

NOTES

WASTE & RECOVERY STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING

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

THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2017

**Notes of the Waste & Recovery Strategic Reference Group Meeting
held on Thursday 16 February 2017
in the Flannel Flower Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why
Commencing at 5.08pm**

ATTENDANCE:

To Committee Members

Cathy Griffin (Chair)	Environment Local Representative Committee
Barbara Aird	Environment Local Representative Committee
Pat Daley	Environment Local Representative Committee
Camila Cantoli	Resident – Pittwater Ward
Richard Cox	Resident – Frenchs Forest Ward
Kerry Euers	Resident – Pittwater Ward
Jude Furniss	Bommie Australia
Rowan Hanley	Surfrider Foundation Northern Beaches
Conny Harris	Resident – Frenchs Forest Ward
Carlita Foster-Hogg on behalf of Alicia Lloyd	Sustainable Organisations of Manly (SO Manly)
Stacey Randell	NSW Business Chamber
Natalie Warren	Resident – Curl Curl Ward

Council Officer Contacts

Natasha Schultz	Executive Manager Resource Recovery
Kate Lewis	Executive Manager Community Engagement
Annie Laing	Administration Officer Governance

Quorum

Majority of members (excluding vacant positions)

1.0 APOLOGIES

That the apologies from Ian Lang, Alicia Lloyd, Billy Bragg, Louise Williams, Anthony Pertolo, Emily Fewster and Cathy Natoli be noted.

Carlita Foster-Hogg attended the meeting as an alternate delegate for SO Manly.

2.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Richard Cox declared a non-significant conflict of interest in regards to his past work within the Waste Industry.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 NOTES OF WASTE & RECOVERY STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP HELD 3 NOVEMBER 2016

DECISION

That the Notes of the Waste & Recovery Strategic Reference Group held 3 November 2016, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members , are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

4.0 AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT WORK

DISCUSSION

Kate Lewis, Executive Manager Community Engagement gave a presentation on the Community Strategic Plan Development Work (Attachment 1).

Members participated in a workshop to consider the goals and strategic considerations and to suggest any additional goals that should be considered.

4.2 UPDATE ON KIMBRIKI RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE

DISCUSSION

Natasha Schultz, Executive Manager Resource Recovery gave an update on the Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre.

The following points were discussed:

- 14 tenders have been received from 3 suppliers, no decision has been made yet.
- The Tender Evaluation Panel (TEP) will assess tenders and come forward with a preferred recommendation to the SHOROC Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

Members requested that Council notes the Committees desire to reduce and avoid waste and expect that KEE is not going to require waste or feedstock from outside the region.

4.3 FOUNDATIONS FOR A NEW WASTE STRATEGY

DISCUSSION

N Schultz and K Lewis presented members with *Waste Strategies Overview* handout (Attachment 2).

Members participated in a workshop to identify their priority issues that concern them to set the foundations for a new waste strategy a summary of this workshop is attached (Attachment 3).

5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 UPDATE ON WASTE EDUCATION TEAM

DISCUSSION

N Schultz gave an update on the activities undertaken by the Northern Beaches Council Waste Education Team as follows:

- The Waste Education team is developing a Waste Education Strategy - the first workshop was a timeline setting exercise to showcase events and other initiatives proposed by each team for the year. This is assisting to create a more cohesive team with common goals, minimise duplication and identify resourcing requirements.
- Subsequent workshops have resulted in the development of the framework for the strategy and their Vision and Mission Statement.

The members also made suggestions of how best to work with the Community, the suggestions included:

- Engaging with small businesses for Plastic Free July, with the potential to provide incentives.
- Council could have some sort of engagement with major supermarkets to assist the consumer with reducing plastic.
- Filter down what has been done in Manly to the rest of the Northern Beaches, with shops providing financial incentives for consumers using reusable items.
- The next meeting the members will workshop a vision and mission statement.

DECISION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER RESOURCE RECOVERY

SO Manly to meet with N Schultz and the Waste Education Team to discuss Plastic Free July and future waste reduction programs.

5.2 TABLED DOCUMENT

DISCUSSION

Cathy Griffith tabled Plastic Pollution Reduction Policy Recommendations for Northern Beaches Council (Attachment 4).

6.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 20 April 2017.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
4.2	Members requested that Council notes the Committees desire to reduce and avoid waste and expect that KEE is not going to require waste or feed stock external to the region.	N Schultz
5.1	SO Manly to meet with N Schultz and the Waste Education Team to discuss Plastic Free July and future waste reduction programs.	N Schultz

The meeting concluded at 7.21pm

This is the final page of the Notes comprising 5 pages numbered 1 to 5 of the Waste & Recovery Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 16 February 2017 and confirmed

WASTE AND RECOVERY SRG MEETING – 16 FEBRUARY 2017

WORKSHOP NOTES:

TOWARDS ZERO WASTE

BEST PRACTICE

BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

Produce less / Reduce, Avoid Waste

Internal and External, including business:

Targets and Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Reduce emissions▪ Greenhouse▪ Carbon footprint
Clean Public Spaces that are litter free	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Marine▪ Beach▪ Parks & Reserves▪ streets, etc
Policy and Advocacy for sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Waste free▪ Minimize single use plastics
Enforcement and guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ DAs, etc
Education and Behavioural change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Toolkits▪ Engage community in sustainable living
Recycle and maximize resource recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Problem waste▪ dumping
Infrastructure Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Collection systems

POST IT NOTES:**INFRASTRUCTURE**

Upgrade stormwater facilities (2)	Upgrade sewage facilities (bio-digestion Ingleside)	Provide more water fountains	No larger than 80 litre putrescible bin per household
Upgrade public toilet facilities	Waste infrastructure in design of NB Hospital and Ingleside	Mechanical beach cleaning – does it do the job?	

CLEAN SPACES & PUBLIC WASTE

Educate different employees into same systems for Manly & Pittwater	Not enough recycling bins on beaches	Picking up / disposing of dog poo	Collection of small litter
Public place waste collection	Upgrade bins in public areas	Better and clearer labelling of recycling bins	More 'soft' plastic collection points
Better public place recycling opportunities	Improved public recycling facilities	Unify the waste bins for same collection of council vehicles include of different methods now	Council uses single driver trucks for waste collection times to avoid public use in same area, eg Queenscliff Surf Club and streets opposite

PLASTIC FREE - EVENTS

Plastic free events	Waste free events	'Swap' markets	No single use plastics at events
Waste free events or plastic waste free events	Waste free events policy, eg, no balloons, plastic bags, straws, polystyrene, Etc		

PLASTIC FREE – NO SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Ban single use plastics (2)	Ban single use plastic bags (4)	Reduce plastic waste	Ban plastic straws
Reduce single use plastics	Single use plastics – ditch altogether	Single use plastic bags, straws, toys	Ban Styrofoam cups and polystyrene
Zero tolerance for plastic bags	Restrict sales of bottled water – more filtered water stations	Disposable coffee cups solution	

PLASTIC FREE - COMPOST

Compost dog poo	Support community level composting with community gardens	Supply residents with compost kits including plant based compost bags	Increase / encourage home composting
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PLASTIC FREE – WASTE FREE

Waste free lunchbox promotion	Waste free BBQs	Waste free surf clubs	Waste free sports at council facilities
Waste free toolkits for community groups			

PLASTIC FREE - ENFORCEMENT

Mandatory restrictions for single use plastics	Enforce fines for littering	Not enough penalties or consequences in place for not recycling	Smoke free Policy & enforcement
			Enforce no smoking on beaches

PLASTIC FREE – EDUCATE & COLLABORATE

Educate to link climate change to waste	Awareness of littering behavior	Encourage use of recycled materials	Show for everything if recyclable and how often
Collaborate with environmental community groups to drive waste initiatives	Educate community re sustainability	Educate cigarette butts	Keep NB Beautiful – promote pride of place
Educate community to hold single use plastic free gatherings, events (eg, birthdays in parks)	Education to reduce contamination of recycling bins	Un education of how recycling works	Government Departments (Education) schools waste collection

POLICY / ADVOCACY

Implement Waste free policies in Council-owned facilities and leases	Waste free policies for in-house Council, wg. No bottled water or disposable packaging	Lobby State and Federal Govts, eg. No single use plastic bags	Advocacy – ban plastic bottles
Integration with new CDS – advocate for best public solution	Walk the Talk		

POLICY / ADVOCACY – DA CONDITIONS

DA conditions for waste avoidance	Revision of DA provisions for business	DA waste compliance: recycling building waste, etc
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POLICY / ADVOCACY – MARINE IMPACTS

Impact of microplastics on the marine environment	Ban sales of plastic covered food near beaches	Collection of cigarette butts	Cigarette butt pollution: improve infrastructure (bins); educate; enforce
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POLICY / ADVOCACY – MEASUREMENT

Waste audit program	Public tally of waste reductions	Evaluate effectiveness of Beach tractor waste removal
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POLICY / ADVOCACY – DUMPING

Address waste dumping – especially in bush	Illegal dumping
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POLICY / ADVOCACY – BULK HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Curb waste – Council Clean Up	Free e-Waste collection to resource recovery not landfill	Stop kerbside clean ups	Bulk household waste collections: educate residents to reduce
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ADVOCACY - BUSINESS

Support establishment of larger Co-op, eg Manly Co-op Brookvale industrial area	Give incentives to businesses to recycle	Support for SMEs to increase recycling / reduce waste	Reward waste avoidance
Define clear goals for Council and business	Sustainability Expos for businesses	Advocate press for producers' responsibility for their waste	Guide for How to Recycle: Plumbing, pipes, bricks, building materials, etc
Force waste producing businesses to reduce packaging, eg, cafes, take-aways	Alternatives and cost effective solutions for businesses	Furniture sales in Harvey Norman = increase pick up of large furniture	

ADVOCACY - CHARITIES

Charities, Op Shops need to be involved	Work with charities (Vinnies, Salvos, etc) to better manage waste
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ADVOCACY – OTHER WASTE

Reduce food waste	Address issue of disposable nappies	Purchase and use Styrofoam recycling machine (some councils have these). Styrofoam banned or fully recycled.	Keep all dangerous wastes out of landfill (batteries, radioactive, heavy metals, light bulbs)
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CSP Overview



Stage 1 Outcomes

- ✓ **Strong vision statement** (draft) supported and informed by clear community aspirations
- ✓ **Well defined priorities** providing a solid foundation for the Discussion Paper
- ✓ **Good community participation:** more than 1,000 community members, LRCs and SRGs provided input
- ✓ **Overall support for the new Council** expressed during the engagement

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Northern Beaches:

*a safe, inclusive and
connected community that
values the natural and built
environment*

Community Feedback...

Priority areas	Comments (N=2467)	By Theme
• Environment Management & Protection (incl. climate change, natural hazards & biodiversity)	16%	Environment or 46%
• Clean Environment	4%	
• Planning for Future communities • Built Environment interactions	26%	
• Open space & Diverse recreation • Arts/culture/creative activities & spaces • Community, health, well being & safety	7% 6% 7%	Social or 20%
• Transport, Infrastructure & Connectivity	20%	Economic or 34%
• Economic Development (diversity, innovation & growth, local employment & education, tourism and visitors)	14%	

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Discussion Paper: Purpose and objectives

The purpose of the Discussion Paper is to inform discussions with the community on how to work toward their vision

- To **reflect back** what we have heard is important to the community (confirm vision and aspirations)
- To identify **goals and strategies**
- To facilitate **open and constructive dialogue** on 'the big picture' and on balances
- To consider **interrelationships between issues**
- To consider the **policy context and trends**



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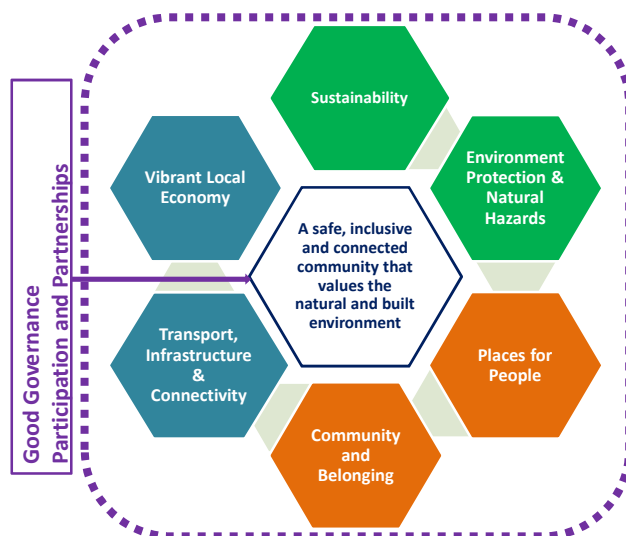
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Community Priorities from consultation	Discussion Paper: Themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Management & Protection (incl. natural hazards, climate change, bushland & biodiversity) 	1. Environmental sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean Environment 	2. Natural Values
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population growth, development & infrastructure Housing Affordability 	3. Places for People
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open space & Diverse recreation Arts/culture/creative activities & spaces Community Connectedness Health, Well Being, Safety 	4. Community and Belonging
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport & connectivity Traffic, roads and congestion 	5. Integrated Transport Planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Development 	6. Vibrant Local Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership Transparency Accountability 	7. Good Governance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local area representation 	8. Participation and Partnerships

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Discussion Paper: structure with QBL

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Outcomes (themes) and community aspirations

Sustainability

Growth is sustainable and well balanced

Environmental Protection & Natural Hazards

We are inspired by bush, beaches & waterways

Development is balanced with our lifestyle and environment

Places for People

Our streets & neighbourhoods are safe, clean & family friendly

We celebrate local villages and communities

Our communities and businesses are connected and inclusive

Community and Belonging

We have vibrant spaces with diverse arts & cultural experiences

Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity

Transport is seamless and integrated

Vibrant Local Economy

Businesses have the infrastructure to grow locally and globally

Local businesses thrive and grow

Good Governance

We demonstrate strong community leadership and environmental stewardship

Our governance is open and transparent

Participation and Partnerships

We have a say in what happens in our local area

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Table of Contents - draft

1. MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

- Opportunities for creating a more connected and inclusive community

2. INTRODUCTION

3. A SNAPSHOT OF THE NORTHERN BEACHES

4. WHAT THE COMMUNITY HAVE SAID

5. POLICY CONTEXT

- Integrated Planning and Reporting
- Key policies and plans (e.g. District Plan)

6. COMMUNITY OUTCOMES (8 THEMES)

- How the outcome area contributes to the vision
- Why it is a priority to the community?
- Benefits to the community
- Where are we now? Where should we be heading?
- **Goals and strategies**

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WORKSHOP objectives

To consider the goals and strategic considerations;

Flag if there are any issues:



1. Do the goal and strategic considerations reflect community needs:

✓ yes

✗ no/ not supported (Fill out a post-it-note with number)

2. Is anything missing? (Fill out a post-it-note with number)

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Vision	
SHOROC Too Good to Waste	<p>Vision to 2021:</p> <p>Lead and support our community to avoid, reuse, recycle and recover valuable waste resources</p>
Manly Zero Waste Strategy	<p>Aim: Develop and promote a set of actions and tasks designed to guide the Manly community towards the goal of Zero Waste; addressing both through waste generation and waste disposal</p>
City of Sydney Interim Waste Strategy	<p>Aim: Ensure that people of the City can responsibly manage their waste- by providing targeted systems, infrastructure and support for improving access at each level of the waste hierarchy</p>

Developing a Strategic Framework for Waste

SHOROC Too Good to Waste	Manly Zero Waste Strategy	City of Sydney Interim Waste Strategy
Vision to 2021: Lead and support our community to avoid, reuse, recycle and recover valuable waste resources	Aim: Develop and promote a set of actions and tasks designed to guide the Manly community towards the goal of Zero Waste; addressing both through waste generation and waste disposal	Aim: Ensure that people of the City can responsibly manage their waste- by providing targeted systems, infrastructure and support for improving access at each level of the waste hierarchy (p 16)
Key Priorities	Objectives:	Key Focus areas (p 17):
<u>1- Sustainable Infrastructure Solutions:</u> Increase resource recovery and sustainably manage waste now and for the long term at Kimbriki	<u>1 - General community:</u> Empower & encourage individuals/ communities to the continuing reduction of waste, by providing education and other resources to improve their participation in eliminating waste	<u>1 – Produce less waste</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align efforts with waste hierarchy Expand targeted education Advocate for producer responsibility schemes Investigate reuse opportunities
<u>2 – Resource recovery of household waste:</u> Implement a regional household waste collection system, to improve recycling and recover food waste, that meets community needs	<u>2 – Government:</u> Lobby State and Federal Govts to provide firm regulation and guidelines on minimising waste and reducing packaging	<u>2 – Maximise resource recovery</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automated waste collection Masterplan - finalise Expand garden organics collection Options for commercial sector
<u>3 – Produce less waste:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage the community in behaviour change; Advocate for greater producer responsibility Facilitate industry behaviour change to avoid and reduce waste 	<u>3- Information:</u> Provide businesses sector, schools, community and council staff with information to enable better decisions, contributing to a waste free Manly	<u>3 – Green infrastructure integration</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Waste Treatment Masterplan - finalise Automated waste collection Masterplan - finalise
<u>4 – Increase Recycling:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage community re kerbside recycling Facilitate improved industry recycling Council policies and processes to support businesses with sustainable waste solutions 	<u>4 – Waste educators:</u> Establish waste educators as the contact point for all waste education initiatives of council	<u>4 – Reduce greenhouse emissions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AWT Masterplan – implement Overcome barriers for commercial waste generators
<u>5 – Keep public places clean</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address illegal dumping Prevent litter at hotspots Cleanup litter and public spaces 	<u>5 – Waste reduction:</u> Progressively minimise the generation and disposal of waste products	<u>5 – Solutions for problem wastes</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility of regional reuse and collection Advocate for producer responsibility schemes
<u>6 – Easier disposal for problem wastes, to reduce dumping</u>		<u>6 – Clean streets</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review policies Adequate infrastructure & enforcement

Vision	
SHOROC Too Good to Waste	Vision to 2021: Lead and support our community to avoid, reuse, recycle and recover valuable waste resources
Manly Zero Waste Strategy	Aim: Develop and promote a set of actions and tasks designed to guide the Manly community towards the goal of Zero Waste; addressing both through waste generation and waste disposal
City of Sydney Interim Waste Strategy	Aim: Ensure that people of the City can responsibly manage their waste- by providing targeted systems, infrastructure and support for improving access at each level of the waste hierarchy

Plastic Pollution Reduction Policy Recommendations for Northern Beaches Council

Introduction and Executive Summary

Thank you for the opportunity to submit some ideas toward shaping a new Northern Beaches Council Waste and Recovery policy that will deal specifically with reducing plastic pollution in our area. Surfrider Foundation Australia and SO Manly believe that the pollution affects of plastic marine debris is one of the most critical environmental threats facing our oceans and coastal lifestyles today. We believe that Northern Beaches Council should create a Plastic Pollution Reduction Policy as part of a waste reduction strategy. It would be a first for a Council and could well be used as a “Gold Standard” model for other councils, particularly those in coastal precincts.

Following is a wish list of inclusions for the policy. The list canvases initiatives for shopping centres, markets, festival events, parks, beaches, retailers and leasehold operations. Suggestions for campaigns and implementation strategies have also been included.

Specifying mandatory inclusions for events, along with sustainability promotions and education campaigns is part of the process of steering our community towards more sustainable behaviours; and will go a long way towards lessening the plastic contamination in our landfills, waterways and oceans. Whilst we understand that some changes will be relatively easy to implement, we also acknowledge that consumer and waste disposal habits require long term strategies that involve communicating, educating and engaging with the community in ways that motivate positive change.

Event/ Market/Festival Requirements and Considerations

- No plastic bags are to be used or given away at events. Paper or reusable bags can be provided.
- No plastic straws. If straws are required paper, bamboo or stainless steel straws are examples of sustainable alternatives.
- No single use plastic water bottles. Alternative water sources may include the provision of water fountains or water refill stations; reusable water bottles or pitchers of water, washable glasses or non plastic lined single use paper cups for conferences, meetings or workshops.
- No balloons or balloon launching events. Alternatives may include bunting flags or paper decorations to create party atmosphere.
- All catering ware must be reusable/recyclable or made from bioplastic biodegradable & compostable materials. BYO catering ware to be encouraged.
- All promotional materials to be printed on recycled paper.
- Encourage swap shops, second hand or upcycled stall inclusions.
- All events to be advertised as “Plastic Free” events.

Public areas, shopping centres, parks and beaches

- Provision of water fountains and water refill stations.

- Provision of bioplastic (plant starch based) compostable dog waste bags in dog parks. (This may not be practical until there is a state wide ban on single use plastic bags due to plastic contamination from other bags in a Council Dog Waste compost system)
- New effective signage in parks and on beaches specific to the hazards of plastic waste in our waterways and coast, encouraging people to clean up and dispose of their plastic waste sustainably. This may include a mixture of fixed and mobile signage E.g. tear drop banners on beaches and foreshore areas on weekends and peak tourist periods promoting “Keep Our Northern Beaches Clean”; “Bin It , Don’t Swim In It”.
- Provision of branded litter buckets at entry points to the beaches so the general public can collect rubbish on their daily walks and leave the buckets at common exit points.
- Life Guards to make public announcements during the day for beach goers to bin or take their rubbish with them; also they should be seen to conduct litter patrols and issue fines.
- Provision of Plastic Free Business Kits for Retail, Food and Offices.
- Promotion of positive Refuse, Reduce & Reuse strategies through local education programs in schools, public advertising and signage in shopping precincts. **For example...**

Actions we can take to reduce plastic pollution and keep plastics out of our oceans.

- Remember to bring your own reusable bags when you go shopping. Borrow a Boomerang Bag if you forget.
- Say “No” to the BIG 4 - single use water bottles, coffee cups, plastic cutlery and plastic straws. Carry a reusable water bottle, keep cup and reusable utensils with you.
- Refuse single serve and excess packaging. Choose unpackaged fruit and vegetables.
- Replace everyday plastics such as sandwich bags and juice boxes with lunch boxes, wax paper wrapping, reusable drink bottles or flasks.
- Recycle. If you must use plastic, try to use #1 (PETE) or #2 (HDPE), which are the most commonly recycled plastics. Avoid plastic bags and polystyrene foam as both have very low recycling rates.
- Support plastic bag bans, polystyrene foam bans, microbead bans and bottle recycling legislation.
- Spread the word. Seek out alternatives to the plastic items you use. Talk to family and friends about why it’s important to avoid single use plastics.

Business benefits when it reduces plastic waste.

Reducing plastics use in your business can result in....

- Reduced financial costs – business’s that supply single use plastics get no financial return. Changes in consumer habits to “re-use” will relieve the businesses of the expectation to supply costly free plastic items e.g. bags, cutlery, cups & straws.
- Improved customer loyalty as customers become increasingly aware of the adverse environmental impacts of single use plastics in our local environment.
- Improved business identity. A green and eco-friendly image of Northern Beaches business is an appealing drawcard for tourists and visitors, and a source of pride for the community.
- Publicity – supporting businesses will be recognised through coverage in local and social media. E.g. Responsible Cafes programme

Simple actions for businesses to reduce plastic waste.

- Offer reusable bag options for sale to customers. There is a wide variety on the market, including those made from paper, calico, hemp, cotton, and other materials. Be part of the successful **ECOBAG** paper carry bag system <http://www.ecobagmedia.com.au/Home.aspx> or become a **Boomerang Bag** ambassador.
- Promote the use of reusable bags within your shop. Have posters reminding customers to bring their own bags, cups & water bottles. Keep a tally on a blackboard updating how many items have been saved from landfill each week/month.
- Train staff to ask customers "do you need a bag?" with their purchase. Customers may be happy to carry just a few items to their car, home or office.
- Offer \$/c incentives to customers who bring their own mugs or containers for take – away. They are saving you packaging costs after all. Advertise that it's ok to BYO containers.
- No plastic straws. If you must provide straws, make them paper.
- Offer tap water or a water fountain. Choose not to stock single use plastic water bottles.
- Choose to sell beverages that come in glass bottles where possible.
- Use plastics free biodegradable packaging, compostable cups, plates and utensils. Avoid items packaged in plastic.
- Purchase items in bulk e.g. coffee retailers can buy milk in bladders instead of individual milk bottles
- Conduct a single use plastic waste audit and involve staff in creating solutions and alternatives to reduce waste
- Create a plastic reduction policy for work events.
- Reuse and recycle where possible. Where waste solutions are not currently available, start a discussion with your suppliers about reducing waste and finding alternatives.

Phasing out single-use plastics in the Northern Beaches Council area.

Council could phase out single use plastics gradually, setting targets for all businesses to comply by a certain date. The aim would be to work towards the Northern Beaches "GOLD STANDARD" as stated before...

- No plastic bags are to be used or given away at events. Paper or reusable bags can be provided.
- No plastic straws. If straws are required paper, bamboo or stainless steel are alternatives.
- No single use plastic water bottles. Alternative water sources may include the provision of water fountains or water refill stations; reusable water bottles or pitchers of water, washable glasses or non plastic lined single use paper cups for conferences, meetings or workshops.
- No balloons. Suggestions for alternatives may include bunting flags or paper decorations to create party atmosphere.
- All catering ware must be reusable/recyclable or made from bioplastic biodegradable & compostable materials.
- All promotional materials to be printed on recycled paper.

A list of acceptable providers of sustainable containers/services can published on the Northern Beaches Council website along with other community group websites such as SO Manly and the

Chamber of Commerce. In addition venues leased from Council can advertise their compliance to the “Gold Standard” to inform consumers of (a) the Northern Beaches Council initiative; (b) alternative products and solutions; (c) a growing market for these products exists. Perhaps Council could also offer incentives initially to compensate for any costs incurred in the provision of more costly compostable biodegradable containers. As a result proprietors throughout the Northern Beaches would have a model/example of how to become more sustainable.

Information and education initiatives to motivate community behaviour change relating to single use plastic consumption

With the inclusion and support of community groups and the Chamber of Commerce, Northern Beaches Council should fund and roll out a Plastics Pollution Reduction Campaign. The campaign might hypothetically include...

1. An exciting **vision** for a desired future e.g. “Plastic Free Healthy Oceans & Clean Waterways” or “Single Use Plastics Free Northern Beaches”; “Refuse, Reduce, Recycle” etc.
2. An **education** program informing the community about the seriousness of the marine plastic pollution, how we can measure the problem, the solutions available, and the variety of actions people can take to make a difference. **Invite** the community to take part.
3. **Actions** could also include:
 - The Ocean Action Pod & Council to have stalls outside major supermarkets in each suburb every week. Council to collaborate with Coles and Woolworths.
 - A major sustainable products expo for retailers and businesses of the Nthn Beaches
 - Creation of a Council Sustainability App.
 - Upgraded public litter and recycling bins.
 - Upgraded signage on all bins relating to plastics reduction and ocean health; huge banners at intersections and/or at the beach entrances.
 - Introduction of incentive/rewards programs e.g. Green Money Rewards
 - Inclusion of plastic pollution reduction strategies in the Better Business Partnership program.
 - Regular, collaborative & coordinated beach cleans with Council, environmental/community/Surf Lifesaving groups and schools, to properly identify and measure coastal pollution in our area. Council might hold beach documentary movie nights & cleanest beach competitions to engage local participation.

SQID upgrade

An upgrade of stormwater quality improvement devices throughout the Northern Beaches is required to prevent plastic pollutants and debris including microplastics from entering our waterways and oceans.

Extensive drain stencilling is also desirable.

We are encouraged to be associated with a proactive coastal council that is working with the community with the goal of eliminating unsightly and immortal plastic litter, as well as reducing the risk of injury and death to our wildlife through ingestion and entanglement in plastic marine debris.

We look forward to further collaboration with this issue.

Contributors:

Rowan Hanley – Surfrider Foundation Northern Beaches & Avalon Boomerang Bags

Jude Furniss – Surfrider Foundation Manly, Bommie Australia & Manly Boomerang Bags

Alicia Lloyd – Sustainable Organisations of Manly (SO Manly)

Stacey Randell – NSW Business Chamber

Natalie Warren – Responsible Runners