



MINUTES

ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held in the Coastal Environment Centre, Narrabeen on

THURSDAY 12 APRIL 2018

**Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group
held on Thursday 12 April 2018
in the Coastal Environment Centre, Narrabeen
Commencing at 6:15pm**

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Alex McTaggart (Chair)
Cr Pat Daley
Sophie Scott
Alan Jones
Tom Hazell
David Tribe
Anthony Petrolo
Viktorija McDonell
Marita Macrae
Jacqueline Marlow
Billy Bragg
Scott Markich
Nigel Howard

Curl Curl Lagoon Committee
Pittwater Natural Heritage Association
Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

Council Officer Contacts

Ben Taylor	General Manager Environment & Infrastructure
Todd Dickinson	Executive Manager Natural Environment & Climate Change
Jacqueline Grove	Manager, Environment Resilience & Climate Change
Kara Taylor	Senior Sustainability Officer
Emma Marshall	Governance Officer

Note: Cr Alex McTaggart opened the meeting and gave Acknowledgement of Country.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cr Natalie Warren, Cr Stuart Sprott and Roberta Conroy.

2.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests or conflicts of interest.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The notes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group Induction Meeting held on 1 March 2018 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

4.0 AGENDA ITEMS

Note: The order of business was changed so Item 4.3 was addressed first then Item 4.2 and Item 4.1.

4.3 CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP PLEDGE SELECTION

Todd Dickinson addressed the group on this item.

Members provided the following feedback about Council's Climate Change Resilience framework:

- Wording change from "Leading" to "Leading and Learning".
- Wording change to include "Adaptation" and "Mitigation".
- Inclusion of tangible goals and requirement to measure outcomes.
- Suggestion that renewable initiatives should be added to goals/objectives/targets

Jacqueline Grove and Kara Taylor presented Council's proposed pledges for the Cities Power Partnership (attachment 1).

It was noted that bi-annual reporting will occur for the Cities Power Partnership and more pledges can be added if desired.

Members discussed Council's Transport discussion paper, lack of choice in public transport, connections to public transport such as the Hop Skip Jump service, opportunities for sensors on streetlights, incorporating lifecycle costs/emissions in energy schemes (e.g. charging stations should be off the grid), and the importance of managing growth in order to achieve sustainability targets.

Members requested that Todd Dickinson investigate possible options on how to better educate school teachers and students on environmental issues, including helping them reduce their emissions at school and at home.

The Environment Strategic Reference Group endorsed the following five Cities Power Partnership pledges presented to the members:

- Renewable Energy
- Energy Efficiency
- Transport
- Work Together
- Influence.

4.2 DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHERN BEACHES ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

Todd Dickinson, Jacqueline Grove and Kara Taylor facilitated a group workshop about the Environment Strategy's identity (attachment 2).

4.1 REVIEW OF FORMER NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP - DIRECTIONS PAPER

Members participated in a group workshop to assess if the goals and actions created by the former Environment Strategic Reference Group are still accurate, or require further review and amendment (attachment 2).

Action: The framework for the Environment Strategy will be consolidated and brought back to the June meeting.

5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

The group discussed the following items:

- National Tree Day
- Council's Tree Policy
- Weed removal days in the local area
- Household chemical collection days
- How to attract and retain volunteers on the Northern Beaches, and
- Urban Forest Strategy.
- Engagement of SRG for major policy reviews
- Regional scale plans and strategies for parks rather than park by park (e.g. Lagoon Park)

Action: Natasha Schultz, Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing, be invited to the June meeting to discuss recycling.

Action: Todd Dickinson invite a guest speaker from University of NSW to a future meeting of the Environment Strategic Reference Group to present on E-Waste.

Action: That the Strategic Management Plans for Parks and Reserves be an item on the June meeting agenda.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
4.1	The framework for the Environment Strategy be reported to the June meeting.	Todd Dickinson / Governance	21/06/2018
5.0	Natasha Schultz, Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing be invited to address recycling at the June meeting.	Todd Dickinson / Governance	21/06/2018
5.0	Guest speaker from University of NSW be invited to discuss E-Waste at a future meeting.	Todd Dickinson / Governance	21/06/2018
5.0	Strategic Management Plans for Parks and Reserves be an item on the Agenda for the June meeting.	Todd Dickinson / Governance	21/06/2018
5.0	Distribute a copy of all tree policies to the SRG for their information.	Todd Dickinson / Governance	21/06/2018

The meeting *concluded at 8:22pm*

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 5 pages numbered 1 to 5 of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 12 April 2018 and confirmed on Thursday 21 June 2018

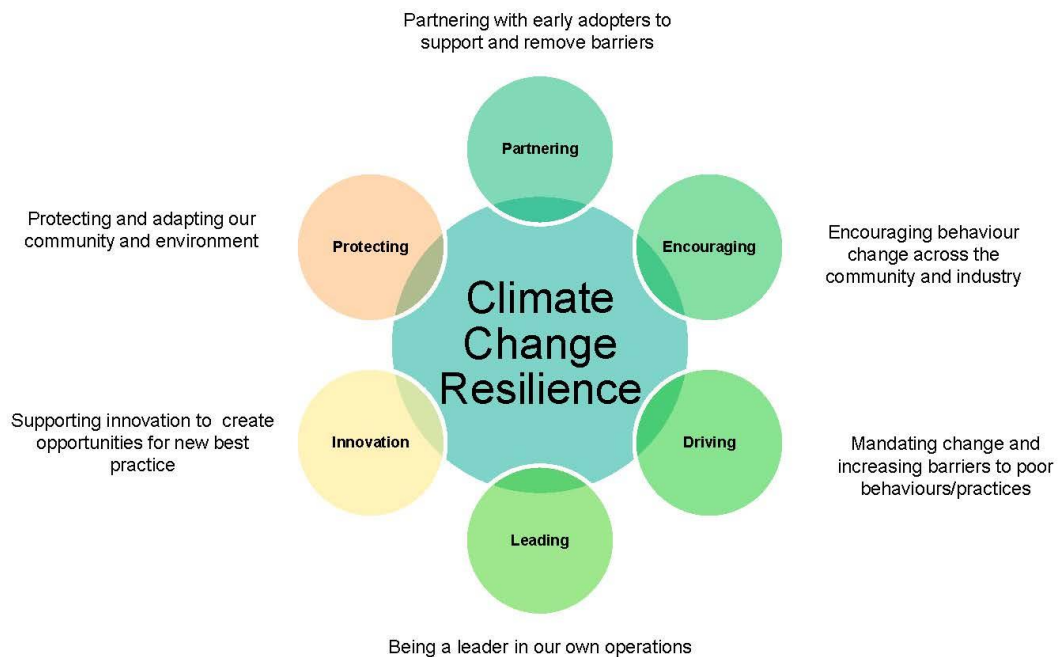
ATTACHMENT 1



Selecting our Pledges

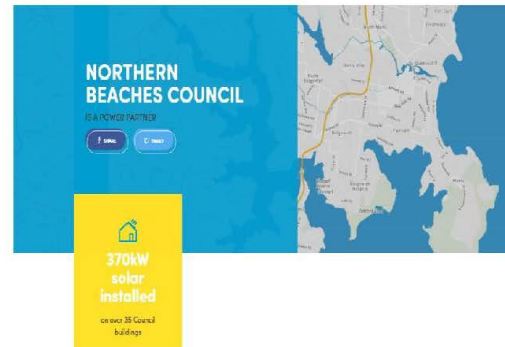


What are we already doing?



CPP – Why sign up?

- Allows us to demonstrate leadership in climate change
- Australia wide pledge-based program
- Supports and promotes energy saving and climate change initiatives in councils
- Council selects 5 pledges from a possible 32
- Progress reporting – 6 monthly



How are we selecting our pledges?

- Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Diversity
- Impact
- Comprehensiveness



Our pledges: Renewable Energy

Provide council resources to educate and support the uptake of renewable energy, such as by hiring an internal renewable energy support officer or establishing an independent body (such as the Moreland and Yarra Energy Foundations).

Proposed actions:

- Community workshops/events
- Solar evaluation tool
- Sustainability advisory service



Our pledges: Energy Efficiency

Adopt best practice energy efficiency measures across all council buildings, and support community facilities to adopt these measures.



Proposed actions:

- Audit Council buildings using RAMBOLL tool
- Solar PV installation on Balgowlah Depot
- Solar PV installation on Cromer Admin Centre
- Lighting upgrades
- HVAC energy efficiency upgrades

Our pledges: Transport

Encourage sustainable transport use (public transport, walking and cycling) through Council transport planning and design. Substantial savings in transport energy use can be achieved by designing more compact cities with access to high quality public and active transport services and facilities.



Proposed actions

- Investigating new charging stations
- Developing a transport strategy:
 - Integrated transport and land use
 - Walking & cycling
 - Public & community transport



Our pledges: Work Together and Influence

Set city-level renewable energy or emissions reduction targets and sustainable energy policies to provide a common goal and shared expectations for local residents and businesses

Proposed actions

- Development of an Environment Strategy
- Set goals, objectives & targets for emission and water reductions
- Program of improved practices
- Business support
- Resident tools and commitments



Our pledges: Work Together and Influence

Implement an education and behaviour change program to influence the behaviour of council officers, local residents and businesses within the municipality to drive the shift to renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport.



Proposed actions:

- GreenStar accreditation (Ingleside & Frenchs Forest precincts)
- Demonstrating leadership
- Coastal Environment Centre
- Manly Environment Centre
- Environmental volunteer programs
- Environmental events & behaviour change programs

ATTACHMENT 2

Environment SRG – Northern Beaches Environment Strategy Workshop
Thursday 12 April 2018

Activity 1:

What Environmental Identity Should Council have? (Post-it on whiteboard, one word)

<i>Theme grouped by colour:</i>	
Use evidence based science	Courageous
Knowledge	Voice
Informed	Proud
innovative	Diverse (Beaches to bushland)
innovative and leader	Inclusive
proactive (2)	Democratic
Forward thinking	Cooperation
Innovative	Custodian
Lead	Caring
Leader	empathetic
Embrace world best practice and leadership (be world leaders)	Captain Planet
Globally Aware	Commitment
sustainable	Strong
Protect (2)	Fresh
Solution Oriented	Creative

Activity 2:

The product: What should it have in it? How should it feel?

Friendly	Healthy environment creates healthy people – quality of life
Welcoming	Action oriented
Relevant	Clear
Community	Online content – information delivery
Key points	Brevity
Relevant to community and environment	Impartial information
Actions with results	No green washing. Tight and concise
What, why, measurement	Educational
Target unengaged	Set context clearly
Segmented	The WHY. What the issues are.
Community engagement	Causes of problems
Engaging, interesting, run to read	Focussed relevant and local
Personal	Measureable outcomes
Accessibility	Objective, researched
Priorities	Clear bullet points
Meaningful punchline	Not preachy
Why – Purpose instead	Delivered in personal way
Graphics – Infographics – displaying visually.	Case studies

Activity 3:

*Review, comment and amend the goals and former SRG feedback on the butchers paper around the room. **Comments in red text***

COAST AND CATCHMENTS

Goals – Former SRG Direction Paper

- Maintain and improve recreational water quality to 'A' grade standard ✓
- Maintain and improve aquatic/riparian ecology across whole of catchment with no loss (*improvement*) of Northern Beaches habitat ✓
- Regular gathering of comparable information, sharing and making information available to the community
- Improved treatment of Sydney's sewage ✓ *reduce ocean discharge and secondary treatment*
- Remove significant diffuse sources of water pollution
- Rehabilitation of creek lines
- Flood mitigation

Feedback from SRG Meeting 1 – 1/3/18

Protect and improve ecological conditions in catchments, creeks and lagoons

- It starts with the soil ?
- Harmonising Lagoons Policy across Northern Beaches Council area ✓
- Connectivity between lagoon groups *Common policy – regular meetings - all*
- Reduce contamination entering waterways and wetlands ✓✓ *Reducing stormwater contaminants e.g. people washing cars, paint down drain.*
- Ecological Connectivity. ✓

Protect and manage the condition and safe access to the coast, lagoons, Middle Harbour, and Pittwater

- Harmonise Dunes Policy *Yes – all managed by Natural Environment staff as bushland ecosystem*
- Policy in regard to regulating polluters into lagoons
- Connectivity Water Quality Creek ones ?
- *Monitor and targets for improvement of all*
- *Formation of educational programs on coasts and catchments.*

BUSHLAND AND BIODIVERSITY

Goals – Former SRG Direction Paper

- Maintain and enhance native biodiversity on public and private lands ✓✓✓
- Conserve or **a** increase bushland areas and native vegetation on public and private lands ✓
- Maintenance of bush regeneration programs to keep the bushland healthy ✓
- Identify, maintain and enhance wildlife corridors ✓✓
- Lobby/encourage State government and internal groups within Northern Beaches Council for good practice around native vegetation management ✓
- Increase/restore populations of threatened species/EEC's
- Remove/reduce pest populations of pest animals and plants ✓✓ *especially feral cats and foxes*
- *Monitor situation with adaptive capacity*

Feedback from SRG Meeting 1 – 1/3/18

Protect and restore local biodiversity and bushland

- Council and Community support best practice plus adequate funds YES in conserving nature flora and fauna
- Street tree planting
- Underground wires.
- *Establish current tree cover and monitor change*
- *Council workers to recognise roadside native vegetation and control weeds with bush regeneration techniques and regenerate*
- *Add Phoenix canarensis to weed list*
- *Establish school nature areas*
- *Lobby to ban the sale of cats in LGA (or state)*
- *Planting food trees for use of general public/homeless*
- *Training biodiversity – how to do it*
- *Reforest unproductive land*
- *Measure aquatic biodiversity*

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Goals – Former SRG Direction Paper

- Development should be built in a sustainable, environmentally responsible way
- Green areas and the natural landscape should dominate the Northern Beaches ✓
- Best practice and consistent management of water *natural resources* across the region

Feedback from SRG Meeting 1 – 1/3/18

Ensure integrated land use planning balances the environmental, social and economic needs of present and future generations

- Balance between natural areas and built spaces. *Definition of balance means different things to different people.*

Create green and resilient urban environments by improving tree cover, native vegetation, landscaping, and water management systems

- Conservation of urban forests ✓ *include remnant forest*, ensuring recruitment or planting of native trees on public and private land to replace senescent or dead trees.

Provide sustainable access to the natural environment, while recognising and protecting its cultural and heritage value.

- Getting back into the natural world.

Promote the benefits and savings of ecologically sustainable development *what is urban?*

- Solar panels on every roof ✓✓✓
- Council commits to classification of development to minimise encroachment on pristine bush ✓
- Council conducts energy audit of all properties and commits to a percentage of reductions. ✓✓

Continually improve environmental standards and compliance in new and existing developments.

- Solar panels on every roof (*repetition*)
- Improved water and energy efficiency measures
- All Development Applications (especially in Ingleside / Mirvac etc.) to have off grid systems imposed that can be deployed when chosen (solar, water tanks)
- Have better "eco" town planning using world best practice bench marks.
- *Solar – PV on top of roofs in light factory and workshops, industrial areas – local powerhouses. Mandated on new buildings.*
- *Turn off street lights – use light sensors for walkers*
- *Put solar panels on all business buildings eg. Warringah Mall, Warriewood Square etc.*

WASTE MINIMIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

(Former Waste SRG Strategy Framework – Towards Zero Waste)

Goals – Former SRG Direction Paper

- Clean public spaces and natural environment that is litter free
- Policy and advocacy for waste avoidance * ✓✓
- Enforcement of policies and regulations
- Education and social change *vague*
- Problem waste and illegal dumping ✓
- Best practice solutions
- Targets and Measures

Feedback from SRG Meeting 1 – 1/3/18

Explore and invest in technologies and processes such as renewable energy and waste management that deliver long-term environmental benefits.

- Ensure the establishment of a food composting system at Kimbriki for municipal food waste ✓
- Facilitate more effective and widespread container recycle depots. ✓✓

Reduce waste and improve reuse and recycling

- Reducing and avoiding single use packaging (particularly plastic) ✓
- Find a better way to deal with bulky goods waste and extend recycle
- Plastic reduction e.g. cups, straws ✓ and bags. ✓ *good but drop in ocean.*

** Need to focus on unsustainable over consumption*

- *Strategies to implement – same*
- *More kerbside clean-ups*
- *Monitoring and targets for all*
- *Incentives for apartments to compost*
- *Promote system for underspend of container cash back – unemployed, charities, small business,*

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT**Goals – Former SRG Direction Paper**

- Sustainable Transport Strategy
- *Community transport*
- *Uber pool/on demand transport*
- *Planning taking account of latest sea level projections and thinking farther ahead*
- *Create density in cities*
- *Get all council car fleet to be EV or hybrid*
- *Share council cars rather than allocate them to one person. i.e. make than a fleet.*

RISK AND RESILIENCE TO NATURAL HAZARDS (CLIMATE CHANGE)

Goals – Former SRG Direction Paper

- By 2027 Council will reduce its emissions by matching the State Government targets for climate change towards meeting a zero emissions target by 2050 *Shorter timeframe ✓*
- Take a critical infrastructure approach to prioritizing adaptation to climate change
- Support the community to use more renewable energy sources *Demonstrate the financial rewards of renewable energy*
- Flood mitigation *be proactive ahead of state government or land and environment court*
- Bushfire mitigation and management ✓ *Use evidenced based information not hysteria. Use balance – Can't have zero risk*
- Coastal erosion – *get real!! ✓*

Feedback from SRG Meeting 1 – 1/3/18

Minimise the risk to life and property from storm events, floods, erosion, landslides, bushfires and impacts of climate change

- Council hold meetings *(remove hold meetings)* to educate citizens on the implications of climate change. ✓✓✓

Increase the resilience of the environment to the effects of natural hazards and climate change

- Global warming – community awareness and actions to reduce our impact ✓✓✓ *Eco-footprint measures, make it personal.*
- Consider food consumption and grow own. ✓✓* *Reduce impact of food choices on the environment. Extra community gardens*

Maintain productive partnerships with government agencies and the community to effectively manage and respond to natural hazards.

- Manage coastal erosion
- Enhance *how?* sandy beaches. ??
- *Engage Karl Mallon*
- *How to ameliorate coastal erosion.*

SUSTAINABILITY IN OUR ORGANISATION

Goals – Former SRG Direction Paper

- Council is a leader in environmental sustainability ✓

Feedback from SRG Meeting 1 – 1/3/18

Develop a culture of commitment to environmental sustainability and lead by example

- Moving towards a sustainable population *what would that look like?* ✓✓✓✓
- Council diverts its finances *diverts* from fossil fuels ✓✓✓✓✓
- Council sets target for 100% renewable energy from operations by ...? – 2030
- *Don't buy petrol driven cars for the Council, use hybrids*
- *Mandate solar panels on all new buildings and renovations*
- *Aim for Green Star*

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT**Goals – Former SRG Direction Paper**

- Educate our community about environmental sustainability ✓ *start with kids and it has spin-on effects*
- Provide support and resources for our community to be sustainable ✓
- Maintain or enhance environmental amenity and access to the natural environment ✓
- Plastic free society - *lobby*

Feedback from SRG Meeting 1 – 1/3/18**Encourage the community to protect the environment**

- Longer term management of sport/ planning passive use of green spaces
- Involving young people/schools in environmental education.
- *Encourage retired volunteers to work on projects with – disabled, unemployed, school children.*
- *Put teacher training on environmental issues as a professional training course ie train the trainers. Run it from the CEC or MEC. Many principals are environmentally challenged but they have absolute autonomy for their school Schools in the NB area are an important green space often with good connectivity.*
- *Stop turning bushland into playing fields – Bushland supports walkers and bike riders. They are a large part of the community.*

Invite community participation in restoring the natural environment through volunteering programs and education.

- Environmental Education - Coastal Environment Centre, Manly environment Centre and Currawong.