

Subject:	Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee – Minutes of Meeting
File No:	COR2010/56/1
Document Ref:	D15/50316
Date and Venue:	Monday 18 th May 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:	Tatjana Domazet - Acting Group Manager – Community Life
Circulation:	Councillor Information Bulletin

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		Sandra Payne	Coordinator Bushcare Volunteers	City of Ryde
		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 represented by Cathy Merchant	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
Tom Axford	Urban Forest Officer	City of Ryde
Werner Klarenear	Resident an Volunteer	Brush Farm Bushcare
Eric Poulos	Resident	
Robert Mezzatesta	Consultant	Eco Logical Australia

Details**Responsibility and Date****Action**

Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
1. Welcome by the Chair, Clr Pendleton The attendees and apologies are as per above.	Noted	

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<p>2. Introduction of Robert Mezzatesta from Eco Logical Australia – update on Biodiversity Plan</p> <p>Eco Logical is a national company with a staff of approx. 140 which has been in operation for 12 years. The company provides ecological assessments in the fields of environmental planning, bush fire, cultural heritage, flora and fauna reports.</p> <p>Robert previously worked at NPWS and has degrees in relevant fields. The company has been engaged by a number of local councils including Parramatta, Blacktown, Warringah and Strathfield to undertake similar projects.</p> <p>He advised the Biodiversity Plan being undertaken for COR will provide a framework for Council to use in setting its strategic direction with regard to reserves and other lands in the LGA.</p> <p>The Plan will provide information regarding biodiversity, prioritisation of areas for management and action and implementation plans for the next five years. It will enable Council to examine funding and where to focus management priority.</p> <p>It is not designed to be a detailed plan for specific areas but will provide direction for targeted biodiversity.</p> <p><u>Methodology</u></p> <p>A review of information and specific data which is already available will be examined. Gaps in the assessment of biodiversity will be sought out.</p> <p>The major threats to biodiversity and its management will be identified. This information will then be used to form strategies and actions to form a workable plan.</p> <p>The data review and desktop audit is being undertaken at present. A conservation assessment identifying items of conservation significance is also underway.</p> <p>All work should be finalised by September.</p> <p>Input from relevant groups including this committee will be sought.</p> <p>Cathy Merchant asked how the suite of criteria used is validated. Response was that a predetermined matrix weighting system is used.</p> <p>Sydney Metropolitan Mapping is used and cross validation with other details provided is also taken into account. It was noted that some flora and fauna studies are still not on ATLAS.</p> <p>Climate change could be added as a criteria for consideration.</p> <p>As lots of areas fall along creeklines, it is easy to include the climate change issue.</p>	<p>Meeting with members of Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee and other interested persons to be held at 4pm on Monday 1st June.</p> <p>Separate notification is to be forwarded regarding this meeting.</p>	

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Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
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<p>3. Presentation by Tom Axford – City of Ryde Senior Urban Forest Officer</p> <p>Tom Axford provided information regarding Council's Urban Forest Policy and commonly asked questions in the community</p> <p>He advised that the DCP for Urban Forest relates to private property – not Council owned or controlled sites.</p> <p>The Urban Forest Policy is broad in its advice.</p> <p>Council has a street tree masterplan which aims to put more trees into streets.</p> <p>Council now undertakes street planting on a whole street basis rather than piecemeal with one property at a time.</p> <p>It was noted that Ryde is an old area and that some older trees will need to be managed in the future.</p> <p>The aim at present is to maintain rather than remove street trees.</p> <p>The various plans relating to street trees and trees on private property have been revised to make them user friendly.</p> <p>There is a management system for the 24,000 trees in the local area.</p> <p>Council has set a target of an increase of 15% in canopy cover by 2030.</p> <p>At present, nearly 40% of Ryde's 40sqkm is covered in canopy of 3m or greater.</p> <p>60% of this canopy occurs on private land.</p> <p>26 % is either Council street trees or parks.</p> <p>15 % is found in the national parks.</p> <p>The pressure on the urban forest is well known. 1382 new parcels of land have been created in the LGA</p> <p>There is a lack of incentive for people to maintain existing tree cover when new developments proceed.</p> <p>The cost benefit of tree canopy is not understood nor appreciated.</p> <p>The 10/50 legislation is not helpful in the fight to retain trees.</p> <p>A further review of the DCP is being undertaken.</p> <p>A community education programme is proposed.</p> <p>Resident incentives and the provision of funding to replace trees on Council land is required.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Plan will link in with the current DCP and LEP</p> <p>Hunters Hill and Lane Cove Councils are recategorising land in bushfire areas to remove a lot of properties from being subject to the 10/50 legislation.</p>	<p>The information was noted.</p> <p>The inclusion of updates regarding the 10/50 legislation is to be a standing item on the agenda</p> <p>This Committee to be provided with updated on the review of the relevant DCP</p> <p>Future LiDar reports showing tree canopy cover in Ryde are to be brought to this Committee when received by Council.</p>	
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<p>Address by Eric Poulos – 63 Monash Road Gladesville</p> <p>Mr Poulos addressed the committee regarding the recent removal of a large tree from his neighbour’s property on 2nd March 2015.</p> <p>The tree was an 80 year old Tallowood which provided habitat for kookaburras, owls, bees and possums.</p> <p>Mr Poulos advised that due to the current provisions of the DCP the tree could be removed without application or any notification to him.</p> <p>Previously neighbours had to be advised if such a tree was to be removed but under the current DCP this is not necessary.</p> <p>Mr Poulos outlined the measures taken by him once he was advised that the tree was being removed.</p> <p>He contacted Council who attended the site within twenty minutes but due to the tree being located within 3m of the garage, no permission was required for its removal.</p> <p>This is in stark contrast to an application to remove the tree in 2006 when under the then rules, the removal of the tree was not permitted.</p> <p>Mr Poulos is asking for a review of the DCP and that the rule which allows trees within 3m of a building to be removed be revised to state that the building cannot be under 20m2 or an ancillary building.</p> <p>This would be in line with regulations at Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and Ku ring gai Councils.</p> <p>The following suggestions by Mr Poulos are to be considered when the review of the DCP is undertaken.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. all trees which are sought to be removed must be subject to a DA or permit 2. All requests for removal of old growth or native trees must be assessed by Council on a case by case basis. 3. Neighbours and other interested parties to be consulted in the case of requests to remove old growth trees <p>For trees to be removed under the 3m from a building rule, the building must be a house, not an ancillary building.</p>	<p>The information was noted and included as part of the review process.</p>	

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<p>4. Bidding process for Natural Areas Projects</p> <p>Tatjana explained the process for requesting funding from Council for items no included in the budget.</p> <p>The majority of funding available in the Community Life budget is earmarked for operational expenses with little opportunity to increase the amount available.</p> <p>There is a bidding process however for capital and non-capital items which are one off items. These items are subject to an annual bidding process.</p> <p>A business case needs to be made in November seeking funding which if successful will not be available until the following July.</p>	<p>The information was noted.</p>	
<p>5. Minutes of the previous meeting</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 9th February 2015 were noted.</p>	<p>The minutes of the meeting dated 9th February 2015, were adopted.</p>	
<p>6. Actions arising from the previous minutes</p> <p><u>Spring Garden Competition 2015</u></p> <p>Sandra advised that in 2015 a new category “Native and habitat friendly garden” will be added to the Spring Garden Competition.</p> <p><u>Presentation of Volunteer Certificate</u></p> <p>Councillor Pendleton presented Cathy Merchant with a certificate in recognition of her work as a volunteer.</p>	<p>Committee members are encouraged to promote the existence of the new category.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	

