

Subject:	Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee – Minutes of Meeting
File No:	COR2010/56/1
Document Ref:	D16/142447
Venue:	Meeting Room, Level 1A, 1 Pope St, Ryde
Date:	17 th October 2016
Time:	6.00pm Started at:6.00 Closed at: 7.30pm
Chair:	Councillor Denise Pendleton
Meeting Support (MS):	Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors
Staff Convenor:	Sandra Payne - Natural Areas Coordinator
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 Jane Stott	Chairperson	City of Ryde
x		Councillor Denise Pendleton	Delegate	City of Ryde
x		Councillor Terry Perram	Delegate	City of Ryde
x		Libby Lawson	Bushcare representative	East 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	
x		Simone McGinley	Community Representative	Central Ward volunteer

City of Ryde Staff and Bushcare Volunteers

		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		Linda Smith	EA to the Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde
x		Sean Simpson	Work experience student	City of Ryde
x		Werner Klarenaar	Bushcare Volunteer	City of Ryde Bushcare
x		Cathy Merchant	Bushcare Volunteer	City of Ryde Bushcare

Details		Action	Responsibility and Date
1.	<p>Welcome by the Acting Chair, Cllr Denise Pendleton</p> <p>The attendees and apologies as above were noted.</p> <p>Cllr Pendleton welcomed all present and noted the apology of Cllr Stott who is the new Chair of this committee.</p>	Noted	
2.	<p>Adoption of Previous Minutes – 18th July 2016</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of 18th July 2016 were endorsed.</p>	Noted	
3.	<p>Action arising from the previous minutes</p> <p>Peter Brown spoke in relation to Item 5 of the Minutes from 18th July 2016 being “minutes of the previous meeting”.</p> <p>Mr Brown reiterated his dissatisfaction with the way in which his concerns regarding funding to Bushcare programs had been handled and minuted.</p> <p>He outlined again the history of this matter and concluded by stating that he did not wish to pursue the matter further and shook hands with Sam Cappelli</p> <p>Cllr Pendleton summarised the concerns of Mr Brown as follows: resourcing and budgets for Bushcare are important and need to be explicit.</p>	Noted	
4.	<p>Budget update – 2016/2017</p> <p>Sam Cappelli provided the following advice regarding the budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The base budget for Natural Areas in 2016/17 is \$521,000. This figure covers the cost of contractors who are engaged to work in 34 reserves. The reserves have varying budgets available. - An additional sum of \$144,000 is available for expenditure in relation to volunteers, control of feral animals and new fire breaks. - The above figures are exclusive of staff wages <p>Peter Brown asked if financial savings would be made if the work of contractors was carried out by Council employees.</p> <p>Sam Cappelli advised that staff will investigate options regarding the benefits which may be derived from the engagement of contractors vs staff or a combination of both. Information will be sought from adjoining Councils, in particular Willoughby and Lane Cove Councils regarding their practices.</p> <p>Peter Brown also asked if the agenda for the next meeting could include an item regarding the way contractors and volunteers work together.</p> <p>Due to time constraints this request will not be actioned, but staff advised that volunteers often meet informally with contractors on site.</p> <p>Councillor Pendleton asked about the budget for 2017/18.</p> <p>Sam advised that adoption of the Biodiversity Plan will assist Council with future financial planning.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Plan is on exhibition until 9th November</p>	<p>The information regarding the 2016/17 budget was noted.</p> <p>Staff to report to the next meeting of this committee regarding the use of a team of internal staff and contract labour to carry out bush regeneration works in reserves.</p>	Sam Cappelli

	<p>2016.</p> <p>The comments received will then be reviewed prior to report back to this group. The Plan will then be submitted to Council.</p> <p>Council Perram noted that bush regeneration results have always been difficult to measure in financial terms as specific outcomes are not set and stated. Outcomes assist with measuring what has been achieved. Sometimes the good work that is done is lost as it is not followed up with maintenance.</p>		
<p>5.</p>	<p>Sustainability update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) - Our Living River (b) City of Ryde Water Quality Monitoring Program (c) 100 Resilient Cities Program <p>Kylie provided the following update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (d) The PRCG had a presence with the City of Ryde Environment Unit at the recent Granny Smith Festival where the stall was well attended. <p>The PRCG is partnering with the EPA and Council Compliance and Environmental Health units to target 20 sites within Ryde to examine sediment and erosion control measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (e) Water quality monitoring program will soon recommence for 16/17. Project Officers will be investigating the three nominated PRCG swimming sites within Ryde on the Parramatta River seeking for potential future funding for testing as part of the Swimmable 2025 campaign. This to be determined by Council. <p>Contractors are to be engaged to carry out water quality monitoring on 5 major creeks within City of Ryde.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (f) Council under its Water Quality and Riparian Improvement project has commenced a Stormwater harvesting project at Bill Mitchell Park. The project will capture stormwater from a 41ha catchment to collect gross pollutants (trash) and will then be UV treated to improve water quality into the Parramatta River and provide irrigation to the sports field. (g) Sam Cappelli is the Ambassador from Council on the international project 100 Resilient Cities. This project collaborates with councils across all of Sydney to seek to build resilience strategies for Climate Change. Council is providing feedback through this participation to assist on the newly developed the Northern District Plan. <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Council recently held the waste to art project – SWAP, which was very successful.</p> <p>A bushfire mapping update is expected to be completed by the end of the financial year. This will contribute to the Climate Mapping Council will be undertaking this year.</p> <p>\$400,000 has received confirmation from the RMS to carry out foreshore erosion works in the vicinity of the Concord</p>	<p>The information was noted.</p>	

	<p>Sailing Club. Works will commence this year to be completed by end of financial year in 2018. This will be a collaborative effort with Council, Transport NSW and the RMS.</p> <p>A \$700,000 solar project at the RALC will soon be completed by Council. This will be the largest solar project undertaken in Ryde and assist to considerably reduce energy consumption for this site.</p> <p>Other solar projects are also being investigated for the future and follow on from the newly completed North Ryde library solar project.</p> <p>Cathy Merchant advised that she is the "turtle ambassador" for the Our Living River Project. November is "turtle month" and she is looking at organising a turtle workshop at Field of Mars Reserve.</p>																																														
6.	<p>Flora and Fauna update</p> <p>The report by the consultants on the first round of the spring study is expected by the end of November 2016.</p> <p>Committee members were reminded of the bird count which is being held on the weekend of 22nd and 23rd October 2016.</p> <p>When a recent bird count was conducted at the Field of Mars, it was encouraging that 10 native bird species not identified in the 2016 study were seen</p> <p>Birds identified included :</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="212 1037 863 1834"> <tr><td>Australian Brush-turkey</td><td>New Holland Honeyeater</td></tr> <tr><td>Australian Magpie</td><td>Noisy Miner</td></tr> <tr><td>Australian White Ibis</td><td>Pacific Black Duck</td></tr> <tr><td>Australian Wood Duck</td><td>Pied Currawong</td></tr> <tr><td>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</td><td>Rainbow Lorikeet</td></tr> <tr><td>Black-faced Monarch</td><td>Red Wattlebird</td></tr> <tr><td>Brown Gerygone</td><td>Red-browed Finch</td></tr> <tr><td>Brown Thornbill</td><td>Red-whiskered Bulbul</td></tr> <tr><td>Channel-billed Cuckoo</td><td>Rufous Fantail</td></tr> <tr><td>Chestnut Teal</td><td>Rufous Whistler</td></tr> <tr><td>Crimson Rosella</td><td>Sacred Kingfisher</td></tr> <tr><td>Eastern Koel</td><td>Shining Bronze-Cuckoo</td></tr> <tr><td>Eastern Spinebill</td><td>Silvereye</td></tr> <tr><td>Eastern Whipbird</td><td>Spotted Pardalote</td></tr> <tr><td>Eastern Yellow Robin</td><td>Striated Thornbill</td></tr> <tr><td>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</td><td>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</td></tr> <tr><td>Grey Butcherbird</td><td>Superb Fairy-wren</td></tr> <tr><td>Grey Fantail</td><td>Variiegated Fairy-wren</td></tr> <tr><td>Laughing Kookaburra</td><td>White-browed Scrubwren</td></tr> <tr><td>Leaden Flycatcher</td><td>White-throated Treecreeper</td></tr> <tr><td>Little Corella</td><td>Yellow Thornbill</td></tr> <tr><td>Magpie-lark</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Australian Brush-turkey	New Holland Honeyeater	Australian Magpie	Noisy Miner	Australian White Ibis	Pacific Black Duck	Australian Wood Duck	Pied Currawong	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Rainbow Lorikeet	Black-faced Monarch	Red Wattlebird	Brown Gerygone	Red-browed Finch	Brown Thornbill	Red-whiskered Bulbul	Channel-billed Cuckoo	Rufous Fantail	Chestnut Teal	Rufous Whistler	Crimson Rosella	Sacred Kingfisher	Eastern Koel	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Eastern Spinebill	Silvereye	Eastern Whipbird	Spotted Pardalote	Eastern Yellow Robin	Striated Thornbill	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Grey Butcherbird	Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Fantail	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Laughing Kookaburra	White-browed Scrubwren	Leaden Flycatcher	White-throated Treecreeper	Little Corella	Yellow Thornbill	Magpie-lark		The information was noted.	
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7.	<p>Feral animal control program update.</p> <p>Sandra advised that foxes have been sighted in a few locations around Pembroke Park and the Field of Mars but unfortunately the sightings have been in areas where it is not</p>	<p>The information was noted.</p> <p>An item is to be placed in the local</p>																																													

	<p>possible for the contractors to shoot.</p> <p>The rabbit baiting program has been working and measurable results are expected in the next couple of months.</p> <p>A BEAC Committee member commented that cats and myna birds continue to be a problem for native animals.</p> <p>Simone mentioned the large number of rabbits at Macquarie University.</p> <p>Staff advised that Local Land Services can be contacted regarding this matter. Staff will also make contact with a member of staff at the university who may be able to take action with regard to this issue.</p>	<p>media regarding the damage caused by cats and and seeking public assistance</p> <p>Other Councils are to be contacted re the public education programs they run with regard to cat control.</p> <p>Council staff to contact Macquarie University staff re rabbit population at the university.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>General Business</p> <p><u>Pamela Reeves – Solar Panels</u></p> <p>Pam advised she will forward information to committee members regarding an event to be held at Macquarie University on solar power.</p> <p><u>Bev Debrincat – Biodiversity Plan</u></p> <p>Bev noted that Council has plans of management for many of its reserves but noted that the biodiversity plan relies on plans of management being available for reserves. Bev will raise the need for additional plans in her submission regarding the biodiversity plan.</p> <p><u>Clr Perram – Home Waste and Sustainability Program</u></p> <p>Clr Perram commended staff on the above program. He particularly mentioned the good work of Elizabeth Noble who visited his home to undertake the audit.</p> <p><u>Libby Lawson – Kittys Creek</u></p> <p>Libby mentioned that the water in Kittys Creek near Pittwater Road will be tested to see how brackish it and see if will be possible to restore the bushland in the area which is currently very weedy.</p> <p><u>Jill Hartley – Biodiversity Plan and Chemical cleanup</u></p> <p>Jill sought advice as to whether Lane Cove Council had undertaken a plan similar to council's biodiversity plan.</p> <p>Jill asked whether Council can arrange for more chemical clean ups in the local area. Staff will investigate with EPA.</p> <p>It was noted that Council is strongly supporting the Garage Sale Trail weekend to be held on 22nd October 2016.</p> <p>Sandra was congratulated on the noxious weed stall she held at the Granny Smith Festival.</p> <p><u>Cathy Merchant – Crown Lands Act</u></p> <p>Cathy advised that the above Act has been under review with the proposed changes to be announced soon.</p> <p><u>Simone McGinley – recycling</u></p>	<p>The information was noted.</p> <p>The comments of Clr Perram to be passed to Elizabeth Noble</p> <p>This matter will be reported on at the next meeting</p>	

	<p>Simone noted that the recycling facility at Macquarie University was full.</p> <p>Staff advised that since the closure of the Civic Centre, other sites are being sought for use for the collection of recyclables.</p> <p>Simone asked that an education program – flyers etc, be provided to local strata groups to highlight the correct procedures for the disposal of organic waste in bushland areas near strata units. She noted the tendency to dump grass clippings, plant items or discard vegetation in and near bushcare sites. She noted the need for signs, flyers etc to be multilingual.</p> <p><u>Clr Pendleton – actions arising</u></p> <p>Councillor Pendleton sought advice from the committee regarding the items from the “actions arising list” which it would like listed on the next agenda.</p> <p>The committee nominated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recycling of items including batteries, light, plastic bags, fluorescent globes and food scraps. 2. Climate change – update to committee on the climate actions and impending District Plan being prepared by the Greater Sydney Commission (when available). 	<p>Staff will speak with contractors regarding more regular collection of recyclables.</p> <p>Staff to investigate the creation of literature to be distributed to strata groups and others.</p> <p>These items to be listed on the agenda for the next meeting</p>	
9.	<p>Next Meeting :</p> <p>Dates for 2017 are as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 13th February • Monday 8th May • Monday 14th August <p>The Chair thanked the committee for its work and noted her hope that the committee would continue even if Council was amalgamated.</p>	<p>The information was noted.</p>	