









Planning &  
Environment



PITTWATER  
COUNCIL



UrbanGrowth  
NSW

## Ingleside Design Workshops Evaluation Report



Prepared by Pittwater Council - May 2014

[www.inglesideplanning.com.au](http://www.inglesideplanning.com.au)

# Ingleside Design Workshops Evaluation Report

## Introduction

The Department of Planning and Environment, Pittwater Council and UrbanGrowth NSW are investigating the potential for urban development in Ingleside through a process called Precinct Planning.

Consistent with the project partners' commitment to proactive engagement, key stakeholders have been involved to provide their perspectives on aspects of the master planning for Ingleside.

Recently, three design workshops attended by approximately 162 community members were held to gather input from the community.

## Workshop format

The Ingleside design workshops were held on:

- » Saturday 1 March 2014, 2pm – 5pm (Mona Vale Memorial Hall)
- » Tuesday 4 March 2014, 6.30pm – 9.30pm (Monash Country Club)
- » Monday 10 March 2014, 6.30pm – 9.30pm (Monash Country Club)

The workshop attendees participated in four different group exercises designed to gather feedback and stimulate discussion on various issues and identify opportunities for development within Ingleside. Independent consultants, Elton Consulting, were engaged to facilitate the workshops. Representatives from the project group and the master planning consultancy facilitated the table discussions and individual exercises.

## Purpose

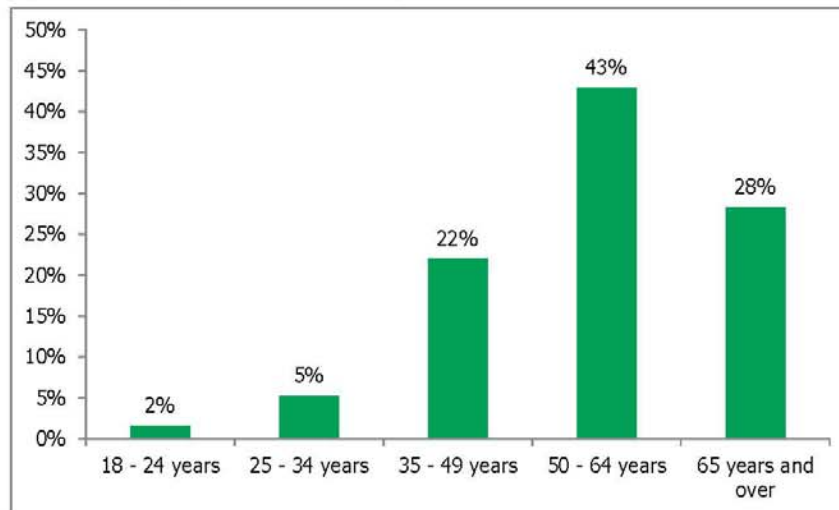
This report evaluates the success of the workshops, which aimed to gather the community's ideas and aspirations for Ingleside. The outcomes of the workshops are not discussed within this report but are summarised and presented within the *Ingleside Design Workshops Outcomes Report* prepared by Elton Consulting.

The workshop sessions have been evaluated through feedback received from:

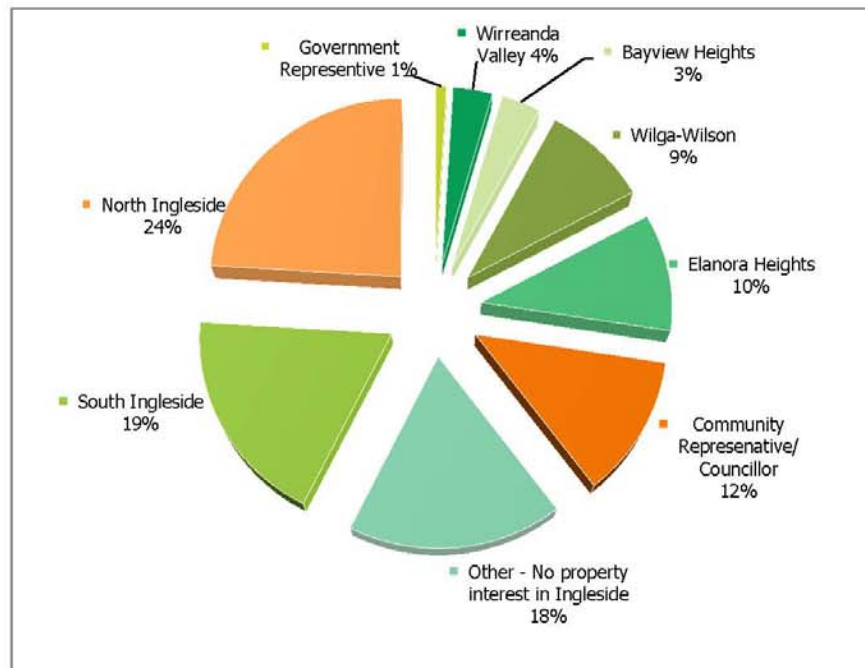
- » an online survey completed by 41 workshop participants,
- » comments from 8 table facilitators, and
- » feedback from 12 Ingleside Community Reference Group members at its meeting of 16 April 2014.

Participants, in registering to attend the workshops, provided general demographic information. This information has been used to analyse the workshop attendance. This information is displayed in the following graphs (Figures 1, 2 and 3).

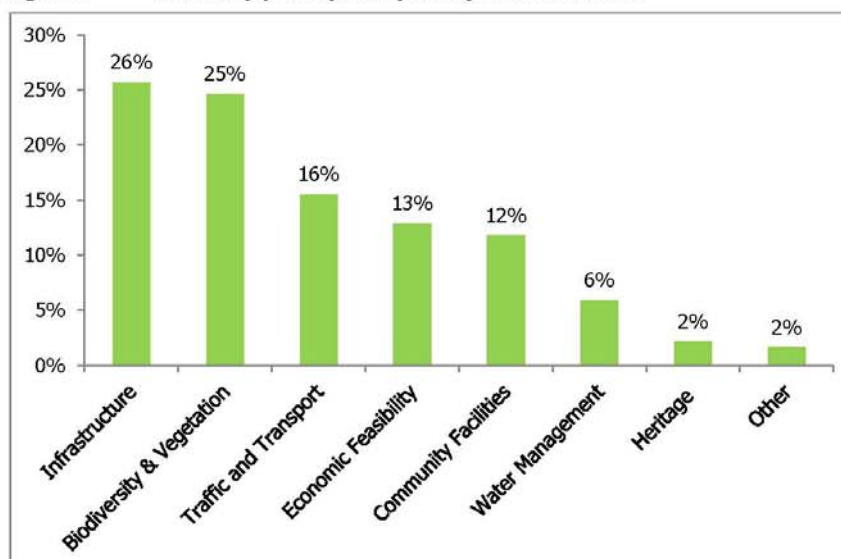
**Figure 1 Age of workshop participants**



**Figure 2 Property interests of workshop participants**



**Figure 3 Workshop participants' primary area of interest**



Over two thirds of the participants were aged over 50. There was good representation of participants from the various parts of Ingleside, as well as the adjoining suburb, Elanora Heights. The majority of participants that attended the workshops were primarily concerned with infrastructure and biodiversity and vegetation issues.



### Exercise 1: Sustainability Principles

In 2013, the project partners together with the Ingleside Community Reference Group, Councillors and master planning consultants developed a set of guiding principles for the development of Ingleside. The principles fell under four key themes:

1. Planning together
2. Liveable community
3. Economic prosperity
4. Value the environment

These themes are aligned with a triple-bottom-line approach to sustainability, incorporating environmental, social and economic considerations.

The first exercise of the workshops required the tables to review the principles within each theme and discuss which they considered to be the most important for the future planning of Ingleside.

Each participant was given 4 blue dots and 2 yellow dots per theme to indicate their views. The blue dots were to be placed next to the principles that were most important to the participants and the yellow dots were to be placed next to the principles perceived to be most important to someone who might be moving to Ingleside in 10-15 years time.

The yellow dots encouraged participants to think from the perspective of a future resident who may have very different requirements and priorities to them.

Ingleside Community Reference Group members, workshop participants and table facilitators were surveyed following the workshop sessions to evaluate the success of the exercise. Table 1 summarises this feedback.

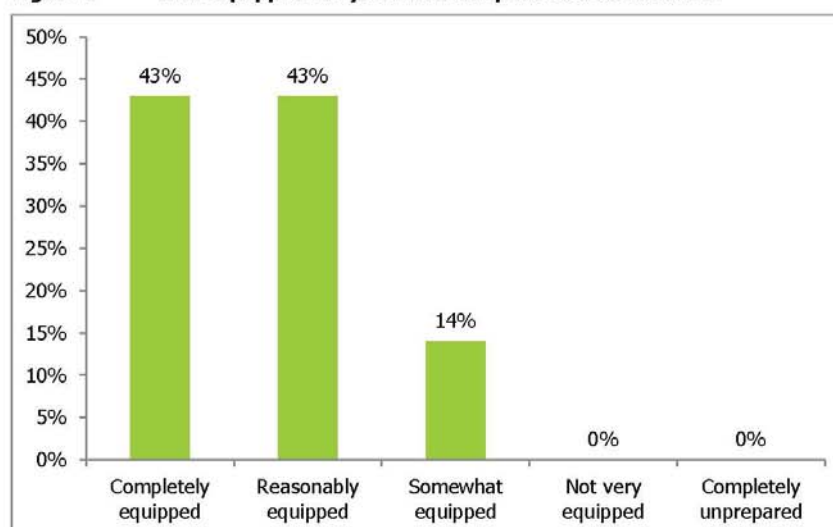
**Table 1 Feedback on sustainability principles exercise**

| What worked?            |   | What didn't work? |   |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| >                       | Useful exercise to develop the overall sustainability objectives for the project.   | >                 | Ideally, a number, if not all of the principles should underpin the planning process. |
| >                       | The exercise was a good way of making people consider the needs of the future incoming population.  | >                 | Some uncertainty around how the principles could be applied in the planning process.  |
| What could be improved? |   |                   |   |
| >                       | Provide the information prior to the workshops to give people more time to consider the options.  |                   |   |
| >                       | Allow additional time during the exercise.  |                   |   |
| >                       | Provide more information on sustainability targets and benefits.  |                   |   |
| >                       | Provide a separate handout which identifies core principles/objectives of other sustainable communities/developments so participants could compare. |                   |   |
| >                       | Require participants to number the principles in order of preference rather than just selecting their top two preferences.                          |                   |   |

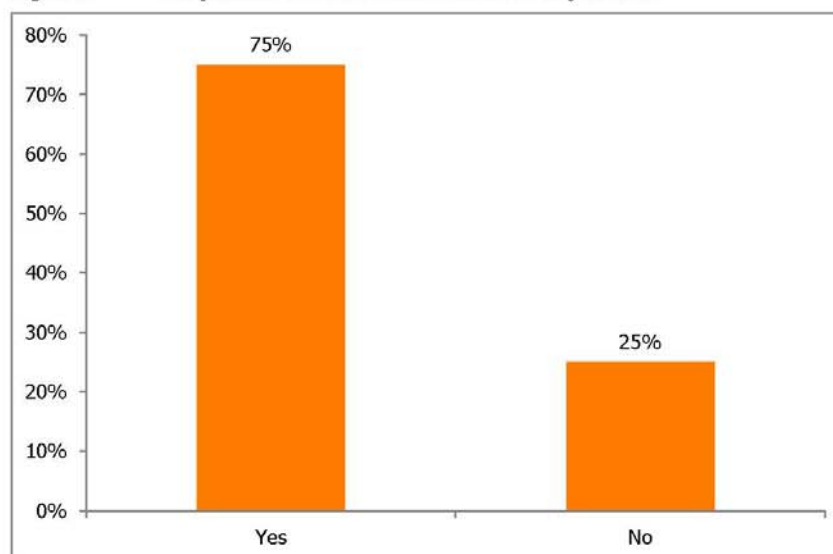
The following graphs outline the feedback from the Ingleside Community Reference Group provided at their meeting of 16 April 2014 in relation to this exercise (Figures 4 and 5).



**Figure 4** How equipped did you feel to respond to this exercise?



**Figure 5** Did you feel the exercise achieved its objectives?



Overall the feedback provided identified that this exercise was successful in encouraging the community to consider how sustainability could be implemented in the development of Ingleside. However the feedback received also identified that a greater understanding of sustainability was required prior and more time was needed to complete the exercise. Feedback also identified that many participants felt all of the principles were important; therefore it was difficult to choose only a few. Ingleside Community Reference Group

members felt completely, reasonably or somewhat equipped to complete this exercise, with the majority of respondents feeling it achieved its objectives.

## Exercise 2: Housing Typologies

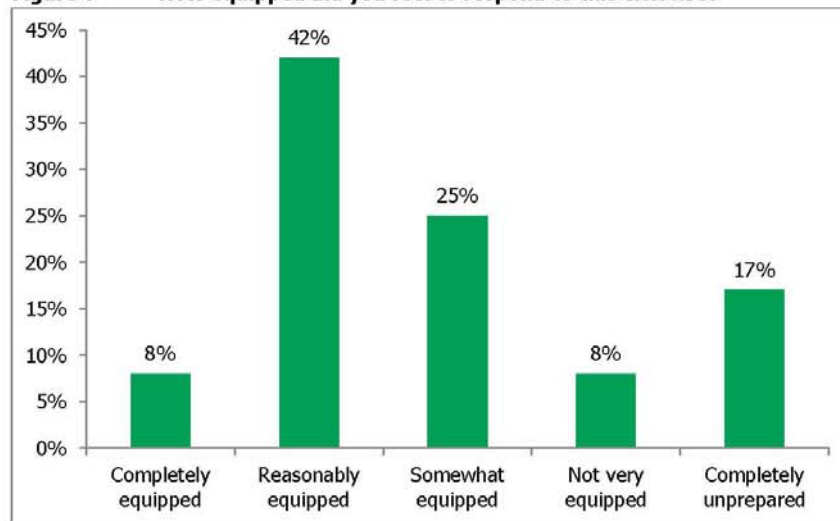
This exercise required participants to discuss housing typologies and options for open space and a town centre, which may be considered for Ingleside. Images of large lot, small lot & cluster/group housing, as well as village centres and public domain/open space areas were provided. Table 2 outlines the feedback received by workshop participants, table facilitators and Reference Group members.

**Table 2 Feedback on housing typologies exercise**

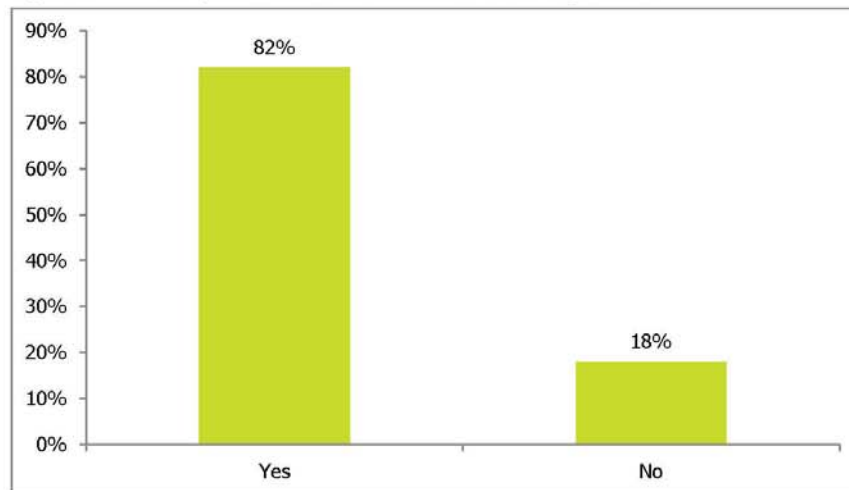
| What worked?  | What didn't work?   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; This exercise got people thinking about housing types and also made people consider affordability and site constraints.</li> <li>&gt; The visual examples worked well.</li> <li>&gt; Exercise was easy to understand.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; The distinction between the various lot sizes was unclear.</li> <li>&gt; Participants had trouble digesting what the different lot sizes would mean in reality.</li> <li>&gt; Images of single dwellings were too specific and subjective.</li> <li>&gt; Some participants did not feel capable of assessing the different housing types or the most appropriate location for these.</li> </ul> |
| What could be improved?   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; More time for the exercise and a wider variety of examples.</li> <li>&gt; Housing types needed to be clearly defined with clearer distinctions between the various lot sizes.</li> <li>&gt; More local examples needed to be provided and identify where the examples have come from.</li> <li>&gt; Use clearer terminology e.g. apartments/flats rather than cluster housing.</li> <li>&gt; Utilise aerial photographs to better explain the distinction between the different lot sizes.</li> <li>&gt; Streetscape-based images would be more effective than images of individual buildings.</li> </ul> |   |

The following graphs outline the feedback from the Ingleside Community Reference Group provided at their meeting of 16 April 2014 in relation to this exercise (Figures 6 and 7).

**Figure 6** How equipped did you feel to respond to this exercise?



**Figure 7** Did you feel the exercise achieved its objectives?



Generally this exercise was successful in broadening the community's understanding of housing stock and social infrastructure required in developments. However the responses identified that the examples were too specific and more information was required, including specific lot sizes and real life examples to help the community make more informed responses. Although some Reference Group members felt that they were not adequately prepared to respond to this exercise, most thought that the exercise achieved its objectives.

### Exercise 3: Mapping Ingleside

Following a presentation by the master planning consultant outlining the key constraints and opportunities within Ingleside, workshop participants were asked to participate in an interactive mapping exercise. This involved mapping areas for development (housing, schools, roads, shops) and ecological opportunities, considering what should go where.

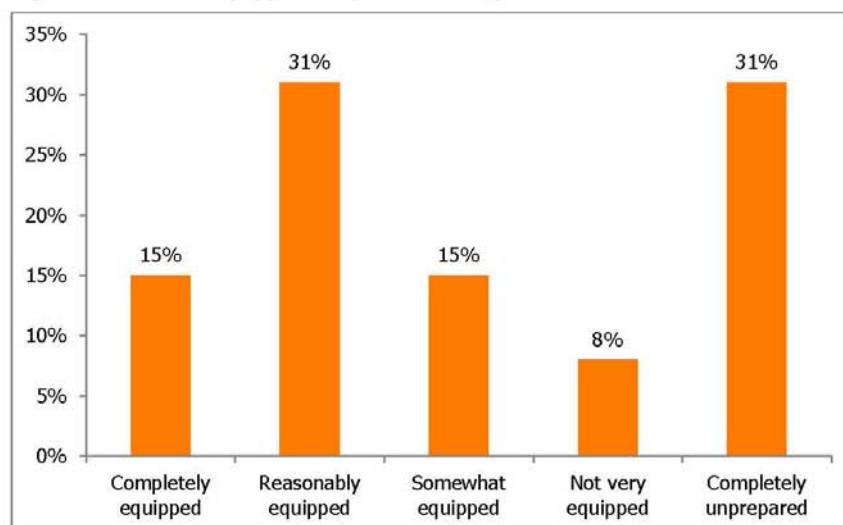
Table 3 outlines feedback received by workshop participants, table facilitators and Reference Group members.

**Table 3 Feedback on mapping exercise**

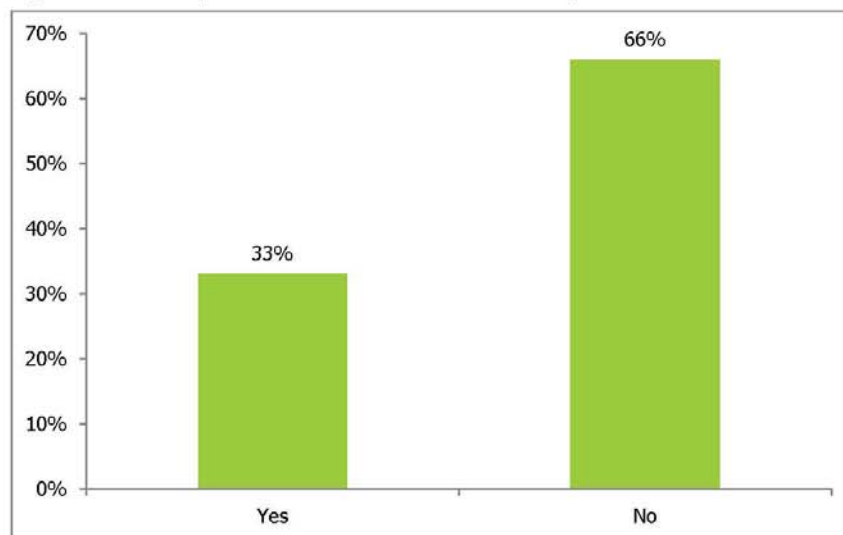
| What worked?  | What didn't work?   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Outcomes of the exercise were useful to the master planners.</li> <li>&gt; Participants were encouraged to work collaboratively and consider more than just their own interests.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Many thought the exercise was too difficult in the allotted time.</li> <li>&gt; The amount of information provided was overwhelming and there was too much to consider.</li> <li>&gt; Frustration was expressed by participants that the exercise, particularly with regard to placing housing types and densities, was pointless, as this will be driven by the ability to service the areas within the Precinct.</li> <li>&gt; Some groups needed to be led by the facilitator.</li> <li>&gt; Some participants were reluctant to put their ideas on paper.</li> <li>&gt; Each person had competing objectives, some were focused on their own individual property interests and were not interested in thinking more broadly.</li> <li>&gt; The sample 'mud map' may have influenced the participant's mapping outcomes and constrained creativity.</li> </ul> |
| What could be improved?   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Provide a single base map showing contours, ridgelines, main roads and watercourses.</li> <li>&gt; Only identify the key development constraints e.g. ecology, bushfire, riparian corridors.</li> <li>&gt; Clearly identify the developable land and the land to be conserved.</li> <li>&gt; Allocate more time for the exercise.</li> <li>&gt; Provide more detailed information on the locations of threatened species and areas of high ecological value.</li> <li>&gt; Explain the site analysis that had been done to date.</li> <li>&gt; Provide more sample responses so it is clear what the exercise is trying to achieve.</li> <li>&gt; Make it clear that it was the community's opinions being sought and that there was no right or wrong answer.</li> </ul> |   |

The following graphs outline the feedback from the Ingleside Community Reference Group provided at their meeting of 16 April 2014 in relation to this exercise (Figures 8 and 9).

**Figure 8 How equipped did you feel to respond to this exercise?**



**Figure 9 Did you feel the exercise achieved its objectives?**



Feedback from the Reference Group in regard to this exercise was split. Over a third of Reference Group respondents felt unequipped to complete the mapping exercise and approximately two thirds felt it did not achieve its objectives. However, feedback from the table facilitators suggest the mapping exercise was successful in engaging the community and helping them understand the complexities that need to be worked through in the master



planning process. For those involved in the exercise it was difficult to complete due to the amount of information provided, competing priorities and the time allotted to the exercise. To improve this exercise more detailed information only identifying the key development constraints should be provided and additional times should be given to work through the exercise. It is also important to point out to the participants that there is no right or wrong answer and the intention was to gain a broad range of inputs.

#### Exercise 4: Ecological Opportunities

The final exercise required participants to consider whether greater levels of development in particular areas should be considered if it funds the rehabilitation and ongoing management of high value ecological land. Groups discussed the advantages, disadvantages and issues to be considered if this approach were to be adopted in Ingleside.

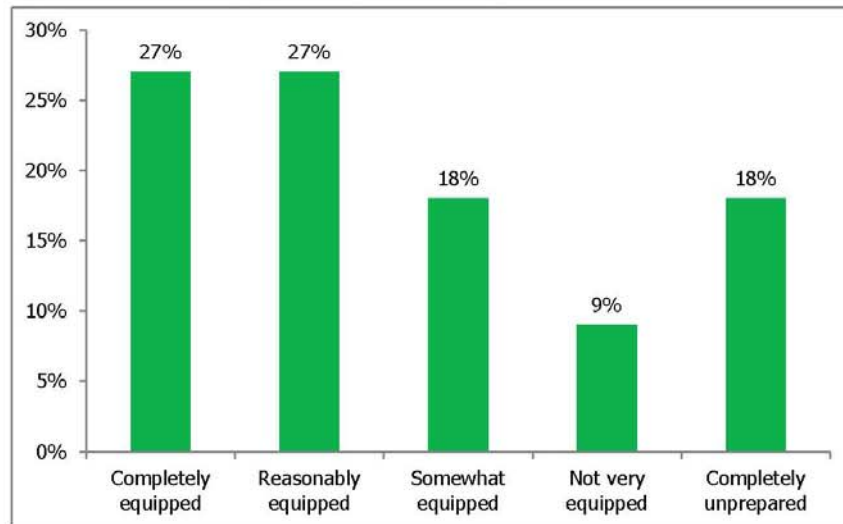
Table 4 outlines feedback received by workshop participants, table facilitators and Reference Group members.

**Table 4 Feedback on ecological opportunities exercise**

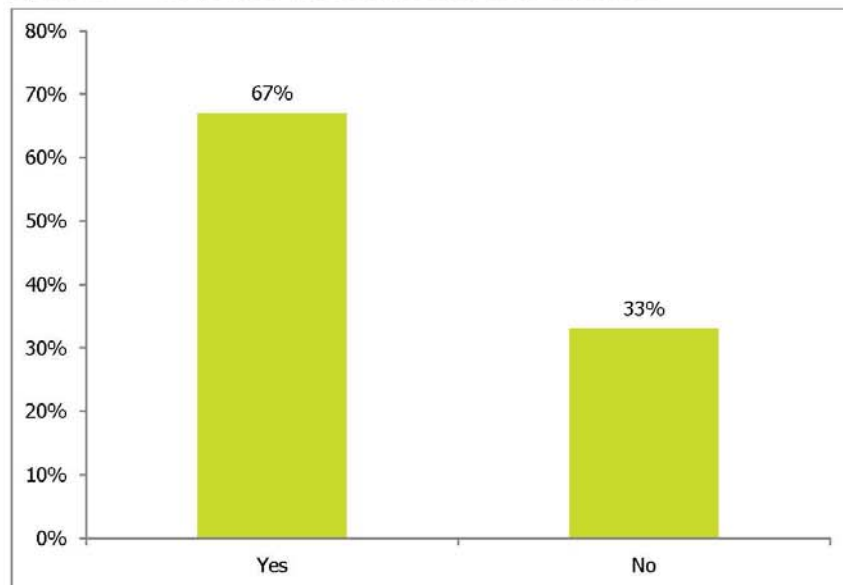
| What worked?  | What didn't work?   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; The exercise provided a good introduction to the trade-offs and the balancing that occurs in the master planning process.</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; People were reluctant to agree to a trade-off when they didn't know the limits (what bushland is preserved/how much development).</li><li>&gt; Some attendees questioned why trade-offs are needed to preserve land that should be preserved in any case.</li><li>&gt; People were reluctant to answer the question and sceptical of the idea of a trade-off.</li><li>&gt; Environmental conservation and urban development were thought by some to be mutually exclusive.</li></ul> |
| What could be improved?   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Provide a more comprehensive background to the exercise.</li><li>&gt; Provide examples of the concept in practice from other release areas.</li><li>&gt; Spend more time explaining this exercise to participants.</li></ul> |   |

The following graphs outline the feedback from the Ingleside Community Reference Group provided at their meeting of 16 April 2014 in relation to this exercise (Figures 10 and 11).

**Figure 10** How equipped did you feel to respond to this exercise?



**Figure 11** Did you feel the exercise achieved its objectives?



While the exercise provided an introduction to the idea of trade-offs in the master planning process, the respondents were sceptical to respond to the exercise, given the lack of specific details. Many thought that retention of the bushland was utterly important, and should occur no matter the level of development. To improve this exercise in the future, more background information and specific examples would need to be provided. Approximately two thirds of

Reference Group respondents felt completely, reasonably or somewhat equipped to complete this exercise. The same proportion also felt it achieved its objectives.

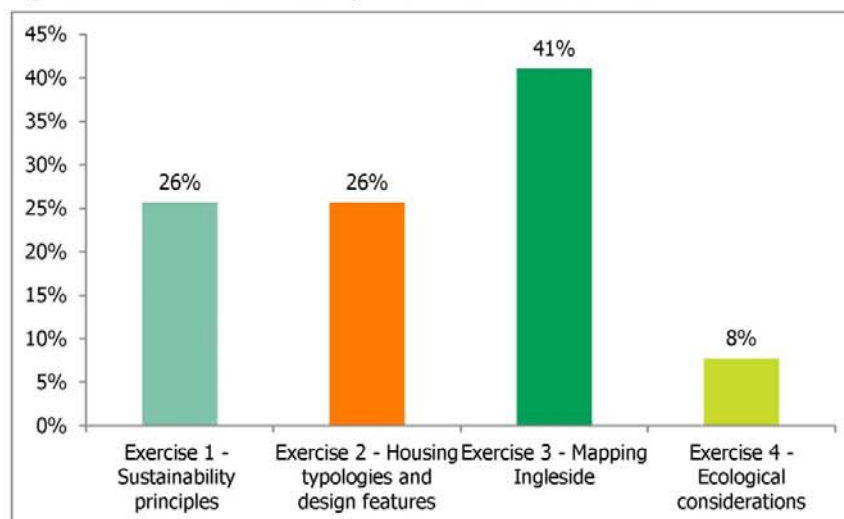
## Overall Success of Workshops

The following comments and suggestions were provided by workshop participants, table facilitators and Reference Group members to improve future workshops sessions.

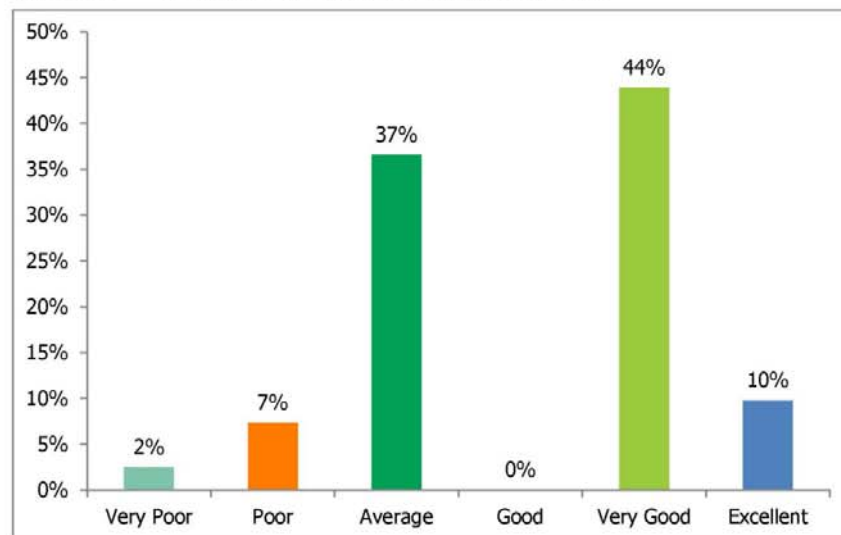
**Table 5 Feedback on workshop sessions from participants**

| General comments and suggestions |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| >                                | Have smaller groups of people at each table.  |
| >                                | Ensure exercises allow all participants to have a say on the outcomes.  |
| >                                | Run a follow up workshop to further refine the initial outcomes.  |
| >                                | Reduce the number of exercises in the allotted time so tables do not feel rushed.   |
| >                                | Spend more time answering questions and providing information.  |
| >                                | Many people from the community don't have the technical expertise to provide valuable input when put on the spot.                   |
| >                                | Tailor all exercises to the lay-person.   |
| >                                | Have all stakeholders in attendance, including local representatives from community groups, sporting clubs and churches.            |
| >                                | Provide all information regarding the workshop exercises online ahead of the workshops so that participants can adequately prepare. |

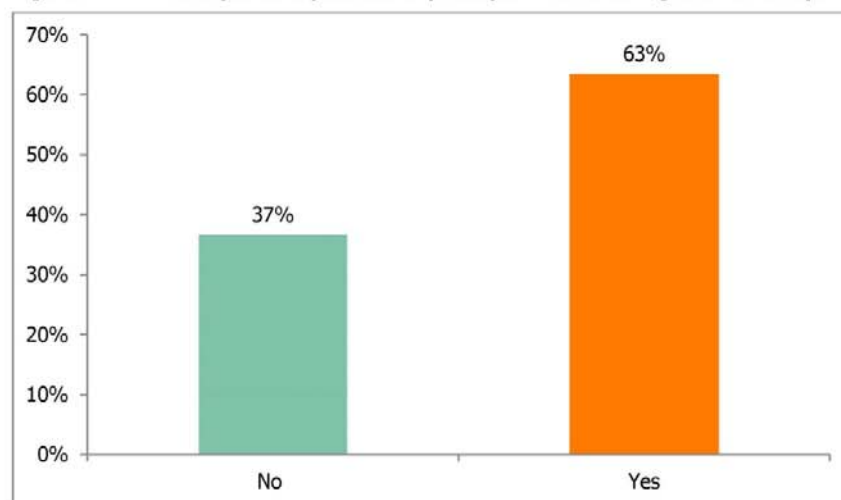
**Figure 12 Which exercise do you think was most beneficial?**



**Figure 13 Overall, how would you rate the workshop?**

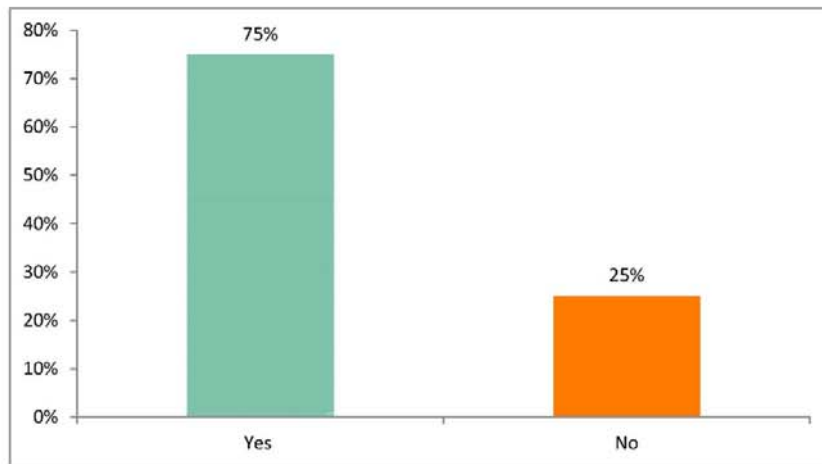


**Figure 14 Were you easily able to express your views during the workshops?**





**Figure 15** Did the Discussion Paper assist in preparing you for the workshop?



## Overall Observations

In undertaking the Ingleside Precinct Planning process, the project partners are committed to ensuring that Ingleside landowners and the broader community are kept informed, consulted and have opportunities to provide meaningful input that can be incorporated into the final Precinct Plan. The first round of design workshops continued the transparent process established for the Ingleside project.

Workshop attendees and Reference Group members clearly found the mapping exercise to be the most difficult. While participants found this exercise difficult in terms of their limited prior knowledge, it remained a very important exercise which will contribute immensely to future master planning work.

The Discussion Paper, released in February 2014, prior to the workshops, outlined the preliminary findings of the consultants' studies so far. Based on the responses provided from attendees, 75% of workshop participants felt that it helped prepare them for the workshops.

The first round of design workshops engaged the community and helped them to understand the complexities involved in the master planning process.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

The three Ingleside design workshop sessions held in March 2014 were attended by approximately 162 community members. There was a good representation of key stakeholders in the local community including Ingleside land owners, residents of surrounding suburbs, community representatives and Pittwater Councillors.

Feedback received from workshop participants, table facilitators and Reference Group members generally indicate that the first round of workshop sessions, aimed at stimulating conversation on the constraints and opportunities for development in Ingleside, were a success.

Participants and Reference Group members indicated that in the future they would like more detail on critical issues and adequate time to process this information to enable more constructive contributions. However it was identified that not everyone read the Discussion Paper provided prior to the workshop. Given this, material circulated prior to the workshop should be carefully considered by all attendees.

Based on feedback gathered, the following recommendations for future workshops are made:

**Table 6 Recommendations for future workshops and community consultation**

| Recommendations   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Allocate more time within the workshop sessions for questions and informal discussion with the project team.</li><li>&gt; Prior to future workshops:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Provide a workshop agenda to inform participants of the kind of activities they will be undertaking and the time allocated to these.</li><li>&gt; Provide workshop material online to allow participants to prepare for the exercises.</li></ul></li><li>&gt; Ensure table facilitators are familiar with workshop material and issues/constraints relevant to Ingleside and Pittwater broadly. Ensuring that the views of the table facilitators are not promoted.</li></ul> |

- > Encourage the younger segment of the community to attend.
- > Investigate potential for half-day workshop sessions.

The community's comments and suggestions will allow the project partners and the master planning consultants to develop a draft Structure Plan which will be refined at a second round of workshops later this year. In planning for these workshops, the project partners will consider the comments and suggestions received from the community through this evaluation process.

---

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>C10.4</b> | <b>2014 Environment Protection Authority Woodsmoke Grant Fund</b> |
|--------------|---|

---

**Meeting:** Natural Environment Committee

**Date:** 2 June 2014

---

**STRATEGY:** Community Education & Learning

**ACTION:** Continue to provide education programs on a range of topics

---

## **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise Council of success in obtaining grant funding for \$40,000 from the NSW Environment Protection Authority for the Wood Smoke Reduction Program 2014.

### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Councils throughout NSW were invited to submit expressions of interest for funding to raise awareness about woodsmoke and the benefits of correct wood heater operation. Pittwater Council receives approximately 10 complaints per year regarding woodsmoke from neighbouring premises.

### **2.0 ISSUES**

- 2.1 The grant funding has been offered to Council to:
- Promote community education programs - \$26,600.
  - Conduct smoky chimney surveys, provide chimney cleaning and provide advice to wood heater users - \$5,400.
  - Provide cash incentives for homeowners to replace old wood heaters and fireplaces with a range of cleaner forms of heating such as electric heaters with thermostatic controls, flued gas/oil heaters, ducted gas central heating, reverse-cycle air conditioners, solar heaters - \$8,000.

### **3.0 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT**

#### **3.1 Supporting & Connecting our Community (Social)**

Community education programs will inform users of wood heaters on the best practice in the use of wood heaters and highlight the personal and environmental benefits of correctly managed and maintained units and fuel.

#### **3.2 Valuing & Caring for our Natural Environment (Environmental)**

The program and information will promote a reduction in air pollution from woodsmoke by encouraging the correct and timely maintenance of the wood heaters, chimneys, flues and proper storage and type of fuel.

#### **3.3 Enhancing our Working & Learning (Economic)**

A reduction in the negative impacts resulting from the use of wood heaters by improved community knowledge and an enhanced commitment to effective maintenance will reduce the demands on Council resources currently required to respond to community concerns individually.

### 3.4 **Leading an Effective & Collaborative Council (Governance)**

The program will be conducted in collaboration with the EPA and will seek to engage other local Councils in the promotion and information programs.

### 3.5 **Integrating our Built Environment (Infrastructure)**

Council is the appropriate authority for the management of the installation and use of wood heaters in accordance with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia and the program seeks to address areas of community concern and inform the community of the standards for responsible ownership and use.

---

## 4.0 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 4.1 The 2014 Wood Smoke Reduction Program will produce educational material for continued use by Council and provides homeowners with an opportunity to accelerate the replacement of old wood heaters via a cash incentive scheme.

---

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council accept the grant of \$40,000 from the NSW Environment Protection Authority for the Wood Smoke Reduction Program 2014.
2. That the attached letter be sent to the NSW Environment Protection Authority expressing thanks for the grant funding opportunity (see **Attachment 1**).
3. That following completion of the grant program on 31 October 2014 a report be provided to Council reviewing the outcomes of the grant funding program.

Report prepared by  
Robina Bramich, Principal Environmental Health Officer

Jeff Lofts  
**MANAGER, ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

Mark Ferguson, General Manager  
8am to 6pm Mon - Thurs, 8am to 5pm Fri

3 June 2014

Ms Ann-Louise Crotty  
Manager Air Policy  
Environment Protection Authority  
PO Box A290  
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1232

Dear Ms Crotty,

**Re: Grant Assistance under the NSW Environment Protection Authority 2014  
Woodsmoke Reduction Program**

Thank you for your offer of financial assistance under the NSW Environment Protection Authority 2014 Woodsmoke Reduction Program.

At its meeting of 2 June 2014, Council formally accepted your offer of grant assistance and wished to pass on a vote of thanks to the State Government for its financial support of the woodsmoke reduction program in the Pittwater area.

Yours faithfully

Mark Ferguson  
**GENERAL MANAGER**



---

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>C10.5</b> | <b>Minutes of the Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting held on 14 May 2014</b> |
|--------------|---|

---

**Meeting:** Natural Environment Committee

**Date:** 2 June 2014

---

**STRATEGY:** Corporate Management

**ACTION:** Maintain and Service Council's Range of Committees

---

## **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To present to Council for consideration, the Natural Environment Reference Group Minutes of 14 May 2014 (**see Attachment 1**).

### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Natural Environment Reference Group has a primary role of assisting the Pittwater 2025 Strategic Plan by critically analysing and reviewing the Strategic Goals aligned to the Pittwater Natural Environment and providing Reference Points for further consideration by Council.

### **2.0 ISSUES**

- 2.1 The 14 May 2014 Meeting considered the following discussion topics:

- NE4.1 SHOROC Regional Waste Strategy, in particular the theme “*Too Good to Waste*”
- NE4.2 Domestic Waste Collection Update, in particular the new green waste collection service
- NE4.3 Draft Pittwater Public Space & Recreation Strategy
- NE4.4 Warriewood Sewerage Treatment Plant – Proposal for Future Upgrades
- NE4.5 2014-2018 Draft Delivery Program & Budget

and the following General Business Topics:

- Update – Bush Tucker Initiative
  - Streamwatch Citizen Science Program
  - Woodsmoke Pollution
- 2.2 As recorded in the Minutes, these topics were well researched and well received and generated a high degree of interest and robust discussion.
- 2.3 A copy of the paper *Warriewood Sewerage Treatment Plant – Proposal for Future Upgrades* is at **Attachment 2** to this report.
- 

### **3.0 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT**

The Natural Environment Reference Group has a specific focus on Key Direction 2 – Valuing and caring for our Natural Environment with the primary aims to:

- Reduce our ecological footprint
- Protect our bushland and biodiversity
- Improve the health of our beaches and waterways.

---

## 4.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4.1 The 14 May 2014 Meeting considered the following discussion topics:

- NE4.1 SHOROC Regional Waste Strategy
- NE4.2 Domestic Waste Collection Update
- NE4.3 Draft Pittwater Public Space & Recreation Strategy
- NE4.4 Warriewood Sewerage Treatment Plan – Proposal for Future Upgrades
- NE4.5 2014-2018 Draft Delivery Program & Budget

and the following general business:

- Update – Bush Tucker Initiative
- Streamwatch Citizen Science Program
- Woodsmoke Pollution

---

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council note the Minutes of the Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting held on 14 May 2014 that relate to the discussion on:

- NE4.1 SHOROC Regional Waste Strategy
- NE4.2 Domestic Waste Collection Update
- NE4.3 Draft Pittwater Public Space & Recreation Strategy
- NE4.4 Warriewood Sewerage Treatment Plan – Proposal for Future Upgrades
- NE4.5 2014-2018 Draft Delivery Program & Budget
- Update – Bush Tucker Initiative
- Streamwatch Citizen Science Program
- Woodsmoke Pollution

2. That Council note the following reference points from that meeting:

2.1 **Warriewood STP**

- *That Pittwater Council support the paper Warriewood Sewage Treatment Plant – Proposal for Future Upgrades – co-authored by Mr Angus Gordon and Mr Martin Porter.*
- *That Pittwater Council take up this matter with the State Government of NSW and Sydney Water.*
- *That a report on progress on this matter be brought to the next meeting of the Natural Environment Reference Group on 27 August 2014.*

2.2 **Woodsmoke**

- *Mr Thomson to meet with Environmental Health Officers and Planning Officers to discuss what is possible in terms of the legal opinion obtained by Mr Thomson.*
- *Following those discussions a further report is to be brought to the next meeting of the NE Reference Group.*
- *The Minutes of the Natural Environment Reference Group will be reported to Council on Monday, 2 June 2014. Ms Bramich is to bring a separate report to Council on the grant Pittwater Council has received for the 2014 Woodsmoke Reduction program to coincide with reporting of these Minutes.*

Report prepared by

Chris Hunt  
**DIRECTOR – URBAN & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS**

# MINUTES

## *Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting*

held at the Coastal Environment Centre,  
Lake Park Road, North Narrabeen on

**14 May 2014**

Commencing at 4.05pm

**Attendance:**

Cr Alex McTaggart, Chairperson  
Ms Gloria Carroll, Manly Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society  
Ms Roberta Conroy, Bayview–Church Point Residents Association  
Ms Lynne Czinner, Warriewood Residents Association  
Mr Andrew Davies, Pittwater Business Organisation  
Mr Alan Gaines, Scotland Island Residents Association  
Ms Frances Holdaway, Careel Bay, Pittwater Protection Association  
Ms Karen Lambert, West Pittwater Community Association  
Ms Margaret Makin, Pittwater Resident Representative  
Mr Dave Murray, Mona Vale Residents Association  
Mr Fred Murray-Walker, Clareville and Bilgola Plateau Residents Association  
Mr Martin Porter, Surfrider Foundation  
Mr Stuart Taylor, Palm Beach & Whale Beach Association  
Mr William Thomson, Newport Residents Association  
Mr Roger Treagus, Pittwater Resident Representative

**Council Advisors, Observers & Guests:**

Cr Ian White (Alternative Chairperson)  
Mr Chris Hunt, Director, Urban & Environmental Assets  
Mr Mark Beharrell, Manager, Natural Environment & Education  
Ms Jane Mulroney, Manager, Community Engagement & Corporate Strategy  
Mr Steve Lawler, Principal Officer, Reserves & Recreation  
Ms Jenny Cronan, Landscape Architect  
Ms Robina Bramich, Principal Environmental Health Officer  
Ms Liz Quinlan, SHOROC Regional Waste Co-Ordinator  
Mr Cecil Ellis, Water Projects Officer  
Ms Pamela Tasker, Minute Secretary / Administration Officer

---

---

|   |
|---|
| Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting |
|---|

---

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

| Item No    | Item   | Page No |
|------------|--|---------|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Apologies</b>   |         |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Declarations of Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest</b> |         |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Confirmation of Minutes</b>   |         |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Discussion Topics</b>   |         |
| NE4.1      | SHOROC Regional Waste Strategy   |         |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>General Business</b>  |         |
| 5.1        | Update – Bush Tucker Initiative  |         |
| 5.2        | Streamwatch Citizen Science Program  |         |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Discussion Topics</b>   |         |
| NE4.2      | Domestic Waste Collection Update   |         |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>General Business</b>  |         |
| 5.3        | Woodsmoke Pollution  |         |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Discussion Topics</b>   |         |
| NE4.3      | Draft Pittwater Public Space & Recreation Strategy                             |         |
| NE4.4      | Warriewood Sewerage Treatment Plant – Proposal for Future Upgrades             |         |
| NE4.5      | 2014-2018 Draft Delivery Program & Budget                                      |         |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Next Meeting</b>  |         |

---

## 1.0 Apologies

### **Notes:**

1. The following apologies were received for the Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting held on 14 May 2014:
  - Mr John Spicer-Bell, Pittwater Resident Representative
  - Ms Marcia Rackham, Mona Vale Residents Association
2. The members accepted the apologies.
3. Mr Dave Murray attended as alternative delegate on behalf of the Mona Vale Residents Association.
4. Cr White (Alternative Chairperson) attended as an observer.
5. The Chair welcomed all members, staff and guests to the Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting.

---

## 2.0 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest

Nil.

---

## 3.0 Confirmation of Minutes

### **REFERENCE GROUP RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting held on 12 February 2014 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

(Mr Martin Porter / Ms Karen Lambert)

---

## 4.0 Discussion Topics

---



---

## NE4.1 SHOROC Regional Waste Strategy

### **Proceedings in Brief**

Ms Liz Quinlan, SHOROC Regional Waste Co-Ordinator, addressed the meeting regarding the development of a Regional Waste Strategy for the SHOROC Councils. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation, entitled '*Too Good to Waste*', is at Appendix 1 to the Minutes. The Draft Strategy is intended to be released at the end of June. It will then go to SHOROC Councils for comment.

Cr McTaggart asked Ms Quinlan to clarify what SHOROC would like to see from groups such as the NE Reference Group?

Ms Quinlan responded that she hoped members would communicate the SHOROC strategy to their respective resident group members and to the wider community. She also saw the meeting as an opportunity to hear from local residents in the Pittwater area as to what they identify as the areas of greatest concern from an action perspective.

### **Chemical Clean Up – Mona Vale Beach Carpark – 27 April**

It was noted that the chemical cleanup was heavily oversubscribed. This service is intended to be for local householders, but it was apparent on the day that both commercial waste and householders from out of area seized the opportunity, resulting in capacity being reached far too soon.

This was exacerbated because it was the only such event on the Northern Beaches area in the last six months, so people travelled from well outside Pittwater. Environmental Compliance have requested more events from EPA, and there is one planned for Warringah residents soon. The EPA chemical clean out events need to be better planned throughout the Sydney metropolitan area with more collections being spaced evenly throughout the year. People who contacted Council about being turned away on the day were offered a free visit to Belrose Resource Recovery Centre. It was recognised that the extra effort involved was still inconvenient for those people who did miss out but hopefully it alleviated the problem for them.

### **Kimbriki Resource Recovery (Recyclables)**

The general household goods cleanup is currently going into landfill which is a waste of many items which could be recycled. Kimbriki have applied for a grant to install a floor to sort these goods for recycling.

Household collections do not impact on landfill tonnages to the same extent as commercial enterprises. Commercial waste is transported to Kimbriki via private contractors so that Councils have far less influence on the practices of commercial interests. There should be incentives for commercial operators to sort their rubbish so as to minimise landfill. The original focus for the Kimbriki facility was for a life of 60 years and that should be our focus as well. We need to maximise the efficiency at Kimbriki so as to avoid the transportation of Pittwater rubbish into remote landfill sites.

Much of the building demolition material is being recycled and sold on by commercial waste contractors.

There is a network established throughout the region for recycling, eg: Officeworks accepts used toners and mobile phones, Kimbriki accepts computers and other electronic equipment.

**Notes:**

1. The Chair thanked Ms Quinlan on behalf of the members for her presentation.
2. The Chair recommended that the meeting now move to consider General Business Item 5.1, the update on the Bush Tucker Initiative, as the presenter Mr Beharrell had to attend another meeting later the same day.

---

## 5.0 General Business

### 5.1 Update – Bush Tucker Initiative

Mr Beharrell addressed the meeting advising that plum pine is grown by a local nursery, Indigo at Ingleside. Indigo had provided a specimen plant for each group member which Mr Beharrell distributed. There are numerous other species grown by commercial operators, details of which were provided to members in the Agenda.

Specific information on bush tucker can be obtained via a link now included on the Pittwater Council website. The link is to the Royal Botanic Gardens webpage on *Bush Goods of New South Wales - A Botanic Record and an Aboriginal Oral History*:

[http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/education/Resources/bush\\_foods](http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/education/Resources/bush_foods)

**Notes:**

1. Ms Conroy thanked Mr Beharrell and Council for sourcing the Plum Pines and for giving seedlings to NERG members.
2. The Chair thanked Mr Beharrell on behalf of the members for his presentation.

### 5.2 Streamwatch Citizen Science Program:

Mr Cecil Ellis, Council's Water Projects Officer, addressed the meeting on the reintroduction of the Streamwatch program. Streamwatch is the Australian Museum's citizen science program which involves community volunteers working closely with Council to test and monitor water quality in the local waterways.

Cr McTaggart advised that he would like to see NE Reference Group members adopt creeks north of the Wirreanda Valley at Ingleside running through up to Bayview. Monitoring water quality prior to the Ingleside land release development could provide valuable baseline measures for later comparison.

Mr Ellis advised that we are seeking Expressions of Interest from community volunteers. There will be a Volunteer Training Day in June and ongoing workshops and seminars on aquatic diversity conducted by Council and The Australian Museum to support Streamwatch Groups.

**Q:** Is this going to local schools? It seems a great initiative to get young people involved.

**A:** There is a plan to talk to school groups, but the reagents being used can be volatile. We are certainly encouraging families to get involved but children require adult supervision. Current curriculum pressures are also making it difficult to involve schools, although Streamwatch did operate a schools participation program previously.

More information, including historical data, is available either through the Australian Museum website:

<http://australianmuseum.net.au/streamwatch>

Or directly via the Streamwatch website:

[http://www.streamwatch.org.au/streamwatch/flow/anon/k/\\_cE89B8CF5-25DE-D396-72F7-282BC50B01C6\\_k912980C9-BF2F-7082-7663-443791364546](http://www.streamwatch.org.au/streamwatch/flow/anon/k/_cE89B8CF5-25DE-D396-72F7-282BC50B01C6_k912980C9-BF2F-7082-7663-443791364546)

**Q:** There have been a number of complaints amongst residents of bad smells emanating from the creek near Bayview Park. Could this creek be included in the study?

**A:** Mr Ellis advised that the equipment provided in the Streamwatch Kits will only work in freshwater streams. Estuarine streams are not included in the study.

**Note:**

The Chair thanked Mr Ellis on behalf of the members for his presentation.

---

---

## 4.0 Discussion Topics

---

---

---

---

### NE4.2 Domestic Waste Collection Update

---

---

**Proceedings in Brief**

Ms Robina Bramich, Principal Environmental Health Officer, provided an update to the meeting on the Domestic Waste Collection Service.

Members expressed their concerns that the previous system of scheduled collections allowed for informal recycling. Everyone from householders to metal scrap merchants, etc, could follow the hard waste collections schedule.

Ms Bramich responded that there had been a number of problems with hard waste items being scattered within the immediate area and often distributed from one pile to the next down the peninsula. Council was asking people to recycle items wherever possible before putting them on the kerbside for collection. When booking a collection, people were being asked to identify items so that the appropriate truck could be sent. Scrap metal was still being separated for recycling as the waste contractor, United Resource Management, has a dedicated metals collection truck which can collect whitegoods, etc. It was recognised that many whitegoods could be recycled and Kimbriki was looking at introducing sorting services to separate metal items prior to compacting.

Council staff advise residents of possible recycling opportunities, such as charity collections, Gumtree, etc. in an attempt to minimise kerbside collections. Charities however are reporting problems with the dumping of unsaleable goods outside their shops and are now getting much more selective about what they can accept. They have to be able to resell the goods they accept.

**Q:** Isn't the new hard goods collection system better for Council rather than the community?

**A:** Council was looking at a number of problems with entire areas being littered for weeks. This encouraged further dumping, scavenging, items making their way into the gutters and waterways. The new booking system is intended to limit pollution issues and dumping issues. There were also a number of occupational health and safety issues with the old system for staff and for the public. Much of the hard waste accumulating on roadsides presented pedestrian and traffic hazards, particularly after episodes of scavenging.

Mr Lawler advised that as a Reserves Officer responsible for management of the sand dunes, he was very pleased with the new system. With every hard waste collection, Council staff would need to pull lounges and other furniture out of the sand dunes where kids had dragged them in to furnish their temporary 'cubby houses'. This caused enormous damage to the fragile dunes ecology.

Ms Bramich advised that Council was requesting people only put out hard waste the night before to limit people adding to existing piles.

Council recognised that kerbside collection was not the best resource recovery alternative. Council views disposal as the last resort, but it has to be the householder's responsibility to recycle. Council are providing a waste disposal service to the community, whilst maximising education and promoting recycling wherever possible.

Pittwater Council has applied for a grant through NSW EPA for all mainland unit blocks and households in Pittwater to receive large (240 litre) vegetation bins free of charge. Once the bins have been distributed, the service will change over from the current eight (8) collections per year to a fortnightly collection (26 per annum). This service will eliminate the bundling of vegetation as it will only be collected within the enclosed bin which is emptied via a mechanical arm into the truck. The bundled and tied collection system presents many occupational health and safety issues for householders and staff alike. It is anticipated that the need for residents to take vegetation to Kimbriki will also be reduced. For those residents with large gardens it is still possible to purchase additional vegetation bins.

For offshore residents Council will be investigating grant opportunities for compost bins and worm farms. Homeowners with private wharves that have year round tidal access are currently offered free garbage bin and hoop stands as well. There are currently two (2) vegetation collection services per year for Scotland Island, but this service is under utilised. It is very expensive and difficult to justify the cost of hiring the barges, trucks, etc., when there is little demand for the service. On occasion, western foreshores residents have been offered a mulching service instead of a collection service. There have been discussions with Council concerning this, but the focus for the offshore communities has been more on the fire hazard reduction angle than on vegetation removal.

The new system will be introduced in September or October this year. We can't make the announcement until the grant is confirmed and the deed is signed. We will then have to order the bins which will be branded Pittwater Council. The grant covers the cost of the bins and service.

## 5.0 General Business

### 5.3 Woodsmoke Pollution

Mr Bill Thomson of the Newport Residents Association requested that woodsmoke pollution be placed on the Agenda. Mr Thomson wrote:

*"Now that winter is almost upon us, the air quality in some parts of Pittwater will be significantly degraded by the pollution from domestic wood burning fires and heating appliances. This is a perennial problem that can cause serious respiratory problems for those who are unfortunate enough to live near to a wood burner, and becomes a general pollution problem in certain flat and valley areas such as those in North Narrabeen, Newport, Bilgola Plateau and Avalon.*

*The recent \$40,000 grant from the EPA to help with wood smoke education and mitigation programs will be helpful. Presumably this grant funded the "Stay Warm Breathe Easy" pamphlet included with our latest rates notice. A good start. But could we possibly have a presentation by the staff person responsible for allocating the EPA funds and the general Council contribution for this program?*

*Our Group would also be interested to have an outline of the cash incentives offered to close down wood burners and substitute gas or electric appliances and, indeed, to hear of the response so far."*

Ms Bramich addressed the meeting on this item, being the Principal Environmental Health Officer and the Council Officer responsible. For more information on Council initiatives to combat woodsmoke pollution follow the website link:

[http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/environment/wood\\_smoke](http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/environment/wood_smoke)

Ms Bramich advised that through the EPA grant, Council was better able to offer residents with awareness and information concerning the effects of woodsmoke. Following complaints (usually from neighbours) Council can attend and evaluate fireplace installation and chimneys and offer advice on better ways to operate these. Council will also be carrying out smoke patrols whereby excessively smoking chimneys are observed by Council health officers and rangers. If the level of smoke emission has not improved within 20-30 minutes, the household will be issued with a flyer and asked to contact Council. Together Council and the householder work on remedying the situation before any further action is necessary. The EPA is offering cash incentives via rebates to replace open fireplaces with alternative systems and to assist with upgrades of existing systems. Council is offering free chimney cleans for people participating in the online survey. Information has been sent out via rates notices and publicised on Council's website and at recent events including the Pittwater Food and Wine Fair held in May 2014.

Mr Thomson advised that he was hoping to hear that incentives were being offered to convert from any wood burning system to gas or electric systems as wood burning systems were bad for health. Grant money should be used to get people off wood burning due to the health risks from the associated pollution.

Ms Bramich confirmed that in accordance with the 2014 Wood Smoke Reduction Program many other options were being offered apart from slow combustion heaters. The cash incentive program has been designed by the NSW EPA as a statewide program. Open outdoor fireplaces "backyard burning" is prohibited in NSW, however the NSW EPA has not banned domestic wood heating installations within houses.

Mr Thomson advised that he would like to see Council take the initiative to nominate the level of emissions permitted for all new installations of wood heaters within buildings.

Ms Bramich responded that Council is limited by the Australian Standards in effect, and cannot impose standards above and beyond the State Codes. Mr Thomson responded that he has legal opinion advising that Local Government can introduce its own standards.

**Reference Points:**

- ***Mr Thomson to meet with Environmental Health Officers and Planning Officers to discuss what is possible in terms of the legal opinion obtained by Mr Thomson.***
- ***Following those discussions a further report is to be brought to the next meeting of the Natural Environment Reference Group.***
- ***The Minutes of the Natural Environment Reference Group will be reported to Council at the meeting on Monday, 2 June 2014. Ms Bramich is to bring a separate report to Council on the grant Pittwater Council has received for the 2014 Woodsmoke Reduction program to coincide with reporting of these Minutes.***

---

## 4.0 Discussion Topics

---

### NE4.3 Draft Pittwater Public Space & Recreation Strategy

**Proceedings in Brief**

Mr Steve Lawler, Principal Officer Reserves & Recreation, and Ms Jenny Cronan, Landscape Architect, addressed the meeting on this item. A copy of the Draft Public Space & Recreation Strategy document currently on public exhibition was provided to members. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is at Appendix 2 to the Minutes.

**Sportsfields**

The Strategy emphasises the need for more sportsfields, with Ingleside and Warriewood Valley looking to be the most likely sites for new fields. In planning for the future for sportsfields, the updated S94 Plan for Warriewood Valley includes 4.9ha dedicated to sportsfields.

Ingleside land release masterplanning is also looking at the creation of sportsfields as part of the open space provision. The planning will need to meet the needs of the projected increase in population so that a further burden is not placed on existing infrastructure. Pittwater needs more indoor facilities as well. For all new sportsfields in Warriewood and Ingleside, Council plans to use S94 contributions only, so as to remain cost neutral. Item 6.7 in the Draft Strategy document addresses this issue.

In terms of the survey results, it was noted that the older demographic surveyed impacted on what was considered the most popular activities. The increase in a younger and growing population (resulting from land releases) will further increase the need for sportsfields.

Pittwater is currently over usage capacity for sportsfields. We project that we will need to increase land for sportsfields by approximately 9.6ha by 2031 to retain the existing status quo. The open space and associated infrastructure in Pittwater is currently valued at around \$2 billion. We need to generate a reasonable income from this asset.

#### Golf Courses

The Strategy suggests Pittwater has too many golf courses: three public and three private, some of which are struggling for membership. The Strategy recommends investigating alternative uses for golf courses to ensure equitable distribution of open space for the wider Pittwater community. Council recognises that golf courses provide other public benefits, such as large swathes of green open space that contribute to the local character and amenity, especially when situated in sometimes densely populated suburbs.

#### Playgrounds

Pittwater currently has 58 playgrounds, all of which cost money to maintain. Also, Council has a responsibility to ensure playgrounds comply with current standards and this is not true for all playgrounds in Pittwater at present. The Strategy recommends rationalizing our playgrounds to finance upgrades to those playgrounds in areas of higher demand by removing those that are no longer required. We need to first carefully assess the network needs, however, as some sites with playgrounds have significant environmental value. Again, they are tracts of green open space in the suburbs and provide vital wildlife corridors and other public benefits.

#### **Note:**

The Chair thanked Mr Lawler and Ms Cronan on behalf of the members for their presentation.

---

### NE4.4 Warriewood Sewage Treatment Plant – Proposal for Future Upgrades

#### **Proceedings in Brief**

Mr Martin Porter, a member of the Reference Group, presented a paper he co-authored with Mr Angus Gordon on the Warriewood Sewerage Treatment Plant – Proposal for Future Upgrades. This paper provided:

1. Introduction
2. Impact of Wet Weather Flows
3. The Problem
4. Options
  - Do Nothing
  - Infrastructure – minimise stormwater ingress
  - Warriewood STP further upgrades
  - Reuse of the effluent
  - Deep water outfall
5. The Way Forward

The primary thrust of the paper is that the current sewage outfall right at the edge of the rock platform at the north end of Turimetta Beach is unacceptable. The paper concluded that the upgrading of Warriewood STP to a deepwater ocean outfall is not just the best option for the community and the environment, but also represents a practical long term solution to the disposal of wastewater on this part of Sydney's northern beaches. This would then be consistent with the previous conversion of cliff faced to deepwater outlets already carried out at North Head, Bondi and Malabar and previously intended for Warriewood.

**Q:** Are there any health warnings issued during high pollution events, such as the mechanical failure in December 2013 which resulted in outflows at Turimetta Beach?

**A:** Mr Porter had been advised that Council's Environmental Health Unit was notified of high pollution events causing health risks during outflows, but because of the necessary time required for testing and growing cultures, those notifications are usually delayed.

**Q:** Given that the cause of outflows is too much water would upgrades to domestic plumbing, such as universal dual flush systems,

**A:** Too much water is the direct result of heavy rain which saturates the earth enclosing the pipes. In fact during dry conditions modern plumbing results in not enough water available in the system to keep it flowing.

The members congratulated Mr Porter on his paper, which was judged to be logical and clear, free from jargon and full of sound arguments. The consideration of the options is very well argued. It was the opinion of the meeting that this document needs to be promoted in to the public. Where do we go from here?

---

#### REFERENCE GROUP RECOMMENDATION

1. The members of the Natural Environment Reference Group request that Pittwater Council support the paper Warriewood Sewage Treatment Plant – Proposal for Future Upgrades – co-authored by Mr Angus Gordon and Mr Martin Porter.
2. The members of the Natural Environment Reference Group request that Council take this matter up with the State Government of NSW and Sydney Water.

(Ms Margaret Makin / Mr Stuart Taylor)

#### Reference Points:

- ***That Pittwater Council support the paper Warriewood Sewage Treatment Plant – Proposal for Future Upgrades – co-authored by Mr Angus Gordon and Mr Martin Porter.***
- ***That Pittwater Council take up this matter with the State Government of NSW and Sydney Water.***
- ***That a report on progress on this matter be brought to the next meeting of the Natural Environment Reference Group on 27 August 2014.***



---

---

## NE4.5 2014-2018 Draft Delivery Program & Budget

---

---

### ***Proceedings in Brief***

Ms Jane Mulroney provided copies of the Draft Delivery Program & Budget on USB sticks. The document which is currently on public exhibition can also be accessed via the link provided below:

[http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/council/documents\\_on\\_ex/document\\_pages/draft\\_delivery\\_program\\_and\\_budget\\_2014-2018](http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/council/documents_on_ex/document_pages/draft_delivery_program_and_budget_2014-2018)

---

---

## 6.0 Next Meeting

---

---

The next meeting of the Natural Environment Reference Group is scheduled to be held at the Coastal Environment Centre on Wednesday 13 August 2014 commencing at 4.00pm.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS  
THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT REFERENCE GROUP MEETING  
CLOSED AT 6.31PM ON WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2014**



A waste avoidance and  
resource recovery strategy  
for Manly, Mosman, Pittwater  
and Warringah

Presentation to Pittwater Environment Reference Group 14 May 2014



SHOROC

Working together for a better region & stronger councils

















### 2000 Strategy – Main Achievements

- Land rationalisation – purchased 145.2 ha and sold 18.5 ha.
- Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Centre.
- Development of Winnererremy Bay regional park, playground and wildlife sanctuary.
- Warriewood Wetlands and Irrawong Reserve – boardwalks.
- Narrabeen Lagoon – multi-use pathway with Warringah Council.
- Bilarong Reserve, Governor Phillip Park, Warriewood Valley Local Park – large-scale playgrounds.
- Sportsgrounds – field upgrades, floodlights, alternate water supply and irrigation systems.
- Synthetic surface field at North Narrabeen High School.



## Community Consultation

General Survey – 217 responses.  
Workshop – 60 residents.  
Meetings with Young People –  
Mater Maria, Barrenjoey and  
Narrabeen High Schools.  
Survey for sports clubs – 24  
responses.  
Workshop for sports clubs – 24  
clubs represented.  
Grant writing workshop – 20  
representatives.



## General Survey Responses

### Participants

#### Gender

129 females  
135 males  
Total 217

#### Ages

16-25 – 10  
26-35 – 23  
36-50 – 100  
51-65 – 82  
66 and over – 48

### The most popular activities ranked from 1 to 35.

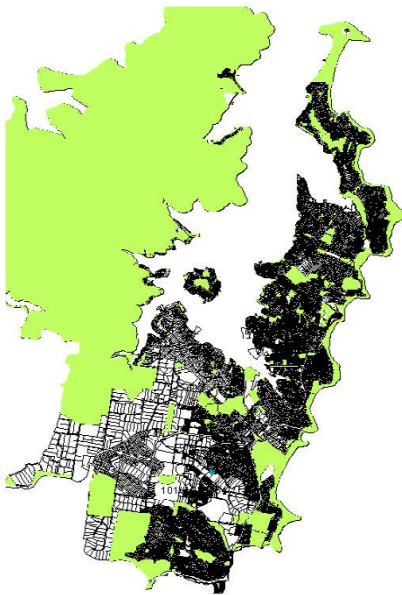
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Cafes/ Outdoor dining                | 24. Tennis                                    |
| 2 walking                              | 24. Hang gliding, paragliding                 |
| 3. Walking – bushland                  | 25. Surf Life Saving                          |
| 4. Swimming – pool                     | 26. Horse riding,                             |
| 5. Cinema                              | 27. Netball                                   |
| 6. Park visits                         | 28. Badminton                                 |
| 7. Nature appreciation                 | 28. Athletics                                 |
| 8. Swimming – surf                     | 28. Lawn bowls                                |
| 9. Markets                             | 28. Football – rugby union                    |
| 9. Boating activities                  | 29. Youth groups such as so=Scouts and guides |
| 9. Community volunteer or fund raising | 29. Football – touch                          |
| 10. Cycling                            | 30. Triathlon, biathlon, marathon             |
| 11. Dog walking                        | 30. Football – rugby league                   |
| 12. Surfing                            | 31. Volleyball                                |
| 13. Mountain bike                      | 31. Table tennis                              |
| 14. Playground                         | 32. Football – indoor                         |
| 15. Dog off-leash                      | 33. Hockey                                    |
| 16. Golf                               | 33. Softball                                  |
| 17. Watching sport                     | 33. Football – Australian Rules               |
| 18. Educational activities             | 33. Cricket                                   |
| 19. Fishing                            | 33. Basketball                                |
| 20. Skateboard, roller blading etc.    | 34. Football – Oz tag                         |
| 21. Football – soccer                  | 35. Baseball                                  |

## National Trends

- Australians are becoming more physically active.
- Walking is the most popular activity closely followed by aerobics / fitness, then swimming, cycling, running.
- Field sports have remained popular, particularly outdoor football codes. Non-competitive and passive recreation is gaining in popularity.
- The number of people aged 65 and over is predicted to increase from just over one million in 2012 to 2.3 million in 2050.
- In 2010, 36% of Australians aged 18 years and over participated in voluntary work.
- Sixty-three percent of children aged 5 -14 years participated in organised sport outside school hours with football (soccer) being most popular with boys and swimming with girls.
- Screen based activities (internet and television) are popular with adults and children.

5

## Pittwater's Open Space Network



### 247 reserves covering 808.5 hectares

101 nature conservation areas - 496.29 ha (61%)  
107 small parks - 38.54 ha (5%)  
27 large developed parks - 109.09 ha (13%)  
9 sportsgrounds - 61.40 ha (fields - 28.9ha 8%)  
3 golf courses - 62.10 ha 8% (plus 3 private courses)

Note: sporting facilities - 11.3 ha 1.4% are included in above figures, generally within sportsgrounds or large developed parks. Facilities include tennis courts, bowling greens, golf driving range and NBISC etc.

It is considered most suburbs in Pittwater provide adequate open space with the exception of new urban release areas.

6

## Analysis Open Space Network - Supply

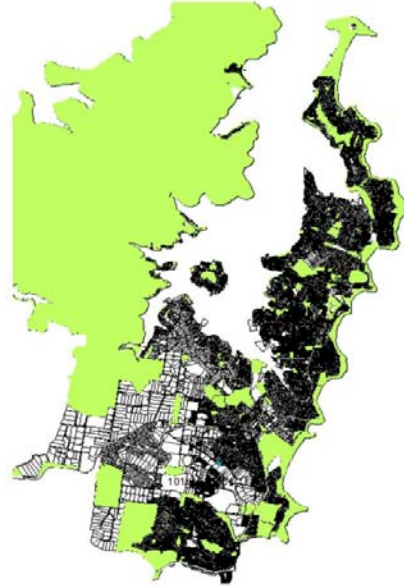
### Supply of Open Space

#### Standards Approach

- 2.83 ha/1000 people for population
- Pittwater's population - 61,201
- Required open space - 172.6 ha
- Actual open space 808.50 ha

#### Needs Based Approach

- Condition of the land – topography, geotechnical conditions, natural hazards, climate, heritage.
- Size and quality of land.
- Diversity of settings for active and passive activities.
- Changing community needs.



7

## SWOT Analysis

### Strengths

Wide range of settings and opportunities, support for nature conservation areas, parks well distributed, water sports, four large-scale playgrounds, positive benefits of tourism, sporting hub, linear pathways, scenic values.

### Weaknesses

Expensive to maintain 808.5ha (over \$5m annually), undersupply of large sized lots, undersupply of sportsfields and low nutrient soils, poor access to the estuary, potential impacts from natural hazards, limited use and access for all due to steep terrain, beaches and waterways are regional facilities, negative impacts from tourism, oversupply of golf courses.

### Opportunities

Explore income generation facilities, external funding, improve quality of land holdings through a rationalisation program, technologies, training, volunteers.

### Threats

Funding budget cuts, climate change, fire and natural threats, injuries and risk management, resources to provide increased services, increasing population.

When the above issues are taken into consideration, although Pittwater appears to be well supplied with 808.5 ha of open space, there are many constraints that limit the suitability of the network in meeting the needs of the community - particularly the shortage of large flat areas for active recreation.

8



## Goals and Objectives

- Conserve, protect and enhance the natural environment and cultural heritage.
- Protect and enhance Pittwater's amenity and visual qualities.
- Provide the best range of recreational opportunities to meet the needs of the community.
- Provide high quality facilities.
- Support active lifestyles.
- Ensure all open space is accessible to the wider community.

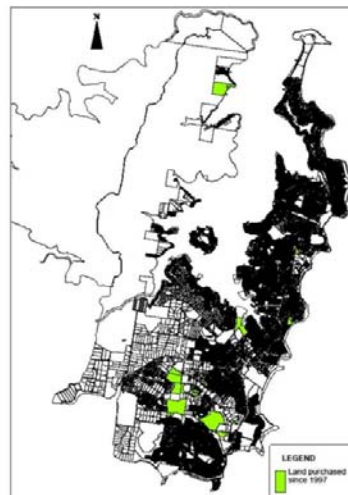


9

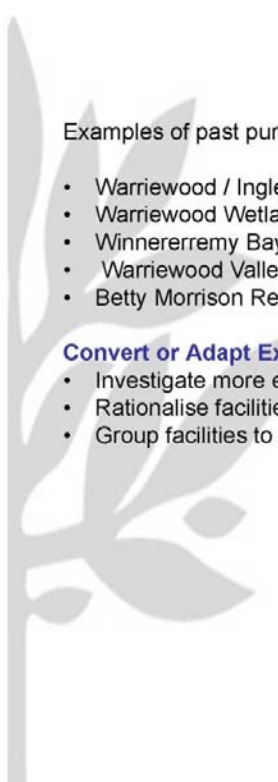
## Options to Improve the Open Space Network

### Land Rationalisation

- Since the inception of Pittwater Council 145.2 ha of public space with high social and environmental values has been purchased and 18.5 ha of land with lower values has been either swapped or sold. This is a net increase of over 126 ha.
- Sell, swap and purchase land to provide the best possible range of landscape settings and associated activities.
- Purchase foreshore and ocean beach areas to accommodate additional infrastructure such as parking and picnic areas.
- Purchase large areas of open space for sportsfields, particularly in new urban release areas
- Purchase properties adjacent to existing large reserves when suitable properties become available.
- Sell land to upgrade facilities such as the proposed skate park at Kitchener Park and road reserves.



10



Examples of past purchases include:

- Warriewood / Ingleside Escarpment 65 ha.
- Warriewood Wetlands 30.86 ha.
- Winnererremy Bay 11.85 ha.
- Warriewood Valley Sportsground 4.7 ha.
- Betty Morrison Reserve (dedication) 1.1 ha.

#### **Convert or Adapt Existing Open Space**

- Investigate more equitable use of golf courses and bowling clubs.
- Rationalise facilities, particularly playgrounds.
- Group facilities to create 'hubs' for user efficiency and capital and operational savings.

11



#### **Partnerships and Commercial Approaches**

- Expand and foster partnerships with volunteers, neighbouring councils, business and educational institutions.
- Continue to work with students – current two year agreement with Macquarie University.
- Continue to develop Council / community owned cafes with funds raised being reinvested into community facilities – Dunes, Inch Café, Bilgola Beach, Flying Fox, proposed at Avalon Beach SLSC and Bilarong.
- Encourage fund raising, civic duties, self-funding by clubs (grant writing workshop), review leases, support local business.

#### **Technologies and Enhanced Design**

- Upgrade technologies to overcome space and time shortages at existing reserves such as night lighting, booking systems.
- Provide increased indoor recreational facilities and extended hours.

12

### **Effective Management**

- Protect, conserve and enhance natural areas and cultural heritage.
- Activate social interaction, access for all, health benefits, low costs, environmentally and economically sustainable development.
- Provide flexible, multipurpose spaces, facilities and programs.
- Community events.
- Safety measures – audits, surveillance, lighting.
- Improve information / marketing.
- Continue to develop self funding facilities with expanded recreational opportunities.
- Keep up to date with new trends.



### **Sustainability and Climate Change**

- Grey water storage and recycling, irrigation, bio-swales, mulching, shade, renewable energy program.

### **New Urban Release Areas**

- Purchase large areas of open space suitable for sportsground precincts using s.94 funds.

13

### **Natural Conservation Areas**

- Bushwalking, Bushcare volunteer workshops, bush gardens, educational programs.

### **Walking, Cycling and Equestrian**

- Walking for fitness and enjoyment - pedestrian safety, reserves for access, tracks through bushland reserves, signage. Walking Pittwater phone application.
- Cycling – improve safety, promote cycling, investigate location of mountain bike track.
- Equestrian – feasibility study to provide bridle paths and facilities.

### **Ocean Beaches**

- Support SLSC, broader range of activities, small-scale dances.

### **Foreshore Reserves**

- Improve access, dinghy storage facilities, recreational facilities, promote foreshore walks, particularly the Mona Vale to Church Point Foreshore Walk for older people.

### **Large Developed Parks**

- Promote social interaction, access for all (including accessible playgrounds), activities offering health benefits with low costs to the community.

### **Structured Sports and Recreation Areas**

- Comfortable dog park, fence dog area at Careel Bay, additional netball courts, rationalise playgrounds, equitable use of golf courses and bowling clubs.

14



## Sportsgrounds

### Inventory

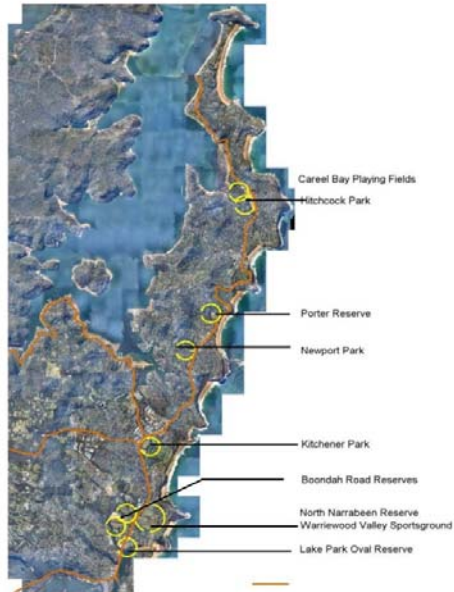
- Sportsgrounds – 61.4ha.
- Playing fields and surrounds – 28.9ha.
- 18 full sized fields
- Three ¾ sized fields
- Ten mini fields

### Code membership – 8,903

|                   |       |             |     |
|-------------------|-------|-------------|-----|
| Football (Soccer) | 3,079 | AFL         | 208 |
| Touch Football    | 1,705 | Softball    | 198 |
| Rugby (Union)     | 1,090 | Cricket     | 174 |
| Netball           | 794   | Super Touch | 156 |
| Rugby League      | 574   | Hockey      | 35  |
| Oz tag            | 572   | Equestrian  | 33  |
| Baseball          | 294   |             |     |

### Key issues

- Shortage of fields
- Quality of fields
- Facility upgrades



15

•Seek opportunities to purchase suitable land for sportsfields, purchase land in urban release areas to create sportsfield precincts, relocation of existing facilities to accommodate sportsfields, small areas of open space for junior fields and training, partnerships.

•The current sports club membership represents 14.54% of Pittwater's population of 61,201.

•Should the population increase to 81,950 by 2030 as projected, the amount of land needed for sportsfields to retain the status quo is 38.48 ha. This is an additional 9.58 ha.

•It is essential that additional active open space be provided in the new release areas. The opportunity to secure additional land in the Boondah Reserves precinct will not present itself again. If this land is not purchased it will result in a lost opportunity for current and future generations.

16

#### Indoor Sports and Recreation

- Continue to support the NBISC.

#### Village Greens, Culture and Leisure

- Enliven village centres, outdoor cultural nodes, continue to work with the Chambers of Commerce, provide something to do other than shopping such as an art studio, support local causes and charities, community gardens, music and art competitions.

#### Tourism

- Eco-tourism and associated activities, manage the negative impacts of tourism, alleviate congestion, tourism plan , joint ventures.



PITTWATER COUNCIL

#### Conclusion

- The previous Strategy in 2000 resulted in a number of very good outcomes.
- This Strategy builds on the previous document by working within a framework of landscape settings to both protect and capitalise on the various landscapes.
- The key outcomes are to protect the natural environment, implement sustainable practices and secure additional large areas of flat land for sportsfields in the new urban release areas.
- There is a stronger commercial emphasis due to changing times - continue to upgrade land holdings by purchasing and selling land of higher quality and in more desirable locations and develop income producing assets to offset rates and leave a strong economic, social and environmental legacy for future generations to build on.



## Appendix 3 to the Minutes











































## References

- [1] Sydney Water. *Review of Environmental Factors - Warriewood Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade Project.*, 2010.
- [2] Sydney Water Media Centre. *The Facts On Wet Weather Treatment.*, July 2013
- [3] Sydney Water *Sydney's Deepwater Ocean Outfalls - Long-term environmental performance*, 2007
- [4] FETT, MICHAEL J., JASON BAWDEN-SMITH, & SANTO CANNATA. *Impact of Sydney's deepwater ocean outfalls on Garie Beach.*, New South Wales Public Health Bulletin 5.10: 111-113.



## A 2013 Pollution Monitoring Data

Pollution monitoring data for Warriewood STP is presented in Table 2 along with corresponding rainfall data for Warriewood STP's catchment area<sup>1</sup>. Although a number of pollutants are monitored only *faecal coliform* data is presented here as it is often used as an indicator of possible sewage contamination. A high *faecal coliform* count also suggests that pathogenic micro-organisms might also be present and that swimming might be a health risk. The effect of rainfall is clearly seen.

Sydney Waters treatment plants operate under environmental protection licences issued by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). For each monitoring/discharge point the concentration of a pollutant must not exceed the concentration limits specified for that pollutant. For Warriewood regular sampling for *faecal coliform* is only done every 6 days at the outfall pipeline on the plant's eastern boundary<sup>2</sup>. The Licence stipulates that *faecal coliforms* have a 50 percentile concentration limit of 200 cfu (colony forming units) per 100millilitres which just means that 1/2 the test results must be within this limit *but the other 1/2 can be anything!*

| Month<br>2013 | Faecal Coliforms<br>(cfu per 100millilitres) |       |                    | Rainfall<br>(mm per month) |
|---------------|--|-------|--------------------|----------------------------|
|               | Minimum                                      | Mean  | Maximum            |                            |
| February      | 10   | 67    | 230                | 130                        |
| March         | 9  | 77    | 250                | 110                        |
| April         | 10   | 274   | 950                | 160                        |
| May           | 21   | 790   | 3800               | 80                         |
| June          | 17   | 2852  | 13000              | 300                        |
| July          | 4  | 1238  | 5700               | 30                         |
| August        | 5  | 10    | 23                 | 20                         |
| September     | 2  | 13    | 37                 | 60                         |
| October       | 9  | 18    | 30                 | 70                         |
| November      | 17   | 867   | 2400               | 240                        |
| December      | 8  | 10245 | 50000 <sup>3</sup> | 30                         |
| Jan2014       | 6  | 728   | 3600               | 30                         |
| Feb2014       | 4  | 13    | 47                 | 90                         |

Table 2: Warriewood STP pollution monitoring data, 2013.

<sup>1</sup> Approximate values based on data published by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology.

<sup>2</sup> Data published by Sydney Water.

<sup>3</sup> Extremely high are levels due to STP equipment failure





---

**Council Meeting**

---

**11.0 Adoption of Connecting Communities Committee Recommendations**

---

**12.0 Adoption of Natural Environment Committee Recommendations**

---