

Subject:	Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee – Minutes of Meeting
File No:	COR2010/56/1
Document Ref:	D15/14544
Date and Venue:	Monday 9 th February 2015 Meeting Room 1, Level 5, Civic Centre
Time:	6.00pm Started at:6.00 Closed at: 7.50pm
Chair:	Councillor Denise Pendleton
Meeting Support (MS):	Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors
Staff Convenor:	Nicola Booth, Section Manager – Natural Areas and Urban Forest
Circulation:	CIB
Adopted	18 May 2015

Committee Role:

Advises and makes recommendations to Council on the matters relating to enhancement, preservation, conservation and management of natural areas, wildlife and their habitat corridors and local indigenous vegetation and environmental health and sustainability issues and initiatives within the City of Ryde. The Committee also act as a Project Reference Group for the development, implementation and monitoring of a Biodiversity Plan for the Ryde Local Government Area

Committee Members as per the Terms of Reference

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Councillor Denise Pendleton	Chairperson	City of Ryde
x		Councillor Terry Perram	Delegate	City of Ryde
x		Tatjana Domazet	A/Group Manager – Community Life	City of Ryde
x		Nicola Booth	Section Manager – Natural Areas and Urban Forest	City of Ryde
x		Libby Lawson	Bushcare representative	East Ward
	x	Margaret Kelly	Bushcare representative	Central Ward
x		Peter Brown	Bushcare representative	West Ward
x		David Thomas	Bushcare representative	West Ward
x		Bev Debrincat	Environmental/sustainability stakeholder representative	
x		Jill Hartley	Environmental/sustainability stakeholder representative	
x		Pamela Reeves	Environmental/sustainability stakeholder representative	
	x	Michele Cooper	Industry Representative	National Parks and Wildlife Services
x		Justin Alick	Community Representative	
	x	Geoff Hudson	Community Representative	

Additional Attendees

Name	Position Title	Organisation
Linda Smith	EA to the Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde
Jude Colechin	Section Manager - Waste	City of Ryde
Denise Torres	Waste Coordinator	City of Ryde

Details

Action

Responsibility
and Date

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Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
<p>1. Welcome by the Chair, Clr Pendleton</p> <p>The attendees and apologies are as per above.</p>	Noted	
<p>2. Minutes of the previous meeting</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 24th November 2014 were noted.</p> <p>In Item 5 (c) Biodiversity Plan – the comments listed pertained to item 5 (d) Bushcare volunteer program review and update.</p> <p>With regard to Item 5 (c) the Minutes should have read that the Committee be advised information provided by the consultants who will be carrying out the plan.</p>	The minutes of the meeting dated 24 th November, as amended, were adopted.	

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Details

Action

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<p>3. Actions arising out of the previous minutes</p> <p>10/50 vegetation clearing code by NSW RFS</p> <p>Tatjana provided an update on the amendments which have been made to the code.</p> <p>She advised that City of Ryde has not been greatly impacted by people taking advantage of the legislation to remove vegetation.</p> <p>Twenty instances of tree removal have been reported and “please explain” letters have been issued.</p> <p>A reply has not been received from the RFS following Council’s submission.</p> <p>Parramatta Light Rail</p> <p>This matter is still under investigation as to the preferred route.</p>	<p>This item is to be listed for consideration at the next meeting.</p> <p>An update on this item is to be brought to the next meeting.</p>	

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Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
<p>4. Presentation by Waste Coordinator – Denise Torres</p> <p>Denise presented on activities carried out by Council’s Waste Team, especially in regard to recycling.</p> <p>The team is responsible for domestic and commercial waste, investigating illegal dumping, management of hazardous and contaminated waste.</p> <p>The group focusses on behavioural change education and works within community, local schools and other councils.</p> <p>Some of the major tasks of the group involve managing dumping in the Macquarie Park area, conducting events at Habitat, very successful Waste to Art program, composting and waste tours.</p> <p>It was noted that the dumping of food is a major issue with food accounting for 42% of household rubbish.</p> <p>Services offered by Council include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for Clean Up Australia - Household chemical clean-ups - Chipping and mulching service - Medical waste service - Tv and computer collections - Worm farms - 2nd hand Saturday - Providing 5 household clean-ups per year - Assisting with easy care gardening - Coordinating clothing bins and recycling stations at Council <p>A system is currently being trialled in local libraries and shopping centres to recycle items such as batteries and globes.</p> <p>Major issues for waste are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing population - Increase in disposal costs - Toxicity of much of the waste created - Illegal dumping 	<p>Contact to be made with Michael Mobbs regarding ways to reduce food waste</p> <p>An invitation is to be extended for a staff member from waste to address the committee again in twelve months to update the group on any new initiatives.</p>	

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<p>5. General Business</p> <p><u>Update on 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code by NSW RFS</u></p> <p>This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting under Actions Arising from Minutes</p> <p><u>Biodiversity Plan</u></p> <p>Submissions have been received from consultants and are currently being assessed.</p> <p>Ten submissions were received ranging in price from \$50,000 to \$100,000.</p> <p>The successful consulting group will be asked to address the next committee meeting.</p> <p><u>Bushcare volunteer program review and update</u></p> <p>Sandra Payne will return to work in April 2015.</p> <p>The action plan for the program will be considered at the next meeting.</p> <p>A discussion regarding budgetary considerations took place. The committee would like to assist Council in the identification of areas where expenditure is required in bushland areas.</p> <p>Advice has already been provided in the form of the Bushland Regeneration report provided in 2014.</p> <p>A request was made that the committee be advised how Council allocates funding for different reserves and what the breakdown is.</p> <p>Information was sought as to how minor works are prioritised.</p> <p><u>Macquarie University Sustainability Group</u></p> <p>The above group has won an award for its use of tap water. It has been involved in a nationwide campaign run by Sydney Water called TAP.</p> <p>It has also created a water bottle made of sugar cane and has installed two new drinking tap stations at the uni.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Successful consulting firm to be invited to address the next committee meeting</p> <p>A copy of the submissions received is to be made available to the committee, if allowable under Council's procurement policy.</p> <p>This matter is to be listed on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>A presentation on how minor works are prioritised and where funding is coming from to be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>A presentation to be made to the next meeting re Council's efforts in respect of promoting tap water over bottled water</p>	

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<p>5. General Business</p> <p>Update from members of the Committee</p> <p><u>Flying Fox Management Policy</u> Bev Debrincat advised that she had made a submission regarding this matter and that the completed document will be made available to the public.</p> <p><u>Planting of inappropriate species in public parks</u> The planting of inappropriate plant species at Denistone Park by a bushcare group was raised.</p> <p>It was suggested a policy be developed to advise appropriate plant selections for public spaces in any area.</p> <p><u>Urban Forest Strategy</u> Jill Hartley raised the NSW Urban Forest Strategy, wildlife protection areas and wetland protection issues.</p> <p><u>Terrys Creek Sewerage Works</u> It was noted the works are nearly complete and have resulted in a minimum of damage to the local area.</p> <p><u>Mapping of bushland</u> This item is to be retained on the agenda for regular discussion.</p> <p>The mapping process will also be discussed as part of the biodiversity plan.</p> <p><u>Companion Animal legislation</u> This item was raised at the November 2014 meeting</p> <p>Next Meeting Will be held on 18 May 2015 Level 5 Civic Centre</p>	<p>The information was noted</p> <p>The planting and removal of inappropriate planting is to be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>This item is to be retained on the agenda.</p> <p>A Council ranger will be asked to address the committee in relation to the Companion Animal legislation.</p>	