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Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am pleased to present our annual report for the year ending 30 June 2019.

This year NSROC undertook a wide range of initiatives reflecting member council priorities – from advocating for a stronger future-focused sustainable service delivery to the development of statutory strategic plans. Guided by the NSROC 10-Point Plan, these initiatives help to position Northern Sydney at the leading edge for the delivery of services as councils respond to contemporary expectations of the communities we serve.

Some of the highlights of the year in review are:

- Supporting member councils with the development of model clauses that could be incorporated in Local Strategic Planning Statements, Local Environment Plans and Development Controls to address emerging community concerns on waste management and building resilience to urban heating effects.
- Holding our biennial NSROC Conference 2019 with the theme of partnership between the NSW Government and local councils. The Conference explored a wide variety of topics, such as the role of arts and cultural infrastructure and liveability; maintaining and protecting recreational and open spaces and promoting healthy lifestyles; and smart, responsive planning and development for sustainability and liveability.
- Continuing to implement the NSROC Regional Sportsground Review Strategy for sportsgrounds refurbishment, partnering with the Department of Education to enhance sports facilities provision, and advocating on sportsgrounds reconfiguration.
- Policy advocacy on waste management, and
- Developing transport infrastructure and social and cultural infrastructure strategies to support stronger partnerships with the State Government to achieve the objectives of the Greater Sydney Region Plan and the State Infrastructure Strategy.



*Councillor Gail Giles-Gidney
President NSROC
Mayor, Willoughby City Council*

NSROC through its Professional Officers Groups (POGs) continues to facilitate networking of function-based council officers to improve services, share experiences and business intelligence and secure ongoing professional development of staff in a complex fast changing business and regulatory environment.

Financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2019 are attached and they show that NSROC continues to be run prudently and in a manner consistent with its articles of association.

I commend this report to you and wish you all the very best into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Giles-Gidney', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Gail Giles-Gidney
NSROC President
Mayor of Willoughby City Council
30 June 2019

NSROC – ABOUT US

The Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) assists member local councils to collaborate on key issues and activities to generate benefits – social, environmental and economic – for their communities and for the region as a whole.

Role of NSROC:

- Advocate agreed regional positions and priorities
- Work cooperatively for the benefit of the Northern Sydney region
- Provide strong local government leadership

Directions and Objectives:

- *Advocacy & Leadership* - To position the region as a leader and strengthen the role of Local Government in the Northern Sydney region
- *Improved Urban Planning and Infrastructure* - To integrate transport, social and environmental infrastructure projects that support opportunities in the region to link with the North District Plan, and meet community and business needs into the future
- *Improved Service Delivery* - To improve the quality and efficiency of local government service delivery in the Northern Sydney region.

Key Principles:

NSROC enables member councils to achieve their individual strategic community objectives through their commitment to the over-arching principles of:

- Sustainability
- Constructive collaboration
- Work together for a better region

Board and executive

NSROC is an Incorporated Association and its members are:

- Hornsby Shire Council
- Hunter's Hill Council
- Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council
- Lane Cove Council
- Mosman Municipal Council
- North Sydney Council
- City of Ryde Council
- Willoughby City Council

NSROC Board

NSROC Board sets the direction and exercises oversight of NSROC. Each member council is represented on the Board by the Mayor and a councillor.

In addition to the Annual General Meeting, the NSROC Board meets four times a year to consider matters of strategic importance and provide direction to NSROC.

Board executive positions

Every year the Board elects a President and two Vice-Presidents. They form the Executive of the organisation. The Executive may be convened to consider matters of importance or urgency that arise outside the regular meeting schedule or where it would be impractical to call a full Board meeting to consider such matters.

The NSROC Executive members during the year were:

- Councillor Gail Giles-Gidney (President of NSROC, Mayor of Willoughby City Council)
- Councillor Ben Collins (Vice-President of NSROC, Deputy Mayor of Hunter's Hill Council)
- Councillor Sam Ngai (Vice-President of NSROC, Councillor of Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council)

General Managers Advisory Committee

The General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC) is made up of the General Managers of the eight NSROC Councils. The current Chair of GMAC is Ms Debra Just (CEO of Willoughby City Council). Mr Ken Gouldthorp (General Manager of North Sydney Council) is the Treasurer.

Professional Officers Groups

NSROC convenes a number of Professional Officers Groups (POGs) with representation from each of its member Councils. In 2018-19 the following POGs support the work of NSROC:

- Arts and Cultural Services POG
- Communications and Media POG
- Community Services POG
- Environmental Sustainability POG
- Financial Officers POG
- Northern Planners Group
- Sports POG
- Waste Services POG

New POGs may be established with the approval of GMAC.

There are also, on occasion, time-limited project specific working groups established.

During the year the Waste Advisory Group provided advice on the NSROC Regional Waste Strategy.

KEY ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES

Some of NSROC's key activities over the past year include:

Advocacy and leadership

- Mayor Palmer was President of NSROC until November 2018. Craig Wrightson was Chair of GMAC. Current President is Mayor Giles-Gidney of Willoughby and Chair is Debra Just, CEO of Willoughby City Council (November 2018 to current).
- NSROC worked with Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) on mitigating urban heat island effects for LEP (Local Environment Plans) and LSPS (Local Strategic Planning Statements).
- NSROC Conference February 2019 – A Liveable Region – through partnerships between local and state government. The Conference was reported on the 6 pm News on Channel 7 when the NSROC President was interviewed.
- 10-Point Plan sent to government and opposition before State election and sent to relevant Federal Members of Parliament before Federal election. Meetings were held with key State Ministers in response to the NSROC 10-Point Plan. (See further details below in the next section).
- Liaison with Greater Sydney Commission in helping deliver strategies and actions from the North District Plan.
- Worked with the NSW Government's Chief Planner on assisting councils to prepare their Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPS). Following a meeting with Northern Planners, General Managers and council executives in October 2018, the Department of Planning developed a training course on preparing LSPS for council staff and councillors. This two-day training course was delivered by the Department of Planning and the University of Technology Sydney to council staff and councillors with NSROC member councils attending the pilot course in December 2018.
- Sportsground Review Strategy delivered, working on social, cultural and transport infrastructure planning strategies.
- Sportsground Reconfiguration Investigation Project Report delivered in February 2019 and sent to NSW Office of Sport and NSW Minister for Sport. Meeting held with the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces on potential for a demonstration project on sportsground reconfiguration.
- Waste
 - Extended lease on Artarmon Community Recycling Centre (CRC).
 - Planned a community education campaign to promote the Artarmon CRC through cinema advertisements at Macquarie Centre and Top Ryde Shopping Centre, and updated promotional material for distribution by councils.
 - Developed Draft Regional Waste Management DCP (Development Control Plans), and supporting technical documents. E-Planning of the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) will incorporate the NSROC Waste Management provisions for multi-unit dwellings in their e-Planning work on standard model DCPs.
 - Created regional wording on waste management and climate change for Local Strategic Planning Statements and LEPs (in conjunction with WSROC).
 - Regional litter projects delivered in conjunction with Lane Cove, City of Ryde, Hornsby and Kuring-gai councils.

- Project managed and coordinated Crank Zappa, a regional litter reduction campaign funded by the NSW Government's Waste Levy consisting of an interactive display made of recycled waste. Crank Zappa was displayed for four nights at Hornsby and Eastwood Malls in August 2018.
- Through the Northern Sydney Waste Alliance (a sub-group of NSROC councils) jointly procured processing and disposal services of mixed waste.
- Fire and Rescue NSW included NSROC suggestions in their final *Fire safety guidelines* to make it easier for industry to comply while meeting the policy objectives of the guidelines.
- NSROC made submissions on behalf of member councils on
 - EPA's decision to revoke the exemption for application of processed waste for agricultural or mine site rehabilitation
 - National Waste Plan
 - NSW Asbestos Policy
 - NSW Circular Economy Policy

NSROC's 10-Point Plan

NSROC progressed initiatives under its 10-Point Plan, which was endorsed by the NSROC Board in November 2018. NSROC 10-Point Plan articulates the Northern Sydney region's shared concerns on issues that member councils consider as emergent, potentially intractable and hold resonance with our community. The ten points are:

- Flexible rating system
- Flexibility in rate pegging to assist infrastructure reform
- Liveability with appropriate social infrastructure
- Waste management for a better environment
- Responsive planning and development
- Flexible procurement process
- Roads and traffic improvement
- Leadership in Electric Vehicles, On-Demand Public Transport and Self-Driving Automated Vehicles
- Better consultation and engagement process between NSW Government and NSROC
- Stronger engagement and consultation on legislation and regulation

As a result of NSROC advocacy, Local Government NSW's (LGNSW) Policy Platform includes a number of policy positions that are aligned to the NSROC 10-Point Plan, such as:

- Greater autonomy and flexibility in rating policy, structure and practices
- A more flexible procurement framework to enable councils to benefit from innovative procurement practices
- Tighter and more effective regulation of private certifiers by the State Government's building regulators – new regulatory arrangements must be strong, proactively enforced and subject to regular and rigorous audit
- Complying development to be limited to low risk or low impact development, with clearly defined parameters

- Increased infrastructure funding to local government through Commonwealth and State Government revenue sharing and grant programs (e.g. Roads to Recovery)
- Councils and communities to be able to determine how medium density housing is delivered in their local areas based on their local housing strategies – the Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code should be optional, not mandatory for councils
- Protection of existing and identification of new waste management locations
- Long term planning for waste, recycling and resource recovery infrastructure with 100% reinvestment of the NSW Waste Levy into state-wide recycling and waste management initiatives, including protection of existing and identification of new waste management locations
- Ensure councils receive a fair share of funding from and access to government arts and culture programs

During the year in review, NSROC Board members, General Managers and the Executive Director promoted the policy positions with NSW Government ministers and senior executives in government agencies. Outcomes of the NSROC advocacy efforts include:

- The NSW Government released IPART's Report on Review of the Local Government Rating System 2016 (which was held for 3 years from public release) and the Government has now commenced public consultation on IPART Review's recommendations
- NSROC is seeking an amendment to the EPA Grant funding program criteria to include 'existing' waste facilities, not just for new/upgrading waste facilities. Senior adviser to the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces at the meeting with the Minister had agreed to refer the matter to the office of the Minister for to look into the NSROC request for including existing waste facilities in program eligibility criteria or consider more flexibility in the availability of funding options
- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has indicated that they would consider incorporating waste management standards into planning and regulation for medium & higher density residential developments in Standard (model) DCP materials that will be put on exhibition in due course. These model clauses were developed by NSROC working in partnership with WSROC
- Successfully lobbied the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces for an extended deferral of the Medium Density Housing Code with a request to consider the proposition that if LEP achieves housing diversity, then the Code not need to apply. As a result, on 13 June 2019 the Minister announced a review on the Code to be completed by Professor Ryan. At the same time the Government further extended the deferral of the Code in 45 councils until 31 October 2019, with the deferral to 1 July 2020 for Hornsby, Hunter's Hill, Mosman, Willoughby and City of Ryde
- NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces is supportive of NSROC recommendation to strengthen the private certification system before the new medium density code comes into force



- With the support of the Greater Sydney Commission, NSROC has received key contacts at NSW Government agencies. A formal exchange of letters with the key contacts at these agencies is proposed to facilitate exchange of information and resolving issues as they arise
- Parliamentary Counsel has provided lists of statutory rules/regulations up for staged repeal and postponement on 1 September 2019 and September 2020. Such lists could indicate the regulations that could potentially be up for review in the coming year which would allow councils to anticipate and prepare ahead with suggestions for amendment or improvement. As a result of NSROC's suggestion, the Parliamentary Counsel's Office (PCO) is also considering publishing similar lists on their website in the future. The PCO will establish a stakeholder consultation group in the future and will invite NSROC to participate

NSROC Conference 2019

The NSROC Conference 2019 was held on 7 February 2019. The theme of the Conference was *A Liveable Northern Sydney Region: partnership between NSW Government and local councils*.

The objective of the Conference was to ensure a strong partnership with NSW Government and that government policies and programs will enhance the liveability of LGAs in the Northern Sydney region and covered

- Proposals to work in partnership with local councils in the Northern Sydney region and how such proposals may help to strengthen the partnership



- Policies, programs, infrastructure and funding that will specifically assist the Northern Sydney region, including how such initiatives will help to address any gaps
- How liveability will be enhanced in the LGAs of the region as a result of any specific proposal, program, policy, infrastructure or funding

The Conference keynote speaker was The Hon. Anthony Roberts, MP, the then NSW Minister for Planning Minister for Housing, and Special Minister of State, Member for Lane Cove and the closing address was provided by The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP, NSW Premier, Member for Willoughby

Topics addressed at the Conference were:

- Create NSW and the role of arts and cultural infrastructure and liveability
- Where to from here with the GSC?
- Maintaining and protecting recreational and open spaces and promoting healthy lifestyles
- Healthy Active by Design
- Building Equity and Inclusion into a growing Sydney – harnessing the opportunities
- Open spaces and parklands and liveability in the Northern Sydney region.
- Transport and roads and liveability in the Northern Sydney region
- Liveability and Smart Precincts – Macquarie Park Innovation District in Ryde
- Public transport investment across Sydney over the last 170 years

The Conference was attended by over 100 delegates that included State Government agency representatives, mayors and councillors and council staff members from across the Sydney region.

Improved urban planning and infrastructure

NSROC commenced preparation of a subregional infrastructure strategies that respond to the objectives and targets of the NSW Government's Sydney Region Plan, North District Plan and Infrastructure Strategy.

The Northern Sydney Transport Infrastructure Strategy will propose a Measures of Success framework for conceiving, planning and implementing transport infrastructure by both local governments and State Government agencies. The Strategy is being developed based on past experience and incorporating views and business imperatives of all stakeholders to deliver on the objectives of the Sydney Region Plan and the North District Plan. The Strategy will be cognisant of emerging technological developments such as an increase in the adoption of electric vehicles, shared economy initiatives and the expected advent of autonomous vehicles.

The Northern Sydney Social and Cultural Strategy aims to maintain and enhance the liveability of Northern Sydney by ensuring that communities have access to a diverse range of facilities and services that are critical to maintaining the liveability of the region.

Both Strategy documents are expected to be finalised in 2019-20 and will form the basis of region-wide engagement with the NSW Government.

Shared service delivery

- During the year NSROC continued to coordinate the contract for the procurement of road surface patching and associated works
- North Sydney, Mosman, Lane Cove, Strathfield and Hunters Hill Councils continued to share internal audit services provided services which were hosted by Ku-ring-gai Council

- NSROC assisted member councils to establish an open panel of native title managers qualified to provide written advice to councils in relation to identified functions in relation to crown land they manage or own
- NSROC Code of Conduct Reviewers Panel continues to operate
- A Shared Design Review Panel (DRP): Terms of Reference (ToR) were investigated to support member councils. The concept of the Shared DRP ToR is to provide a common reference for Design Review for member councils who wish to share design review resources such as panel selection and shared meetings. This is similar in approach to the concept for the NSROC Code of Conduct Reviewers Panel with experts being drawn from a common list of reviewers on the panel

Regional Sportsground Strategy Review

NSROC's Regional Sportsground Strategy Review's Final Report was finalised in December 2017. This review has for the first time quantified the gap between demand and supply of sportsgrounds in the region. Following the launch of the Regional Sportsground Strategy Review's Final Report on 27 March 2018, a community recognition mention in NSW Parliament and extensive media coverage (Sydney Morning Herald article, local newspaper report, and two 2GB radio interviews), NSROC councils have taken actions to progress the Strategy recommendations.

Sportsground Reconfiguration Investigation Project Report

Following from the Regional Sportsground Strategy Review, the Sportsground Reconfiguration Investigation Project Report was delivered in February 2019. This project identified that 12 project sites could realise a yield equivalent to 10.5 FSE (full size equivalent) field at an estimated cost of just over \$23M. From the 12 project sites, the 5 projects to be prioritised would deliver good value and a higher rate of capacity (hectare hours - time of use in hours and the size of the space in hectares). This would be equivalent to more than 5 full sized sports fields (priority sites), with the average cost of reconfiguration far less than the estimated acquisition of new land and development costs of \$7M per sports field.

Work is continuing with liaisons with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the Office of Sport to seek their support and consideration for funding a demonstration pilot project.

Led by the Sports Professional Officers Group, member councils are making a business case for the development of new facilities, and for the refurbishment and upgrade of existing sports facilities. It is also helping councils to secure funding from various state government programs. Some notable achievements during the year and that are aligned with implementing key actions of the Regional Sportsground Strategy Review:

Secured funding

- Ku-ring-gai Council successfully secured \$3.5 million from the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund for the St Ives High School Indoor Sports Centre – Action 15 on Managing Fluctuations in Demand by preparing an indoor sports plan
- Northern Sydney and Beaches Hockey Association successfully obtained \$2.25 million from the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund for a synthetic field conversion and clubhouse upgrade for hockey at Barra Brui Sportsground, St Ives – Action 6 on Planning and Managing Infrastructure and Carrying Capacity of Grounds by installation of synthetic fields
- North Sydney Council successfully obtained \$135,000 from the Community Sport Infrastructure Program for Forsyth Park #1 Oval Reconstruction. This project will be undertaken in the 2019/20 FY – Action 9 d. (Revised 2011 Actions) on Planning and Managing Infrastructure and Carrying Capacity of Grounds by reconstructing turf grounds

Working with the Department of Education

- Ku-ring-gai Council is presently in negotiations with the Department on design and construction of the St Ives High School Indoor Sports Centre – Action 7 on Planning and Managing Infrastructure

and Carrying Capacity of Grounds by developing opportunities for joint use at school sportsgrounds facilities

- City of Ryde is in negotiation with the Department for ongoing access to the Smalls Rd School Site Council with the aim of securing longer-term security of tenure, and for installing a synthetic surface and ancillary infrastructure at Smalls Road School – Action 5 on obtaining security of tenure of any sportsgrounds that form part of the overall supply that are not owned by Council and Action 7 on joint use of school sportsground facilities and installation of synthetic surfaces as part of Planning and Managing Infrastructure and Carrying Capacity of Grounds

Upgrades and capital works

- Action 10 on Planning and Managing Infrastructure and Carrying Capacity of Grounds by upgrading ancillary facilities to compliment capacity upgrades, Ku-ring-gai Council has undertaken a range of upgrades to existing facilities, including:
 - Upgraded lighting (with LED lights) at Primula Oval, Lindfield
 - Added two cricket nets at Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Park that now has four cricket nets
 - Developed dual courts for basketball and netball with lighting facilities at The Glade Reserve tennis courts, Wahroonga
 - Synthetic field upgrade at Mimosa Sportsground, South Turramurra, which is now approved to be included in the capital works program for 2019/20
- Action 6 on increasing the capacity of sportsgrounds, Willoughby Council has undertaken a range of works aimed at improving facilities to enable them to be available for use for a greater period of time. Works carried out include:
 - A new synthetic surface for multiple sports: cricket, AFL, summer football, touch football at Gore Hill Oval
 - New floodlights at the Bicentennial Oval
 - Renewal of synthetic surface for football, cricket and school sports at the Northbridge Oval
 - Renewal of drainage, irrigation and sports turf at the Beauchamp and Bicentennial Ovals
- Action 6 on increasing the capacity of sportsgrounds, City of Ryde has included the construction of two new synthetic surfaces in its capital works program. These are at Westminster Park (planned for 2020/21) and at Meadowbank Park (planned for 2022/23.)

Planning

- City of Ryde has adopted the Gannan and McCauley Park masterplan which will unlock senior and junior fields for winter use
- City of Ryde has adopted the ELS Hall Park masterplan that upgrades ancillary facilities at the Park
- Masterplans are being prepared for Westminster Park and Meadowbank Park and are expected to be completed in the 2019/20 year

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Waste

Community Recycling Centres

NSROC region residents continued to utilise two Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) to drop off domestic quantities of problem wastes for recycling. The CRCs are located at Thornleigh (operated by Hornsby Council) and Artarmon (operated by North Sydney Council on behalf of City of Ryde Council, Willoughby City Council, Lane Cove Council, Hunter's Hill Council and Mosman Council). Upon expiry of the lease agreement for the Artarmon CRC, NSROC has extended the lease for another three years until February 2022.

Thornleigh CRC had 20,160 vehicles visit the centre dropping off 486 tonnes of waste comprising of core EPA waste (148 tonnes), e-waste (135 tonnes) and cardboard (160 tonnes).

The Artarmon CRC experienced a 37% increase in visitors to 17,800 who dropped off problem wastes (190 tonnes), e-waste (200 tonnes) and X-rays (4.4 tonnes).

Two face to face surveys of customers undertaken at the two CRCs during the year showed an exceptional 100% of users expressing satisfaction with their visit to the Centres.

Regional Waste Alliance Contract

The Regional Waste Alliance contract, now in its fourth year of a ten-year contract, continued to deliver savings and secure delivery of waste services to the five participating NSROC councils (City of Ryde, Hunter's Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove and Willoughby) during 2019.

In 2018-19 a total of 75,380 tonnes of mixed waste and 11,077 tonnes of clean-up waste was managed through the shared contract. Resource recovery achievement from clean up waste of a group total of 6,425 tonnes was reported by Veolia for 2018-19. Recovery from mixed waste up to November 2018 was 5,663 tonnes.

Under-achievement in contract performance in waste processing to recover resources occurred because of unexpected regulatory changes by the EPA in late October 2018. Resolution of issues between the company and the regulator regarding the application of compost-like output from Veolia's Mechanical Biological Treatment plant at Woodlawn to mine site rehabilitation land is expected before the end of the 2019-20 year.

Waste Planning for Multi-Unit Developments

NSROC managed the development of two key documents to support the implementation of harmonised controls for the management of waste in multi-unit developments. These were the *Waste Management Development Controls* and *Escalating Waste & Recycling Provisions - Implementation Guidance*.

The *Waste Management Development Controls* incorporates six individual reports addressing development controls; technical guidance; a Waste Management Plan template; consent conditions and two checklists to assist council staff and developers.

Escalating Waste & Recycling Provisions - Implementation Guidance was developed in partnership with WSROC and it provides suggested waste management clauses for inclusion in councils' Local Strategic Planning Statements and Local Environmental Plans.

Both documents were shared with the Department of Planning and Environment and the Greater Sydney Commission who received them favourably. The documents were also circulated to metropolitan and regional waste groups for consideration by their member councils.

Furniture Re-use and Recycling

During the year, NSROC continued to fund The Bower, a not for profit organisation, for the collection and re-homing of furniture, electrical products and bicycles across the region. Where products are unsuitable for Bower, residents are advised of three alternative organisations which may accept the materials. Without the service, such items would typically be collected in council clean ups and sent to landfill.

Litter Regional Implementation

NSROC implemented two successful projects under the NSW Government's Litter Regional Implementation Program and funded by the NSW Government's waste levy. These were:

- Crank Zappa, an interactive anti-litter display and activities in town centres at Hornsby and Eastwood Malls
- An initiative focused on reducing litter volumes at recreation parks and sports fields in the Lane Cove and Ku-ring-gai council areas

Fire Safety in Waste facilities

In March 2019 NSROC made a submission to Fire and Rescue NSW on their draft fire safety guidelines titled *Fire safety in waste facilities*. NSROC concerns were largely related to the uncertainty of the guidelines' application, their prescriptiveness and the breadth of definitions. In particular, NSROC was concerned that application of the Guidelines could make it impracticable to operate existing CRCs and prevent the establishment of new CRCs. Key NSROC suggestions were accepted by Fire and Rescue NSW in the final version of the document.

Advocacy

NSROC also made submissions during public consultation phases of the development of the National Waste Plan, the NSW Asbestos Policy and the NSW Circular Economy Policy.

Professional Officers Groups annual reports

Community Services Professional Officers Group

The Community Services Professional Officer Group fosters continuous improvement in human service management and delivery in the Northern Sydney region. During the year the Group met four times to progress a range of initiatives. These were:

- Further embedding program evaluation practices in services delivered, such as the Seniors Festival and other social inclusion programs that are delivered by member councils
- Developed a shared resource to support capacity building within the community services sector in Northern Sydney
- Supported the development of the Northern Sydney Social and Cultural Infrastructure Strategy by providing information on existing facilities, insights on issues, advice on social and cultural services framework, and
- Planning a Northern Sydney inter-agencies community services forum in 2020 to facilitate networking, coordination and synergies in service delivery.

Environmental Sustainability Professional Officers Group

The Environmental Sustainability Professional Officers Group aims to promote environmental sustainability in the northern Sydney region through information sharing and joint projects. During the year the Group participated in a joint WSROC and NSROC project to develop guidance document to assist integrating urban heat provisions in council local strategic planning statements and LEP reviews. The guidance set consisted of two options for incorporating clauses in the local strategic planning statements and two alternatives of example clauses that councils could consider and adapt for inclusion in their LEPs.



Crank Zappa: interactive anti-litter display

The Group also is supporting the bid by the University of New South Wales to establish a Smart Cities Cooperative Research Centre. If the University is successful, NSROC with support from ESPOG will take an active role in studying and hosting smart cities initiatives.

ESPOG is taking a lead role in working with the Office of Environment and Heritage, the Greater Sydney Commission and Resilient Sydney in monitoring resilience and wellbeing of member council communities as part of their journey to become resilient.

Arts and Cultural Services Professional Officers Group

The NSROC Arts and Cultural Services POG (A&CSPOG) met three times in the financial year 2018-19. The POG explored joint approaches to art and cultural services in the region, including collaborative projects such as cultural presentations and joint promotions with a view to building audiences, community participation and enhancing the reputation of the area. Members explored sharing of knowledge and resources, cross-promotion of services, opportunities for funding, public art and festivals and engaged with bodies such as Create NSW, National Parks and Wildlife Services and the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. Important outcomes of the work of the POG included professional development opportunities for staff and the extension of their knowledge base. Representatives of the POG participated in the workshop on the Social & Cultural Infrastructure Strategy project held in April 2019 at Lane Cove Council. The POG also provided a list of cultural and creative facilities in the region in conjunction with the data list provided by Create NSW for the Social and Cultural Infrastructure Strategy consultancy project.

Finance Officers Professional Officers Group

The Finance POG supports finance officers to consider a range of accounting and IP&R reporting matters (including compliance with the current/updated Code of Financial Reporting and Accounting Practice) and to address issues of interpretation with a view to promote consistent practice across the Northern Region.

The Finance POG met four times during the 2018-19 year. The group considered the major changes since the NSW Audit Office restructuring the Local Government audit service provision, and associated Audit Office focus areas. Other issues examined by the Group include adoption of new Australian Accounting Standards, asset revaluation, crown lands and the NSW Government plans for a state-wide audit of credit card use at local councils.

Communications & Media Professional Officers Group

The Communications & Media POG met 3 times in the 2018-19 year. In addition to supporting professional development of the officers, sharing good practices and building up knowledge base of tools, systems and approaches, the POG developed the NSROC media policy with a supporting flow chart on referral and decision making for NSROC Board, General Managers and staff.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2018-19

The 2018-19 Financial Report for the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils is at Attachment 1.



NORTHERN SYDNEY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS INC.

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
AS AT 30 JUNE 2019**

2017/2018		2018/2019
\$		\$
	INCOME	
356,365	Council Membership	397,704
111,329	EPA Waste Regional Coordination Support Grant	111,329
137,440	Waste Regional Coordination Council Contribution	18,671
252,145	EPA Better Waste & Recycle Fund	142,561
-	EPA Regional Waste Projects (Other)	139,695
279,220	CRC Income outside Grant Funding	233,688
271,426	Rebates - group purchasing	201,729
5,033	Interest on investments	3,212
2,045	Interest on grant funding	2,898
51,852	Miscellaneous income	49,352
<u>1,466,855</u>	TOTAL INCOME	<u>1,300,839</u>
	EXPENDITURE	
6,283	Advertising	5,996
2,370	Auditor's fees	2,490
1,352	Bank charges & filing fees	879
363	Telecommunications	436
22,884	Fee to host Council	23,365
156,186	EPA Waste Regional Coordination Support Grant	139,232
43,302	EPA Waste Better Waste & Recycling Fund	84,609
37,422	EPA Regional Waste Projects (Other)	213,369
277,857	CRC Expenditure outside Grant Funding	233,057
32,653	CRC Amortisation on Leasehold Improvements	65,306
7,150	Regional Projects	60,000
2,303	Communications/Printing	-
52,503	Legal Fees	23,438
634	Events	11,445
170	Office equipment	235
140	Office equipment depreciation	2,168
3,075	Professional development	850
10,450	Provision for annual leave	(3,743)
18,022	Provision for long service leave	10,681
281,226	Salaries and wages	321,209
17,351	Superannuation	22,175
980	Stationery	1,761
15,000	Subscriptions and data services	15,000
595	Sundry expenses	185
888	Travel expenses	1,281
5,939	Workers compensation & insurances	6,571
600	Website management	7,162
<u>997,698</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>1,249,157</u>
<u>469,157</u>	SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	<u>51,682</u>

NORTHERN SYDNEY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS INC.

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2019**

2017/2018		2018/2019
\$		\$
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
914,536	Balance at beginning of the year	1,383,693
469,157	Surplus/(deficit) for year	51,680
<u>1,383,693</u>	Balance at the end of the year	<u>1,435,373</u>
Represented by:		
CURRENT ASSETS		
39,577	Cash at bank and on hand	59,475
700,228	Fixed deposit	756,400
227,416	Fixed deposit EPA Waste Strategy	253,771
253,721	Fixed deposit EPA ST Grants	202,770
-	Fixed deposit CRC Operations Account	936
64,625	Fixed Term Deposit	64,625
232,902	Sundry debtors	221,570
-	Prepayments	5,060
<u>1,518,469</u>	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>1,564,608</u>
FIXED ASSETS		
5,770	Office Equipment	5,770
(1,566)	Office Equipment Depreciation	(3,734)
117,358	CRC - Leasehold Improvements	117,358
(52,052)	CRC - Leasehold Improvements Amortisation	(117,358)
<u>69,510</u>	TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	<u>2,036</u>
<u>1,587,979</u>	TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,566,644</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
109,968	Creditors	107,224
27,754	GST Payable/(Recoverable)	(17,294)
37,385	Provision for annual leave	25,265
<u>175,107</u>	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>115,195</u>
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
29,179	Provision for long service leave	16,076
<u>29,179</u>	TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>16,076</u>
<u>204,286</u>	TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>131,271</u>
<u>1,383,693</u>	NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>1,435,373</u>