

MEETING AGENDA

Meeting

Name:	Environmental Advisory Group		
Date:	13 August 2025	Time:	4 pm to 6 pm
Chairperson:	Mayor Anderson	Venue:	Port Stephens Council Admin Building and Zoom
Minutes:	Rebecca Jaensch		
Purpose of Meeting:	To provide community representation for consultation, advice and advocacy on environmental matters in Port Stephens		
File:	PSC2023-01499		

Attendance

Mayor Anderson Port Stephens Council	Councillor Armstrong Port Stephens Council	Iain Watt Marine Parks Association	Vicki Davis Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc. (TRRA)
Elaene Williamson Tilligerry Habitat	Sue Olsson EcoNetwork Port Stephens	David Moore Friends of Tomaree National Park	John Clarke Independent representative
Jill Cronin Voices of Wallalong and Woodville (VOWW)	Carmel Northwood Koala Coalition	Kim Baker Port Stephens Council	Kate Drinan Port Stephens Council
Rebecca Jaensch Port Stephens Council			

The following guests are invited to attend:

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Apologies

Ewa Meyer Renew - Hunter Region Branch	Alarna Bristow Independent representative	Michelle Hession Independent representative	Madison Young Port Stephens Council
Brock Lamont Port Stephens Council	Andrea Barnett Climate Action Port Stephens	Mark Clifton Mambo Wanda Wetlands Ramsar Working Group	

Item	Topic	Time Required	Responsible Officer	Action	Status/Date to be Completed
1.0	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES				
1.1	Acknowledgement of country and welcome 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	Completed	
1.2	Warm up – your life highlight since the last meeting	10 mins	Chairperson	Completed	
2.0	PREVIOUS MINUTES				
2.1	Minutes of 21 May 2025	2 mins	Chairperson	Adopted	
2.2	Outstanding Actions	5 mins	Chairperson	Action 3 – Updated provided – CEAG consulted for communications around tree vandalism. CEAG suggests	Completed by next meeting

Item	Topic	Time Required	Responsible Officer	Action	Status/Date to be Completed
				<p>targeting younger people and promote the value of trees to influence long term attitudes around trees and tree vandalism</p> <p>Action 5 – Mangrove information to be supplied by Iain Watts</p> <p>Action 10 – Update provided.</p> <p>ACTION 1 – Council to provide slides from EAG meeting</p>	
3.0	BUSINESS ITEMS				
3.1	<p>Biosecurity Management – Presentation and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PSC approach to Weed Management - PSC approach to Pest Management including cats - Biosecurity Management Plan 	30 mins	Michael McNaughton	<p>Presentation provided. Discussion on Council's approach to biosecurity as both a Local Control Authority for weeds and as a land owner for both pests and weeds. Mandatory cat containment not possible due to NSW Companion Animals Act which allows cats to roam. Council focus efforts on education and seek to partner with RSPCA on desexing programs. Companion Animals Act currently being reviewed and Council has requested cat containment laws similar to dogs.</p> <p>ACTION 2 – Council to consider an annual campaign on cats and responsible cat ownership with the Rangers/RSPCA.</p>	Completed by next meeting

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				<p>Discussion around Chinese Violet on private land and further education needed.</p> <p>ACTION 3 – Council to consider a targeted Chinese Violet letterbox drop Anna Bay, One Mile area</p> <p>Discussion around plant management specifically for Bitou Bush.</p> <p>ACTION 4 – Sue Olsson to discuss options for Bitou Bush on Council managed land on the Tomaree Peninsular with Michael McNaughton.</p>	
3.2	PSC Development Control Plan update and introduction of Biodiversity Corridor Guidance Document – Presentation and Discussion	30 mins	Kate Drinan	<p>Update provided. DCP anticipated to be reported to Council in late October. No significant changes since exhibition, more clarification/simplification. The use and weight of the DASH explained.</p> <p>Environmental Planning webpage created on Council's webpage to provide a central location for Environmental Planning information. Feedback requested from EAG.</p> <p>https://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/environment/environmental-planning</p>	Completed by next meeting

Item	Topic	Time Required	Responsible Officer	Action	Status/Date to be Completed
				<p>Biodiversity Corridors Planning Guidance created and explained. Document available for viewing at https://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/tim/other?RecordNumber=25%2F162637</p> <p>ACTION 5 – Council is requesting feedback on the Environmental Planning page - https://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/environment/environmental-planning</p>	
3.3	Vegetation Mapping – Presentation and Discussion	20 mins	Kim Baker	<p>Update provided. Council preparing detailed vegetation mapping which aids decision making. Mapping has 3 stages. Stage 2 (Central) now completed will be released together with Stage 1 (East) on Council PSC maps.</p> <p>Stage 3 (West) is currently underway with consultant currently doing surveys. Project expected to be finalised by June 2026.</p> <p>Council mapping once completed will link into State mapping. Mapping will have descriptions using both Local units and State PCT. Mapping does not factor in quality of local vegetation. Local groups could use the mapping to aid planting decisions in a particular area.</p>	Completed by next meeting

Item	Topic	Time Required	Responsible Officer	Action	Status/Date to be Completed
				ACTION 6 – Council to send vegetation mapping link to EAG group when available for public comment	
4.0	OTHER MATTERS				
4.1	General Business - Open share for members	20 mins	Chairperson	<p>Biosecurity discussion about priority weeds list and different levels of priorities across different regions. Example Camphaloral tree is considered an invasive weed but it is not a priority weed in our LGA. Land owners are legislated to manage biosecurity risks where reasonable practical and other factors impact our management processes.</p> <p>Water quality discussion - Council's Coastal Management Program action includes development and implementation of water quality monitoring. Council currently working on the Hunter Estuary CMP - consultation to occur in the next 12 months.</p> <p>Mid-Coast Council currently working on Myall CMP - includes the Karuah River which drains into Port Stephens.</p>	Completed by next meeting

Item	Topic	Time Required	Responsible Officer	Action	Status/Date to be Completed
				<p>ACTION 7 – Council to obtain information on Myall CMP progress</p> <p>ACTION 8 – Council to advise on current water quality/testing/monitoring of our drains and specifically in Tilligerry creek.</p> <p>Emissions reduction discussion - EcoNetwork have updated their website information on NetZero and Carbon Neutrality.</p> <p>Mayor Anderson provided update on current status of Councils emissions targets</p> <p>ACTION 9 - EcoNetwork requests feedback on NetZero Page.</p>	
4.2	Close out		Chairperson		

Meeting Closed at:

NEXT MEETINGS:

Date: 19 November 2025

Time: 4pm to 6pm

Venue: Port Stephens Council Admin Building and Zoom