

# AGENDA

## **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group will be held in the Flannel Flower Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why on

**THURSDAY 15 JUNE 2017**

Beginning at 5.00pm for the purpose of considering and determining matters included in this agenda.

## **To Committee Members**

Alex McTaggart (Chair)	Implementation Advisory Group
Wayne Gobert	Local Representative Committee - Social
Narelle Berry	Resident – Manly Ward
Phillip Colman	Resident – Narrabeen Ward
Roberta Conroy	Bayview Church Point Residents Association
Jo Cooper	North Steyne Surf Lifesaving Club
Jacqueline French	Manly Community Forum
Paul Hackney	Resident – Frenchs Forest Ward
Tom Hazell	Resident – Curl Curl Ward
Edwina Laginestra	WIRES Northern Beaches
Whitney-May Lever	Resident – Frenchs Forest Ward
Marita Macrae	Pittwater Natural Heritage Association
Jacqueline Marlow	Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment
Yvonne Pflieger	Resident – Curl Curl Ward
Kathryn Ridge	Resident – Manly Ward
Merinda Rose	Palm Beach & Whale Beach Association
David Thomas	ECO Divers

## **Council Officer Contacts**

Todd Dickinson	Executive Manager Natural Environment & Climate Change
Ximena Von Oven	Administration Officer Governance

## **Quorum**

Majority of members (excluding vacant positions)

**Agenda for a meeting of the Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group**

**to be held on Thursday 15 June 2017**

**in the Flannel Flower Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why**

**Commencing at 5.00pm**

<b>1.0</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST</b>	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>REVIEW OF MEETING NOTES</b>	
3.1	Notes of Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group held 6 April 2017.....	1
<b>4.0</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEMS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1	SRG Directions Paper on the Natural Environment - Workshop.....	5
4.2	Community Strategic Plan - Update on Stage Two .....	36
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<b>5.0</b>	<b>UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING</b>	
	Nil	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b>	
	<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	

## **2.0 CONFIRMATION OF NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

<b>2.1</b>	<b>NOTES OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP HELD 6 APRIL 2017 .....</b>	<b>6</b>
		<b>1</b>

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Notes of the Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group held 6 April 2017, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

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# NOTES

## **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING**

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

**THURSDAY 6 APRIL 2017**

**Notes of the Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group Meeting  
held on Thursday 6 April 2017  
in the Flannel Flower Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why  
Commencing at 5.00pm**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**To Committee Members**

Alex McTaggart (Chair)	Social Local Representative Committee
Jacqueline French	Manly Community Forum
Tom Hazell	Resident – Curl Curl Ward
Marita Macrae	Pittwater Natural Heritage Association
Jacqueline Marlow	Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment
Yvonne Pflieger	Resident – Curl Curl Ward
Kathryn Ridge	Resident – Manly Ward
Merinda Rose	Palm Beach & Whale Beach Association
David Thomas	ECO Divers

**Council Officer Contacts**

Todd Dickinson	Executive Manager Natural Environment & Climate Change
Jackie Grove	Systems and Sustainability Manager
Louise Hardy	Community Engagement Officer
Ximena Von Oven	Administration Officer Governance

**Quorum**

Majority of members (excluding vacant positions)

NOTE: *Alex McTaggart Chairperson of the Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group (SRG) welcomed the members to the meeting and gave an Acknowledgement of Country*

**1.0 APOLOGIES**

That apologies from Jo Cooper, Narelle Berry, Paul Hackney, Roberta Conroy, Wayne Gobert and Whitney – May Lever be noted.

**2.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Nil

### **3.0 CONFIRMATION OF NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

#### **3.1 NOTES OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP HELD 9 FEBRUARY 2017**

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Notes of the Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group held 9 February 2017, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Members discussed the updates to the Action Log from the 9 February 2017 meeting.

- A McTaggart requested that a copy of the Greater Sydney Commission draft District Plan be placed in all council libraries  
Allocated to Principal Officer Strategic Planning (completed)
- AM Newbury advised she would source information around who is on the –North District Planning Panel and circulate it to the group  
Allocated to Principal Officer Strategic Planning (completed)
- For those that handwrote separate notes at Item 4.1, M Lee to receive hard copy notes, scan and return to members if required.  
Allocated to Governance Manager (completed)
- J Marlow to email the group about some of the points of concern that she raised within the discussion so they can include this information in their submissions?  
J Marlow to email M Lee with the details who will forward this information on to group members.  
Allocated to Governance Manager (completed)

NOTE: Jackie French arrived to the meeting 5:15 pm

T Dickinson, Executive Manager Natural Environment & Climate Change(Operations) introduced Jackie Grove, Systems and Sustainability Manager to the group.

NOTE: David Thomas arrived to the meeting 5:19 pm

### **4.0 COUNCIL UPDATES**

#### **4.1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SRG DIRECTIONS PAPER - WORKSHOP**

##### **DISCUSSION**

Nil

### **5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING**

##### **DISCUSSION**

This matter was previously covered on discussion of Item 2.1

## **6.0 STRATEGIC DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Nil

## **7.0 STRATEGIC WORKSHOPS**

### **7.1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SRG DIRECTIONS PAPER - 40 MINS**

#### **DISCUSSION**

SRG members were requested to re-visit their aspirations and use them to develop the goals that will form the basis of the Directions Paper. Members were asked to refine their goals and add more commentary on what Council is doing well and what we are not and provide some actions for the new Council.

Louise Hardy, Research Officer, conducted a workshop and the outcomes are provided as Attachment A.

NOTE: The meeting was extended for 15 minutes.

## **8.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

*The meeting concluded at 7.15pm*

This is the final page of the Notes comprising 4 pages  
numbered 1 to 4 of the Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group  
meeting held on Thursday 9 February 2017 and confirmed on Thursday 13 April 2017



**Catchment, Coast & Waterways**

<b><i>What is the Goal</i></b>	<b><i>What are we doing well/not well</i></b>	<b><i>Action</i></b>	<b><i>Notes</i></b>
<p>Maintain and improve recreational water quality to A grade standard</p> <p>Maintain and improve water-based ecology across whole of catchment with no loss of northern beaches habitat (seagrass, mangroves, instream habitat, riparian areas, vegetation types, threatened and endangered species)</p> <p>Regular gathering of comparable information, sharing and making information available to the community</p> <p>Lobby and advocate for improved treatment of Sydney's sewage – North Head Outfall</p> <p>Remove significant diffuse sources of water pollution, examples Scotland Island</p>	<p>Well</p> <p>Cleaning the ocean pools really well</p> <p>Support for "Friends of" Groups. Providing better support for those groups would be good to build off</p> <p>Waterways are really good for people's mental health – the tracks near the lagoons and waterways are great</p> <p>Not well</p> <p>Monitoring the natural environment</p> <p>We don't strategically plan to protect the environment</p> <p>We are not educating the community enough about how vulnerable this area is</p> <p>Strategic and clear plans to educate ie "these species only live here, nowhere else"</p> <p>Point source pollution management – pipe ends, stormwater pollution – no facilities to catch things – they end up at</p>	<p>School programs</p> <p>Measure and monitor (including macroinvertebrates)</p> <p>Increase no take zones and marine protected areas to improve ecological habitat and diversity</p> <p>Standard signage across the LGA by look – but specific to position and what is to be achieved in specific areas eg 'hey this area is used by migrating birds'</p>	<p>Water quality on the whole northern beaches (lakes, ocean, estuaries, creek – whole of catchment – different measures for the different water bodies)</p> <p>A Grade – EPA recreational water quality standard</p> <p>Ecological water quality</p> <p>Nothing to get worse – rather like them to improve</p> <p>Activities to continue but not to the detriment of the water quality/ecology</p> <p>Catchment based targets – we need information and indicators for each of our catchments, waterways and systems. Acknowledge our pristine environments and ensure protection is the focus.</p> <p>Need to look at whole-of-catchment cumulative impacts</p> <p>We need a set of 'like' indicators and set criteria that can be used – but the different places would have different targets</p>

	<p>the end of the catchment. Acknowledge that this is costly.</p>		<p>Get teachers involved</p> <p>Get people interested</p> <p>Find out who is monitoring and where</p> <p>Seagrasses – animals</p> <p>Baseline figures exist for a lot of these areas – we should capture a baseline for Northern Beaches Council – how it is tested on from that is something that needs to be considered</p> <p>There are many agencies testing our waterways, Streamwatch, EPA, Council, hydraulics lab – a benchmark should be set on the basis of this information for our future decision-making – Starting point</p> <p>If someone comes and works in our area – they should share their data with council and the community</p> <p>Need to link with the waterway review</p> <p>Habitat really important – seagrass, mangroves, instream vegetation, threatened species,</p> <p>Look to infill development, rather</p>
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			<p>than 'green field' development – important to preserve what's left.</p> <p>Sydney's STP is the worst in the world – largest one with the least treatment – would be illegal in the US</p> <p>It's been 20 years since last major upgrade of this facility – secondary treatment has never been achieved. Council needs to lobby hard on behalf of the environment.</p> <p>Identify point sources of pollution, monitor them and shut them down</p> <p>Fishing lines, hooks and other fishing refuse is a real problem. We are not getting the message across to the right people – the ones who pollute. Fishing line (tangle bins) are a good facility to help people dispose of their junk.</p> <p>Suggest that we close rock platforms to fishing – share them 50% - suggestion. Also restrict fishing in Narrabeen lagoon, Cabbage Tree Bay as a start. Especially critical habitat areas – with explanation "critical habitat for birds".</p>
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			<p>Have life rings and bins next to each other in certain popular spots</p> <p>Enforcement is also a problem</p> <p>Protect fish nurseries by shutting down some areas to maintain really important habitats – meets goal of no loss and improvement</p> <p>The Council on behalf of community and environment has to negotiate with other agencies – ie fishing licences need to be better managed. Reject movement of fishing licences from Sydney Harbour into Pittwater</p> <p>Maintaining views of water is very good for mental health.</p>
Rehabilitation of creek lines			
Best management and consistent management of water across the region			
		Regular maintenance of drains and pollution traps	

		Record existing water edge condition	
	Erosion of Careel Bay Marina		
	Concerns about the marine world (biodiversity at Long Reef)		
		More marine no take zones	
		Sharks are vital to ocean health. Ban shark nets.	

### **Bushland, Threatened Species and Pests (Formerly Bushland and Biodiversity)**

<b><i>Goal</i></b>	<b><i>What are we doing well/not well</i></b>	<b><i>Action</i></b>	<b><i>Notes of conversation</i></b>
Parked for next meeting	NOT  Rangers should be rangers, parking officers should be parking officers  WELL  Coastal Environment Centre – so much potential	Weed control strategy	
Connectivity of bushland areas			
	Bushland areas should be managed by staff with bush		

	regeneration skills		
Conservation of bushland			
Wildlife corridors			
		Animal crossings	
	Preservation is better than restoration		
		Maintenance of bushland areas	
		Encourage community members to preserve the corridors but also to maintain and preserve the canopy	
		Measure the canopy	
		Map the green space and canopy that exists	
Bush regeneration (Manly) to keep the bushland healthy			

## Climate Change

<b>Goal</b>	<b>What are we doing well/not well</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Notes</b>
By 2027 Council will reduce its emissions by matching State Government targets for climate change and resource use towards meeting a zero emissions target by 2050	Well  Solar panels on community owned buildings, like surf clubs  Work with other organisations	Live up to our respective sustainability pledges  Work with community groups and ask them to come along with the targets. Demonstrate savings. Eg	Climate change mitigation  Council facilities with hot boil water systems that are on 24/7 (council energy audit)

<p><i>Something needed for adaptation to climate change here – to minimise impacts of climate change we can't mitigate ie heat, rain – incorporate into review of development control plans – eg below</i></p> <p>We take a critical infrastructure approach to prioritising adaptation to climate change</p> <p><i>Need a goal to assist the community to adapt eg below</i></p> <p>To support the community to use more renewable energy sources</p>		<p>energy efficiency</p> <p>Council to lobby for better BASIX controls</p> <p>Council energy audit</p> <p>Promote sustainable design through its amalgamated DCP</p> <p>Review low lying infrastructure and whether it can cope with climate change scenarios</p> <p>Incorporate climate change into the infrastructure renewing framework into the future</p> <p>Partnerships with residents and universities and other groups for sustainable power (– look at City of Sydney work with Michael Mobbs)</p>	<p>Interim targets are required</p> <p>People are switching off the grid – solar panels</p> <p>Example Re-Power Shoalhaven Council</p> <p>Big development should have to incorporate large efficiency projects, ie Ingleside apartment blocks and shopping precinct</p> <p>Streets to be orientated for better solar access</p> <p>Requirements for all developments to have BASIX</p> <p>Wakehurst parkway solution – more likely to be widening and raising as a solution to flooding</p> <p>Longer, tougher droughts, leading to bushfires – limiting the areas where animals can flee is inconsistent with our goal for no loss of species and diversity</p> <p>Look at Michael Mobb's solar energy solution and links to mobile technology</p> <p>In time, battery solutions will become cheaper</p>
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Floods, Bushfire and Coastal Erosion (Natural Hazard Management)

<i>Goal</i>	<i>What are we doing well/not well</i>	<i>Action</i>
Flood mitigation		



**Sustainable communities (Built Environment and Environmental Education)**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>What are we doing well/not well</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>notes</b>
Connectivity across the area	Well  Our environmental centres are fantastic but under resourced		Start the kids young  Primary and high school children 'get it'  Adults are the problem
		Water sensitive urban design	
Development should be built in a more sustainable, environmentally responsible way			
		Planting of street trees	
Inappropriate development should be banned			
Green areas should dominate			
		Vegetation offsets for development	
		Educate the community about marine environment and biodiversity	
		Education on value of bushland	
		More interpretive signs	
Education for the community with regards to biodiversity, protecting			

the environment			
Education for everyone in the community (from kids to parents			
Sustainable living			
Plastic free society			
No littering			
		Ban plastic bags	
		Enforce regulations on protection of marine and bush environment	
Good public relations on environmental issues			

**Ungrouped**

<b>Goal</b>	<b><i>What are we doing well/not well</i></b>	<b><i>Action</i></b>
		Innovation
		Ensure appropriate management of North Head Sewage Treatment Plant
		Application of technology
		Ensuring environmental management considered in leases
		Compliance with laws and individual responsibility for this
Measure air quality and provide good air quality		
		Measuring outcomes

**Parking Lot**

- Sydney Coastal Councils Group – get them located on the northern beaches and put them to work for us. Take advantage of this agency as they have done a lot of work and they have good access to other agencies. Help with coastal work and sea level rise.
- We could also attract a whole lot of other environmental groups to be hosted in our facilities
- Aboriginal heritage – where is it being addressed?
- Dependence on cars needs to be addressed

## 4.0 AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 4.1	SRG DIRECTIONS PAPER ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT - WORKSHOP
REPORTING OFFICER	EXECUTIVE MANAGER NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE
TRIM FILE REF	2017/180258
ATTACHMENTS	1 <a href="#">↓</a> Natural Environment SRG - Directions Paper 2017 - DRAFT

### PURPOSE

To finalise preparation of the Directions Paper that summarises the Strategic Reference Group's environmental management priorities for the incoming Northern Beaches Council.

*Please note* – this activity has been carried over from the previous SRG meeting.

### BACKGROUND

At the Natural Environment SRG meeting of 6 April 2017, members continued to work on content for the Directions Paper that will summarise the group's environmental management priorities for the incoming Northern Beaches Council. At this meeting two sections were considered in further detail – *Catchment, Coasts and Waterways* and *Climate Change* and include goals, what we are doing well or not doing well and suggested actions to achieve the goal.

The draft Directions Paper has now been prepared, and these two sections folded into the document. Council staff have also added additional detail around the Floods, Bushfire and Coastal Erosion section for the group's review.

### DISCUSSION

At this meeting, SRG members will re-visit their aspirations for *Bushland, Threatened Species and Pests* and *Sustainable Communities* developed in previous meetings and use them to finalise the goals and actions in the Directions Paper.

Prior to the meeting the SRG members are requested to review the working draft of the Directions Paper to see whether the *Catchment, Coast and Waterways, Climate Change, and Floods, Bushfire and Coastal Erosion* sections capture their views.

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### RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

That Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group provide feedback and input towards the completion of the Directions Paper.

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## **Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group**

### **Directions Paper**

Draft May 2017

**NORTHERN BEACHES**  
COUNCIL

## Executive Summary

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## Purpose of this paper

Northern Beaches Council is a new entity created by the merging of three former local government areas: Manly, Warringah and Pittwater. Each former Council was home to unique environmental features but a commonly connected landscape.

The former councils each viewed the natural environment as a significant priority for the community, were champions for their environment, and had developed a range of strategies, plans and programs directed at protecting and managing this valuable part of our region.

The Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group (NESRG) met XX times during the period of administration of the Council. During these meetings, the members discussed their priorities, and reviewed how they thought the environment was, or should be, being managed. This paper is the culmination of this effort and identifies key issues and directions that will help guide the incoming Council.

## Background

### The Northern Beaches Natural Environment

#### OVERVIEW OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The Northern Beaches Local Government Area covers an area of 254km<sup>2</sup>, 114 km<sup>2</sup> of national parks, 17 km<sup>2</sup> of bushland under the active management and protection of Council, 80km of coastline, Middle Harbour and Pittwater estuaries, 7 catchments and 4 coastal lagoons.

The bushland encompasses a rich diversity of native plant species and vegetation communities and hundreds of species of native animals, including many endangered or threatened. The 80km of coastline contains a range of iconic features, including beaches listed as national surfing reserves, headlands and rock shelves formed millions of years ago and dunes that provide important habitat for native plants and animals. The harbours, estuaries, lagoons and waterways play a fundamental role in the environment and support a variety of aquatic life, provide habitat and breeding grounds for many aquatic plants and animals and are an essential part of larger ecosystems.

The natural environment, in addition to creating the way of life we enjoy, provides ecosystem services essential to our health and wellbeing. The current population of 263,000 is forecast to increase to 297,000 by 2036. Our natural environment is under pressure from multiple sources including increased urban sprawl, recreation, tourism, pests, pollution and illegal activities that must be actively managed

#### OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY RESEARCH

Recent community consultation and surveys demonstrate the importance that the community place on the protection of the environment. The beach and bush environment consistently ranks highest during surveys. Consultation undertaken recently to develop the community strategic plan found that the protection of the environment is of the highest importance and our goals for environmental sustainability should inspire the community.

#### Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group - Northern Beaches Council

Following the formation of the new Northern Beaches Council in May 2016, eleven Strategic Reference Groups (SRGs) were formed across key areas of council's operation. The role of the SRGs is to provide a valuable contribution to the directions of the new Council, including input into the development of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and future plans and strategies. SRG members were recruited via EOI, represent a cross-section of the community, and bring expertise to their area of appointment. Each group also includes two-three former Councillors as Chair and Deputy Chair.

The Natural Environment SRG consists of 18 members, listed in Appendix 1. The terms of reference of the SRG are to:

- Provide input to the Vision, Priorities and Objectives for the Northern Beaches Draft Community Strategic Plan
- Advise Council on the protection and conservation of natural heritage, bushlands, waterways and biodiversity:
  - Apply environmental sustainability development principles to all Council activities
  - Advise on management of the natural and urban environment interface.
  - Advise on estuaries, waterways and coasts.
  - Advise on maintaining bushland and biodiversity.
- Advise Council on the management of the impact of climate change, mitigation and education.
- Advocate on behalf of community on environment issues
  - Promote environmental education for the community
  - Promote best practice in environmental management.

This paper has been prepared to capture the efforts and aspirations of this SRG over a 10 month period from 2016-17.

### Community Strategic Plan – Northern Beaches Council

Extensive community engagement in 2016-17 has involved over one thousand community members, including the SRGs, in developing the first Community Strategic Plan (CSP) for the Northern Beaches. While the CSP is not yet finalised, key community feedback has been used to help prepare this SRG Directions Paper.

Below are some of the draft goals and underlying strategies for the draft CSP. These have arisen from the issues and considerations raised by community members during the first stage of CSP engagement, and are a basis for second stage engagement. They outline possible outcomes for protecting and managing the natural environment which are relevant to this SRG Directions Paper:



**Figure 1 - Overview of the Northern Beaches Natural Environment**

**DRAFT Environment Protection Goals**

- 1. Our bushland, coasts and waterways are protected and managed for their natural values for future generations, allowing for appropriate and safe use and enjoyment.**
  - a. Protect and restore local biodiversity and bushland
  - b. Protect and improve the ecological condition of catchments, creeks and lagoons
  - c. Protect and manage the condition and safe access to the coast, Middle Harbour and Pittwater
  - d. Recognise and protect the cultural and heritage values of the natural environment while ensuring that access and use is sustainable
- 2. Our environment and community are resilient to natural hazards and climate change**
  - a. Minimise the risk to life and property from storm events, flood, erosion, landslides, bushfire and impacts of climate change
  - b. Increase the resilience of the environment to the effects of natural hazards and climate change
  - c. Maintain productive partnerships with government agencies and the community to effectively manage and respond to natural hazards
- 3. Our community is well-supported in protecting the environment**
  - a. Support the community to be involved in environmental protection by providing opportunities for learning and staying informed
  - b. Invite community participation in restoring the natural environment through volunteering programs and school education

**DRAFT Environment Sustainability Goals**

- 1. Our Council is recognised as a leader in environmental sustainability as an organisation and as part of the Northern Beaches community**
  - a. Develop a culture of commitment to environmental sustainability
  - b. Lead by example and demonstrate environmental sustainability
  - c. Enhance financial and strategic capacity to deliver on environmental outcomes
  - d. Explore and invest in technologies and processes such as renewable energy and waste management that deliver long term environmental benefits
- 2. Our built environment is developed in line with best practice sustainability principles – strengthened statement/commitment**
  - a. Ensure holistic and integrated land use planning that balances environmental, social and economic needs of present and future generations
  - b. Create clean, green and resilient urban environments through improved landscaping, tree cover, native vegetation and efficient water management systems
  - c. Promote and educate on the benefits and savings of ecologically sustainable development
  - d. Continually improve environmental standards and compliance in new and existing developments

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3. **Our community will continue to work towards sustainable use of resources**
  - a. Promote and support opportunities for living more sustainably
  - b. Provide incentives and programs which encourage our community to enhance, preserve and protect our natural ecosystems
  - c. Reduce consumption of resources (e.g. water and energy) and improve reuse and recycling of resources to reduce waste

## STRUCTURE OF THE SRG DIRECTIONS PAPER

This Directions Paper is structured around 5 key themes of environmental management and environmental sustainability on the Northern Beaches. It then goes into detail to review what we are doing well, what we could improve, and what actions the new Council should take in these key themes.

### Themes

The five key themes identified by the group are:

1. Catchment, Coast and Waterways
2. Bushland, Threatened Species and Pests
3. Climate Change
4. Floods, Bushfire and Coastal Erosion
5. Sustainable Communities

## Catchment, Coast and Waterways

The management of these natural areas includes a focus on ecological condition, habitat, information gathering, lobbying, addressing pollution and recreational water quality.

### Goal 1: Maintain and improve recreational water quality to A grade standard

The group noted that the intention is to maintain recreational activities, but not to the detriment of the water quality and ecology.

#### *What we are doing well or not well*

##### **Well**

- Support for "Friends of" Groups is good and it would be great to provide better support for these groups into the future.
- Waterways are really good for people's mental health and this should be considered in terms of their appearance and access to them
- The tracks near the lagoons and waterways are great
- Cleaning the ocean pools really well

##### **Not well**

- Monitoring of recreational water quality needs to be better reported so that the community can see what's happening
- We don't strategically plan to protect the environment including trying to maintain recreational water quality
- Identifying point sources of pollution (e.g. sewer overflows, stormwater pollution) and managing them.
- Facilities to catch pollutants are not great so they end up at the end of the catchment (NB: Acknowledge that this is costly)
- Enforcement action against polluters
- Waterways are crowded **(QUERY IF NEEDS A NEW GOAL AROUND WATERWAY USE)**

### ***Suggested actions***

- 1) Strong support for school education programs on waterway management, and recommend engaging with teachers in the region
- 2) Measure and monitor our recreational water quality areas
- 3) Get people interested by reporting the outcomes of recreational water quality
- 4) Ensure strategic waterway reviews are informed by knowledge about recreational water quality
- 5) Have life rings and fishing line bins next to each other in certain popular spots
- 6) Regular maintenance of stormwater drains and stormwater pollution traps
- 7) Ensure strategic waterway reviews are informed by knowledge about recreational water quality
- 8) Look at measures to restrict boat numbers and use dry boat stacking (QUERY IF NEEDS A NEW GOAL AROUND WATERWAY USE)

## **Goal 2: Maintain and improve aquatic/riparian ecology across whole of catchment with no loss of northern beaches habitat**

The group reflected strong views in the community about the protection of the natural environment. In particular, they had a strong view that all of the northern beaches habitat was important including seagrass, mangroves, in-stream habitat, riparian areas, vegetation types, threatened and endangered species, and therefore the focus should be on ensuring that there is no loss of any type.

### ***What we are doing well or not well***

#### **Well**

- Baseline information on aquatic and riparian ecology in a number of places

#### **Not well**

- Monitoring of aquatic ecology needs to be increased and reported so that the community can see what's happening
- We don't strategically plan to protect the environment and therefore individual decisions/developments are having cumulative impacts

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- Identifying point sources of pollution (e.g. building sites, industry, stormwater pollution) and managing them.
- Facilities to catch pollutants are not great so they end up at the end of the catchment (NB: Acknowledge that this is costly)
- Enforcement action against polluters
- Fishing lines, hooks and other fishing refuse is a real problem and not being managed
- We are not getting the message across to the right people – the ones who pollute or cause damage.
- Understanding and addressing impacts in the marine environment (e.g. loss of biodiversity at Long Reef)
- Balancing fishing and ecological impact
- Understanding and managing point source pollution from Kimbriki

### ***Suggested actions***

- 1) Measure and monitor our ecology & water quality across our catchment, coast and waterways (including macroinvertebrates)
- 2) Capture consolidated baseline aquatic/riparian dataset for Northern Beaches Council, and monitor against this
- 3) Find ways to gather data from people/companies/institutions that are doing research in our area, and share it with the community
- 4) Prioritise infill development over 'green field' development. It is important to preserve what's left.
- 5) Consider fishing line (tangle) bins in popular spots, they are a good facility to help people dispose of their junk.
- 6) Council on behalf of community and its environment has to negotiate with other agencies (i.e. fishing licences need to be better managed)
- 7) Reject movement of fishing licences from Sydney Harbour into Pittwater
- 8) Increase no take zones and marine protected areas to improve ecological habitat and diversity (including fish nurseries)
- 9) Consider closing some rock platforms to fishing, perhaps with a view to share them 50% environment, 50% fishing.
- 10) Consider restricting fishing in Narrabeen Lagoon, Cabbage Tree Bay as a start, but also critical habitat areas (esp for birds)
- 11) Look at whole-of-catchment cumulative impacts, and monitor using indicators that are relevant for the area being measured
- 12) Get people interested in aquatic/riparian health

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- 13) **Work with State Government** to ban shark nets. Sharks are vital to ocean health.
- 14) Ensure strategic waterway reviews are linked to achieving aquatic/riparian ecological goals
- 15) Support sustainable kelp / mussel / oyster farming using water columns

### Goal 3: Regular gathering of comparable information, sharing and making information available to the community

A number of actions from water related targets relate to monitoring. There was a strong view from the group that information that Council or other groups gather on water quality should be collated, shared and made publicly available so that everyone can benefit from the knowledge and build on it.

#### *What we are doing well or not well*

##### **Well**

- Monitoring has been undertaken in a number of places by the former Councils

##### **Not well**

- Not making the information readily available
- We are not educating the community enough about how vulnerable this area is
- Strategic and clear plans to educate the community using this information i.e. "these species only live here, nowhere else"

#### *Suggested actions*

- 1) Measure and monitor our aquatic/riparian ecology across our catchment, coast and waterways (including macroinvertebrates)
- 2) Look at creating and rolling out standard signage across the LGA to educate people, but also make it specific to the individual location and what is to be achieved in specific areas e.g. 'this area is used by migrating birds'
- 3) Catchment based targets – we need information and indicators for each of our catchments, waterways and systems.

- 4) Acknowledge our pristine environments and ensure protection is the focus.
- 5) Find out who is monitoring and where so that we are being efficient with resources and sharing knowledge

DRAFT

## Goal 4: Improved treatment of Sydney's sewage – North Head Outfall

North Head has been a focus for the former Manly Council and its community (along with environmental groups) because of the way sewage is treated and disposed of from this location. The issue of odour management is also of concern for local residents.

### ***What we are doing well or not well***

#### **Well**

- Former Manly Council and Manly community advocated strongly for better management of North Head

#### **Not well**

- As North Head is a State owned and operated facility, there has not been great success in achieving lasting change

### ***Suggested actions***

- 1) Lobby and advocate to State Govt for improved sewage treatment on behalf of the environment
- 2) Increase capacity of Warriewood Sewage Treatment Plant
- 3) Increase capacity of off-shore pipes
- 4) Ensure appropriate management of North Head Sewage Treatment Plant

## Goal 5: Remove significant diffuse sources of water pollution, examples Scotland Island

### ***What we are doing well or not well***

#### **Well**

- Former Councils have some information on where diffuse pollution is a bigger problem (e.g. Manly Lagoon)

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**Not well**

- Monitoring diffuse pollution across the region
- Developing successful measures for reducing/removing diffuse pollution from the catchment

***Suggested actions***

- 1) Research areas of diffuse pollution, monitor and report on them
- 2) Develop measures that will reduce diffuse pollution to "normal" pre-development levels
- 3) Improve on-site waste management (e.g. micro STPs)

**Goal 6: Rehabilitation of creek lines**

***What we are doing well or not well***

**Well**

- Rehabilitating "critical" areas of creek bank collapse
- Commenced research into programs that report on

**Not well**

- Proactively identifying creeks that are at risk from bank collapse
- Collecting and sharing creek health information (including pollution that is affecting creek health)
- Having creek rehabilitation programs over the region
- Management of impacts of development on creeklines is not consistent
- Erosion of Careel Bay Marina

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***Suggested actions***

- 1) Gather riparian/shoreline and creek health information, and share it with the community
- 2) Develop a program of creek rehabilitation in response to condition information
- 3) Best practice controls on development to protect creeks

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## Bushland, Threatened Species and Pests [NOT STARTED]

Connectivity, conservation, corridors and ongoing management of these important natural areas.

### Goal 1: Connectivity of bushland areas (wildlife corridors)

What we are doing well or not well

Well

•

Not well

#### Suggested actions

- 1) Animal crossings
- 2) Maintenance of bushland areas
- 3) Encourage community members to preserve the corridors but also to maintain and preserve the canopy
- 4) Measure and map the existing canopy and green space
- 5) Wildlife corridors
- 6) Protect biodiversity

### Goal 2: Conservation of bushland

What we are doing well or not well

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**Well**

- Coastal Environment Centre – so much potential

**Not well**

- Rangers should be rangers, parking officers should be parking officers

**Suggested actions**

- 1) Bushland areas should be managed by staff with bush regeneration skills
- 2) Preservation is better than restoration
- 3) Weed control strategy
- 4) Maintenance of bushland areas
- 5) Measure and map the existing canopy and green space

**Goal 3: Bush regeneration (Manly) to keep the bushland healthy**

**What we are doing well or not well**

**Well**

- 

**Not well**

**Suggested actions**

- 1) Weed control strategy
- 2) Maintenance of bushland areas

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## Goal 4: Protect and enhance biodiversity

What we are doing well or not well

Well

- 

Not well

### Suggested actions

- 1) Protect and enhance marine and terrestrial biodiversity
- 2)

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## Climate Change

Prioritise adaptation by reviewing our critical infrastructure, support the community in using more renewable energy sources, and be a leader in our own operations.

### Goal 1: By 2027 Council will reduce its emissions by matching State Government targets for climate change towards meeting a zero emissions target by 2050

The group expressed a strong desire to support the commitments of the State Government in meeting a zero emissions target.

#### *What we are doing well or not well*

##### **Well**

- Solar panels on community owned buildings, like surf clubs
- Work with other organisations on climate change issues
- Former Councils had a level of commitment to reducing its emissions

##### **Not well**

- Funding emissions reductions
- Promoting its emissions reductions progress

#### **Suggested actions**

- 1) Live up to our respective sustainability pledges
- 2) Undertake a Council energy audit and look for quick wins
- 3) Partnerships with residents and universities and other groups for sustainable power (e.g. City of Sydney, regional Councils)
- 4) Develop interim targets

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- 5) Demonstrate savings from energy efficiency to the community
- 6) Ensuring environmental management (and carbon emissions considered in leases of Council properties)

## Goal 2: Take a critical infrastructure approach to prioritising adaptation to climate change

This goal is about the need to minimise the impact of climate change where it cannot be mitigated by Council (e.g. rainfall, sea level rise etc).

### *What we are doing well or not well*

#### **Well**

- Some understanding of what assets are at risk from climate change
- Partnerships in research

#### **Not well**

- Building climate change adaptation into asset management
- List of assets at risk
- Designing for climate change in new and upgraded assets

### **Suggested actions**

- 1) incorporate climate change and adaptation into the reviews of development control plans
- 2) Review low lying infrastructure and whether it can cope with climate change scenarios
- 3) Incorporate climate change into the infrastructure renewing framework into the future

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### Goal 3: Support the community to use more renewable energy sources

Our community are a key part of the effort to reduce carbon emissions. The group recognised the importance of supporting our community in making renewable energy choices in their own lives.

#### ***What we are doing well or not well***

##### **Well**

- Work with other organisations
- People are switching off the grid – solar panels

##### **Not well**

- Providing resources that help the community switch to renewables
- Setting development controls for energy efficiency

#### ***Suggested actions***

- 1) incorporate renewable energy controls and sustainable designs into new development control plans
- 2) Partnerships with residents and universities and other groups for sustainable power (e.g. City of Sydney, regional Councils)
- 3) Work with community groups and ask them to meet our targets as well
- 4) Demonstrate savings from energy efficiency to the community
- 5) Council to lobby for better BASIX controls
- 6) Streets to be orientated for better solar access
- 7) Big development should have to incorporate large efficiency projects, ie Ingleside apartment blocks and shopping precinct
- 8) Support sustainable technologies (e.g. electric car charging stations, Tesla battery stations etc)

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## Floods, Bushfire and Coastal Erosion [STAFF ADDITIONS ONLY]

Ensure the hazards posed by our environment are managed to protect life and property, but in balance with our natural environment

### Goal 1: Flood mitigation

#### *What we are doing well or not well*

##### Well

- Flood warning systems
- Flood mapping
- Links with emergency services

##### Not well

- Development controls are not consistent among the former Councils

#### *Suggested actions*

- 1) Investigate solution to flooding of Wakehurst Parkway
- 2) Maintain strong links with emergency services and build/share resources and knowledge
- 3) Continue to discover and map flood affected areas
- 4) Develop consistent controls for managing flooding in new development
- 5) Educate and prepare the community including improving design and compliance

## Goal 2: Bushfire mitigation and management

### *What we are doing well or not well*

#### Well

- Good links with the Rural Fire Service
- Bushfire mapping
- Using bush regenerators to clear fire access zones

#### Not well

- Longer, tougher droughts, leading to bushfires
- Limiting areas where animals can flee is inconsistent with our goal for no loss of species and diversity

### *Suggested actions*

- 1) Better consideration of wildlife corridors in terms of bushfire planning
- 2) Maintain our responsibilities for bushfire risk (hazard reduction to protect people and property)
- 3) Maintain strong links with emergency services and build/share resources and knowledge

## Goal 3: Coastal Erosion

### *What we are doing well or not well*

#### Well

- Protecting beach amenity
- Identification of coastal erosion effects

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- Updating planning controls and policies to respond to coastal erosion issues
- Compliance with State Government directions on managing coastal erosion

**Not well**

- Obtaining State/Federal Govt support for long-term sand nourishment

***Suggested actions***

- 1) Continue to lobby State and Federal Governments on sand nourishment
- 2) Ensure ongoing protection and management of the beach as the highest priority
- 3) Maintain strong links with emergency services and build/share resources and knowledge

## Sustainable Communities [NOT STARTED]

Ensure the development we control is sustainable and green, reduce plastic consumption, be a leader in environmental sustainability, and support our community to be as sustainable as possible.

### Goal 1: Development should be built in a more sustainable, environmentally responsible way

#### What we are doing well or not well

##### Well

- XX

##### Not well

- Xx

#### Suggested actions

- 1) Water sensitive urban design
- 2) Vegetation offsets for development
- 3) Enforce regulations on protection of marine and bush environment
- 4) Street trees as connectivity
- 5) Encourage SMART development/buildings by providing incentives for developers, property owners, business to plan, build & act sustainably e.g. faster approval for solar powered buildings
- 6) Developers pay 5 to 10 year bonds at new release areas like Warriewood and Ingleside for environmental measures like bioretention basins (if there is a failure, Council can exercise the bond and take action to correct)

## Goal 2: Green areas should dominate Northern Beaches landscape

*What we are doing well or not well*

**Well**

- XX

**Not well**

- Xx

***Suggested actions***

- 1) XX

## Goal 3: Ban inappropriate development

*What we are doing well or not well*

**Well**

- XX

**Not well**

- Xx

***Suggested actions***

- 1) XX

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## Goal 4: Best practice and consistent management of water across the region

### *What we are doing well or not well*

#### **Well**

- XX

#### **Not well**

- Xx

### *Suggested actions*

- 1) WSUD - Water Sensitive Urban Design everywhere, including ridges eg Ingleside development
- 2) Increase cooling water features including green roofing/walls to combat urban heat island effect and climate change impacts

## Goal 5: Education for the community for everyone with regards to biodiversity, protecting the environment

Better education provides an understanding of environmental issues, threats, risks, preparedness, and best ways to manage

### *What we are doing well or not well*

#### **Well**

- Our environmental centres are fantastic
- Primary and high school children 'get it'

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**Not well**

- Our environmental centres are under-resourced
- Adults are the problem and need more education/understanding

***Suggested actions***

- 1) Educate the community about marine environment and biodiversity
- 2) Educate the community on the value of bushland
- 3) More interpretive signs to help people understand (e.g. riparian zones, catchment symbols on drains/gutters)
- 4) Start education with kids/young people

**Goal 6: Sustainable living**

***What we are doing well or not well***

**Well**

- XX

**Not well**

- XX

***Suggested actions***

- 1) Help the community take action on sustainability issues including water management, property landscaping, bioretention basins
- 2) Embed Avoidance, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle practices in Community, Business, Government in order to reduce waste & impacts
- 3) Promote electric cars, clean & quiet, battery stations, shared use, cap & trade schemes

- 4) Support local food production and food security by increasing community gardens everywhere including vegetation strips, green walls, roof, and supporting greenhouses in consolidated areas like schools and retirement villages.
- 5) Encourage food suppliers to source local produce
- 6) Lobby/support better transport links (e.g. Rail from Pymble > Terrey Hills> Frenchs Forest> Chatswood and Light Rail City > Narrabeen & connect both)
- 7) Support Northern Beaches as a Centre of Excellence for Eco-Technology
- 8) Support fishing/marine industries by supporting innovation both in + offshore from the Northern Beaches
- 9) Explore possibility of utilising school grounds for sustainability initiatives e.g. community gardens, recreation, share resources (including buildings as community resource)

## Goal 7: Plastic free society

### What we are doing well or not well

#### Well

- XX

#### Not well

- XX

### Suggested actions

- 1) Xx



## Goal 8: No littering

*What we are doing well or not well*

**Well**

- XX

**Not well**

- XX

**Suggested actions**

- 1) Xx

## Goal 9: Good public relations on environmental issues

*What we are doing well or not well*

**Well**

- XX

**Not well**

- XX

**Suggested actions**

- 1) Xx

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## Appendix 1

### Natural Environment SRG members

Alex McTaggart (Chair)	Implementation Advisory Group
Wayne Gobert	Local Representative Committee - Social
Narelle Berry	Resident – Manly Ward
Phillip Colman	Resident – Narrabeen Ward
Roberta Conroy	Bayview Church Point Residents Association
Jo Cooper	North Steyne Surf Lifesaving Club
Jacqueline French	Manly Community Forum
Paul Hackney	Resident – Frenchs Forest Ward
Tom Hazell	Resident – Curl Curl Ward
Edwina Laginestra	WIRES Northern Beaches
Whitney-May Lever	Resident – Frenchs Forest Ward
Marita Macrae	Pittwater Natural Heritage Association
Jacqueline Marlow	Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment
Yvonne Pflieger	Resident – Curl Curl Ward
Kathryn Ridge	Resident – Manly Ward
Merinda Rose	Palm Beach & Whale Beach Association
David Thomas	ECO Divers

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<b>ITEM 4.2</b>	<b>COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN - UPDATE ON STAGE TWO</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE MANAGER CORPORATE STRATEGY &amp; PLANNING</b>
<b>TRIM FILE REF</b>	<b>2017/182829</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	<b>NIL</b>

## ISSUE

To provide an update on the development of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) following engagement with some 2,400 community members in Stage One and Stage Two.

## BACKGROUND

Stage One of community engagement for the CSP was conducted in September-November 2016, drawing feedback from nearly 1,400 people. Stage Two took place over March and April 2017, with over 1,000 people providing feedback in four community workshops, a youth workshop, focus groups, an online survey and through formal submissions.

Stage Two focused on validating the draft Vision, and validating the CSP Framework (Aspirations, Outcome Areas, Goals and Strategies) as presented in a Discussion Paper.

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SUMMARY

Community feedback from Stage Two engagement demonstrates:

- **Confidence in the Process** to develop the CSP to date. The Discussion Paper was factual and guided an informed conversation with the community.
- **CSP Framework** - general support and satisfaction with the overall framework.
- **Aspirations** – limited comments on aspirations raised in submissions where prompted, i.e. the online survey.
- **Draft Vision** – broad satisfaction, but opportunities to make it more specific to the Northern Beaches, and to elevate the value placed on natural environment.
- **Outcomes** – Generally satisfied, though commentary highlighted the need to strengthen goals and strategies so they are more aspirational and future-focused. This particularly related to the goals and strategies for:
  - **Protection of the Environment**
  - **Environmental Sustainability**
  - **Places for People**
- **Priority Issues** – The key issues that participants were most engaged with included:
  - Transport and congestion
  - Population growth and development
  - Protecting the natural environment
  - Environmental sustainability
  - Housing affordability

There was recognition of the interrelated nature of these issues across outcome areas.

**Next Steps**

Council acknowledges the valuable input of all the SRGs and the wider community in developing the draft CSP framework. This feedback is being incorporated into the Draft CSP, which will be presented to Council on 27 June for public exhibition.

The Draft Community Strategic Plan and Community Engagement Report will be available at <http://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au> following the meeting on 27 June.

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**RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER CORPORATE STRATEGY & PLANNING**

That the Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group note the update on the development of the Community Strategic Plan.

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<b>ITEM 4.3</b>	<b>ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUPS</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE MANAGER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>
<b>TRIM FILE REF</b>	<b>2017/183005</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	<b>NIL</b>

## ISSUE

Outcomes of the 11 Strategic Reference Groups (SRG), and inviting feedback from members.

## BACKGROUND

The new Northern Beaches Council established 11 SRGs in September 2016, to assist the Council to develop its first Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and address priority strategic issues:

<b>Environment (3)</b>	<b>Social (5)</b>		<b>Economy(3)</b>
Natural Environment	Inclusive Communities	Art, Culture & Heritage	Affordable Housing
Waste & Recovery Management	Youth	Open Space & Recreation	Economic Development
Sustainable Transport	Community Safety		Place Making

Meeting generally every 2 months, their early focus was on the CSP. The more recent focus has been on their priority areas, to develop SRG papers and contribute to Council strategies and plans.

## DISCUSSION

These SRGs have represented a unique opportunity to help shape the early directions of the new organisation, expanding its scope to the wider LGA and recognising the community's diverse needs, views and issues. Figure 1 outlines their valuable strategic outcomes:

- Key role over 6 months to help develop the CSP vision, issues, priorities, goals and strategies.
- Feedback on their nominated issues across many environmental, social and economic matters.
- A variety of strategic discussion papers developed, to be drawn on by the related Business Units as they prepare new strategies, plans and policies.

It is intended that the SRG papers will be finalised in July, then presented to the Administrator for noting. These will be available to the newly elected Council. It is anticipated that new reference groups will be established in line with the new CSP outcome areas, once the elected Council has approved the 10-year plan later in 2017.

Council thanks all SRG members for their substantial commitment and valuable contributions.

SRG members are invited to provide feedback on their experience over the last 9 months and any suggestions for improvement. A survey link will be emailed to members shortly.

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**RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

That the Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group members:

- A. Note the acknowledgment of their valuable contribution and commitment.
  - B. Provide survey feedback to Council on their experience as an Strategic Reference Group member.
-

**Fig. 1 - Strategic contribution of the SRGs**

