

Subject:	Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee – Minutes of Extra-ordinary Meeting to consider submissions received in relation to the Draft Biodiversity Plan
File No:	COR2010/56/1
Document Ref:	D16/155236
Venue:	Meeting Room, Level 1A, 1 Pope St, Ryde
Date:	14 th November 2016
Time:	Started at: 6.00pm Closed at: 7.30pm
Chair:	Councillor Jane Stott
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

		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

Observers

x		Jennie Minifie	Observer	Ryde Environment Group
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Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
<p>1. Welcome by the Chair, Cllr Jane Stott</p> <p>The attendees and apologies as above were noted.</p> <p>Cllr Stott welcomed all present and introduced herself as Chair.</p>	Noted	
<p>2. Adoption of Previous Minutes – As this meeting is a special meeting to consider submissions to the Draft Biodiversity Plan – the minutes of the previous meeting were not considered.</p>	Noted	
<p>3. Consideration of submissions – Draft Biodiversity Plan</p> <p>The exhibition period for the Draft Biodiversity Plan ran from 8th October 2016 to 9th November 2016.</p> <p>Sixteen submissions were received in total. Hardcopies of the submission summary were distributed to each committee member following on from emailing it</p> <p>Sandra Payne has summarised the issues raised in the submissions and a copy of this summary is attached to these minutes.</p> <p>It is proposed that the report by Council officers in relation to the Draft Biodiversity Plan will be submitted to Council's Planning Committee on 6th December 2016.</p> <p>The group then went through the various areas of concern and proposed improvements that could improve the draft plan..</p> <p>It was noted that the Plan is broad, but it needs to be so it can be adapted as opportunities arise.</p> <p>It was suggested that a report be provided to this committee each 12 months to update them on works carried out in natural areas.</p> <p>An implementation plan/action plan will be prepared once the Draft Plan has been adopted.</p> <p>Reports can be made to future meetings to state where priority items are being undertaken.</p> <p>Actions could be flagged against the priority listing as they are undertaken.</p> <p>Biodiversity modules can be incorporated into training for outdoor staff. It was acknowledged that the Draft Plan will help prioritise more targeted spending and works where most needed.</p> <p>The need to reinforce resourcing patterns and effectiveness reporting to assess before and after conditions was noted. The Draft Plan will support this.</p> <p>Monthly monitoring of sites to ensure improvements are maintained would be valuable. Council commented that this does occur under the Service Level Agreement with the Operations department who assist to facilitate the contracts and is reported back to the Environment Unit monthly.</p> <p>A good strategy in addition to funding is required.</p> <p>The need for corridors was stressed.</p> <p>There may be grant funding opportunities to improve</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BEAC noted comments 2. Status update next meeting 	

<p>corridors.</p> <p>The Kittys Creek catchment is considered vulnerable. Although there is national park at each end the use of privately owned properties in the middle are often not compliant with biodiversity objectives.</p> <p>Discussions with local neighbours may assist with this problem.</p> <p><u>IMPLEMENTATION</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A regional approach might be preferable to a local approach when preparing a plan of management - A great deal of relevant legislation is currently under review - An update to the Biodiversity Plan will be required if legislation is amended. - The plan will allow for flexibility and for opportunities to be seized if they arise. - The plan will be an evolving and current document <p><u>LEGISLATION AND PLANNING CONTROLS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There has been some confusion regarding exactly what a natural area is. The maps provided need to be amended to clarify this matter. - The comment regarding the Macquarie Hospital site is outside the scope of the Biodiversity Plan but the detail is noted. - Where possible, if trees need to be removed then it would be good to replant in the same location. If this is not possible then an offset arrangement can be used. <p><u>FUNDING/BUDGET</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comments will be provided by staff when the Biodiversity Plan is considered by Council. - The report to Council by staff will include a copy of the Biodiversity Plan, recommendations for its implementation, financial implications, a review of the submissions received and a commentary on the submissions. <p><u>CORRIDORS, CATCHMENTS, CONSERVATION PRIORITY AND MAPPING</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It would be good to include the park names in the maps but could be difficult due to sizing and number of names that could clog the map and remove visibility of other items on the map. - A potential corridor is required so that animals can pass between bushland areas. - Pages Creek needs to be included in the document 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a concern regarding the methodology used, however Council believes it to have been objective. - The matrix was developed by consultants but is generally supported by Council staff. - A future potential for low maintenance mown parks to be developed as future corridors was noted. - The matrix will not be the only tool used to set priorities - Some of the confusion with map markings can be easily clarified. - Areas where catchments continue outside the Ryde area could be considered. - Meadowbank park to be assessed to be included <p>EDUCATION AND AWARENESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The training that staff, especially on the outdoor staff receive is good, but follow up to ensure that work is being carried out correctly is required. - There will be extensive community education and awareness actions to engage the local community involving a wide variety of topics. The community education component could cover topics such as fungi (the subject of one of the submissions) <p>TARGETS AND ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some additional rare species, other than those listed in the Plan have been brought to Council's attention. - Council has a significant tree register, which is under review. - The creation of a fauna database could be worthwhile. <p>GENERAL</p> <p>The document attached to these minutes, represents the comments made in the 16 submissions received in relation to the Draft Biodiversity Plan.</p> <p>The Committee members thanked staff for arranging the meeting to allow submissions to be reviewed.</p> <p>Sandra Payne was thanked for her work in producing the document which compiled the comments received.</p> <p>Clr Stott thanked staff for the briefing they had provided her.</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 14 August 	The information was noted.	