

<b>Subject:</b>	Sustainability Working Group	Page 1 of 6
<b>File No:</b>	CLR/22/60/11	
<b>Document Ref:</b>	D23/94758	
<b>Venue:</b>	Council's North Ryde office and via TEAMS	
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	
<b>Time:</b>	5.30pm	Started at: 5.35pm      Closed at: 7.07pm
<b>Chair:</b>	Kylie McMahon – Executive Officer City Resilience	
<b>Meeting Support (MS):</b>	Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors	
<b>Staff Convenor:</b>	Kylie McMahon	
<b>Circulation:</b>	Working Group members and website	

**Committee Role:****Committee Members as per the Terms of Reference**

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
	x	Clr Sarkis Yedelian OAM	Councillor	City of Ryde
x		Clr Pedersen	Councillor	
	x	Bev Debrincat	Community Representative	
x		Vlad Tudor	Community Representative	
x		Jordan Hodgson	Community Representative	
x		Kerri Gallagher	Community Representative	
	x	Gary Patni	Community Representative	
x		Jan Aiello	Community Representative	
x		Jill Hartley	Community Representative	
	x	George Divisek	Community Representative	
		Austin Kim	Community Representative	
x		Peter Davies	Community Representative	
		Jo Taranto	Community Representative	
x		Chathurkia Perera	Community Representative	
x		Pamela Reeves	Community Representative	
		Wendy Evans	Community Representative	
x		Shu-fang Wei	Community Representative	
		Katherine Spencer	Community Representative	
		Annie Sim	Community Representative	
x		Amelia Saul	Community Representative	
x		Jane Valentine	Community Representative	
x		Balu Moothedath	Community Representative	
x		John Herbert	Community Representative	
	x	Hope Ashiabor	Community Representative	

**City of Ryde Staff**

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Kylie McMahon	Executive Officer City Resilience	City of Ryde
x		Sandra Payne	Team Leader – Natural Areas	City of Ryde
x		Adriana Genova	Team Leader Sustainability and Resilience	City of Ryde
x		Elsbeth Pike	Team Leader – Waste contracts and projects	City of Ryde
x		Linda Smith	EA to Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde

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	Details	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome, Apologies</b></p> <p><u>Acknowledgment of Country</u></p> <p>Kylie McMahon welcomed all present and provided the acknowledgement of country.</p> <p>Attendees and apologies are as per above.</p>	Noted
2.	<p><b>Adoption of previous minutes</b></p> <p>The minutes from the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were adopted.</p>	Noted
3.	<p><b>Actions arising from the previous minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sydney Water quality report was issued to Working Group members.</li> <li>- It may be that a link on Council’s website leads to a dead end. This to be investigated. Kylie: Information should be up to date as it was last time we checked.</li> <li>- Link to review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act was issued to the Working Group members.</li> <li>- The following links were sent:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o “Smarter, Cleaner, Greener” monthly e-newsletter</li> <li>o Annual “Smarter, Cleaner, Greener achievements” document</li> <li>o 2023 Sustainability Festival</li> <li>o Home Waste and Sustainability Assessment</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Member contact details were forwarded</li> </ul> <p>Sandra contacted Jordan to discuss the Community Garden</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Staff to check website</p>
4.	<p><b>Focus Areas</b></p> <p><u>Biodiversity, bushland and trees</u></p> <p><u>Bushfire Risk Management Plan</u></p> <p>Sandra advised that the Draft Bushfire Risk Management Plan is on public exhibition until 18 July. Background information on the new way that Risk Management Plans are developed was provided. Members are encouraged to provide feedback during the public exhibition period.</p> <p>CoR is looking to expand our ‘Neighbourhood safe places’ under the plan</p>	Noted

Details		Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cllr Pedersen queried what neighbouring councils were doing and it was noted by Sandra that it is up to those individual land managers to manage their risk to minimise risk to our LGA as we have no collective influence on that management.</li> <li>- Comment was made re volunteers required for assistance with community firefighting efforts and a link was provided in the Teams chat.</li> <li>- Jill asked about cultural burn inclusion. Sandra noted about CoR's involvement in facilitating an aboriginal womens cultural education session with possible burn later. The BFRMP does not address cultural burns as it is not the intention of the document.</li> </ul> <p><u>Biodiversity Plan review</u></p> <p>A review will be undertaken of Council's Biodiversity Plan in 23/24. Staff will be seeking comments and input into the formation of the new document to be made.</p> <p>The original Bio Plan focused delivered on community education, endangered ecological comm's, wildlife protection areas in place, delineation for NA protection, corridor connections, tree giveaway, flora/ fauna studies</p> <p>The Urban Forest Strategy was adopted by Council in June.</p> <p><u>Community Awareness &amp; Education</u></p> <p><u>Net Zero</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council has commenced a Net Zero Transition workshop series for businesses. The non-residential sector of the Ryde Local Government Area generates most of the community carbon emissions.</li> <li>- The first workshop was held mid-May with larger businesses – 21 attended face to face and 6 online</li> <li>- This workshop focused on power purchase agreements, opportunities in tenanted office buildings and how businesses can start their net zero transitions.</li> <li>- A second workshop will be held tomorrow, online, with small to medium sized businesses, which will focus on how to calculate emissions and the areas of a business to focus on, to reduce emissions Approx 22 groups are registered</li> <li>- A third workshop will be held in July talking about power purchase options available to businesses to be held later in July</li> </ul> <p><u>Resilience</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Several community and businesses workshops have been held over the last few months focusing on resilience and preparedness – 310 residents have attended these</li> </ul>		

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Details		Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A business continuity workshop will be held later in the month to assist businesses in identifying shocks and risks that could impact their business and how to prepare for disaster and recover from disaster events.</li> <li>- Workshops have also been held for CALD communities focusing on emergency preparedness</li> </ul> <p><u>Putney Beach Swim Site – Community engagement results</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A NSW government Places to Swim grant has allowed the development of the swim site at Putney Park</li> <li>- The site is being developed in conjunction with the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG)</li> <li>- A “have your say” page asked the community to complete a survey during April- May 216 responses received.</li> <li>- People love the idea of the swim site and are generally supportive of the initiative</li> <li>- 81% of those who responded said they would use the site to escape the heat</li> <li>- People who said they wouldn’t swim were worried about water quality</li> <li>- “Get Swimming” – how do we effectively communicate water way health to get people swimming?</li> <li>- Since 2018 Sydney Water has been monitoring the water quality and will continue to monitor after the site opens.</li> <li>- The launch of the site will occur later in Summer 2023</li> <li>- Ideas for raising awareness about the site opening and water quality were sought</li> <li>- The group were asked for their input as collective citizens to share ideas for increasing community awareness of the swimming site on ‘how to get swimming’ with the below responses:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Pam R: Contact the schools, promote with the Mayor and Councillors swimming,</li> <li>o Cllr Pedersen raised that Canada bay had a lilo race.</li> <li>o Peter D: Look at prospect reservoir – could use some of their ideas as part of the Urban Plunge campaign of Sydney water ie. Using coffee carts, establishing relationships with users</li> <li>o Jane V: Put signage up now about what is coming and about the water testing results, Link the signage to QR code for water quality testing,</li> <li>o Cllr Pedersen: Education grant will be available in August through PRCG to promote the area, host an</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Details

Action

	<p>event like environmental games day at the site to promote it,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shu Fang: host a week of events through swimming clubs to get people together promoting the short distance to come and 'cool down'. This could include engaging businesses via a 'check point' adventure such as collecting a coffee and follow a trail to reach the swimming site.</li> <li>○ Vlad T: raised that in the Nepean River people don't check water quality and just swim/ have races</li> <li>○ Encourage people within proximity of Putney Beach,</li> <li>○ Get a large marine animal to promote the site eg a seal,</li> <li>○ Perhaps a kayak competition or dragon boat race, or marine touch play</li> <li>○ Have a meter to register how happy people are when they swim</li> <li>○ Chatu: QR code for smart phones and use of a survey for users to rate their experience</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Next year marks 10 years of PRCG activities. Looking for ideas to promote this celebration too.</li> <li>- Council will review to seek to include where possible for launch</li> </ul> <p><u>Waste - updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Soft plastics – investigation of logistics to introduce services is continuing with an update should be available at the next meeting</li> <li>- FOGO survey closed last week – approx. 1,000 responses both online, phone survey and through surveys collected at the Sustainability Festival</li> <li>- The NSW EPA has stated FOGO collection and composting will be mandated by 2030 but have not legislated yet.</li> <li>- Want to gain ideas about what community wants – this was the purpose of survey</li> <li>- Do people want to change the ways services are delivered, what tolerance do people have for changing costs associated with this and will they pay for this?</li> <li>- Need to get people ready for the change before it arrives.</li> <li>- Shu Fang: raised regarding promoting home community gardens and composting.</li> <li>- Elspeth: council offers 50% off compost bins, worm farms and runs a year round free workshops for these. 22/23 focus has been on reusable feminine hygiene products and nappies for the team</li> </ul>	
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Details		Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cllr Pedersen thanked the Waste team for their efforts</li> </ul> <p><u>Litter survey and draft strategy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This has been completed under EPA grant. Draft strategy by end of June</li> <li>- Will now look at what to do next</li> <li>- Cllr Pedersen thanked staff for their work in this area. It is something that Councillors receive a lot of feedback about</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b>Council updates:</b></p> <p><b><u>Natural Areas</u></b></p> <p><u>National Tree Day - Sunday 30 July</u></p> <p>This year’s National Tree Day planting at ELS Hall Park will help to improve the wildlife corridor along Shrimptons Creek. It will be held from 10am-12pm with BBQ at the end.</p> <p><u>Duke of Edinburgh Program</u></p> <p>Council is partnering with the Office of Sport to promote City of Ryde Bushcare as a volunteering activity to Duke of Edinburgh students in our local high schools.</p> <p><u>Streamwatch</u></p> <p>The inclusion of Streamwatch at our Bushcare sites with creeklines is going well. It does take up some time during the Bushcare session, but is of interest to the Volunteers and is providing good data. They are testing some areas that would otherwise not be tested eg- Smalls Creek, Strangers Creek, Kittys Creek etc.</p> <p>Sydney Water will include Streamwatch results in its annual Water Quality Monitoring Report</p> <p>On 10<sup>th</sup> July, the water quality at the majority of creeklines in the LGA will be tested by volunteers and will be done in conjunction with Hunters Hill Council. This should enable a comparison of all the testing locations.</p> <p><u>Funding</u></p> <p>When running for State government, Cllr Pedersen received a government commitment of \$50,000 across 3 LGAs for Bushcare Groups. Grant money can be applied for equipment and plantings for a testing kit for Ryde and Lane Cove to go to RHHFFS</p> <p><u>Recruitment</u></p> <p>It was noted that the Natural Area Project Officer interviews will be occurring soon.</p> <p><u>Volunteer App</u></p>	Noted

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Details		Action
	<p>Shu-fang asked if an app could be developed for volunteer events and record could be kept of works done, trees planted, achievements, etc. Could help with volunteer retention etc. Potentially it could push out information to prospective volunteers through the app.</p>	<p>Investigation for the feasibility for a volunteering app to be explored.</p>
6.	<p><b><u>2023 Sustainability Festival – World Environment Day</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This event was held in Ryde Park on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023. 1500 in attendance.</li> <li>- Some of the highlights mentioned were the engagement opportunity available</li> <li>- Lots of options for the community with things for kids to do, small change items and bigger investment ideas like EV's and solar</li> <li>- Good feedback was received regarding the event</li> <li>- The nappy workshops were a success</li> <li>- The Electric bus was a big hit</li> <li>- There was also a garbage truck on site with a female driver</li> <li>- No pressure of selling, it was just a chance to chat and engage</li> </ul> <p><b><u>SWAP - Sustainable Waste to Art prize</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Entries for the event open on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023</li> <li>- There are 6 categories with \$5,000 in prizes on offer</li> <li>- There are usually approx. 200 exhibitions at the event</li> </ul>	<p>Noted</p>
7.	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p>The following topics were raised in general business:</p> <p><b><u>Jordan Hodgson</u></b> – synthetic turf playing fields</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A new report by NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer re use of synthetic turf in public open spaces. It is the most comprehensive study on the impacts of synthetic turf to date</li> <li>- There are a number of concerns re human health, environmental contaminants, bushfire risk, environment risk, economic risk, end of life disposal etc</li> <li>- The key findings mean Council should thoroughly review the report and its findings and incorporate recommendations into decision making regarding synthetic fields.</li> <li>- Council has a resolution to review its policy on synthetic turf pending the outcome of the report</li> <li>- Synthetic turf was designed for the northern hemisphere not southern. Here it is very hot and can reach 80 degrees on the synthetic surface</li> </ul>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Link to the Chief Scientist's report into synthetic turf to be forwarded to Working Group members.</p>

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	Details	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It has a short life with lots of environmental impacts. The business case is hard to justify for Councils when end of life etc is considered.</li> <li>- Need to think about public and private land when Council debates this. It has been seen in bushfire zones, flood areas on footpaths, strata plan sites etc</li> <li>- A precautionary approach should be taken</li> <li>- Lots of assumptions for the length of time it will be used in Council sporting activities</li> <li>- Need to consider, age, sport level etc of players</li> <li>- Clubs often overestimate how much use they will achieve with synthetic surfaces</li> <li>- Many landscape companies are supporting the product for private use</li> <li>- If stormwater is to be used on fields, it will probably have to be more highly treated if the field is synthetic</li> <li>- Clr Pedersen advised that NSROC wants grants to reconfigure existing fields</li> <li>- In high density areas there is a need for somewhere to play</li> <li>- There is a push from sporting Federations to only use synthetic surfaces. They then can't train on normal surfaces. Eg Christie Park – wanted to train there on synthetic as that is where main games are played</li> <li>- Shu-fang suggested that perhaps surveys and discussions could be held at Granny Smith Festival regarding the use of synthetic turf</li> <li>- Shu Fang: Can this working group contact local MP's and Ministers?</li> <li>- Individual members of the working group and others are encouraged to write to the Environment Minister</li> <li>- There is possibly also a need to write to sports groups at the highest level</li> </ul> <p><u>Clr Pedersen - Cat containment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clr Pedersen spoke at LGNSW in support of a motion to contain cats and give Councils the right to decide on policy re cat containment</li> <li>- The new motion will be a call for changes to the companion animal act to bring it in line with other states.</li> <li>- This will let Councils decide how far they will go with cat containment depending on the issues in their areas.</li> <li>- An education program to advise people about keeping cats indoors is needed too</li> </ul>	
	<p>8. Next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 from 5:30pm – 7.00 pm in the Royal Room – in the North Ryde office Level 1, 3 Richardson Pl, North Ryde and via TEAMS</p>	Noted

