

3.3. North Sydney Living Futures Sustainability Festival

AUTHOR	Rebecca Farrell, Events and Engagement Officer
ENDORSED BY	Leonie Netting, Coordinator Coal Loader Sustainability Centre
ATTACHMENTS	NIL
CSP LINK	1.2 Environmentally Sustainable Community 1.4 Well utilised open space and recreational facilities 2.3 Prioritise sustainable and active transport 3.3 North Sydney is smart and innovative 5.3 Community is engaged in what Council does

PURPOSE:

To provide an overview of the North Sydney Living Futures Sustainability Festival in April 2023, as well as an update for the finale festival date scheduled for 29 October.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- Seven of the eight events comprising the inaugural North Sydney Living Futures Sustainability festival were successfully delivered between 24 – 28 April 2023;
- The festival finale due to take place on Sunday 30 April to an anticipated crowd of over 5,000 visitors was postponed due to predicted severe weather conditions. This event has been re-scheduled to Sunday 29 October;
- Over 650 participants took part in the talk series which took place across seven different locations across North Sydney.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** the North Sydney Living Futures Sustainability report be noted.
- 2. THAT** the festival finale be re-scheduled for Sunday 29 October 2023.

Background

The inaugural North Sydney Living Futures Sustainability festival concept was a result of a Councillor Notice of Motion by Councillor Georgia Lamb in March 2022:

1. THAT Council organise for a 'Sustainable' festival at the Coal Loader as it is our sustainable achievement of North Sydney;
2. THAT the inclusion of a festival be considered as part of the current budget deliberations.

A detailed proposal for the event series was developed through a cross-Council collaborative approach and 'Living Futures' was conceptualised, set to be delivered in April 2023. The event series comprised of eight different events across North Sydney, culminating in a full day festival at the Coal Loader Sustainability Centre. Each event aimed to tackle a different trending sustainability theme, with the full day festival aiming to engage the wider community.

Report

The Inaugural North Sydney Living Futures Sustainability festival involved collaboration between 23 Council teams and attracted over 650 participants over seven events, each tackling a particular sustainability hot topic.

The festival finale that was due to take place on Sunday 30 April was postponed due to predicted severe weather conditions and is re-scheduled for Sunday 29 October. Currently organised for the upcoming festival finale include:

- Fourteen exhibiting Council teams showcasing their projects and initiatives;
- Multiple live demonstration areas including electric vehicles, e-bikes and sustainable cooking;
- A whole day of in-depth talks and tours;
- Over forty exhibitors;
- A full stage program including live music and entertainment;
- Collaborative art;
- Eco Kids entertainment and activities;
- Food and beverage.

A snapshot of the delivered festival talks:

The Future of Food

The Independent Theatre, Monday 24 April, 2023



Attendees enjoyed a selection of innovative food samples from Hearthe and Impossible before taking their seats to listen to passionate food sustainability advocate, writer, and former Good Food Guide Editor, Joanna Savill. Joanna emceed a panel of top Australian chefs for an evening of thought-provoking conversation as discussion explored what the future of food looks like and how every day Australians can help shape it.

The panel included Jez Wick, Head Chef of the Refettorio OzHarvest; Julian Cincotta, Chef and co-owner of Butter; Christopher Thé, founder of the world-famous Black Star Pastry.

Youth Leading Youth

North Sydney Oval. Wednesday 26 April, 2023



Held in collaboration with the team at North Sydney Oval, this panel of inspiring young leaders discussed how they have campaigned to make a positive change in the world.

The panel included an array of innovative and talented speakers including Lottie Dalziel, sustainability expert, founder of Banish, the BRAD program and this year's NSW Young Australian of the Year; Varsha Yajman, Indian-Australian climate justice and mental health youth advocate and paralegal in climate change litigation; Sophia Skarparis, Australian Geographic Young Conservationist of the Year for 2018-19, Kal Glanznig, Youth Delegate United Nations COP27, World Ocean Day Youth Advisory Council & co-founder Plastic Free Cronulla, and Dani Villafana, Associate Researcher at Deakin University, champion of intersectional feminism, passionate activist and changemaker, 2023 Newtown Woman of the Year.

Towards Net Zero Business

Presented by CitySwitch. The Green Moustache. Thursday 27 April, 2023



Thursday morning kicked off with a panel discussion and networking breakfast, organized and delivered by Council’s Sustainability team and CitySwitch. Guest speaker Barbara Albert from 100% Renewables demonstrated different scientifically based climate change estimated scenarios according to possible/probable actions we take in the years to come, indicating that businesses should act now. She also demonstrated how industry is adapting to these changes, showing that the biggest risk for business is to be left behind if it does not start measuring carbon emission baseline and committing to carbon reduction targets.

NTH SYD Eco-Tainment

Brett Whitely Place. Thursday 27 April.



Organised and implemented by Council’s Events Team this NTH SYD event engaged over 300 workers in the North Sydney CBD over two hours with live music and a line-up of entertainers who all have an eco-friendly twist. Eco-tainment included: Gaia Rhythm Mobile Eco DJ – a roving solar-powered DJ booth in a repurposed wheelie bin. Musical Chefs – a musical troupe playing on instruments made from upcycled kitchen items. Magician Adam Axford – performing magic with a sustainability message. 'Wonders of Water' van with Sydney Water – a way to experience water like you never have before with interactive games and virtual reality.

Energy Efficient Kitchens

Presented by Better Business Partnerships. North Spoon Café. Thursday 27 April.



Organised and implemented by the Better Business Partnership team, this free information and networking event discussed ideas on how to save local business money while helping the planet. Guest speaker Nisha Ghantwal, owner and director at The Mack Group Australia busted myths about electric cooking and demonstrate the economic, HR, and environmental benefits of an all-electric kitchen. Nisha showed that cooking without gas is already happening

and there will be a rapid industry shift soon. The Better Business Partnerships team were on hand to answer questions and drive ongoing engagement with local enterprises. Sustainable Style and the Circular Economy

Stanton Library. Thursday 27 April.



Organised and delivered in collaboration with the team at Stanton Library, community members interested in making a sustainable change whilst not sacrificing style were invited to join three passionate change-makers working in fashion and textiles. Discussion involved the social and ecological impact of fast fashion. The panel discussed the environmental, human, and economic impacts of the current textile trade, the power of choosing slow fashion, and embracing reuse and repair techniques to participate in building a circular economy.

Our panel of incredible and talented speakers included sustainable fashion expert, author and international public speaker Clare Press, award-winning sustainability advocate, ethical fashion speaker, and Ecostyles founder Nina Gbor, and visual artist, community art facilitator, curator and founder/President of Textiles Sydney Jane Theau. The event was moderated by sustainability & social impact champion, Hannah Franklin.

The Built Environment

Tunnel One @ The Coal Loader. Friday 28 April.



In the final talk of our week-long speaker series, our expert panel discussed the effects of man-made infrastructure on the natural and social environment and how good planning can lead to better outcomes for all. The panel included: Caroline Pidcock, award winning architect, prominent advocate for sustainable development. April McCabe, experienced urban & social

planner, place maker and strategist, Director at The Planning Studio, and Chair of the LFIA Biophilic Design Advisory Panel. Drew Heath, sole practitioner, and builder, specializing in handmade and handcrafted buildings with low environmental impact. Our MC for the night was Dani Villafana, Associate Researcher at Deakin University, 2023 Newtown Woman of the Year.



Options

The Environmental Reference Group has the following options in relation to this matter:

1. Recommend the festival finale to not go ahead at all
2. Recommend a different date for the festival finale
3. Note this report as well as the re-scheduled date for the festival finale on 29th October 2023.

These options are assessed in the table below.

Option	Finance/Resourcing	Risk/Opportunity	Consultation
1.	The cost of delivery would be saved	Community/stakeholder disappointment at the non-delivery of the event	Stakeholder and community
2.	None	A detailed analysis of dates was carried out to ensure non-clashes with other Sydney and Council events/school holidays etc. to land on the 29 October 2023.	-

3.	Delivering the event at a cost of approx. \$72,000 (funds/resources already allocated)	Delivering on the original Councillor Notice of Motion and agreed program that our elected body and community have been promised and expect.	Stakeholder and community
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Option 3 is recommended for the following reasons:

- We already have the funds allocated to deliver the event and to cancel would significantly increase the cost from service providers enforcing cancellation fees;
- We have a community and elected representative body expectation to deliver a widely marketed program of works;
- Anecdotal preference from community and stakeholders is to deliver the already prepared and promoted event in springtime.

Consultation requirements

Consultation with all festival finale service providers has been undertaken to re-schedule them for the new date, for which almost all are available for. Any who are unavailable are either being paid their cancellation fee or offered another opportunity to deliver an education component at another Coal Loader event.

Financial/Resource Implications

At the time of the decision making to postpone the event a cost benefit analysis was undertaken to estimate the cost per head to go ahead versus postponement. Based on the weather forecast and results of other events run at The Coal Loader under similar conditions it was determined infeasible to go ahead.

Delivery of the speaker series came in under budget at approximately \$12,500.
 Marketing and print collateral for the event series as a whole has cost \$10,500.
 Implementation fees for the event as a whole have so far accounted for \$35,000.
 Re-scheduling the event came at a cost of approximately \$20,000 (service provider postponement fees).
 Hosting of the event finale is estimated at \$72,000.

Therefore, the event delivery in full is anticipated to still be delivered on budget despite incurring cancellation fees. This would require that the un-spent budget for the festival finale to be delivered this calendar/next financial year has been allocated through the environment levy and will be rolled over.