



northern
beaches
council

MINUTES

EXTRAORDINARY ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held in the Flannel Flower Room, Dee Why on

TUESDAY 13 AUGUST 2019

Minutes of the Extraordinary Environment Strategic Reference Group Meeting

Strategic Reference Group

held on Tuesday 13 August 2019

in the Flannel Flower Room, Dee Why

Commencing at 6:00pm

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Alex McTaggart (Chair)

Cr Natalie Warren

Cr Pat Daley

Cr Stuart Sprott

Sophie Scott

Roberta Conroy Bayview Church Point Residents Association

Alan Jones

Tom Hazell

David Tribe

Anthony Petrolo

Nigel Howard

Viktorija McDonnell Curl Curl Lagoon Committee

Jacqueline Marlow Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

Billy Bragg

Scott Markich

Council Officer Contacts

Todd Dickinson Executive Manager Natural Environment and Climate Change

James Leigh Acting Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change

Jacqui Grove Manager Environment Resilience and Climate Change

Christopher Munro Manager Bushland and Biodiversity

Ed McPeake Manager Greener Communities

Brendan Smith Team Leader Biodiversity and Planning

Kara Taylor Senior Sustainability Officer

Ximena Von Oven Governance Officer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr McTaggart acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which the meeting gathered, and paid respect to Elders past and present.

NOTE:

The Chairperson introduced Cr Bingham to the SRG members. Cr Bingham attended the meeting as an observer.

T Dickinson, Director Environment and Sustainability introduced the following Northern Beaches Council's staff to the group: James Leigh, Acting Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change, Jacqui Grove, Manager Environment Resilience and Climate Change, Christopher Munro, Manager Bushland and Biodiversity, Ed McPeake, Manager Greener Communities, Brendan Smith, Team Leader Biodiversity and Planning and Kara Taylor, Senior Sustainability Officer.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Marita Mcrae

2.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

3.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Nil

NOTE:

Cr McTaggart provided an overview of the aim and topics of today's Environment SRG meeting.

4.0 AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 UPDATE ON STRATEGIES AND POLICIES FOR THE AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING

Draft Bushland and Biodiversity Policy Review

C Munro, Manager Bushland and Biodiversity, provided a presentation to the SRG members on this topic. The following topics were highlighted:

- Relevant plans, policies and legislation
- Consultation undertaken:
 - Workshop with the Environment SRG on 9 May 2019
 - Internal consultation with Council departments
- Policy Statement – Council aims to protect, enhance and restore the local bushland and biodiversity and the unique value it has on the Northern Beaches.
- 4 keys policy areas were discussed:
 - Strategic land-use planning

- Assessment of development activities
- Management of bushland areas on public land
- Management of invasive species

SRG members raised the following points:

- Program of ongoing engagement with owners of private land owner (aboriginal land) topic should be included in the Draft Bushland and Biodiversity Policy
- Identify any future wild life corridors

Next Steps

- The Draft Bushland and Biodiversity Policy will be presented at the 27 August Council Meeting afterwards will be placed on public exhibition.

NOTE:

Cr Warren, V McDonnell and S Markich arrived at 6:14pm

DECISION

A Jones/ V McDonnell

That the Draft Bushland and Biodiversity Policy be presented to Council on 27 August and be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.

Adopted unanimously

Draft Northern Beaches Environment And Climate Change Strategy 2040

Jacqui Grove, Manager Environment Resilience and Climate Change thanked the group for their assistance in the development of the strategy and briefed the group with regards to this topic. The following points were highlighted:

- The strategy is Northern Beaches Council's plan for a healthy and diverse natural environment that is respected, supported and celebrated.
- The Strategy is built around 3 major directions:
 - Protect, Create and Live
- The Strategy includes the goals, commitments, aspirations and strategies that were developed with input and feedback from stakeholders, including Council's Environment SRG, and the community through workshops and focus groups.
- The goals and commitments in the Strategy will be delivered through the development of ten action plans; the first of which is the Climate Change Action Plan.
- Northern Beaches Council will evaluate how are we tracking against the goal and commitments of the Draft Northern Beaches Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040 and a thorough review will be done every 4 years.

Members were provided with a copy of the Draft Northern Beaches Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040 document and provided comments during the meeting. These comments were captured and where possible have been addressed in the draft document for public exhibition. Information will be forwarded back to the group regarding the status of these comments.

Next Steps

- The Draft Northern Beaches Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040 will be presented to Council at the August 2019 Council meeting for public exhibition.
- Following the public exhibition the Draft Northern Beaches Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040, submissions will be reviewed and considered and the strategy will be presented to Council for adoption.

Cr McTaggart requested SRG members to send any submission to T Dickinson or himself directly

DECISION

T Hazell/V McDonnell

That the draft Environment and Climate Change Strategy be presented to Council and be placed in public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.

Adopted unanimously

DECISION

A Jones/ S Markich

That the SRG notes that 935 jurisdictions around the world have declared a “climate change emergency” on the need to reduce carbon emissions and calls on Northern Beaches Council to follow.

Adopted unanimously.

Abstained: Cr Daley

DECISION

A Jones/ N Howard

That the Environment SRG acknowledges that population growth will make out difficult to achieve many of the targets in the Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

Adopted unanimously

Barriers to Solar Uptake

Ed McPeake, Manager Greener Communities provided a presentation on this topic. The following points were discussed:

- Northern Beaches Council undertook a community engagement process during May and June to determine the local barriers to solar panel installation.
- Community surveys, review of the existing “Our Energy Future” program, review of recent research into solar barriers and community and businesses workshops were held.
- The findings from the Community Survey were provided that noted the main barriers were cost, lack of knowledge about the different systems and technology, planning controls/policies and lack of confidence in solar power suppliers/installers.
- Proposed actions to address barriers
- Proposed residential solar targets

DECISION

N Howard/ V McDonnell

That the Environment SRG notes that the Northern Beaches has 12.6 % of available homes fitted with solar and proposes that Northern Beaches Council adopts a target of 50 % of suitable premises with solar by 2030.

Adopted unanimously

5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

The following question was raised:

Will an update on the Environment Centres be presented to the Environment SRG? Yes

The meeting concluded at 8:36pm

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 6 pages numbered 1 to 6 of the Extraordinary Environment Strategic Reference Group held on Tuesday 13 August 2019 and confirmed on Thursday 29 August 2019