



Towards a Sustainable Future

A Report to the Community on the Manly Sustainability Strategy



www.manly.nsw.gov.au/Sustainability-Strategy.html

A Message from the Mayor

Here in Manly, we are blessed with a caring community, a healthy economy and an abundance of natural beauty. We are bordered by both the Pacific Ocean and Sydney Harbour; we are spoilt with bushland at North Head and Bantry Bay and our parklands and bush walks continue to impress locals and visitors alike. We enjoy an active, outdoor lifestyle in a cohesive society where diversity is acknowledged and respect is encouraged.

Towards a Sustainable Future is Council's plan to ensure that we as a community protect and maintain that way of life, partly for our own enjoyment but more importantly for the enjoyment of generations to come. It is Manly Council's road map

for managing our natural resources. The document acts as a reference for every decision making process within Council, to ensure that the people of Manly live and work in harmony with each other and with our environment. This community report provides information about the Manly Sustainability Strategy and Council's path to sustainability.

The report is also an invitation for community members to learn about sustainability and to find out what they can do to preserve our environment and quality of life.

Dr Peter Macdonald
Mayor of Manly

Images from left to right: Manly Scenic Walkway Castle Rock, Dwarf Apple flowers, Bushcare volunteers walk, school children on a catchment trip, Grevillea flowers

Towards a Sustainable Future was prepared in consultation with the Manly Sustainability Strategy Management Group Committee. Text: adapted from the Manly Sustainability Strategy. Story text: Kym Thrift. Design: Viona Fung. Illustration on pp 4-6 Michael Biddulph. Watermark illustrations: Barry Eaton. Photographs supplied by Manly Council staff. Cover photo: Jeremy Edwards (photographer) iStock International Inc. (site). Printed by EcoPrint EcoDesign on 100% recycled paper. Cover: 310gsm ReArt Gloss. Text pages: 105gsm RePrint offset using vegetable based inks. Printed 2007



Sustainability in a Bottle

A Manly Sustainability Strategy Story

What will Manly look like in 2050? How sustainable will our community be? This story is one possibility of how things may be in the future.

Date: 2050

Location: The Corso, Manly

Mission: Recover time capsule that was buried in 2007.

"Grandpa, why did you drag me down to the Corso when I could be at the beach?"

"Well Sarah, I thought you might like to see what I thought the future was going to look like some 43 years ago..."

"43 years ago! I am only 10! This has nothing to do with me!"

"Quite the opposite! The reason you have a clean ocean is because of what has happened over the past 50 years. At one time stormwater just flowed into the ocean!"



"... you mean none of that water was recycled? What a waste!"

"Yes, Sarah, it was a waste – back then we were still learning about sustainability."

"Grandpa, even I know about sustainability! We've been learning about that since I started school:

"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."



"That's great Sarah, but anyone can memorise one line! Can you tell me a bit more about what sustainability means?"

"Well it means that whatever we do right now we can't damage the environment since that is what supports us and people in the future."

"That is a good part of it Sarah, we need to consider the environmental, social and economic consequences

of our actions. That is the reason I brought you down here today. When I was your age, I hardly knew anything about sustainability. Back then I wrote down what I thought the future would be like now, in 2050."

"Well what did you write? Did you know back then that all the houses would have solar power and collect all their own rain water?"



participation to keep it happening?"

"Yeah, they do say that! I remember learning about that at the Manly Environment Centre. Plus we learned about our neighbours – the penguins and bandicoots!"

"You seem to have it all figured out! We need to work together

to have a good life and healthy environment."

"Grandpa! Grandpa! Look they are lifting the time capsule bottle out of the ground! I can't wait to see what you wrote."

"Me too! Maybe I did write about rainwater tanks... or more than likely I was thinking about the beach... just like you!"

"Not really... But around 2007, when climate change was a big issue everyone took personal actions towards sustainability. It was then that my father read his first Manly Sustainability Strategy and became more aware of what council and the community can do to become more sustainable."

"I think I remember hearing about that strategy in school... "

"They do teach you about these things earlier now-a-days!... Do they still say that sustainability is a way of life and it requires leadership, education, partnerships and

Interested in what you can do to lead a sustainable lifestyle? Check out Personal Actions – On the Path to Sustainability on page 13.

What is Sustainability?

Despite its use by Federal, State and Local governments since the early 1990s, the word “sustainability” has not yet become an integral part of our language, our lifestyle or our way of thinking. However business and industry are beginning to respond to global pressures such as human-induced climate change, the scarcity of fresh water, and the ever-growing list of species at risk. Social and environmental capital are becoming recognised as being important factors in our wellbeing.

Local government is well placed to work with the local community to make sustainable living a reality. Environmental awareness is high, but the challenge for all of us is to change that awareness into action – action that maintains a viable economy while respecting the many connections between the environment and our ability to meet human needs both here and in less developed countries.

‘Sustainability’ is a new word that entered the Macquarie Dictionary only in 1996. It stems directly from the phrase ‘sustainable development’, coined by the 1987 Brundtland Commission:

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

That is what we are aspiring to.



World Environment Day 2006



Manly's Sustainability Strategy

Vision

Through 2005, the Manly community and Council worked together through the myManly and Manly Futures Forums to agree on a vision for Manly:

"A vibrant and inclusive community which values its heritage and works together to create a sustainable lifestyle and environment for all to enjoy."

This vision was fully painted in our 2005 publication *Surfing the Future: A Vision of Manly for 2025*.

The Manly Sustainability Strategy (www.manly.nsw.gov.au/Sustainability-Strategy.html) guides our Council, citizens and



stakeholders toward that vision, presenting us with a series of concrete actions. These actions are

not 'quick-fixes', but policies that will allow our families and future generations to enjoy the best that Manly has to offer. With them, Manly will continue to play its part in both local and global solutions – to "think globally and act locally".

Social and Environmental Themes

Achieving sustainability requires us to address social and environmental themes. Surfing the Future set out six such themes, covering our culture, business, governance, ecology, tourism and transport.

For the Strategy, we have adapted the United Nations Sustainability Principles – the 'Melbourne Principles' – to reflect how our community thinks about sustainability.

The themes that this Strategy addresses are:

- A Safe and Cohesive Manly (our social and economic security).
- A Natural, Sustainable Manly (our ecosystems and ecological footprint).

- A Living Manly (sustainable land use and transport; our culture and history)
- An Involved Manly (our social capital of community networks and cooperation), and
- A Well Governed Manly (our sustainability governance, research and measurement).

These themes are detailed further on page 16 (Principles and Programs page) and are what this Strategy looks to safeguard for today and future generations. Few would argue with their value. Yet short-term policies and actions have and can easily put them at risk.

How We Will Move Towards our Vision of Sustainability

Our community will achieve sustainability only by harnessing our leadership, organisational and communication skills in a holistic way. All of the actions set out in this Strategy depend on Council applying these skills as effectively as possible:

- **Leadership.** Council leading by example, managing and improving its own sustainability



Starboard Right and Green

- performance in its policies, governance and operations
- **Education.** Council ensuring that citizens, businesses and community groups know what they need to know to play their part in sustainability.
- **Partnerships.** Council fostering partnerships with and between community, business and government agencies to align interests and overcome barriers.
- **Participation.** Council fostering and coordinating the widespread involvement of local people and organisations, and the activities that bring them together.
- **A holistic approach.** Council adopting and nurturing a broad approach that links together physical, environmental, economic, social, health and cultural issues.

- Measurement. Council undertaking to measure, monitor and report on the community's progress towards sustainability.

Priorities in the 2006 Strategy

Assessing the emerging science and Council's progress towards sustainability since 2002, we have identified areas that that will require our greatest attention in the immediate future.

From our social and environmental themes, we see the priorities as:

- Contributing to the global climate change response.
- Securing Manly's waterways and water use.
- Reducing our waste
- Maintaining and improving wellbeing and quality of life in Manly.
- Protecting and restoring the diversity of species and their habitats in Manly.

Within Council, three things require greater attention if we are to achieve our sustainability goals:

- Further integrating social considerations into the Sustainability Strategy.



Sustainability Youth Crew 2006

- Taking the necessary management actions to ensure Council leads by example.
- Confirming the Strategy as an overarching guide that ensures 'sustainability' truly is core business for Council's operation.



Personal Actions – On the Path to Sustainability

As citizens of Manly, stewards of a unique corner of our world, we have the chance to be one of many communities playing a leading role towards global sustainability. We have the resources and imagination to show how our economic wealth can work with ecological and social sustainability. It is our choice.

Get Involved in Your Community

- Attend the Precinct Community Forum Committee Meetings in your local area.
- Take part in the Heritage Week, Guringai Festival & National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week, Fair Trade events, Ocean Care Day and the Arts, and Jazz Festivals.
- Join the bushland volunteers network as a bush regenerator-contact Council's Bushland Coordinator ph. 9976 1500

Use our Natural Resources Wisely

- Install water saving devices, such as shower heads, drip sprinklers, dual flushing systems and water tanks.
- Use a swimming pool cover to reduce evaporation.

Your Home... Naturally

- Retain and plant native vegetation in your garden to provide habitat and food for native wildlife. Native vegetation often needs less water.

Respect Our Environment

- Learn to snorkel or go rock pooling so that when you go to the coast, you can see the wildlife yourself.



Bushland education trailer at Ocean Care Day

- Keep garden refuse or clippings away from bush reserves. Compost them in your own backyard.
- Keep to walking tracks when visiting the bush.
- Wash vehicles on the grass/lawn using plant-based cleaners.



National Tree Day 2006

- Ring Council Rangers on 9976 1500 to remove any unidentified stray dog to the Pound.

Celebrate Our History and Our Culture

- Contribute to our Local Studies Collection by donating any old or significant photographs or artefacts of Manly and the Northern Beaches to the Manly Library.
- Research the history of your property and work to conserve its heritage features, even if it is not heritage listed.
- Visit the Manly Art Gallery and Museum, West Esplanade, Manly ph. 9949 1420
- Support local artists by purchasing paintings, sculptures and handicrafts, and attending exhibitions.

Pets and Native Wildlife

- Put three bells on your cat's collar to warn of its presence and make sure your cat also has identification on its collar. Why three? Cats learn very quickly how to balance a bell so they can walk without it ringing.

Shopping

- Think AVOID, REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE. Ask yourself before you buy, do you really need it? What can you use or do instead? Can you re-use it? Is it recyclable?

- Support Fair Trade – look out for the Fair Trade symbol when shopping and purchase products with this label. Products include coffee, rice, chocolate, tea, see <http://www.fta.org.au/>



- Support Food Cooperatives – waste-free shopping where you can buy healthy foods that are created according to principles of organic production and social ethics.



Training for bushcare volunteers



Manly Sustainability Strategy Principles and Programs

The Principles & Programs form an outline of the Manly Sustainability Strategy and show the diversity of programs that contribute to sustainability. Each of these programs is detailed in full in the Manly Sustainability Strategy.

A. A Long Term Vision for Manly

A1. A shared long-term vision for Manly based on: sustainability, intergenerational, social, economic and political equity; and our individuality.

A1.1 Ten Year Visioning Process

A1.2 Maintenance of the Manly Sustainability Strategy Program

B. A Safe and Cohesive Manly

B1. Achieve long-term social and economic security.

B1.1 Creating “Sense of Place” / Neighbourhood Renewal Program

B1.2 Community Services and Development Program

B1.3 Housing and Sustainability Program

B1.4 Sustaining Healthy Communities Program

B1.5 Financial Reform and Economic Policy for Sustainability Program

B1.6 Sustainable Coastal Tourism Program

B1.7 Companion Animals Program.

C. A Natural, Sustainable Manly

C1. Recognise the intrinsic value of Manly’s geodiversity, biodiversity and natural ecosystems, and protect and restore them.

C1.1 Protecting our Water Cycle and Catchments Program

C1.2 Sustainable Marine Environments Program

C1.3 Coastline and Estuary Management Program

C1.4 Geodiversity Program

C1.5 Maintaining our Biodiversity and Terrestrial Environments Program

C1.6 Flora Program

C1.7 Fauna Protection Program

C2. Enable Manly's community to minimise our ecological footprint.

- C2.1 Water Cycle Management Program
- C2.2 Sustainable Energy
- C2.3 Corporate Greenhouse Program
- C2.4 Responding to Greenhouse and Climate Change Program
- C2.5 Preserving Air Quality Program
- C2.6 Waste Avoidance Program

C3. Promote sustainable production and consumption, through appropriate use of environmentally sound technologies and effective demand management.

- C3.1 Responsible Production and Purchasing Program

D. A Living Manly

D1. Build on the characteristics of ecosystems in the development and nurturing of a healthy and sustainable Manly.

- D1.1 Land Information Systems
- D1.2 Managing Urban and Regional Growth
- D1.3 Integrating Land Use and Balanced Transport
- D1.4 TravelSmart Program
- D1.5 Liveable Neighbourhoods Program

D2. Recognise and build on the distinctive characteristics of Manly, including its human and cultural values, history and natural systems.

- D2.1 Conserving Cultural Heritage and Landscapes Program
- D2.2 Indigenous Communities and Sustainability
- D2.3 Sustainability through Culture and the Arts

E. An Involved Manly

E1. Empower people and foster participation.

- E1.1 Schools for Sustainability Program
- E1.2 Businesses for Sustainability
- E1.3 Volunteers Program
- E1.4 Libraries Building Sustainable Communities
- E1.5 Manly Environment Centre

E2. Expand and enable cooperative networks to work towards a common, sustainable future.

- E2.1 Partnerships for Action
- E2.2 Sustainability in the Region - SHOROC

F. A Well Governed Manly

F1. Enable continual improvement, based on accountability, transparency and good governance.

- F1.1 Embracing Sustainability in Government - Leading by Example
- F1.2 Research and Development for Sustainability Program
- F1.3 Assessing, Measuring and Reporting on Sustainability

Celebrating What Has Been Achieved: Manly's Key Sustainability Milestones

- 1980s Community Advocacy through the "Poo" marches
- 1991 Council and community established the Manly Environment Centre.
- 1994 Shaping our Future: Setting the shared community vision and *Beyond 2000* strategy
- 1997 Manly community votes to establish an Environmental Levy
- 1998 Council adopts the Manly Conservation Strategy and establishes its first community Scientific Advisory Panel having 12 members
- 1998 Metro Pride Awards - Winner Environmental Policy Initiatives category
- 1998 Council appoints its first Social Planner
- 1999 Council joins Cities for Climate Protection to inventory and reduce greenhouse gases
- 2000 Cabbage Tree Bay declared a No Take Aquatic Reserve
- 2001 The first review of the *Manly Conservation Strategy*, resulting in the *Manly Sustainability Strategy*
- 2001 Joint Overall Winner Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW, Excellence in the Environment Awards - Local Sustainability Category
- 2003 Council adopts *Education for Sustainability Strategy*, one of NSW State's first
- 2005 Council and community hold a Futures Forum and the *Surfing the Future* report is produced
- 2006 Manly Environment Centre celebrates its 15th Anniversary.
- 2006 Council reviews and updates the Manly Sustainability Strategy through adoption of the United Nations Principles for Sustainable Cities

