

## **7.1. Environment Reference Group Minutes - 19 July 2022**

**AUTHOR:** Peita Rose, Governance Officer

**ENDORSED BY:** Peter Massey, A/Director Open Space and Environmental Services

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Environment Reference Minutes - 19 July 2022 [7.1.1 - 6 pages]

**PURPOSE:**

To report the proceedings of the Environment Reference Group to Council.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report presents the recommendations of the last meeting of the Environment Reference Group held on 19 July 2022. The minutes are attached for information.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** the Minutes of the Environment Reference Group meeting of 19 July 2022 be noted.

## **LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

- 5. Our Civic Leadership
- 5.2 Council is well governed and customer focused
- 5.3 Community is informed and consulted

## **BACKGROUND**

The Reference Group Charter states:

*10.4 A report on the proceedings of Reference Group meetings are to be submitted to the next available meeting of Council for endorsement, including all recommendations. Any Councillor, irrespective of whether that Councillor is a member that Reference Group, may be the mover or seconder of a motion to confirm the proceedings of a Reference Group meeting.*

## **CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS**

Community engagement is not required.

## **DETAIL**

Section 7.2 of the Reference Group Charter states that:

*“The Reference Group does not have the power to bind the Council.”*

Therefore, the recommendations of the meeting are included in the attached Minutes for formal adoption by Council, either in part or full, should it wish to do so.



## MINUTES

The Minutes of the **Environment Reference Group Meeting** held in the Ros Crichton Pavilion, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney on Tuesday, 19 July 2022.



**PRESENT**

Councillor Santer in the Chair, Councillor Baker, Beregi, Gibson and Welch

**Staff:** Peter Massey, Manager Environmental Services  
John Thomson, Manager Corporate Contracts  
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

**Citizen Members:** Anne Edwards, Community Member  
Bruce Handmer, Community Member (remotely)  
Philip Worrall, Community Member (remotely)

**Visitors:** Nil

**Apologies** were received from Councillor Bourke.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 April 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

Moved by Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Welch.

**2. Disclosures of Interest**

Nil.

**3. Committee Reports**

**3.1. Waste Management Incentivisation**

Report of Bo Karaula, Waste Management Coordinator

This report responds to the resolution of the Environmental Reference Group meeting held on 11 April 2022:

THAT a report on the 'Domestic waste (red bin) charges and incentivisation for waste reduction' presentation be bought back to the next Environment Reference Group Committee.

To incentivise is to encourage someone to take a particular course of action; in this case, to reduce the amount of waste placed in the red lidded bin ("red bin") for collection and disposal by NSC's waste collection and disposal contractors.

This can take the form of rebates or cash carrots such as discount vouchers for other Council services, or having the knowledge, and satisfaction, of doing what's right, that is, knowing that your effort may have a positive impact on the environment. This report outlines current domestic waste minimisation practises and discusses incentives including the use of rebates

and other alternatives, such as free issued compost, worm farms, green waste and recycling bins.

The use of rebates identifies the impediments and challenges of offering a financial rebate to those residents who seek to either (i) reduce the number of red bins not used or (ii) minimise the volume of waste in both multi-unit dwellings and single detached dwellings.

Not currently known. Will depend on the strategy (if any) and direction taken following the Environment Reference Group meeting and subsequent Council Resolution.

**Recommending:**

**1. THAT** the Waste Management Incentivisation Report be received.

A Motion was moved by Councillor Santer and seconded by Councillor Beregi,

**1. THAT** the Waste Management Incentivisation Report be received.

**2. THAT** there be further investigation of FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) in North Sydney, and in doing so, Council consults with other Councils introducing the FOGO system.

Voting was unanimous.

**Resolved to recommend:**

**1. THAT** the waste Management Incentivisation Report be received.

**2. THAT** there be further investigation of FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) in North Sydney, and in doing so, Council consults with other Councils introducing the FOGO system.

**3.2. Update Report on Cammeray Dam and North Sydney Olympic Pool Sustainability Practices**

Report of Danielle Birkbeck, Sustainability Programs Coordinator

To provide a report on Cammeray Dam and North Sydney Olympic Pool as noted in the minutes of the last meeting on 11 April, 2022.

This report provides an update on two council projects, including the Cammeray Dam stormwater harvesting system and the sustainability design practices incorporated into the North Sydney Olympic Pool redevelopment.

This report is for information purposes only and there are no financial implications.

**Recommending:**

**1. THAT** the update report on Cammeray Dam and North Sydney Olympic Pool is received and noted.

**2. THAT** clarification being sought on the current status of the license agreement between NSOP and the EPA regarding discharge of the overflow water into Sydney Harbour.

The Motion was moved by Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Beregi.

Voting was unanimous.

**Resolved to recommend:**

1. **THAT** the update report on Cammeray Dam and North Sydney Olympic Pool is received and noted.

2. **THAT** clarification being sought on the current status of the license agreement between NSOP and the EPA regarding discharge of the overflow water into Sydney Harbour.

#### 4. **General Business**

##### 1. **North Sydney Council- Paper Communications (Issue raised by Cr Bourke)**

Council's Manager Environmental Services advised that the issue raised with Councillor Bourke was a complaint in regard to getting Council information electronically, particularly the North Sydney News, and that there was too much onus on the paper components of communication with some of the Council information.

It was stated that Council has to get in contact with everybody in the community and when you have a reasonable amount of rental turnover, there is a reliance on paper copies being distributed.

Mr Worrall raised the issue of the rate instalment notices and stated this has been mentioned to Council before. The Local Government Act mandates there be four different instalment notices sent out and this may cost tens of thousands of dollars in postage let alone paper and staff time. He was wondering if Council should not urge modest law reform to produce a system whereby you can tear off the slip in the one initial notice, rather than sending out four separate notices.

Councillor Bourke was absent on leave for this meeting and therefore it was decided that this item would be further discussed on his return.

##### 2. **North Sydney Council Community Working Group For Waste – Survey Results**

Council's Manager Environmental Services advised that there was discussion at the last meeting about a Community Working Group for waste, but it wasn't clear as to who that might be or who would be involved. A survey was sent out to Councillors and the Reference Group Committee, and only three were completed and sent back.

##### 3. **Global Warming-Issues For Local Action (Issues raised by Philip Worrall)**

Notwithstanding some sound action at local government level, there is arguably a disconnect between what citizens see as climate change action on the world stage and at the national level, such as it is, and ongoing adverse impacts of actions in citizens' lives individually that may warrant local consideration and action.

Two examples:

1. **Carbon footprint of air travel.**

Mr Worrall advised that car and plane travel have the greatest carbon footprints. With resumption of air travel, for any Council may have it, may consider adoption of a policy whereby for all Councillors and Council (associated) staff, purchase of carbon offsets with accredited schemes is made compulsory for all air travel on Council business.

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

1. **THAT** any car travel should be undertaken by such means environmentally optimal as are then available.
2. **THAT** any Council associated air travel (domestic or international) should be accompanied by the prescribed contribution to an accredited carbon offset scheme such as run by Qantas, and that Council adopt a policy accordingly.

Voting was unanimous.

**Resolved to recommend:**

1. **THAT** any car travel should be undertaken by such means environmentally optimal as are then available.
2. **THAT** any Council associated air travel (domestic or international) should be accompanied by the prescribed contribution to an accredited carbon offset scheme such as run by Qantas, and that Council adopt a policy accordingly.

2. **Pet ownership.**

Reference the synopsis Sun Herald news item 2019 (circulated at meeting) referring to research published in New Scientist. This disturbing information as to the carbon footprint of pet (mainly dog and cat) ownership is deserving of further, update investigation and objective local response, with limited deference to the emotives promoted by the \$13 billion per year pet industry. Council may well review what measures exist or may be taken to mitigate those unfortunate side effects of pet ownership which appear to be substantial contributors to global warming.

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

1. **THAT** the issue of environmental impact of pet ownership remain on the agenda.
2. **THAT** subject to further investigation and research on the issue, and updating insight into that research, Council consider what measures exist or may be taken locally towards mitigating any impacts of pet ownership which may be substantial contributors to global warming.

Voting was unanimous.

**Resolved to recommend:**

- 1. THAT** the issue of environmental impact of pet ownership remain on the agenda.
- 2. THAT** subject to further investigation and research on the issue, and updating insight into that research, Council consider what measures exist or may be taken to locally towards mitigating any impacts of pet ownership which may be substantial contributors to global warming.

**4. Closure**

Meeting closed at 6.45pm