

6.3 Strategic Reference Group Recommendations - Strategic and Development Services

NOTE: This item was carried over from the Council Meeting of 18 October 2011.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

To report to Council the Recommendations from the Strategic Reference Groups (SRG's) that relate to Strategic and Development Services (SDS).

Summary

The SRG's have put forward a number of recommendations to Council. This report reviews the recommendations and provides supplementary information and the Acting Director Strategic and Development Services recommendations in relation to matters at the following SRG meetings:

- Environmental Sustainability SRG – 23 February 2011
- Environmental Sustainability SRG – 4 May 2011
- Environmental Sustainability SRG – 1 August 2011
- Infrastructure and Development SRG – 5 May 2011
- Infrastructure and Development SRG – 11 August 2011
- Recreation and Open Space SRG – 21 February
- Recreation and Open Space SRG – 3 August

Financial Impact

Nil.

Policy Impact

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION OF ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- A. That SRG guidelines on the responsibilities of members and their ability to represent the views of all residents be reviewed as part of the 12 month substantive review of the Strategic Reference Groups.
 - B. That Council note the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy (under development) supports energy savings and emission reductions.
 - C. That Council write to the Minister for Planning seeking the integration of sustainability in the development of the Frenchs Forest concept plan for the new hospital.
 - D. That the recommendation in relation to dogs on beaches be considered as a submission on the dogs on beaches research paper.
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- E. That Council not support the inclusion of an indicator on current financial year expenditure (budget v actual and forecast) in the draft Strategic Community Plan for the following financial year.
 - F. That Council note a jobs fair is include as a priority action in 2011-2012 Draft Economic Development Plan.
 - G. That the sustainable transport study (under development) give consideration to park and ride and shuttle buses.
 - H. That Council note \$50,000 was allocated to economic development at the meeting on 27 September 2011.
 - I. That Council note the recommendation for additional funds was included as a submission on the draft Strategic Community Plan 2011.
 - J. That Council note the recommendation supporting \$600,000 in improvement works for Curl Curl Sports Centre was included as a submission to the draft Strategic Community Plan 2011
 - K. That Council note the support of the SRG for the review of the Dee Why Town Centre Master Plan.
 - L. That a Dee Why Town Centre Working Party be formed to provide direction and advocate for the redevelopment of Dee Why during the review of the Dee Why Town Centre Master Plan.
 - M. That the 3D modelling of the Dee Why Urban Form Study be presented to the November meeting of the Infrastructure and Development SRG.
 - N. That the objection to the proposed rezoning of Lot 61 DP 611195 (referred to as the Evergreen Tennis Centre in WLEP 2000) from RE2 Private Recreation to R2 Low Density Residential in draft Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2009 be treated as a submission on the planning proposal when it is reported to Council.
 - O. That Council note a policy on sustainable use of sports grounds is under development.
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REPORT

The SRGs have put forward a number of recommendations to Council. This report reviews the recommendations and provides supplementary information and the Acting Director Strategic and Development Services recommendations.

Environmental Sustainability SRG – Recommendations

Meeting of 23 February 2011

The following recommendations was put forward:

Item 6.2 - SRG Guidelines in relation to SRG members representing the views of all residents

Recommendation

That the SRG Guidelines should be rephrased during the substantive review to address John Hewitt's concerns.

Background Information from Staff

John Hewitt is a community member of the Infrastructure and Development SRG and during the inaugural meeting raised concerns regarding the section relating to the responsibilities of members within the SRG guidelines:

“Community members must always be mindful that they have a responsibility to represent the views of all residents and be prepared to represent those views in an unbiased way at meetings of Strategic Reference Groups.”

The minutes of the inaugural I&D-SRG meeting held 18 November 2010 state:

“John Hewitt advised that he had concerns with the wording in the guidelines relating to representing all residents as not all residents think the same and it was hard for him to know all their views.”

It was agreed to add this issue as an agenda item on each of the SRG's meetings in February to ascertain if there was consensus regarding John's concerns. As a result both the Environmental Sustainability SRG and Recreation & Open Space SRG put forward recommendations to Council that the guidelines should be reviewed as part of the 12 month review and the Community & Culture SRG consider it a valid issue.

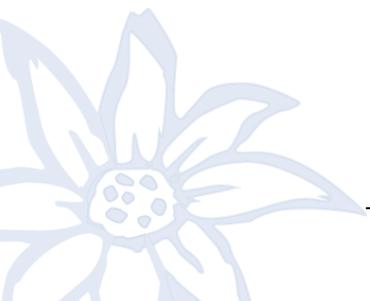
The 12 month review of the SRG's is currently underway and the guidelines, in particular the section relating to responsibilities of members, can be reviewed with any recommended changes being reported to the SRG's and Council.

Recommendation of the Acting Director Strategic and Development Services

That SRG guidelines on the responsibilities of members and their ability to represent the views of all residents be reviewed as part of the 12 month substantive review of the Strategic Reference Groups.

Timing

The Strategic Reference will be consulted as part of the review in November and a report will go back to Council in the new year.



Policy Impact

Nil.

Financial Impact

Nil.

Acting Manager Strategic PlanningMeeting of 4 May 2011

The following recommendations were put forward:

*Item 6.3 - Warringah Council Renewable Energy Project***Recommendation**

That as Council considers the Environmental Strategy it looks at alternative sources of energy including wave action

Background Information from Staff

According to the 2010 National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency), the energy sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia, comprising 72.3 per cent of net emissions. The majority of these emissions arise from the combustion of fossil fuels. These are coal, oil and its derivatives (such as petrol), and methane gas (also called natural gas). Electricity generation (which in Australia relies mainly on coal) is the largest single contributor to greenhouse emissions, at 37.2 per cent of inventory emissions.

In 2010-2011 Council emissions totalled 13,586 tonnes. Just over 53% of these emissions came from streetlights over which Council has limited capacity to control as the assets are owned and maintained by AusGrid, the State Government network and distribution company. Emissions from our facilities (buildings, parks and reserves) totalled 5,457 tonnes and fleet emissions totalled just over 1,100 tonnes. Due to energy efficiency initiatives, investment in renewable energy and the use of more fuel efficient vehicles, emissions from our facilities and fleet have been in decline for several years and emissions from our facilities and fleet in 2010-2011 represented a decline of 10% compared to emissions for 2009-2010. This decline represents a substantial first step to achieving our goal of a 40% reduction in corporate emissions by 2020.

Based on modelling for the Warringah LGA, community emissions during 2007/08 (the most recent year available) were estimated to be nearly 1,503,000 tonnes. Electricity use and transport are by far the two largest sources of emissions in the Warringah LGA contributing 47% and 42% respectively.

In 2011 we completed an assessment of the feasibility of taking part of Warringah 'off the grid' by replacing some grid-supplied electricity with cleaner sources of distributed energy. The drivers for this assessment were our existing corporate goal of emissions reduction as well as the ever rising costs in grid-supplied energy. In 2010-2011 Council's expenditure on energy (primarily grid-supplied electricity) totalled \$2 million and the cost of energy is expected to rise substantially over the next few years (largely as a result of increased investment in network upgrades by the energy utilities).

The distributed energy assessment identified six potential delivery models for taking part of Warringah 'off the grid' and Council is currently considering which of these models can be implemented in the short-medium term. One of these models would be for the Warringah community itself to invest in one or more renewable energy projects either in the Warringah LGA or elsewhere using capital raised in the private investment market, possibly in the form of a co-operative governance structure.

Council is also in the process of finalising an update of its Environmental Sustainability Strategy. Two of the key outcomes identified in the draft Strategy are the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the Warringah community and a reduction in Council's dependency on fossil fuels for its energy. Given a 10 year planning outlook, the draft Strategy does not attempt to pick technology 'winners'. However, it recognises that a range of clean energy technologies will be required to transition the LGA and Council to a low or zero emissions future. This would include consideration of the potential for wave energy off our coastline though it should be noted that the jurisdiction for wave energy (below the high water mark) rests with the State and Commonwealth Governments.

Recommendation of the Acting Director Strategic and Development Services

That Council note the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy (under development) supports energy savings and emission reductions.

Timing

The draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy will be reported to Council early in the new year.

Policy Impact

Nil

Financial Impact

Nil

Acting Manager Strategic Planning

Item 6.8 – Proposed Frenchs Forest Hospital – Dr Paul Hackney

Recommendation

That Council lobby the Minister for Planning for the integration of sustainability in the development of the Frenchs Forest concept plan for the new hospital.

Background Information from Staff

Written representations can be made to the Minister for Planning on this matter. This can be undertaken within existing resources

Recommendation of the Acting Director Strategic and Development Services

That Council write to the Minister for Planning seeking the integration of sustainability in the development of the Frenchs Forest concept plan for the new hospital.

Timing

Nil

Policy Impact

Nil

Financial Impact

Nil

Acting Manager Strategic Planning



Meeting of 1 August 2011

The following recommendations were put forward:

Item 6.2 – Discussion and position statement on the proposal to allow dogs access to some of Warringah's beaches

Recommendation

That Council does not support the dogs on beaches proposal as it is not consistent with sustainability principles and good environmental management practices such as impact on biodiversity, flora, fauna, nutrient load and social inclusion.

Background Information from Staff

Dogs are currently prohibited from all beaches in Warringah. A research paper is currently being finalised on whether dogs should be allowed to use Warringah's beaches for exercise including swimming. This paper will be presented to Council in the near future.

Any consideration of dogs on beaches or even new off leash areas requires an environmental assessment. The assessment is undertaken by professional environmental consultants, if the environmental factors are shown to be compromised particularly in relation to threatened species staff would not recommend proceeding.

Recommendation of the Acting Director Strategic and Development Services

That the recommendation in relation to dogs on beaches be considered as a submission on the dogs on beaches research paper.

Timing

This matter will be reported to Council early in the new year.

Policy Impact

Nil

Financial Impact

Nil

Manager Development Assessment and Compliance

Infrastructure and Development SRG – Recommendations

Meeting of 5 May 2011

The following recommendations were put forward:

Item 5.2 - Committee Feedback on the Infrastructure and Development SRG

Recommendation

That the draft Strategic Community Plan include an indicator of how spend is tracking against budget on items in the previous year's SCP with a forecast for the remainder of the financial year.

Background Information from Staff

Regular progress reports are provided on implementation of works in the adopted Strategic Community Plan via the Quarterly Business and Budget Reports, this includes expenditure - actual and forecast. It is not considered appropriate to include this in the Draft Strategic Community Plan as it is a forward looking document (ie next financial year and beyond) and will date as the information is valid at a point in time.

Recommendation of the Director Strategic and Development Services

That Council not support the inclusion of an indicator on current financial year expenditure (budget v actual and forecast) in the draft Strategic Community Plan.

Timing

Nil

Policy Impact

Nil

Financial Impact

Nil

Acting Manager Strategic Planning*Item 6.1a Warringah Economic Development Plan (EDP) - Community Engagement Summary***Recommendation**

That the Warringah Economic Development Plan include a Jobs Fair

Background Information from Staff

The first Warringah Economic Development Plan 2011 – 2015 has the overall purpose is to provide a positive framework and direction to guide, support, profile and promote sustainable economic development in Warringah. The Plan seeks to create an environment that promotes business growth, investment and employment generation. The Plan will integrate with regional initiatives such as SHOROC's – 'Shaping Our Future' and Council's longer term goals, strategies and outcomes associated with Council's Strategic Community Plan. Economic development actions, including a Warringah Jobs Fair help to highlight the important contribution of business to the Warringah community and the role businesses play in building strong, vibrant communities. Opportunities for economic growth through ongoing engagement, effective partnerships and collaborative relationships with key business stakeholders, government and non-government organisations are part of the local economic development planning process.

In 2009 the Warringah Chamber of Commerce & Industry, NSW Business Chamber and other local business networks partnered with the Australian Business Limited Apprenticeship Centre and arranged the area's first Jobs Fair. This is an innovative event responding to a need to match employees and employers to identify opportunities for many jobs that were not being filled. The Fair was held at the Dee Why RSL.

A Jobs Fair, in summary is about identifying and targeting current local job opportunities for youth and recent tertiary graduates and getting these potential employees and the employers together at one easily accessed venue. As the jobseeker the Fair provides an efficient and time effective way of accessing a pool of jobs across a range of business sectors, which you may not normally be able to get to see. It is a win – win situation for employers and job seekers should the right match be found.

The Fair would also include skills matching information, resume preparation, further or alternative education options, culture mapping, training and employment opportunities and key employment - related speakers and involve a range of partners at the one location for half to one day. It also provides a chance to meet some of the area's prominent employers, educators and trainers who will all assemble to offer practical career insights into skills shortage industries, educational options for career transition, the latest training available to upgrade careers and companies on the move with real opportunities.

Recommendation of the Director Strategic and Development Services

That Council note a jobs fair is include as a priority action in 2011-2012 Draft Economic Development Plan.

Timing

Nil

Policy Impact

Nil

Financial Impact

Nil

Acting Manager Strategic Planning*Item 6.1b Warringah Economic Development Plan (EDP) - Community Engagement Summary – Paul William-Smith***Recommendation**

That Park and Ride and a shuttle bus service be included in the sustainable transport study and that the recommendations on these matters be brought to this SRG in due course.

Background Information from Staff

The Transport Study is currently being scoped. It will include consideration of park and ride and shuttle buses. The draft Strategy will not be available until 2012

Recommendation of the Director Strategic and Development Services

That the sustainable transport study (under development) give consideration to park and ride and shuttle buses.

Timing

Nil

Policy Impact

Nil

Financial Impact

Nil

Acting Manager Strategic Planning*Item 6.1c Warringah Economic Development Plan (EDP) - Community Engagement Summary***Recommendation**

That this SRG strongly recommends that \$100,000 be included in the budget for 2011/12 for actions in the Economic Development Plan.



Supporting Information

The SRG's recommendation was included as a submission on the Draft Strategic Community Plan 2011. The recommendation was not supported by staff and was considered by Council at its meeting on 28 June 2011. Council adopted the budget without allocating \$100,000 to economic development.

Further consideration was given to the provision of additional funds for Economic Development at the Council meeting on 27 September 2011 in response to a Mayoral Minute. Council resolved to allocate \$50,000 to economic development.

Recommendation of the Director Strategic and Development Services

That Council note \$50,000 was allocated to economic development at the meeting on 27 September 2011.

Timing

Nil.

Policy Impact

Nil.

Financial Impact

Council allocated \$50,000 for economic development at the meeting on 27 September 2011.

Acting Manager Strategic Planning

*Item 7.6 Recommendations by the SRG relating to the Budget***Recommendation**

That the recommendations carried at this meeting be formally recorded as the official submissions of the Infrastructure and Development SRG to the consultation process on the Strategic Community Plan and Budget.

Background Information from Staff

Actions included as a submission to the draft Strategic Community Plan and reported to Council on 28 June 2011. No further action required.

Recommendation of the Director Strategic and Development Services

That Council note the recommendation for additional funds was included as a submission on the Strategic Community Plan 2011.

Timing

Nil.

Policy Impact

Nil.

Financial Impact

Nil.

Acting Manager Strategic Planning



*Item 8.1 Draft Minutes of Curl Curl Sports Centre Community Committee held 10 March 2011***Recommendation**

That the SRG formally endorse the capital expenditure program on the Curl Curl Sports Centre and that this be part of the SRG's formal submission on the SCP and budget.

Background Information from Staff

This recommendation was made during the exhibition period of the draft Strategic Community Plan and was considered as a submission on behalf of the Infrastructure and Development SRG.

The adopted Capital Works program for 2011/12 includes \$600,000 for the construction and commissioning of works at the Curl Curl Sports facility.

Recommendation of the Director Strategic and Development Services

That Council note the recommendation supporting \$600,000 in improvement works for Curl Curl Sports Centre was included as a submission to the draft Strategic Community Plan 2011

Timing

Nil

Policy Impact

Nil

Financial Impact

Nil

Acting Manager Strategic Planning

Meeting of 11 August 2011

The following recommendations were put forward:

*Item 5.5a Dee Why Town Centre***Recommendation**

Council continue the procurement process for the Dee Why Town Centre Master Plan;

Supporting Information from Staff

In 2005, Council adopted the Dee Why Town Centre Master Plan prepared by the Government Architect that was a response to the lack of civic amenity and facilities in Dee Why, as well as to address concerns that Dee Why was not able to meet the future demands for infrastructure that a growing population would require. Council has adopted some changes to the Master plan to this end over the last six years including Brookfield Multiplex's Voluntary Planning Agreement to develop the town square and subsequent gazettal of Local Environmental Plan amendment No.21 in 2008. These moves were in line with the State Government's Sub Regional Strategy (2007) where Dee Why is classified as a Major Centre, defined as a major shopping and business centre serving the immediate subregional residential population with a large shopping mall, specialty shops, council offices, office and residential buildings, central community facilities and a minimum of 8,000 jobs.

Irrespective of what Brookfield Multiplex has planned to build (and when), Council is in the position to bring the Master Plan up to date in line with stakeholders and community expectations. There is a need to review what types of community, economic and

environmental infrastructure should be developed in the Town Centre to support Dee Why as a Major Centre, and to promote the positive growth and creation of a sense of 'place' for Dee Why. It will take into consideration all the studies and Council initiatives done to date on traffic, drainage, urban forms, specific council site concepts, economic development plan, community needs assessment, etc. It will also analyse further the recent survey findings from the Strategic Community Plan's exhibition on Section 94 funding shortfall options and the Online Forum to engage the community in the future vision of Dee Why.

The revitalisation works and funding proposals will be subjected to further rounds of engagement as the Dee Why Town Centre Master Plan review is developed.

Recommendation of the Director Strategic and Development Services

That Council note the support of the SRG for the review of the Dee Why Town Centre Master Plan.

Timing

Tenders have been called to engage a consultant(s) to prepare the Master Plan Review. Tenders close on 18 October and the matter will be reported to the Council meeting on 22 November to award the contract.

Policy Impact

Nil

Financial Impact

Nil within existing budget

Acting Manager Strategic Planning

Item 5.5b Dee Why Town Centre

Recommendation

Staff to bring back a process for establishment of a Dee Why key community group to promote design concepts for Dee Why Town Centre to the November meeting;

Supporting Information from Staff

It is critical that a broad base reference group be formed and be involved in the review of the Dee Why Masterplan. This group could provide direction on the long term vision for Dee Why and advocate for the redevelopment in the community.

Recommendation of the Director Strategic and Development Services

That a Dee Why Town Centre Working Party be formed to provide direction and advocate for the redevelopment of Dee Why during the review of the Dee Why Town Centre Master Plan.

Timing

Nil

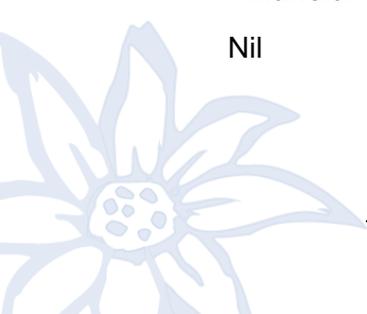
Policy Impact

Nil

Financial Impact

Nil

Acting Manager Strategic Planning



*Item 5.5c Dee Why Town Centre***Recommendation**

A 3D model of concept plans be presented to the November meeting.

Supporting Information from Staff

The Urban Form Study incorporates conceptual 3D modelling of future building forms has been prepared in February 2011 for the Councillors and the Dee Why Town Centre Project Control Group of Council Officers. The intention of the study is to identify key principles for responsive built form that will build upon the outstanding natural attributes of the town. These Urban Form Study Principles will provide a basis for future development controls in guiding built form and public domain works within the centre while providing a sound basis for making decisions about the building type, massing, height and the location.

Recommendation of the Director Strategic and Development Services

That the 3D modelling of the Dee Why Urban Form Study be presented to the November meeting of the Infrastructure and Development SRG.

Timing

Nil

Policy Impact

Nil

Financial Impact

Nil

Acting Manager Strategic Planning

Recreation and Open Space SRG – RecommendationsMeeting of 21 February 2011

The following recommendations were put forward:

*Item 6.6 Dee Why Recreation Centre Closure***Recommendation:**

That a submission is made on behalf of SRG members stating a unanimous vote against the proposed rezoning of the land at Lot 61 DP 611195 (referred to as the Evergreen Tennis Centre in WLEP 2000) from private recreational zoning to housing zoning

Supporting Information from Staff

Council has received a planning proposal in respect to Lot 61 DP 611195 (referred to as the Evergreen Tennis Centre in WLEP 2000) seeking to change the zoning of the land from RE2 Private Recreation to R2 Low Density Residential in draft Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2009. The objection by the Recreation and Open Space Strategic Reference Group has been incorporated into the Council report on the planning proposal.

The sports facility had operated on the land for over 30 years. The Evergreen Estate included 14 tennis courts and eight squash courts when it closed on 24 December 2010. The facilities were in poor condition. The applicant has stated that the Centre closed because of lack of economic viability because of:

- the cost involved in upgrading the existing facilities or developing new facilities on the site;
- inability of an operator to pay a rent that would deliver an economically viable return;
- the lack of public demand for the facilities;
- oversupply of similar facilities in the area; and
- high costs of operating private recreation facilities compared to facilities operated on Council land.

The applicant has also stated that there is a strong demand for housing in the area.

Recommendation of the Director Strategic and Development Services

That the objection to the proposed rezoning of Lot 61 DP 611195 (referred to as the Evergreen Tennis Centre in WLEP 2000) from RE2 Private Recreation to R2 Low Density Residential in draft Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2009 be treated as a submission on the planning proposal when it is reported to Council.

Timing

Nil.

Policy Impact

Nil.

Financial Impact

Nil.

Acting Manager Strategic Planning

Meeting of 3 August 2011

The following recommendations were put forward:

Item 6.1 Sportsgrounds – Policy for Sustainable Use – Julie Whitfield

Recommendation

That the SRG recommends to Council that a policy be developed for the sustainable use of sports grounds in the next financial year.

Background Information from Staff

A policy is currently been developed by Parks Reserves and Foreshores (PRF) and a report will be provided for Council consideration in April 2012.

Sustainable use of sports grounds includes effective wet weather management. PRF have reviewed and implemented its wet weather procedures and a report on this matter will be presented for discussion.

Recommendation of the Director Strategic and Development Services

That Council note a policy on sustainable use of sports grounds is under development.

Timing

The draft Policy will be reported to Council in April 2012.



Policy Impact

Nil.

Financial Impact

Nil.

Acting Manager Strategic Planning

