

<b>Subject:</b>	Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee – Minutes of Meeting
<b>File No:</b>	COR2010/56/1
<b>Document Ref:</b>	D16/71990
<b>Venue:</b>	Meeting Room 1, Level 5, Civic Centre
<b>Date:</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
<b>Time:</b>	6.00pm                      Started at:6.00      Closed at: 8.15pm
<b>Chair:</b>	Sam Cappelli
<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		Cathy Merchant	Bushcare volunteer	City of Ryde Bushcare
x		Marilyn Wise	Bushcare volunteer	City of Ryde Bushcare
x		Werner Klarenaar	Bushcare volunteer	City of Ryde Bushcare
x		John Boyle	Bushcare volunteer	City of Ryde Bushcare
x		Steve Holmes	Bushcare volunteer	City of Ryde Bushcare

Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
<p><b>1. Welcome by the Acting Chair, Sam Cappelli</b></p> <p>The attendees and apologies are as per above. The meeting agreed for Sam Cappelli to chair the meeting. Additional Bushcare attendees were invited to sit with the committee.</p>	Noted	
<p><b>2. &amp; 3. Presentation of Draft Biodiversity Plan by Ecological Australia – Robert Mezzatesta and discussion</b></p> <p>Mr Mezzatesta presented a powerpoint overview of work on the draft Plan (attached to these minutes).</p> <p>At the conclusion of the presentation, committee members were invited to ask questions.</p> <p><u>Cathy Merchant</u> asked the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the existing saltmarsh in the local area shown on the map?</li> </ol> <p>Response – Yes, but due to the scale of the map, it is difficult to discern this area clearly.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Were different weightings attached to the items of significance in the matrix shown?</li> </ol> <p>Response – All items were given equal weighting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Pages Creek Corridor – was that included in the weighting?</li> </ol> <p>Response – This corridor will be considered for inclusion</p> <p><u>Simone McGinley</u> asked the following question:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does a low priority ranking protect an area from clearing for future use for sporting purposes – eg at Meadowbank Park Bushcare site?</li> </ol> <p>Response: A report action is 'Endeavour to protect 100% of native vegetation.</p> <p>The Plan provides a mechanism to rank areas as to where money should be spent as it becomes available – eg in very high and high priority areas.</p> <p>The 30 current bush regeneration contracts are all areas which are deemed very high or high priority in the Plan.</p> <p><u>Simone McGinley</u> made the comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meadowbank Park should be included in the study. There is an active Bushcare group helping to regenerate remnant bushland in the park.</li> </ul> <p>Response: We will look at how it happened to be omitted from the study and acknowledge that it needs to be included.</p> <p>Miscellaneous questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is there a recommendation as to how to manage the threat posed to native areas by cats and also development?</li> </ul> <p>Response – As part of the actions suggested, the Plan looks at best management plans including pest control. The Plan enables programs to be explored.</p> <p>Currently existing plans of management for individual parks also look at pest control.</p> <p>Adoption of the Plan should ensure greater success for</p>	The information was noted and Mr Mezzatesta was thanked for his presentation.	

	<p>grant applications which could be made for this and other purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brush Farm Park - Were the comments made at the February meeting included in this report?</li> </ul> <p>Response – Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How are habitat corridors identified?</li> </ul> <p>Response – They are identified using current plans and additional areas have been added showing potential for future linkages – relationships with fauna will apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The use of fire as a regime for control has been opened for discussion in the document - comment</li> </ul> <p>Response – Controlled burns have taken place in the past in locations such as Pidding Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Should urban trees be planted which are in sympathy with those native to the local area?</li> </ul> <p>Response – the street tree master plan looks at this more closely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the 5 year plan survive if a merger of Councils occurs?</li> </ul> <p>Response – The plan is scaleable, but no guarantee can be provided. Would need to see the resources of the partner Councils. The intent is for the Plan and programs to be harmonised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Can nature strips be planted with natural vegetation in lieu of grass eg in Kennedy Street adjacent to Field of Mars native planting could be used in this dead end street which leads into the reserve?</li> </ul> <p>Response – The Plan does not include this type of detail.</p> <p>Council needs to consider public liability issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planting in reserves – species to be used</li> </ul> <p>Response – It is good to have an understanding of all the plantings that are suitable for use in a particular area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Survey guidelines – are they being developed by the company or are existing guidelines being used?</li> </ul> <p>Response – Existing guidelines are being used.</p> <p>All plans will need to be harmonised when this Plan is finalised.</p>		
<p><b>4 &amp; 5.</b></p>	<p><b>Flora and Fauna Study update and discussion</b></p> <p>The autumn flora and fauna surveys undertaken by the consultants Anne Clements and Associates is nearing completion. The final report will be prepared after the spring 2016 round.</p> <p>The areas examined were: Brush Farm Park, Bell Park, Lambert Park, Darvall Park, Outlook Park and Field of Mars Reserve. Existing quadrats from the 2006-2008 surveys were used and the identical methodology employed.</p> <p>A greater number of some animal species have been found in this survey than in the 2006 study. The warmer weather may have contributed to this increase in numbers.</p> <p>A study of microbats being undertaken by a university student will be incorporated where possible.</p> <p>The next areas to be surveyed are: Upper Buffalo Creek</p>	<p>Committee members are asked to forward any photos they have of flora or fauna to Sandra. These will be used in the study with all sources acknowledged.</p> <p>The verbal report by staff was noted.</p>	

	reserves, Kittys Creek reserves and Terrys Creek reserves. The consultant will report to this committee at the conclusion of the study.		
6.	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meetings 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016</b></p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were endorsed.</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were discussed. Peter Brown raised some concern regarding items that were discussed. It was agreed that those matters would be dealt with under matters arising. The Minutes from the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were endorsed.</p>	The information was noted.	
7.	<p><b>Actions Arising from previous minutes and standing items</b></p> <p><u>Darvall Park planting schedule – request for planting code</u></p> <p>David Thomas advised that he has provided responses to the concerns of the Darvall Park Bushcare Volunteers.</p> <p>It was suggested that any planting code produced could include a map and a key with suitable plant species for each area.</p> <p>If successful, the code could be expanded for use in other areas as appropriate.</p> <p><u>Climate Change response actions</u></p> <p>Sam advised that the installation of solar panels at North Ryde Library is nearing completion.</p> <p>The next project to be undertaken will be the installation of solar panels at the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre.</p> <p>Sam also advised that the aim of Council staff is to influence planning controls to provide for greater actions in regards to climate change response. Sam is Ryde's Ambassador on the Resilient Cities – Sydney Project and will keep BEAC updated on progress.</p> <p><u>Artarmon Community Waste recycling facility</u></p> <p>Denise Torres provided written advice that the above facility to service Ryde, Willoughby, Lane Cove, North Sydney and Hunters Hill Councils is due to open in November 2016.</p> <p>The facility is to be provided as a result of a grant funding received by NSROC.</p> <p>Residents will be advised of the opening date and facility details closer to the opening date.</p> <p><u>Portius Park stormwater</u></p> <p>Sam Cappelli advised that he will speak directly with Libby Lawson to provide an update on this matter. (Please note that this has since taken place and Libby has contacted by Council's Senior Coordinator, Environment – Kylie McMahon)</p>	<p>The information was noted</p> <p>Sandra to forward on David's responses to the Darvall Park Bushcare Group.</p> <p>A detailed map of Darvall Park to be provided to David.</p> <p>The information was noted.</p> <p>The information was noted.</p> <p>The information was noted.</p>	

<p><u>Planting lists provided to DA applicants</u></p> <p>Council does not issue a list of suggested trees to applicants who submit DAs.</p> <p>It was suggested that perhaps outside consultants are providing lists to their clients.</p> <p>The question was raised as to whether Council can influence the material provided by consultants.</p> <p>Further investigation of this matter will be undertaken by Council staff.</p> <p><u>Council budget for natural areas</u></p> <p>Sam Cappelli provided a comprehensive verbal report regarding the expenditure by Council on natural reserves and bushland regeneration for the past 2 years and next year.</p> <p>He advised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the current 2015/2016 budget, allowance has been made for the letting of 30 bush regeneration contracts at a cost of approximately \$440,000.00</li> <li>- In 2014/15 expenditure of \$590,000 had been incurred excluding staff salaries</li> <li>- In 15/16 a budget of \$636,000.00 has been provided excluding staff salaries</li> <li>- In 16/17 a budget of \$667,000.00 has been provided excluding staff salaries</li> <li>- The Biodiversity Plan, if accepted, will give rise to additional costs estimated to be in the order of \$700,000 over five years</li> <li>- The flora and fauna study is to be prepared at an additional cost of \$60,000</li> <li>- Expenditure of \$80,000 was undertaken to complete the steps at Brush Farm Park – not included in above figures</li> <li>- Expenditure of \$60,000 was spent on the sign at Brush Farm Park – not included in above figures</li> <li>- Expenditure of \$105,000 was spent on termite control at Shrimptons Creek – not included in the above figures</li> <li>- Expenditure from 1 July 2016 for 2 years of \$54,000 per annum will be spent on feral animal control – not included in above figures</li> <li>- Expenditure of \$80,000 for the completion of the biodiversity plan – not included in the above figures</li> </ul> <p>The above represents expenditure each year of in excess of \$1,000,000 on natural areas.</p> <p>The validity of these figures has been confirmed by Council’s Finance section and Public Works section.</p> <p>The contract work undertaken each month for Council is checked and rated to ensure good value for money is obtained.</p> <p>It was noted that the reserves where contract work is undertaken tend to rate highly on the priority list identified in the Biodiversity Plan report.</p> <p>Expenditure for 2017/2018 was not sourced in time for this meeting.</p>	<p>The information was noted. An update to be provided next meeting.</p> <p>The committee thanked Sam Cappelli for the detailed verbal report.</p>	
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	<p>There was a suggestion that Council should consider the introduction of an environmental levy to provide additional funding for natural reserves and associated works.</p> <p>Peter Brown thanked Sam for his verbal report.</p> <p>Peter then went on to explain the background information as to his reason for seeking advice regarding the budget provided by Council to bush regeneration works.</p> <p>He advised that he had been endeavouring to obtain information from Council since October 2014 regarding the amount of funding available for works in bushland areas as he felt that many maintenance jobs were not being undertaken due to a lack of funding. He was satisfied that the budget was now more open to BEAC members</p> <p>Cathy Merchant added that many people in the community found it difficult to see where Council was spending its funds due to the manner in which financial information is provided in Council reports and delivery plans etc.</p>		
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p><u>Draft Biodiversity Legislation</u></p> <p>Bev advised that the State Government's draft legislation is currently on exhibition until 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016.</p> <p>There are many areas of concern in the legislation.</p> <p>Staff will forward committee members and Bushcare groups the appropriate web links to allow them to make submissions.</p> <p>Bev encouraged people to lodge individual submissions in preference to group submissions.</p> <p>It was also noted at this time that Council believes it will be able to attract a greater level of grant funding following adoption of the biodiversity plan</p> <p><u>3 Brush Road Eastwood – land clearing</u></p> <p>Peter Brown enquired as to any action proposed to be taken by Council following the recent clearing of land at the above property.</p> <p>Staff advised that it appears that unlawful land clearing of a protected EEC has occurred. Evidence is being gathered to pursue compliance/enforcement action. Enquiries by staff are ongoing and that court action may be taken if appropriate. Peter offered to submit correspondence that Council could use in any enforcement prosecutions.</p> <p><u>Closure of toilets at Brush Farm</u></p> <p>The closure of toilets at this site and others was raised.</p> <p>Staff advised that toilets are automatically locked at sunset and opened at sunrise.</p> <p>Staff will enquire re altering these hours as with the advent of lighting at some ovals, many sporting groups are using</p>	<p>The information was noted.</p> <p>Sandra to distribute information re State Government draft legislation to Bushcare groups.</p> <p>The information was noted.</p> <p>Staff to investigate the possibility of amending the opening and closing time of park toilets and also the discovery of toilet paper at Brush Farm Park. Update to be provided at the next meeting.</p>	

	<p>parks and ovals after dark.</p> <p>The committee was advised that a quantity of toilet paper had been found near the netball courts at Brush Farm Park.</p> <p><u>World Environment Day</u></p> <p>Sandra advised that this event to be held at Darvall Park on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2016 is booked out.</p> <p><u>Field of Mars – adjacent roadworks</u></p> <p>Cathy Merchant advised that mulch which was laid as part of recent work along the access road near the creek. This is likely to flow into the wetlands and cause issues. Sandra advised that Council will be removing any mulch, excess gravel and will clean out the stormwater pipe that flows under the access road from the end of Kennedy St.</p>	<p>The organisers were commended on the success of advertising for this event.</p> <p>The information was noted. The</p>	
9.	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next scheduled meeting of BEAC – 15 August 2016.</p>	<p>The information was noted.</p>	