



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 12 APRIL 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

Emma Marshall

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 12 April 2018
in the Coastal Environment Centre, Narrabeen
Commencing at 6:00pm**

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NEXT MEETING Thursday 21 June 2018

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies must be received and accepted from absent Members and leave of absence from the Environment Strategic Reference Group meetings must be granted.

2.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Reference Group 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

4.0 AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 4.1	REVIEW OF FORMER NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP - DIRECTIONS PAPER
REPORTING OFFICER	SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER
TRIM FILE REF	2018/182519
ATTACHMENTS	1 Former Natural Environment SRG - Directions Paper (Included In Attachments Booklet)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To introduce the former Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group (SRG) – Directions Paper prepared in July 2017 to the current SRG for their information and consideration.

REPORT

Background:

The former Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group (NESRG) was established during the administration period of Council to provide advice and guidance to the incoming Council. In June 2017, the NESRG finalised a Directions Paper, identifying current issues, approaches and recommended actions to protect and manage the natural environment and advance environmental sustainability across the Northern Beaches. This Paper was intended to inform and guide decision making during the first term of Council and has provided fundamental direction in the preparation of relevant key strategies and programs.

It is important, moving forward, that the recently formed Environment Strategic Reference Group, under the new Council, review the Directions Paper in terms of currency and relevance in protecting the environment and delivering environmentally sustainable outcomes across the Northern Beaches.

Discussion:

The Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group was one of eleven Strategic Reference Groups (SRGs) formed across key areas of Council's operations during the administration period. The SRGs were established to provide a valuable contribution to the direction of the incoming Council, through, for example, provision of input into the Community Strategic Plan and future plans and strategies. The NESRG consisted of community representatives and at least two former Councillors as Chair and Deputy Chair. One of the key outcomes of the NESRG was the preparation of the Directions Paper, formulated over the course of the Group's five meetings, which was intended to provide a handover document to inform and provide direction for the new Northern Beaches Council.

The Directions Paper is structured around five key themes; Catchment, Coast and Waterways; Bushland, Threatened Species and Pests; Climate Change, Floods, Bushfire and Coastal Erosion; and Sustainable Communities. Goals are identified under each theme together with a brief assessment of what is being done as well as suggested actions.

These themes, goals and actions outlined in the Directions Paper have informed the preparation of Council's key guiding documents and programs such as the 2017/18 Operational Plan and the 2018-2021 Draft Delivery Program (scheduled to be presented to Council on 17 April 2018). It will also be key in guiding the development of strategy being prepared to guide our environmental protection and sustainability efforts.

The Directions Paper was prepared alongside the 2017/18 Operational Plan. There is close alignment of key programs and projects identified within the Operational Plan and the themes, specified in the Directions Paper as outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Alignment of Directions Paper Themes with 2017/18 Operational Plan.

Directions Paper Theme	Catchment, Coast and Waterways	Bushland, Threatened Species and Pests	Climate Change	Floods, Bushfire and Coastal Erosion	Sustainable Communities
Operational Plan - Programs and Projects	Deliver programs to protect, preserve and manage our coasts, estuaries and waterways to benefit future generations Warriewood Valley Creepline works	Deliver Programs to protect, preserve and manage bushland and biodiversity to benefit future generations	Delivery of Energy Savings Works Program	Natural hazard management planning, mitigation works, warning systems and awareness campaigns. Coastal protection works including Collaroy / Narrabeen. Stormwater Program Rural Fire Service Program	Deliver targeted environmental sustainability engagement and education to assist in protection of the natural environment. Northern Beaches Waste Management Strategy

RECOMMENDATION OF SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group notes the Directions Paper of the former Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group.

ITEM 4.2	DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHERN BEACHES ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY
REPORTING OFFICER	SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER
TRIM FILE REF	2018/173966
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide an overview of the development of the Northern Beaches Environment Strategy.

REPORT

Background

Our community highly values its natural environment and expects Council to provide for its ongoing protection and conservation. Increasingly, the community are also expecting Council to take local action on climate change and ensure Council is demonstrating leadership in environmental sustainability.

The 3 former Councils of the Northern Beaches had a strong commitment to environmental protection and sustainability and all sought to be leaders in these fields (albeit through slightly different methods and policy settings). There is a strong desire for this to continue given feedback from our community during the development of the Community Strategic Plan and our recent Environmental Perceptions Survey.

With the formation of the Northern Beaches Council and this strong support from our community, there is a unique opportunity to prepare an ambitious and comprehensive strategy that sets our new Council at the leading edge of environmental protection, sustainability, resilience and climate change action.

The Northern Beaches Environment Strategy will set goals, objectives, targets and actions in a broad range of areas including:

- Coastal management
- Catchment management
- Bushland and biodiversity protection
- Sustainable development
- Waste minimization and management
- Sustainable transport
- Risk and resilience to natural hazards
- Sustainability in our organization
- Community support and engagement

Discussion

Initial research has been conducted to review relevant national and global targets and what other local governments are doing in this space. We are also taking guidance from the *Natural Environment Strategic Reference Group – Directions Paper*, June 2017.

The draft framework being developed is shown in Figure 1. This framework shows the process from setting long term goals, down to specific annual project delivery. It is expected this process will result in the following suite of reports:

- A Strategy - an overarching strategy which presents the long term vision (10-20yrs) and will include the goals and objectives. It is anticipated this will be reviewed every 4 years.
- Action Plans - which will provide 4 yearly actions Council will work to deliver in order to meet the goals and objectives. The Action Plans will be reviewed annually and themed appropriately, for example a Water Action Plan, a Bushland and Biodiversity Action Plan etc.
- Operational Plans – plans which present the projects/programs being implemented to deliver the actions. These are prepared annually.

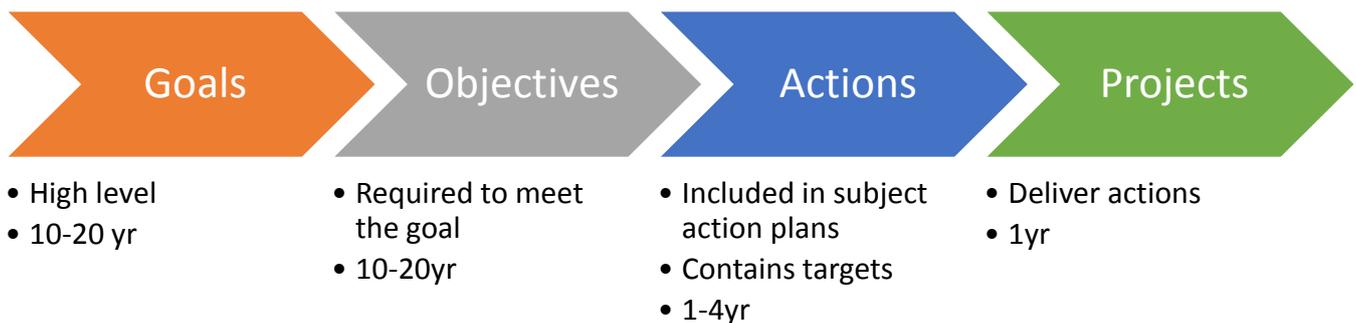


Figure 1: Draft Strategy Framework

During the meeting, staff will present the proposed program of work for developing the Strategy and seek feedback from the SRG about priorities and challenges in order to identify key goals and objectives for the Strategy.

As we move through the Strategy process, we will be asking the group to consider a range of information including community preferences, technical research, government policies, the former SRG Directions Paper, recent decisions of Council, and the potential impact of infrastructure and development across our region.

As the Strategy is developed, the SRG will continue to be consulted and engaged to help shape the direction for the environmental sustainability of the Northern Beaches.

RECOMMENDATION OF SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group note and contribute to the development of a strategy focused on environmental protection and sustainability.

ITEM 4.3	CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP PLEDGE SELECTION
REPORTING OFFICER	SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER
TRIM FILE REF	2018/172026
ATTACHMENTS	1 CPP Brochure - Council Information (Included In Attachments Booklet) 2 CPP - Pledge Options Analysis (Included In Attachments Booklet)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To seek endorsement from the Environment Strategic Reference Group (SRG) for the 5 pledges proposed for Council to fulfil the requirements of the Cities Power Partnership.

REPORT

Background:

Council recently became a member of the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership (CPP) program, in line with the Council resolution from 24 October 2017. CPP is a pledge-based program that is designed to support and promote energy saving and climate change mitigation initiatives in local councils across the country.

Participation in the partnership required Council to select 5 pledges to achieve. Reporting on progress towards the goals is required on a 6 monthly basis.

Discussion:

The following 5 pledges have been selected upon consideration of the following:

Community Strategic Plan (CSP): All of the pledges proposed relate directly to draft CSP Goals to ensure that we are working to deliver actions that are supported by the community.

Diversity: The 5 pledges were selected to include at least one pledge from each of the 4 different themes. This increases the breadth of impact achieved by working to deliver these pledges.

Impact: Only pledges estimated to achieve Significant (>10,000t) or Large (1,000 – 10,000t) potential emissions reductions were selected.

Comprehensiveness: The pledges selected were chosen as the most comprehensive for that theme/subject.

The proposed 5 pledges are:

Theme and Reference Number	Pledge	Potential Actions	Estimated Potential Reduction
Renewable Energy: 2	Provide council resources to educate and support the uptake of renewable energy, such as by hiring an internal renewable energy support officer or establishing an independent body (such as the Moreland and Yarra Energy Foundations).	Community engagement programs, including Our Energy Future* and SunSPOT** implementation.	Significant
Energy Efficiency: 2	Adopt best practice energy efficiency measures across all council buildings, and support community facilities to adopt these measures.	We are already continuously working towards this. In the near future this will include the auditing of Council buildings and working through recommended improvements.	Large
Transport: 3	Encourage sustainable transport use (public transport, walking and cycling) through Council transport planning and design. Substantial savings in transport energy use can be achieved by designing more compact cities with access to high quality public and active transport services and facilities.	Incorporation into the transport strategy currently under development.	Large
Work Together and Influence: 1	Set city-level renewable energy or emissions reduction targets and sustainable energy policies to provide a common goal and shared expectations for local residents and businesses.	This will be incorporated in an Environment Strategy currently under development.	Significant
Work Together and Influence: 4	Implement an education and behaviour change program to influence the behaviour of council officers, local residents and businesses within the municipality to drive the shift to renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport.	Community engagement programs, including Our Energy Future and SunSPOT implementation.	Significant

* Our Energy Future is a model developed by the Moreland Energy Foundation which is administered by a consultant. The project delivers products, services and tailored expert advice to the community that will help them save energy, save money and transition to a renewable energy future. The Northern Beaches Council is in the process of joining this service.

**SunSPOT is an online tool which the community can use to estimate the energy production and cost of a solar PV system installed on their rooftop.

RECOMMENDATION OF SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group endorse the selection of the 5 pledges presented in this report to work towards as part of the Cities Power Partnership.
