



MINUTES

The Minutes of the **Environment Reference Group Meeting** held in the Ros Crichton Pavilion, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney on Tuesday 16 May 2023.



Councillor Bourke in the Chair, Councillors Baker, Beregi and Welch

Staff: Peter Massey, Acting Director Open Space and Environmental Services
Danielle Birkbeck, Sustainability Programs Coordinator
Gareth Debney, Bushland Management Co-ordinator
Bo Karaula, Acting Manager Environmental Services
Shivann Kumar, Waste Management Officer
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

Citizen Members: Wendy Pryor, Community Member
Philip Worrall, Community Member
Tony Stanley, Community Member
Jane Theau, Community Member
Anne Edwards, Community Member

Visitors: Alida Jansen van Vuuren, Ausgrid
Bryn Hernandez, Ausgrid
Gerry Haines, Resident

Apologies were received from the General Manager and Bruce Handmer, Resident

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 March 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

2. Disclosures of Interest

Nil.

Ausgrid Community Battery Proposal

Alida Jansen van Vuuren from Ausgrid addressed the Reference Group on the community battery proposal.

A Motion was moved by the Mayor and seconded by Councillor Welch

1.THAT Ms Jansen van Vuuren from Ausgrid be thanked for attending and making a presentation on the community battery proposal.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1.THAT Ms Jansen van Vuuren from Ausgrid be thanked for attending and making a presentation on the community battery proposal.

3. Committee Reports

3.1. Sustainable Business Program Review

AUTHOR Daniella Mac Dowell, Sustainable Business Officer

This report provides an overview of Council’s Sustainable Business Programs (CitySwitch, Better Business Partnership and Environmental Upgrade Agreements) and identifies opportunities to further assist North Sydney businesses on their sustainability journey.

- Sustainability is a core value of Council and is reflected in several of our strategic documents. These include the North Sydney Vision 2040 – Community Strategic Plan, which recognises climate change as a threat to the future of our community, and the North Sydney Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030, that establishes clear targets in 7 areas including carbon footprint, water conservation, water quality, sustainable transport, urban ecology, resource recovery and community engagement.
- This report provides information on Council’s Sustainable Business Programs and suggests opportunities to improve outcomes and increase their impact, as well as align the programs with targets set out in the North Sydney Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the Sustainable Business Program report be received and noted.

The Motion was moved by Phil Worrall and seconded by Councillor Welch

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1. THAT the Sustainable Business Program report be received and noted.

3.2. North Sydney Living Futures Sustainability Festival

AUTHOR Rebecca Farrell, Events and Engagement Officer

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.

- 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 North Sydney Living Futures Sustainability Festival finale be re-scheduled for Sunday 29 October 2023.

The Motion was moved by Jane Theau and seconded by Anne Edwards

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

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

4. General Business

1. Jane Theau addressed the Reference Group on the following items:
 - installing more water bubblers in places where people buy bottled water, i.e., shopping centres, cafes, near harbour kiosks, at bus stops etc.
 - ensuring that easy-to-use and **easy-to-access** container recycling facilities are mandatory when shaping planning decisions for any business that sells bottles and cans (especially bottle shops and supermarkets).
 - situating container recycling and clothing recycling bins together (make it easy for people).
 - reducing the frequency of kerbside household waste collection.
 - consider participating in the Boomerang Alliance's Plastic Free Places programme: <https://www.plasticfreeplaces.org/>.
2. Phil Worrall addressed the Reference Group on the following items:
 - Recycling
 - soft and hard plastics.
 - Xrays.
 - Global Warming Issues
 - Carbon footprint of air travel.
 - Pet Ownership.
 - Cat Controls.

Peter Massey, Council's Acting Director Open Space and Environmental Services is attending his last meeting of the Environment Reference Group as he is retiring at the end of June 2023.

Bruce Handmer who couldn't attend the meeting advised that he has benefited from the Futureproofing Apartments program. He found it easy to participate and extremely beneficial.

He would like noted his building's comments and thanks, (Westbridge, Strata 4308. 30-40 Blues Point Road, McMahons Point).

5. Closure

The meeting closed at 7:05pm.