

Environment Strategic Reference Group

Date: 20th July 2023

Time: 5.30pm

Location: Council Chambers / Boardroom (Shire Hall) and via MS Teams

Members	Present	Apology
Andrew Merchant		
Francesca Douglas	Y	
Glenn Sant	Y	
Ngairé Mccarthy		
Barbara Jolley		
Rowland Ware	Y	
David John Clayton	Y	
William D'Arcy	Y	
Geraldine Cox		
Vicki Cullen		
Harry Burkitt – Standing Guest		
Councillors (Any attending Councillors are voting members, not guests)	Present	Apology
Councilor Michael Banasik (Chair)	✓	
Councilor Briggs (Deputy Chair)		✓
Mayor Matt Gould		✓
Councillor Brandstater	✓	
Councillor Spearpoint	✓	
Council Staff	Present	Apology
Mandy Marino, Waste Team Leader	✓	
David Henry, Environmental Assessment Planner	✓	
Corey McArdle, Manager Waste and Environment Services	✓	
Bianca Klein, Team Leader Environment Services	✓	

Item	Key Speaker (s)	Notes	Agreed Actions
1. Acknowledgement of country	Chair	The Chair Councillor Banasik provided the Acknowledgement of Country	
2. Attendance and apologies	Chair	There were no received apologies for the meeting The Chair advised that Geraldine Cox has submitted her resignation	Correspondence be sent thanking Geraldine Cox for her service.
3. Disclosure of interests	Chair	Nil	
4. Confirmation of previous minutes	Chair	Moved Francesca Douglas Seconded Cr Michael Banasik Motion was carried	
5. Delivery Plan Item relevant to the Environment SRG		<p>CM brought to the attention of the Committee the following item in Council's current Delivery Plan: <i>"The 'Environment' Councillor led Strategic reference Group/Committee to identify opportunities for Councillors to support advocacy efforts that seek to conserve and enhance Wollondilly's key native biodiversity and tree canopy".</i></p> <p>DH mentioned that Council had recently lodged a detailed submission on the review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.</p>	
6. Update on Council activities regarding koalas		<p>David Henry gave an update over the current activities related to koalas and the protection of their habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the NSW Koala Strategy Team on projects that aim to assist koala protection, including; road signage, advocacy for koala fencing repairs on Picton Road and koala monitoring. • Collaborating to obtain funding for a Landcare Coordinator that would engage directly with landholders. • Continuing to provide comments for the protection of koala habitat and their corridors for development in Growth Areas and advocacy for amendment to the planning framework. <p>Questions raised and response by staff <i>What activities are carried out to protect koala habitat during hazard reduction activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Environmental Assessment is undertaken that includes potential impacts to koalas. • Council Officers managing the program have a strong level of knowledge in both bushfire and ecological matters. • Council is an active participant in the Wollondilly/Wingecarribee Bushfire Management Committee. 	Presentation at future SRG on Environmental assessments undertaken for hazard reductions

		<p><i>Do we liaise with local Indigenous groups and has there been any cultural burns undertaken?</i></p> <p>Council has not been involved with this to date. Council is supporting a Local Land Services grant application involving cultural burns that was prepared in consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders including local Indigenous groups.</p>	
7. Waste update		<p>The Waste Team Leader provided an update on the following key activities of the Waste Services team that is detailed in the attached:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023/24 Waste Booklets • Textile Drop-Off Event • Household Chemical Cleanout event • Waste to Art Exhibition & Competition • Regional Illegal Dumping Stats • Public Place Recycling • Regional Real Estate Breakfast event • Hot Loads' & Battery Recycling program <p>Corey McArdle advised on 18 May 2023 along with Councillor Banasik and the CEO, he attended the Mayoral Summit on Waste. This Summit included representatives from 33 Sydney councils to identify a planned approach for managing waste into the future including planning for infrastructure. The meeting was an opportunity to reinforce concerns and how councils can work together to find solutions. The Summit was convened by Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) on behalf of Resilient Sydney, which our council supports and included presentations from the waste industry, NSW EPA, Federal Government representatives, and Sydney Mayors about initiatives and areas of influence where councils can work together.</p> <p>There was a general discussion on Circular economy and how we can support it.</p> <p>Cr Spearpoint referred to Shed-X who are located in Warragamba and process a number of waste streams for beneficial products including E-Waste and Tetra-Pak which are turned into construction boards.</p>	<p>Investigate options for the SRG to tour the Shred-X facility at Warragamba.</p>
8. Update on the status of the Grey Headed Flying		<p>Environment Team Leader advised that following a recent count (May 2023) the size of the Stonequarry Creek Grey Headed Flying Fox camp has increased to 23,000 (highest recorded count).</p> <p>David Henry further advised that an initial approach was made by researchers at Western Sydney University to undertake a thermal done survey that would provide more accurate. However, this was</p>	

		unable to proceed due to complications in using drones within the vicinity of private property.	
9. Sustainability Strategy and involvement of Environment SRG		The Environment Team leader advised that Council has adopted a Sustainability Policy and has commenced the preparation of a Sustainability Strategy. It was noted that the Committee will be consulted as part of this preparation.	
10. Actions from previous meeting		<p>The Chair provided an update to the previous actions from the February meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter of support for the work Council is undertaking on promoting integrated water management has been provided to Council staff. • Tim Prichard’s presentation on Thirlmere Lakes has been circulated to the SRG members. • An Invitation to National Tree Day activities was provided to SRG members • Installation of nest boxes as part of work by energy companies is ongoing. <p><i>Actions regarding the control and regulation of cats</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Staff to contact Council’s Regulatory Team over options regarding stray cats.</u> • <u>Links on successful cat containment and the Companion Animals Act to be provided to the SRG by Geraldine Cox.</u> <p>BK provided an overview of activities of Council provided by the Health and Regulatory Services Section.</p> <p>Francesca Douglas suggested that there be a trial over the use of cat spray.</p> <p>WD advised that a process exists where owners need to make payment to collect microchipped dogs in certain areas and that this should be expanded to include cats.</p> <p>Councillor Banasik advised that Council has previously carried out a trial of desexing cats in identified areas with high cat numbers.</p> <p>A comment was made by a Committee member that the impacts of dogs on reptiles also needs to be considered and regulated.</p> <p><u>Action: Council to organise a visit to the Australian Wildlife Sanctuary and Feathered Friends for the SRG.</u></p> <p>The Committee agreed to the suggestion from Councillor Banasik to tour the Sanctuary prior to the November SRG meeting. Information on this site visit and meeting will be provided to the Committee as available.</p>	Members of the Committee to be provided with details of the site visit and meeting at the Australian Wildlife Sanctuary as available
11. General Business		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Banasik advised that TOMRA currently pay rent to Coles for using the two-car space occupied by the Return and Earn can recycling machine. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee was made aware of the community planting event to be held at Picton Sportsground on National Tree Day (30th July). • RW raised the issue of appropriate buffers on the site and downstream of the Cross Street Planning Proposal site and the establishment of the Bargo River National Park. He also referred to reports submitted to Council regarding this matter. DH advised that a copy of these would be in Council's internal record system. 	
12. FUTURE MEETINGS		The Committee agreed to hold on the last Thursday of the Month, every three months commencing on 28 th September 2023. The Meeting agreed to hold a date in late November instead of late December.	
Meeting Closed		7.15pm	
Next Meeting		28 th September starting at 5.30pm	