



northern
beaches
council

Environment
Strategic Reference Group

NOTES OF THE MEETING

ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held online via remote audio visual link on

MONDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2021

**Notes of the Meeting of the Environment Strategic Reference Group
held online via remote audio visual link on Monday 15 November 2021
Commencing at 6:05pm**

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Natalie Warren (Chair)	Councillor
Cr Alex McTaggart	Councillor
Roberta Conroy	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Alan Jones	Community Representative – Curl Curl Ward
Nigel Howard	Community Representative – Frenchs Forest Ward
Jacqueline Marlow	Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment
Billy Bragg	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward

Council Officer Contacts

Todd Dickinson	Director Environment and Sustainability
Yianni Mentis	Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change (<i>items 6.1, and 6.3</i>)
Andrew Ward-Harvey	Executive Manager Waste Management and Cleansing (<i>item 6.2</i>)
Jacqueline Grove	Manager Environment Resilience and Climate Change (<i>item 6.4</i>)
Ximena Von Oven	Governance Officer

NOTE: The Chair advised that the meeting would proceed as an informal meeting due to a lack of quorum. as per the Strategic Reference Group Terms of Reference.

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As a sign of respect, Northern Beaches Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and pays respect to Elders past and present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from T Hazell, M McRae, S Scott

3.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 19 AUGUST 2021

As no quorum was not achieved the Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 19 August 2021 were not confirmed.

5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Nil

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 SRG SUMMARY OF TERM

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Yianni Mentis, Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change briefed the group on this topic.

SRG members were thanked for their valuable contribution, expertise and enthusiasm at the SRG meetings.

The following points were discussed:

- SRG members were appointed in February 2018. The term is for 4 years which was due to expire in February 2022. However, due to the Local Government Elections, November meeting will be the last meeting of the current SRG members and councillors.
- An SRG review was undertaken in 2019. SRG members provided feedback and the outcome of the review will be forwarded to the new Councillors. This will provide an opportunity for Councillors to consider the feedback received and determine the committee framework.

- The Environment SRG aligns to goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Community Strategic Plan.
- Key projects that SRG members participated in include the Bushland and Biodiversity Policy, Climate Change Action Plan, Northern Beaches Environment Study, Red Bin Strategy, Zero Waste to Ocean Charter, Beaches Link Tunnel Environmental Update, Community Battery, Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040 amongst others.
- Next Steps

A presentation on this topic was provided to the group.

NOTES:

- SRG members thanked Council staff for their contribution and effort in organising the meetings, preparing reports and presentations for the Environment SRG. Members also acknowledged that it has been great working with people who are passionate and bring a great amount of expertise to the group.

6.2 WASTE - SUMMARY AND STATUS REPORT

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Andrew Ward-Harvey, Executive Manager Waste Management And Cleansing updated the group on Council's progress about initiatives raised in previous waste service briefings to the Environment SRG.

A presentation on this topic was provided.

The following points were discussed:

- Overview of the Northern Beaches Waste and Circular Economy Strategy
- Circular Economy
- Recovery of Problem Waste
- Swap for Good Program
- Network of Recycling Centres
- Waste Community Dashboard
- Next steps

It was suggested that a website that in order to protect the environment, Council could develop a website that highlights which brands of products are causing more litter in order to protect the environment.

6.3 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Y Mentis, Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change presented an update on the progress against key initiatives currently being undertaken by the Environment and Climate Change Business Unit.

A presentation on this topic was provided.

The following points were discussed:

Wakehurst Parkway Flood Mitigation Project

Council received fund granting through the Stronger Communities Fund from the Office of Local Government, which was used to investigate options to address the frequent flooding. Several investigations were undertaken and the Flood Mitigation Feasibility Study was completed in 2021. The result of the study was that mitigation from frequent flooding is achievable through a combination of culverts, levees and sediment removal. Public exhibition of the Study was undertaken between May and July. Engagement results are currently being analysed and Council is working with Transport for New South Wales with regards to additional funding. Results from the engagement will be presented to Council in February 2022.

Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Strategy

The Strategy is being developed in response to the Narrabeen Lagoon Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (2019). This Strategy will investigate all aspects of entrance management which include sediment transport, flood benefits, entrance efficiency and dynamics, long term costs and sustainability of entrance options. Community engagement was undertaken and 96 submissions were received. Short, medium and long term approaches were prepared following consultation and currently the consultants are finalising the Strategy after which staff and panel will review it and present it to Councillors and the Northern Beaches Flood Management Committee to further present to Council to be placed on public exhibition.

Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Clearance Works

This project occurs every 3-4 years based on existing conditions in the Eastern Shoal of Narrabeen Lagoon. Works are undertaken in order to mitigate flooding risk, improve the water quality of the lagoon, conserve and enhance the biological diversity of the lagoon system and maintain beach amenity of Collaroy – Narrabeen. Works have begun in September 2021 and will run for 12 weeks.

Draft Environment Study for Public Exhibition

This Study aims to provide direction for the Northern Beaches Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and the Development Control Plan (DCP) through recommendations. The draft Study describes the natural environment of the Northern Beaches Local Government area including bushland, biodiversity, coasts, catchments and waterways. It also describes the importance of open space and the connections between the natural and urban environment and recommends environmental planning actions to help deliver five planning priorities adopted in the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) – Towards 2040.

The draft study will be placed on public exhibition early next year.

Other Key projects

SRG members were also updated on other important projects like the Collaroy-Narrabeen protection works, bushland condition mapping, creek rehabilitation strategy, stormwater works and online dashboards for waste and enviro conditions.

6.4 ENVIRONMENTAL TRUSTS

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Todd Dickinson, Director Environmental Sustainability and Jacqueline Grove Manager Environment Resilience and Climate Change briefed the group on this topic.

Northern Beaches Council supports two charitable trusts: Pittwater Environmental Trust and Warringah (Northern Beaches) Council Trust for the Acquisition of Environmentally Sensitive Land.

These trusts provide opportunities for funding environmental projects in the former Pittwater Council area and the purchase of environmentally sensitive lands in the former Warringah Council area. Both trusts were established by former Pittwater and Warringah Council and have different purposes.

Warringah Trust was established in 2011 and is administered by the Trust Authority which has requested feedback from the Environment SRG members.

A presentation on this topic was provided to the group.

DISCUSSION

SRG members were requested to participate in a workshop to provide input with regards to the following questions:

Does the trust need a new name?

- Northern Beaches Eco Fund
- Habitata
- Bushland Fund
- Citizens for Natural Habitat
- Citizens for Habitat Fund
- Community Fund for the Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment of the Northern Beaches
- Community Fund for the Expansion and Conservation of Sensitive Ecosystems on the Northern Beaches

What would encourage you to donate to the trust?

- Link to school fundraisers, corporate
- Pyramid of what a donation will buy (with regards to land)
- Engage with the young community
- Good website, social media presence
- Review rainforest, rescue, canopy keepers

How could we better market the trust?

- Use existing networks for promotion (i.e. newsletters)

Do you have any suggestions to encourage those who wouldn't normally donate?

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting concluded at 8:16pm

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 7 pages numbered 1 to 7 of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 18 November 2021.