

Subject:	Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting – Minutes of Meeting	Page 1 of 7
File No:	CLR/07/8/101/1/6	
Document Ref:	D18/77161	
Venue:	Council Chambers 1 Pope Street, Ryde	
Date:	Wednesday, 14 th March 2018	
Time:	5.00pm	Started at: 5.00pm Closed at: 6.40pm
Chair:	Councillor Penny Pedersen	
Meeting Support (MS):	Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors	
Staff Convenor:	Kylie McMahon	
Circulation:		

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

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
✓		Councillor Penny Pedersen	Chairperson and Councillor Delegate	City of Ryde
✓		Councillor Christopher Gordon	Councillor Delegate	City of Ryde
✓		Councillor Edwina Clifton	Deputy Chairperson and Councillor Delegate	City of Ryde
	✓	Councillor Trenton Brown	Councillor Delegate	City of Ryde
✓		Pamela Reeves	Community Representative	
✓		Libby Lawson	Community Representative	
✓		David Thomas	Community Representative	
✓		Terry Perram	Community Representative	
✓		Simone McGinley	Community Representative	
✓		Jill Hartley	Community Representative	
✓		Adrian Kong	Community Representative	
✓		Peter Brown	Community Representative	
✓		Bev Debrincat	Community Representative	
✓		Joanne Taranto	Community Representative	
	✓	Jane Valentine	Community Representative	
✓		Sylvia Lane	Community Representative	
✓		Jessica Wilks	Community Representative	
✓		Angela Maier	Community Representative	
✓		Amelia Saul	Community Representative	
✓		Peter Davies	Community Representative	
	No contact	Margaret Kelly	Community Representative	

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
✓		Sam Cappelli	Manager Environment, Health and Building	City of Ryde
✓		Kylie McMahon	Senior Coordinator Environment	City of Ryde
✓		Sandra Payne	Natural Areas Coordinator	City of Ryde
✓		Sean Simpson	Natural Areas Project Officer	City of Ryde
✓		Katie Helm	Sustainability Programs Coordinator	City of Ryde
✓		Linda Smith	EA to the Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde

Details	Action
<p>1. Welcome by Chair – Cllr Penny Pedersen</p> <p>Cllr Pedersen opened the meeting by welcoming all present and by recognising the traditional owners of the land and her fellow Councillors.</p> <p>Cllr Pedersen made special mention of Peter Brown - a member of this committee, who has been working in Bushcare for over 40 years.</p> <p>Cllr Pedersen outlined her interests and the various roles and positions she has held and currently holds relevant to this committee, including her role as Vice Chair of Parramatta River Catchment Group.</p>	<p>1. Noted.</p>
<p>2. Apologies</p>	<p>Councillor Brown, Jane Valentine.</p>
<p>3. Chairperson Introduction</p> <p>Councillor Pederson presented her vision for the committee which is to continue the work of the people who look after Council's local bushland.</p> <p>The importance of the role of volunteers was highlighted.</p> <p>Each member of the group introduced themselves. Edwina Clifton – current Councillor, strong interest in environment and bushland Terry Perram – former Councillor, long term involvement on this committee Adrian Kong- long term resident, interest in environmental issues Peter Brown – long association with Brush Farm Park Amelia Saul – interest in managing introduced species of flora and fauna Jessica Wilks – PHD in microbiology and interest in climate change Pamela Reeves – member of previous committee, Field of Mars resident, interested in bush regeneration and concerned resident Angela Maier – member of Bushcare group and local resident Joanne Taranto – Bushcare member and member of Five for Ryde Peter Davies – works in the area of environmental policy. Lecturer MQU Sylvia Lane – Science teacher and member of Bushcare group Libby Lawson – member of previous committee, member of Bushcare Jill Hartley – member of previous committee, represents environmental groups. David Thomas – member of Bushcare group Bev Debrincat – involved with Habitat nursery, also Bushcare member Christopher Gordon – current Councillor, has long time concern for environment</p>	<p>1. A copy of Councillor Pedersen's vision for the committee is circulated with the minutes.</p> <p>2. Noted</p>
<p>4. Terms of Reference</p> <p>There was discussion regarding the definition of various terms included in the terms of reference such as biodiversity and the need to distinguish between private and public lands. Sam confirmed focus is on public lands however there will be times when delivering biodiversity education that private lands are implicated. Also some members requested clarification of what biodiversity means to members.</p> <p>The need to distinguish between this Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee and the Renewable Energy Committee was also noted.</p> <p>None of the items mentioned, had any impact on the Terms of Reference which were subsequently adopted unanimously.</p> <p>It was confirmed that this Committee is an advisory committee, not a decision making committee. It will however play a key role in influencing Council policy and processes.</p> <p>It was also confirmed that specific budget detail is not a key focus of this committee. Staff will be available separately to discuss specific budgetary matters if required.</p>	<p>1. Adopted terms of reference.</p>

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	<p>General Projects Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A series of talks on sustainability was held at Macquarie University last year with high profile speakers in attendance. Talks included transport, heritage and culture and open space and how they can be planned for, preserved and managed on a sustainable basis into the future. - This year, the talks will cover a variety of topics including a focus on resilience. - Council program – the Ryde Environmental Education Network (REEN) continued to be delivered throughout the year for all educational institutions across Ryde. Teachers and Council staff meet each term and are provided resources and presentations to further their knowledge on environmental and sustainability matters. These are coordinated with the Waste team to deliver. - Feral animal control program continues targeting species within natural areas - Ongoing education is occurring in the Field of Mars Reserve to stop people taking and allowing their companion animals (cats and dogs) into the reserve which is a Wildlife Refuge. This has been a collaboration between the Ryde Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna Society, Council Rangers and Environment units. 	<p>5. 2016/17 Summary of Environmental Activities reported to Council in Nov 2017 to be circulated with minutes</p>
7.	<p>General Business – Matters without notice</p> <p>Food waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foodwaste makes up 40% of the waste placed in red bins - Randwick and Lane Cove Councils have introduced programs to reduce this figure through diverting food waste from landfill through a separate bin collection introduction. - The possibility of targeting nursing homes, schools etc in any program to divert food waste was raised. - Earth Power – food waste collector service could be good for multi-unit dwellings food processing? - Staff advised that dialogue has previously occurred with the Waste team regarding food collection and the use of the Porters Creek site as a possible means of setting up an alternate waste disposal system. Presently contamination in the food waste collection bins is very high which many who have introduced this system are experiencing issues with the new system resulting in high contamination costs. Currently Ryde is not actively exploring this. - It was also noted that under the current recycling regime, any items placed in plastic bags could not be recycled and that incorrect sorting hampered the recycling process. - Education could be used as a tool to reduce the amount of food waste created - A better business partnership and the Bin trim exists to help business be more sustainable taken up by a few northern area councils to work with councils. Presently Ryde does not have a business resource officer. - The use of worm farms could be promoted for household food waste control. These occur multiple times per year to promote and encourage the uptake of food recycling and landfill diversion. - Can private kerbside collections of food waste be permitted? – if business could be enticed to do so then could be done. <p>Pool to Pond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ku-ring-gai Council runs a dedicated 'Pool to Pond' program which permits owners to transform swimming pools to water ponds if they wish. - It was noted that mosquitoes and fencing issues could arise from such a program. 	<p>1. Investigation of food waste programs/initiatives used at other Councils to be investigated and status reported to next committee</p> <p>2. Investigation Speaker from Ku-ring-gai Council to be invited to present to this Committee and address interested patrons on the Waterpond project. Council staff will liaise with Environmental Health</p>

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Details

Action

<p>Trees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was noted that often Development Approvals for new dwellings permit the removal of established trees, shrubs, grass etc. and this is having a cumulative impact across the city on canopy loss - A question was raised as to how applicants are followed up to ensure that they replant as required, what time period is allowed for replanting, is a check done to ensure that the plants thrive. - Sam Cappelli advised that it is a requirement that trees of significance outside the building envelope are usually conditioned for replacement and fines can and do occur where proven for breaches. - Members raised concerns about tree species in the Council’s Street Tree Planting Program. Some felt only natives should be on the list. Majority considered tree canopy was more important and that there was a place for suitable exotic species - Urban heat islands were raised as an issue. Staff advised they are aware of this issue and are carrying out investigations to explore opportunities into development and consent controls and when Council undertakes capital works programs - Some members highlighted State Government approved applications and that there is no imperative for the views of Council re tree canopy to be considered. The loss of old trees and their replacement with new stock is not a good trade for fauna and the root systems and their impact on the water table is also underestimated. - A question was raised with regard to verge gardens and street tree planting. It was suggested that Council create guidelines for people wishing to establish verge gardens. Staff advised there are numerous issues which need to be considered in the establishment of verge gardens. - It was also noted that in the future, some large trees will cope better in hotter conditions. - Trees need to be valued as assets and how the way Council manages trees to consider them as assets with their asset life and succession planning. - Ku-ring-gai council also have every application for removal listed on their website. - It was also noted that there is a need to select tree species for planting that are suitable for the location. Some trees drop branches regularly and are not suitable for planting near homes. - The species planted in parks also need to be directed for use by volunteers in natural areas and must be informed of the plants that are suitable for use in different parts of the local area. Council has developed a draft planting guideline for natural area land management that includes addressing to guide volunteers and stakeholders planting in Ryde. This was from previous BEAC committee suggestion. - It is believed that some of the information on Council’s website is incorrect relating to specific community listing. It is believed that some plantings and plant species are specific to Ryde and the information on Council’s website should be Ryde specific not general. Clarified by staff that Council utilises the OEH mapping 2013 and are mindful that undertaking of additional and new categorisations create even further confusion to community and stakeholders. At this point Council will retain the OEH mapping classification. <p>Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Question regarding community education on whether bottles be recycled with their lids on or off? Off seems to be the preferred but concern over community confusion and need to give more education on this. - Council’s website could include promotion to address and make this clear and also provide a better listing of the types of plastic which can be recycled. 	<p>Officers to investigate.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Explore other Council’s Policies on verge gardens and review suitability for Ryde. Update next meeting 4. Explore how to regard trees as an asset to preserve their importance and ensure maintenance. Update next meeting. 5. Provide draft of the Natural Areas Planting Guideline to assist Volunteers, Council staff and contractors for managing natural areas. Submit draft to a future meeting of this Committee for review 6. Review to potentially include this education on the Council website to ensure consistency and accuracy of recycling information. Additional education in the Smarter, Cleaner, Green Newsletter
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<p>Biodiversity Plan / Flora and Fauna Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some issues that could need future consideration are bats and microbats to change community attitudes towards them, and possible future provision of suitable habitat - Some measures to assist in the preservation of fauna include retention of mature trees and dead trees so that the hollows they contain are saved, and the careful use of fire in areas of significant habitat - It was then noted that there is conflicting advice regarding the use of fire with some sources saying it is a good thing and others a bad thing. - A member suggested more biodiversity marketing for education through brochure development. Most however, felt that whilst developing brochures had merit, social media was considered a more effective medium. - One member highlighted fungi and the current period being most suitable for various species of fungi to be photographed. The call was put to Bushcare workers and volunteers in this respect. <p>Future Agenda Items and topics of interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was suggested that given the size and broad level of interest in this Committee, that the Council staff email a table to members to provide a listing of their top 3 priority items be included for future consideration for the next meeting. 		<p>7. That Ryde Biodiversity Plan Implementation Actions be reported to future meetings of this Committee on a regular basis and be included as a standing item for this Committee.</p> <p>8. Noted</p> <p>9. Agreed Council staff will email out a table for members to suggest topics for the next agenda (June)</p>
<p>8. Next Meeting:</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 13th June 2018 – 5pm to no later than 6.30pm in the Meeting Room next to Council Chambers – Level 1a Pope St, Ryde</p>		<p>1. Agreed</p>

Meeting closed 6.40pm