADMAP

DISCUSSION

Andrew Ward-Harvey, Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing presented to the group on this topic.

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. The Litter Prevention Roadmap will help to achieve one of the key outcomes of the draft Waste and Circular Economy Strategy which is for the Northern Beaches to have the cleanest public spaces in Sydney. 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

Points raised by members:

- Discussion on the number of people fined for littering in the Northern Beaches local government area.
- Seabin Pty Ltd has completed some litter mapping around Sydney which could be of interest to Council. Could Council consider inviting Seabin Pty Ltd to present at a future meeting?
- The use of school education campaigns on litter prevention and how they can be beneficial in behaviour change, with children taking home the information and educating their families.
- Rubbish can be classified into 'old' and 'new' rubbish. Old rubbish has been around for many years, often collected in areas such as Curl Curl Lagoon. New rubbish tends to be 'forgotten' items, eg people have a picnic and leave/forget to pick up some of their rubbish.
- The importance of the location of rubbish bins in high traffic/use areas (such as beaches and parks), ensuring they are in easily visible and accessible locations to make it as easy as possible for people to dispose of their rubbish.
- Work with bigger businesses on their litter production, by mapping the spread of litter produced by their businesses. For example, mapping the 'hotspot' around fast food restaurants could show how much/far their rubbish spreads.
- Suggestion of 'bans' on certain packaging, for example single use coffee cups.
- Rubbish along Mona Vale Road and Wakehurst Parkway has been bulldozed from along the roadside into the bush. A request was made for Council to assist in contacting Connect Sydney to help resolve this matter and have them remove the rubbish.

Next steps

The group members were encouraged to share their ideas and thoughts by making a submission on the draft Waste and Circular Economy Strategy. Submissions close on 10 December, with details available on Council's website <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/waste-and-circular-economy-strategy>

OUTCOME

That the Environment SRG note the report.

ACTION

Provide to interested members of the ESRG, the Council report that contains the overview of the results of Council's audit of litter.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION & BIODIVERSITY

6.1 BUSHLAND CONDITION MAPPING PROJECT

DISCUSSION

Chris Kraus, Co-ordinator Bushland Management presented to the group on this item.

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.

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 will better inform management decisions and demonstrate the effectiveness of expenditure on our reserves.

Points raised by members:

- This will be a great source of information for the community when complete. It can be used to encourage people to think of bushland quality in their own properties.
- Queried if Council could implement a strategy to eventually re-evaluate the condition level criteria to raise the bar of the condition levels to push continued improvement.
- Focus some bush regeneration efforts in locations where the community will see the change. Seeing positive change will help the community to engage with the project and goal of improving the condition of our bushland.
- Prioritising regeneration of bushland where we have rare &/or threatened fauna species.
- Council has been able to maintain the same bush regeneration programs that the 3 Council's were running, prior to amalgamation along with the budget for each program. The continuation of these programs has helped to maintain the bushland quality across the local government area.

OUTCOME

That the Environment SRG note the report.

7.0 CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY

7.1 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING UPDATE

DISCUSSION

Yianni Mentis, Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change provided an update on this item in line with action 7.1 from the 6 September 2023 meeting.

Points raised by members:

- Location of some Council installed chargers at PCYC and other parking areas. Some are located in areas where people would not feel safe to use them, for example on the lower level of a car park in an area that is not very busy or perhaps well lit.
- The benefits of bidirectional charging and education of the community on this subject. It was suggested that a 'bidirectional charger' demonstration/information area could be included in the Coastal Environment Centre once it is set up in the new space.
- Potential incentives that can be offered for people to include electric vehicle charges when people are they are submitting their Development Applications and building their property. A request was made from the group for a Strategic & Place Planning team to present to the ESG on LEP/DCP direction
- Council vehicles are assessed at the end of their lease to determine if they will transition to a fully electric vehicle, hybrid vehicle or other type of vehicle. This is also dependant on the type and use of the vehicle.
- Andrew Ward-Harvey confirmed that Council is in the process of acquiring an Electric Street Sweeper.
- There are new electric cars that will recharge as they are driven.

OUTCOME

That the Environment SRG note the report.

ACTION

Staff to advise the ESG:

1. if the location of Council EV chargers is listed on the Council website
2. the location of chargers being installed on street-side power poles

ACTION

Liaise with Strategic & Place Planning for a team member to attend a future Environment SRG meeting to present on the LEP/DCP.

8.0 RESILIENCE AND NATURAL HAZARDS

8.1 UPDATE ON FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

DISCUSSION

Patrick Stuart, Team Leader, Floodplain Planning & Response presented to the group on this item.

Council has a statutory obligation 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. Currently there are 4 studies being undertaken that are at various stages.

At the September ESRG meeting, the cost effectiveness of sand pumping methods was discussed as part of the Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Strategy and an action was taken to look into the financial viability of Council purchasing its own mobile sand pumping equipment compared with partnering/contracting with other entities. As part of a review scheduled to be undertaken from July to December 2024, Council will review all potential options, including the suggestions raised by the ESRG in September.

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 mitigations project:

- Flood Warning Improvements – due for completion Quarter 1 2024
- Investigation into the flood storage potential of Manly Dam – due for completion in Q2 2024

Points raised by members:

- Development Applications will use the FRMSPs to identify flood risks to a property, and also the impacts of the proposed development to neighbouring properties.
- Community concern about insurance premium impacts to properties that are now identified as being in a flood risk zone according to the mapping completed by Council. Insurance companies complete their own flood mapping and as such, Council's mapping will not impact insurance premiums.
- What plans are Council putting in place for climate change? As part of Council's flood studies, our consultants model the effects of climate change on flooding. Council consider these climate change impacts when investigating options such as bigger pipes, stormwater detention basins and other options.
- The costs/merits of 'reactive management' compared with adjusting the management strategy to actively move residents out of high flood risk areas.

OUTCOME

That the Environment SRG note the report.

ACTION

Investigate the area of bushland east of Oxford Falls where trees are dying – the exact location to be provided by Jacqueline Marlow, Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment representative

9.0 SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

9.1 100% RENEWABLES POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

DISCUSSION

Yianni Mentis, Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change provided an update to the group on the progress of the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for local businesses.

Points raised by members:

- This PPA is addressing the biggest sector of community emissions and is an initiative that will make a real difference.
- There is a page on the Council website that provides details of the PPA and some FAQs and some dates of upcoming information sessions in early 2024.
- There is no minimum number of businesses required, however the more we have the better.
- Council has not considered a residential PPA as yet, it would be a much more complex agreement.

Link to the website: <https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/community/business-community/sustainability-business-network/renewable-energy-power-purchase-agreement>

OUTCOME

That the Environment SRG note the report.

10.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Yianni Mentis, Executive Manager Environment & Climate Change thanked members for their submissions to the draft Waste & Circular Economy Strategy.

Jacqueline Marlow, Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment representative updated the group on efforts to reduce roadkill and the need to increase connectivity for fauna along the Wakehurst Parkway, Forest Way and Mona Vale Road. The Transport for NSW [website](#) is currently asking for submissions on Wakehurst Parkway improvements, submissions close on 6th December. Members were encouraged to make a submission and ask for underpasses with fauna furniture and exclusion fencing.

Councillor Kristyn Glanville requested time at the next ESG meeting for Alan Jones, Individual Representative for Curl Curl Ward, to present on population growth.

Yianni Mentis, Executive Manager Environment & Climate Change confirmed that a list of potential dates for 2024 meetings will be circulated.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
5.1	Provide to interested members of the ESG, the Council report that contains the overview of the results of Council's audit of litter.	Andrew Ward-Harvey	Next available meeting
7.1	Staff to advise the group: 1. if the location of Council EV chargers is listed on the Council website 2. the location of chargers being installed on street side power poles	Yianni Mentis	Next available meeting
	Liaise with Strategic & Place Planning for a team member to attend a future Environment SRG meeting to present on the LEP/DCP.	Yianni Mentis	Next available meeting
8.1	Investigate the area of bushland east of Oxford Falls where trees are dying – exact location to be provided by Jacqueline Marlow, Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment representative	Yianni Mentis	Next available meeting
10.0	1. Allow time for Alan Jones to present on population growth at the next available meeting 2. Circulate a list of potential dates for 2024 ESG meetings	Yianni Mentis	1. Next available meeting 2. 11 December 2023

The meeting concluded at 8:11pm

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 9 pages numbered 1 to 9 of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 30 November 2023 and confirmed at the first meeting of 2024