



MINUTES

ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

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

TUESDAY 4 JUNE 2024

Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group

held on Tuesday 4 June 2024

in the Flannel Flower Room, Dee Why Civic Centre

Commencing at 6:12 PM

ATTENDANCE:

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
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
Billy Bragg	Community representative – Pittwater Ward
Anne Sharp (<i>in Jacqueline Marlow's stead</i>)	Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment representative

Council Officer Contacts

Todd Dickinson	Director Environment and Sustainability
Yianni Mentis	Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change
Ed McPeake	Manager, Greener Communities
Neil Cocks	Manager, Strategic & Place Planning
Tony Walmsley	Manager, Waste Services
Catherine Judd	Circular Economy Officer – Reuse and Repair
Emily Rix	Biodiversity Officer
Patrick Stuart	Team Leader, Floodplain Planning & Response
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 Jamileh Jahangiri and Jacqueline Marlow. Anne Sharp attended on behalf of Jacqueline Marlow and Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment.

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 7 MARCH 2024 AND 30 NOVEMBER 2023

OUTCOME

That the minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meetings held on 7 March 2024 and 30 November 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.

Note: A change to the order of business was made, to bring forward items 8.2 Palm Beach Headland Urban Night Sky Place, 10.1 Net Zero Expo and 8.1 New Northern Beaches Local Environment Plan Update.

8.2 PALM BEACH HEADLAND URBAN NIGHT SKY PLACE

DISCUSSION

Yianni Mentis provided a verbal update on this item. Council staff have worked with the Urban Night Sky Place Working Group and the National Parks and Wildlife Service and submitted an application to seek designation of the Palm Beach Headland as an Urban Night Sky Place. Council is expecting an announcement to be made in the near future.

Further information on this project can be found on Council's Your Say page:

<https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/urban-night-sky-place>

Staff were asked if there would be any restrictions imposed if the designation is approved. Yianni Mentis confirmed a lighting plan has been implemented that reduced levels of lighting (reduction in lumens) across the whole of the headland with the exclusion of Barrenjoey Lighthouse, while maintaining safety.

OUTCOME

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group note the report.

10.0 SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

10.1 NET ZERO EXPO

DISCUSSION

Ed McPeake presented on this item. The event was aimed at local residents and businesses and developed to support and inspire affordable lifestyle changes toward a sustainable future. Over 900 people registered for the event, with many more attending on the day. Electric Vehicle test drives had to be cancelled due to the predicted weather.

On the day there were 45 exhibitors and 4 themed hubs that assisted residents to identify aspects of life and work where they can reduce emissions. The first panel discussion had up to 200 people attend, with up to 150 people attending the second panel discussion.

Staff have developed a survey to obtain feedback from attendees on the event. A follow up survey will also be sent out in 6 months with the aim of understanding the sustainable changes that attendees have been able to implement.

A suggestion was made to allow unincorporated businesses to take part in the next event.

Members identified a need to look at sustainability for strata managed buildings, as our local government area (LGA) only has a small amount of strata buildings that have made sustainable upgrades such as solar. It was suggested staff speak with Sutherland Shire Council as this LGA has a similar number of strata managed buildings to ours and they have a much larger take up of sustainable upgrades.

OUTCOME

That the ESRG notes the contents of this report and any accompanying information.

8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY

8.1 NEW NORTHERN BEACHES LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN UPDATE

DISCUSSION

Neil Cocks presented to the group on this item. The presentation provided an overview to the group on the objectives of the Local Environment Plan (LEP), environmental highlights, the criteria and revised methodology of Conservation Zones (C Zones) and examples of zoning changes. An update was given on where we are at in the project timeline and where the planning proposal can be viewed.

The planning proposal can be viewed on Council's website, under the 23 May 2024 Local Planning Panel Agenda:

<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings/committees/northern-beaches-local-planning-panel>

Questions were asked as to whether the LEP would be impacted by the new revised housing strategy targets. Staff confirmed that our target has increased to 5900 new dwellings over the next 5 years, however the purpose of the LEP is to guide planning decisions for the development and conservation of land on the Northern Beaches.

The group requested for the rationale of the sunset clause to be explained as it is not a clause that Council is legally obligated to provide. Staff confirmed the proposed two year "sunset" clause would apply only to the deferred lands – Oxford Falls Valley and Belrose. These areas are currently subject to Warringah LEP 2000 which does not have standard land use zones but permits a broad range of land uses subject to a graduated development assessment process (the more complex the development, the more detailed the development assessment process). The two-year sunset clause would permit applicants to apply for development approval under the current LEP rules for a further two year period following the commencement of the new LEP. This provides a transitional process for landowners given the reduction in permissible uses under standard zones, and is consistent with the approach taken by the state government when implementing significant changes to zoning, most recently when the Government introduced changes to permissible use in all employment zones across the state. It is also the case that this proposal was included in the 2015 Planning Proposal for the area which was subsequently withdrawn by Council with the agreement of the Department of Planning.

Staff were also asked if Council could include anything specifically in the LEP/Development Control Plan to help reduce carbon emissions/decarbonise. Staff advised that Council is limited by state government policies on what can be included, and that development control plans can't be inconsistent with basic controls. The group requested that staff consult with other Councils to explore ways to lobby the State government on this matter.

OUTCOME

That the ESG notes the contents of this report and accompanying presentation.

6.0 WASTE & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

6.1 CREATING A LOCAL CIRCULAR ECONOMY

DISCUSSION

Catherine presented to the group on the Circular Economy Hub project. A feasibility study is being undertaken on a Reuse and Repair Hub. This is due to be completed by 1 July 2024 and will help to guide a decision on the preferred Reuse and Repair hub model. Once the feasibility study is complete, the project will look to progress with the model that provides the best environmental, social and economic outcomes for the local community within the Waste diversion context. Some other initiatives that are being undertaken while the feasibility study is in progress are:

- A Library of Things – to promote a sharing economy.
- Repair Pilot –a Surf Swap and Repair market day is scheduled for Sunday 11 August to promote repair and reuse of surf and water craft and associated items such as wetsuits.

Tony Walmsley presented to the group on Giving Kerbside Bulky Goods a New Life. There is approximately 9000 tonnes of bulky waste going to landfill each year. Currently there is only a limited recovery of metal and components of mattresses. Council is looking at ways to divert items that can be reused, repaired or recycled.

Expressions of interest were opened to the market to find out what options are available to recover items, such as furniture, timber, and electrical items.

Expressions of interest closed on 16 May and Council is now in the process of evaluating the submissions received, and will be considering innovative solutions, community involvement, available markets and the risks that may be involved. The next step will be to invite selected applications to privately tender.

The target will be a 25% reduction in kerbside bulky goods going to landfill by 2030, and then a 50% reduction by 2040.

Questions were asked as to whether Council is still holding the reusable nappy workshop. It was confirmed that there is an online webinar that has been recorded and can be downloaded. Workshops are not currently being scheduled but resources are available on our website. Waste Services will review opportunities to schedule face to face workshops again considering time and budget constraints.

<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/services/rubbish-and-recycling/waste-reduction/switch-to-reusable-cloth-nappies>

The following questions were also asked of staff:

- Council changed the method of bulky goods collection from regular dates to on demand with an expected reduction on tonnage going to landfill. Could the group be provided with figures on the tonnage pre and post the change in collection method?
- Could an update please be provided on the Toy Library in Manly?

A news article was discussed that detailed how a Victorian council was incorporating coffee grounds, which have been converted into biochar, into concrete footpaths. Staff were asked if Council could consider making biochar from coffee grounds?

RESPONSE

After the meeting, staff provided the following answers to the 3 questions raised:

- Prior to 2019 Manly and Pittwater provided book in clean up services and Warringah provided a twice yearly cleanup service scheduled for whole zones. Following the introduction of the Northern Beaches wide booked in cleanup service in July 2019 the total amount of material sent to landfill from bulky goods cleanups reduced by around 17% and

has remained consistently lower than the prior systems since then.

- The libraries launched their toy libraries in 2022 and are in operation, please refer to Council's website <https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/council/news/media-releases/toy-library-service-coming-to-library-near-you> for more information.
- The biochar project sounds like a great initiative but is not something Council can follow up at this time. We are working on how to implement recovery of food waste from garbage bins generally, as an action from Council's Waste and Circular Economy Strategy. This is a very large project and will have a significant impact on recovery from landfill.

OUTCOME

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group notes the contents of this report and any accompanying information.

Nigel Howard left the meeting at 7:53pm

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION & BIODIVERSITY

7.1 PROJECT OSPREY

DISCUSSION

Emily Rix presented to the group on this item. The Northern Beaches is home to a number of Osprey breeding pairs. Nests on sportsground lighting are becoming more common, with nests sighted at North Narrabeen Reserve, Nolans Reserve Manly Vale, St Matthews Farm Cromer and Narrabeen Sports Academy

Project Osprey aims to put in place an artificial nesting platform to help move Osprey nests away from infrastructure such as sportsground lighting.

The draft proposal will be on Your Say until 26 June and can be accessed here: <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/osprey-nesting-platform-avalon>

Staff were asked if the Osprey population number and number of breeding pairs could be provided.

RESPONSE

After the meeting, staff provided the following answer:

Council is aware of six nests at the following sites:

- Pittwater (Rat) Park, Warriewood – sports lighting
- St Matthews Farm, Cromer – sports lighting
- Nolans Reserve, Manly Vale – sports lighting
- Narrabeen Sports Academy – sports lighting
- Pittwater Road, Collaroy – Norfolk Island pine
- Private property in North Narrabeen – Norfolk Island pine

In addition, in recent breeding seasons there were at least three nests established on construction cranes. Without a detailed study its unknown whether pairs are moving between nest sites between or within seasons. There are also likely to be a number of juvenile offspring and unpaired birds in the area. It is currently early in the breeding season and we may see the patterns of nest use behaviour shift from previous years. We estimate therefore that there are between 15 to 20 individuals, but this is unconfirmed.

OUTCOME

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group note the report.

9.0 RESILIENCE AND NATURAL HAZARDS

9.1 COUNCIL FLOOD RESPONSE TO STORM EVENTS

DISCUSSION

Patrick Stuart presented to the group on this item. The presentation provided an overview on how Council manages storm events prior to them occurring, what support is provided to the community by Council and emergency services such as the NSW State Emergency Service. It also looked at post storm event investigations, reviews and assessments that are undertaken.

OUTCOME

That the ESRG notes the contents of this report and the accompanying presentation.

11.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
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The meeting concluded at 8:21pm

This is the final page of the minutes comprising 8 pages numbered 1 to 8 of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Tuesday 4 June 2024.