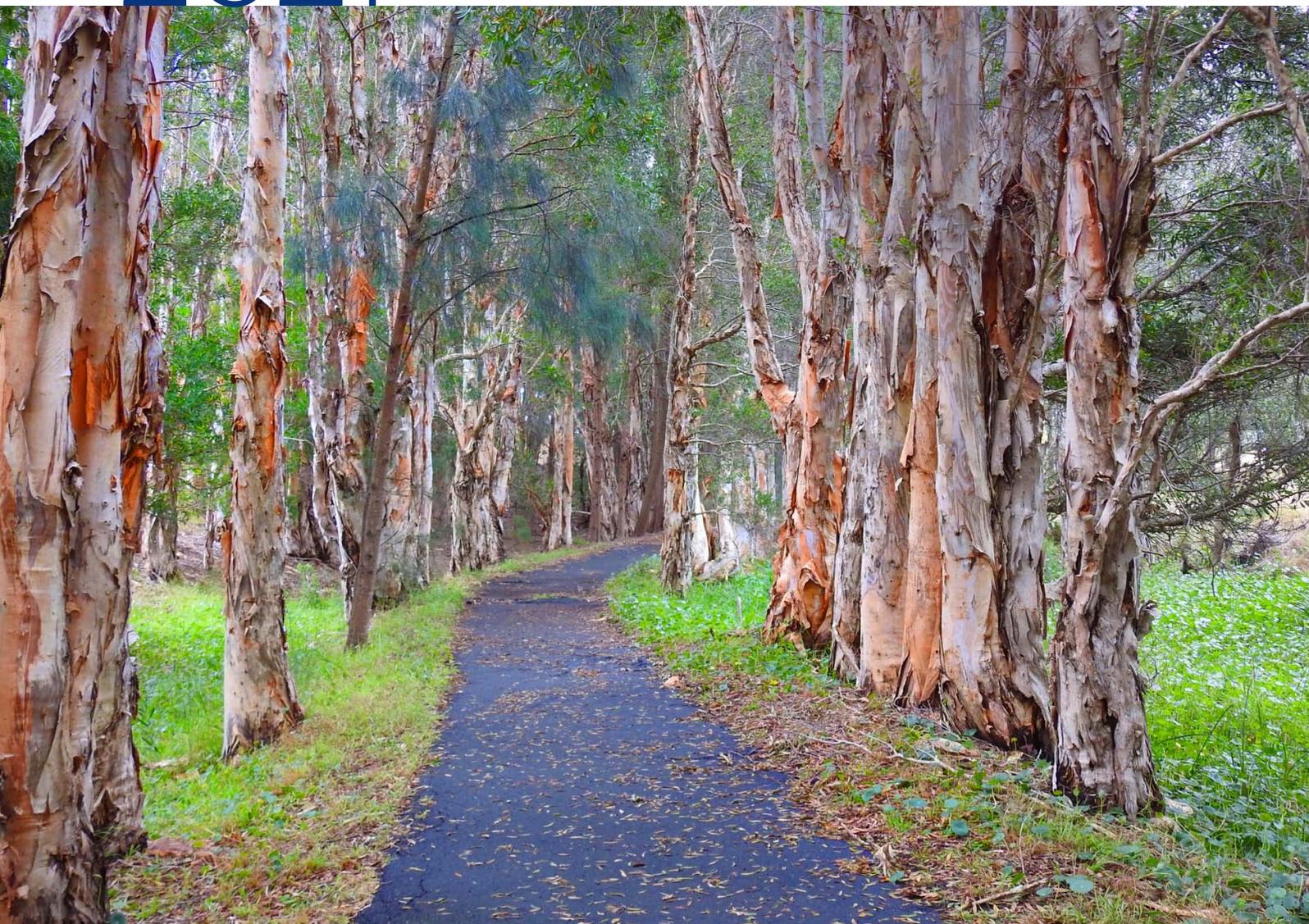




State of Environment Report 2021



Extract from “Delivering Bayside 2030 - End of Term Report 2017-2021”
For more information visit: www.bayside.nsw.gov.au

Theme three

In 2030 Bayside will be green, leafy and sustainable

Community Objective: *“The biodiversity of the area is protected and enhanced through collaborative partnerships. Vital habitats are supported to rehabilitate, thrive, adapt, and recover from risks and climate events. The landscape will be preserved and regenerated to benefit a healthy environment now and in future.”*

We work to ensure our unique natural environment is valued, maintained, and enhanced. We plan responsibly to facilitate a desirable living environment and meet growth targets.

Making progress (2017-2021)

To achieve these outcomes over the five years since adopting the CSP as our guiding document, our strategic objectives were confirmed in 2017 as:

- ▶ Our waste is well managed
- ▶ We are prepared for climate change
- ▶ We increase our use of renewable energy
- ▶ Waterways and green corridors are generated and preserved

Managing Waste

We allocate \$35M annually to the collection of waste and delivery of cleansing services across Bayside. In 2019, we embarked on a two-year journey to update our award-winning waste avoidance and resource recovery strategy that will assist in providing green and sustainable solutions. We have received \$1.25M in grant funding towards smart city solutions that ensure our waterways and green corridors are preserved and free from litter.

Lighting the Way

In October 2018 Council agreed to participate in Ausgrid’s accelerated street light replacement program known as “Lighting the Way”. This program saw 4,266 old streetlights (the majority being 80W Mercury Vapour) being replaced with energy efficient 17W LED lights. The rollout commenced in May 2019. Covid 19 delayed installations however there have been approximately 3,700 lights replaced with annual savings of around \$600K.

Solar Panels on Angelo Anestis Aquatic Centre

We are committed in our efforts to reduce our operational carbon footprint and we have invested approximately \$300K in a commercial-scale solar panel installation at the Angelo Anestis Aquatic Centre, this is the large-scale electricity solar array installed on Council buildings (Rockdale Town Hall and Library; Hillsdale Childcare Centre and Kyeemagh Community Centre) with more installations planned. Solar power also lowers Council’s electricity costs across the Aquatic Centre, so we can continue to offer cost-effective recreation services to the community.

Climate change

Climate change is one of the key issues facing Bayside with the future predictions of increasing numbers of hot days above 35°C with more frequent extreme weather events and rising sea levels. The average tree canopy cover in Bayside is only 13.7%. This is the lowest in Greater Sydney and is mainly due to the land-mass presence of Sydney Airport and Port Botany. These significant land-mass areas contribute to the urban heat island effect, a trend known for increasing temperatures through localised warming due to large areas of paved or dark coloured surfaces such as roads and roofs.

With 65,000 more people calling Bayside home by 2036, climate change adaptation and improving community resilience will be an important feature in our future planning. We have commenced work in this area with improving energy efficiency in our council buildings, our street lighting and setting higher standards for new developments and retrofits in the Bayside area. These are all key to our response to Climate Change. Our target of 100% renewable energy and zero emissions can only be achieved by changing the way we use and produce energy. Encouraging people to shift away from driving to walking, cycling and public transport, and promoting the use of electric vehicles powered by renewable energy.

Revitalising our open spaces

Our aspirations in 2017 were to ensure the protection of biodiversity, generate tree canopy to support the green-grid corridor, continue maintenance of bushland including appropriate access to our natural areas. The community asked for reduced waste generation, sustainable use of water, improved air quality and increased use of renewables.

Metropolitan Green Space Program

The Metropolitan Greenspace Program is a state government initiative that commits grant funding to protect and enhance the natural areas of the Bayside area and enable more effective public use of open space. We are committed to enhancing the Greater Sydney Green Grid to promote a healthier urban environment, improve community access to recreation and exercise, encourage social interaction, support walking and cycling connections and improve resilience. In relation to Bayside, the priority corridors identified for the future Green Grid are:

- ▶ Wolli Creek Regional Park and Bardwell Valley Parklands (Corridor 3).
- ▶ Mill Stream and Botany Wetlands Open Space Corridor (Corridor 4).
- ▶ Rockdale Wetlands Open Space Corridor (Corridor 5), which generally aligns with the M6 corridor.

We received \$600K from the 'Metropolitan Green Space Program' towards enhancing green grid corridors and a further \$200K from the 'Greening our City Program' to contribute towards planting more trees in Bayside as part of the 5 million tree initiative for Greater Sydney.



Council is represented on various committees to ensure our natural environment remains a top priority including memberships of the Cooks River Alliance; the Kogarah Collaboration Area; the Sydney Coastal Councils Group the Georges River Combined Council Committee.

We also strongly advocate for a smoke-free Bayside with the aim of limiting exposure to smoking in outdoor public places including areas where children play; and minimising cigarette butt pollution on and near to Council facilities.

Councillor reflections
2017-2021



Cooks River Alliance

We are members of the Cooks River Alliance, a partnership of four councils – Bayside, Canterbury-Bankstown, Inner West, and Strathfield – who work together with communities for a healthy Cooks River Catchment. The Cooks River is a unique urban waterway that runs through some of the most heavily urbanised and industrialised areas, yet many parts of the river and its foreshores offer beautiful riverside walkways and cycle paths, wonderful parks and facilities and an abundance of native flora and fauna.

Over recent years, the condition of the river has improved considerably, due in large part to the efforts of stakeholders and the local community, however there is much more to be done. The Cooks River Open Space Corridor (Corridor 2) is within the Canterbury Bankstown Council area. We maintain our shared interest in the potential for enhancement upgrade to these regional open spaces.



Achieving a range of amenity improvements to our foreshore suburbs along Botany Bay including introducing anti-hooping initiatives such as the closure of the Kyeemagh Boat Ramp at night and the installation of traffic calming on Clareville Avenue at Sans Souci, diversification of our beach use such as the implementation of smoke free zones at Brighton Le Sands and the off-leash dog beach at Kyeemagh, and substantial improvements to our park and beach facilities at Ramsgate Beach.

Councillor reflections
2017-2021



Coastal protection

Council's coastline extends 8km from Kyeemagh to Dolls Point and is subject to coastal hazards. The preservation and restoration of coastal vegetation protects the built and natural assets of the coast and improves coastal amenity. Specific coastal protection projects during this term include:

Seawall Rehabilitation: Sandbags were installed in Sandringham Baths in 2018 at a cost of \$50,000 to protect swimmers due to the loss of beach sand from coastal erosion. A small rock revetment was installed in July 2020 at the southern end of Cook Park at the Sandringham Estate to address beach erosion and protect a 100 year old pine tree from collapsing onto the beach. This Project cost \$40,000.

Dune Restoration: A 350m long section of degraded dune was restored along Cook Park between Bruce Street Brighton and Bestic Street Kyeemagh in 2017. This Project cost \$370,000

Ramsgate Baths Restoration: 28,000m³ of sand was placed inside Ramsgate Baths in December 2019 to restore the beach. This Project cost \$880,000.

Bardwell Valley Cliff Stabilisation: Currently works are underway to de-vegetate and descale the Bardwell Valley Cliff Face between Pindari Place and Nayla Close to prevent debris falling onto the dwellings under the Cliff. The cost of this Project is \$215,000 and is due for completion by late July 2021. Further works are planned for 2021/22 to stabilise the cliff face with the installation of meshing over the rock face and new boundary fencing along the top of the cliff.

Bushcare

Bayside has a unique landscape that includes bushland, wetlands and 8km of coastal foreshore. Over the past four years, we are proud to say thanks to our valued volunteers who attend weekly working bees alongside Council Officers to restore our coastal areas, bushland reserves and wetlands. The work of volunteers includes rehabilitating vegetation, removing weeds, mulching to improve moisture retention and limit weed growth, installing fences and planting species native to the Bayside area.



Sir Joseph Banks Park and the Bush Tucker Forest

Sir Joseph Banks Park is a regionally significant natural area and has important habitat for Green and Golden Bell Frogs and other native species. The habitat at Sir Joseph Banks Park has been enhanced with grant funding that has helped with bush regeneration including the bush tucker forest. We continue to significantly improve the biodiversity of the Park through bush regeneration, weed control and the restoration of endangered ecological communities and fauna habitat.

We provide environmental community education such as guided wetland tours, community tree planting days and monthly volunteer bushcare days on the third Saturday of the month. New volunteers are always welcome. All training, morning tea and tools are provided.

Grant funding for tree planting initiatives at Sir Joseph Banks Park has also been provided by NSW Ports, to enhance the communities that surround Port Botany through improved tree canopy.

Results at a glance...

- ▶ 4,638 trees planted in FY20/21 – where we removed a tree, we planted 3 more in its place.
- ▶ 19.6% decrease in illegal dumping FY18/19.
- ▶ 350 tonnes of collected from gross pollutant traps.
- ▶ 268 garbage truck loads of waste and recycling collected each week.
- ▶ 12 Keep Australia Beautiful Environmental Awards received.
- ▶ 3.5M glass bottles were crushed and reused in our road re-sheeting program.
- ▶ 19,066kg of litter collected from the beachfront during 2019-2020.

Work still to be done...

To continue implementation of the Community Strategic Plan, we recommend to the incoming Council, the following priorities:

- ▶ Prioritise energy efficiency and renewable energy use to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- ▶ Counter rising heat temperatures and restore habitat flora and fauna by expanding our green-grid corridor and urban green spaces.
- ▶ Promote environmental sustainability by linking businesses to new initiatives, including sustainable food practices.
- ▶ Conserve resources, including better managing stormwater and wastewater.
- ▶ Consider the interrelationships between natural and built environments so communities and species can thrive side by side.
- ▶ Work closely with Traditional Owners to enable them to fully participate in the stewardship of the land.
- ▶ Ensure our communities are well equipped to respond to weather events and are resourceful in the face of climate-related challenges.



Bayside Council

Serving Our Community

Bayside Customer Service Centres

Rockdale Library, 444-446 Princes Highway, Rockdale
Westfield Eastgardens, 152 Bunnerong Road, Eastgardens
Monday to Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm, Saturday 9am – 12pm

Phone **1300 581 299 | 9562 1666**

Email **council@bayside.nsw.gov.au**

Web **www.bayside.nsw.gov.au**