

Subject:	Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee – Minutes of Meeting	
File No:	COR2010/56/1	
Document Ref:	D16/22395	
Venue:	Meeting Room 1, Level 5, Civic Centre	
Date:	8 th February 2016	
Time:	6.00pm Started at:6.00 Closed at: 8.10pm	
Chair:	Councillor Denise Pendleton	
Meeting Support (MS):	Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors	
Staff Convenor:	Sandra Payne Acting Section Manager – Natural Areas and Urban Forest	
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		Sam Cappelli	Manager - Environment Health and Building	City of Ryde
x		Sandra Payne	Acting Section Manager – Natural Areas and Urban Forest	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 McMcGinley	Community Representative	Central Ward volunteer

Name	Position Title	Organisation	
Linda Smith	EA to the Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde	
Denise Torres	Waste Project Coordinator	City of Ryde	
Lara Dominish	Senior Strategic Planner	City of Ryde	
Dyalan Govender	Acting Manager – Strategic City	City of Ryde	
Paul Chidzero	Manager Community Services	City of Ryde	
Dave Ngeru	Senior Coordinator Ranger and Parking Services	City of Ryde	
Wies Schuiringa		Ryde Gladesville Climate Change Group	
Details		Action	Responsibility and Date
1.	<p>Welcome by the Chair, Clr Pendleton</p> <p>The attendees and apologies are as per above.</p>	Noted	
2.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 16th November 2015 are to be resent to Committee members for their information. Note: Minutes were previously sent via email on 11th December to all Committee members.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2015 will be endorsed at the next meeting.</p>	The information was noted.	
3.	<p>Actions Arising from previous minutes and standing items</p> <p><u>Endorsement of new committee member – Simone McGinley</u></p> <p>Council has endorsed the nomination of Simone McGinley to this committee.</p> <p>As a result, Simone was welcomed to her first meeting as a Community Representative.</p> <p><u>DCP – Part 9.5 Tree Preservation on exhibition</u></p> <p>This matter came before this committee in November 2015 and was considered by Council in December 2015.</p> <p>Submissions to the draft policy close on 26th February 2016.</p> <p>It was noted that the main changes proposed to the DCP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision to allow pruning of 10% of tree canopy - No works to be undertaken in the structural root zone - The inclusion of 4 additional exempt tree species - The current rule regarding permission for tree removal near homes to be increased from 3m to 4m - The introduction of assessment criteria which can 	<p>The information was noted</p> <p>The Committee noted the comments provided by staff.</p> <p>Members of the committee are encouraged to make submissions to Council even if they have previously done so.</p> <p>Council staff are to ensure that formal submissions previously received are incorporated in the report to Council at the close of the submission period.</p>	

<p>be used by proponents so they understand the issues tree officers will be looking at.</p> <p>It was noted that the requirement for a replacement tree to be planted for each tree removed will remain.</p> <p>It was suggested by the committee that the number of existing trees not being removed should be part of the criteria when considering if replacement trees are required. The committee noted that developers who tend to clear blocks of all vegetation remain a major concern.</p> <p>Issues regarding clearing of land for bushfire protection also remain.</p> <p>When the submission period ends, the matter will go back to Council.</p> <p><u>10/50 update to Council's website</u></p> <p>Council's website has been updated to reflect the current information available on this matter.</p> <p>The website attempts to set out the relevant information as clearly as possible.</p> <p>The state government position has not altered significantly since the last meeting of this committee.</p> <p>Council has not been advised of any instances of excessive clearing following the 10/50 legislation.</p> <p><u>Draft Darvall and Outlook Parks Planting Code</u></p> <p>David Thomas expressed concern regarding the species of planting that is occurring in Darvall Park</p> <p>He requested that the Bushcare group responsible for work in Darvall Park be advised of appropriate areas to be worked on and also suitable species which should be planted in the area.</p> <p>The list of species currently provided in the draft planting code could be more comprehensive.</p> <p><u>Biodiversity Plan</u></p> <p>The draft biodiversity plan to be released in March will provide a comprehensive framework that will assist in the management, enhancement and protection of natural areas and biodiversity across Ryde.</p> <p>It is hoped the biodiversity plan will prioritise areas requiring attention and the identify funds required to carry out the necessary works.</p> <p>The biodiversity plan will examine linking corridors where possible.</p> <p>It was noted that Ryde Hospital, National Park areas and other state government and privately controlled lands have not been considered in the biodiversity plan.</p> <p>The draft biodiversity plan is expected by 29th February 2016.</p>	<p>The information was noted.</p> <p>Sandra advised that feedback from the Darvall Park Bushcare volunteers should be available by the end of the week.</p> <p>Bushcare volunteers are to be invited to the March meeting where the Biodiversity Plan will be considered.</p> <p>It is hoped that meeting these volunteers will strengthen the links between these groups and Council.</p> <p>Meeting to consider the draft biodiversity plan is expected to be held on 21st March 2016</p> <p>Autumn results and final results including the autumn and spring</p>	
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<p>The meeting to consider the draft report is proposed to be held on 21st March 2016.</p> <p><u>Flora and Fauna Studies 2016</u></p> <p>A rolling program over the next three years in Autumn and Spring will assess flora and fauna in natural areas and compare the results with studies undertaken from 2006-2008.</p> <p>At the end of the assessment period, it is hoped that all 67 reserves with natural areas will have been studied.</p> <p>Currently 34 of these 67 are undergoing bush regeneration by contractors.</p> <p>There are 27 Bushcare sites, maintained by Bushcare volunteers and supported by Council.</p> <p><u>Climate Change Response – mitigation and renewable energy targets</u></p> <p>Justin asked if climate change impacts will be considered in Ryde Biodiversity Plan being prepared by Council.</p> <p>Sam advised not directly but certainly indirectly throughout the Plan.</p> <p>Officers were requested to examine heat island mapping similar to that carried out by Penrith Council.</p> <p>Council does not have a set a renewable energy target and is not intending to do so at this stage until the State Government provides some clear direction on this.</p> <p>Council will however continue to focus its endeavours on mitigation and build resilience across its decision making and programs all to be underpinned by its outcomes based framework.</p> <p>The Cogeneration plant at the RALC and the use of solar HWS's as well as LED lighting upgrades across a number of facilities has achieved significant reductions in energy consumption over the past ten years.</p> <p>Solar panels were installed as part of the recent upgrade to North Ryde Library and a number of other facilities.</p> <p>Council also supports corporate sustainability through the recommendations it makes to business re transport, energy and water consumption.</p> <p>Sam Cappelli advised that the greenhouse gas reduction plan is used to support business cases for projects that will reduce its carbon footprint.</p> <p>The committee was advised that Council operation is using less energy today across all of its facilities than it did back in 2003/04 despite some significant growth over the years.</p> <p>The same with water consumption which is remarkable.</p> <p>More reductions are being planned.</p>	<p>studies to be presented to the Committee</p> <p>The information was noted.</p> <p>Climate Change Response Actions to remain a standing item for future meetings.</p>	
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<p>4.</p>	<p>General Business</p> <p><u>Companion Animals legislation</u></p> <p>Council is constrained in the actions it can take by the companion animal act.</p> <p>In bushland areas, even if a suitable sign is erected, Council is not able to impound dogs or cats unless they are going to attack a person or animal other than vermin</p> <p>Council does not trap cats.</p> <p>The introduction of a cat curfew is being considered by the State Government</p> <p>Feral cats are an issue in the local area especially near Ivanhoe Estate</p> <p>National Parks have previously issued letters advising that cats would be impounded if found in national parks.</p> <p><u>Waste Action Update</u></p> <p>Denise Torres addressed the group re strategies for diverting waste from landfill. The Northern Sydney region has a target to reduce its waste to landfill by 15% increasing to 40% in 7 years time. A community recycling station is to be established at Artarmon. It has been made possible by a \$150,000 grant from NSROC The centre is expected to open in July and will be free to use. Business and residents will be able to use the service which will accept paints, cooking oils, motor oils, gas cylinders, tvs, computers etc. It will accept a wide variety of items and will be open to the public for extended hours. Council continues to accept certain items for recycling at the Civic Centre, Macquarie Uni and West Ryde Library. Additional sites such as TAFEs, Eastwood, and other libraries are being investigated.</p> <p><u>Natural Areas – Acting staff arrangements</u></p> <p>Sam advised that Nicola Booth has accepted a position with National Parks and Wildlife.</p> <p>Sandra Payne is acting in the position of Acting Section Manager – Natural Areas and Urban Forest</p> <p><u>Project Updates</u></p> <p>(a) Biodiversity Plan</p> <p>See above Item 3</p> <p>(b) Flora and Fauna study</p> <p>See above Item 3</p>	<p>Council will be undertaking a letter box drop in the Blue Gum Drive area soon reminding pet owners of their obligations.</p> <p>An education program re responsible ownership for residents living near bushland, Kitty’s Creek, Field of Mars etc will be considered.</p> <p>A meeting will be held between Paul, David, Sam and Sandra to consider ways forward. Update next meeting</p> <p>The information was noted</p> <p>A further update to be provided at the 18th July meeting.</p> <p>The information was noted. The Committee asked that its thanks be passed to Nicola for her work with the group.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>	
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<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Other matters</u></p> <p><u>Council clean up – residential</u></p> <p>A request was made for a report regarding the amount of rubbish collected since the introduction of bookings for residential clean ups.</p> <p>It was noted that the scrap metal, recyclables are all taken to the tip now whereas once they were often collected unofficially prior to Council clean-up day.</p> <p><u>Council budget – Peter Brown</u></p> <p>Mr Brown met with Cllr Pendleton and Sam Cappelli and Sandra Payne to discuss funding available for bush regeneration works, support of bushcare groups and for work resulting from actions in the biodiversity plan.</p> <p>He believes the plan will provide information as to how Council can get the best value for money from its expenditure.</p> <p><u>Supervision of contractors re bush regeneration</u></p> <p>This matter had been canvassed at the November meeting. Bushcare volunteers are encouraged to contact Council with their comments re contractors.</p> <p>It was noted that some areas are so large that it is difficult to maintain them even after weed removal is carried out.</p> <p><u>Stormwater at Portius Park</u></p> <p>Libby Lawson noted the stormwater issue in Portius Park below Melba Drive.</p> <p>The pipe work has been damaged and is not functioning, causing problems with erosion and weed infestation in the centre of the Portius Park Bushcare site.</p> <p>Council has reviewed this issue in the past but action is yet to be undertaken</p> <p><u>Presentation re solar panels</u></p> <p>Justin gave a short presentation of a longer brief he had presented on 29th January re community led solar panels targeting business and the possibility of conducting a joint pilot project between Council and private funding in the Macquarie Park area.</p> <p>The project would be self-funding and revenue neutral.</p> <p><u>Habitat plant species</u></p> <p>Bev advised that the Habitat provides native plants to people and promotes their use in residential gardens.</p> <p>She advised that Council’s plant list shows Jacarandas as native which they are not.</p> <p>It was also noted that developers often plant very poor species in new and large developments. List to choose from is said to be limited.</p>	<p>An update on the amount of rubbish collected and a comparison with previous rates is to be provided at the 18th July meeting.</p> <p>The information was noted.</p> <p>Council staff to increase liaison with volunteers so they are aware of issues as they arise.</p> <p>Improved monitoring of areas that have undergone regeneration is to be undertaken.</p> <p>Sam to follow up this matter and report to the next meeting</p> <p>Sam Cappelli advised that having heard the entire brief that the matter should be brought to the attention of NSROC in a more regional approach. Sam to approach NSROC EO - for Justin and Pamela to present initiative to the next NSROC Professional Officers Group Meeting</p> <p>Sam to provide the planting lists provided to DA applicants, public domain spaces, bush regeneration etc to the next meeting after determining the way in which the lists are compiled and conditions of consent applied. Specific advice re large developments to be provided.</p>	
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6.	<p>Next Meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Extraordinary meeting with a tentative date of 21st March 2016 for presentation of the draft Biodiversity Plan and for information session with Bush Care Volunteers2. Next scheduled meeting of BEAC 16TH May 2016 <p>Venue to be confirmed</p>	The information was noted.	