

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:	D19/90635	
Venue:	Council Chambers 1 Pope Street, Ryde	
Date:	Wednesday, 12 June 2019	
Time:	5.00pm	Started at: 5.05pm 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	Jill Hartley	Community Representative	
x		Adrian Kong	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	

City of Ryde Staff

Present	Apology	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		Sean Simpson	Natural Areas Projects Officer	City of Ryde
x		Linda Smith	EA to Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde

Details**Action**

Details	Action
1. Welcome by Chair – Cllr Penny Pedersen Cllr Pedersen opened the meeting by welcoming all present and by recognising the traditional owners of the land.	Noted

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Details	Action
<p>2. Apologies</p> <p>Attendance and apologies are as noted above.</p>	Noted
<p>3. Adoption of previous Minutes – 13th March 2019</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting of 13th March 2019 were adopted</p>	Adopted
<p>4. Actions arising from the previous Minutes</p> <p><u>Habitat plantings in Masterplans for various reserves</u></p> <p>Following a request by Bev at the last meeting, a number native plantings will be included in the Masterplans for ELS Hall Park, Greenwood Park Booth Reserve.</p> <p><u>Website update re tree removals</u></p> <p>The Parks department have investigated the issue and looked at what other Councils are doing. Unfortunately a 'DA tracker' would not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Exempt tree species •Exempt work within 4m of a dwelling •Exempt pruning works (10%) •Trees under 5m and/or 150mm at 1.4m from ground •Other authorities such as Ausgrid, Sydney water removing/pruning trees under their legislation. •Council Arborist team work. •Contract Tree work •SEPP approvals •10:50 Clearing (RFS) •DA Approvals •Driveway approvals •Complying development <p>It is also noted that as the City of Ryde issues permits for Tree removals it is not a legislative requirement to publically exhibit these. The benefit that would be achieved from implementing such a system would not justify the cost and resources that would be required to be allocated to it.</p> <p><u>Presentation of "Clean up the World" certificates</u></p> <p>The above certificates will be presented by a member of Council's Waste Team at an event to be held at Meadowbank Wharf on 15th June 2019.</p> <p><u>Bokashi bins and composting</u></p> <p>Bev advised that composting on a regular basis is being taken up by residents using the facilities at The Habitat. The level of uptake is increasing steadily which is very encouraging.</p> <p><u>Balloon vine along Pittwater Road</u></p> <p>Pam Reeves advised that she is happy with the work done on the balloon vine infestations along Pittwater Rd near Field of Mars Reserve.</p>	<p>The information is noted.</p> <p>The information is noted.</p> <p>Mention to be made of the composting facilities available at the Habitat in the Mayor's column.</p>
<p>5. Wildlife Protection Area presentation – Sean Simpson</p> <p>Sean provided the group with information regarding Wildlife Protection Areas.</p> <p>He advised as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wildlife Protection Areas are set aside by Council to protect native wildlife - There are two categories for land designated a wildlife protection area – 	The information was noted.

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Details		Action
	<p>one which prohibits cats and dogs and one which prohibits cats but allows dogs on a leash.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The establishment of wildlife protection areas meets one of the targets of Council’s strategic plan - Three locations are proposed as wildlife protection areas - Field of Mars – no cats or dogs to be allowed - Terry Creek Corridor – no cats but dogs allowed on a leash - Kittys Creek Corridor – no cats but dogs allowed on a leash - It was noted that Council provides dog “off leash” areas at numerous sites and that therefore dog owners will not be without areas to let their dogs run free - Wildlife Protections areas have been adopted by many surrounding councils - The Flora and Fauna studies undertaken in all three recommended areas found evidence of cats and dogs off leash. - Public consultation on the proposal will run from 21st May to 18th June 2019 and has been widely advertised - The matter will be reported to Council via the Works Committee on 13th August 2019. - A 90 day grace period will apply if Council adopts the proposal, suitable signage will be erected at the boundaries of the affected sites and notification will be provided to the community. - It was noted that signage needs to erected at the entry points to reserves - The main focus will be community education rather than enforcement. - Should enforcement be required, fines of up to \$880 (for cats) and \$1100 (for dogs) can be issued by Council’s rangers - Education regarding the need to keep cats inside should be included in notification advice. The message to community members needs to be a positive one and should include information about protecting companion animals and provide practical solutions rather than focusing on the negative aspects companion animals can have <p>- Pam R: notes that the Wildlife Protection signage at the Kennedy Street entry/ exit only shows notice on the way out, not on the way in where it is needed.</p> <p>- Suggestion made to put fine value on the signs. Council recognises value in this however fine values change annually so would involve updating and replacing the sign each time. Maybe not most cost effective for the number of signs.</p> <p>- Peter D: suggested to nominate vulnerable species and promote protection.</p> <p>- Chair: suggestion of mascots</p> <p>- Bev D: suggested the water dragon</p> <p>- Cllr Clifton suggested; provide education to community on the impacts of dogs as most don’t know i.e. impacts from dogs in bushland inhibits native species from foraging and using areas for habitat.</p> <p>- Pam R; e.g. why dogs are needed to go on leads in these areas.</p> <p>- Sandra P: noted a 42% drop in abundance of birds from trails where dogs are permitted.</p>	<p>Noted – Enviro team to investigate for future signage options</p> <p>Noted – for possible future education programs relating to biodiversity awareness.</p> <p>Noted – for possible future education programs relating to biodiversity awareness.</p>
6.	<p>Standing Items</p> <p>Sustainability Matters</p> <p><u>Sustainability Festival</u></p> <p>This first Sustainability Festival at Putney Park on 2nd June 2019 was a great</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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<p>adjacent to the 2017 plantings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chair: How are the plantings from last National Tree day? - Sandra P: Last year’s plantings at Laurel Park are doing well. A high success survival rate. <p>It was noted there has been a sighting of Myrtle Rust at the Sydney Live Steam facility at Darvall Park in West Ryde.</p> <p>Bush regeneration contracts are nearing their first year with positive results across most of the sites. Contact has been made with the contractors to discuss issues at particular sites and in general improvements have been made.</p> <p>Contractors are being used to undertake weed control at the Porters Creek Depot, Pittwater Road and Plassey Rd.</p> <p>Council is planning to update its mapping of the local canopy to determine total coverage and assess for any canopy loss. Council will be introducing a canopy target to make the city cooler as part of the LEP review to improve coverage, biodiversity and cooling outcomes for its city.</p> <p>Parramatta River Catchment Group</p> <p>A full meeting of the Group was held recently and was attended by government and community representatives. The Hills Council is no longer a member of the Group but all other participating Councils have recommitted.</p> <p>The group is working to deliver the 10 point masterplan which will culminate in an online dashboard which will allow users to follow what is happening with stormwater management and other issues.</p> <p>Sydney Water is driving the strategic and back end delivery and Jo Taranto is the Riverkeeper for the group, working hard to provide education to people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bev D: commented that the Streamwatch program is now being run by the Greater Sydney Landcare Network. 		Noted
<p>7. General Business</p> <p><u>Get the site right</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ryde assessed 15 sites to monitor and issued \$12,000 worth of fines for breaches as part of its contribution to the campaign which is now coordinated twice per year. <p><u>Feral Animals in Sydney</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cane Toads Have been sighted in Sydney (Tempe and at Parramatta near the river). Deer have also been sighted in parts of Sydney. <p><u>Ryde Riverwalk</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The City of Ryde will complete one of the final missing links of the Ryde River Walk and building connection between Bill Mitchell Park and Ross Street at Tennyson Point. <p><u>Weeds on Pittwater Road</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The balloon vine infesting trees along Pittwater Rd near Field of Mars has been dealt with. <p><u>Ivanhoe Estate</u></p>		Noted Noted Noted Noted Noted

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Details		Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frasers (developers) has released revised concept plans after 49 submissions were received to their first plan. - Council will be lodging a submission on the new concept plan and is seeking an E2 zoning on Epping road site. This is to help conserve the strip for biodiversity which is critically endangered. It will also protect the connectivity in the area. - The latest concept plan has removed one building to allow more open space. - A school, affordable housing, pool, daycare centre and aged care facility will be provided at the site but minimal open space is being provided. - Submissions close on 19th June 2019. All members encouraged to review. 	
	<p><u>United Services Union notification– re pesticide Roundup</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was noted some Councils are pausing the use of Roundup following court cases in the United States. - The risk needs to be considered, but general consensus seems to be that if used properly it is safe. - Council should update its website to state what it is doing and what it intends to do re the use of roundup as the public wants to know that Council is doing the right thing by staff and the public. - Peter D: suggestion to update operating procedures to acknowledge risk and management - Bev D: it is ok to want a ban as long as there is an alternative for effective management as other alternatives do not always suit. - Recent article backed up the safe use of the chemical if handled appropriately. - Pam R: Steam treatment is not smart in a drought environment and does not treat all weeds as effectively. - Sandra P: use of the chemical in daily operations is restricted/ spot treatment not broad spraying application at Bushcare sites. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Council to review and work with Communications team regarding providing community clarity on the use of Round up.</p> <p>Noted</p>
	<p><u>Alleged damage to Field of Mars following works at the cemetery</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Remedial Action Plan is being prepared which will require dumped soil to be removed, mulching and planting to be carried out and fencing along the fencing along the boundary to be installed. This is considered a good outcome for the site. 	<p>Noted</p>
	<p><u>Sydney Wildlife - knitting of possum bags</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A day of knitting was held recently. - A talk was also given regarding things to consider if you are living alongside wildlife 	<p>Noted</p>
	<p><u>Bennelong Groyne project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There have been some delays with the work being carried out by the RMS but the project is progressing. - Approval will soon be sought for the seawall/groyne to be built - The project will protect the mangroves and will also allow small non-motorised craft to launch. 	<p>Noted</p>
	<p><u>Kayak kiosk</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following a recent event featuring kayaks held between Kissing Point Beach and Putney, Cllr Pedersen has nominated to Council that a kayak kiosk be constructed on the foreshore of the Parramatta River. Council to review and be presented at future council meeting. 	<p>Noted</p>
	<p><u>Native Bees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The recent work by Hunters Hill Council to encourage native bees was discussed. - City of Ryde will soon be undertaking the home a hive project in 2020 to 	<p>Noted</p>

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	Details	Action
	<p>assist in protecting bee populations through education program and hive establishment.</p> <p><u>Waste bins/socks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following a recent media report, Council was asked if it has explored this type of river waste collection system. - Kylie M: council does have these although they should not be explored typically at the end of catchment due to issues in high weather events causing blockages or losing of the nets. Education and upper catchment interventions should be explored over 'end of pipe' solutions first. Typically in Ryde nets they consist of almost 95% leaf litter and not single use bottles like people assume. 	
8	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 11th September 2019 – 5pm to no later than 6.30pm in the Council Chambers – Level 1A Pope St, Ryde</p>	

Meeting closed 6.45pm