

MEETING AGENDA

Meeting

Name:	Environmental Advisory Group		
Date:	14 August 2024	Time:	5 pm to 7 pm
Chairperson:	Councillor Anderson	Venue:	Port Stephens Council Admin Building and Zoom
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	Councillor Francis Port Stephens Council	Iain Watt Marine parks Association	Alarna Bristow Independent representative
Alisha Onslow Climate Action Port Stephens	Sue Olsson EcoNetwork Port Stephens	David Moore Friends of Tomaree National Park	Carmel Northwood Koala Coalition
Elaene Williamson Tilligerry Habitat	Jill Cronin Voices of Wallalong and Woodville (VOWW)	Ewa Meyer Renew - Hunter Region Branch	John Clarke Independent representative
Maddison Young Port Stephens Council	Kate Drinan Port Stephens Council	Kim Baker Port Stephens Council	

The following guests are invited to attend:

Nil			
-----	--	--	--

Apologies

Nigel Waters
Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents
Association Inc. (TRRA)

Nigel Dique
Mambo Wanda Wetlands Ramsar
Working Group

Josephine O'Brien
Friends of Tomaree National
Park

Michelle Hession
Independent representative

Item	Topic	Time Required	Responsible Officer	Action	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		Complete
1.2	Chair Welcome	2 mins	Chairperson	Welcome included a thank you to members for attending the Final EAG meeting of this term of Council.	Complete
2.0	PREVIOUS MINUTES				
2.1	Minutes of 8 May 2024	2 mins	Chairperson	Hunter Estuary CMP Update – CMP has recently progressed from stage 2 to stage 3 and community consultation is expected to begin towards the end of the year. Vegetation Mapping Update – Stage 1 vegetation mapping (from Salt Ash to Tomaree) has been finalised. Some consultation with external stakeholders and	Complete Complete

Item	Topic	Time Required	Responsible Officer	Action	Status/Date to be Completed
				agencies will now occur and results are expected to be released early 2025. Culturally Informed Cool Burn Update – Burns have been delivered at Mallabula and Salamander Bay. Currently planning for a public demonstration burn and workshop in October, dates and details to come. Action Carried Forward to next meeting: Marine and Water subgroup to meet to discuss environmental education.	Complete Prior to next EAG Meeting
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	Carmel Northwood and Jill Cronin	Record: Presentation by Carmel Northwood and Jill Cronin provided to the Group	Complete
3.3	Subgroup update and discussion – Sustainable Living	10 mins	Sustainable Living Subgroup	Record: Group discussion regarding Town Teams as an existing mechanism for community members to work on sustainability matters, negating the need for a new program. Group also discussed the potential to hold an event at the libraries in autumn 2025 and link in with the Sustainability Festival date TBC. Action: Council to provide details of the Revitalise event to the EAG members. Action: Council to follow up library availability for event in March 2025.	ASAP Due at next EAG Meeting

Item	Topic	Time Required	Responsible Officer	Action	Status/Date to be Completed
3.4	Subgroup update and discussion – Marine and Water Management	10 mins	Marine and Water Management Subgroup	Record: Council engineering team presented to subgroup on stormwater and presentation distributed to all EAG members. Discussion on requirements in the DCP regarding permeable surfaces and no increase to runoff post development. Upcoming DCP review provides opportunity to raise surface permeability and related matters if desired. Discussion regarding the multistage process of compliance checks post DA stage.	
3.5	Subgroup update and discussion – Biodiversity and Greening	10 mins	Biodiversity and Greening Subgroup	Record: Flora and Fauna Impacts DCP adopted by Council. Lots of work happening in the Vegetation mapping and biodiversity corridor space. EAG member noted that more work is happening in this space than was expected. Discussion on street trees as biodiversity corridors, lack of funding in this area and that Urban Greening has been included in Council's Housing Strategy. Action: Council to provide a summary of the projects to be shared with the Community in an Eco update or similar. Action: Council to redistribute the Council report regarding the street tree strategy to all members.	Due at next EAG Meeting ASAP
3.6	Brainstorm Exercise – Council Environmental Communications - Opportunity to provide ideas on what, how and when we should be	40 mins	Kate Drinan	Provided in Attachment 1	

Item	Topic	Time Required	Responsible Officer	Action	Status/Date to be Completed
	communicating with the community to help inform the development of a Council Environmental Communications Plan for 2025				
4.0	OTHER MATTERS				
4.1	Shoal Bay Coastal Erosion	5 mins	Sue Olsen / Madison Young	Action: Move to next meeting.	
4.2	Past and future direction of Koalas in Port Stephens	5 mins	John Clarke / Kim Baker	Action: Move to next meeting.	
4.3	Impact of cats on Port Stephens wildlife	5 mins	John Clarke	Action: Move to next meeting.	
4.4	EAG Next Steps – Where to from here	5 mins	Kate Drinan	Record: There will be a survey of members and a review of the terms of reference of the EAG, which will form part of a report to Council on the EAG. Pending approval from Council the EAG would look to reconvene in November. Action: Conduct survey of EAG members.	TBC
4.5	Close out		Chairperson	Meeting Closed	

Meeting Closed at:

NEXT MEETINGS:

Date: TBC

Time: 5pm to 7pm

Venue: Port Stephens Council Admin Building and Zoom