MEETING RECORD



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File No:	CLR/22/60/11			
Document Ref:	D24/1888			
Venue:	Council North Ryde office and via TEAMS			
Date:	Wednesday 13 ^t	h December 2023		
Time:	5.30pm	Started at: 5.35pm	Closed at: 7.10pm	
Chair:	Adriana Genova – Team leader sustainability and resilience			
Meeting Support (MS):	Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors			
Staff Convenor:	Kylie McMahon			
Circulation:	Working Group members and website			

Committee Role:

Committee Members as per the Terms of Reference

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

City of Ryde Staff

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

City of Ryde

Det	tails	Action
1.	Welcome, Apologies	
	Acknowledgment of Country	
	Adriana welcomed all present and provided the acknowledgement of country.	Noted
	Attendees and apologies are as per above.	
2.	Adoption of previous minutes	
	The minutes from the meeting of 13 th September 2023 were adopted.	Noted
3.	Actions arising from the previous minutes	
	 (Jordan) Request for agenda items to be sent out prior to meeting. Request for agenda items are sent out to all members including any dietary requirements prior to each meeting. 	Noted
4.	Focus Areas	
	Biodiversity	
	Field of Mars Reserve Plan of Management and land recategorisation	
	- The Draft Field of Mars Plan of Management has been adopted by	Noted
	Council. - As noted previously, the land recategorisation changes proposed were minor, with a small increase in the natural area	
	Off leash dog trials	
	 The consultation period for these trials will commence soon. The proposed Eastwood Park and Banjo Paterson dog off leash area is of concern to many. 	Noted
	Field of Mars Reserve	
	 Concern was raised about a pathway in Field of Mars Reserve near the Visitors Centre. Christopher Gordon (former Councillor) can provide more information to staff. 	
	Bush Fire Management	
	 The public exhibition period for the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan closed on 18th July 2023. There has been no advice on its endorsement yet. The Bush Fire Prone Land Mapping is due to be updated. 	Staff to contact Christopher Gordon re proposed pathways
	Bushcare	

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Details Action

- It was noted that the Local Priority Weed Management Plan and Bushcare Policies and Procedures Manual needs to be updated.
- Bushcare groups are winding down for 2023.
- A new Bushcare supervisor will be appointed in early 2024
- The Spring Garden Competition Best Bushcare site category winners were mentioned. 1st prize – Kittys Creek Bushcare (Lane Cove National Park), 2nd prize – Martin Reserve Bushcare and 3rd prize – Pellisier Rd Bushcare
- There has been a "push" to attract new Bushcare volunteers with promotion at the Granny Smith Festival, Social Inclusion Week event at Ryde library, Inclusive Volunteers event, Community Expo at North Ryde library etc There were 37 people who enquired about joining
- Feral Animal Control there has been 4 sessions this financial year at Brush Farm Park, Kittys Creek and Field of Mars Reserve with 3 foxes dealt with.
- Field of Mars Reserve Nature Trail State Government Grant
 Project surveying of paths has been completed and a consultant
 engaged to do the Review of Environmental Factors. Concept
 plan to be finalised next week.
- The new seed library at Eastwood Library was noted.
- CIr Pedersen also noted that as rep for Local Government NSW she attended the awards ceremony. City of Ryde won awards for the Urban Forest Strategy and the Reusable Nappies and Healthcare Products program There are amazing things that Councillors and Council staff are doing across NSW
- The passing of Jimmy Shaw was noted a well known and loved, dedicated climate activist and natural environment ambassador of Ryde.

Community Engagement/ Behaviour Change

Community Emissions Profile

The following update was provided:

- Resilient Sydney is a partnership involving the 33 metropolitan Councils. Each of the Councils has access to community emissions data via an online platform- the Sydney Metropolitan Carbon Reporting Tool.
- The data can be broken down by suburb, emissions type, year by year and compared to other councils
- Due to how data is collected and reported by the various sources the most recent data available is for 2020-2021
- Electricity is the greatest emissions source in COR.
- There has been an 8% reduction in emissions compared to the 2020-2021 year
- Households in Ryde emit 3.89 tonnes of CO2 per dwelling This is lower than a few of our surrounding Council areas.
- Cars are the most popular form of transport, mostly as a driver only

Noted

Noted

Noted

Noted. Consideration for future webpage updates. Resource efficiency messaging (water/ waste and emissions) is Subject: Minutes – Sustainability Working Group – 13th December 2023 Page 4 of 7

Details Action

Solar installations in the CoR are around 18.1%. Majority of the surrounding Council areas have a higher percentage of solar installations

- Water consumption across the CoR decreased by 4.4% in 2020-2021A question was asked regarding any plans by Council to encourage saving water.
- A guestion was asked regarding the ability to compare Ryde and other Councils re power consumption.
- Social media is used by Council to promote conservation of resources and banners. It was suggested to possibly created resources in a number of languages on water efficiency for community events
- Council is also working with business and encouraging them to reduce emissions. Information on Sustainable and Resilient Businesses can be found on Council's websitehttps://www.rvde.nsw.gov.au/Business-and-Economic-Development/Sustainable-and-Resilient-Businesses
- It was suggested that a competition be arranged to encourage lowering emissions or maybe a visual aid such as a thermometer to measure progress.

Resilience strategy

- This strategy was first prepared in 2018 and is currently up for renewal led by City of Sydney.
- A resilience perception survey is currently being distributed Sydney wide and a link to the survey can be found on Council's Have your Say page.

Waste Update

- Council received a highly commended NSW Local Government Excellence in Environment award, in the behaviour change in waste category, for its reusable health products program. This program provides tailored advice and free nappies and period products to residents. RecycleSmart is now underway.
- Soft plastics, blister packs and polystyrene will now be able to be collected.
- RecycleSmart will run as a 12 month trial.

Focus for 2024

- The current working group term ends in September 2024. This is a chance to discuss what the group may like to work on over the coming months, focusing on the areas all decided upon, being:
 - Biodiversity
 - Community Engagement/ Behaviour Change
 - Waste
- It was noted that the group was formed to assist staff in the delivery of identified actions within adopted plans that focus on community outcomes. Staff workplans and allocation of resources are based on the actions identified in the various adopted plans.

circulated via social media messaging and articles within the Smarter Cleaner Greener quarterly newsletters

Noted

Noted

Noted

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Details Action

- Suggestions included:
 - o Involvement in the update of the biodiversity plan
 - Promotion of Council programs and activities through your networks
- Several ideas were noted that could be further explored by the group including; A practical project involving volunteers sharing information through the community regarding a physical activity, working at a wildlife reserve, discussions with other councils eg Waverley re banning gas, tree planting etc.
- Creation of mini urban forests
- Planting shrubs on major roads in lieu of mowing nature strips
 this has been investigated by council and has conditions
 (WHS) that can make this difficult
- Using the expertise of this group to achieve more and get things happening.
- Council staff suggested that the group consider project ideas based on the actions identified within existing adopted plans such as the Community Strategic Plan, Net Zero Emissions Pathway, Biodiversity and Urban Forest Strategies.
- Propose program ideas that can be run by the group to support these actions and can assist to deliver the desired outcomes across the community. Council staff can advise on how they may be able to assist.
- Suggestion made by a group member to meet outside of these meetings to work on a project idea.
- Suggestion- next year it would be good for presentations etc to be sent to members prior to the meeting so they are aware of what will be discussed.
- Shu Fang would like to help with practical projects and help share information about Recycle Smart and Bushcare. She noted that Canada Bay Council run their committee a little differently
- CIr Pedersen discussed the benefits of volunteering with Sydney Wildlife
- Hope Have a focus on tree cover targets, planting more trees to combat the heat island effect. With all the future development in Macquarie Park there needs to be a shift to balance climate change and biodiversity
- CIr Pedersen suggested that the DCP must be updated in relation to tree preservation find out what Woollahra is doing with their Urban Forest Strategy. Electrification of new buildings should be a priority. WSUD and permeable paving need to be utilised more. Mini-forests could be utilised, replacing mown grass with shrubs. There is an opportunity to help get waste and sustainability messages out. Let's look at the delivery program and see how we can help with that. We need to be able to bring the community along.
- Pam suggested that loss of landscape including shrubs and vegetation needs to be addressed.



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Details Action Jordan would like to see the knowledge and skillset of the group be utilised and is interested to see what opportunities there are what work with Council to get things happening. Possibility of members meeting outside the working group meeting dates. This is supported and can be added to future agendas for the group to present ideas or projects they are interested in leading 5. **General Business** The following topics were raised in general business: Confirmation of meeting dates 2024 Meetings will be held on the 3rd Wednesday in March, June and Noted Sept. Clr Pedersen mentioned: Raised the activity of young people lighting fires etc in Sugarloaf Bay and the issues this causes. It was noted that fires in the Field of Mars are also an issue. CCTV has now been installed, but patrolling of these areas is a grey area when it comes to responsibility. Perhaps spotlight walks could be arranged in Field of Mars with Perhaps a neighbour day could be held to encourage people to join nearly bushcare groups. Amelia would be happy to help with Attended the splash site at Grays Point which features a sandy beach. Noted that the Newcastle Lord Mayor attended COP and that Australia has signed an ambitious program to look into climate change in local govt areas. Noted the Federal Government has announced \$100m to transition infrastructure. Noted that foxes are still an issue Asked for an update on median strip plantings and the report that was to be prepared. Noted Jordan: Provided feedback on the community garden projects at Meadowbank and Putney – unfortunately, neither project will be proceeding. At Meadowbank the people involved have lost momentum and at Putney the conditions imposed proved too onerous. Asked for an update on the verge policy and community garden Noted policy. It was noted that community gardens can't be approved without the structure of the community group to run it being in place. Without this, the activity falls away and the area can become a burden which attracts rats etc.

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De	etails	Action
	Jill - Asked if Council has an EV charging policy – yes How many are to be installed in 2024? Currently 4 - A report is to be presented to Council in early 2024 on this topic.	Noted
	Pam - Ask if any waste staff will be attending the AWRE conference in Sydney at ICC next 20-25 July –	Noted. Council staff attend this conference annually.
8.	Next meeting	
	The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 20 th March from 5:30pm – 7.00 pm in the Royal Room, North Ryde Office and via TEAMS	Noted