



northern
beaches
council

Environment
Strategic Reference Group

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held in the Coastal Environment Centre, Narrabeen on

THURSDAY 29 AUGUST 2019

**Minutes of the Environment
Strategic Reference Group
held on Thursday 29 August 2019
in the Coastal Environment Centre, Narrabeen
Commencing at 6:00pm**

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Alex McTaggart (Chair)

Cr Natalie Warren

Cr Stuart Sprott

Sophie Scott

Alan Jones

Tom Hazell

David Tribe

Nigel Howard

Jacqueline Marlow (*arrived at 6:15pm*) Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

Billy Bragg

Scott Markich

Council Officer Contacts

Todd Dickinson Director Environment and Sustainability

James Leigh Acting Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change

Adrian Turnbull Manager Coast and Catchments

Ed McPeake Manager Greener Communities

Jacqueline Grove Manager Environment Resilience and Climate Change

Kara Taylor Senior Sustainability Officer

Ruby Ardren Project Leader- Water Management

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from R Conroy, M Mcrae, A Petrolo, and Cr Warren.

The Chairperson highlighted to the group that Cr Daley has resigned from the Environment SRG.

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 30 MAY 2019

DECISION

That the Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 30 May 2019, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

S Sprott / S Markich

3.2 MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP HELD 13 AUGUST 2019

DECISION

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Environment Strategic Reference Group held 13 August 2019, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting subject to the deletion of the below action recorded in the Summary of Actions:

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.0	That Cr Stuart and Cr Warren to prepare a Mayoral Minute regarding a Biodiversity Connectivity Plan	Cr Stuart and Cr Warren	29/08/2019

S Sprott / S Markich

4.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Discussion arose regarding the following Council meeting reports being reported to September's Council meeting instead of August's Council meeting:

- Public Exhibition of the Draft Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Public Exhibition of the Draft Bushland and Biodiversity Policy

NOTE:

J Marlow arrived at 6:15pm.

5.0 AGENDA ITEMS**5.1 UPDATE ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY****DISCUSSION**

T Dickinson, Director Environment and Sustainability, provided an update regarding this topic. The following points were discussed:

- The Draft Environment and Climate Change Strategy (the Strategy) will be presented to Council in September with the recommendation that it be placed in public exhibition.
- The Strategy will be delivered through a series of actions plans, which are short term actions (four years) and will align with Council's Delivery and Operational Plan.
- Council will evaluate the progress of the Strategy against the goals, commitments and aspirations with a detailed assessment, report and review to be completed every four years, in addition to the normal annual reporting programs.
- Once the Draft Environment and Climate Change Strategy has been adopted the Draft Climate Change Action Plan will be finalised.

DECISION

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group note the update.

5.2 ENVIRONMENT CENTRES REVIEW WORKSHOP**DISCUSSION**

T Dickinson, provided a presentation about the Manly Environmental Centre and the Coastal Environmental Centre (the Centres) review. The following points were discussed:

- Environment SRG members have been briefed on this topic at the December meeting. SRG members were requested to provide feedback on both centres.
- Process that has been followed during the review including the sources of background information for the review such as the Environmental Perceptions Survey, staff survey, stakeholder engagement and general community survey.
- Current activities, statistics around visitation to the Centre.

SRG members provided feedback on the Environment Centres Review. The following points were raised:

- Vision for the Centres helping the community understand about environmental issues.
- The scope of the centres could be expanded
 - Provide more focus on bushland topics
 - Provide more focus on freshwater topics

- Educate on carbon emissions reductions and how to reduce water consumption
- Expand the opening hours to include the weekends
- Implement more educational interactive displays.
- Award for most sustainable house in the Northern Beaches should be implemented.
- Organise environmental events.
- Organise monitoring programs of the water quality in creeks so school kids can get involved
- Waste reduction
- Types of services that could be considered at the environment centres including:
 - Hot Desks (shared office space)
 - Information for the community
 - Sustainable homes and insulation demonstration such as information on solar panels that are installed on a centre and how much energy they are harvesting
- Location of centres
 - Consider locations that will enable the highest visitation rates
- Opportunities to improve delivery through better partnerships with:
 - Department of Education
 - Schools so students can visit the Centres more often.
 - Eg: Bunnings to organise workshops on sustainability initiatives
- Funding
 - Source additional funding through Government grants
- Consistency of purpose and service of the Centres.

The following questions were raised:

- Should the services offered at the centres be restricted by location? No
- Should each environment Centre provide a different service? Or should both Centres provide the same service?
Each environment Centre should provide similar services at each location.
- What is the purpose of the centres?
The purpose of the Centres is to keep Northern Beaches Council identity, providing similar services at each location.

SRG members were requested to provide any additional feedback/comment to the Chairperson or T Dickinson directly.

NOTES:

T Dickinson left the meeting at 7:39pm

A Jones left the meeting at 8:15pm

DECISION

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group participate in a workshop to assist with the review of Council's Environment Centres.

5.3 DRAFT WATER MANAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY

DISCUSSION

A Turnbull, Manager Coast and Catchments, J Leigh, Acting Executive Manager Environment and Climate Change and R Ardren, Project Leader –Water Management provided a presentation to the group. The following points were discussed:

Relevant plans, policies and legislation

- Water quality.
- Water efficiency and stormwater management.
- The Draft Water Management for Development Policy will be likely presented to Council on 24 September 2019, and will be placed on public exhibition for further adoption.

SRG members raised the following questions:

- Is a compliance statement included in the Draft Water Management for Development Policy?
Yes
- Are creek lines regulated under this policy? No, as the Draft Water Management for Development Policy regulates developments across entire catchments, while creeklines/riparian management have their own policies and development controls
- Have water tanks been included in the policy? Yes

DECISION

That the draft Water Management for Development Policy be noted and that SRG members will receive notification once the Policy is on public exhibition, for an opportunity to provide specific feedback.

5.4 DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

DISCUSSION

J Grove, Manager Environment Resilience and Climate Change and K Taylor, Senior Sustainability Officer provided a presentation on this topic.

Key words that resonated with each topic from the Draft Climate Change Action Plan were highlighted to the group.

An example of an action and how it will be implemented and delivered was presented to the group.

SRG members raised the following questions:

- Would the achievable and measurable targets of each action be highlighted in the Draft Climate Change Action Plan?

- What resources is Northern Beaches Council allocating to achieve each action?
- Are actions within the list being prioritised?
- How does the Draft Climate Change Action Plan fit together with reusable energy?

ACTION

- That the Draft Climate Action Change Plan be circulated to the SRG members for comment.
- That B Bragg email the Chairperson regarding the presentation item for the next Environment SRG meeting.

DECISION

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group participate in the discussion and provide feedback on the Climate Change Action Plan.

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
5.4	That the Draft Climate Action Change Plan be circulated to the SRG members for comment.	J Grove	Future meeting
5.4	That B Bragg email the Chairperson regarding the presentation item for the next Environment SRG meeting	B Bragg	October meeting

The meeting concluded at 8:42pm

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 7 pages numbered 1 to 7 of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 29 August 2019 and confirmed on Thursday 7 November 2019