

Northern Beaches Council Zero Waste to Ocean Charter

Northern Beaches Council recognises the importance of reducing the impact of waste on our environment. Unfortunately, discarded waste can still make its way into our sensitive waterways via our creeks, streets, and stormwater network. In response, Council has developed a Zero Waste to Ocean charter that demonstrates Council's role in leading our community, providing enhanced education and setting targets to drive towards zero waste to our oceans.

Principles

Northern Beaches Council has set out a series of commitments in its Environment and Climate Change Strategy to ensure our beaches, catchments and waterways will be protected, healthy and resilient, valued and enjoyed by our community.

Council recognises that zero waste to oceans (or any waterway) is an aspiration rather than a commitment. With the best of interventions, it is likely that waste may still make it into our waterways from a variety of sources, however with focus on the main principles set out below, Council will set the community on the path to contributing zero waste to our ocean:

Principle 1

Support our community in adopting waste reduction in our waterways

- Source control - develop education and engagement programs that help our community understand and reduce impact at the source
- Build understanding - integrate waste education into the community, with interactive learning within business precincts, community spaces (parks and fields) and signage at water quality devices and systems
- Remove accumulated waste - encourage community participation in litter removal/reduction projects and activities (e.g. Clean Up Australia Day)
- Build support - encourage neighbouring Councils and other stakeholders to manage their runoff to the ocean
- Increase capacity - help commercial and residential community members maintain privately-owned water treatment systems
- Establishing and enhancing policies for developments to prevent pollution from private sources to public areas
- Promote achievements - report positive outcomes Council has achieved

Principle 3

Improve waste removal in our existing stormwater network through sustainable asset management

- Integrate across assets - review and embed opportunities for minimising waste generation and transport across Council's various assets
- Improve assets - establishing and planning for appropriate stormwater treatment for outlets into all waterways
- Sustainable funding - identify stormwater treatment opportunities and potential funding within asset management plans
- Maintenance - identify and improve key maintenance activities that can reduce waste distribution (e.g. cleansing of public spaces, street sweeping etc).
- Resource recovery - where feasible, facilitate and promote the re-use and re-purposing of waste captured in stormwater treatment devices
- Site planning - identify opportunities to upgrade/modify existing waste control structures to improve performance, and utilise materials that minimise waste being produced
- Monitoring and reporting - ensure regular monitoring and inspection regimes are in place for installed stormwater treatment systems to demonstrate they are having positive outcomes for the environment

Principle 2

Develop and implement waterway waste & stormwater quality targets

- Set targets - research, develop and implement targets that support Council and the community moving towards zero waste to oceans (including definitions of "waste" associated with this Charter)
- Embed targets - maintain visibility of relevant policies and procedures to seek opportunities to drive down waste to oceans
- Support broad uptake - engage with stakeholders and partners to support them in the development and implementation of their own targets including State Government and local business
- Maintain best practice - continue to review targets and outcomes to ensure efficient direction of resources and expertise
- Rectification, installation and management of existing and new stormwater treatment assets
- Technology and innovative solutions will be used wherever possible to improve waste treatment in our waterways and catchments

Principle 4

Integrate best practice litter reduction and stormwater quality controls in future development

- Planning controls - review planning requirements to accommodate water sensitive urban design principles and minimise waste generation and transport to waterways
- Improve future practices - continually develop and use best practice methods for water capture and reuse and for capture and recycling of waste
- Lead - ensure new Council facilities are exemplars of best practices with respect to waste generation, treatment and removal

Implementation

This Charter provides a series of principles to guide Council in relation to managing the generation and transport of waste to our local waterways and ultimately the Tasman Sea, Pittwater and greater Sydney Harbour. It does not take precedent over Council's adopted plans, policies and procedures, but should inform future reviews and documentation.



Michael Regan
Mayor