



MINUTES

The Minutes of the **Environment Reference Group Meeting** held in the Ros Crichton Pavilion, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney on Tuesday, 5 September 2023.



Councillor Lamb in the Chair, Councillor Baker and Santer

Staff: Danielle Birkbeck, Acting Manager Environmental Services
Gareth Debney, Bushland Management Co-ordinator
Shivann Kumar, Waste Management Officer
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

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

Visitors: Boon Lim, Resident

Apologies were received from the Councillors Beregi, Bourke and Welch and Bruce Handmer, Resident

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 May 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

2. Disclosures of Interest

Nil.

3. Committee Reports

3.1. The Sydney Library of Things Progress Report

AUTHOR: Danielle Birkbeck, A/Manager Environmental Services

This report provides an update and overview of The Sydney Library of Things operations, following the end of the trial period in June 2023.

- The *Sydney Library of Things* (TSLoT) began operations at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability in November 2021. It provides a volunteer run library of tools and other household equipment that may be borrowed by members of the community. The trial period ran from November 2021 through to June 2023.
- There are currently 25 volunteers and 96 memberships to the library.
- There are 277 items that can be borrowed, and 755 loans have been made over the trial period.
- It is anticipated that the lease for Workshop 2 at the Coal Loader be extended for a further 2 years following Council approval.

Financial implications are minor and are funded through Council's allocated Coal Loader or Property budgets depending on the nature of the request.

Recommending:

1. **THAT** that the report on the *Sydney Library of Things* is received.

The Motion was moved by Jane Theau and seconded by Wendy Pryor.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1. **THAT** that the report on the *Sydney Library of Things* is received.

3.2. Community Recycling Centre Operations

AUTHOR: Shivaan Kumar, Waste Management Officer

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the operations of the Northern Sydney Community Recycling Centre based in Artarmon.

- North Sydney Council operates the Community Recycling Centre (CRC) on behalf of the City of Ryde and the Councils of Hunter's Hill, Lane Cove, Mosman, and Willoughby.
- Residents can safely dispose of household problem waste items including paint, motor oil, gas bottles, fire extinguishers, e-waste, light bulbs, batteries, smoke detectors, x-rays, printer cartridges and mobile phones.
- Over 28,700 residents used the CRC in Financial Year 22/23 of which 9,925 were from the North Sydney Council area and approximately 562,968kg of problem waste was collected.
- A total of 4,748g of wearable textile was also collected between October 2022 and June 2023.

Funds for the establishment of the CRC were provided through the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). Under the terms of the Deed of Agreement, the partner Councils have committed to funding the CRC for the term of the lease. North Sydney Council's contribution is funded from the Domestic Waste Management levy each financial year.

Recommending:

1. **THAT** the report on Community Recycling Centre Operations be received.

The Motion was moved by Wendy Pryor and seconded by Councillor Baker.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1. **THAT** the report on Community Recycling Centre Operations be received.

3.3. Coal Loader Future Directions Survey Report

AUTHOR: Leonie Netting, Coordinator Coal Loader Sustainability Centre

This report provides an overview of results from the Coal Loader Future Directions Survey that took place from March to June 2023.

- Coal Loader Future Directions Survey took place between 16 March and 13 June 2023. The survey sought community feedback on what to see, do and experience at the Coal Loader.

- The survey was run on Council's Your Say page and promoted to key stakeholder groups, local and regional community, education institutions, user groups and the general public.
- The survey received high participation with a total of 511 valid submissions.
- Results showed most people come to the Coal Loader to relax and connect to nature, attend educational workshops and events, learn about sustainability, and appreciate the history and heritage.
- Results from the survey will be used for future business planning at the Coal Loader. Budget has been allocated within Council's environment levy to fund Coal Loader programs.

Recommending:

1. **THAT** the Coal Loader Future Directions Survey Report be received.

The Motion was moved by Councillor Santer and seconded by Jane Theau.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1. **THAT** the Coal Loader Future Directions Survey Report be received.

3.4. Bushcare Community Nursery Update

AUTHOR: Gareth Debney, Bushland Management Co-ordinator

To provide an annual summary of the operation, activities and achievements of staff and volunteers at the Bushcare Community Nursery during 2022/23.

- Council's Bushland Management Team delivers a range of community engagement and education programs aimed at increasing community awareness of urban ecology and the importance of natural area conservation.
- Commencing in the mid 1990's, Council's Bushcare Program is the primary avenue for community participation in bushland conservation. There are currently 12 Bushcare Groups in North Sydney, including the Bushcare Community Nursery.
- Formed in 2011 and based at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability, the Bushcare Community Nursery Group grows provenance tubestock plants to support the full breadth of Council's biodiversity conservation and community engagement programs (including Bushcare; Native Havens; Adopt-a-Plot; Citizenship; National / Schools Tree Day etc).
- Emerging from the significant disruption to volunteer programs caused by the COVID pandemic, plant production in the Bushcare Community Nursery has recovered to pre-pandemic levels through the combined efforts of our returning volunteers and the dedicated work of Council's Bushcare Community Nursery Supervisor.

The Bushcare Community Nursery operations are fully funded under Council's Environmental Levy and sufficient budget has been allocated.

Recommending:

1. **THAT** the Bushcare Community Nursery Update report be received.

The Motion was moved by Councillor Baker and seconded by Wendy Pryor.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1. **THAT** the Bushcare Community Nursery Update report be received.

4. General Business

1. Philip Worrall attended the meeting remotely but was experiencing technical difficulties, therefore the following item will be discussed at the next meeting.
 - Cat control law NSW- role of local government.

The following items were discussed from Jane Theau:

- North Sydney Repair Café
- Community Education

5. Meeting closed at 8pm.