

Subject:	Minutes - Sustainability Working Group - 14 September 2022	Page 1 of 6
File No:	CLR/22/60/11	
Document Ref:	D22/126221	
Venue:	TEAMS	
Date:	Wednesday 14 September 2022	
Time:	5.30pm	Started at: 5.30pm Closed at: 7.32pm
Chair:	Kylie McMahon – Manager Environment	
Meeting Support (MS):	Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors	
Staff Convenor:	Kylie McMahon	
Circulation:	Working Group members and website	

Committee Role:**Committee Members as per the Terms of Reference**

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Penny Pedersen	Councillor	City of Ryde
		Jan Aiello	Community Representative	
		Hope Ashiabor	Community Representative	
x		Peter Davies	Community Representative	
x		Bev Debrincat	Community Representative	
x		George Divisek	Community Representative	
x		Wendy Evans	Community Representative	
x		Kerry Gallagher	Community Representative	
		Jill Hartley	Community Representative	
x		John Herbert	Community Representative	
x		Jordan Hodgson	Community Representative	
		Austin Kim	Community Representative	
x		Balu Moothedath	Community Representative	
x		Gary Patni	Community Representative	
x		Chathurkia Perera	Community Representative	
	x	Pamela Reeves	Community Representative	
		Amelia Saul	Community Representative	
		Annie Sim	Community Representative	
x		Katherine Spencer	Community Representative	
x		Jo Taranto	Community Representative	
x		Vlad Tudor	Community Representative	
x		Jane Valentine	Community Representative	
x		Shu-fang Wei	Community Representative	

City of Ryde Staff

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Kylie McMahon	Manager Environment	City of Ryde
x		Sandra Payne	Team Leader – Natural Areas	City of Ryde
x		Stephanie Keane	Resource and Resilience Officer	City of Ryde
x		Ian Garland	Manager – Business Infrastructure	City of Ryde
x		Linda Smith	EA to Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde

Details	Action
<p>1. Welcome, Apologies</p> <p><u>Acknowledgment of Country</u></p> <p>Kylie McMahon welcomed all present and provided the acknowledgement of country.</p>	Noted
<p>2. Introduction of members</p> <p>As this was the first meeting of the newly appointed working group, each attendee was invited to introduce themselves:</p> <p><u>Bev Debincat</u> Runs the Habitat which provides plants and a food garden in Santa Rosa Park. Would like to see connected habitat through the local area.</p> <p><u>George Divisek</u> Studied horticulture in Europe and helps with bush regeneration. He wants to share his ideas for making bush regeneration more successful. Would like to see biological controls used for weeds.</p> <p><u>Vlad Tudor</u> Is a local and Bushcare volunteer. He is interested in Bushcare, biodiversity and enjoys the pristine areas to be found locally but wants to improve water and air quality.</p> <p><u>Clr Pedersen</u> Thanked everyone for their interest in joining the group which she has been a part of for over five years.</p> <p><u>Peter Davies</u> Works at Macquarie University and is interested in the way local government tackles sustainability and other issues. He has been working with Kylie on projects concerning Parramatta River.</p> <p><u>Shu-fang Wei</u> Has worked with Bushcare at tree planting activities and has community engagement as a primary interest. Would like to see more people involved to improve the environment.</p> <p><u>Jane Valentine</u> Is a biology teacher who specialises in ecology and assists with Bushcare in the Field of Mars Reserve. Has a special interest in weed management as a way of improving biodiversity.</p> <p><u>Jordan Hodgson</u> Is involved with climate action groups and is interested in Council's net zero pathway. He is a member of a local Bushcare group and Community Fire Unit and has interests in permaculture, sustainability, the environment and Aboriginal awareness.</p>	Noted

Details

Action

Jo Taranto

Is passionate about emissions reductions and wants Council to support projects like Solar My School. She also wants to help small and medium sized businesses to do their part. Also involved with Bushcare at North Ryde.

John Herbert

Has been a member of Kittys Creek Bushcare group for 8 years. He also volunteers at a National Parks Bushcare group in East Ryde. Interest in the continued success of the Ryde Bushcare Program.

Wendy Evans

Studies at Macquarie University looking at significant trees and their protection, greening, preventing tree loss. She works for Choice focussing on sustainability from a consumer perspective.

Kerry Gallagher

A recently retired medical professional with a background in botany and zoology. Is a Bushcare volunteer at Denistone. Wants to preserve habitat and increase biodiversity.

Chathurkia Perera

Works at Macquarie University as a senior research scientist, with interests in water resource management, urban policy and the development of tools for use in waterway protection and biodiversity.

Balu Moothedath

Close to nature and a waste warrior. Wants to see people create minimal waste. He talks to businesses in a personal capacity about how they can reduce waste. Is a member of the Wilderness Society, Lane Cove Bushland Management Committee. Has an IT background and an interest in robotics.

Katherine Spencer

Is a Bushcare volunteer at Denistone. She studies science with a major in biology. She wants to preserve the native bushland areas in Ryde.

Gary Patni

Is a Bushcare volunteer in Lane Cove National Park. He is a member of Citizen climate lobby and Australian Conservation Fund. He is interested in sustainability.

Sandra Payne – Team Leader Natural Areas

Has worked at City of Ryde since 2006, looking after bushland areas. Has worked with many of the Bushcare volunteers

Stephanie Keane – Resources and Resilience Officer

Has lived locally for five years. Recently joined the Environment team as Resources and Resilience Officer, transferring from Council's Waste Team.

Ian Garland – Manager – Business Infrastructure

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	Details	Action
	advice. Council is conducting trials for food scrap collection. Looking to a pathway for food organics - proposed mandate by 2030 to separate food organics at the kerbside.	
4.	<p>Priority areas of interest – Sustainability Working Group</p> <p>Kylie asked members to select three areas of interest which could make the focus of this working group.</p> <p>The topics of most interest will become standing items for future meetings.</p>	Staff to request members' top 3 priority areas
5.	<p>Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct</p> <p>With regard to additions to the Terms of Reference, the following matters were raised:</p> <p>Peter – how can this group use its collective expertise to provide input for the LEP review and land use planning</p> <p>Jordan – As this group is an amalgamation of the two previous advisory committees, are there concerns balancing the different priorities</p> <p>Shu-fang – Is community engagement and community education covered in the terms of reference?</p> <p>Bev – can this group be an advisory committee and not working group?</p> <p>Kylie advised she would consider all the items raised and amend the Terms of Reference where applicable.</p> <p>The Code of Conduct was accepted by the group.</p>	Noted
6.	<p>General Business</p> <p>The following topics were raised in general business:</p> <p><u>Net Zero Plan</u> - Kylie announced this has been adopted by Council and will go on public exhibition in a month or so, A copy will be sent to members of this group.</p> <p><u>No new gas</u> – Clr Pedersen stated she had tried to have this issue address in the Net Zero plan. The state government has announced it intends to introduce this target.</p> <p><u>Duck River</u> – Clr Pedersen is pleased there is a masterplan for the adjoining parklands in Parramatta which should help</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Copy of Net Zero Emissions Plan to be forwarded to members as soon as it is placed on public exhibition</p>

Details

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Weeds and native grasses – Clr Pedersen mentioned a recent and informative talk on this topic by Philip Ward.

Change to mowing centre strips on main roads – Clr Pedersen noted that a recent change to government policy will see grass replaced by slow growing natives on nature strips such as Lane Cove Road. This will also assist with grass clippings which currently go down drains.

Solar my schools – Jo Taranto asked if Council has a budget to support this. Kylie will send the link for the pilot scheme being trialled for schools.

Link to Solar Schools State Government pilot program to be forwarded to Jo Taranto

Subcommittees of this working group – Shu-fang suggested sub committees to consider items such as education on composting be considered. This will be discussed at a future date.

Community garden and verge policy – Jordan asked for an update. Staff advice was that an application for a community garden at Putney has been received. The verge policy is separate and faces constraints such as underground services, power poles line of sight issues etc.

Staff to provide an update on the verge policy next meeting.

Herbicides used by Council – Jordan noted the use of roundup in bushland parks. Staff advised the use of herbicides is undertaken carefully as spot spraying targeting specific weeds.

Use of fungus as a biocontrol agent – staff advise that the Kordyana brasiliensis fungus is being trialled in Darvall Park to control tradescantia in partnership with the CSIRO

Weed control – Jane noted that weeds are a greater problem following the wet weather over recent months. Staff advised that Council is targeting priority weeds and vines. The weeds officer is working with private land owners to control weeds on their land.

Volunteers and COVID – John asked how COVID had affected volunteer numbers. Staff advised volunteers have increased in number.

How do ideas from this working group get into the community - Shu fang. Staff advised that when main ideas are formulated by this group, they may be woven into Council's current plans.

Small to medium business – Jo asked is this group being catered for. Staff advised that business resilience, waste etc will be addressed in Council's Net Zero Plan.

Ryde Hospital site – Clr Pedersen asked whether any of the committee members are aware of what is being proposed for the 1ha of natural area at this site.

Bush therapy – Clr Pedersen noted that bush therapy workshops were being offered locally.

Details

Action

8	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 14 December 2022 5:30pm – 7.00 pm in the Committee Room – Level 1A Pope St, Ryde and via TEAMS</p>	Noted