



Mosman Sustainability Advisory Group

Chairperson: Dr Mehreen Faruqi Deputy Chairperson: Dr Dieter Hochuli

MINUTES OF THE 2ND MEETING HELD ON

Tuesday 14 August 2007 at Mosman Council

PRESENT

Community members

John Goddard
Dr Adrienne Grant
Arul Pulendran
Jenny Rollo

Councillors

Mayor, Councillor Denise Wilton
Councillor Andrew Brown
Councillor Lynette Elsegood

Council Staff

Warren Burgess
Manager of Environment and Services 9978 4114 w.burgess@mosman.nsw.gov.au

Amy Lovesey
Environment Officer 9978 4043 a.lovesey@mosman.nsw.gov.au

Agenda Number	ITEM
1	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
	Warren Burgess opened the meeting at approximately 6.10pm noting that both Dr Mehreen Faruqi (Chairperson) and Dr Dieter Hochuli (Deputy Chairperson) had passed on their apologies due to illness. Warren Burgess called for nominations for someone to Chair the meeting on this occasion. It was unanimously decided that John Goddard would Chair the meeting.
2	APOLOGIES
	<p>The Chairperson noted that apologies were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belinda Atkins (Environmental Coordinator) • Susanne Rix • Dr Fabian Sack • Martijn Wilder • Dr Mehreen Faruqi (Chairperson) • Dr Dieter Hochuli (Deputy Chairperson) • Sharon Sutton
3	DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST
	The Chairperson called for disclosures of pecuniary interest. No disclosures were made.
4	DISCLOSURE OF NON PECUNIARY INTEREST
	The Chairperson called for disclosures of non pecuniary interest. No disclosures were made.
5	MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING AND ANY BUSINESS ARISING
	<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2007 were adopted along with the Actions. Warren Burgess noted that the Draft Terms of Reference and Charter had undergone minor amended since the last meeting.</p>
6	DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND CHARTER
	The Group adopted the Draft Terms of Reference and Charter.
7	ISSUES OF PRIORITY FOR THE GROUP
	<p>The Chairperson noted that on the Agenda were issues which had been put forward by members of the Group prior to the meeting for discussion.</p> <p>The Group discussed the restrictions for heritage home owners in implementing sustainable energy initiatives. For example those wishing to install solar panels face prohibitions on their positioning. The Chair suggested the Group undertake some research on this issue as there are several heritage houses in Mosman.</p> <p>The Group discussed several simple, practical and behavioural means by which households can reduce their energy consumption.</p> <p>Cr Brown suggested that consultants could be engaged to provide input into the DCPs, particularly guidelines for ESD. Dr Grant noted that some ideas should be developed first, such as examples from elsewhere, in a scoping exercise in order to inform the desired outcomes from the consultancy.</p> <p>Dr Grant noted that transport is an issue and that public transport should be more</p>

attractive to use to the public.

Dr Grant also noted that simple, practical changes in living practices can lead to a more sustainability lifestyle. The Group discussed some of these practices and the rating and accreditation systems available to recognize sustainable house design and energy use. John Goddard noted that there are measures such as BASIX that do not reflect the householder's sustainable behaviours. The Australian Building Greenhouse Rating (ABGR) could be applied. The ABGR is a voluntary rating, there are no requirements involved, but it could be brought in with incentives. The Group noted that a model based on incentives would be better received by the public than a regulatory approach. John Goddard noted that there is also the NABERS (the National Australian Built Environment Rating System) a performance-based rating system for existing buildings. This is valuable as several rating systems are designed for new buildings rather than existing buildings.

It was noted that BASIX is being planned for commercial premises.

Councillor Elsegood suggested that Council runs a building design competition which could include mandatory environmental criteria.

Warren Burgess explained the DCP review timetable and that there would not be sufficient time for the involvement of consultants as the draft documents are to reported to Council in October. He said that the Director of Environment and Planning had confirmed that the DCP could be reviewed following adoption by Council.

The Group agreed that John Goddard will speak with the Department of Environment and Climate Change regarding which councils are adopting NABERS and ABGR.

Dr Grant noted that actions must be attractive to individuals by being practical.

Cr Wilton noted that Council could give people information on sustainability actions when they bring in their Development Application.

The Group discussed the conversion of existing infrastructure to be able to reuse greywater.

Jenny Rollo noted that from a community perspective there are limitations to what people living in apartment blocks can do with respect to rainwater tanks.

The Group brainstormed ideas for sustainability actions for people renting in unit blocks.

Warren Burgess noted that small team of environment staff at Mosman Council (one environment officer, an environmental coordinator and manager) already have a full work program and asked that the Group bear this in mind when considering potential work outputs. Warren Burgess suggested the Group could contemplate creating opportunities for community involvement in projects or ways in which the Group could facilitate implementation of their ideas.

Cr Brown suggested it may be appropriate to reassess at a macro-scale and consider employing additional staff as the environment is receiving more attention and there are increasing demands for environmental projects.

Dr Grant suggested a person could be employed for the short term if not for long term. The Group suggested the option of having university students contribute to projects.

Warren Burgess noted that it would be useful for the Group to look at the priorities in the Environmental Management Plan and agreed to identify some priority tasks for the Group to consider proposing as research topics to their networks in universities.

John Goddard noted that the Wollahra Council area is working with ACF in a program based on the Greenhome Guide, (which won a Banksia award) and that Mosman could do something similar and consider meeting with Sophie Scott.

Dr Grant noted that it would be good to have a model of sustainable living in Mosman or elsewhere that residents could view to visualize what they can implement.

Amy Lovesey noted that this was one of the recommendations in her report on providing advice on water conservation to the community.

Cr Wilton noted that Council could consider setting up a community environmental education centre at Parriwi Park.

The Group agreed that in terms of prioritizing the issues, water conservation is an issue

	<p>that has momentum and is tangible.</p> <p>Cr Elsegood noted that there are issues associated with stormwater detention which could be investigated.</p> <p>Warren Burgess noted that Council's traffic engineer, Craig Covich had completed a report on such issues.</p> <p>The Chairperson noted that it may be good to have the input of a hydraulic expert. The Group agreed that Warren Burgess would seek advice from Council's traffic engineer, Craig Covich.</p> <p>Warren Burgess gave an outline of Council's updated waste and recycling services. Warren Burgess noted that each resident will be given two new 140 litre mobile recycling bins with the option to recycle all containers from 1 to 7 and paper/cardboardtins. Exemptions to using the new bins can be obtained if residents have real access/storage issues or are physically unable to use the bins. The bins are better than the crates for the collection staff from an occupational health and safety perspective. In some other council areas including in the Sydney Metropolitan area, recyclables are commingled. However, the draw back to this is that they must then be transported a greater distance for sorting. The new recycling services will commence on 1 October 2007.</p> <p>The Group noted that it could be good to investigate options for recycling electronic waste such as computers.</p> <p>Members of the Group expressed an interest in visiting the Kimbriki recycling facility and noted that it might be worthwhile to arrange for a tour.</p>
8	ADDRESSING PRIORITY ISSUES – WAY FORWARD
	<p>Cr Brown noted that a source of funding for the Mosman Greenhouse Fund has not yet been determined. Warren Burgess noted that there are a few options for how to build the fund.</p> <p>Due to the time, the Group decided to address Agenda Item 8 in the next meeting and Warren Burgess provided that he would bring to the meeting work undertaken to date in reviewing Council's greenhouse gas emissions reduction initiatives.</p>
9	OTHER BUSINESS
	<p>The Group agreed that rather than Jenny Rollo creating an online forum, Dr Mehreen Faruqi could set up the environmental network (EN) at UNSW as a web-based discussion tool for Group. (For more info go to: http://www.en.unsw.edu.au/).</p>
10	NEXT MEETING
	<p>The Chairperson invited discussion on dates and times for future meetings of the Group. It was noted that at the first meeting it was agreed that meetings would be held every three months on the first Monday of the month at Mosman Council Chambers.</p> <p>The Group scheduled the next meeting for Thursday 11 October 2007.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.00pm.</p>

**The Mosman Sustainability Advisory Group is an initiative of Mosman Council
Enquiries to Amy Lovesey on 9978 4043**

The agenda, minutes and presentations made to all Community Groups can be found on the Mosman Council website at www.mosman.nsw.gov.au