

MEETING AGENDA

Meeting

Name:	Environmental Advisory Group		
Date:	8 May 2024	Time:	5 pm to 7 pm
Chairperson:	Councillor Anderson	Venue:	Port Stephens Council Admin Building and Zoom
Minutes:			
Purpose of Meeting:	To provide community representation for consultation, advice and advocacy on environmental matters in Port Stephens		
File:	PSC2023-01499		

Attendance

Councillor Anderson Port Stephens Council	Nigel Waters Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc. (TRRA)	Michelle Hession Independent representative	Alarna Bristow Independent representative
Alisha Onslow Climate Action Port Stephens	Sue Olsson EcoNetwork Port Stephens	Elaene Williamson Tilligerry Habitat	Carmel Northwood Koala Coalition
Nigel Dique Mambo Wanda Wetlands Ramsar Working Group	Jill Cronin Voices of Wallalong and Woodville (VOWW)	Ewa Meyer Renew - Hunter Region Branch	John Clarke Independent representative
Kate Drinan Port Stephens Council	Kim Baker Port Stephens Council	Madison Young Port Stephens Council	David Moore Friends of Tomaree National Park

The following guests are invited to attend:

Brock Lamont
Port Stephens Council

Apologies

Josephine O'Brien
Friends of Tomaree National Park

Iain Watt
Marine parks Association

Councillor Francis
Port Stephens Council

Item	Topic	Time Required	Responsible Officer	Notes/Actions	Status/Date to be Completed
1.0	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES				
1.1	Acknowledgement of country We acknowledge the Worimi people as the original Custodians and inhabitants of Port Stephens. We acknowledge and pay respects to Worimi elders past and present. May we walk the road to tomorrow with mutual respect and admiration as we care for the beautiful land and waterways together.	2 mins	Chairperson		
1.2	Chair Welcome	2 mins	Chairperson		
2.0	PREVIOUS MINUTES				
2.1	Minutes of 21 February 2024	2 mins	Chairperson	Outstanding Action – to discuss the TOR and longevity of group and rolling over the members. RECORD - EAG to meet again in August (during caretaker period). At the beginning of next term, a request can be made through Council to roll over current members of the EAG into the next term	Minutes Accepted and Actions Completed.

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				<p>considering the EAG has not been up and running very long.</p> <p>Outstanding Action – postponed actions 4.1 and 4.2 to be discussed in subgroup meetings.</p> <p>RECORD – Confirmation that actions postponed due to time constraints were discussed during the subgroup meetings.</p>	
3.0	BUSINESS ITEMS				
3.1	Getting to know you: Up to a 10 minute presentation on a topic related to what motivates you	10 mins	John Clarke	RECORD – Presentation by John Clarke was provided to the Group.	Complete
3.2	Getting to know you: Up to a 10 minute presentation on a topic related to what motivates you	10 mins	Sue Olsson	RECORD – Presentation by Sue Olsen was provided to the Group.	Complete
3.3	<p>Subgroup Presentation – Sustainable Living (SL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection of priority actions - Description of selected actions - Progress on selected actions 	20 mins	Madison Young with Sustainable Living Subgroup	<p>Brief overview of subgroup priorities and presentation to update the group on progress of actions.</p> <p>Top 3 priorities were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Sustainable Neighbourhoods 2.Sustainable Planning 3.Wanda Wetlands Aboriginal Place <p>SL Subgroup Action 1 – Is the Heritage Advisory Group (HAG) doing anything regarding the Wanda Wetlands Aboriginal Place?</p> <p>RECORD – HAG is not currently looking at this matter.</p>	Prior to next EAG Meeting.

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				<p>SL Subgroup Action 2 – Investigate a community sustainability program.</p> <p>RECORD – Presentation given on the LMCC Sustainable Neighbourhoods program. The program is run by volunteers and supported by Council. Funding is through grants and fundraising.</p> <p>SL Subgroup Action 3 – Investigate opportunities for a workshop/webinar to discuss sustainable development.</p> <p>RECORD – Potential options were discussed with respect to holding a sustainable building/development workshop.</p> <p>ACTION: SL Subgroup to meet again between EAG meetings and invite Waste Education Officer and someone from the Events team to discuss next steps for action 2 and 3.</p>	
3.4	<p>Subgroup Presentation – Marine and Water Management (MWM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection of priority actions - Description of selected actions - Progress on selected actions 	20 mins	Kate Drinan with Marine and Water Management Subgroup	<p>Marine and Water Management Subgroup came away with clear actions.</p> <p>MWM Subgroup Action 1: Organise a briefing from Council officers on how stormwater is managed in the LGA.</p> <p>ACTION: Council Engineers to provide briefing. Subgroup members to provide questions for engineers. Kate Drinan to coordinate and schedule presentation.</p>	Prior to next EAG Meeting.

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				<p>ACTION: Kate to send out Nigel Waters specific questions for the engineers to the whole group.</p> <p>MWM Subgroup Action 2: Investigate current status of the Anna Bay Drainage Union.</p> <p>RECORD: Union collected a nominal fee from residents to pay for drain maintenance. Ron Stubbs handed responsibility of group from Joan Cross.</p> <p>ACTION: Alarna to follow up with Ron Stubbs regarding status of the group.</p> <p>ACTION: Kate to speak with John Maretich regarding history and status of maintenance of the drains.</p> <p>MWM Subgroup Action 3: Council to look at water quality monitoring in the LGA.</p> <p>RECORD: Additional actions on WQ monitoring have been added to the CMP to be reported to Council in June.</p> <p>MWM Subgroup Action 4: Benchmarking other Councils re water management.</p> <p>RECORD: Benchmarking information on Environmental Education shared.</p> <p>Suggested that PSC could update its website to link to other resources (Short term aim). Potential for the State Environmental Education Grant to fund the creation of a program for schools (longer term aim).</p>	

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				<p>Noted that water management should not only focus on coastal but also on floodplain and rivers in LGA. Noted Hunter Estuary CMP is at stage 2 and covers the extent of the Estuary from the mouth up the Hunter, Paterson and Williams Rivers and will provide more focus for areas of the LGA connected to this system.</p> <p>ACTION: Kate to circulate collected Environmental Education benchmarking EAG.</p> <p>ACTION: MWM Subgroup to meet to draft some Environmental Education ideas for the website to present to the Council. Kate to schedule.</p> <p>ACTION: Council to provide information regarding the Hunter Estuary CMP to Jill and Alarna.</p>	
3.5	<p>Subgroup Presentation – Biodiversity and Greening (BG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection of priority actions - Description of selected actions - Progress on selected actions 	20 mins	Kimberly Baker with Biodiversity and Greening Subgroup	<p>BG Subgroup had 4 main priority actions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habitat corridors and new housing. 2. Trees and infill development. 3. Cats and development of cat policy. 4. Aboriginal Place - Wanda Wetlands. <p>BG Subgroup Action 1: Kim to provide a presentation to update on current Koala and Environmental projects at Council.</p> <p>RECORD: Kim presented to the EAG showing Council currently working on 9 relevant projects.</p>	Prior to next EAG Meeting.

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				<p>ACTION: Council officers to update EAG when the stage 1 habitat mapping is available on the website.</p> <p>ACTION: Council officers to update EAG about the new culturally informed cool burn dates.</p> <p>BG Subgroup Action 2: BG Subgroup members to review the DCP flora and fauna and have a discussion.</p> <p>RECORD: See section 3.6.</p> <p>ACTION: Add Michelle to the BG Subgroup.</p>	
3.6	Discussion – Tree Management and Flora & Fauna DCP	20 mins	Kate Drinan with Biodiversity and Greening Subgroup	<p>Presentation on DCP. Public exhibition now closed, Council working through submissions received. TRAA and EcoNetwork’s joint submission was circulated to the EAG. Koala Koalition also did a submission.</p> <p>Group Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues regarding reliance on self-assessment and the desire for increased enforcement for non-compliance. • Desire for expanding council planting, more focus on street tree planting and the significant tree register and public reporting of tree removals. • Desire for consideration of Climate Change in DCP when discussing trees. • Understorey habitat also important – discussion on how to control under-scrubbing. • What belongs in DCP and what is outside – can the Council report speak to the issues outside of 	

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				<p>the DCP? Natural Systems team to discuss with Strategic Planning on this matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on term 'habitat tree' - still want the idea of a habitat tree covered by DCP but also note that every tree is likely habitat for something so might need to consider language. • While every tree should be treated individually it is also important to consider them as part of a whole and consider the cumulative impact of the loss of trees on the LGA as a whole. 	
4.0	OTHER MATTERS				
4.1	Meeting Feedback		Chairperson	<p>Feedback forms circulated to those attending in person.</p> <p>Action: Circulate forms to Zoom attendees.</p>	To be circulated with minutes.

Meeting Closed at:

NEXT MEETINGS:

Date: 14 August 24

Time: 5pm to 7pm

Venue: Port Stephens Council Admin Building and Zoom