



AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Environment Strategic Reference Group will be held in the Coastal Environment Centre, Narrabeen on

THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

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

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

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

Annie Laing Governance Officer

Quorum

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

**Agenda for Environment
Strategic Reference Group Meeting
to be held on Thursday 27 September 2018
in the Coastal Environment Centre, Narrabeen
Commencing at 6:00pm**

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6.1	Nigel Howard to speak on “Climate Emergency”	

NEXT MEETING Thursday 13 December 2018

1.0 APOLOGIES

All members are expected to attend the meetings or otherwise tender their apologies to the Chair and Governance at councilmeetings@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au.

2.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Members are advised of the following definitions of a "pecuniary" or "conflict" of interest for their assistance:

Section 442 of the Local Government Act, 1993 states that a "pecuniary" interest is as follows:

"(1) [Pecuniary interest] A Pecuniary interest is an interest that a person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person or another person with whom the person is associated.

"(2) [Remoteness] A person does not have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the interest is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision the person might make in relation to the matter."

Members should reference the Local Government Act, 1993 for detailed provisions relating to pecuniary interests.

Council's Code of Conduct states that a "conflict of interest" exists when you could be influenced, or a reasonable person would perceive that you could be influenced by a personal interest when carrying out your public duty.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 21 JUNE 2018

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 21 June 2018, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

4.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Meeting Date	Item No.	Responsible Person	Action	Due Date	Outcome / Comments
21/06/2018	5.2	Todd Dickinson	Follow up on the Bilarong Reserve issues raised.	27/09/2018	
21/06/2018	5.2	Todd Dickinson	Determine if Environment SRG to will be consulted on the draft Urban Forest Strategy and Policy, prior to it going to Council in August.	27/09/2018	
21/06/2018	5.3	Todd Dickinson / Governance	Send the Kinesis presentation to the Environment Strategic Reference Group members (see attachment 2 of June minutes).	27/09/2018	Presentation sent with June meeting minutes

5.0 AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 5.1	PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHERN BEACHES ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY
REPORTING OFFICER	SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER
TRIM FILE REF	2018/562488
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide the Environment Strategic Reference Group with an update on the progress of the development of the Northern Beaches Environment Strategy.

REPORT

At the previous two Environment SRG meetings we have:

- Reviewed the draft framework for the strategy; and
- Presented our community and corporate carbon and water profile information.

Since then we have refined the framework and its alignment to the “Shape 2028: Northern Beaches Community Strategic Plan” (CSP), Northern Beaches Council, 2018. From this we identified key subject areas and are currently in the process of conducting internal workshops with staff across our organisation. The workshops are informing the development of objectives, aspirations and strategies which together will become the draft strategy.

A key part of the development of the strategy is to ensure that we are aligning our strategy with the relevant regional strategies and plans, including but not limited to the “Greater Sydney 2056: North District Plan – connecting communities, Greater Sydney Commission, March 2018”, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, “Resilient Sydney: A strategy for city resilience 2018” Resilient Sydney, 2018. We are also using the valuable feedback received from the community over the past two years during consultation such as the development of the CSP, the Community Environmental Perceptions Survey and the Environment SRG Directions Paper.

We are working toward having the draft strategy ready to be reviewed by this SRG at the next meeting, scheduled for 13 December 2018. We look forward to hearing your valuable feedback at this time.

RECOMMENDATION OF SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group note the current status of the development of the Northern Beaches Environment Strategy as presented in this report.

ITEM 5.2	DRAFT URBAN TREE CANOPY PLAN
REPORTING OFFICER	EXECUTIVE MANAGER PARKS AND RECREATION
TRIM FILE REF	2018/580540
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To present to the draft Urban Tree Canopy Plan.

REPORT

The trees of the Northern Beaches are integral to the character, heritage and natural beauty of the area. Our community is passionate about the environment and there is a strong desire to protect and enhance the natural and built elements.

A Draft Urban Tree Canopy Plan has been developed to provide a strategic framework for the management of our urban trees and canopy cover.

Four strategic objectives have been developed to provide a comprehensive and cohesive approach to protecting and sustaining our urban trees:

1. Protecting existing urban trees
2. Maintaining the existing urban tree canopy cover
3. Improving tree diversity and health
4. Motivate, inspire and support the community to protect and enhance our urban trees

Each strategic objective contains a series of management principles which underpin our management practices and guide the way in which we will work and behave to meet the objectives. During the exhibition period we will be seeking feedback from the community on the proposed strategic directions and actions within the draft Plan.

RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER PARKS AND RECREATION

That the committee notes the presentation and provides feedback on the draft Urban Tree Canopy Plan during the public exhibition period.

ITEM 5.3	NSW MARINE ESTATE REFORMS
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER, COAST & CATCHMENTS
TRIM FILE REF	2018/590048
ATTACHMENTS	1 Staff Report to the Northern Beaches Council - Group Submission on the Marine Park Proposal for the Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To seek the support of the Environmental SRG for the staff submission on the proposed reforms to the NSW Marine Estate.

REPORT

History of the Marine Estate Reforms Project

The NSW Marine estate stretches from Cook Island Aquatic Reserve, north of Byron Bay, to south of Eden on the NSW Victoria Border. Within the marine estate exists several marine parks and aquatic reserves which differ in aspects of protection and management.

The Marine Estate Management Act 2014 was enacted which established the Marine Estate Management Authority (the Authority) to coordinate policies and programs for maintaining and improving the marine environment.

The aim of the proposed marine park is to reduce risks at a local scale from some site-based threats, while helping to conserve marine biodiversity. It is designed to complement the initiatives and management actions of the Strategy, while allowing for a wide range of recreational and commercial activities to still occur.

How community engagement informed the proposal:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Community input</i>
<i>2014</i>	<i>Community responses to the Marine Estate Community Survey</i>
<i>2015</i>	<i>Community input through a web portal and stakeholder workshops identified threats, benefits, opportunities and key sites in the bioregion</i>
<i>2016</i>	<i>Submissions on suggested management initiatives in the bioregion</i>
<i>2017</i>	<i>Submissions on the draft Threat and Risk Assessment and draft Marine Estate Management Strategy</i>

Marine park proposal for the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion

The proposed Marine Park for the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion includes the estuaries, coastline and marine waters from Stockton near Newcastle south to Shellharbour near Wollongong. The marine park proposal includes a network of 25 distinct sites across the bioregion that address site-based priority threats and risks, and enhance a range of community benefits.

This approach takes into consideration the large population and vast range of coastal activities in the bioregion, which includes Sydney Harbour: a highly valued area and centre for many marine activities.

It is important that the priority threats identified in this bioregion are managed to retain these values and the benefits they provide to the NSW community.

Current Status

Council staff recently attended a workshop coordinated by OEH staff and members of the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel to discuss the Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion proposal.

It includes a network of 25 distinct sites, rather than a single large marine park. Three zone types - sanctuary zones, conservation zones and special purpose zones are proposed across the 25 sites.

The Northern Beaches LGA contains 5 of the 25 sites in the marine park; Barrenjoey Head, Narrabeen Headland, Long Reef, Cabbage Tree Bay and North Harbour; as well as three Intertidal Protected Areas; Bungan Headland, Mona Vale and Dee Why Headland

For the majority of sites the proposal has minimal changes to management rules, the main amendments seek to increase the boundaries of existing protected areas. The key proposed amendments are as follows:

Barrenjoey Head:

The proposed special purpose zone would extend the current 28 hectare Barrenjoey Head Aquatic Reserve to cover a total area of 133 hectares and include the adjacent seagrass. Fishing rules that apply to the existing aquatic reserve would be adopted in the proposed special purpose zone.

Pittwater as a location is noted as having the third highest number of boat moorings in NSW likely to be affecting the seagrass *Posidonia australis* (listed as an endangered population under the Threatened Species Schedules of the Fisheries Management Act 1994). It is proposed that boating and moorings at the site would be reviewed and restrictions developed with boating stakeholders to reduce damage to seagrass from propellers and moorings.

My understanding is that the marine reforms do not seek to prevent all boating in this location, rather they seek to investigate implementation of best practice initiatives such as installation of seagrass friendly moorings, in collaboration with stakeholders.

There may be a contradiction between the recognition of the importance of the protected seagrass population, and a Council proposal for an off-leash dog trial in this location.

Narrabeen Headland:

It is proposed to establish a seven hectare special purpose zone to replace the existing aquatic reserve. No changes to existing boundaries, management rules or current fishing rules are proposed.

Long Reef:

It is proposed to establish a 514 hectare special purpose zone to replace the existing 77 hectare aquatic reserve at Long Reef, extending the current rules of the reserve. This would permit line or spearfishing for finfish (fish with a backbone) only, and prohibit the collection of all marine invertebrates and plants whether dead or alive except for Aboriginal cultural use.

Peak stakeholders from the recreational fishing sectors have recommended to the NSW Government that alternative approaches be considered to address priority threats caused by recreational fishing. It is proposed that Long Reef be used as a trial site for implementation of best practice fishing methodologies, such as catch-and-release fishing, and use of low-impact fishing gear.

Cabbage Tree Bay:

The value of the existing Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve was described in several submissions, as was a proposal to extend the current boundaries of the reserve, typically to Blue Fish Point.

The proposed site extends the current Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve to Blue Fish Point. The protected area would include a 52 hectare sanctuary zone that extends the current reserve from Shelly Beach Headland to 250 metres north-west of Blue Fish Point and a seven hectare special purpose zone at Blue Fish Point. North Head has been recognised as a key location for deaths of rock fishers.

The proposed sanctuary zone would prohibit all extractive activities except for Aboriginal cultural use. The proposed seven hectare special purpose zone at Blue Fish Point would prohibit hand gathering of marine invertebrates, except for lobster and abalone. Line fishing and spear fishing would be permitted.

North Harbour:

The proposed site extends the current North Harbour Aquatic Reserve to include all of North Harbour. Three new zones would be created: a 325 hectare special purpose zone, and two sanctuary zones with a combined area of 51 hectares, one at Fairlight and the other at Spring Cove, in recognition of the high recreational values and critical habitat of Fairy Penguins (respectively).

Recreational fishing and boating would be permitted in the special purpose zone, although existing restrictions on spearfishing and lobster fishing would continue. Line fishing would no longer be restricted to finfish and would now include species such as squid. Other forms of hand gathering, including abalone fishing and collecting marine vegetation, would be prohibited.

Bungan Headland, Mona Vale & Dee Why Headland Intertidal Protected Areas:

No changes to management rules or closure boundaries are proposed.

Further information from the NSW Government:

Potential impacts to recreational fishing:

The proposal may affect some recreational fishing activities, particularly shore and boat-based line and trap fishing and hand gathering. These activities are already restricted at some sites through existing management restrictions, like aquatic reserves, which are included in the proposed marine park.

Potential impacts to boating:

Impacts to boating are anticipated to be low across the bioregion, but will occur at sites that involve anchoring restrictions or boat speed limits. Boat-based line and trap fishing may not be permitted in some areas, which may displace some boating to surrounding areas.

Potential impacts on commercial fishing:

Potential impacts on commercial fishing in the bioregion are anticipated to be low. Commercial fishing is already prohibited in Lake Macquarie, Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay. Low-risk commercial fishing activities like lobster and abalone are proposed to continue in some zones under this proposal. Offsets and compensation may be required for any imposed loss of access associated with the final proposal and will be negotiated with industry during the finalisation and implementation of the proposal.

Additional information:

The link below allows you to click on each proposed site on the map to obtain further details such as site description, map, and proposed management rules. For each site a table provides information on current activities and proposed activities.

Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion and map (8 Northern Beaches sites)

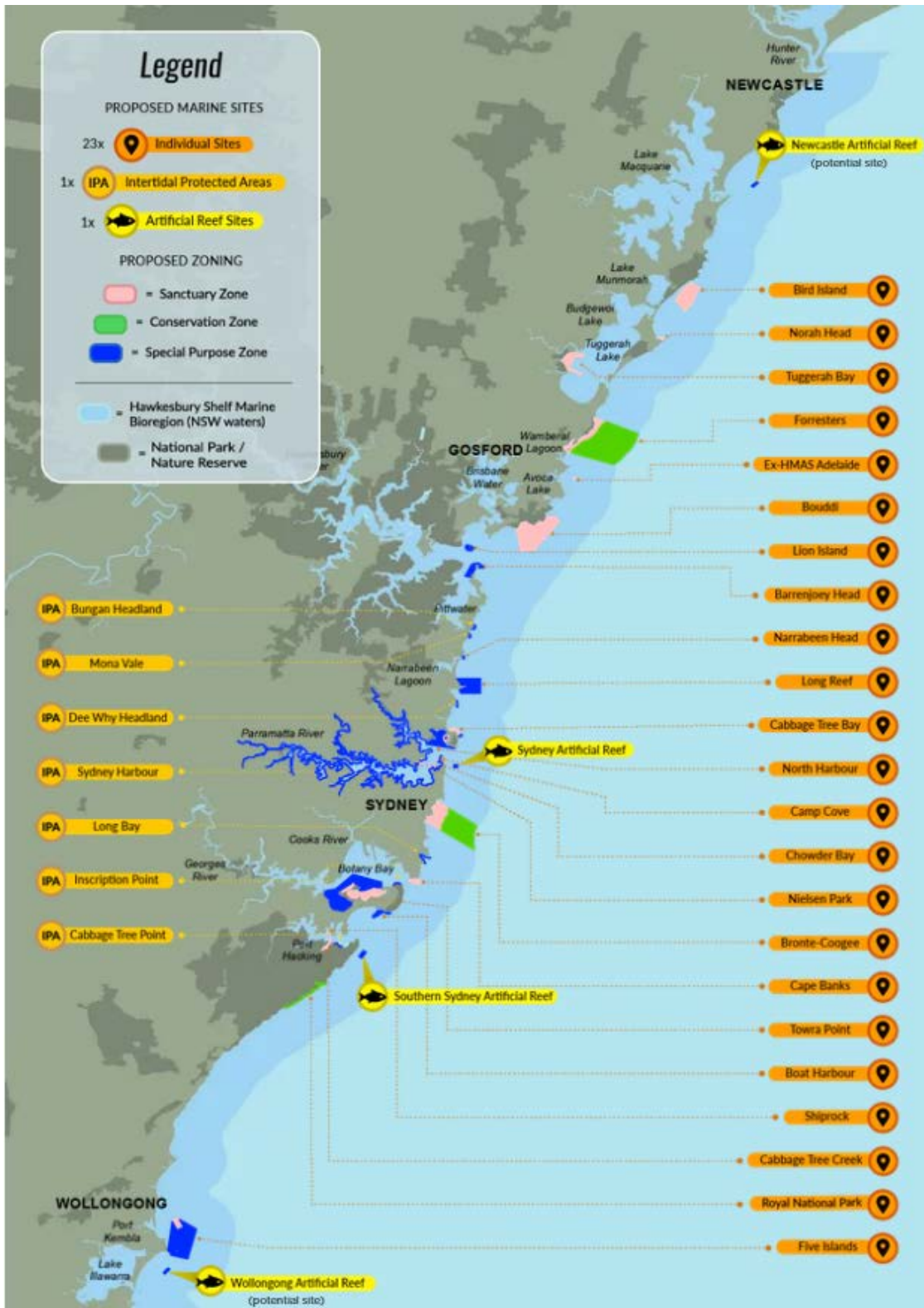
marine.nsw.gov.au/key-initiatives/hawkesbury-shelf-marine-assessment

Next steps:

Consultation on the proposal closes on 27 September 2018.

Staff are preparing a submission that will be presented to the Environment SRG on 27 September, recommending support for the Marine Park initiative, and have received an extension to the closing date to enable lodgement of the submission.

Image 1: Map of the Proposed Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Park



RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGER, COAST & CATCHMENTS

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group endorse the staff report as the Northern Beaches Council submission on the proposed Marine Park for the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion.



Staff Report to the Northern Beaches Council Environment Strategic Reference Group:

Submission on the Marine Park proposal for the Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion

2018/605625

Issue

NSW Marine Estate Management Authority has proposed a Marine Park for the Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion including the estuaries, coastline and marine waters from Stockton near Newcastle, south to Shellharbour near Wollongong. The Marine Park proposal includes a network of 25 distinct sites across the bioregion that address site-based priority threats and risks, and enhance a range of community benefits.

This approach takes into consideration the large population and vast range of coastal activities in the bioregion, which includes Sydney Harbour: a highly valued area and centre for many marine activities.

It is important that the priority threats identified in this bioregion are managed to retain these values and the benefits they provide to the NSW community.

Background

Prior to the amalgamation process, the three former Councils of Pittwater, Warringah and Manly considered the Marine Park proposal and provided comments to the Marine Estate Management Authority in May 2016.

The former Pittwater Council submission, prepared May 6, 2016 stated that Council strongly endorses the intended purpose of the Bioregion Assessment to 'enhance and conserve biodiversity in the bioregion while achieving balanced community outcomes, including opportunities for a wide range of recreational and commercial uses'.

Whilst Pittwater Council supported the majority of the proposed actions within the discussion paper, there were concerns around the way these activities will be resourced and the ability for the State to deliver effective natural resource management outcomes.

The former Manly Council also endorsed the proposal. The high environmental value of Cabbage Tree Bay was described in Manly Council's submission, as was the value in the proposal to extend the current boundaries of the reserve, typically to Blue Fish Point. This reserve was often cited as a model for marine management in the bioregion that should be replicated. Safety concerns about potential conflict between boats and passive water users were also raised.

Although no formal submission was made by the former Warringah Council, staff were supportive of the Sydney Coastal Council's Group Submission which represented all three former Councils.

Discussion

The Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion proposal includes a network of 25 distinct sites, rather than a single large marine park. Three zone types - sanctuary zones, conservation zones and special purpose zones are proposed across the 25 sites.

The Northern Beaches LGA contains 5 of the 25 sites in the marine park; Barrenjoey Head, Narrabeen Headland, Long Reef, Cabbage Tree Bay and North Harbour; as well as three Intertidal Protected Areas; Bungan Headland, Mona Vale and Dee Why Headland

For the majority of sites the proposal has minimal changes to management rules, the main amendments seek to increase the boundaries of existing protected areas. Council comments on the key proposed amendments are as follows:

Barrenjoey Head:

The proposed special purpose zone would extend the current 28 hectare Barrenjoey Head Aquatic Reserve to cover a total area of 133 hectares and include the adjacent seagrass. Fishing rules that apply to the existing aquatic reserve would be adopted in the proposed special purpose zone.

Pittwater as a location is noted as having the third highest number of boat moorings in NSW likely to be affecting the seagrass *Posidonia australis* (listed as an endangered population under the Threatened Species Schedules of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*). It is proposed that boating and moorings at the site would be reviewed and restrictions developed with boating stakeholders to reduce damage to seagrass from propellers and moorings.

Comment: Supported in conjunction with a commitment from the MEMA to resource and manage compliance officers to enforce rules and regulations, including implementation of best practice initiatives such as installation of seagrass friendly moorings in collaboration with stakeholders.

Narrabeen Headland

It is proposed to establish a seven hectare special purpose zone to replace the existing aquatic reserve. No changes to existing boundaries or management rules are proposed.

Comment: Supported in conjunction with a commitment from the MEMA to resource and manage compliance officers to enforce manage compliance officers to enforce rules and regulations.

Long Reef:

It is proposed to establish a 514 hectare special purpose zone to replace the existing 77 hectare aquatic reserve at Long Reef. No changes to management rules are proposed. This would continue to permit line and spearfishing for finfish (fish with a backbone) only, and prohibit the collection of all marine invertebrates and plants whether dead or alive except for Aboriginal cultural use.

It is noted that peak stakeholders from the recreational fishing sectors have recommended to the NSW Government that alternative approaches be considered to address priority threats caused by recreational fishing. It is proposed that Long Reef be used as a trial site for implementation of best practice fishing methodologies, such as catch-and-release fishing, and use of low-impact fishing gear.

Staff recommend that all proposed special purpose zones within the Northern Beaches LGA are considered as trial sites for alternative best practice fishing methodologies, offering opportunities to enhance recreational fishing for future generations.

Comment: Supported in conjunction with a commitment from the MEMA to resource education and manage compliance officers to enforce manage compliance officers to enforce rules and regulations.

Cabbage Tree Bay:

The value of the existing Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve was described in several submissions, as was a proposal to extend the current boundaries of the reserve, typically to Blue Fish Point.

The proposed site extends the current Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve to Blue Fish Point. It is currently 18 hectares and the proposed protected 'No Take' area would include a 52 hectare sanctuary zone that extends the current reserve from Shelly Beach Headland to 250 metres north-west of Blue Fish Point and a seven hectare special purpose zone at Blue Fish Point. North Head has been recognised as a key location for deaths of rock fishers.

The proposed extended sanctuary zone would prohibit all fishing and extractive activities except for Aboriginal cultural use. The proposed seven hectare special purpose zone at Blue Fish Point would allow line and spear fishing but would prohibit hand gathering of marine invertebrates, except for lobster and abalone.

Comment: Council recommends the current "No Take" restrictions placed on the existing Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve remain in place. Expansion of the aquatic reserve is also supported in conjunction with a commitment from the MEMA to resource and manage compliance officers to enforce manage compliance officers to enforce rules and regulations.

Council would like to emphasise that Cabbage Tree Bay has long been recognised as a valuable location. The former Manly Council resolved on 19 February 2007:

to call upon the State Government to re-declare the Cabbage Tree Bay "No Take" Aquatic Reserve under the Fisheries Management Act 1994 on 31 March 2007; and further that Council call upon NSW Maritime to recommend an amendment to the Schedule to prohibit the entry and anchorage of boats (known under the Water Traffic Regulations as a "registrable vessel") other than in a situation of "safe haven".

This former Manly Council recommendation continues to be a recommendation to the proposed Marine Park for Cabbage Tree Bay.

North Harbour:

The proposed site extends the current North Harbour Aquatic Reserve to include all of North Harbour. Three new zones would be created: a 325 hectare special purpose zone, and two sanctuary zones with a combined area of 51 hectares, one at Fairlight and the other at Spring Cove.

Recreational fishing and boating would be permitted in the special purpose zone, although existing restrictions on spearfishing and lobster fishing would continue. Line fishing would no longer be restricted to finfish and would now include species such as squid. Other forms of hand gathering, including abalone fishing and collecting marine vegetation, would be prohibited.

Two sanctuary zones at Spring Cove and Fairlight Beach would exclude all fishing and hand gathering, in recognition of the high recreational values and critical habitat of Fairy Penguins (respectively).

Comment: Supported in conjunction with a commitment from the MEMA to resource and manage compliance officers to enforce rules and regulations.

Bungan Headland, Mona Vale & Dee Why Headland Intertidal Protected Areas:

No changes to management rules or closure boundaries are proposed.

Comment: Request further investment in education and compliance actions to support the Marine Park

Recommendation

That the Northern Beaches Council Environment Strategic Reference Group:

- A. Supports the NSW Marine Estate Reforms, especially the creation of proposed Marine Park for the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion
- B. Requests further investment in education and compliance actions to support the Marine Park
- C. Recommends the current "No Take" restrictions placed on the existing Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve remain in place
- D. Requests that the entry and anchorage of boats (known under the Water Traffic Regulations as a "registrable vessel") in Cabbage Tree Bay other than in a situation of "safe haven" be prohibited
- E. Recommends that all proposed special purpose zones within the Northern Beaches LGA are considered as trial sites for alternative best practice fishing methodologies, offering opportunities to enhance recreational fishing for future generations
- F. Recommends close collaboration with stakeholders to implement best practice moorings to protect endangered seagrass populations at Barrenjoey Headland.

ITEM 5.4	DISCUSSION - WORKPLACE BY FACEBOOK
REPORTING OFFICER	SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER
TRIM FILE REF	2018/597087
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

Open discussion on the 'Workplace by Facebook' group that is being trialed.

RECOMMENDATION OF SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

That the group participate in the discussion.
