

## 9.1. Environment Reference Group Minutes - 21 November 2023

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<b>ENDORSED BY</b>	Marcelo Occhiuzzi, Director Community, Planning & Environment
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	1. ERG Minutes - 21 November 2023 [9.1.1 - 5 pages]
<b>CSP LINK</b>	5. Our Civic Leadership 5.2 Strong civic leadership and customer focussed services 5.3 Community is engaged in what Council does

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the proceedings of the Environment Reference Group, and for Council to consider any recommendations from the Reference Group.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

- This report presents the recommendations of the last meeting of the Environment Reference Group held on 21 November 2023.
- There were no recommendations for further actions.
- The Minutes are attached for the information of Council.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**1.THAT** the Minutes of the Environment Reference Group dated 21 November 2023 be received.

## Background

The Charter of the Environment Reference Group 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.*

## Report

Section 7.2 of the Reference Group Charter states that:

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

This report presents the recommendations of the last meeting of the Environment Reference Group held on 21 November 2023.

Regarding Item 4. General Business, it is noted that the Reference Group resolved:

- 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.*

Council staff will consider the programming of this work to be undertaken in due course and will report back to the Reference Group once complete.

As there were no recommendation for further actions, it is recommended that the Minutes be received by Council.



## 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.