



northern  
beaches  
council

**Environment**  
Strategic Reference Group

# MINUTES

## **ENVIRONMENT**

## **STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP**

held in the Flannel Flower Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why

**THURSDAY 20 MAY 2021**

**Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group  
held on Thursday 20 May 2021  
in the Flannel Flower Room, Civic Centre, Dee Why  
Commencing at 6:30pm**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee Members**

Cr Natalie Warren (Chair)	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
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**

Yianni Mentis	Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change ( <i>item 6.7</i> )
Andrew Ward-Harvey	Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing ( <i>items 6.4, 6.5 and 6.6</i> )
Jeremy Smith	Manager Park Assets Planning – Design & Delivery ( <i>item 6.1</i> )
Jacqueline Grove	Manager Environment Resilience & Climate Change ( <i>item 6.2</i> )
James Leigh	Manager Stormwater & Floodplain Engineering ( <i>item 6.3</i> )
Emma Mackay	Coordinator Waste Education ( <i>items 6.4, 6.5 and 6.6</i> )
Ximena Von Oven	Governance Officer ( <i>minute taker</i> )

## **1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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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.

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## **2.0 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cr Daley, Cr Spratt, Cr McTaggart and Alan Jones

## **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 18 FEBRUARY 2021**

**J Marlow / S Markich**

That the Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 18 February 2021, 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 PARKS FOR PEOPLE PROJECT**

#### **OVERVIEW OF UPDATE**

Jeremy Smith, Manager Park Assets - Planning Design and Delivery joined the meeting via conference call. He provided an update to the group.

Northern Beaches Council entered into an agreement with the New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the Planning Ministerial Corporation for the design and delivery of landscape embellishment works to Nandi Reserve, Frenchs Forest and County Road Reserve, Belrose and the transfer of land to Council through the New South Wales Parks for People Program. The Parks for People agreement was finalised in February 2021.

Stage 1 community engagement regarding Nandi Reserve, Frenchs Forest and County Road Reserve and Belrose commenced on 16 April 2021.

Council was allocated a grant from the Department's Precinct Support Scheme which will fund the upgrade of parks at Brickpit Reserve, Akora Reserve and Rabbett Reserve in Frenchs Forest.

A presentation on this topic was provided to the group.

## ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Nandi Reserve

The intention for this reserve is to reinforce and improve the natural environment and allow for sustainable access to it. Currently this project is in an analysis stage of the initial community engagement results.

- Country Road Reserve

The aim of this project is to augment the existing use of the reserve as a sportsfield through upgrading the sportsfield and introducing public amenities, sportsfield lights and car parking.

- Brickpit Reserve

The aim of this project is to create a natural park with a constructed wetland that will filter stormwater capture from the local stormwater network before discharging it downstream. The park will include a playground, boardwalk and a path connection through the reserve to Wakehurst Parkway.

- Akora Reserve

The design of this park aims to create a backyard and social connection point for the people living in the area. It will include a community garden, playground, half court and path connections.

- Rabbett Reserve

The urban bushland and creek of this reserve will be restored. It will provide sustainable access around it with pods of grassed area for more general recreation.

*NOTE: SRG discussed Nandi and community sentiment regarding access and biodiversity (including nesting powerful owls on the site that should not be disturbed). Y Mentis noted the project is in consultation phase and Council is conscious of sensitivity of site and local community's wishes.*

## 6.2 ACTION PLANS

### OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Jacqueline Grove, Manager Environment Resilience & Climate Change briefed the group on this item. Council is seeking comments from the Environment Strategic Reference Group members on the draft actions prepared for four action plans being developed to implement the Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The first action plan completed is the Climate Change Action Plan currently available on Council's [website](#).

Draft Action Plans have been prepared for the following plans:

- Coast
- Waterways and Catchments
- Bushland and Biodiversity
- Environmental Education and Sustainable Behaviours

SRG members were requested to provide feedback on the Action Plan via email to Y Mentis ([Yianni.mentis@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Yianni.mentis@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au)) by 2 June 2021.

### **6.3 WAKEHURST PARKWAY FLOOD MITIGATION STUDY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION UPDATE**

#### **OVERVIEW OF UPDATE**

James Leigh, Manager Stormwater & Floodplain Engineering provided an update on this item.

In 2017, a grant from the Stronger Communities Fund from the Office of Local Government was received by Northern Beaches Council to investigate and implement options to address the frequent flooding of Wakehurst Parkway.

Between 2017 and 2019, Northern Beaches Council developed the draft Wakehurst Parkway Flood Mitigation Study (the Study). The aim of this study was to provide options to reduce the impacts of frequent flooding of Wakehurst Parkway.

The Study identified and provided detailed information on the flash flooding in three separate locations on Wakehurst Parkway (vicinities of Oxford Falls Grammar School, a location called “The Bends” and the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation). The Study also identified that more funding was needed to deliver works to achieve flood protection. Transport for NSW allocated additional funding to Council in February 2021.

The Study is due to be exhibited on public exhibition and the results will be reported back to Council following the consultation period.

A presentation on this topic was provided to the group.

#### **ITEMS DISCUSSED**

- Background
- Definition of best flood benefit
- Ecological implications
- Funding for the Study
- Community Consultation
- Next Steps
- Timeframe

Feedback was requested from the group via Council’s Your Say page or via email to Yianni Mentis ([Yianni.mentis@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Yianni.mentis@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au))

- Since the meeting the “Have Your Say” page is live and ESRG members are encouraged to review the information and provide feedback by following this [link](#).

### **6.4 WASTE COMMUNITY DASHBOARD**

#### **OVERVIEW OF UPDATE**

Andrew Ward-Harvey, Executive Manager Waste Management & Cleansing briefed the group on this item. A waste community dashboard has been created by Council’s waste staff.

This dashboard visualises information about waste generated in the Northern Beaches by waste stream, suburb and provides resources to educate residents on how to reduce their foot print.

The aim of the dashboard is to educate residents on waste quantities generated within the Northern Beaches and downstream processing of the different waste commodities. It also shows the seasonal trends associated with waste generated in the area and allows users to gain a deeper understanding about what is done with their waste and ways to reduce what goes in their bin.

A demonstration showed the SRG members how to use the Waste Community Dashboard and its functionalities before it is published on Council's website.

A presentation was provided on this topic.

SRG members were requested to provide feedback via email to Andrew Ward- Harvey ([Andrew.ward-harvey@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Andrew.ward-harvey@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au))

*NOTE: S Scott left the meeting at 8:10pm*

## 6.5 RED BIN STRATEGY

### OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

A Ward briefed the group on this item. Northern Beaches Council has been awarded a grant under the Environment Protection Authority's Local Council Transition Fund. Council will be carrying out two separate projects as part of this grant to provide information on the Northern Beaches Waste Strategy. The two projects are:

#### "What's in the bin"

Aims to audit the red waste bin to determine the baseline mix and volumes of waste types from a representative sample of Northern Beaches bins. The audit will look at different waste profiles for different communities.

#### Red Bin Strategy

Aims to develop a red bin strategy, focusing on food organics and soft plastics recovery. The bin audit will help to inform waste streams and communities to target for developing solutions in this strategy.

Council has commenced the procurement process to engage a consultant for the red bin audit and will soon commence the process for the red bin strategy.

A presentation on this topic was provided.

### ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Context
- Landfill diversion percentage
- Increases landfill diversion
- Diverting from red bin
- Issues regarding residual management
- Red bin plan strategy

SRG members were requested to provide feedback via email to Andrew Ward-Harvey ([Andrew.ward-harvey@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Andrew.ward-harvey@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au))

The following news articles regarding waste and recycling were shared by R Conroy with the group:

Waste Management Review – Shoalhaven Council’s Australia First Bioelektra Technology

<https://wastemanagementreview.com.au/filling-the-void/>

Central Coast Council mattress recycling

<https://www.governmentnews.com.au/council-finds-solution-to-mattress-headaches>

## 6.6 RECOVERY OF PROBLEM WASTE (TEXTILES AND PLASTIC)

### OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

A Ward-Harvey updated the SRG members on this topic. Council is seeking feedback and comments from the SRG members on Council’s proposed approach to develop a whole of supply chain solution to recover resources from soft plastics and textile waste generated in the Northern Beaches. Currently there are limited processing options in NSW and Australia however, there are emerging technologies which can be used. Council is proposing to seek flexible and innovative whole of supply models to maximise the potential recovery of resources from used soft plastics and textiles.

A presentation on this topic was provided to the group.

### ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Context
- Addressing the problems of maximising the reuse and recycling of soft plastics and textiles
- Proposals
- Issues to consider.

## 6.7 STAFF UPDATE

### OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Yianni Mentis, Executive Manager Environment & Climate Change updated the group on this item. The following topics were discussed:

#### Simplifying Solar Expo

Northern Beaches Council is hosting its Simplifying Solar Expo on 5 June 2021. The aim of the expo is to address the key barriers to solar uptake and allow attendees to speak directly with the independent experts about energy efficiency, renewable energy, solar and battery technology as well as the solar installation process.

The event will provide opportunities to understand the right solar system for households and the type of technology currently available and will give residents information to take the next step in approaching solar businesses for quotes.

Council staff will be also available to provide solar advice, discuss any development application

concerns and the responsible waste management of solar panels.

Local Priority Weed Management Plan 2021-2026 (LPWMP)

Council’s LPWMP has been developed to identify weeds that pose a biosecurity risk within the Northern Beaches LGA. The LPWMP is now in effect. It supports the application of Council’s Bushland and Biodiversity Policy in dealing with the management of invasive species on public and private land. Marita McCrae noted this is an important item which is not well understood by the community.

Offshore Waste Service Review

Investigation of options for improvement of waste services to offshore communities is continuing. Waste staff have been liaising with the Transport and Civil Infrastructure business unit regarding current planning for wharf upgrades and how consideration for waste is included.

**7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

The following items were discussed:

- Sensitive Bushland
  - Vegetation over Smith and from Smith corridors – How much vegetation is being lost in this area.
  - Lots for sale (near Oxford Falls – Sisters of Samaritan land) – these lots would be a good addition for Council’s bushland sites
  - Proposed Gai-Mariagal Aboriginal owned national park.
- Dogs off leash on Mona Vale Beach – SRG members expressed concerns. Y Mentis noted environment studies and approvals process will be undertaken to determine impacts before any decision is made by Council.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
	Yianni to arrange biodiversity offsets presentation to SRG re Council’s biodiversity offset approach – for August meeting.	Yianni Mentis	Future meeting
6.1	Yianni to arrange presenting details of the Local Priority Weed Management Plan at the August SRG meeting.		

**Attachment 1** – Advanced Recycling Technology for Shoalhaven City Council pamphlet

*The meeting concluded at 9:12pm*

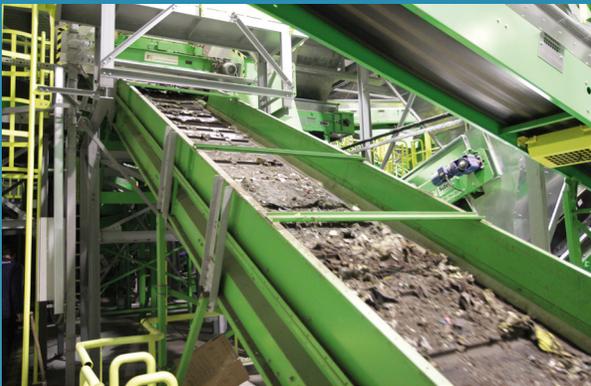
This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 8 pages numbered 1 to 8 of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 20 May 2021 and confirmed on Thursday 19 August 2021

## The Shoalhaven is running out of space. Within 12 years our West Nowra landfill facility will reach capacity.

As a result, Shoalhaven City Council has undergone an extensive process of consulting with industry experts to find an economically and environmentally sound solution to a waste problem that faces local governments across Australia.

The **Resource Recovery Facility (RRF)** will be constructed on Council owned land, adjacent to the current West Nowra landfill site. Works will commence in 2019 with the facility expected to be fully operational in 2021.

RRF will be a giant leap forward for how Shoalhaven manages waste that would normally end up in landfill. The additional good news is there will be no increase in costs for ratepayers and no changes to your kerbside collection.



### Yellow bins are here to stay.

When the RRF is operational, households will still continue with the current 2 bin collection system. There will be no change to the current collection and sorting of your yellow lid bin.



### If this new facility recycles everything from the red lid (mixed-waste) bin, why do we still need a yellow lid recycling bin?

As there is less contamination in the contents of the yellow lid bin, the sorting process is simpler and less costly, and produces a potentially cleaner and superior recycled product.

Australia is a world leader in waste segregation. Removing the yellow lid bin would be a giant step backwards in our recycling process.

Shoalhaven residents have adopted great recycling habits and continue to improve on them every year.

While the RRF is going to relieve pressure on our landfill capacity it is only one part of the Waste Management journey. We urge all residents to continue to be good environmental citizens by avoiding waste in the first place and to reuse and recycle whenever possible.



**WASTE \ REDUCE \ REUSE \ RECYCLE**

Bridge Road, Nowra NSW 2541

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For more information and a video of the Advanced Recycling Technology in action go to [getinvolved.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](http://getinvolved.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au)

Shoalhaven  
City Council

## Advanced Recycling Technology for the Shoalhaven



### Resource Recovery Facility West Nowra



Facility image is an artist's impression

An Australian First in Waste Management

In collaboration with



[shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](http://shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au)    

# Advanced Recycling Technology for the Shoalhaven

**All of the Shoalhaven's household mixed-waste (red lid bins) will soon be processed at the new Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) in West Nowra.**

Everything that can be reused or recycled will be extracted in one process.

This state-of-the-art facility will be Australia's first Advanced Waste Treatment plant capable of diverting over 90% of Mixed Waste from landfill.

The process involves sterilising and drying the waste to eliminate odours. The dry material is then sorted through a series of screens into its separate recyclable components.

## What is unique about this technology?

Its simplicity and innovation.

The **upfront sterilisation process is new and innovative.** The remaining process uses traditional sorting methods found in most Materials Recovery Facilities throughout the country.

Council is conscious of the risk that can be associated with being 'first in the field' with state-of-the-art technology, which is why a lengthy, thorough and robust investigation was conducted for this new facility.

## What are the environmental benefits?

- Increased resource recovery
- Further opportunities to increase the amount and diversity of recycling
- Sterilised waste is free of odour or biological activity
- Clean recyclable materials are separated
- The unrecyclable reject material returned to landfill is inert, significantly reducing the landfill environmental risk

- Projected landfill life is extended from 12 years to more than 50 years
- Everything the householder places into the red lid waste bin that can be recycled will be recycled
- The whole process is enclosed in a building
- No additional kerbside collection vehicles are required
- RRF has the potential to process material from neighbouring Councils, reducing waste to landfill across the region. This is at no cost to Shoalhaven City Council.

## What are the benefits to the Shoalhaven community and ratepayers?

- No change to managing waste at home
- No changes to the annual domestic waste charge
- Ongoing job opportunities expected for over 30 people
- 200 job opportunities during construction
- Landfill waste reduction is projected to reduce Council's levy bill to the NSW Government by nearly \$7million per year.

## How is it funded?

- RRF will be funded, built and operated by Bioelektra Australia. Council will assist with the initial infrastructure
- Council will pay Bioelektra a fee for each tonne of domestic waste deposited at the facility.

## What happens to the products?

Plastic, glass, metals, and organics are all separated and recycled into various products including construction aggregate, bricks, render and glass wool.

The "Biomass" or sterilised organic matter is to be used in the manufacture of brick, as an additive to render and has the potential to be used as fuel for energy recovery.

## Why this process?

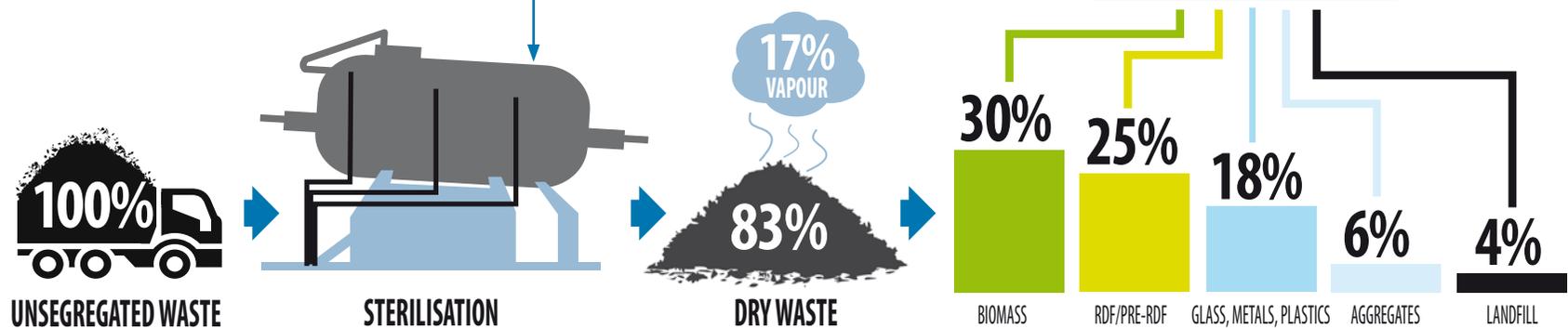
- Simple, yet innovative technology
- Proven superior diversion from landfill
- Proven superior separation of materials for recycling
- Innovative use of recyclable materials
- Sterilised material is biologically inactive
- Minimum impact on the environment.
- Minimal odour
- Affordable



Autoclave (Sterilization Unit)



Autoclave being loaded



For more detailed information and a video of this technology in action go to [getinvolved.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](http://getinvolved.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au)