

Subject:	Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting – Adopted Minutes of Meeting	Page 1 of 6
File No:	CLR/07/8/101/1/6	
Document Ref:	D19/37271	
Venue:	Council Chambers 1 Pope Street, Ryde	
Date:	Wednesday, 13 th March 2019	
Time:	5.00pm	Started at: 5.05pm Closed at: 6.45pm
Chair:	Councillor Penny Pedersen	
Meeting Support (MS):	Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors	
Staff Convenor:	Kylie McMahon	
Circulation:	Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee and Councillors	

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

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Councillor Penny Pedersen	Chairperson and Councillor Delegate	City of Ryde
x		Councillor Christopher Gordon	Deputy Chairperson and Councillor Delegate	City of Ryde
x		Councillor Edwina Clifton	Councillor Delegate	City of Ryde
x		Pamela Reeves	Community Representative	
	x	Libby Lawson	Community Representative	
x		David Thomas	Community Representative	
x		Terry Perram	Community Representative	
	x	Simone McGinley	Community Representative	
	x	Jill Hartley	Community Representative	
	x	Adrian Kong	Community Representative	
x		Bev Debrincat	Community Representative	
	x	Joanne Taranto	Community Representative	
	x	Jane Valentine	Community Representative	
x		Sylvia Lane	Community Representative	
x		Jessica Wilks	Community Representative	
x		Angela Maier	Community Representative	
x		Amelia Saul	Community Representative	
x		Peter Davies	Community Representative	

Observers

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
X		John August	Observer	

City of Ryde Staff

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Sam Cappelli	Manager Environment, Health and Building	City of Ryde
x		Kylie McMahon	Senior Coordinator Environment	City of Ryde
x		Sandra Payne	Natural Areas Coordinator	City of Ryde
x		Sean Simpson	Natural Areas Projects Officer	City of Ryde
x		Katie Helm	Sustainability Programs Coordinator	City of Ryde
x		Simon James	Manager - Parks	City of Ryde
x		Derek Arnaiz	Senior Coordinator Tree Management	City of Ryde
x		Linda Smith	EA to Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde

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Details	Action
<p>1. Welcome by Chair – Clr Penny Pedersen</p> <p>Clr Pedersen opened the meeting by welcoming all present and by recognising the traditional owners of the land.</p> <p>John August was acknowledged as being a guest in the gallery.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>2. Apologies</p> <p>Attendance and apologies are as noted above.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>3. Generic Plan of Management update and tree management update by the Parks Department</p> <p>Simon James provided an update on preparation of the Generic Plans of Management for Sportsfields, Parks and General Community Use which have been ongoing since mid-2018.</p> <p>Simon thanked everyone who had provided feedback over the Christmas period and advised that as much feedback as possible from the consultation has now been incorporated and that approval is now being sought from the Minister to place the plan on public exhibition.</p> <p>Once the plan is placed on public exhibition, there will be a further opportunity to make submissions. This committee will be advised when the public exhibition period opens.</p> <p>The community consultation period has now closed for the Masterplan for ELS Hall Park, Greenwood Park and Booth Reserve. Comment is still open for the Masterplan for Blenheim Park. Simon thanked those that have provided feedback.</p> <p>Bev noted that there was no inclusion relating to understorey vegetation, plantings or wildlife corridors in the Masterplan and asked that understorey connections be included in the plans to provide and strengthen habitat corridors. They should reflect items in the Biodiversity Plan relating to connection of corridors. She noted that there is a growing population and more and more fragmentation of bushland and that the corridors need to function properly</p> <p>She also noted that the ELS Hall plan shows stepping stones across the creek and was concerned about the steepness of the surrounding area and whether this will be feasible. Kylie advised that the pictures are only indicative of how access across the creek will be provided and that it would not be suitable to construct a bridge at that location as the footprint to ensure flood obstructions were avoided, would be too great an imprint into the natural area.</p> <p>Clr Pedersen advised that she has received feedback from local community members very concerned about pathway connections further fragmenting the very strained and thin natural area, particularly in Greenwood Park.</p> <p><u>Tree Management update</u></p> <p>Advice was provided that the last review by Council of the DCP Tree Preservation - Part 9.5 was in 2016. The order recognises council trees (both street trees and those in parks) as assets.</p> <p>A significant tree register exists for both trees on public and private land. As of 2017 there were 54 trees on the register.</p> <p>At the February 2019 Council meeting, staff were asked to review the tree management application review process for determination of tree removal. A 'Have</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>ELS Hall Park, Greenwood Park and Booth Reserve Masterplan to include habitat plantings</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

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	<p>your say' and Cllr workshop is to occur under this process.</p> <p>Currently the process has a number of steps which must be followed when a request for a review is received.</p> <p>The public will be asked for comment prior to the matter going back to Council.</p> <p>Pam Reeves stated that Ku-ring-gai Council lists the trees it has approved for removal on its website. This lets people look up whether an application has been approved and if not, they can notify Council if damage is occurring to the tree.</p> <p>Simon will investigate this process to see if there is opportunity for the City of Ryde adopting a similar approach.</p> <p>Dr Peter Davies asked as to the protection afforded a tree by virtue of it being on the significant tree register?</p> <p>Response by Parks: The trees have added protection if identified on the register and if the tree needs to be removed Council is notified.</p> <p>Peter Davies noted that there are relatively few trees on the register</p> <p>Clr Clifton asked if it can be used to protect the trees around Macquarie Park</p> <p>Clr Gordon asked what the limitations were e.g. if pruning is ok or the process for removal if needed? Derek explained that pruning applications are free of charge for significant trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The register was adopted in 2003, reviewed in 2007 and is currently being reviewed. • Trees on the register are provided a gps location. • To be placed on the register the tree has to be nominated and the owner of the tree and neighbours notified. Anyone in the Ryde LGA can submit an application. • If 28 days after notification no objection has been received, then the tree is listed on the register. • If an objection is received, the matter is referred to a panel and then to Council. • The final determination is made by Council resolution. • Once a tree is listed on the significant tree register, it can be pruned but cannot be removed without referral to Council. • Significant trees are noted within s149(5) certificates which is classed as 'additional information' about the property site which is different to the legislative list of information required on s149(2) certificates. A separate application is required to obtain the information where significant trees are listed. <p>Terry Perram asked as to whether Council has ever taken anyone to the Land and Environment Court over a DA to protect a tree? The response from staff was no, they were not aware of this occurring</p> <p>Clr Pedersen asked if all the significant trees were still standing and the response was that that was why the list is to be reviewed.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Simon to investigate providing advice on Council's website regarding approvals for the removal of trees as Ku-ring-gai council does and provide a response.</p>
4.	<p>Adoption of previous Minutes – 12 December 2018</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting of 12th December 2018 were adopted</p>	Adopted
5.	<p>Actions arising from the previous Minutes</p> <p>Action 7: Clean up the world – presentation of certificate to Austin Kim's group.</p>	

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	Staff to provide advice as to whether a certificate has been presented to the group led by Austin Kim. If no presentation has been made yet, consideration to be given to providing a more fitting thank you.	Staff to confirm the recognition of the efforts of Clean Up The World volunteers.
6.	<p>Standing Items</p> <p>Sustainability Matters</p> <p><u>Bokashi bins</u></p> <p>Amelia Saul spoke to the group about <u>Bokashi</u> bins which are similar to a pail with a lid and are used for food scraps, dairy etc.They are suitable for use inside homes/apartments, as they can be sealed but they do have a slight odour.</p> <p>The waste ferments in the bin and becomes a pre-compost. If added to the soil it composts very quickly. Biggest issue with these is that not everyone has a suitable place to put the pre-compost</p> <p>Suggestions to get around the problem include public compost bins, community garden arrangements etc. Other suggestions were incorporating a suitable facility at Porters Creek or approaching Eden Gardens to install a suitable facility.</p> <p>There is a 'Waste Share' app that identifies places where pre-compost and green waste can be accepted. The Habitat has a public compost bin but it cannot accept meat and drop offs require supervision to ensure contamination does not occur.</p> <p>The Habitat accepts compost from residents. That service can be promoted through Council's Smarter Cleaner Greener newsletter. It was suggested that Council could check with Eden Gardens to see if they accept compost</p> <p>Angela Meier mentioned the use of vertical compost units on Lord Howe Island. It was likened to a 'hungry bin', an in-situ composter. There are smaller versions that could be used for high rise buildings, measuring 5m x 3m. Bev noted that the compost still needs to be used somewhere and Clr Pedersen mentioned that they might need to have a bit of space around them as they can smell.</p> <p><u>Conference attended by Clr Pedersen</u></p> <p>Councillor Pedersen reported on a conference she attended where developers highlighted works to incorporate recycling and best practice.</p> <p>One example was land which was on top of a high pressure pipe where furniture (made by a local mens shed) was installed. The furniture was made from trees which had been removed from the site. New trees were planted on the site and the area turned into a native garden with notices providing recipes of how to use the bush tucker provided.</p> <p><u>Save our recycling – NSWLG campaign</u></p> <p>The campaign aims to pressure the NSW government to return 100% of the waste levy to Councils. Projects such as a soft plastic recycling facilities could be achieved if more funding were available.</p> <p>Climate Change and Resilience</p> <p>Clr Clifton and Sandra Payne attended an event in the Blue Mountains for climate change and bushfire management in a changing climate.</p> <p>Noted at the event was that Bushfires are getting hotter as there is more 'available' fuel and very unpredictable.</p> <p>There are more catastrophic fire scenarios whereby firefighters are not sent in as</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Waste Team to follow up with The Habitat and Eden Gardens and promote compost service in the Smarter Cleaner Greener newsletter if applicable</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

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<p>conditions are considered too dangerous.</p> <p>The removal of trees makes the ground drier which means that heat builds up. It was also noted that the fire season has lengthened by 20%.</p> <p>Clr Pedersen noted that on Friday 15th the Schools Strike For Climate will be held in the city for school students.</p>	Noted
<p>Natural areas and Biodiversity update</p> <p>David Thomas addressed the Committee on the vegetation community information on the City of Ryde website. Council had updated the information on the website and the intention was great and a lot of it is good but additional information is required.</p>	Noted
<p>He believes that Council should include more information as there is so much variety in the communities that it should be noted. He said that the biggest issue is that the OEH (Office of Environment and Heritage) report is used with defacto descriptions of Ryde’s vegetation communities. He said that he had been working with the OEH since the turn of the century and would recommend that local government areas use local data, not the OEH data. There is a lot of work in it, but he is happy to help us.</p>	Noted
<p>Peter Davies questioned whether there was a need for using local vegetation classifications over the OEH vegetation classifications (if there is more granular data is it going to lead to a better outcome with environmental assessment? and does it matter?)</p>	Noted
<p>David responded that for the purposes of development it doesn’t make any difference but noting that for management e.g. for Blue Gum High Forest communities there are 3 different types.</p>	Noted
<p>Sandra noted that the Field of Mars education centre frequently use the information and agree and like the format and that it is far more detailed than most councils. Sandra asked how many committee members have viewed the webpages. No one else had. She encouraged BEAC to have a look at the information provided on the website.</p>	Noted
<p>Council’s development assessment officers currently use OEH mapping for evaluating section 149 certificates. OEH vegetation mapping is currently used by the majority of Councils to provide a consistent approach.</p>	Noted
<p>Peter Davies said that the critical test is whether it is endangered or not, that is what drives it.</p>	Noted
<p>Clr Pedersen asked if it makes a difference in terms of management and asked whether the more detailed information would be more user friendly for community use.</p>	Noted
<p>David responded saying yes it would for fire regimes e.g. Darvall park for understorey/ rainforest community compared to other BGHF communities.</p>	Noted
<p>Clr Pederson asked if we could work together on it.</p>	Environment Team to follow up further with David regarding vegetation community information
<p>It was noted that more detailed vegetation community information could be incorporated into the Generic Plan of Management for Natural Areas and that the issue would be taken offline. Bev noted that it would be good to include in the Generic Plan as it would be more permanent. Sometimes websites get updated and original information can be lost.</p>	
<p>Terry Perram suggested that it is a generous offer from David to help update its records and at least have the updated information available in paper form, even if it isn’t placed on Council’s website.</p>	Noted

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<p><u>Biodiversity plan</u></p> <p>The second round of Bushland signage has been installed. 15 signs were installed, focusing on the high conservation western reserves, containing critically endangered Blue Gum High forest. In addition to the park name and vegetation community, the signs included information about the catchment and bush regeneration works being undertaken.</p> <p>Good feedback has been received from Bushcare volunteers and community members.</p> <p>Council will host a second round of Biodiversity Awareness Training later in the year for council staff upskilling and education.</p> <p>A sustainability festival will be held at Putney Park on 2nd June 2019 on World Environment Day.</p> <p>The festival will include the recycling trailer, live workshops, sustainability stalls, kids activities etc.</p> <p>A microbat workshop about ways to help colonies will be held at the Field of Mars with guest speakers from Sydney University.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p><u>Feral animal control program</u></p> <p>This program will commence soon and a number of new sites will be included as they have been recent sightings of foxes and/or rabbits. Reserves to be targeted include: Brush Farm Park, Denistone Park, Dunbar Park, Field of Mars Reserve, Glades Bay Reserve, Lambert Park Portius Park, Kittys Creek Reserve and Tasman Park. Culling, trapping and den fumigation will be undertaken.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Parramatta River Catchment Group</p> <p>Sarah Holland Cliff the previous convenor has moved to Melbourne and Simon Pearsall from Sydney Water, is filling in in a part time capacity until a replacement is appointed in July.</p> <p>The PRCG is working to deliver the PRCG Masterplan and looking for funding from the Government Labor has pledged \$1.8m if elected.</p> <p>Council is working with the PRCG to make Putney Park a swim site and has incorporated a shower into the new amenities block planned for the area and will provide stairs to the beach area.</p> <p>Citizen science project is underway for a project to house long neck turtles. It has been suggested that golf clubs with lakes could provide assistance as the turtles need somewhere to live.</p> <p>The “beat the bottle event” at Kissing Point Park was a success, with less plastic bottles than previous years collected. Plastic wrapping was still an issue.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>General Project updates</p> <p><u>2018 achievements</u></p> <p>The annual Environment, Sustainability, Waste and Parks Achievements booklet has been produced by council staff and was distributed and staff were congratulated on all the work done and the committee commended for their suggestion on providing this to community.</p> <p><u>Ivanhoe Estate</u></p> <p>The Mayor has raised a Mayoral Minute calling on the State Government to zone</p>	

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	<p>the area near the Frasers development along Epping road, to E2 to protect the critically endangered area and riparian zone near Shrimptons Creek</p> <p><u>Greater Sydney Commission workshops</u></p> <p>Development was raised at the GSC workshop regarding the need to upgrade sewage and pumping station at West Ryde for the infrastructure to cope with the increased density in the Sydney area.</p> <p><u>NSROC conference – ‘liveability’ what does it mean?</u></p> <p>The Premier, Minister for Planning and also a previous COR employee, Fiona Morrison now Commissioner, Open Space spoke at the conference and how the needs of people who are now living without backyards can be met if prioritising this in new developments and through Sydney’s population growth.</p>	
7.	<p>General Business</p> <p><u>Recycling of items not currently provided for was discussed.</u></p> <p>The recycling of cosmetic items was discussed with suggestions as to how collections could be carried out – perhaps involve a corporate such as L’Oreal or involve shopping centres or arrange on Council collection days already run at the depot.</p> <p>Kylie responded that this has been previously investigated with many issues around security, bins raided, data safety from old donated phones etc posing a high risk to spaces such as shopping malls which is why this has been difficult to implement in these places to date.</p> <p><u>Balloon vine</u></p> <p>It was noted that balloon vine is growing on Pittwater Road near High Street and the entrance to the Field of Mars Reserve</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Staff to investigate balloon vine issue along Pittwater Rd</p>
8	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 12th June 2019 – 5pm to no later than 6.30pm in the Council Chambers – Level 1A Pope St, Ryde</p>	

Meeting closed 6.45pm