



MINUTES

The Minutes of the Environment Reference Group held in the Ros Crichton Pavilion, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney on Monday 3 May 2021.



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Present

Councillor's Keen and Brodie in the Chair

Staff:

Robert Emerson, Director Open Space and Environmental Services
Niki Carey, Senior Sustainability Programs Co-ordinator
Gareth Debney, Bushland Management Coordinator
Josh Jongma, Governance Co-Ordinator
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

Citizen Members:

Philip Worrall
Anne Edwards
Louise Byrne (online)

Visitors: Nil.

Apologies were received from Councillors Baker and Beregi, John Berry and Bruce Handmer.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 November 2019 copies of which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

It was moved by Councillor Brodie and seconded by Phillip Worrall,

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Environment Reference Group held on Monday, 11 November 2019, copies of which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

Voting was unanimous.

2. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Committee Reports

3.1. Food Scraps Trial in MUDs

AUTHOR: Bo Karaula, Waste Management Co-ordinator

This report provides an overview of the upcoming food scraps collection and processing trial. The purpose of the trial is to test the demand and gather data (cost and operational) of implementing a food scraps recycling collection service for residents in Multi Unit Dwellings (MUDs). The results of the trial will inform long-term strategic decisions on resource recovery options.

This project will be funded from the Domestic Waste Management Budget and the NSW EPA

Grant.

Recommending:

1. **THAT** the Residential Food Scraps Collection and Processing Trial report be received.
A Motion was moved by Anne Edwards and seconded by Phillip Worrall,

1. **THAT** the Residential Food Scraps Collection and Processing Trial report be received.
2. **THAT** the Council undertake an education program on prevention of generation of food waste to supplement the trial.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1. **THAT** the Residential Food Scraps Collection and Processing Trial report be received.
2. **THAT** the Council undertake an education program on prevention of generation of food waste to supplement the trial.

3.2. Bushcare Community Programs update 2020

AUTHOR: Gareth Debney, Bushland Management Co-ordinator

Council's Bushland Management Team coordinates and delivers a range of community engagement and education programs aimed at increasing community awareness of urban ecology and the importance of natural area conservation.

These programs focus on volunteer participation (i.e. Bushcare; Adopt-a-Plot; Wildlife Watch) and resident engagement (i.e. Native Havens; Bushcare Workshops, Activities and Events).

From March 2020 onward, the Coronavirus pandemic affected the way in which these programs were delivered to the community. Unlike a number of other metropolitan Councils, North Sydney suspended volunteer involvement in Bushcare programs only during the "lockdown" period from the around the 27th of March until the 15th of May 2020. As soon as NSW Government restrictions allowed, the Bushland Team sought to utilise every available resource and apply innovative practical operational procedures to enable all possible volunteering and community engagement activities to recommence safely.

The following report details the activities and achievements within each of these programs during 2020, as well as a snapshot of current or planned initiatives for the 2021 calendar year.

Recommending:

1. **THAT** the Bushcare community programs update 2020 report be received.

A Motion was moved by Anne Edwards and seconded by Phillip Worrall,

1. **THAT** the Bushcare community programs update 2020 report be received.
2. **THAT** the significant impacts of Australian Brush Turkeys and Noisy Miners be noted and that representations be made to the relevant authorities to better mitigate the issue.
3. **THAT** additional information be continued to be provided to the community on how to better manage the Brush Turkey population.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1. **THAT** the Bushcare community programs update 2020 report be received.

2. **THAT** the significant impacts of Australian Brush Turkeys and Noisy Miners be noted and that representations be made to the relevant authorities to better mitigate the issue.

3. THAT additional information be continued to be provided to the community on how to better manage the Brush Turkey population.

3.3. Balls Head Reserve Vehicle Access Management

AUTHOR: Gareth Debney, Bushland Management Co-ordinator

Balls Head Reserve is a popular, iconic bushland reserve on the foreshore of Sydney Harbour. Currently, the reserve is open to public access 24 hours a day, however vehicles are not permitted to park in the reserve between 10pm and 6am. Unfortunately, the reserve is affected by regular instances of vandalism and antisocial behaviours that result in financial cost to Council and lasting damage to the natural values of the reserve. Over the past 12 months alone, the reserve has suffered more than 18 documented instances of vandalism and antisocial behaviour ranging from dumping of rubbish and green-waste, graffiti, and facility damage, to the lighting of numerous fires. As many of these activities occur overnight, after Ranger patrols cease, it is proposed to install boom gates on the entrance/exit to Balls Head Reserve and manage their opening/closure in accordance with the signposted parking restrictions.

These actions are supported by a previous resolution of Council and adopted management plans for the reserve. Funding for the project, estimated at between \$26,000 to \$32,000 is available within the existing Bushland Management recurrent budget allocation.

The associated costs will be covered by the 2021/22 Bushland Management recurrent budget.

Recommending:

1. THAT Council proceed with the installation of boom gates in Balls Head Reserve and the adoption of managed vehicle access in the reserve between 10pm and 6am.

The Recommendation was moved by Louise Byrne and seconded by Anne Edwards.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1. THAT Council proceed with the installation of boom gates in Balls Head Reserve and the adoption of managed vehicle access in the reserve between 10pm and 6am.

3.4. Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability Update

AUTHOR: Daniel Birkbeck, Co-ordinator Centre for Sustainability

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability projects and events over the last 18 months. Whilst the COVID 19 pandemic forced a major change to the way our usual programs were delivered in 2020, Coal Loader activities and events are now beginning to return to normal.

This report outlines the achievements and highlights of the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability throughout 2020/21, including the development and delivery of the Coal Loader App and virtual kids trail, COVID safe markets, art exhibitions and wellness sessions, and cross team projects including a native bushfoods garden and venue provision for the Sydney Library of Things.

Recommending:

1. THAT the report on activities at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability be noted.

The Recommendation was moved by Phillip Worrall and seconded by Anne Edwards.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1. **THAT** the report on activities at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability be noted.

3.5. Worn Up North Sydney

AUTHOR: Jordan Moy, Sustainability Education Officer

In 2021, North Sydney Council started a pilot program with a new fabric recycling provider, Worn Up, with the aim of reducing waste by collecting unwearable second-hand school uniforms and processing them into new and usable everyday items.

Three North Sydney schools are currently part of the pilot program: Cammeray Public, North Sydney Demonstration School and North Sydney Girls High. Currently all three schools have successfully collected and delivered unwearable school uniforms to Worn Up at the end of Term 1, 2021.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the pilot Worn Up program in 2021.

This project is funded through Council's Waste Levy. The project budget was \$2,500 with most of the funding been spent on clothing collection and end of line processing.

Recommending:

1. **THAT** the report about the Worn Up North Sydney Program be received.

A Motion was moved by Phillip Worrall and seconded by Louise Byrne,

1. **THAT** the report about the Worn Up North Sydney Program be received.
2. **THAT** a report be brought back on how to extend the program to other clothing types to align with a RecycleSmart program.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to Recommend:

1. **THAT** the report about the Worn Up North Sydney Program be received.
2. **THAT** a report be brought back on how to extend the program to other clothing types to align with RecycleSmart programs.

3.6. Water and Energy Management Programs Update

AUTHOR: Ian Garradd, Sustainability Project Officer

This report provides an update from the last 18 months on the implementation of Council's Greenhouse Action and Water Management Plan 2015-2020 and more recent water and energy audit reports.

The water and energy programs discussed in this report are funded through a combination of Council's Environment Levy and property maintenance budgets.

Recommending:

1. **THAT** the report on Council's Water and Energy Management Programs is noted.

The Recommendation was moved by Louise Byrne and seconded by Anne Edwards.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to Recommend:

1. **THAT** the report on Council's Water and Energy Management Programs is noted.

3.7. Sydney Library of Things Tool Library

AUTHOR: Niki Carey, Senior Sustainability Programs Co-ordinator This report provides an update on the "Sydney Library of Things", or "SLoT", a new community run tool library which will be trialed for 12 months at the Coal Loader in part of the workshop space next to the Artist Studio. Council endorsed the trial on 22 February 2021 and is expected to launch on 12 June 2022. As well as reducing local resource use, and supporting the share economy, the tool library will create a new sustainability focused community hub which may lead to an ongoing "Environmental community group in residence" program at the Coal Loader. Minor carpentry and electrical works totalling less than \$5000 have been allocated from the Environment Levy to provide a secure storage space for a tool library, and other potential future environmental groups, in the workshop area at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability. The space has been offered free of charge to the SLoT for the trial period. This is consistent with the not for profit nature of the community group, the significant local environmental and community benefits of the proposal, as well as the value it will add in contributing to the vision and objectives of Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability.

Recommending:

1. **THAT** the report providing an update on the Sydney Library of Things is received.

The Recommendation was moved by Anne Edwards and seconded by Phillip Worrall.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to Recommend:

1. **THAT** the report providing an update on the Sydney Library of Things is received.

5. General Business

Phil Worrall raised the North Sydney Council Climate Emergency-Report E01-11 November 2019 and Council summary update on outcomes of Report initiatives, particularly target achievement levels.

An update on these matters was provided to the extent of the update in 3.6 above and briefly generally.

5. Closure

The Meeting concluded at 8.46pm.