



AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Environment Strategic Reference Group will be held online via Teams on:

THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2021

Beginning at 6:00pm for the purpose of considering matters included in this agenda.

Committee Members

Cr Natalie Warren (Chair)	Councillor
Cr Alex McTaggart	Councillor
Cr Pat Daley	Councillor
Cr Stuart Sprott	Councillor
Sophie Scott	Community Representative – Manly Ward
Roberta Conroy	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Alan Jones	Community Representative – Curl Curl Ward
Tom Hazell	Community Representative – Curl Curl Ward
David Tribe	Community Representative – Narrabeen Ward
Nigel Howard	Community Representative – Frenchs Forest Ward
Viktorija McDonnell	Curl Curl Lagoon Committee
Marita Macrae	Pittwater Natural Heritage Association
Jacqueline Marlow	Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment
Billy Bragg	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Scott Markich	Community Representative – Narrabeen Ward

Council Officer Contacts

Todd Dickinson	Director Environment and Sustainability
Yianni Mentis	Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change
Ximena Von Oven	Governance Officer

Quorum

A majority of members including the Chair or one of the elected Councillors.

**Agenda for Environment Strategic Reference Group Meeting
to be held online via TEAMS on Thursday 18 February 2021
Commencing at 6:00pm**

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NEXT MEETING Thursday 20 May 2021

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

All members are expected to attend the meetings or otherwise tender their apologies to the Chair and Governance at councilmeetings@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au.

3.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Members should disclose any "**pecuniary**" or "**non-pecuniary**" interests in matters included in the agenda. The [Northern Beaches Council Code of Conduct](#) (the Code) provides guidance on managing conflicts of interests.

A **pecuniary interest** is defined in Section 4 of the Code as:

A pecuniary interest is an interest that you have in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to you or a person referred to in clause 4.3.

A **non-pecuniary conflict of interest** is defined in Section 5 of the Code as:

A non-pecuniary conflict of interest exists where a reasonable and informed person would perceive that you could be influenced by a private interest when carrying out your official functions in relation to a matter.

If you required further information or guidance about disclosing an interest please contact Governance at councilmeetings@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 19 NOVEMBER 2020

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 19 November 2020, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 6.1	NORTHERN BEACHES RESILIENCE STRATEGY - 20 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	RESILIENCE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR
TRIM FILE REF	2021/043246
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

To provide information to the Strategic Reference Group as to the development of the Northern Beaches Resilience Strategy.

BACKGROUND

Northern Beaches Council is developing a Resilience Strategy (the Strategy) that will continue to build the resilience of our community from the impact of short term disruptions such as natural disasters (bush fire, flood, storm etc.), to longer term stressors that affect the foundations of our community including economic downturn, climate change, housing affordability, ageing infrastructure and the like.

The drivers for action are becoming more apparent given the increase: in the frequency and intensity of natural hazards; of exposure of our community, assets and infrastructure; and the costs of response and recovery.

The Strategy will respond to these challenges and opportunities, whilst highlighting the importance of collective resilience, meaning that all aspects of our community have a shared responsibility including government, business, groups and individuals.

It is envisaged that the Strategy will comprise two main parts:

1. Overarching framework - reflects the strengths of our community, identifies opportunities to overcome our vulnerabilities, and the approach to strengthen resilience within the Northern Beaches
2. Action/Implementation Plan – identifies a range of specific actions and activities that align with the resilience objectives.

DISCUSSION

Resilience is the capacity of the whole community including individuals, communities, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and thrive no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.

In essence, it means that our community has the ability to respond positively and is able to transform itself so that it is stronger into the future.

Resilience is a continuous learning and adaptive process, and therefore requires a dynamic approach to account for change over time.

Why is Resilience Important

The Northern Beaches has a significant number of residents and businesses exposed to a number of risks including bush fire, storm, flood, heatwave and coastal erosion. As we have seen in the recent pandemic across the globe and more locally, no community is immune to the wide ranging challenges this event has presented, in all aspects of our lives.

Disasters and disruptions can be expensive and impactful - whether they are caused by short term shocks or chronic stresses affecting our community. People can lose their lives, livelihoods and mental health can be affected. Governments, businesses and the community are required to fund losses and recover costs when infrastructure fails, markets change or the environment is damaged.

Taking action to proactively manage these challenges and interdependencies offers multiple benefits to our community:

- People understand the risks that may affect them and others in their community
- People act to prepare for acute shock events and are adaptive and flexible to respond appropriately during personal and community emergencies
- People anticipate acute shock and chronic stress events - they have taken steps to protect themselves, their assets and their livelihoods
- People work together with local leaders using their knowledge and resources to prepare for and deal with acute shock events
- People work in partnerships with emergency services, their local authorities and other relevant organisations before, during and after emergencies
- The emergency management volunteer sector is strong
- Emergency management plans are resilience-based, to build broad resilience within communities over time
- Communities, governments and other organisations take resilience outcomes into account when considering and developing core services, products and policies
- Land use planning systems and building control arrangements reduce community exposure to risks from known hazards, and suitable arrangements are implemented to protect life and property
- Following a crisis event, a satisfactory range of functioning is restored quickly
- People understand the mechanisms and processes through which recovery assistance may be available
- People understand that initial support will be offered to the most vulnerable community members (COAG, 2011)

The Resilience Strategy will focus on both Community and Organisation Resilience. Figure 1 below identifies key focus areas, however during the engagement process additional focus areas may be identified and/or further refined.



Figure 1 – Community & Organisational Resilience Focus Areas

Drivers for Action

The [National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework](#) (Commonwealth of Australia, 2018), notes that is necessary for our community and organisation to invest in resilience outcomes on the basis that:

- *natural hazards are more frequent and intense as a result of climate change*
- *essential services and systems that our community rely upon are interconnected and interdependent*
- *people and assets are more exposed and vulnerable*
- *the impacts from disasters can be long term and complex*
- *the costs of disasters are increasing*
- *momentum to address financial impacts of changing climate is building.*

Community Engagement

The proposed engagement strategy will encompass a range of community engagement activities to better understand our resilience strengths and challenges. These include:

- Online survey via a Yoursay webpage
- Telephone survey of approx. 400 northern beaches residents
- Face to Face survey
- Facilitated workshop bringing together members of the all SRGs
- Focus groups
- Public exhibition of Draft Strategy.

Proposed Project Timeframes

The following table provides an approximate project timeline noting these may be subject to change as the project is further refined.

Phase	Action	Description	Approx. Timeframe
Phase 1	Project Planning & Background Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of existing information Develop project plan Develop engagement strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete
Phase 2	Community and Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted community and stakeholder engagement SRG engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March - April
Phase 3	Public Exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public consultation Review of submissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July - August
Phase 4	Adoption and Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy adoption by Council Commence actioning implementation plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption - September/October Implementation – ongoing

RECOMMENDATION OF RESILIENCE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

That members of the Environment Strategic Reference Group:

1. Note the commencement of the project
 2. Participate in further engagement activities to assist in the development of the Resilience Strategy
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ITEM 6.2	NARRABEEN LAGOON ENTRANCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - 15 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	TEAM LEADER, FLOODPLAIN PLANNING AND RESPONSE
TRIM FILE REF	2021/050429
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide an update on the Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Strategy.

REPORT

Council is in the process of developing the Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Strategy (the Strategy). The Strategy will investigate all aspects of entrance management, including emergency response arrangements, clearance work improvements and the long-term costs and sustainability of entrance-specific options.

Initial community consultation on the Strategy will be undertaken throughout February and March 2021 to help understand the community's preferences for how they would like the lagoon entrance to be managed. An explainer video has been prepared to support the initial community consultation and it will be shown to the Environment SRG at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION OF TEAM LEADER, FLOODPLAIN PLANNING AND RESPONSE

That the information be noted.

ITEM 6.3	NORTHERN BEACHES WASTE STRATEGY - 20 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	EXECUTIVE MANAGER WASTE MANAGEMENT & CLEANSING
TRIM FILE REF	2021/044312
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

The purpose of this report is to further discuss the timing of and process for the development of the Northern Beaches Waste Strategy.

BACKGROUND

The Committee will recall that a proposed Northern Beaches Waste Strategy was discussed at the SRG meeting of 20 August 2020. The following SRG members' comments were minuted:

- That Council deals with our waste and the need to reduce the necessity to transport the garbage as it is environmentally unfriendly.
- Involvement of community members in compost programs.

DISCUSSION

Council's Waste unit has commenced preparing a Northern Beaches Waste Strategy to align with timing of the NSW Government's 20 Year Waste Strategy. The Waste unit will conduct a workshop session at this meeting to seek your feedback on key actions and initiatives for the Waste Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER WASTE MANAGEMENT & CLEANSING

That the report be received and noted.

ITEM 6.4	STAFF UPDATE - 15 MINS
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE
TRIM FILE REF	2021/049461
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide an update to the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG) on recent projects undertaken by the Environment & Sustainability Division.

REPORT

Progress on Action Plans

The draft Climate Change Action Plan has been through internal studio design and is undergoing final edits. Once completed it will be placed on the website and the ESRG notified.

The draft versions of a number of the other required action plans are being prepared and comments will be sought from this group in the coming meetings, including the Environmental Education and Sustainable Behaviours, Bushland, Biodiversity and Waterways and Catchments. These Action Plans will be completed by the end of June 2021.

Bush Fire Update

Preparations for the 20/21 bushfire season have included ongoing maintenance of Asset Protection Zones (APZ), hazard reduction burns, and fire trail maintenance works.

Fire agencies have undertaken 14 hazard reduction burns on Council land and these burns have seen a total of 40 hectares of bushland hazard reduced to protect the community and environment. Of the remaining Council proposed hazard reduction burns on the Northern Beaches Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) 2020/21 Hazard Reduction Program, 21 sites are prepared and awaiting fire agencies to undertake the burns.

Council's contractors completed maintenance works on 250 extreme risk sites ahead of the fire season (done during October) and are now focusing maintenance works on the entire APZ network including lower priority sites. Council continues to receive support for its Asset Protection Zone works through grant funding programs administered by the NSW Rural Fire Service.

All fire trails were inspected and found to be passable for fire-fighting purposes. Three fire trails are targeted for maintenance improvements during the 2020/21 financial year, and Council will use NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) funding to support these works.

To further support Council's bush fire management program a new Bush Fire Management Policy has been prepared. The draft policy was placed on public exhibition from 4 November 2020 to 20 December 2020 and received 49 submissions. Submissions have been reviewed and considered in the Policy which is expected to be tabled to Council at the 23 February Council meeting.

LEP/DCP Discussion Paper

The Discussion Paper will identify key issues and concerns that Council will need to address to both implement, as far as practicable, the actions contained in Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement – Towards 2040 – and to consolidate Council's four current LEPs and DCPs into a single plan.

The Discussion Paper is being prepared having regard to a range of stakeholder inputs, including the most recent ESG comments, and is the beginning of the conversation with the community about the specific controls and standards we need for a sustainable future. It is anticipated that the Discussion Paper will be reported to the April 2021 Council meeting for endorsement to publicly exhibit.

Work in ECC to support the LEP/DCP process

Work is continuing on a number of technical studies to support the development of the new LEP/DCP. These include the Environment Study, Biodiversity Planning Review (including deferred lands review and survey), Riparian Provisions, Geotechnical Engineering Study, Stormwater Strategy and Estuarine Planning Levels Studies for the Harbour and Cowan Creek.

Waste Updates

Council's Waste and Cleansing team are:

- Exploring grant opportunities with the NSW Government (through the NSW EPA) for co-funding a microfactory at Kimbriki to recycle community 'problem wastes' (including plastics)
- Finalising the online portal for the Northern Beaches network of recycling and reuse facilities; an interactive portal for the community to locate recycling and reuse facilities across the Northern Beaches.

RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE

That the information be noted.
