

<b>Subject:</b>	Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee – Minutes of Meeting
<b>File No:</b>	COR2010/56/1
<b>Document Ref:</b>	D17/21785
<b>Venue:</b>	Meeting Room, Level 1A, 1 Pope St, Ryde
<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
<b>Time:</b>	6.00pm                      Started at:6.00      Closed at: 7.30pm
<b>Chair:</b>	Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jane Stott
<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 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
		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	
		Michele Cooper	Industry Representative	National Parks and Wildlife Services
		Justin Alick	Community Representative	
		Geoff Hudson	Community Representative	
x		Simone McGinley	Community Representative	Central Ward volunteer

#### City of Ryde Staff

		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

#### Bushcare Volunteers

x		Marilyn Wise	Bushcare Volunteer	City of Ryde Bushcare
x		Cathy Merchant	Bushcare Volunteer	City of Ryde Bushcare
X		George Divisek	Bushcare Volunteer	City of Ryde Bushcare
x		Phillip Divisek	Bushcare Volunteer	City of Ryde Bushcare
x		Steve Holmes	Bushcare Volunteer	City of Ryde Bushcare

Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
<p>1. <b>Welcome by the Acting Chair, Clr Jane Stott</b> The attendees and apologies as above were noted.</p>	Noted	
<p>2. <b>Flora and Fauna Survey Presentation by consultants – final results of the autumn and spring surveys</b> Consultants from Anne Clements and Associates provided the committee with a summary of the final results. The following information was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bell Park and Outlook Park were investigated in the 2016 survey and were additions since the 2006 survey.</li> <li>- An onsite analysis was carried out for the surveys – not a desk top analysis</li> <li>- Quadrats from the 2006 survey were used, along with additional spot locations and ground truthing locations.</li> <li>- Outlook Park, Darvall Park and Brush Farm Park were confirmed to contain Blue Gum High Forest, previously listed in 2006 as Turpentine Ironbark Forest</li> <li>- Predominantly native species of flora were detected in all surveyed parks with the exception of Bell Park</li> <li>- There was a substantial increase in the abundance of ring tailed possums</li> <li>- There was a noticeable decline of feral animal detections</li> <li>- Field of Mars Reserve has the highest native mammal diversity</li> <li>- Bat diversity has increased since 2006</li> <li>- The level of cover of native plant species was constant over 2006 and 2016 surveys, while weed cover has declined</li> <li>- Some snakes which were detected previously were not sighted in this survey</li> <li>- A long necked turtle was found at Darvall Park. No fish were recorded at Darvall park.</li> <li>- Frog fauna has improved in the last 10 years</li> <li>- Bandicoots were found in the Field of Mars Reserve</li> <li>- There was an increase in the number of birds and bats</li> <li>- Few fish were identified with the exception of Field of Mars Reserve</li> <li>- <i>Epacris purpurascens var purpurascens</i> and <i>Pimelia curviflora</i> were not observed during the surveying at Field of Mars Reserve, but was identified in the 2006 survey.</li> </ul> <p>The next round of surveys to be carried out in 2017 will include upper Buffalo Creek, Kittys Creek and Terrys Creek bushland reserves.</p>	The information was noted.	

3.	<p><b>Adoption of Previous Minutes – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016</b></p> <p>Peter Brown raised some concerns and seeking clarification about processes involved in preparing, adopting and distributing the minutes. After some discussion the minutes of the meetings of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were endorsed.</p>	Noted	
4.	<p><b>Motion put forward by Peter Brown</b></p> <p>Peter Brown moved that “This Bushland Advisory Committee take immediate steps to hold a special meeting with the singular aim to take actions that obtains the needs and costs of all bushland areas including contractor operations and to develop a suitable recording method of these costs, possibly similar to an expanded version of the original advisory committee budget papers, and so develop a genuine budget for this committee, with the aim to gain an increased monitory amount which will allow this committee to prioritise long outstanding bushland maintenance jobs not even considered, under the current allocation system”</p> <p>There was some discussion amongst the Committee but the motion was not supported by the other members and as a result was not seconded.</p>	Noted	
5.	<p><b>Action arising from the previous minutes</b></p> <p>A question regarding the District Commission Report was raised.</p> <p>Staff advised that a report on this matter is currently being prepared for Council to be submitted to the Commission by the end of March.</p> <p>Wicks Road Tip – It was noted that the transfer station at Wicks Road is not open on weekends. This is inconvenient for people who work during Monday to Friday. The cost of using the transfer station was also raised. There has been dumping in some reserves such as Field of Mars.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Update table of Outstanding Matters for next meeting</p> <p>Staff advised that the Artarmon site which will offer many additional facilities will be opening soon.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Natural Areas Budget update 2016/17</b></p> <p>A spreadsheet was provided to the committee containing a list of all the reserves containing natural areas, sorted by the priority assigned in the Ryde Biodiversity Plan. The spreadsheet noted whether there were bush regeneration contracts and/or Bushcare groups active in the reserves.</p> <p>Noted were that Council already had established contracts and groups actively working within majority of all the high priority sites nominated in the Biodiversity Plan.</p> <p>It was noted that the Ryde Biodiversity Plan will allow additional funding to be sought to carry out specific action items listed in the Plan.</p> <p>Sam advised that in addition to the funding documented, that the major projects planned for Putney Park delineation project and Terry Creeks walking trail upgrade to be carried out over 4 years also add value to the amount allocated by Council to natural areas. Further updates will be provided to BEAC as information is available.</p>	The information was noted.	
7.	<p><b>Feasibility of internal bush regeneration team compared with external contractors</b></p>		

	<p>Information provided by staff on the above comparison show that it is currently more economical to engage contractors to carry out bush regeneration works. It would cost an additional \$71,000 per annum to use an in-house Council bush regeneration team to work at all of the sites instead of using the contractors. There would be an additional setup cost of \$55,000.</p> <p>Contractors are currently employed on three year contracts but these contracts can be terminated for poor performance. A question regarding the contract length was raised: whether it would be possible to have 5 year contract terms. Staff advised that this has been done at some other local Councils, but a contract length of 1 or 3 years is preferred.</p> <p>Council currently hold monthly meetings with the Outdoor Operations staff which facilitate contract works at those sites to be provided update on works, raise issues or areas for further improvement and these sites are actively monitored by Council.</p>	Noted	
8.	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p><b><u>3 Brush Road – court action</u></b></p> <p>Sam advised that this matter is proceeding through the legal system with barristers briefed on the matter.</p>	The information was noted.	
9.	<p><b>Next Meeting :</b></p> <p>Dates for 2017 are as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May</li> <li>• Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August</li> </ul>	The information was noted.	