

## 10.1 Strategic Reference Group Recommendations - Environment Division

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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#### Purpose

To report to Council the recommendations that have been put forward from the Strategic Reference Groups (SRGs) that relate to the Environment Division.

#### Summary

The SRGs have put forward a number of recommendations to Council. This report reviews the recommendations and provides supplementary information and the recommendations of the Deputy General Manager Environment.

#### Financial Impact

Nil

#### Policy Impact

Nil

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### RECOMMENDATION OF DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER ENVIRONMENT

- A. That Council:
1. Continue to identify specific projects (and develop business cases) for on-site generation so that a prioritised project portfolio can be established and implemented.
  2. Monitor opportunities for local demand generation (longer-term).
  3. Host a forum for residents and local businesses to investigate ways to progress co-operative generation.
- B. That Council continue to support the development of Kimbriki Environmental Enterprises Pty Ltd as a reuse and recycling centre, and
- C. That Council review any community based initiatives of a similar nature seeking support from Council on a case by case basis.
- D. That the Council take no action as the land is privately owned and Council has no legislative authority to control the walking of dogs off leashes and mountain bike riding that is undertaken in a non commercial manner and which does not compromise the health and safety of the general public.
- E. That it be noted that the Environmental Sustainability SRG supports models of local government that provide for agreed priorities for natural resource management across LGA's especially concerning catchments, and that this is supported by the Destination 2036 draft Action Plan and Warringah Council's submission to the Plan.
- F. That as Council considers reforms and arrangements suitable for its future, holistic natural resource management remain a priority at local and regional levels.
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## REPORT

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The SRGs have put forward a number of recommendations to Council. This report reviews the recommendations and provides supplementary information and the recommendations of the Deputy General Manager Environment.

### **Environmental Sustainability SRG (ES-SRG) Recommendations of Meeting 7 November 2011**

The following 4 recommendations were put forward from the ES-SRG:

#### **1 Recommendation from ES-SRG**

*Item 6.2 - Distributed Energy Reports: That SRG members support the recommended actions from the Distributed Energy Report presentation as per below:*

- 1. That Council continue to identify specific projects (and develop business cases) for on-site generation so that a prioritised project portfolio can be established and implemented.*
- 2. That Council monitor opportunities for local demand generation (longer-term).*
- 3. That Council host a forum for residents and local businesses to investigate ways to progress co-operative generation.*

### **Supporting Information**

#### ***Recommendation 1***

Distributed generation is the generation of electricity and/or heating close to the point of use. It encompasses a variety of small-scale power generation technologies (such as solar panels, wind turbines, fuel cells and tri-generation). By locating many small power generation sources locally, the energy lost during transmission and distribution is avoided, the energy supply is diversified and the opportunity for utilising cleaner sources of energy, without large capital investments, is increased.

In 2011 Council commissioned a research study on the potential for distributed energy projects in Warringah. The study has provided council with a better understanding of distributed energy, the financial and technological risks involved and the types of schemes which would have potential for the low-medium density urban pattern in Warringah and our own facilities. It will also strategically position Council to access funding or technological advice to progress the application of distributed energy in Warringah.

The study has resulted in four separate papers and a briefing note which summarises the key findings. The papers address:

- Market Scan
- Energy Options
- Delivery Models
- Implementation Requirements

Council has identified six potential delivery models for distributed generation which could potentially be implemented by Council in partnership with other property owners, energy companies and the community.

The development of distributed generation is also supported in the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy (currently on exhibition).

Suitable projects will be identified on an ongoing basis, subject to budgetary resources. We are currently considering options for distributed generation at a number of our major facilities including the Civic Centre and the WAC.

### **Recommendation 2**

Local demand generation was identified in the 2011 study as one potential business model. Opportunities for local demand generation beyond the single facility model will take longer to identify as they will involve a range of stakeholders including property owners, the network owner (AusGrid), our electricity retailers and other stakeholders such as the electric car sector. The types of projects identified are likely to be complex, particularly in terms of regulatory requirements and the financing arrangements involved.

It is envisaged that these types of projects will emerge over the next 3-5 years.

### **Recommendation 3**

Cooperative generation schemes were identified in the 2011 Study. Subject to confirmation in the 2012/13 SCP, we are anticipating holding a forum in the latter half of 2012. This would involve speakers with expertise in cooperative generation schemes and would be open to Warringah residents and business owners.

Council's role would be to facilitate the forum. Progress with one or more local schemes would be subject to sufficient interest in the Warringah community to establish a cooperative and to engage in the capital raising necessary for a scheme to proceed.

### **Policy Implications**

Nil

### **Financial Implications**

The community forum would require an allocation in the 2012/13 budget for speaker expenses and catering.

### **Recommendation of Deputy General Manager**

That Council:

1. Continue to identify specific projects (and develop business cases) for on-site generation so that a prioritised project portfolio can be established and implemented.
2. Monitor opportunities for local demand generation (longer-term).
3. Host a forum for residents and local businesses to investigate ways to progress co-operative generation.

### **Policy Impact**

Nil

### **Financial Impact**

Nil

**Group Manager Strategic Planning**

## 2 Recommendation from ES-SRG

Item 7.11 - *That an operation similar to that known as Reverse Garbage in Marrickville be established after feasibility and other preliminary studies*

### Supporting Information

#### Reverse Garbage

Reverse Garbage Cooperative Ltd. is a registered not for profit cooperative which was formed in 1974 with the aid of a State or Federal government grant. It was then supported for approximately twenty years with funding from the Department of Community Services until 1991. After that it received grants from the New South Wales Environment Protection Authority in 1992 and 1993. In addition Reverse Garbage was able to take advantage of a unique opportunity for accommodation.

The then new Addison Road Centre for Arts, Culture, Community and Environment (ARC) was an army barracks from 1913 until after the Vietnam War. It was given over to community use in 1974 and is currently managed by a Board of Directors elected from member organisations under a 50 year lease with the NSW Government.

A building in the ARC was rented by Reverse Garbage with the aid of Marrickville Council in 1975, and expanded to larger premises with funding from the Department of Community Services.

#### The Bower

Another waste recovery organisation, the Bower Re-Use and Repair Centre Co-operative (the Bower) was also established as a cooperative by around 50 dedicated local residents. The Bower was also funded by a grant from the NSW Environmental Protection Agency to establish a location for a re-use centre. The Bower also chose ARC in Marrickville and constructed their own warehouse with a large number of helpers using straw bale technology. The Bower opened in 1999 employing three staff to manage daily operations.

Both of these organisations began with dedicated community members banding together and lobbying for funding, accommodation and community support for extended periods.

Warringah Council supports the use of such organisations as these and others, such as Reuse It Network, Planet Ark and Oz Recycle in its waste education programs and on its waste website.

#### Kimbriki

Council established Kimbriki Environmental Enterprises Pty Ltd in Terrey Hills in 2009. Kimbriki continues to recover second-hand materials and is producing recycled products from materials brought in from residents, contractors and businesses within the local area. Kimbriki has developed an eco garden, eco house education centre and buy back centre where materials are separated, sorted and available for purchase at very competitive prices and can include fencing, flooring materials, furniture, windows, sinks, sleepers, doors and much more. There are also garden and road products produced for sale on the site from recovered and crushed concrete bricks and tiles and also composted garden vegetation products. Kimbriki is a major waste recovery and recycling centre with potential to continue its growth in the region.

#### Recommendation of Deputy General Manager

That Council continue to support the development of Kimbriki Environmental Enterprises Pty Ltd as a reuse and recycling centre, and

That Council review any community based initiatives of a similar nature seeking support from Council on a case by case basis.

**Policy Impact**

Nil

**Financial Impact**

Nil

**Group Manager Roads Traffic and Waste****3 Recommendation from ES-SRG**

*Item 7.5 Sisters of Good Samaritan The SRG agreed that because this was not Council owned property there was no further scope for action or discussion.*

**Supporting Information**

Cr Harris raised concerns in regards to privately owned land by Sisters of Good Samaritan on Red Hill that local residents and/or visitors were allowing dogs off leashes in the bushland and concerns over mountain bike usage in bushland.

SRG agreed that because this was not Council owned property there was no further scope for any action or discussion.

Activities, uses and structures/buildings that are undertaken on privately owned land are governed by relevant legislation, primarily the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Subject to the owners of the site(s) or others with owners consent undertaking these activities in a non commercial manner that does not pose a health and safety risk to the general public, the activities are consistent with the relevant legislative requirements.

**Recommendation of Deputy General Manager**

That the Council take no action as the land is privately owned and Council has no legislative authority to control the walking of dogs off leashes and mountain bike riding that is undertaken in a non commercial manner and which does not compromise the health and safety of the general public.

**Policy Impact**

Nil

**Financial Impact**

Nil

**Group Manager Development and Compliance Services****4 Recommendation from ES-SRG**

*Item 7.9 - Local Government Reform: That SRG support models that provide for agreed priorities for natural resource management across LGA's especially concerning catchments*

**Supporting Information**

Management of Warringah's natural resources is based on an holistic approach of identifying the condition and significance of our natural assets, the impacts upon them and the stakeholders involved, including our partner councils across catchment boundaries. Warringah continues to work directly across boundaries with our partner councils, as well as at regional level through SHOROC. Regional efforts are outlined in 'Shaping our Sustainable Future – An action plan for

*creating a more sustainable SHOROC region together*" (SHOROC 2011), which outlines agreed priorities on transport, energy, climate change, ecologically sustainable development, waste, water, biodiversity and skills and capacity building to create a more sustainable future. Holistic and cooperative management of our natural resources is also built into Warringah's Strategic Community Plan.

Local Government reform will not undermine this collaborative regional approach, and would likely enhance it. Since 2011 earnest discussions have been held in our region and across the State on local government reform, including the type of structures and models that councils could use to improve their service delivery, asset management and financial sustainability. The NSW government-led reforms under Destination 2036 include measures that would improve local and regional environmental management – eg. by enhancing regional collaboration and ROCs; regional planning and partnerships with State government agencies; changing of council boundaries and amalgamations; sharing of staff and attracting higher skilled staff to the local government sector.

Council's submission on the Destination 2036 draft Action Plan was agreed to at the Council Meeting on 14 February 2012 and largely supports the Plan's initiatives and suggests measures to strengthen it.

### **Recommendation of Deputy General Manager**

- A. That it be noted that the Environmental Sustainability SRG supports models of local government that provide for agreed priorities for natural resource management across LGA's especially concerning catchments, and that this is supported by the Destination 2036 draft Action Plan and Warringah Council's submission to the Plan.
- B. That as Council considers reforms and arrangements suitable for its future, holistic natural resource management remain a priority at local and regional levels.

### **Policy Impact**

Nil

### **Financial Impact**

Nil

## **Group Manager Strategic Planning**

### **Recreation and Open Space SRG – Recommendation of Meeting 11 November 2011**

The following recommendation was put forward:

*Item 5.1 - That SRG members be provided with a copy of the guidelines that apply to the Capital Assistance Grants and that an increase to the grants be discussed at the next SRG Meeting.*

The guidelines and policy were distributed and discussed at the February SRG meeting.

The guidelines for the Sporting Group Capital Assistance Grants are included within the document titled Grants Program 2011-2012 Application Guidelines. This booklet included guidelines for each of Council's three annual grant programs:

1. Community Grants
2. Cultural Grants
3. Sporting Group Capital Improvement Grants

The key elements of the Sporting Group Capital Assistance Grants include:

- Grants are provided on a dollar for dollar basis (50% from Council, 50% from applicant)
- Grants are for new or upgrade of sports related infrastructure located within the Warringah Council Local Government Area
- One funding round per financial year

Council also adopted on 13 December 2011 the Grants and Sponsorship Policy. This Policy now provides the framework which the Sporting Group Capital Assistance Grants operate within. An Operational Management Standard is being developed for this policy. Guidelines for 2012 - 2013 will be developed to align with the new policy and Operational Management Standard.

This matter is now complete.

### **Group Manager Parks, Reserves and Foreshores**

