



ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

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

THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2024

Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group
Strategic Reference Group
held on Thursday 7 March 2024
in the Flannel Flower Room, Dee Why Civic Centre
Commencing at 6:16 PM

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Kristyn Glanville (Chair)	Councillor
Mayor Sue Heins	Mayor (<i>not in attendance</i>)
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
Oscar Jones	Individual – Manly Ward
Roberta Conroy	Individual – Pittwater Ward
Sarah Baker	Individual – Frenchs Forest Ward

Community members or group representatives with broad range of strategic views

Natalie Warren	Community representative - Curl Curl Ward (<i>left the meeting at 8:01pm</i>)
Billy Bragg	Community representative – Pittwater Ward
Jacqueline Marlow	Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment representative

Council Officer Contacts

Yianni Mentis	Acting Director Environment & Sustainability
Andrew Ward-Harvey	Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing
Simon Gray	Acting Executive Manager Environment & Climate Change
Tracey Bennett	Program Manager - Performance
Craig Morrison	Team Leader - Coast
Kara Taylor	Senior Sustainability Officer
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 and present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Malin Frick, Leigh McGaghey and Joeline Hackman.

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 ON 30 NOVEMBER 2023

OUTCOME

That the minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held on 30 November 2023, copies of which were previously circulated to all members, were not confirmed and will be reviewed at the 7 June 2024 meeting.

Note: A change to the order of business was made, to bring forward item 8.1 Workshop – Policy Harmonisation.

8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY

8.1 WORKSHOP - POLICY HARMONISATION

DISCUSSION

Tracey Bennett, Program Manager – Performance, addressed the group to provide an overview of how the Environment & Sustainability team plans to harmonise 5 policies into one Climate Change Policy.

Members were invited to break into 3 groups to partake in the workshop facilitated by Tracey with assistance from: Yianni Mentis, Acting Director Environment & Sustainability; Andrew Ward-Harvey, Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing; Simon Gray, Acting Executive Manager Environment & Climate Change; Craig Morrison, Team Leader – Coast; and Kara Taylor, Senior Sustainability Officer:

- Activity 1 – Each group to identify key themes to be included in the policy
- Activity 2 – With these themes in mind, what would the key principles look like for consideration in the new Climate Change Policy?

The themes, principles and additional feedback and contributions were documented by Tracey and staff.

In response to a discussion point raised, the Chair requested a future briefing from the Environmental Compliance team regarding concerns with policy compliance, believed to be due to enforcement issues.

OUTCOME

The Environment SRG members participated in a workshop to provide input into the harmonisation of key Council environmental policies.

ACTION

The Chair requested a future briefing from the Environmental Compliance team about Council policy enforcement.

6.0 WASTE & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

6.1 WASTE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY AND EPA GRANTS

DISCUSSION

Andrew Ward-Harvey briefed the group on the progress of the Waste and Circular Economy Strategy.

The strategy was released for community consultation for 6 weeks at the end 2023. 179 submissions were received, with 90% supporting the strategy. Key themes in the commentary included:

- Food organics - food waste collection (trial by end of 2025)
- Plastics – advocating to phase out single use plastics and acknowledging their impact on the environment
- Education and behaviour change
- Reuse and repair centres – highly supported by the community
- Bulky goods collection – the largest number of comments received were about bulky goods collection, with people wanting to know opportunities to recover more resources from piles, and potentially take recyclables/metals from the piles. Council will consider appropriate ways to recover more resources from bulky goods.

Jacqueline Marlow raised the topic of the chemistry of compostable plastics. Phthalate is being used as a binder in compostable plastics, and it is a known hormone 'disrupter' for wildlife. A question was raised whether Council's compostable dog waste bags contain Phthalate. Andrew Ward-Harvey confirmed he would look into this.

OUTCOME

That the Environment SRG note the report.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION & BIODIVERSITY

7.1 COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

DISCUSSION

Craig Morrison presented an update on the Coast Management Program (CMP). Stage 1 is underway for Northern Beaches Open Coast and Lagoons CMP.

The scoping study has commenced which will confirm the actions and information needed to prepare the CMP. The study will establish:

- CMP scope
- Purpose, vision and objective
- Strategic context.

The outputs will be:

- Community/Stakeholder engagement strategy
- Preliminary business case
- Forward program
- Scoping study report.

The study will cover the coastline from North Head to Palm Beach and coastal lagoons. This area includes 80kms of coastline, 12 embayments, 15 headlands, 22 beaches and 4 lagoons.

OUTCOME

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

7.2 VALLEY VIEW WETLAND PROJECT

DISCUSSION

Yianni Mentis provided a brief update, confirming the project has been finished and offered the group a guided tour of the wetland with the date and time to be confirmed.

Governance will email group members to seek their preferred timings so Yianni can arrange the tour.

OUTCOME

That the Environment SRG note the information in this report.

9.0 RESILIENCE AND NATURAL HAZARDS

9.1 WAKEHURST PARKWAY FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT UPDATE

DISCUSSION

Yianni Mentis updated the group on the project.

Council is managing the flood improvement works on behalf of Transport for NSW. The works are taking place across three sites:

- Wakehurst Parkway at Sydney Academy of Sport
- Wakehurst Parkway at 'The Bends'
- Wakehurst Parkway at Oxford Falls (near Oxford Falls Grammar School) and Oxford Falls Road West.

The works are being funded by Transport for NSW and the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund.

Full details of the progress of the project are on Council's website:

<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/council/news/crucial-flooding-improvements-next-steps-wakehurst-parkway-upgrades>

Jacqueline Marlow requested it be noted in the minutes that the Middle Creek bridge area of the Wakehurst Parkway, where a 31 year old woman lost her life recently, is a very dangerous section of the road.

OUTCOME

That the Environment SRG note the information in this report.

10.0 SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

10.1 NET ZERO EXPO EVENT

DISCUSSION

Yianni Mentis invited the group to the Net Zero Expo event to be held at Narrabeen Tramshed Community Centre and Berry Reserve on Sunday 2 June 2024, 10am – 4pm.

Further details are available on Council's website:

<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/community/business-community/sustainability-business-network/net-zero-expo-eoi-stallholders>

OUTCOME

That the Environment SRG note the report.

Natalie Warren left 8:01pm

11.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 Alan Jones presented to the group on environmental sustainability and population growth.

11.2 Oscar Jones resigned from the ESG as he is moving interstate.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
8.1	Request for a briefing from the Environmental Compliance team at a future meeting	Yianni Mentis	TBC

The meeting concluded at 8:26pm

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 8 pages numbered 1 to 8 of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 7 March 2024 and confirmed on Tuesday 4 June 2024