



northern
beaches
council

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 30 MAY 2019

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 Director Environment & Sustainability

Adrian Turnbull Acting Executive Manager Environment & Climate

Ximena Von Oven 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 30 May 2019
in the Coastal Environment Centre, Narrabeen
Commencing at 6:00pm**

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NEXT MEETING Thursday 29 August 2019

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 4 of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW 2018 states that a pecuniary interest is as follows:

"A pecuniary interest is an interest that you have in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to you or a person referred to in clause 4.3.

You will 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 you might make in relation to the matter, or if the interest is of a kind specified in clause 4.6.

For the purposes of this Part, you will have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the pecuniary interest is: a) your interest, or b) the interest of your spouse or de facto partner, your relative, or your partner or employer, or c) a company or other body of which you, or your nominee, partner or employer, is a shareholder or member."

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 28 FEBRUARY 2019

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Environment Strategic Reference Group meeting held 28 February 2019, 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

ITEM 4.1	ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING
REPORTING OFFICER	GOVERNANCE OFFICER
TRIM FILE REF	2019/287435
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
5.3	J Grove to email carbon and water aspirations and commitments of the Draft Northern Beaches Environment Strategy to the Environment SRG members for review.	Jacqui Grove	
5.3	Council to review references to and the impacts of population growth within the Draft Northern Beaches Environment Strategy.	Jacqui Grove	
5.4	Establish a special interest briefing on the Development of a Draft Northern Beaches Council Bushland Policy.		Deferred to a special interest briefing

5.0 AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 5.1	CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN WORKSHOP
REPORTING OFFICER	SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER
TRIM FILE REF	2019/236497
ATTACHMENTS	1 ↓ Climate Change Action Plan Workshop Presentation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide an opportunity for the Environment Strategic Reference Group (SRG) to provide their input into the development of a climate change action plan for the Northern Beaches.

SUMMARY/REPORT

During the discussion on the development of the draft Environment and Climate Change Strategy (the Strategy) at the previous Environment SRG meeting, it was agreed that an action plan to specifically address climate change would be developed.

The climate change action plan is one of 11 action plans, which will be developed to provide a clear path forward for Council to deliver the goals and commitments within the Strategy. The plan will include actions to be implemented over the next four years.

The workshop will consider:

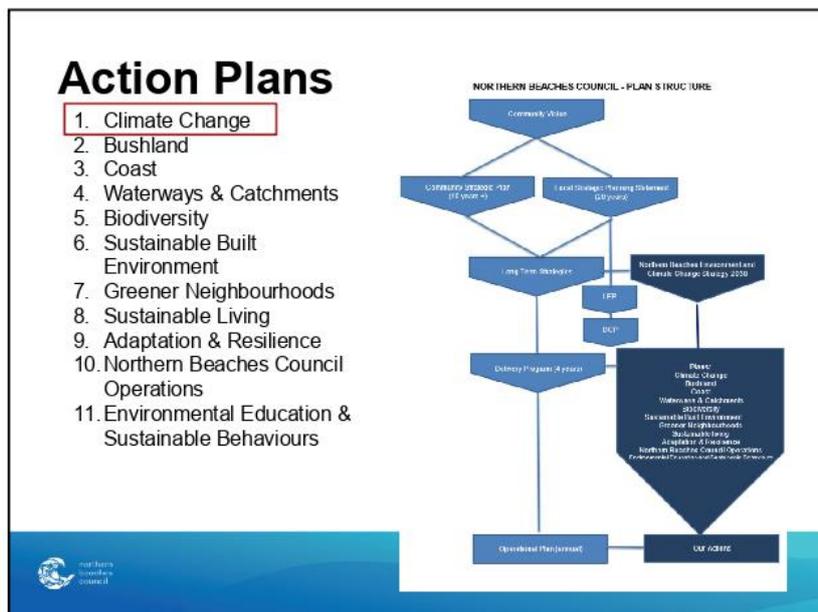
- The scope of the climate change action plan;
- Consider an appropriate title for the action plan;
- Review actions which have been previously raised; and
- Identify new actions.

Specific actions in the plan will need to be costed, therefore it is important that the resource implications for the actions are considered as the plan is developed. This will include the need to highlight resource intensive actions, develop an appropriate schedule and sequence, and consider opportunities for quick wins.

RECOMMENDATION OF SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group contribute to the development of the climate change action plan by participating in the workshop.

22/05/2019



22/05/2019

Timeframe and Resourcing

Action plans

- will include actions to be undertaken over the next 4 years
- will include costs associated with actions
- will need to consider resource implications



Workshop Purpose

The purpose of the workshop is to discuss the

- Scope of the action plan
- Review previously identified actions
- Identify gaps and other actions



22/05/2019

Scope of the Action Plan

- What should be included?
 - e.g.
 - Carbon reduction actions
 - Water reduction actions
 - All climate change actions
 - Mitigation & Adaptation actions



What should we call it?

- Considering the scope, what should the plan be called?



22/05/2019

Previous Actions

- Review of the actions which have been previously identified?



Actions

- Identify gaps and other actions



22/05/2019

Where to next...

- Internal workshops
- Develop a draft action plan – including cost to implement each action
- Review plan
- Finalise plan
- Implement actions

ITEM 5.2	NORTHERN BEACHES WATER MANAGEMENT POLICY
REPORTING OFFICER	SENIOR ENVIRONMENT SYSTEMS OFFICER
TRIM FILE REF	2019/236514
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To present the principles of the draft Northern Beaches Water Management Policy (Policy) to the Environment Strategic Reference Group (SRG) for discussion.

REPORT

Council is currently reviewing and consolidating former Council policies and preparing policies applicable to the Northern Beaches. The Policy is currently being developed to integrate a number of policies, development controls, and technical specifications.

The purpose of the Policy will be to provide the requirements for effective management of stormwater, rainwater, groundwater and wastewater within the Northern Beaches local government area to protect and enhance the natural environment while ensuring protection of public and private property.

The policy will focus on managing the potential impacts of development and will strategically align with the Community Strategic Plan and the draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (under development). The policy will also help inform the development of the Northern Beaches Local Environment Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP).

The intent of the consolidated policy is to provide a set of clear, consistent guidelines for development across the full LGA, simplifying and improving the application and assessment process. Currently, development in each of the former areas are required to meet a range of requirements that, while founded with similar intent and seeking similar outcomes, are challenging for residents to address, may lead to slightly varying outcomes, and are out of step with an amalgamated organisation.

The Environment SRG are requested to consider the following principles of the draft Northern Beaches Water Management Policy and to provide feedback as to whether the intended outcomes are clear and concise, and whether any further principles may be appropriate to include:

- *Minimise the risk to public health and safety*
- *Reduce the risk to life and property from any flooding and groundwater damage.*
- *Climate change will inform decisions for future water infrastructure*
- *Water sensitive urban design measures will be integrated into the built form to maximise liveability and reduce the impacts of climate change e.g. urban heat island effect and intensified rainfall events*
- *Wherever possible, water courses are to be conserved or restored to their natural state*
- *Protect the ecological and recreational condition of our beaches, lagoons, waterways, wetlands and surrounding bushland*
- *Reduce the consumption of potable water by encouraging water efficiency, the reuse of water and use of alternative water sources*

- *Protect Council stormwater drainage assets during development works and to ensure Council's drainage rights are not compromised by development activities*

The technical components of how to deliver on these principles are currently being developed for inclusion in the full policy, and may be amended based on the feedback from the SRG. Once completed, the full policy will be presented to Council with a recommendation to release for public exhibition. SRG members will be invited to provide comment during this process.

RECOMMENDATION OF SENIOR ENVIRONMENT SYSTEMS OFFICER

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group review the principles of the draft Northern Beaches Water Management Policy and provide comment at the meeting.

ITEM 6.1	UPDATE ON ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MATTERS
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER, COAST AND CATCHMENTS
TRIM FILE REF	2019/281641
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide members of the Environment Strategic Reference Group (SRG) an update on other general matters or actions of Council.

REPORT

Draft Bushland & Biodiversity Management Policy

On Thursday 9 May, a special workshop for interested members of the SRG was held on the development of a new Bushland and Biodiversity Policy that applies to the entire local government area, and was well attended. Valuable feedback was received from members about key principles and significant issues for inclusion, and provided some new perspectives and insights into the way bushland and biodiversity can be managed into the future.

This information has been taken on board by staff, and is being incorporated into the draft policy, which is currently being developed with further input from a number of different business units within Council. The draft Bushland and Biodiversity Policy is on track for review by the Chief Executive Team in late June, with a recommendation to present to Council for placing the draft policy on public exhibition. Members of the SRG will be invited to provide further comment on the draft policy during this time.

Draft Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Following the discussions held at the last full Environment SRG meeting, Council staff have been progressing development of the draft Environment and Climate Change Strategy. This includes updating commitments, providing text to introduce and discuss the importance of aspirations, and adding the aspiration of net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The discussion in population growth has also been updated to better connect the relationship between increasing population, consumption and development.

The draft text has been finalised and is currently with Council's graphic design team to create the document ready for reporting to Council for public exhibition in July.

Collaroy-Narrabeen Coastal Protection Works

Council resolved at its meeting of 26 March 2019 to provide financial assistance to private residents who construct approved coastal protection works. Council has developed a web-based application package for residents seeking to access these funds, but could not release it until the Grant funding agreement was in place.

Council has been working closely with the NSW government on the grant funding for both public and private coastal protection works at Collaroy-Narrabeen beach, a first of its kind for any NSW Council. As there are no previous examples, Council had to seek amendments to the NSW grant funding agreement in order to provide financial assistance to residents for construction of private coastal protection works. This caused a delay for both public and private works, but has recently been resolved.

The contract to undertake coastal protection works for the public asset of Collaroy car park has been approved, with site establishment scheduled to commence before the end of June, and for works to be completed by September 2019.

The timing and final detailed design for the remaining works to protect public assets is interdependent upon residents having applications for private protection works approved and the works constructed.

Currently four of the six development applications submitted to Council since 2016 have been approved. This represents 22 of the 49 properties requiring coastal protection having development consent to protect their properties. Council is working closely with residents and is hoping for completion by December 2021.

Bronze Partner status in the NSW Government Sustainability Advantage Program

Sustainability Advantage is the NSW Government's core sustainability offering for medium and large organisations across the state and has been running for over 14 years, helping organisations understand sustainability and strengthen their performance. Council joined Sustainability Advantage in October 2016.

The Sustainability Advantage Recognition Scheme provides public acknowledgement of member's achievements through the program where members can achieve Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum partner status. Stepping through the recognition program provides a sustainability framework and validates Council's pathway to demonstrating sustainability leadership.

Since joining in October 2016 Council has been working towards achieving Bronze Partner status that has included the following:

- Implementing projects to improve our sustainability performance, including:
 - Lighting upgrades at buildings, carparks and sports fields;
 - Heating and cooling system upgrades; and
 - Installation of solar panels at Cromer and Balgowlah depots
- Demonstrating a commitment to sustainability through our CSP goals
- Measuring our resource use and waste generation and developing strategies for reduction
- Working to embed sustainability through all of Council's business units

After an extensive application process, Council has now achieved Bronze Partner status, which recognises Council's commitment to sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGER, COAST AND CATCHMENTS

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group note the report

ITEM 6.2	SHOREBIRD FLOATING ROOST TRIAL
REPORTING OFFICER	ACTING MANAGER, BUSHLAND & BIODIVERSITY
TRIM FILE REF	2019/224203
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

ISSUE

Environment Strategic Reference Group member Marita Macrae has provided a suggestion for a “floating high tide roost” site in Careel Bay after becoming aware of a trial currently being undertaken by Birdlife Australia. The resident reported a decline in migratory waders, which may be attributed to loss of roosting sites.

DISCUSSION

The Shorebird Floating Roost trial project uses artificially constructed “islands” of long-line oyster bags (LLOB) to provide additional high-tide roost habitat for migratory shorebirds and waterbirds. The trial is being spearheaded by Birdlife Australia at two Australian sites (Western Port Phillip Bay and the Hunter Estuary) and one site in the Republic of Korea (Geum Estuary) in order to provide augmented roost habitat at either end of the East Asian Australasian Flyway.

The objectives of the trial are to:

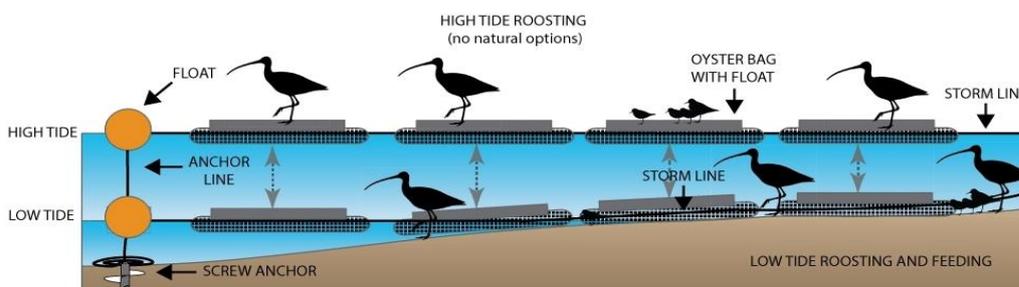
- Test shorebird and waterbird responses associated with LLOB artificial floating roosts;
- Document additional implications of LLOB on intertidal and subtidal ecology;
- Investigate alternate materials for possible use as artificial floating roosts including incorporation of traditional crafts.

The current trial is being undertaken as a proof of concept using commercially available equipment. The roosts are moored to marine grade screw anchors and attached to a storm line constructed of UV treated polyester. The bags are made of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) and Linear Low Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) which are designed to make them flexible and able to withstand UV radiation, tides, currents, storms and wave action.

The current trial sites reportedly experience very little boat traffic given that they are mostly shallow intertidal areas, however one Australian site includes known fishing, bait collecting and kayaking areas. There are currently no results regarding potential conflict with passive and active recreation, although the Project Manager does anticipate the possibility of members of the public taking oyster bags (as reportedly occurs at oyster farms).

The initial results of the trial are considered to be generally positive, with evidence that migratory shorebirds are willing to utilise these roosts. According to Birdlife Australia’s Project Manager, the key indicator of the trial’s success will be an increased fitness of the birds which already reside within a trial site, rather than a regional increase in birds.

As the trial is currently in the very early stages, Birdlife Australia have limited figures available on the costs of roost establishment, maintenance, monitoring and decommission. Data on whether the roosts provide effective protection from land-based predators (e.g. roaming dogs) is also scant at this stage. Birdlife Australia recommend that land/waterway managers await 1-2 years further assessment on the method’s effectiveness before implementing their own trial.



RECOMMENDATION OF ACTING MANAGER, BUSHLAND & BIODIVERSITY

That Council continue to liaise with Birdlife Australia until full results of the trial are available, and assess the results in consideration of a local trial.

ITEM 6.3	NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL STRATEGIC COASTAL DUNE MANAGEMENT PLAN
REPORTING OFFICER	SENIOR ENVIRONMENT OFFICER - COAST
TRIM FILE REF	2019/239512
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide an update on the Strategic Coastal Dune Management Plan.

REPORT

Northern Beaches Council is dedicated to managing the coastal environment across the local government area (LGA). Coastal dunes form a large part of the LGA's coastal environment and are one of the key natural assets. To assist dune management Council commissioned the Dune Condition and Vegetation Assessment (Assessment) in 2018. The Assessment provided a consistent approach to measuring the condition of all dunes on the Northern Beaches.

The Assessment found that dune geomorphology and vegetation as well as the condition varied widely across the Northern Beaches. The wide variety of dune conditions is reflective of historical and existing use as well as restoration activities at different beaches.

The Assessment provides an important foundation in developing a consistent approach to managing all dunes. Using this assessment a Strategic Coastal Dune Management Plan (The Plan) is to be prepared; an external consultant is being engaged to assist with this work. The Plan will highlight priorities and actions for dune management to effectively prioritise and allocate resources across all Northern Beaches dunes.

It will:

1. State the coastal dune management objectives of Northern Beaches Council;
2. Establish key criteria and priorities for dune management; and
3. Identify aspirational targets and key performance indicators (KPIs).

A key element of the Plan's preparation will be a workshop involving all relevant sections of Council to identify the key criteria and priorities for dune management across all dunes that Council manages on the Northern Beaches. This will ensure all key priorities and knowledge that existed across the former Councils will be utilised for the future management of dunes on the Northern Beaches.

A draft Plan will be completed by September 2019, and will be provided to members of the SRG for comment.

RECOMMENDATION OF SENIOR ENVIRONMENT OFFICER - COAST

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group note the report.

ITEM 6.4	INTRODUCTION TO COUNCIL'S OTHER STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUPS
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER, COAST AND CATCHMENTS
TRIM FILE REF	2019/281868
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide Environment Strategic Reference Group (SRG) members a description of the other Strategic Reference Groups, in order to consider opportunities for synergies and potential interaction.

SUMMARY

In addition to the Environment SRG, Council has 5 others. These are:

- **Community and Belonging** - which focuses on the Social Pillar of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP), including topics relating to art and culture, and community services.
- **Economic & Smart Communities** – which focuses on the Economic Pillar of the CSP; considering topics relating to vibrant local community, business support development, destination management plans, and smart cities.
- **Partnership & Participation** - which focuses on the Civic Leadership Pillar of the CSP, discussing matters relating to customer experience, community resilience and sustainability, engagement, events, and communications.
- **Places for People** – which focuses on the Social Pillar of the CSP and discusses topics including urban planning and design, affordable housing, cultural and built heritage, and open space recreation.
- **Transport & Travel** – which focuses on the Economic Pillar of the CSP, considering items relating to transport planning and strategy, and urban planning.

Staff will provide an overview of potential opportunities for synergies with the other SRGs at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGER, COAST AND CATCHMENTS

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group note the report
