

Subject:	Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting – Draft Minutes of Meeting	Page 1 of 6
File No:	CLR/07/8/101/1/6	
Document Ref:	D20/44623	
Venue:	Committee Room 1 Pope Street, Ryde	
Date:	Wednesday 11 March 2020	
Time:	5.00pm	Started at: 5.08pm Closed at: 6.45pm
Chair:	Councillor Penny Pedersen	
Meeting Support (MS):	Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors	
Staff Convenor:	Kylie McMahon	
Circulation:	Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee and Councillors	

Committee Role:**Committee Members as per the Terms of Reference**

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Councillor Penny Pedersen	Chairperson and Councillor Delegate	City of Ryde
x		Councillor Christopher Gordon	Deputy Chairperson and Councillor Delegate	City of Ryde
	x	Councillor Edwina Clifton	Councillor Delegate	City of Ryde
x		Pamela Reeves	Community Representative	
x		Libby Lawson	Community Representative	
x		David Thomas	Community Representative	
x		Terry Perram	Community Representative	
	x	Simone McGinley	Community Representative	
	x	Marg Kelly	Community Representative	
x		Jill Hartley	Community Representative	
x		Bev Debrincat	Community Representative	
	x	Joanne Taranto	Community Representative	
x		Jane Valentine	Community Representative	
x		Sylvia Lane	Community Representative	
	x	Jessica Wilks	Community Representative	
x		Angela Maier	Community Representative	
x		Amelia Saul	Community Representative	
x		Peter Davies	Community Representative	
X		Wendy Evans	PhD student (observer)	Macquarie University

City of Ryde Staff

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Kylie McMahon	Acting Manager Environment	City of Ryde
x		Katie Helm	Senior Coordinator Environment	City of Ryde
x		Sandra Payne	Natural Areas Coordinator	City of Ryde
x		Jessica Ashlee-Smith	Acting Natural Areas Project Officer	City of Ryde
x		Linda Smith	EA to Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde
x		Simon James	Manager Parks	City of Ryde
x		Vince Cusumano	Casual Plan of Management Officer	City of Ryde

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<p>1. Welcome by Chair – Cllr Penny Pedersen</p> <p>Cllr Pedersen opened the meeting by welcoming all present, recognising the traditional owners of the land and thanking everyone for their participation.</p> <p>The resignation of Sam Cappelli was noted and his significant environmental achievements were recognised.</p> <p>Kylie McMahon has been appointed to the position of Manager Environment, Health and Building for twelve months.</p> <p>Katie Helm has been promoted to the position of Senior Coordinator Environment during this time.</p>	Noted
<p>2. Apologies</p> <p>Attendance and apologies are as noted above.</p>	Noted
<p>3. Adoption of previous Minutes – 11th December 2019</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting of 11th December 2019 were adopted.</p>	Noted
<p>Generic Plan of Management for natural areas – presentation of draft action plan (Vince Cusumano and Simon James from Council's Parks department)</p> <p>A presentation was provided by Vince Cusumano covering the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gondwana has been engaged by Council to prepare the Generic Plan of Management for Natural Areas - In September 2019, an initial presentation was made to BEAC - Surveys, drop in sessions etc. have been held with approx. 70 responses – mostly from local residents who visit natural areas weekly. - The responses show that people want the bushland regenerated, weeds controlled, protection of wildlife and natural areas and an increase in education - The information from this preliminary phase has been used to develop the Action Table - The rest of the Draft PoM is now being prepared. - Objectives, targets and priorities were noted as being needed to be established. - The plan will be similar in structure to the other Generic Plans - It will mirror the Biodiversity Plan, with the Biodiversity Plan being the overriding document and will not include every action from the abovementioned as the Bio Plan will contain all the details. It will hold the key areas. - The Plan will include the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Introduction</i> - <i>Community engagement</i> - <i>Vision and objectives</i> - <i>Legislative framework</i> - <i>Land ownership</i> - <i>COR Natural area characteristics</i> - <i>History and heritage</i> - <i>Development and uses</i> - <i>Leases, licences and other estates</i> - (It is a legislative requirement to include leases and licences e.g.- for easements etc.) - The approval process: - After the PoM is prepared, it will be forwarded to the relevant Minister for review. Consent of the Minister is required to place it on public exhibition 	<p>The information provided was noted.</p> <p>All comments and questions regarding the Plan of Management should be directed to staff by the end of March 2020.</p>

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- The Plan will then be placed on public exhibition for 28 days with a further 14 days for comment.
- The Plan will then be amended as required and be presented for adoption
- Ministerial process (this has historically taken 12 months but Ministers office is placing resources to hopefully expedite but no defined timeframe).
- While waiting for the document to be adopted it does not prevent Council from taking proactive steps to manage the parks and reserves.
- Feedback regarding the PoM Actions should be forwarded to Sandra by 20 March so that the comments can be collated and provided to the Parks department. Members were encouraged to provide feedback at this meeting. The Parks staff really want to hear from the Committee
- There will be further opportunity to have comment during the public exhibition period
- Council want to see these areas looked after for the future and expanded
- It was noted that three PoMs have already been drafted and approved by the Minister and are currently on public exhibition. These are: Parramatta River parklands, Generic PoM for parks, General Community Use and Generic PoM for sportsgrounds. Plans for Meadowbank Park and ELS Hall Park are also on the way.
- Comments should be made to staff by the end of March to meet the deadline. SP to consolidate and take BEAC comments and send to Parks

The following questions were raised:

BD: Page 17- Categorisation review – nothing about the consultation process with community

Response from VC: Any re-categorisation would be on public exhibition with a public hearing required, with an independent person engaged to run the public hearing.

DT: Bushland areas that are not categorised as natural area, what happens with them? One comes to mind, Moore Park. Managed as open space. Has Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest. It would be really good to have management which acknowledges and enhances the natural areas.

Response from SJ: That is currently categorised as Park and if Council wants to change it will have to go through the same process. They will go through process to categorise if needed as per criteria but doesn't stop legislation protecting the area. Notes that it does not stop planting in area that are not natural areas.

Response from VC: Just because it says it is a park doesn't mean that it can't be managed as a natural area. It doesn't change protection.

BD: What is the **process to change the categorisation**? Or can you do bushland landscaping to create Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest without changing the categorisation?

Response from SJ: Under Local Government Act a business case is needed needed to change this. Provide feedback through Kylie's team

Response from VC: Identify areas for future inclusion as Natural Area, e.g. those that have Natural Area that aren't categorised, corridors and connections between bushland areas and develop action to protect as Natural Area regardless of categorisation.

BD: requests that a comment be included in GPoM re; process for public hearing.

TP: Vehicles illegally entering. It is a high priority to record where the trails are in the draft Plan, but that is not a high priority. The high priority is to talk to people on the ground and do something about it. Things on the ground matter so much more

LL: Creeklines on private land. Owners own and right to the middle of the creek and they totally denude the area. There should be a buffer zone and be kept as natural area

Response from VC: examples given of the DCP approvals required to receive the piece of land for management. If owners wanted to develop the area Council could get the area back as an offset.

Council to identify areas for future inclusion as Natural Area, e.g. those that have Natural Area that aren't categorised, corridors and connections between bushland areas and develop actions to protect as Natural Area regardless of categorisation.

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Response from KM: See what Council can do with planning controls for riparian areas into the future and have already commenced this process for inclusion. Council has its riparian areas mapped and we look to ensure those buffers are protected to improve in the long term.

Response from SJ: There are other mechanisms outside the GPoM

JH: Page 20- **Interpretive signage** priority should be high not low priority. As it provides education to empower community to get involved and care for these areas. **Indigenous burning** – there should be some consultation with an expert in indigenous burning.

AM: Willoughby Council is broadening the scope of hazard reduction burns to include **cultural burns**.

AS: Will there be **consultation with traditional owners**?

Response from Cllr Pederson Yes, that is required through the Crown Lands Act. Council is also developing a Reconciliation Action Plan.

PD: Ban access to bushland areas on **catastrophic fire days**. There is a big problem with **co-location of stormwater quality improvement** works in natural areas. They are clearly worthwhile but should not impact on natural areas. Physical impact of devices and maintenance and access issues

Cllr Pederson: Where does **re-naturalisation of canals** fit in?

Response from Simon James: That sort of issue would be addressed in Masterplans

BD: Page 7- Native vegetation management – bottom paragraph **typo** “long term...” There is a word missing.

BD: There should be an action to develop **threatened species recovery plans** for things like *Epacris purpurea*.

Response from Vince Cusumano: We want the document to be accessible. The PoM can't include every single piece of legislation or action. Many 'actions' will be covered through Ryde Biodiversity Plan and other documents for detailed actions

Response from Cllr Pederson: Something should be included.

LL: Concern with **attitudes towards removal of trees**. Good policy has been developed by Council on tree removal and pruning. It is wrong to ignore the professionalism and expertise of Council's arborists and be scaring residents over tree limbs providing unnecessary removal which results in huge loss of canopy.

Response from Simon James: Council has not been asked to review the Development Control Plan. If that occurred it would require public exhibition.

AM: suggested a **plant giveaway** and good PR (e.g.- benefits for habitat, climate mitigation etc.) for positive tree retention needed from the loss last few months through storms etc.

Response from Kylie McMahon: The Environment team is looking at this to increase education and uptake. The Habitat could have a role in supporting this for local species and promotion

DT: It was noted that lots of park shelter sheds have trees near them. Further comment was made that often the **incorrect sorts of trees are being planted in parks** e.g. gums which shed bark and are prone to losing limbs. Turpentine and mahogany would be more suitable in these areas.

BD: With regard to the trees lost in the recent storms, does Council have a plan to **replace trees lost**?

Response from SJ: Council is still cleaning up the storm damage. There is a street tree planting program and park planting program in the order of \$300k

Response from VC: Interestingly the arborists noted that many of the trees that came down fell in an east/west direction, this is rare in Sydney as the prevailing

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winds are usually north/south..	
<p>4. Actions arising from the previous Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A further roundup herbicide workshop for Bushcare volunteers will be held in 2020. Invitations would be extended to Hunters Hill volunteers as well - The National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme only funds the collection of televisions, computers, printers, computer parts and peripherals. - PR suggested office works for some things, Artarmon facility for most items. - An inspection of the erosion at Brush Farm Park was arranged with the Soil Conservation Service, who have been engaged to undertake a further assessment. 	Noted.
<p>6. Standing Items</p> <p>Sustainability matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Copies of the Smarter Cleaner Greener environmental achievements document were provided to Committee members - Cllr Pederson congratulated staff on these achievements - A Sustainability Festival was scheduled to celebrate World Environment Day will be held on Sunday 31st May at Wilga Park. This park was selected due to the large number of people living in units in the area. The aim is to get them involved and spread the environmental message - 40 people attended the recent water sensitive garden workshop. - A water harvesting workshop event will be held on 22nd March – bookings are looking good so far. <p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Resilience Plan is being prepared and will go to Works Committee before public exhibition for 4 weeks and adoption. It is expected this will happen in April 2020 - All are welcome to provide feedback at the appropriate time. - Council will announce its renewable energy target in April. We are aiming high <p>Natural Areas and Biodiversity update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A letter box drop was undertaken for all properties within 150m of the Wildlife Protection Areas promoting responsible pet ownership and explaining the requirements for dog and cat owners. - A workshop about brush turkeys was held - The program of private property inspections for priority weeds are ongoing with 25 undertaken around Field of Mars Reserve. Darvall Park and Brush Farm Park are to follow. - The Priority Weed Management Plan and Biosecurity Weeds Policy were adopted by the Works and Community Committee in February. - Cllr Gordon announced his project bid to continue funding the Weeds and Natural Area monitoring for next 3yrs. Announcement due June–Council will be applying for a further grant - Nearing the end of 2 year bush regeneration contracts, likely to extend all for a further year and possibly a fourth year beyond that. - The feral animal program is progressing well at Brush Farm Park, Field of Mars Reserve and other locations. - Bollard delineation will be installed at Lynn Park to protect the Blue Gum High Forest remnant - Mulching is being undertaken at Marsfield Park <p>Parramatta River catchment Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Putney Park activation - It is hoped to have the site open (but not for 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

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	<p>swimming) by summer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The leaders of various groups have all been impressed by the work being undertaken. - Sydney Water is being very helpful with water quality monitoring, etc. - PRCG won the NSW Stormwater award for Excellence in Strategic Planning for their Masterplan. – now going to the national awards. - A survey to ban plastic in the river is being undertaken by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – link will be sent out by Kylie - Committee members are also invited by Cllr Pederson to sign up for “save our recycling” <p>General Project updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Councils have completed their Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) and this has gone through the Greater Sydney Commission. - This included Biodiversity sensitivity mapping and corridor connections. This will be included in Council's LEP which is great news. - Staff will be looking at where the current gaps in the controls are. Starting at the top with Local Strategic Planning Statements. 	<p>Link to Single use plastic ban survey to be provided to Committee.</p>
7.	<p>General Business</p> <p>David Thomas spoke to the committee regarding the flora component of the Flora and Fauna surveys undertaken in 2006-2008 and 2016-2018. Observations made during his review of the surveys include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is not enough knowledge of local vegetation in Ryde. - There are a number of non-local native plants included in the species lists that do not belong - Planting was not always local either and this is a problem over time as it is done incrementally. - Some Dianellas in Darvall Park, planted near the bridge do not occur at Darvall or Ryde naturally. That is just one example of this problem. The issue of species in parks needs to be addressed and will only get worse in the future and can create a cumulative problem. Need to get away from an unwritten policy of not removing incorrectly planted species such as Spotted Gum, Callistemon citrinus, Banksia integrifolia, Illawarra Flame Tree, Polyscias elegans etc. - The Generic Plan of Management shows more information about local vegetation will be examined and this is welcomed. - There is a need to identify the species that do not belong so people know what shouldn't be there - Inappropriate planting takes away from the quality of bushland and the scientific value of the remnant bushland - DPIE mapping results can be skewed. - Should start in high conservation areas. It is very important to get it right in some reserves, less critical in others. - Better sections of reserves could be mapped as scientific conservation areas and become baseline areas where there is no planting. - Cllr Pederson asked if there is a framework for people to join a group to plant. SP says Bushcare supervisors are to direct and guide in accordance with the Planting Guide. No planting to occur as people like. - Bev noted that Ryde is not doing too badly, some people get species from the North Coast to plant. 	<p>The information provided by David was noted.</p>
8	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 10 June 2020, 5:00pm - 6:30pm in the Council Chambers – Level 1A Pope St, Ryde</p>	