Pittwater Community Alliance

2 September 2026

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Agenda

1. Matters arising from previous meeting
2. Northern Beaches Council Urban Rewilding Project
3. Progress of Hawkesbury-Nepean River System CMP
4. Northern Beaches Council LEP and DCP Update
5. Presentations at future meetings
6. General Business

Rewilding the Northern Beaches

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Purpose

- Introduce the concept of ‘Urban Rewilding’ to the Pittwater Community Alliance
- Provide examples of Urban Rewilding in the Northern Beaches context
- Future opportunities

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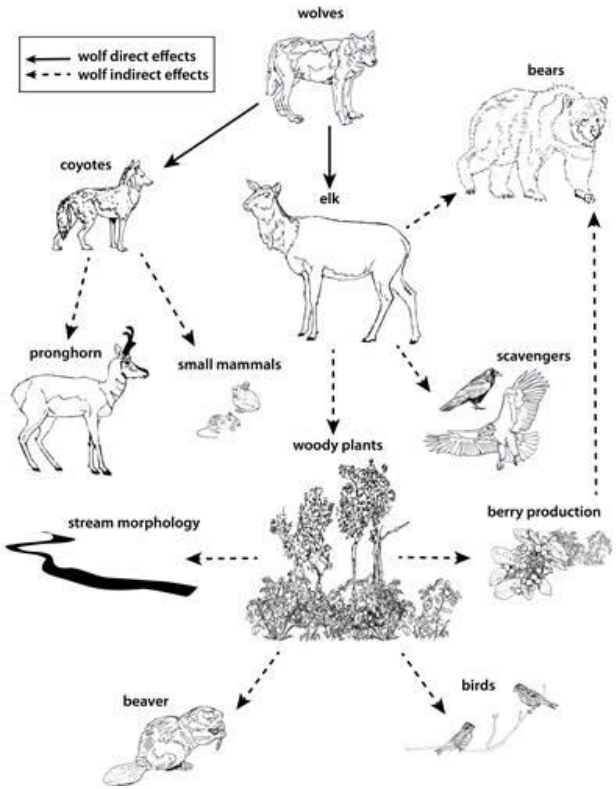
What is Rewilding?

- **Rewilding**: reintroducing species to restore ecosystem function and ‘ecosystem services’
- **Rewilding in Australia:** over ~20 years, focused on predator-free sanctuaries on offshore islands and remote fenced reserves, mostly in the desert.
- **Urban Rewilding** has been defined as:

  “*any initiative or programme that seeks to encourage biodiversity, ecosystem function, and the persistence of native species in a range of urban settings, including on private and public land; and both human-supported and ‘natural’ colonization of urban environments by native species*” Maller et al. 2019

- **Council projects**: a range of projects to restore degraded environments and provide urban wildlife habitat.



A well-known example: wolves reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park in 1995 (Ripple et al. 2014).

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Direct habitat support

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University of Sydney urban rewilding

- NBC collaborating in an **ARC Linkage Research** grant awarded to the University of Sydney for ‘Urban Rewilding: Ecologically and Community-informed Futures’
- Reestablish **locally extinct** and **regionally present** species to improve biodiversity and ecosystem services in urban areas
- First release of Bush rats (*Rattus fuscipes*) or ‘Bogul’ released in Allenby Park in February 2026, with a second cohort in June 2026.

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Nest habitat support

Seeking further opportunities to provide habitat where suitable:

- Stag retention and hollow installation for Powerful Owls
- Nest box installation for wood ducks in Nolans Reserve, North Manly
- Nest boxes in reserves and required on new developments

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Osprey pole

- Ospreys continuously nesting on artificial structures, driving rising community complaints and management time and resources
- Artificial nest pole and platform for Eastern Ospreys in Hitchcock Park, Avalon – used for the first time since installation

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Increasing habitat

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Constructed wetlands

- Primarily for stormwater treatment
- Boost biological uptake of nutrient-rich runoff
- Reduce and remove pollutants
- Wetland habitat for aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity – Prosperity Wetland, Warriewood

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Greening Unused Open Spaces – Wildflower Project

- Volunteer project establishing native wildflower beds in underutilised areas to boost biodiversity
- Creates food and habitat for small animals
- 17 wildflower gardens established to date, using plants propagated from Council's nurseries

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Bush & dune rehabilitation

Curl Curl Dune

Great Mackerel Beach

North Narrabee

Allenby Park

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Creeklines and Corridors

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Lagoon & Creek rehabilitation & restoration

- Bush regeneration of riparian corridors along 10 major creeks and 4 lagoons
- Bed and bank stabilisation works to improve aquatic ecology
- $1.6M South Creek grant for creek rehabilitation, wetland improvements & revegetation
- Trial of temporary habitat pods at South Creek

South Creek and Burnt Bridge Creek, Condover Reserve

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Rewilding Corridors

- Bushland regeneration contracts prioritising key reserves (including ‘Core Habitats’)
- Weed management along corridors
- Active restoration of degraded environments
- Replanting where natural regeneration is lacking

Dee Why Creek 2004

Dee Why Creek 2026

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Rewilding Corridors – Warriewood Valley

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Rewilding our urbanised areas

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Rewilding of open space

- Council nurseries – 30,000 pa for Council projects
- Trees planted per year (last 5 years): 5,000+
- Manly Lagoon Greening Strategy

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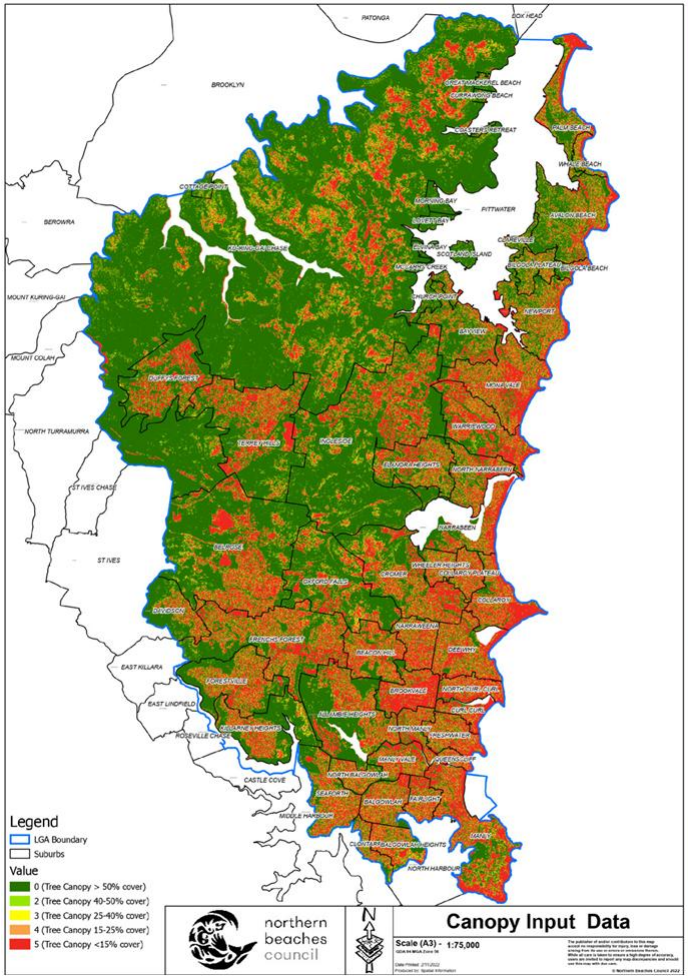
Urban Canopy

Category	2024 Canopy Coverage %	2019 (change to present) %	2011-13 (change to present) %
Overall	58.64	56.73 (1.91% increase)	57.07 (1.57% increase)
National Parks	74.18	72.55 (1.63 increase)	68.56 (5.62% increase)
Council Land	58.28	56.81 (1.47 increase)	54.07 (4.21 increase)
Road Reserve	37.61	36.29 (1.32 increase)	37.86 (0.25 decrease)
Private	43.67	41.69 (1.98% increase)	47.80 (4.13 decrease)
LGA excluding National Parks	45.62	43.85 (1.77% increase)	47.71 (2.09 decrease)



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Greening our urban corridors

2020

202
6

Greening
Condamine St
and Pittwater Rd

Lobbying for fauna
crossings over
TfNSW roads

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Future Opportunities

- Northern Beaches Urban Corridor Plan - for Council's consideration in 2027/2028 Delivery Program
- Expand successful programs through applying for Grants
- Greater collaboration with Universities
- Identify feasible opportunities for daylighting stormwater network
- More green infrastructure on buildings eg: Long Reef SLSC

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Progress of Hawkesbury-Nepean River System CMP

- 111 Submissions (32 Pittwater specific)
- Key Themes:
  - Estuary & Waterway Health
  - Coastal Hazards Resilience
  - Social & Recreational Amenity
- Next Steps

https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/hawkesbury-nepean-river-system-coastal-management-program

Northern Beaches Council LEP and DCP Update

- Public exhibition extended to 30 September 2026
- Over 600 submissions received to date

https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/LEP-DCP

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