



SORELL COUNCIL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP (NRMAG)

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Natural Resource Management Advisory Group (NRMAG) is to provide informed advice and recommendations to Sorell Council to support the implementation, monitoring and continuous improvement of the Sorell Council Natural Resource Management Strategy and broader environmental priorities.

The Group will provide a collaborative and integrated perspective on natural resource management, including climate change, biodiversity, landscape and land use, waterways and water bodies, invasive species and resource management. It will draw on the knowledge and experience of subject matter experts and stakeholders to help Council identify priorities, guide implementation, monitor progress and evaluate effectiveness.

The Group will also support collaboration and engagement with the community and relevant stakeholders, helping to build shared understanding, encourage participation in natural resource management and promote sustainable environmental outcomes across the Sorell municipality.

2. Objectives

- To provide strategic, expert advice to Sorell Council regarding the 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 Council's planning and decision-making processes.

3. Membership

The NRMAG will be comprised of a diverse and inclusive group of individuals who represent the different interests and perspectives of the community:

- Older residents
- Young people
- Culturally and linguistically diverse community members
- Aboriginal people
- Residents from rural and outer areas of the municipality.

The NRMAG 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 NRMAG will be comprised of individuals who are willing to commit the time required to serve on the Group.

The committee will be made up of the following:

- 2 Councillors (the Chair role will be shared on a rotational basis halfway through the term between the two Councillors)
- 5 - 7 community/stakeholders
- 2 Council Officers (NRM facilitator [member secretary] and Engagement Officer)

Sorell Council will appoint 50% of members for a two-year term and appoint the remaining 50% for a three-year term.

Members may re-apply at the end of their term for another term, subject to Council approval.

Members may re-nominate for as many terms as they wish, subject to Council approval.

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

The Group will have a clear understanding of 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.

5. 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.

6. Reporting

The Group will report to Council on its activities and recommendations at least annually, via the NRMAG Chair.

7. Terms of Reference

The Sorell Council Natural Resource Management Advisory Group (NRMAG) 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 NRMAG will be comprised of 9 to 11 members, including 2 Councillors, 5 – 7 stakeholders, and 2 Council Officer (NRM Facilitator and Engagement Officer)
- The NRMAG will meet at least quarterly to discuss NRM matters and to provide advice to Council.
- The chair can call meetings when necessary and more than once quarterly if felt necessary with 2 weeks in advance notice via the member secretary.
- The NRMAG will report to Council on its activities and recommendations at least annually.

8. Selection Process

- Sorell Council will publicly advertise vacancies through an Expression of Interest process.
- Interested individuals must complete a nomination, outlining their experience, skills, and reasons for applying.
- Nominations will be reviewed by relevant Sorell Council Officers based on their qualifications, experience, and commitment to the group. Membership recommendations will be tabled at a meeting for Council endorsement.
- Sorell Council will appoint 50% of members for a two-year term and appoint the remaining 50% for a three-year term.
- If a vacancy arises mid-term, Council may appoint a new member from previous applicants or reopen the nomination process.

9. Duties and Responsibilities

- The NRMAG'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 NRMAG will facilitate a thorough review of the Sorell Council's existing NRM strategy. By evaluating its strengths and identifying areas for potential enhancement, the NRMAG will provide sound recommendations aimed at boosting the strategy's effectiveness.
- Beyond the initial planning and strategy phase, the NRMAG 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 NRMAG 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 NRMAG aims to foster a community that is both informed and invested in the stewardship of its natural resources.

10. Remuneration

- The members of the NRMAG will not receive any remuneration for their service on the Group.

11. Disqualifications and Code of Conduct

- 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 NRMAG.
- Any person who has a conflict of interest with respect to any matter before the NRMAG 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.

12. Termination of Membership

A member of the NRMAG 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.

13. Indemnity

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

14. Confidentiality

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

15. Quorum

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