



SORELL COUNCIL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY GROUP (NRMEAG)

A Natural Resource Management (NRM) / Environmental Advisory Group for Sorell Council who are appointed to provide advice on the successful implementation of the Sorell Council NRM Strategy. This group can be comprised of subject matter experts in fields such as biodiversity, climate change, invasive species, water resources and representatives from various stakeholder groups. The primary responsibility of the group is to support and advise Council on how to sustainably operationalize the NRM Strategy with stakeholders incorporating climate change, landscape and land use, waterways and water bodies, resource management including advice on strategies, implementation of priorities and activities.

Further, the Group has the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the NRM Strategy, evaluating its effectiveness in these broader environmental contexts, and providing feedback to the Council.

Furthermore, the Group aids in fostering consensus among stakeholders, promoting public involvement in NRM/environmental planning, decision-making, and broadening the discourse to include other crucial environmental aspects. Their role helps ensure a holistic and integrated approach to environmental management and sustainability.

1. Purpose

The purpose of the NRM/Environmental Advisory Group is to provide Sorell Council with insightful advice, recommendations and to facilitate the implementation of NRM Strategy and broader environmental activities. The Group focuses on key aspects such as climate change, landscape and land use management, waterways and water bodies management, and stakeholder management. The advice and recommendations are to ensure the effective implementation of the NRM Strategy and other environmental strategies and policies.

2. Objective

- To provide strategic, expert advice to the Sorell Council regarding the finalisation and implementation of its NRM Strategy, while also integrating wider environmental concerns.
- To monitor and assess the implementation of the NRM Strategy, ensuring its compliance with broader environmental objectives, and delivering substantive, data-driven feedback to facilitate policy improvements.
- To undertake systematic reviews of the NRM Strategy, focusing on its effectiveness in addressing wider environmental issues and offering innovative, data-driven recommendations for improvement.

- To encourage community engagement in the context of NRM and wider environmental issues, advocating for active public participation and ensuring that the Council's strategic planning and decision-making processes are inclusive, responsive, and in line with local government policy guidelines.

As a primarily advisory entity, this Group serves as a community forum, assisting the Council in its commitment to NRM and broader environmental management. While not having a statutory role, the Group's collective expertise and insights inform the Council's decision-making process associated with the implementation of effective environmental and NRM policies and programs. The group will help ensure the Council's actions reflect the needs and interests of all stakeholders, reinforcing the inclusive nature of the Council's planning and decision-making processes.

3. Membership

- 2 Councillors (one will Chair the committee on a rotational basis)
- 5 stakeholders, including:
 - 1-2 Agribusiness representatives/general members of the public
 - 1 youth representative
 - 1 Aboriginal community representative
 - 2-3 representatives from local community groups
- 1 NRM facilitator (member secretary)

4. Diversity and inclusion

The group will be diverse and inclusive, representing the different interests and perspectives of the community. This includes:

- Gender: The group will have an equitable gender representation.
- Age: The group will have members from a variety of age groups.
- Cultural background: The group will have members from a variety of cultural backgrounds.
- Expertise: The group will have members with a variety of expertise in NRM.

5. Understanding of Council's policies and strategies relevant to NRM

The Group will have a clear understanding of the Sorell Council's NRM Strategy and relevant environmental policies and guidelines and will be able to provide informed advice on how to implement it. Council will facilitate a workshop on Council's Strategic Plan, NRM Strategy and other relevant strategies and policies.

6. Meetings

The Group will meet at least quarterly to discuss the opportunity and constraints on implementation of the NRM Strategy and to provide advice to Council.

7. Reporting

The Group will report to Council on its activities and recommendations at least annually.

8. Terms of Reference

The Sorell Council Natural Resource Management/Environmental Advisory Group (NRMEAG) will provide advice and support to Council on activities related to environmental management and broadly focusing on Council's NRM Strategy.

- The Group will be a valuable resource for Council in its efforts to manage natural resources in a sustainable way. The Group's expertise and insights will help the Council to develop and implement effective environmental programs and policies.
- The Group's engagement with the community will help to ensure that NRM planning and decision-making are responsive to the needs and interests of all stakeholders.
- The NRMEAG will be comprised of 7 to 9 members, including 2 Councillors, 5 – 7 stakeholders, and 1 NRM facilitator (member secretary).
- The NRMEAG will meet at least quarterly to discuss NRM matters and to provide advice to Council.
- The chair can call meetings when necessary more than once quarterly if felt necessary with 2 weeks in advance notice via the member secretary.
- The NRMEAG will report to Council on its activities and recommendations at least annually.

9. Guidelines for Membership

- The NRMEAG will be comprised of a diverse and inclusive group of individuals who represent the different interests and perspectives of the community.
- The NRMEAG will be comprised of individuals who have expertise in NRM and who are able to provide informed advice on how to implement Council's NRM strategy and other relevant environmental policies and strategies.
- The NRMEAG will be comprised of individuals who are willing to commit the time required to serve on the Group.

10. Selection Process

- The NRMEAG will be selected by the Sorell Council.
- The Council will advertise the positions on the NRMEAG and will invite applications from interested individuals.
- The Council will select the members of the NRMEAG based on their qualifications, experience, and commitment to the group.

11. Duties and Responsibilities

- The NRMEAG's primary role is to provide expert advice and supportive assistance to the Council on matters related to natural resource management (NRM). This includes, but is not limited to, issues concerning the sustainable management of water, soil, land use and biological diversity.
- In the interest of promoting continual improvement, the NRMEAG will facilitate a thorough review of the Sorell Council's existing NRM strategy. By evaluating its strengths and identifying areas for potential enhancement, the NRMEAG will provide sound recommendations aimed at boosting the strategy's effectiveness.
- Beyond the initial planning and strategy phase, the NRMEAG has a responsibility to oversee the implementation of the Council's NRM Strategy. This includes monitoring progress, assessing outcomes, and providing regular feedback to Council. The objective is to ensure that the strategies are executed correctly and are making a significant positive impact on local natural resources.
- The NRMEAG will actively engage with the local community on NRM matters. This not only involves disseminating information and raising awareness about the importance of natural resource management, but also encouraging public involvement in NRM planning and decision-making processes. By promoting active public participation, the NRMEAG aims to foster a community that is both informed and invested in the stewardship of its natural resources.

12. Term of Office

- The members of the NRMEAG will serve for a term of 2 years.
- Members may be reappointed for a second term.
- Members cannot be reappointed for more than 2 consecutive terms.

13. Remuneration

- The members of the NRMEAG will not receive any remuneration for their service on the Group.
- The members of the NRMEAG will be reimbursed for expenses incurred in carrying out their duties.

14. Disqualifications

- Any person who is disqualified from being a Councillor under the Local Government Act 1993 (TAS) is also disqualified from being a member of the NRMEAG.
- Any person who has a conflict of interest with respect to any matter before the NRMEAG must disclose that conflict of interest to the Group.
- Council will determine whether the conflict of interest is significant for the member to be an active member of the Group.

15. Termination of Membership

A member of the NRMEAG may be removed from the Group by the Sorell Council if the member:

- Fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Group without the permission of the Chair;
- Is convicted of an offence that is relevant to the panel's functions;
- Is found to have acted in a manner that is inconsistent with the Group's terms of reference; or
- Otherwise ceases to be a fit and proper person to be a member of the Group.

16. Indemnity

Members of the NRMEAG will be indemnified against all liabilities, costs, expenses, and losses incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

17. Confidentiality

Members of the NRMEAG must keep confidential all information that is disclosed to them in the course of their duties.

18. Conflict of Interest

Members of the NRMEAG must declare any conflict of interest that they have with respect to any matter before the Group.

19. Quorum

A quorum for a meeting of the NRMEAG will consist of 5 members with minimum of one councillor, three stakeholders and one NRM Facilitator (or delegate).