

## Roads and Drainage / Parks and Reserves Subcommittees

**Meeting Notes: Tuesday October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**In attendance:** Cass Gye, Sharon Kinnison, Tim Jacobs, Graeme Crayford, Tim Turpin

SIRA had agreed that a joint meeting of the two Subcommittees be held, to identify areas of common interest and potential overlap. The meeting commenced with a brief summary of issues currently being considered by each Subcommittee.

**Roads and Drains Subcommittee:** Continues to be guided by the Scotland Island Roads and Drainage Strategy, monitoring drainage pit upgrade work being undertaken as part of the Capital Improvement Program, follow up on storm repair works, progressing the repairs to the hairpin bend and promoting an “adopt a drain” scheme to improve volunteer engagement with casual maintenance of drains.

**Parks and Reserves Subcommittee:** Has been reviewing the rather out of date Plans of Management for the major reserves on the Island, developing an approach to updating the Plans, and general monitoring of “hotspot issues”, particularly relating to improved conservation and landcare practices and better integration of works planning and process to deliver better outcomes. The Subcommittee has done some initial work on developing a “Checklist” to assist in planning projects and priorities, reviewing the framework of the Pittwater 2025 Strategic Plan, the Island Vision 2014 document and related approaches.

It was agreed that the Scotland Island Roads and Drainage Strategy remained the principal guiding framework for pursuing a systematic approach to upgrading the roads and drainage services and dealing with issues as they arose. The core issue of concern was that current Council budget outlays for maintenance and capital improvements were too low to achieve marked improvement over time.

It was noted that it would be a formidable task to upgrade formal Plans of Management for all Parks and Reserves and that Council staff had recently indicated some scepticism about that approach suggesting a model that focussed on community consultation around “Place Plans”. It would be essential for any planning model to enjoy the confidence of Council staff and have relevance to the Council’s own Pittwater 2025 Strategic Plan, since that by and large influenced the framing of annual budgets and resource allocation.

The Joint Meeting discussed at some length the notion that a “**Project Checklist**” could serve as a template for discussion, consultation and planning of priorities.

The *Parks and Reserves Subcommittee* had discussed such an approach, under a broad goal such as “Fostering balanced social, economic and cultural development through community engagement, while protecting our natural heritage” .... that reflected the high level goals of the draft Island Vision document and/or the Pittwater 2015 – Our Community Strategic Plan framework. (See below “Background Notes”)

The meeting identified a range of potential subject areas for a Checklist, as follows:

- existing planning frameworks
- relevance, priority
- improving public access
- amenity and aesthetics
- functional services, infrastructure and utilities
- conservation and environmental protection
- community engagement, consultation, stakeholder input
- recognition of multiple usage and shared usage issues
- cost effective – both in capital cost and maintenance
- public safety, risk management, emergency services

It was recognised that the Checklist needed to be simple, clear, easily understood and easily used. Some simplification of the above list might be useful, along with an explanation of each item to assist focussed discussion and avoid duplication.

It was agreed that such a Checklist had potential and should be versatile enough to be a relevant tool for considering large longer term planning issues through to specific projects.

It was noted that the status of the Pittwater 2025 Strategic Plan might be overtaken by any Council amalgamation. As that might take several years, it was reasonable to assume it would remain relevant at least for the medium term.

It was agreed to continue work on the idea of a Checklist with a view to developing a “beta” version for trialling and testing.

The meeting closed some time on Tuesday evening.

## **Background Notes: Parks and Reserves Subcommittee**

### **Framework of Pittwater 2025 – Our Community Strategic Plan**

(each heading has three or four component sub-headings )

- Sustainability principles
- Community engagement principles
- Supporting and connecting our community
- Valuing and caring for our natural environment
- Enhancing our working and learning
- Integrating our built environment
- Disaster, emergency and risk

### **Island Vision 2014**

**Aim:** balancing the needs of the place and the people

**Guiding Principles:** sustainability, intergenerational equity, community engagement, community benefit

**Values:** beautiful natural environment, friendly and flourishing community, healthy and aesthetically built environment

**Key Directions:** connecting our offshore community, enhancing our creative and cultural environment, valuing and caring for our natural environment, integrating our built environment, effective processes to achieve community goals

### **Checklist Ideas:**

- Sustainability and Intergenerational Equity
- preventing degradation
- recognising true costs of environmental impacts
- maintaining health and productivity
- biological diversity and ecological integrity

### **Built Environment**

- low impact infrastructure
- convenient access
- adequate and healthy facilities
- cost effective and reliable services
- residential amenity

**Natural Environment and Landscape Quality**

- conserve and protect
- balancing needs of coastal, catchment, landscape and bushland
- maximising access, use and amenity
- balance with life style needs of the community

**Community Benefit and Improvement**

- quality planning and management
- meeting current and future needs
- right use in the right place
- minimising adverse impacts
- responsive to disaster, emergency and risk management
- improves safety and wellbeing
- improves value of assets

**Community Engagement and Partnership**

- friendly and welcoming
- education, recreation and cultural facilities fit for purpose
- participation and volunteering
- recognise and celebrate diversity
- meaningful consultation and respectful discussion