



northern
beaches
council

Environment
Strategic Reference Group

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held online via TEAMS

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2020

**Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group
held online via TEAMS on Thursday 19 November 2020
Commencing at 6:00pm**

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Natalie Warren (Chair)	Councillor
Cr Alex McTaggart	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
Nigel Howard	Community Representative – Frenchs Forest Ward
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
Neil Cocks	Manager Strategic and Place Planning (<i>item 6.1</i>)
Kim Kirstein	Meridian Urban (<i>item 6.1</i>)
Russell Peake	Manager Social Planning and Services (<i>item 6.2</i>)
Briana Davis	Social Planning and Strategy Coordinator (<i>item 6.2</i>)
Tony Walmsley	Manager Waste Services (<i>item 6.3</i>)
Jodie Crawford	Acting Manager Coast and Catchments (<i>item 6.3</i>)
Ruby Ardren	Project Leader Water Management (<i>item 6.3</i>)
Ximena Von Oven	Governance Officer

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 D Tribe and V McDonnell

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 20 AUGUST 2020

R Conroy / S Markich

That the Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 20 August 2020, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members , are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

4.2 MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP HELD 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

R Conroy / S Markich

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Environment Strategic Reference Group held 10 September 2020, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members , are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Nil

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 UPDATE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ZONES REVIEW

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

N Cocks, Manager Strategic Place and Planning provided an introduction to the topic. K Kirstein from Meridian Urban provided a presentation on this topic.

Meridian Urban Planning Consultants have been engaged to assist Council with undertaking a review of the Environmental Protection Zones (E Zones) for the Council's Local Environmental Plans (LEPs).

The aim of this update is to provide an overview of the E Zones review approach, to inform the SRG members on the process undertaken to date, and to brief the SRG members about the next steps in preparing the overall zoning framework. The framework will consider objectives and permitted land uses for rural, residential, business, industrial, infrastructure, recreation and waterway zones.

The first stage of the review included focus groups held with community members. The purpose of the focus groups was to engage with a broader group of landowners and community members across the local government area to obtain a better understanding of the values, issues and concerns that could influence the design and application of Environmental Zones across the Northern Beaches. SRG members were briefed on the summary of the findings from the community survey undertaken.

DISCUSSION

The following points were discussed:

- Definition of a Local Environmental Plan (LEP)
- Definition of Environmental Zones (E Zones)
- Types of E Zones
- Purpose of the E Zones review
- E Zones review process
- Purpose of the Community Survey
- Data and results from the Community Survey
- Project timeline.

6.2 SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

R Peake, Manager Social Planning and Services and B Davis, Social Planning and Strategy Coordinator updated the SRG members on the status and approach to develop the Better Together, Social Sustainability Strategy 2041 (the Strategy). The aim of the Strategy is to set a long-term social direction for building skills and knowledge in the community that enables wellbeing and resilience. The Strategy will be a key mechanism for Northern Beaches Council to achieve its commitment to the community: "To deliver a safe, inclusive and connected community that lives in balance with the extraordinary coastal and bushland environment (Shape 2028 Community Vision)". A presentation was provided.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Purpose of having a Social Sustainability Strategy
- Planning framework
- Community strengths
- Definition of social sustainability and environmental sustainability
- Community engagement undertaken with internal and external stakeholders
- Timeframe for delivery of a Social Sustainability Strategy is June 2021.

SRG members suggested the following topics should be included in the Strategy:

- Importance of population increase rate with regards to preserving the environment
- Climate change impact on social and environmental sustainability
- Equity and intergenerational connection
- Local connection should be a pillar of the strategy
- Engagement with community groups that have been disenfranchised.

NOTE: A special SRG meeting which will include all SRG members will be held in February 2021 to discuss the development of the Social Sustainability Strategy.

6.3 FEASIBILITY STUDY - NETWORK OF RECYCLING CENTRES

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

T Walmsley, Manager Waste Services provided a presentation to the SRG members. The aim of the presentation is to report to the SRG on the outcomes of a feasibility study on establishing a network of recycling centres across the Northern Beaches. Business models in other Local Government Areas (LGAs) have been studied to gather ideas on what could be implemented in the Northern Beaches area.

DISCUSSION

The following topics were discussed:

- Challenges and risks of establishing a physical network of recycling centres
- Business models in other LGAs (Canberra and City of Sydney models)
- Potential models for the centres:

Model 1

- This model assumes new sites being created
- Sites could include warehouse or pop-up shops
- Insourced and outsourced operations for this model
- No grants available to fund this option hence Council will need to fund it.

Model 2

- Create a virtual recycling network
- Partnership with charities
- Review waste collections.
- Promotion of existing recycling network (recycling collection points, online options, events etc)
- Role of education in the community to teach them how they can reduce their waste to landfill, including bulky goods items.

- Promotion of existing interactive map
(<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1JL2RRX7wTdau4cWQC5WKM8B2Sq8dyHNy&usp=sharing>)

NOTE 1: The meeting was extended for 30 mins.

NOTE 2: S Markich left the meeting at 8:00pm.

6.4 COMMERCIAL FEASIBILITY OF THE PROVISION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES FOR SCOTLAND ISLAND

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Y Mentis, Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change provided a presentation on this topic. In 2017, Northern Beaches Council received funding from the NSW State Government's Stronger Communities Fund to investigate the commercial feasibility of providing water and waste services for Scotland Island. A final draft Case for Investment report was prepared. This report recommends implementing a fully reticulated Sydney Water funded, operated and maintained system for both water and wastewater.

SRG members were updated on outcomes of the feasibility study and community consultation .

DISCUSSION

The following topics were discussed:

- Background
- Results of feasibility study
- Community feedback
- Next steps.

6.5 STAFF UPDATE

DISCUSSION

Y Mentis briefed the SRG members on the following topics:

Bush Fire Risk Management and Green Waste Collection for Offshore Communities

Fine fuel collection will be undertaken by Council in the week commencing 23 November 2020.

Offshore Waste Review

Review of waste services to the offshore communities is continuing. A phone survey has been undertaken and completed. An inspection of the wharves was conducted, which concluded that any potential improvements are location specific and need to be considered wharf by wharf.

Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management

Northern Beaches Council is developing the Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Strategy. The strategy's aim is to investigate all aspects of entrance management, including sediment transport, flood benefits, entrance efficiency and dynamics and the long term costs and sustainability of entrance specific options. Community consultation will be undertaken. An instructional video using local coastal experts is currently being developed to inform the community of the processes occurring at the entrance.

Zero Waste to Ocean Charter

At the August 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council adopted the Zero Waste to Ocean Charter (the Charter). Council resolved to write to all Australian coastal councils to encourage them to adopt their own charter to improve shared waterways. The Charter can be viewed on the below link:

<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/environment/pollution>

Draft Bush Fire Management Policy (draft Policy)

SRG members were briefed on this topic two meetings ago. Feedback received from the Environment SRG members has been incorporated in the draft Policy.

The draft Policy is currently on public exhibition. Public exhibition closes on 2 December 2020

<https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/2020-policies/bush-fire-management-policy>

Bush Fire Season Preparation

Council has distributed the “Bush Fire Prevention” brochure to all Northern Beaches residents in preparation for the bush fire season. Information has been posted on Council’s website, social media and in the Mayor’s message. Additional green waste service pickups for water access only communities through Pittwater have been organised. Council is also working with the Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) and fire agencies to plan, prepare and undertake prescribed burns throughout the LGA.

Climate Change

SRG members raised concerns on this topic. Northern Beaches Council has declared a Climate Emergency, however some members noted that this is not being reflected on Council’s website.

ACTION

T Dickinson to arrange meeting with N Howard, Y Mentis, L Kerr and A Pigott to discuss climate change and how Council can raise awareness within the community.

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Councillor Warren congratulated the Council and relevant staff from the Environment & Climate Change Unit for their success on winning the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW 2020 Sustainable Cities Award.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.5	T Dickinson to arrange meeting with N Howard, Y Mentis, L Kerr and A Pigott to discuss climate change and how Council can raise awareness within the community.	T Dickinson	asap

The meeting concluded at 8:45pm

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 19 November 2020 and confirmed on