



MINUTES

The Minutes of the **Environment Reference Group Meeting** held in the Ros Crichton Pavilion, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney on Tuesday, 21 November 2023.



PRESENT

Councillor Lamb in the Chair, Councillors Bourke, Santer and Welch.

Staff:	Danielle Birkbeck, Acting Manager Environmental Services Gareth Debney, Bushland Management Co-ordinator Hugh Goodman, Streets Alive Co-ordinator (remote) Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)
Citizen Members:	Wendy Pryor, Community Member Philip Worrall, Community Member Anne Edwards, Community Member Bruce Handmer, Community Member (remote) Jane Theau, Community Member (remote)
Visitor:	Gerry Haines, Resident

Apologies were received from Councillor Baker and John Berry, Resident.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 September 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

Moved by Councillor Santer and seconded by Wendy Pryor.

2. Disclosures of Interest

Nil.

3. Committee Reports

3.1. Streets Alive, Community Garden and HarbourCare Update

Report of Hugh Goodman, Streets Alive Coordinator

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Council's Streets Alive, Community Garden and Harbour Care programs.

- As of October 2023, Council's Streets Alive program has 450 registered volunteers covering approximately 160 sites within the Local Government Area (LGA), ranging from small verges to large open spaces.
- Council has eight official community garden groups across the LGA which are maintained by approximately 150 active community volunteers.
- The Harbour Care program supports volunteers who remove rubbish from the many small beaches in the local government area (LGA). There are currently 21 sites with 87 registered volunteers.

The Streets Alive, Community Garden and Harbour Care programs are funded through Council's Environment Levy.

Recommending:

- 1. THAT** the Streets Alive, Community Garden and Harbour Care Update report be received.

The Motion was moved by Councillor Santer and seconded by Bruce Handmer.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

- 1. THAT** the Streets Alive, Community Garden and Harbour Care Update report be received.

3.2. North Sydney Sustainability Rebates Program

Report of Jordan Moy, Sustainability Education Officer

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the North Sydney Sustainability Rebates program.

- The Sustainability Rebates Program will support properties in North Sydney to implement energy and water saving initiatives. The program includes households, strata and businesses.
- Rebates will assist in overcoming barriers such as cost and dwelling type with stronger incentives for those with larger upfront costs such as apartment complexes and businesses.
- There are fourteen rebates available that have been chosen to achieve the highest emission reductions and to best meet community need.
- The program will help North Sydney become a more resilient, environmentally and socially sustainable community. It will incentivise the adoption of clean and low emission technology and renewable energies and support home and business electrification.

This project is funded through Council's Environment Levy.

Recommending:

1. THAT the North Sydney Sustainability Rebates Program report be received.

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

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1. THAT the North Sydney Sustainability Rebates Program report be received.

4. General Business

1. Philip Worrall discussed the following items:
 - Cat Ownership.
 - Eco emanations ex elsewhere-snippets from other Councils etc to inform and/or motivate namely clothing and textile recycling, soft plastics, red bin waste reduction.
2. Wendy Pryor discussed the following item:
 - Council roles in promoting responsible cat ownership.

A Motion was moved by Philip Worrall and seconded by Councillor Santer,

1. **THAT** the Environment Reference Group recommends a report be prepared on responsible cat ownership and control measures to reduce neighbourhood complaints and the impacts of predation on native wildlife, for consideration by Council, ERG and Precincts;
2. **THAT** the said report includes options for an educational and awareness campaign to promote responsible cat ownership in the North Sydney local government area.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to Recommend:

1. **THAT** the Environment Reference Group recommends a report be prepared on responsible cat ownership and control measures to reduce neighbourhood complaints and the impacts of predation on native wildlife, for consideration by Council, ERG and Precincts;
2. **THAT** the said report includes options for an educational and awareness campaign to promote responsible cat ownership in the North Sydney local government area.

3. Jane Theau discussed the following items:
 - Woven plastic temporary barriers.

Council's Bushland Management Co-ordinator is to research the availability of durable barriers made of natural materials to replace the plastic.

- Weeds on private property.

5. Closure

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.