



MINUTES

The Minutes of the **Environment Reference Group Meeting** held in the Ros Crichton Pavilion, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney on Tuesday 5 March 2024.



Councillor Lamb in the Chair, Councillors Baker and Welch.

Staff: Marcelo Occhiuzzi, Director Community, Planning and Environment
Danielle Birkbeck, Acting Manager Environmental Services
Gareth Debney, Bushland Management Co-ordinator
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

Apologies: John Berry, Community Member

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 November 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

Philip Worrall advised that he had sent the minutes with his suggested changes to the minute taker and that they had since been changed.

The Acting Manager Environmental Services advised that a slight change had been made to make it clearer for the staff to be able to write the report on that item.

Moved by Wendy Pryor and seconded by Jane Theau

2. Disclosures of Interest

Nil.

3. Committee Reports

3.1. Sustainability Rebates Program Update

AUTHOR	Jordan Moy, Sustainability Education Officer
ENDORSED BY	Marcelo Occhiuzzi, Director Community, Planning and Environment
ATTACHMENTS	Nil
CSP LINK	1. Our Living Environment 1.1 Protected, enhanced and biodiverse natural environment 1.2 Environmentally sustainable community

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on North Sydney Councils' Sustainability Rebates Program since its inception in October 2023.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The Sustainability Rebates program launched in October 2023 and supports properties in North Sydney to implement energy and water saving initiatives for households, strata and businesses.
- The Sustainability Rebates program has proven to be well received by the North Sydney community and has had a strong up take of rebates across all property types and most rebate items available.
- Since program inception, Council has approved 41 community applications and has allocated over half the annual budget over a three- month period.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the report on the Sustainability Rebates Program be received.

The Motion was moved by Councillor Baker and seconded by Phil Worrall.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1. THAT the report on the Sustainability Rebates Program be received.

3.2. Update on Community Circular Economy Initiatives at the Coal Loader

AUTHOR	Danielle Birkbeck, Manager Environmental Services
ENDORSED BY	Marcelo Occhiuzzi, Director Community, Planning and Environment
ATTACHMENTS	1. TS Lo T infographic Jan 2024 [3.2.1 - 1 page]
CSP LINK	1. Our Living Environment 1.2 Environmentally sustainable community

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the community circular economy initiatives being hosted at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability. These initiatives include the Sydney Library of Things and the Fix-It Hub repair café.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The Sydney Library of Things (TSLot) and the Fix-It Hub are two circular economy initiatives being hosted at the Coal Loader.
- TSLot currently has 30 volunteers and 126 active memberships with 1,259 item loans since opening in November 2021.
- The Fix-It Hub is undertaking a 6-month trial which will be completed in April 2024. Following review, it is anticipated an ongoing commitment to run the repair café will be formalised with TSLot.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the update on circular economy initiatives at the Coal Loader report be received.

The Motion was moved by Anne Edwards and seconded by Bruce Handmer.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1. **THAT** the update on circular economy initiatives at the Coal Loader report be received.

4. General Business

1. The following item from Phil Worrall was discussed:

- Council indicated that the Motion from the 21 November 2023 meeting is a work in progress, with Council considering bringing the community with it towards expanding Bushland protection areas from which cats are excluded from the existing 5 such areas.

2. The following items from Jane Theau were discussed:

- discussion of inclusion of container recycling facilities in commercial development applications.
- Increase in bubblers where bottled water sold, and inclusion in commercial Das.
- update on success of Repair Cafe so far.
- any progress on finding natural alternative to woven plastic barriers?

3. The following items from Bruce Handmer were discussed:

- North Sydney Council investigate how changes to its policies and procedures can reduce noise pollution within North Sydney Council's LGA. Specifically but not limited to:
 - Construction noise
 - Traffic noise
- North Sydney Council investigate whether they can approach the NSW government to look at improving the current noise pollution regulations and enforcement to provide NSW residents with a safer, healthier environment.

A Motion was moved by Bruce Handmer and seconded by Jane Theau,

1. THAT Council lobby the State Government to revise the EPA Guidelines on measuring and enforcement of noise in the North Sydney LGA, and that council consider having a review of the standard noise conditions.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1. THAT Council lobby the State Government to revise the EPA Guidelines on measuring and enforcement of noise in the North Sydney LGA, and that council consider having a review of the standard noise conditions.

5. Closure

The meeting closed at 7.18pm.