



northern
beaches
council

ATTACHMENT BOOKLET

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2023

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December 2022

**Quarterly Report on service
performance –**

**Implementing the
Operational Plan 2022/23**

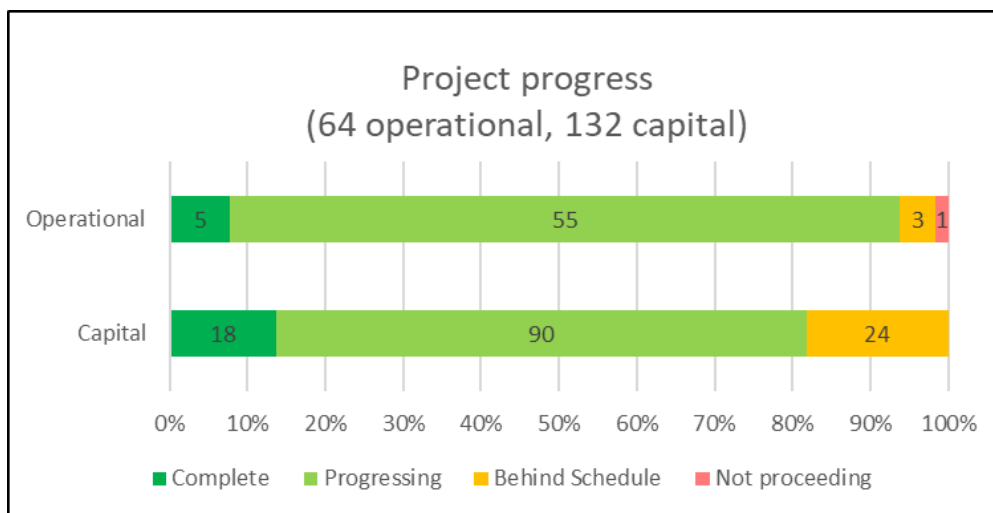
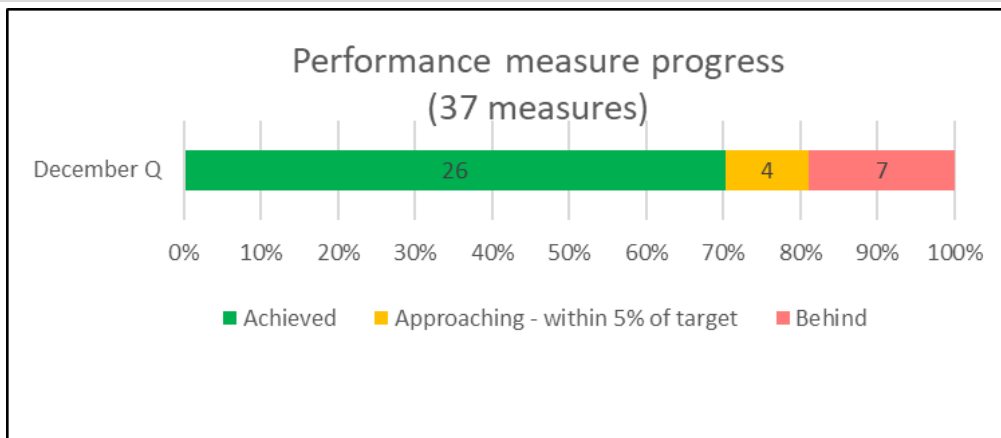
Executive summary

This is a report on progress in implementing the Operational Plan 2022/23 for the quarter ending 31 December 2022. It is structured by the four sustainability elements – environmental, social, economic and civic - with a total of 16 key services. This report details each service’s highlights, progress of projects, and the performance of services and finances. An overview of progress and performance is below.

Of the 196 projects, 86% were either progressing or completed (comprised of 94% of operational and 82% of capital projects). Council’s target is for 80% of all projects to be completed or progressing on schedule by 30 June 2023. In total, 23 projects have been completed. Half of the projects that are behind schedule are due to delays caused by storm events, persistent wet weather, COVID-19 or third-party issues.

Results for 37 performance measures are included. Overall 81% of targets were met or approaching, and 19% were missed. Most results that were behind target were impacted by external factors such as persistent wet weather, third party issues or reduced demand.

Performance at a glance



Six Awards and Recognition

(N = National)

Council was recognised with six awards and commendations for achievements across customer service, the environment and sustainability, digital transformation, events and overall local government excellence.

LG NSW, AR Bluett Memorial Award 2022

- ❖ Northern Beaches Council – Metropolitan Winner

National Local Government Customer Service Network (NLGCSN) Awards 2022 (N)

- ❖ Innovation of the Year – Customer Activity Tracker (the CAT) – Winner

CIO50 Awards 2022 (N)

- ❖ Best Government Project 2022 – Northern Beaches Council Digital Transformation – Winner

LG NSW, Excellence in the Environment Awards 2022

- ❖ Communication, Education and Empowerment – Simplifying Solar Program – Highly Commended

Banksia Foundation NSW Sustainability Awards 2022

- ❖ Net Zero – Protect.Create.Live – Towards Net Zero Northern Beaches – Finalist

Australian Event Awards 2022 (N)

- ❖ Best New Event (Virtual, Live or Hybrid) – Play Manly Festival - Finalist

In this report each service summary includes a short update on projects for the quarter:

Key:  Complete  Progressing  Behind schedule  Not proceeding

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ENVIRONMENTAL

Environment and Sustainability

HIGHLIGHTS

Assessing applications

In the second quarter over 1000 referrals were assessed for development applications with environmental considerations, to ensure that impacts and hazards are properly addressed for the natural environment and infrastructure:

- approximately 320 referrals undertaken by Development Engineering in relation to stormwater, vehicular access and infrastructure considerations.
- 287 with coastal, riparian considerations and water management.
- 235 with bushland and biodiversity considerations.

In addition, approximately 260 applications were received in the quarter for assessment and certification under the Roads Act, Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, Conveyancing Act and the Local Government Act for activities such as driveways, legal document authorization, hoarding permits and subdivisions.

Bushland and biodiversity

Bushland regeneration works continued in over 250 bushland sites. Over 1,400 local native plants were planted, enhancing habitat for local and threatened species. Grant funding from the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Pittwater Natural Heritage Association has also helped Council protect and restore a threatened species of grevillea and an endangered ecological community in Pittwater.

Work also commenced to establish a seed bank at Council's community nurseries with 540 grams of seed collected from 25 species around the central/southern parts of the LGA area, to ensure a supply of local plants for all our projects in this area.

Public exhibition of draft mapping and reporting of biodiversity values across the Northern Beaches has now been completed and submissions are currently under review. Council also completed exhibition of the Draft Flying-Fox Camp Management Plan and is now reviewing submissions. Staff have continued work on activities associated with environmental assessment and consultation relating to the proposed dog off-leash areas at Mona Vale Beach (South) and Palm Beach (North).

Other achievements include:

- completing 235 development planning referrals (at 15 December 2022) and providing advice on four pre-lodgement development applications, responding to 48 customer requests relating to pest animals and 17 requests for weeds.
- conducting 40 weed inspections on private property.
- culling 168 rabbits and 13 foxes including conducting a fox baiting program and fumigation of a rabbit warren complex in Dee Why.

Bushfire management

Six hazard reduction burns which involved Council land were completed by the fire agencies. These burns have seen over 66 hectares of Council bushland hazard reduced, protecting 455 nearby properties as well as achieving important ecological outcomes. Another 24 Council sites are prepared and awaiting fire agencies to undertake the controlled burns. To support these

hazard reduction burns, Council secured an additional \$101,000 in grant funding from the NSW Rural Fire Service to facilitate control line and traffic management works.

In preparation, active maintenance has continued on the Asset Protection Zone (APZ) network throughout the fire season with works completed on 103 high priority zones. Maintenance works were also undertaken on a number of fire trails around the LGA, including throughout Manly Dam, Anembo Reserve, Corymbia Circuit Reserve and near Red Hill Reserve. Works were also planned in partnership with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to upgrade fire trails throughout Morning and Lovett Bays on Pittwater's western foreshore.

Council continued to work with the Northern Beaches Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) to finalise the new draft Bush Fire Risk Management Plan to reduce bushfire risk across the landscape.

Corporate sustainability and climate change adaptation

In November, Council was recognised as a leader by the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) and was awarded a rating in the highest band possible, the "Leadership Band" with an "A minus" score for the second year running. This reflects Council's strong mitigation plans and demonstrated progress towards climate targets.

Council was also recognised for its progress in embedding sustainability into its procurement activities, achieving a Sustainable Procurement Culture level of 'Advanced' according to Local Government Procurement's Sustainable Choice Performance Report and Scorecard. Council's Procurement and Contracts Policy has been revised to better integrate sustainability and provide increased supplier engagement on sustainability through completion of a pilot study on Scope 3 emissions from its supply chain. Through this study Council worked with its suppliers to identify opportunities to reduce emissions and has made initial progress towards implementing key actions.

In December Council launched a dashboard on its website to track progress against its commitments in the adopted Protect.Create.Live - Northern Beaches Environment & Climate Change Strategy.

Water saving, renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives were also progressed during the quarter. Feasibility studies for solar PV installation and rainwater harvesting at Cromer Works Depot were completed and business cases approved for lighting upgrades at Cromer Community Centre, Collaroy Progress Hall, Newport Community Centre and Avalon Recreation Centre.

Work has continued to designate Palm Beach Headland as an Urban Night Sky Place. Upgraded street lighting was installed at Governor Phillip Park and events held to help inform the community about the project, good lighting principles and impacts of light on biodiversity.

Council's Climate Change Risk Assessment Project has also progressed, with internal workshops held to identify and review risks, existing controls and preliminary adaptation actions.

Stormwater and floodplain management

Works have continued this quarter to improve stormwater management across the Northern Beaches. Drainage upgrade at Park Street and the culvert upgrade on Scotland Island were completed. Detailed design is progressing for Willandra Road outlet rehabilitation works and the Collaroy ocean pool outlet stormwater investigation which will address stabilisation of the seawall and drainage system near the pool.

