



northern  
beaches  
council

# AGENDA

## **EXTRAORDINARY ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary meeting of the Environment Strategic Reference Group will be held online via TEAMS on

**THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2020**

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

## **Committee Members**

Cr Natalie Warren (Chair)	Councillor
Cr Pat Daley	Councillor
Cr Alex McTaggart	Councillor
Cr Stuart Sprott	Councillor
Sophie Scott	Community Representative – Manly Ward
Roberta Conroy	Bayview Church Point Residents Association
Alan Jones	Community Representative – Curl Curl Ward
Tom Hazell	Community Representative – Curl Curl Ward
David Tribe	Community Representative
Nigel Howard	Community Representative
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

## **Council Officer Contacts**

Todd Dickinson	Director Environment and Sustainability
Yianni Mentis	Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change
Jacqueline Grove	Manager Environment Resilience and Climate Change
Chris Munro	Manager Bushland and Biodiversity
Ximena Von Oven	Governance Officer

## **Quorum**

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

**Agenda for Extraordinary Environment Strategic Reference Group  
Meeting to be held online via Teams on Thursday 10 September 2020  
Commencing at 6:00pm**

<b>1.0</b>	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.....</b>	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>APOLOGIES .....</b>	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST.....</b>	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING</b>	
	Nil	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEMS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1	Draft Bush Fire Management Policy Principles .....	4
5.2	Staff Update .....	7
<b>6.0</b>	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b>	

**NEXT MEETING Thursday 19 November 2020**

## 5.0 AGENDA ITEMS

<b>ITEM 5.1</b>	<b>DRAFT BUSH FIRE MANAGEMENT POLICY PRINCIPLES</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER</b>	<b>COORDINATOR, BUSHFIRE &amp; BIODIVERSITY</b>
<b>TRIM FILE REF</b>	<b>2020/522158</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	<b>NIL</b>

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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#### PURPOSE

To present the Draft Bush Fire Management Policy Principles to the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG) for discussion.

#### REPORT

Since the formation of Northern Beaches Council, there has been a need to review and consolidate various policies of the former councils. The former Councils did not have bush fire management policies and as such one has been drafted to guide the management of this important issue for the Northern Beaches Council area.

The purpose of the Policy will be:

- To implement effective, risk-based bush fire management to preserve life and reduce the impact of bush fire on property, infrastructure and the environment on land under the care, control and management of Council
- To participate in the management of bush fire risk across the Northern Beaches landscape in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Rural Fires Act 1997.

The draft Policy has been developed using best practice and provides a framework that addresses the major threats from bush fire, recognising that the Northern Beaches is subject to some of the highest bush fire risk in the Sydney Basin and NSW. The policy plans for the consequences of climate change affecting bushland, particularly in relation to strategic bush fire mitigation measures.

In addressing the threats, the draft Policy will guide Council's decision-making using principles in four key areas, namely risk management, fire management, community engagement, and land use planning and development control.

The ESRG is asked to consider these draft principles and provide feedback as to whether the principles are clear and concise, and whether any further outcomes may be appropriate.

#### Risk Management

1. The safest action to protect life is for people to avoid the risk.
2. Bush fire threat can never be completely eliminated, and landowners should recognise the need for management measures when assuming a level of voluntary personal risk through choosing to live in bush fire prone areas.
3. Reducing vulnerability to bush fire is the collective responsibility of State and local government, landowners, industry and the community.
4. It is often not possible to reduce all identified risks. Efforts and resources should be targeted to reduce risks with the greatest potential impact.

5. Decision-making must be based on a holistic understanding of bush fire risk, the latest data, and should consider vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment.
6. Decisions and actions are prioritised by risk.

### **Fire Management**

7. Mitigation and treatment of bush fire risk will not be reliant on prescribed burning alone
8. Implement strategic fuel management works, including controlled burning in Council bushland and maintenance of identified Asset Protection Zones (APZ) in accordance with the current Risk Plan prepared by the Northern Beaches BFMC.
9. Maintain a network of designated service trails in Council bushland in accordance with the Risk Plan and FAFT to provide vehicular access for fire suppression and fire management purposes.
10. Where suitable APZs cannot be accommodated within adjoining property boundaries, maintain or establish APZs in appropriate locations on Council-managed land with the aim of providing access and a defensible space for firefighters to operate within after the passage of a fire front.
11. Refer bush fire hazard complaints to the NSW Rural Fire Service for review and determination.
12. Assess the environmental impacts of proposed fuel management works prior to undertaking the works in accordance with the NSW Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code or other relevant approval.
13. Council will seek to integrate traditional burning practices and fire regimes with current practices and technologies to improve risk mitigation and environmental outcomes.

### **Community Engagement**

14. Improve the engagement of communities in bush fire prone areas in bush fire mitigation and management so that responsibility for bush fire management is acknowledged and appropriately shared through governments, agencies, industries and individuals taking individual and combined action as a part of a comprehensive suite of strategies.
15. Conduct Council's bush regeneration program and Bushcare volunteer program in a manner supportive of fuel management objectives.

### **Land use Planning and Development Control.**

16. Use land use planning to reduce, as far as is practicable, community exposure to unreasonable risks from bush fire.
17. Increase resilience through effective land-use planning and building controls, supported by legislation, policy, guidance material and advice.
18. Development applications for properties at risk from bush fire provide for and accommodate adequate bush fire protection measures wholly within the boundaries of the development property.
19. Council owned/managed bushland should not be used for future asset protection purposes to accommodate new development.
20. Planning proposals and strategic assessments should not support inappropriate development in bush fire prone areas where environmental constraints cannot be overcome.

21. Council's Local Environment Plans (LEPs) and Development Control Plans (DCPs) address bush fire evacuation risk by limiting the intensification of development or creation of vulnerable developments in unsuitable locations.
22. The Northern Beaches Bush Fire Prone Land Map is reviewed every 5 years and updated as necessary.

These draft principles are currently included in the draft policy but may be amended based on the feedback from the ESG. Once complete, the full draft policy will be presented to Council with a recommendation to release for public exhibition.

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### **RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGER BUSHLAND & BIODIVERSITY**

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group review the draft principles of the draft Bush Fire Management Policy and provide comment during a workshop at the meeting.

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<b>ITEM 5.2</b>	<b>STAFF UPDATE</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER</b>	<b>MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE &amp; CLIMATE CHANGE</b>
<b>TRIM FILE REF</b>	<b>2020/527970</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	<b>NIL</b>

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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### PURPOSE

To provide an update to the Environment Strategic Reference Group (ESRG) on the electricity procurement project, the purchase of renewable energy certificates, and the Northern Beaches Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan.

### SUMMARY

#### Purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates

Council resolved at the 23 July 2019 meeting to adopt a renewable energy component of 30% as part of the electricity procurement for 2020. Unfortunately, this was unavailable at the time of procurement. However, Council will be proceeding with purchasing renewable energy certificates equivalent to 30% of Council's electricity use for the period covering the 2020 calendar year.

#### Current Electricity Procurement Project

At the 25 August 2020 meeting Council resolved that staff should undertake appropriate procurement to source renewable electricity via a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for up to ten years to commence as soon as practicable in 2021 and source Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) for 100% of Council's electricity load, to achieve Council's renewable electricity commitment, for the same term as the PPA.

#### Northern Beaches Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan

At the August 2020 ESRG meeting, staff from Council's Strategic & Place Planning Group outlined the work that is currently being undertaken to consolidate the planning instruments from the previous councils. In a follow up to this presentation, staff will provide an update on questions that were raised by Committee members.

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### RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group note the staff update report.

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