

# NOTES

# ART, CULTURE & HERITAGE STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held in the Guringai Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why on

**THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2016** 

Notes of the Art, Culture & Heritage Strategic Reference Group Meeting held on Thursday 10 November 2016 in the Guringai Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why Commencing at 5:01pm

#### ATTENDANCE

#### Members

- Michael Regan (Chair) Julie Hegarty Hugh Burns Jim Boyce Sharon Cartwright Neil Evers Caroline Glass-Pattison Martin Hardy Richard Magee Martin McCallum Lorrie Morgan John Pearson Penny Philpott Stefanie Schoeninger
- Implementation Advisory Group Local Representation Committee - Environment Local Representation Committee - Environment Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society Resident – Frenchs Forest Ward Budawa Aboriginal Signage Group Resident – Curl Curl Ward Resident – Narrabeen Ward Resident – Narrabeen Ward Resident – Pittwater Ward Resident – Pittwater Ward Resident – Pittwater Ward Resident – Frenchs Forest Ward Resident – Manly Ward

#### **Council Officers**

Michael McDermid Katie Kirwan Executive Manager Corporate Strategy and Planning Governance Administration Officer (Notes)

#### Visitors

Elizabeth Graves (Joined the meeting at 6:15pm)

Arts and Cultural Development Officer

# **1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

#### DISCUSSION

Caroline Glass-Pattison gave an acknowledgement of Country.

# 2.0 APOLOGIES

#### DISCUSSION

That the apologies from Stewart Wauchop, Julia Davenport, Laura Greaves and Gina O'Neill be noted.

# 3.0 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

#### DISCUSSION

Nil

# 4.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

# 4.1 INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLE OF STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUPS – MICHAEL MCDERMID

#### DISCUSSION

Members gave a brief introduction of themselves and gave a brief overview of their background and interest in the Art, Culture and Heritage Strategic Reference Group (SRG).

Michael McDermid, Executive Manager Corporate Strategy and Planning discussed the SRG Guidelines (*Attachment 1*), meeting etiquette and meeting dates for 2017.

<u>NOTE:</u> Members are advised that if they have any comments on the Guidelines they are to be send to <u>katie.kirwan@northern.beaches.nsw.gov.au</u> before the next meeting.

#### 4.2 PROFILE OF NORTHERN BEACHES – MICHAEL MCDERMID

#### DISCUSSION

M McDermid gave a presentation on the profile of the Northern Beaches (*Attachment 2*), and highlighted the following points:

- Local demographic
- Context within the Greater Sydney Commission
  <u>http://www.greatersydneycommission.nsw.gov.au/</u>

- Housing Implications in the Northern Beaches Region
- Economic characteristics of the Northern Beaches Region

#### Action:

1. Provide details of population growth over the last 10 years on the Northern Beaches to members.

### 5.0 COUNCIL UPDATES

# 5.1 OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) AND INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING (IP&R) PROCESS – MICHAEL MCDERMID

#### DISCUSSION

M McDermid discussed gave an overview of the role of the SRGs and noted that the discussion needs to be at a strategic level.

Members discussed the meaning of 'cultural heritage' and noted that they would like to understand the breathed of art, cultural and heritage assets on the Northern Beaches. This would assist in guiding the SRG on what they would like to achieve with the remaining meetings.

#### Actions:

- 1. Request staff to provide an audit and a briefing to members on all art, cultural and heritage assets on the Northern Beaches.
- 2. Circulate the three former Council's art and culture strategies to members.

NOTE: Elizabeth Graves joined the meeting at 6:15pm

#### 5.2 REVIEW OF ISSUES PAPER – MICHAEL MCDERMID

#### DISCUSSION

Members participated in a workshop to identify their priority issues that need to be addressed across the key themes: Social, Economic and Environment.

A summary of the workshop is attached (Attachment 3).

# 6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

#### 6.1 WARRINGAH CREATIVE SPACE – ELIZABETH GRAVES

#### DISCUSSION

Elizabeth Graves, Arts and Cultural Development Officer gave a brief history of the Warringah Creative Space and how this project resulted in the transformation of a scout hall into a creative space for the community.

Members noted that there are perhaps other disused buildings across the Nothern Beaches that can be utilised for events/galleries etc.

https://www.warringah.nsw.gov.au/play/arts-and-culture/warringah-creative-space

#### Actions:

1. K Kirwan to send link for members to subscribe to the Warringah Creative Space newsletter.

NOTE: Michael Regan left the meeting at 6:46pm.

#### 6.2 HISTORY AND HERITAGE - JIM BOYCE

#### DISCUSSION

Jim Boyce discussed the difference of history and heritage and its importance to the community (*Attachment 4*).

### 7.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in February 2017. Details will be circulated shortly.

### SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
4.2	Provide details of population growth over the last 10 years on the Northern Beaches to members.	Research Officer
5.1	Request staff to provide an audit and a briefing to members on all art, cultural and heritage assets on the Northern Beaches.	Mick Darda
5.1	Circulate the three former Council's art and culture strategies to members.	Research Officer
6.1	K Kirwan to send link for members to subscribe to the Warringah Creative Space newsletter.	Katie Kirwan

#### The meeting concluded at 6:48pm

This is the final page of the Notes comprising 6 pages numbered 1 to 6 of the Art, Culture & Heritage Strategic Reference Group meeting held on 3 November 2016



# **Strategic Reference Group Protocols and Guidelines**

#### **Overview**

The new Strategic Reference Groups (SRGs) are aligned to the Local Representation Committee priorities and will help shape the draft Community Strategic Plan. The SRGs replace the role of the previous formal special interest committees across the former council areas

The SRGs will be a collective voice to provide input to the development of the vision and priorities for the draft Community Strategic Plan. The SRGs play an advisory role on Strategic Regional priorities.

The scope of each SRG is included in the separate Terms of Reference Document

Read the Terms of Reference for the Strategic Reference Groups.

The Strategic Reference Groups are listed below.

Local Representation Group	Strategic Reference Groups (SRGs)
Economic	Affordable Housing Economic Development and Tourism Place Making
Environment	Natural Environment Waste and Recovery Management Sustainable Transport
	Art, Culture and Heritage Community Safety Inclusive Communities . Open Space and Recreation . Youth

#### Membership

Council aims to include a diversity of members and ensure geographical coverage of the region. Each SRG will comprise of 10 people from <u>the five new wards</u>, as well as five others from across the broader Council region. Their input will help develop the draft Community Strategic Plan.

#### Meeting Schedule

The SRGs will meet twice during 2016 and three times in 2017.

The meetings will be on Thursday evenings from 5-7pm at venues including Manly and Dee Why. Meetings will run for no longer than two hours. Members can agree to extend the meeting by no more than thirty minutes if all members are in agreement.

#### Role of the Chair

The chair will be the Implementation Advisory Group representative. Their role is to independently chair the meeting to time and agenda.

They will also work with the Executive Manager to agree items for the agenda that are of Regional Significance.

#### Role of the Executive Manager

An Executive Manager has been allocated to each SRG. They will be supported by Research Officers, Governance and technical staff as required. They will finalise the agenda items and prepare reports and briefing notes. They will also approve meeting notes prior to circulation.

#### Conduct at Meetings

Members should be familiar with and comply with the <u>Office of Local Government's Model</u> <u>Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW</u> as this applies to staff, Administrator and all members of committees.

#### Attendance at Meetings

Apologies for attendance should be sent to the Governance contact and Chairperson as soon as possible prior to the meeting, either by telephone or email.

Please inform your Governance contact if you require any assistance accessing the meeting venue or have any dietary requirements.

#### Quorum

The meeting quorum is a majority of SRG members (minus any vacancies). If the Chair is unable to attend, they will nominate a Local Representation Committee member to chair the meeting.

If there are no members of the Local Representation Committee are in attendance the Executive Manager will chair the meeting.

#### <u>Agenda</u>

The meeting agenda and reports will be forwarded at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

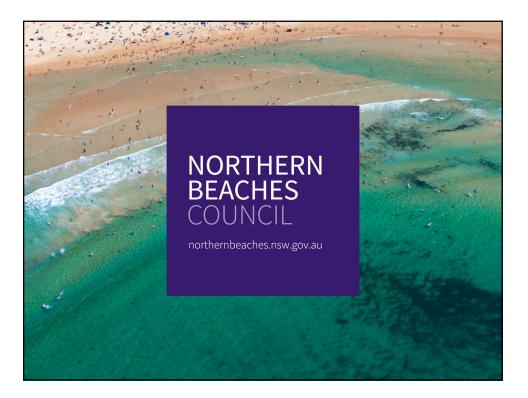
Members may suggest items for inclusion on the agenda. Proposed items are to be forwarded to the Governance contact, Chair and Executive Manager at least 10 working days prior to the meeting.

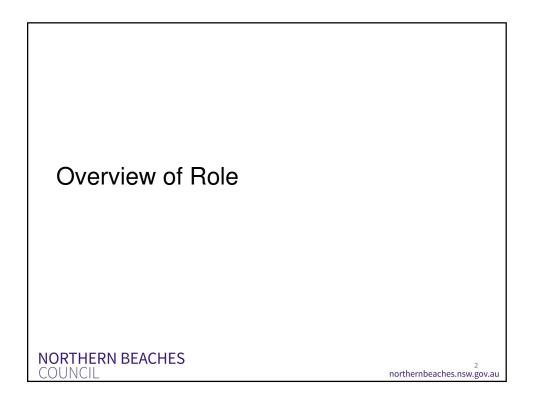
Items on the agenda will be agreed by the Chair and Executive Manager and should be of Strategic Regional significance.

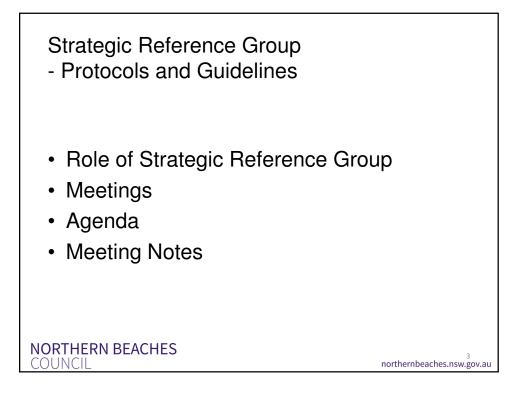
#### Meeting notes

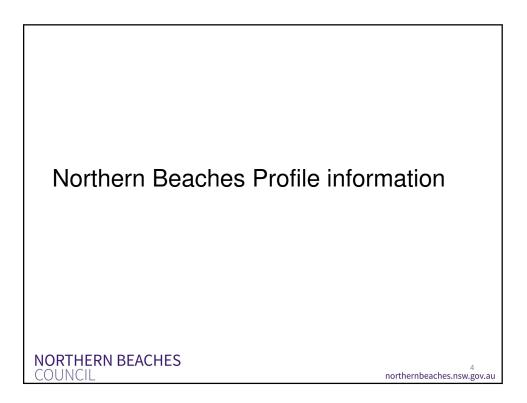
Meeting notes will be taken at SRG meetings. The notes of the SRG meetings will be circulated to the relevant Local Representation Committees for consideration. Recommendations of the SRG that require allocation of Council resources will require approval by Council prior to proceeding. These matters will need to be supported by the LRC and will be reported to Council as part of the LRC meeting notes.

The SRG notes will also be published on the Northern Beaches website.









### Demographics: Who Are We? Why are demographics important? · Assists in planning directions and priorities • Vital connection for the new Council = more effective in serving the region · Communications and community connections = your important role · Variety of data sources for a comprehensive snapshot - ABS, - SHOROC, - State & Agency studies & plans Context - 2012 - Regional Action Plan - Greater Sydney Commission; - New regional council; - Expectations from DP&C; NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

### Northern Beaches Region · Fringed by coastal waters & bush Aging population · Higher income than NSW average · Strong sense of community - high levels of volunteering - Competitive advantages · Highly skilled & competitive workforce with significant knowledge base Key industries: property & business services, hospitality, international education, recreation & tourism Brookvale—Dee Why · Connected to Sydney and central coast · High quality TAFE, Vocational Education & Training; English Language skills NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

(Source: NSW Department of Planning, 2016)

Northern Beaches Region	
Population 2016	263,700
Forecast 2031 (NSW DOP, 2016)	287,650
Population Increase 2016-2031 *revised, 2016	23,950*
% Increase *revised 2016	9.0%*
Average annual growth	0.5-0.7%
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	Housing Implications			
	Northern Beaches Region Source: Department of Planning, 2016			
	Total Households (2016)	99,350		
	Total Households (2031) NSW DOP 2016	110,300*		
	Households Increase (2016- 2031)	10,950 = 11%		
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Source: Profile ID, Northern Beaches , Nov 2016, <u>http://profile.id.com.au/northern-</u> <u>beaches</u> (accessed 9/11/16)	Northern Beaches Region	Greater Sydney
Median Age	39	36
Median Weekly household income	\$1,803	\$1447
Couples with children	36%	35%
Medium & high density housing	<b>43%</b>	40%
Households with a mortgage	35%	33%
Households renting (LGA)	26%	30%

# Who are we? Community Profile

	Northern Beaches	Greater Sydney
NESB	13%	<b>26%</b>
Bachelor/higher Degree	<b>29%</b>	24%
Vocational	16%	15%
Public Transport (to work)	17.6%	20%
Unemployment	3.0%	5.7%
NORTHERN BEACHES Council		northernbeache

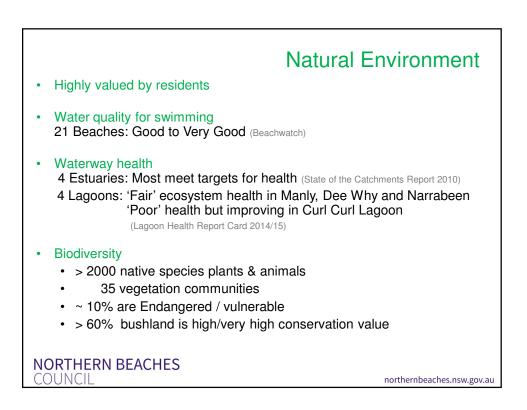
# Northern Beaches region: Source: Profile ID Forecast,

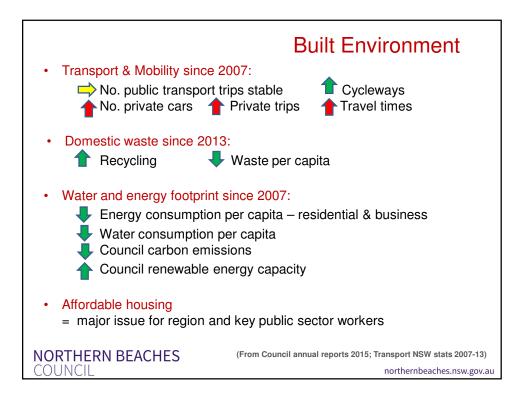
http://economy.id.com.au/northern-beaches (accessed on 9/11/16)

Gross Regional Product	\$13.35B
Local Jobs	95,131
Local Businesses	30,415
Employed Residents	141,200
Containment Rates	
(% of residents employed locally)	49%
Largest Industries	
	Retail

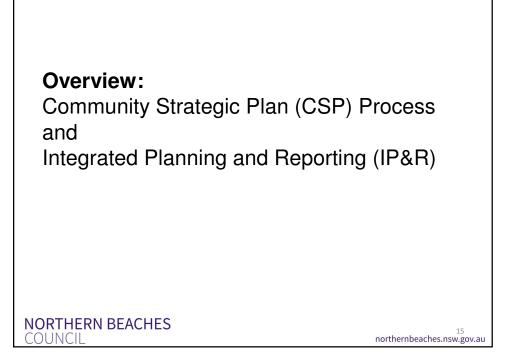
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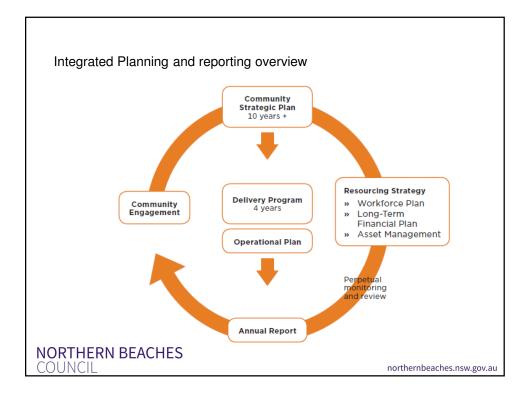


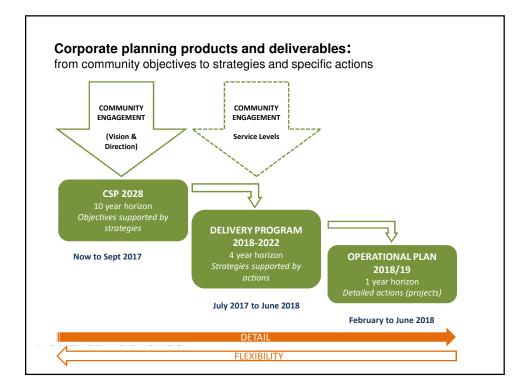


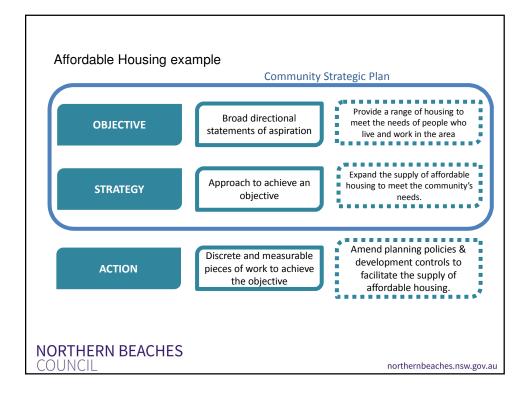


# **COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

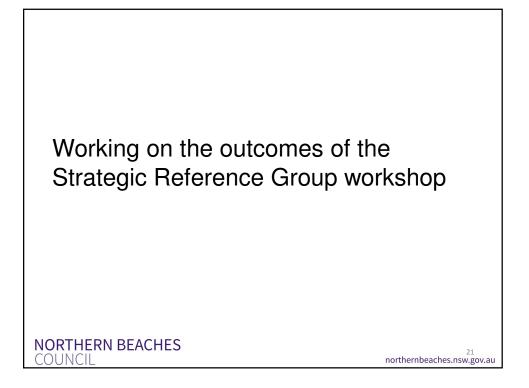
VISION & PRIORITIES	<b>Sep - Nov 2016</b> Community engagement: Issues Paper
STRATEGIES	<b>Mar - Apr 2017</b> Community engagement: Discussion Paper Staff and stakeholder engagement
PUBLIC EXHIBITION DRAFT CSP	<b>Jul - Aug 2017</b> Community engagement: Feedback on draft
FINAL CSP ADOPTED	Adoption post September 2017 by the newly elected Council
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Workshop – Challenges & Issues From the perspective of your SRG is any thing missing?

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Workshop – Priorities

Looking at the Challenge/Issue what are your top ten priorities across the region?

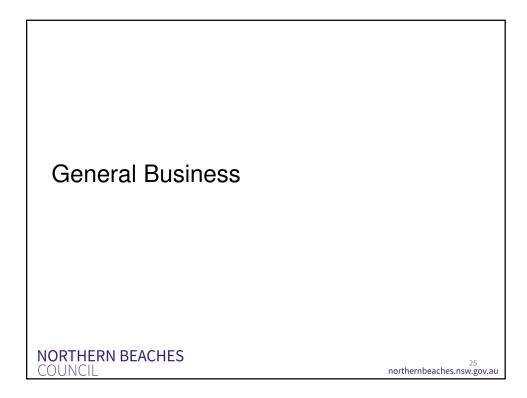
NORTHERN BEACHES

Art, Culture and Heritage SRG Members – your goals and aspirations

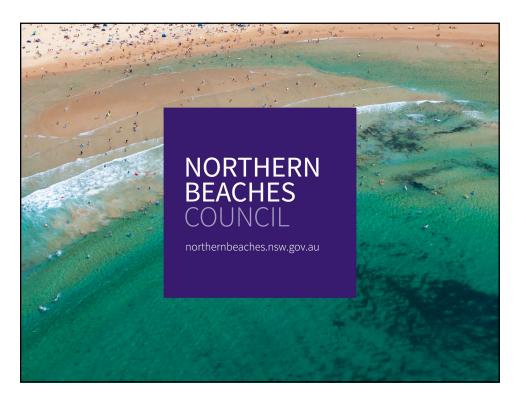
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The following information summarises the results of the workshop held with the Arts Culture and Heritage SRG to prioritise the challenges and issues facing the northern beaches for the next 10 years.

Black issues are those from the Issues Paper

Blue issues are those identified at the SRG workshop at Dee Why RSL on 28 September 2016 Green issues are those identified by the Arts Culture and Heritage SRG from their perspective at the meeting on 10 November 2016

The column on the right shows the number of dots placed by members to indicate their view of the priorities across the region.

Environment	Number of dots
Challenge - Clean Environment	
Diminishing landfill capacity for disposal of waste	
Limited recycling and waste reduction opportunities, incentives and education	
Lack of general awareness of long term and cumulative impacts of littering and rubbish dumping on the environment	
Impacts of stormwater pollution on creeks, lagoons, rivers and the ocean	
Air pollution associated with increased traffic and congestion	
Peak waste generated by visitors, sports and events including problematic cigarette butts	
Inadequate reach of education on waste, litter and plastic reduction eg. to schools, retirement homes, group homes, business	
Inadequate investment and use of tools to reduce waste and pollution eg. legislation, enforcement, targets, infrastructure and technology, business leases/licences	
Challenge - Catchments, Coasts and Waterways	
Cumulative impacts of urban development on our lagoons, creeks and beaches, including impacts of pollution and sedimentation and habitat loss	
Impacts of recreational activities in and around our major waterways	
Impacts of flooding and flood mitigation measures on waterways	
Erosion and associated risks to property, infrastructure and natural areas	
Impacts of sewage overflows and uncontrolled stormwater on riparian and aquatic environments, caused in part by ageing infrastructure and illegal connections	
Increasing costs of climate change impacts on the coast including planning, hazard reduction and emergency management	
Increasing impacts on marine ecosystems	

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Environment	of
Linvironment	Number of dots
Challenge - Bushland and Biodiversity	0,
Pressures on bushland and biodiversity through loss of core areas of vegetation as	
a consequence of development and illegal land clearing	
Loss and fragmentation of bushland and wildlife corridors and habitat areas on public and private land	
Decline in native biodiversity from threats such as climate change, pest plants and fungi, companion and feral animals	
Impacts of unauthorised recreation activities on environmentally sensitive areas	
Intrinsic difficulties in effectively managing and measuring biodiversity	
Challenge - Climate Change	
Large environmental footprint of the area, especially as related to energy and water consumption	
Heavy dependence by Council and the community on coal-fired power for energy consumption	
Poor incentive structures for promotion of sustainable building design (e.g. funding, knowledge, accessibility, regulation)	
High level of car dependency	
Urban heat island effect, where heat retention of hard surfaces results in higher than average localised temperatures	
Risks to energy supply during heatwaves where demand for air-conditioning increases	
Local food security and supply	
Effects of climate change on natural environment and biodiversity e.g storms, erosion, flooding, fire, drought, sea level rise	
Lack of understanding and data on changes over time	
Lack of investment in alternative modes of transport	
Challenge - Natural Hazard Management	
Increase in frequency and severity of extreme storm events and droughts with associated risks to life and property	
Impacts of erosion and landslip areas on public and private places and property	
Balancing the impacts of hazard reduction measures on environmental values with the need for property protection (i.e. managing bushfire back burning, flood mitigation measures, landslip management and seawalls in an environmentally sensitive way)	
Potential opposition, namely from property owners, to the implementation of hazard mitigation development controls (e.g. risk mapping and planning in regards to bushfire and floodplains respectively)	

Environment	Number of dots
Impacts of sea level rise on local flooding and coastal management	
Potential impacts of heatwaves on the health and wellbeing of elderly people and other people vulnerable to extreme temperatures	
Impacts of flooding on major road ways (Wakehurst Parkway)	
Challenge - Built environment interactions	
Government pressures for more housing and growth	
Ensuring population and urban expansion matches the character of the area	
Planning and building not meeting sustainable development goals e.g mandating solar power	
Ensuring population and urban expansion matches the character of the area	1
Low uptake by the community of sustainable practices - need more opportunities and education	
Encroaching on nature strips – boats, trailers, storage etc.	
Visual pollution from excessive signage	

Economic	Number of dots
Challenge – Business Diversity, Innovation and Growth	
Ability to attract and retain medium to large sized businesses	
Limited commercial space and industrial land for businesses to establish, expand and prosper in the region (including co-worker space and business incubators)	1
Downward pressures on manufacturing and traditional industries in the area, with a need for manufacturing-based businesses to adapt towards 'advanced manufacturing' and emerging industries	
Restricted opportunities to support larger scaled industries due to market pressure for rezoning of existing industrial lands to retail, commercial and/or residential uses	
Mixed-use development in commercial centres is difficult given existing market preferences for residential uses	
Lack of support for start-up businesses, and restricted opportunities for local networking	2
Lack of support, hubs and events for small business	1

Economic	Number of dots
Constraints to business growth - limited key workers that live locally; cars congesting village centres; inadequate internet/ delayed NBN	1
Encourage creative businesses - link with art, culture and heritage	
Support creative sector for professionals as far as business is concerned	
Challenge – Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity	
High level of private car dependency of resident workers (nearly 60% stated car as primary mode of travel to work)	2
Limited road capacity and increasing congestion and traffic on all main roads, with critical impact on commuters on the main access roads: Mona Vale Road, Warringah Road and Pittwater Road	
Increasing pressures on the East/West corridor and potential impacts on growth in strategic centres (linking the northern beaches and the new strategic centre in Frenchs Forest with Chatswood, Macquarie Park, and Norwest)	1
Low levels of public transport patronage due to inefficiencies and unavailability of bus services and public transport facilities (such as poor timetabling, poor coverage in terms of stops in the LGA, as well as limited end destination coverage and facilities)	
Maintenance and upgrades to public infrastructure and transport facilities, namely in geographically isolated areas (i.e. maintenance of wharves to waterside communities and statutory provision of disability access to wharves by 2020)	
Slow internet speed, broadband access and capacity	
Poor public transport connections to employment centres across the Northern Beaches to attract workers and customers. This also affects the region's night-time economy	2
Not enough support/ infrastructure for active travel and small-scale accessible transit eg. community buses, cycleways	
Challenge – Local Employment and Education	
Mismatch between local job opportunities and existing skills and professions of resident workforce	
Limited range of tertiary education facilities and training and opportunities on the northern beaches (from apprenticeships to university degrees), especially for youth	1
High level of commuting out of northern beaches (47%) for work, especially to Sydney CBD and wider Global Economic Corridor	
Housing affordability to accommodate key workers in the region and future generations	1

Economic	Number of dots
Limited data on businesses, local economy, employment and telecommuting needs for making sound decisions	
Limited capacity to create new employment areas and maintain/ stimulate existing ones such as Brookvale	
Challenge – Tourism and Visitor Economy	
Potential community resistance to tourism and increases in visitor numbers in areas with strong and localised sense of place and identity	
High concentration of visitor activity around Manly, with a lack of general awareness of other areas of the northern beaches combined with restricted public transport options being the main barriers for better visitor distribution across the region	3
High visitor numbers but low spending yields	1
Potential impacts and/or residents' perception of night-time economy on local amenity	1
Environmental impacts of tourism on sensitive natural areas and assets	
Limited accommodation for visitors - under-supply is critical for the industry	
High potential for eco-tourism is unrealised	
Attracting tourists to cultural activities and events	1

Social	Number of dots
Challenge - Connected Community	
Risk of social isolation particularly affecting older people and people with a disability in the community	2
Equity of access to support services across the northern beaches	1
Developing sense of community and social cohesion in new and growing communities (i.e. new land release areas and infill sites)	2
Limited opportunities for young people to be active, showcase their talents and skills, and to connect with their peers	4
Ever increasing price of housing and lack of affordable stock and housing options, particularly for people on low incomes, people with a disability and young people	2
Limited public transport connectivity outside of commuter routes, exacerbated by topographical issues in a number of areas	1
Support for our elderly i.e. health care access; affordable housing; accessibility in area; lifelong learning	1

Social	Number of dots
Support for special care and disabilities e.g with childcare; youth before and after school care; respite care	
Youth need more opportunities to be mentored, have their views incorporated, reduce homelessness, and access education and training	1
Maintaining programs and facilities that build social capital e.g libraries, community centres	6
Intergenerational forums to share knowledge, skills, opinions e.g. gardening, crafts, technology storytelling, film making	
Challenge - Health, wellbeing and safety	
Equitable access to health, family and aged care services across northern beaches	
Impacts of drug and alcohol intake on public health and wellbeing, including safety risks in public places	1
Limited crisis and short term housing options to accommodate people in need of housing and shelter	1
Increased prevalence of mental health issues among young people	1
Prevalence and hidden nature of domestic violence	1
Lack of community knowledge and awareness on how to support the inclusion of people with a disability and other vulnerable population groups in community life	1
Keeping up community safety to reduce assaults and violence	1
Some areas need more street lighting, passive surveillance or liquor licence control	
Challenge - Recreation and open space	
Whole of life-cycle consideration for provision of recreation and sporting facilities, investing in quality products and creative solutions	2
Holistic and integrated open space planning for a range of uses within each area	2
Equitable access to recreational facilities for new and emerging sports	
Upgrading existing facilities to ensure accessibility for the whole community	2
Meeting the needs for open space, relaxation, meeting places, playgrounds, recreation, public art, local markets	4
Challenge - Arts, culture and heritage	1
Availability of a diverse and evolving range of cultural and creative facilities and events that meet the needs of the whole community	7
Limited night-life across the region	3
Lack of creative and performance spaces and venues	6
Valuing and protecting heritage assets (Indigenous and non-Indigenous)	6
Lack of support for local artists - Lack of acknowledgement and collections on work of local artists and writers	5

Social	Number of dots
Support for Indigenous Culture – education and protection of indigenous heritage and culture	4
Inclusive opportunities for youth, families, multicultural and outdoor events beyond Manly; and links to Vivid & other Sydney events	5
Knowing what we have now	
What are the existing assets - physical, virtual, mobile ?	
Lack of public display and practice spaces for cultural activities - differentiate between exhibition, creation and practice	
History: planned form of communication re history where no physical items remain - signage, electronic tutorial and paper-based	
Manly Art Gallery & Museum: need to be concentrating on the art gallery as there is a confusion of focus	
Manly Art Gallery & Museum: expansion needs - long standing, community-funded	
Regional Museum and heritage centre - volunteer run and funded	
Galleries/ studios strategically situated across northern beaches	
Public art: create a separate s94 fund of 1% for public art (but could be broadened) like Melbourne	
University presence: Annexe of Macquarie Uni art department to somewhere on northern beaches	
Indigenous heritage: dual signage names, language names	
Indigenous heritage: dual name something - headland, lagoon etc	
Challenge - Planning for future communities	
Encouraging and supporting creativity and innovation in urban design	3
Meeting the infrastructure, economic and social needs of a changing demographic	1
Providing adequate and accessible infrastructure and services for infill development and land release areas	1
Increasing densities and its impact on traffic congestion and parking.	2
Increased demand on existing under resourced public transport and active travel networks	2
Need a Housing Strategy for growing population and changing demographics - with greater diversity, affordability and people-friendly villages & centres	3
Need more diversified town planning controls – for greater flexibility in accommodation options that are inclusive, accessible and pedestrian-friendly	
Need for more affordable housing: diversity for key workers, and intergenerational needs of young, elderly and future generations	
Re creativity and innovation in urban design (above): identify key themes, what are they?	
Heritage: Are there hot spots of cultural history (to protect)?	
Heritage: better development controls to protect older buildings and heritage streetscapes	

Social	Number of dots
Arts/ culture: Planning cultural and performing venues for a growing population	1

#### HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Firstly, it should be said that History and Heritage are part of "The Arts". It is recognised as such by the Commonwealth Department Communication and the Arts, and the NSW Ministry of the Arts. The three previous councils that now comprise the Northern Beaches Council, all recognised the position of History and Heritage as part of the Arts, in their various Cultural Plans.

The second thing is that Heritage is very often used . as synonymous with culture i.e. having the same meaning. The Macquarie Dictionary , in its two main definitions ,states:

1 Something that comes or belongs to one by reason of birth ; an inherited lot or portion.

2 The culture , traditions and national assets preserved from one generation to another.

In governmental use ,there is a much more limited definition :

"Heritage are those physical items of historical significance that have survived from the past".

Thus the Strategic Reference Group operates within that definition. Many countries recognise Intangible Heritage but Australia does not. i.e. If it is not physically identifiable, it is not heritage but it could be history.

We then see Heritage as sitting within History and that many items of historical significance are no longer present . e.g. Bora Rings – Aboriginal History. A definition of History for the Northern Beaches should read :

" The History of the Northern Beaches is the story of the past, the people, places , activities and organisations within the Northern Beaches area ."

History is a reflection of the time it is written. The compiling of history is an evolving discipline and as many subjects change in importance according to the mores of the age, there is a change of emphasis, while the chronological facts remain the same but are always being reviewed as to their significance.

Thus we have an overarching discipline of history, within which Heritage sits. The identification of physical Heritage is subject to technology, as has been apparent in marine archaeology and the use of satellite imagery in the determination of the expansion of such sites as Stonehenge.

Regarding Heritage , all three previous councils recognised six different types of Heritage to which they relate:

- 1 The Natural Environment incl. Marine
- 2 Aboriginal Life
- 3 Built Structures
- 4 Parks and Gardens
- 5 Marine Structures
- 6 Moveable Heritage

Each of these six types , lie within the responsibility of different departments and , at this time within the previous three council structures . A degree of uniformity is being sought , but this will take some time to achieve.

With regard to History, where the physical evidence is no longer present, this is acknowledged through various channels of communication by the Northern Beaches Council. In the past, the major method of communication has been through printed material encompassing books, brochures and pamphlets, and some of these are now available on the website of the Northern Beaches Council. The website , to varying degrees, has historical information on people, places , activities and organisations. There is an increasing amount of information on apps , that can be accessed on site. There are plaques, cairns and signs informing the public of the historical significance of a site. At this moment in time, the Northern Beaches Council is in the process of obtaining uniformity in these areas of communication.

It should not be forgotten that the individual clubs and associations on the Northern Beaches have recorded their own histories and have assembled their collections of moveable heritage e.g. surf clubs. There is an on-going issue here of assistance in maintaining security and care of these items.

While the Northern Beaches Council is at the governmental head of the hierarchy of these History and Heritage activities, each one of these organisations has an affiliation to a NSW and Commonwealth institution. This is important in the state and national context of the history of those activities and to some degree provides opportunities for research assistance and funding of the history of the local government area in which we live.

Thank you for your patience as "The Arts "encompasses so many different disciplines of which History is but one. Each one of those disciplines has an aesthetic, social, historic and technological dimension with in it. I look forward to an agreement on the various cultural activities that comprise "The Arts ".

Jim Boyce

M. W. & P. H. S.

November 2016