



MINUTES

ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held in the Coastal Environment Centre, Narrabeen on

THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER 2018

**Minutes of the Environment
Strategic Reference Group
held on Thursday 13 December 2018
in the Coastal Environment Centre, Narrabeen
Commencing at 6:10pm**

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

Marita Macrae Pittwater Natural Heritage Association

Jacqueline Marlow Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

Billy Bragg

Scott Markich

Council Officer Contacts

Todd Dickinson Executive Manager Natural Environment & Climate Change

Adrian Turnbull Manager Coast and Catchments

Jacqueline Grove Manager Environment, Resilience and Climate Change

Kara Taylor Senior Sustainability Officer

Ximena Von Oven Governance Officer

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Viktorija McDonell

2.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 27 September 2018, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

A Jones/ M Macrae

4.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

4.1 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

DISCUSSION

The group reviewed the actions from the previous meeting and confirmed the following have been completed:

- Manly Environment Centre topic to be placed on the 13 December 2018 SRG Agenda
- Executive Manager, Natural Environment and Climate Change to forward the final submission on the proposed Marine Park for the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion to the SRG.
- Distribute an electronic version of Nigel Howard's presentation to the group

NOTE

- Cr Warren highlighted information regarding Notice of Motion No 72/2018 - Formal Opposition to the Adani Carmichael Coal Mine which will be presented on 18 December Council Meeting. SRG members were invited to attend the Council Meeting.
- Cr Daley highlighted information about Notice of Motion No 68/2018 - Return of East Esplanade to 24 Hours Alcohol Free Zone. It was highlighted that there is a great deal of concern regarding the impact that glass bottles left on the grass have on the environment.

5.0 AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 NORTHERN BEACHES LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

Suzy Lawrence, Principal Planner provided a presentation regarding the Northern Beaches Local Environment Plan.

The following points were discussed:

- Background
- Aim of the Plan
- Plan is land focussed (20 year vision)
- Redevelopment of the Planning Framework
- It is not a static document, it will be updated regularly
- Sits alongside Council's Community Strategic Plan
- Planning framework for greater Sydney
- Local Environmental Plan Road Map
- Housing Strategies
- Increased population and climate change
- Priorities regarding protecting waterways, bushland and natural hazards
- Environment Study
- Next Steps – drafting of a new Local Strategic Planning Statement

The following questions were raised:

- Will population around the Northern Beaches continue to grow?
- Interactions between climate change and population?
- How is Council going to respond to sea level rise and severe impacts of climate change envisaged in the future?
- How will Council deal with competing aspirations within the Transport Strategy?
- Will Council be considering areas for smaller lot housing when developing the Housing Strategy?
- How will Council address the increase in building footprints and the impact on stormwater and waterways?
- Is there a possibility to reducing the permissible site coverage with regards to house driveways?

NOTES:

- Workshops will be held early February 2019 - SRG members will be invited to participate.
- Focus Group – to be held in March 2019.

- A community brochure including information about the Housing Strategy will be circulated to the community in due course.

Cr Daley left the meeting at 6:51pm

ACTIONS

- Council to inform the community about the process and steps undertaken to prepare the Northern Beaches Local Environmental Plan.
- That the Environment Strategic Reference Group commits to providing input into the vision, priorities and actions for the draft Local Environment Plans via extraordinary meetings to be scheduled early 2019.

NOTE:

Item 5.3 was discussed after Item 5.1.

5.3 NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT CENTRES

DISCUSSION

T Dickinson, Executive Manager Natural Environment & Climate Change provided a presentation in relation to this topic. Mr Dickinson discussed the importance of maintaining a strategic view of the Centres and their future, and also being sensitive to the staff involved at the Centres who have a proud history of achievement over many years. The following points were presented to the Group:

- Overview of the Coastal Environment Centre (CEC) and the Manly Environment Centre (MEC)
- School and community programs in operating in each Centre
- Functions/services in each Centre
- Budgets/expenditure for in each Centre
- Community interactions with each Centre
- How does Council align the centres to what the community needs are in the future?

As both Environment Centres are operating in a different way, feedback was sought from the Group around a number of key questions:

- What services do you and your networks value?
- Are the services/ functions aligned to what we know about our community?
- Are the Centres set up to deliver on our Environment Strategy and CSP goals?
- Should the services be different in each location?

SRG members raised the following points with regards to this topic:

- Should environment centres continue to operate geographically? Or should centres operate together?
- It was suggested that Council should consider locating Centres within or next to a Northern Beaches Council Library in order to reach a diverse range of community members

(i.e. particularly mums)

- Council should provide information about which schools participate in the programs run by the Coastal Environment Centres and whether there are other funding opportunities from the schools
- There should be a stronger direction with regards to the programs offered at each Centre i.e. they are operating consistent with strategic goals
- The centres could be used to educate community members about climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Programs and information provided at each Centre should be appealing not only to school demographic but to the broadest range of community members we can
- Both Centres should be focusing in having information available in digital format. However, should also recognise that not everyone has access to or is comfortable with digital communication/format
- Each Centre could cater their services to be more focused on a particular subject or could offer same/similar services at each
- Centres should continue to have Council staff available, as face to face customer service and interaction amongst community members is important

The aim of this presentation was to gather feedback in order to start exploring what opportunities there are to make the Centres as accessible as possible to the community.

NOTES:

- SRG members thanked current and past staff of the Coastal Environment Centre (CEC) and the Manly Environment Centre (MEC) for their services and great work provided.

J Marlow / M Mcrae

Cr Sprott left the meeting at 7:25pm.

5.2 DUNES CONDITION TECHNICAL REPORT

DISCUSSION

Adrian Turnbull, Manager Coast & Catchments, provided a presentation about this topic. The following points were discussed:

- Project overview
- Aim of the project is to gain current and consistent information on dunes conditions in order to develop a dune and vegetation condition assessment suitable for the Local Government area.
- Key focus of dune management relates to weed control, improving wildlife corridors and an overall protection and improvement of dunes.
- Methodology used to define the study area, dunes and dune bays
- Results of the assessment were presented to the SRG members
- Next Steps

A Dune Strategy is currently being prepared. SRG members were consulted about their interest in participating providing information and feedback on this topic with regards to what areas Council should be prioritising for the preparation of the Strategy. SRG members agreed to participate.

ACTION

A Turnbull to report back to the Environment SRG with regards to this topic at a future meeting.

5.4 DRAFT NORTHERN BEACHES ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

DISCUSSION

Jaqueline Grove, Manager Environment Resilience & Climate Change and Kara Taylor, Senior Sustainability Officer provided a presentation on this Item. The following points were discussed:

- Internal, external workshops and focus groups have been held in order to gather feedback to develop the Draft Northern Beaches Environment Strategy
- Internal workshops covered a variety of topics being the main ones: climate change, bushland, coast, waterways and catchments, biodiversity, natural hazards and carbon and water use
- As a result of the workshops it was noticed that education, engagement and collaboration are key drivers to changing behaviours and help to deliver aspirations
- First draft of the objectives, aspirations and future directions and revised framework has been developed
- The working draft will be sent to SRG members before Christmas for a four week review period
- Once comments have been considered, and further amendments made, the draft document will be finalised and professionally design ready for public exhibition
- Draft Objectives
 - Protect – bushland, biodiversity and coast
 - Create – sustainable built environment and green neighbourhoods
 - Live - Sustainable living, adaptation and resilience

Next Steps

- Draft Northern Beaches Environment Strategy is forecast to be presented at 26 March 2019 Council Meeting.

NOTE:

Sophie Scott left the meeting at 8:07pm.

ACTION

Environment SRG members to provide comments about the Draft Northern Beaches Environment Strategy – (19 December – 18 January 2019)

5.5 ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2019

The Environment Strategic Reference Group note the meeting schedule for 2019.

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
5.1	Council to inform the community about the process and steps undertaken to prepare the Northern Beaches Local Environmental Plan.	Todd Dickinson	
5.1	That the Environment Strategic Reference Group commits to providing input into the vision, priorities and actions for the draft Local Environment Plans via extraordinary meetings to be scheduled early 2019.	SRG Members	February 2019
5.2	A Turnbull to report back to the Environment SRG with regards to the Dunes Condition Technical Report	Adrian Turnbull	Future meeting
5.4	Environment SRG members to provide comments on the draft Northern Beaches Environment Strategy by 18 January 2019.	Environment SRG members	18 January 2019

The meeting concluded at 8:16pm

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 8 pages numbered 1 to 8 of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 13 December 2018 and confirmed on Thursday 28 February 2019.