

<b>Subject:</b>	Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee – Minutes of Meeting
<b>File No:</b>	COR2010/56/1
<b>Document Ref:</b>	D16/95786
<b>Venue:</b>	Meeting Room 1, Level 5, Civic Centre
<b>Date:</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
<b>Time:</b>	6.00pm                      Started at:6.00      Closed at: 8.15pm
<b>Chair:</b>	Councillor Denise Pendleton
<b>Meeting Support (MS):</b>	Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors
<b>Staff Convenor:</b>	Sandra Payne - Natural Areas Coordinator
<b>Circulation:</b>	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		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	Terry Hile	Bushcare Supervisor	City of Ryde Bushcare
x	John Boyle	Bushcare Volunteer	City of Ryde Bushcare
x	Frank Breen	Bushcare Volunteer	City of Ryde Bushcare
x	Steve Holmes	Bushcare Volunteer	City of Ryde Bushcare
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><b>Welcome by the Chair, Cllr Denise Pendleton</b></p> <p>The attendees and apologies as above were noted.</p>	Noted	
2. and 3.	<p><b>Presentation of Draft Biodiversity Plan by Ecological Australia – Robert Mezzatesta and discussion and Presentation of Flora and Fauna Study autumn results by Anne Clements and Associates</b></p> <p>Mr Mezzatesta presented a powerpoint overview of work on the draft Biodiversity Plan (attached to these minutes).</p> <p>Anne Clements and Associates presented a powerpoint overview of the Autumn findings of the Flora and Fauna Study</p> <p>At the conclusion of the presentations, committee members were invited to ask questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. (To Anne Clements Associates) Will the data being collected by the University of Sydney regarding black cockatoos in the area be included in the study ? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes. Used as subsidiary information to support audit.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. (To Anne Clements Associates) Was the reduction in exotic species measured on a quadrat by quadrat basis? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes, just the quadrat areas, not the whole park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. (To Anne Clements Associates) How were the quadrat locations chosen? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The quadrats were sited in locations back in 2006 that would be representative of the vegetation types in the parks</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. (To Ecological Australia) Given the Biodiversity report is based on a desktop audit, was the structure of each park measured ie weeds examined and was information about the parks obtained from Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes, Council provided all available data and information about the reserves to the consultant.</li> <li>- The consultant was only able to use data that is consistent across the whole of the LGA for comparison.</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. (To Ecological Australia) Why was Meadowbank Park not included initially and why hasn't it been updated since the last presentation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Probably because the boundaries of the polygon weren't named. The Meadowbank Park Bushcare site will be included following the receipt of public submissions after the exhibition period once all submissions received and collated. Council will work with the Consultant to</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	The information was noted and Mr Mezzatesta and Anne Clements & Associates were thanked for their presentation.	

	<p>incorporate those determined to be added.</p> <p>6. (To Ecological Australia) Why do some Council reserves close to state government land (e.g. Ryde Hospital) have different rankings? Is the fact it is a reserve making a difference to the ranking?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (To Ecological Australia) Reserves can obtain an extra 'point' with the community criteria because they have a Bushcare group. There could have been threatened species in the NSW Atlas of Wildlife that occur in one site but not the other.</li> </ul> <p>7. (To Ecological Australia) If adjoining parcels of land are less than 1 ha, would they score as highly? For example Pages Creek is made up of a composite of smaller reserves. They wouldn't achieve 1 point. We are unsure the methodology used to prioritise the parks is correct.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a point is scored for existing on a corridor or adjoining area. To maintain integrity of scoring, Pages Creek and Meadowbank Park have been noted for consideration during consultation period for likely inclusion in final Plan</li> </ul> <p>8. (To Ecological Australia) Pages Creek is valuable but doesn't appear as such. Kitty's Creek was also mentioned as a possible corridor. Results could be skewed by pre-determined corridors. 3 corridors near Macquarie Uni have been included while Pages Creek has been missed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Questions such as those asked in relation to Meadowbank Park, Kitty's Creek and Pages Creek should be raised during the public exhibition submission period and lodging formally will assist the process. As referred to earlier, this will maintain the integrity of the current scoring criteria. The authors have also noted that the questions raised at this meeting need to be addressed prior to the final report being compiled.</li> <li>- The width of the line on the map is indicative of the location of the corridor, not the actual width of the corridor</li> </ul> <p>9. (To Ecological Australia) The draft document is an excellent bit of work, but has consultation been undertaken with other adjoining landholders?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To date only internal stakeholders and BEAC have been consulted. There are a number of actions in the document involving working together with adjoining land owners, especially in relation to corridors.</li> </ul> <p>10. (To Anne Clements and Associates) It was noted that the previous Flora and Fauna study may have also used historic data and other bird species lists. This year the same methodology was used. In the 2006 survey there seems to be a large number of bird species consistent across the 4 parks that you wouldn't necessarily expect</p>		
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	<p>to be there (e.g. grey goshawk at each park)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bird numbers are expected to rise in Spring survey.</li> </ul> <p>11. The committee noted that a swamp wallaby had been sighted in the vicinity of the lower part of Kittys Creek. Also a powerful owl and numerous frogs have been sighted in that area. It was noted that Kittys Creek, including Portius Park are scheduled for examination next year.</p> <p>12. Anne Clements Associates- requested that committee members forward them photos of fungi and orchids in local habitats.</p> <p>13. (To Ecological Australia) The biodiversity study mentions sea level rise. Are there any results expected to change over time given the effects of global warming?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This would be hard to measure given the relatively short time frame involved. Applying temperature to this process would be difficult</li> </ul> <p>14. (To Ecological Australia) Many of the targets mention a "measurable increase" but not a number. Will they be firmed up to a number?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some do have a number, some haven't. It could be onerous for the period of time that plan is being run. It is a matter of resourcing. The main thing is that the targets are achievable and the actions can be implemented.</li> </ul> <p>15. (To Ecological Australia) The urban waterways targets could be very costly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Softer engineering approaches are considered in our project planning within Council to strengthen water quality outcomes. The Environment Unit in conjunction with engineers currently work together and are responsive to the actions in the document, as discussed during our internal stakeholder meetings.</li> </ul> <p>16. (To Ecological Australia) It was noted that the document would be comprehensively reviewed by Council to ensure tracking for delivery.</p> <p><u>Next steps</u></p> <p>The authors of both reports will take into consideration the concerns raised regarding Pages Creek and Meadowbank Park. Council have advised the formal submission should and is encouraged during the public exhibition period to ensure inclusion for consideration.</p> <p>A report will be submitted to Council in late August / early September seeking permission to advertise the plan for 28 days.</p> <p>Submissions will be reviewed at the end of the 28 day period and findings will be communicated to the Committee and will be discussed with the Consultant for inclusion. Final changes will be resubmitted to Council for finalisation of the document in October.</p>	<p>Next steps Noted</p>	
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	<p>The final document will assist to inform the operational budget of Council going forward into the future for works.</p> <p>If all plans are implemented, then an additional \$700,000 will be required over 5 years on top of the existing natural areas budget.</p> <p>A major review of the document will be undertaken after five years.</p> <p>The Flora and Fauna report will have the spring component completed in October and will be presented to Council in November.</p>		
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<p><b>Additional item</b></p>	<p><b>Recommendations from this committee to a future Council entity</b></p> <p>Councillor Pendleton asked for feedback, comment or advice this committee would like to pass to a future entity of Council.</p> <p>The committee noted that the information provided by guest speakers was considered valuable in keeping the committee abreast of Council actions.</p> <p>It was noted that there had been a significant increase in the level of interest shown by Council toward bushland management over the years.</p> <p>It would be a shame to lose the momentum which has been built over the term of the committee</p> <p>This committee would strongly advocate that its work continue in any future entity of Council.</p> <p>The expertise and momentum should continue.</p> <p>It is wonderful that the Biodiversity Plan is coming to fruition. It was just a pipe-dream at the beginning.</p> <p>Council now appreciates the work of Bushcare volunteers more than in previous years. The volunteer week event is a wonderful opportunity to meet volunteers from all different areas and celebrate their achievements.</p> <p>More monetary support by Council would assist the volunteers and others to more actively preserve bushland.</p> <p>Bushland needs to be recognised as an important asset and should be respected for all it provides.</p> <p>In 10 years Council has moved significantly in this area. It is not all doom and gloom. This issue of bushland management is an issue right across Sydney and Australia, not just a City of Ryde issue.</p> <p>This group would like more discussion about topics such as recycling, sustainability etc. These issues are considered important given the number of apartment blocks proposed, where food recycling and recycling of other items such as batteries etc are not easy. Could BEAC seek to incorporate some time each meeting to dedicate to sustainability matters not just bushland?</p> <p>An extra meeting may be required to discuss broader issues.</p> <p>The structure of the agenda could be looked at, eg- include other standing items.</p> <p>There has been an improvement in the way we communicate. We are around the table with staff and Councillors which is great.</p> <p>It was noted that the loss of bushland connectivity is another issue of importance. Areas of urban forest are lost due to development. New developments often clear all vegetation and the connectivity between pockets of bush is lost. We are looking after pockets, but connectivity is being lost.</p> <p>Any future meetings held between staff and members of the committee should be minuted.</p> <p>We look at what we are currently doing but could look at priority items – what can be done.</p>	<p>The various items raised were noted.</p> <p>Staff to compile and present list of recommended actions from meeting to any future merged entity.</p>	
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5.	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meetings</b> The Minutes from the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May were endorsed with the following amendments noted,</p> <p>There was a typo the '2015' budget should be amended to read '2016' budget.</p> <p>In item 2 – Biodiversity Plan- reference was made to the need to identify Meadowbank Park in the study and include it in the draft report.</p> <p>Peter Brown raised a question regarding the Minutes from the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 . A special meeting was held to discuss budgets and other items. Peter felt that minutes for this meeting should have been recorded. Sam indicated that the meeting was not a subcommittee meeting, but was a request for a meeting that Council honoured. Cllr Pendleton agreed that this term possibly came from her discussion with Mr Brown. Following discussion it was agreed to retain the minutes in their current form. Going forward all meetings should be minuted.</p> <p>There was a typo in the spelling of Simone McGinley in the table of attendees – to be rectified</p>	<p>Minutes 30 May 2016 adopted subject to listed changes and prior minutes of 16 November 2015 and 8 Feb 2016 were endorsed.</p> <p>That updates on Council budget be included as a standard item at all future meetings of BEAC</p>	
6.	<p><b>Actions Arising from previous minutes and standing items</b></p> <p>Peter Brown mentioned some correspondence he has received in relation to species lists, but this may be discussed next meeting.</p> <p>It was resolved to hold over discussion of these items due to the time.</p>	<p>The information was noted for discussion next meeting.</p>	
8.	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p><u>3 Brush Road Eastwood – land clearing</u></p> <p>Sam provided an update of the investigation into the unauthorised clearing on this site. It is in the hands of legal counsel. Evidence is being collected and information received. Council is looking at taking compliance and enforcement action and is considering the success of such action.</p> <p>The stumps of the trees are still in the ground. In relation to stabilisation it is agreed that machinery should not be permitted to access the site through the park. Council will continue to monitor the site whilst the investigation proceeds.</p> <p><u>Thanks to Chair and Committee</u></p> <p>Councillors Pendleton and Perram thanked all present for their work on the committee.</p> <p>Bev Debrincat thanked Cllrs Pendleton and Perram for their work with the committee.</p>	<p>The information was noted. And for update next meeting</p>	

	<p><u>Upcoming events</u></p> <p><b>Granny Smith Festival</b></p> <p>Council staff will be providing information re bush regeneration at the Festival</p> <p><b>Biodiversity Day and Threatened Species Day</b></p> <p>Staff are not aware of any action being taken by Council in relation to this event but there will be a Council presence at the Riverfest event to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016. Council can look into but presently have a full events load with current projects.</p> <p><b>World Environment Day</b></p> <p>This event was held at Darvall Park and was very successful. There were more than 530 registrations to the event day and over 400 people that enjoyed the guided walks. The day also hosted face painting, Council and Community Environmental Stalls, free BBQ, story telling, sustainability living advice and tree planting.</p> <p><b>Brush Farm Park</b></p> <p>The step upgrades at Rutledge St, below the Dog Club and at the John Street entrance are complete. The wayfinding signage has been installed and looks great. Sam Cappelli commented on the excellent work undertaken at Brush Farm Park and the current appearance of the park.</p> <p><b>Riverfest – 30 July</b></p> <p>Partnership event held in Ryde with the Parramatta River Catchment group to promote the 'Parramatta Swimmable 2025' campaign. The free family fun day will host football celebrities, kids activities, jumping castle, face painting, food stall. Free to attend.</p> <p><b>National Tree Day – 31<sup>st</sup> July</b></p> <p>An event will be held at Jim Walsh Park to mark National Tree Day from 10am-12noon. All are invited to attend and join the free bbq.</p>	<p>The past and upcoming events were noted.</p> <p>Information noted</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Next Meeting</b> – to be confirmed, pending amalgamation update</p>		