



# MINUTES

## **ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING**

held in the Coastal Environment Centre, Narrabeen on

**THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**Minutes of the Environment  
Strategic Reference Group  
held on Thursday 27 September 2018  
in the Coastal Environment Centre, Narrabeen  
Commencing at 6:10pm**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee Members**

Cr Alex McTaggart (Chair)	
Cr Stuart Sprott	
Sophie Scott	
Roberta Conroy	Bayview Church Point Residents Association
Alan Jones	
Tom Hazell	
David Tribe	
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**

Adrian Turnbull	A/Executive Manager Natural Environment & Climate Change
Ben Taylor	General Manager Environment & Infrastructure
Steve Lawler	Executive Manager Parks & Recreation
Kara Taylor	A/Manager, Environment Resilience & Climate Change
Annie Laing	Governance Officer

*Note: Cr Alex McTaggart opened the meeting and gave Acknowledgement of Country.*

## **1.0 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cr Natalie Warren, Cr Pat Daley and Anthony Petrolo.

## **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 21 JUNE 2018**

The Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 21 June 2018 were confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

## **4.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING**

Adrian Turnbull, Acting Executive Manager Natural Environment and Climate Change provided a response to issued raised during the June SRG Meeting relating to trees in Bilarong Reserve and confirmed that there has been no rezoning or reclassification.

Trees have been removed in the past due to storm damage and since then have been removed as necessary if they are classified as hazardous. No large scale removal has been undertaken.

## **5.0 AGENDA ITEMS**

### **5.1 PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHERN BEACHES ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY**

Kara Taylor, Acting Manager Environment Resilience and Climate Change addressed the meeting on this item.

- Staff to participate in half day workshops these workshops will discuss targets, actions and strategies.
- Further information and content will be provided for feedback at the next SRG Meeting in December, K Taylor advised that this group will be one of the main channels for Community Engagement regarding the Strategy.
- The report is then anticipated to go to the February 2019 Council Meeting and go on Public Exhibition if adopted by Council.

The following points were discussed:

- Environmental education will be the sole focus of one of the eight workshops as it is one of the major pillars of the strategy.

- Council currently has two environmental education assets, the Coastal Environment Centre, Narrabeen and the Manly Environment Centre. Part of delivering environmental education is looking at what tools are used to engage with the community. As such, these assets will be reviewed to determine how best to meet community need into the future. Further briefings will be brought to the SRG as this review progresses.

David Tribe addressed the group on the Manly Environment Centre and noted that it is above capacity and recommended that it is in need of a larger, more central shop front.

ACTION: Manly Environment Centre to be placed on the 13 December 2018 SRG Agenda.

## 5.2 DRAFT URBAN TREE CANOPY PLAN

Steven Lawler, Executive Manager Parks and Recreation presented on this item, this presentation can be found in the Presentation Booklet.

The Northern Beaches Council Draft Urban Tree Canopy Plan 2018 can be found on Council's [website](#).

The following points were discussed:

- The key action is to develop a tree planting program to ensure a minimum of 5000 trees are planted annually
- Currently around 2000 trees. Removed due to death, the need to provide infrastructure and assessed as high risk
- Council is committed to planting endemic species where the environment permit. It was also noted that trees provide nesting hollows and protection for small birds.
- Examples of iconic species include Norfolk Pines along Manly and Palm Beach as well as heritage listed trees.
- Council is to perform a greater level of maintenance to existing trees than in the past to increase their life expectancy
- Council currently has a nursery of their own run by volunteers at Manly Dam with another being built at Curl Curl Bowling Club. These are able to supply the tube stock otherwise plants are purchased from local suppliers.
- Shade trees are required on streets, these trees have in the past been replaced by bottle brush which has encouraged minor birds which means we lose the smaller species of birds.
- A key action of the plan is to improve communication with residents. For example, if a tree is being removed in a particular street Council need to communicate this to residents.

S Lawler acknowledged that the community needs to be considered as we need to work together. For example, trees planted on road reserves need to cooperation of residents.

Cr McTaggart encouraged the group to put in submissions while the Plan is on public exhibition.

### 5.3 NSW MARINE ESTATE REFORMS

Adrian Turnbull, Acting Executive Manager Natural Environment and Climate Change addressed the group on this item, the presentation can be found in the Presentation Booklet.

Further information can be located on the NSW Marine Estate [website](#).

The following points were discussed:

- Some misunderstanding surrounding the proposed Marine Park in the community, notably regarding “lock out” of fishers from sites. Noted that most sites in Northern Beaches area were proposed as ‘special purpose zones’ in which fishing was allowed, and that the range of species allowed to be caught in North Harbour was proposed to increase.
- Recognised scientific research into sanctuary areas, with evidence from around the world that increasing the protection areas the biomass has a flow on effect of increases in the bio mass which in turn make it a better environment for fisherman. There is confusion with naming conventions and permissible activities.
- There needs to be more education and policing of places that have restrictions as currently there is not enough.

### DECISION

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.

ACTION: Executive Manager, Natural Environment and Climate Change to forward the final submission to the SRG.

### 5.4 DISCUSSION - WORKPLACE BY FACEBOOK

Acting Manager Environment Resilience and Climate Change addressed the meeting on this item. The group had a general discussion about Workplace by Facebook.

## 6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nigel Howard addressed the group on climate change. He noted that climate change needs to be a bigger part of the strategy. Cr McTaggart suggested this could be worked into a Notice of Motion and undertook to consider the presentation and determine which parts fit within Council's portfolio.

B Bragg addressed the group on the Stop Adani campaign.

The group discussed both presentations and were reminded to *think globally, act locally*.

ACTION: Distribute the electronic version of Nigel Howard's presentation to the group.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
5.1	Manly Environment Centre to be placed on the 13 December 2018 SRG Agenda.	Governance	13/12/2018
5.3	Executive Manager, Natural Environment and Climate Change to forward the final submission to the SRG	Adrian Turnbull / Todd Dickinson	22/10/2018
6.0	Distribute and electronic version Nigel Howard's presentation to the group	Governance	22/10/2018

*The meeting concluded at 8.16pm*

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 6 pages numbered 1 to 6 of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 27 September 2018 and confirmed on Thursday 13 December 2018