

Subject:	Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee – Minutes of Meeting
File No:	COR2010/56/1
Document Ref:	D15/155138
Date and Venue:	Monday 16 th November 2015 Meeting Room 1, Level 5, Civic Centre
Time:	6.00pm Started at:6.00 Closed at: 8.00pm
Chair:	Councillor Denise Pendleton
Meeting Support (MS):	Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors
Staff Convenor:	Nicola Booth – Section Manager – Natural Areas and Urban Forest
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 Denise Pendleton	Chairperson	City of Ryde
x		Councillor Terry Perram	Delegate	City of Ryde
x		Sam Cappelli	Manager - Environment Health and Building	City of Ryde
x		Nicola Booth	Senior Coordinator- Natural Areas	City of Ryde
x		Sandra Payne	Bushcare Volunteers Coordinator	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	

Additional Attendees

Name	Position Title	Organisation
Linda Smith	EA to the Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde
Meryl Bishop	Acting Director – City Planning and Strategy	City of Ryde
Lara Dominish	Senior Strategic Planner	City of Ryde
John Brown	Place Manager – Major Centre	City of Ryde
Dale Fillingham	Coordinator Passive Parks and Streetscapes	City of Ryde
Jonathan Harris	Senior Coordinator Passive Parks and Streetscapes	City of Ryde
Cathy Merchant		RHHFFPS
Val Nelson		RHHFFPS
Simone McGinley		Central Ward volunteer

Details

Action

Responsibility
and Date

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Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
<p>1. Welcome by the Chair, Cllr Pendleton</p> <p>The attendees and apologies are as per above.</p>	Noted	
<p>2. Presentations</p> <p><u>Restructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam Cappelli provided advice regarding recent changes to the organisation of Council and the impact this will have on items regarding trees and bushland. • Noted that Nicola & Sandra now report to Sam Cappelli • Queried about the roles of Jonathan & Dale, that Natural Areas team prescribe works in Natural Areas through a Service Level Agreement (an Agreement between Natural Areas and operations about standard of maintenance adjacent and in natural areas) 	The information was noted.	

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Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
<p><u>Feral Animal Control</u></p> <p>Cathy Merchant and Val Nelson addressed the group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cathy advised that there was a long history of lobbying for fox control and that baiting which had been undertaken in the mid 1990’s had lessened the problem. • The baiting was considered to have been effective until the last three years. • Recently a group of ducklings was attacked by a fox which has indicated an increase in numbers of foxes in the local area. • NB commented that we are currently going through the procurement process to undertake feral animal control for 3 years. Shooting and fumigation program had been successful with 4 foxes being shot in Brush Farm. Baiting very labour intensive. Shooting and fumigation were the methods of control • Clr Pendleton indicated if there was an increase in the presence of foxes. NB responded that not within natural areas, but certainly within the urban environment which is much harder to control due to the restrictions in legislation • Ryde is a member of the Urban Feral Animal Action Group • SP commented that during her time in laying baits since 2006, that she laid out baits 3 times which were never taken. • Peter Brown and David Thomas commented that perhaps cats were a bigger problem • The committee suggested a letter drop • Michele suggested to look at how Ku Ring Gai manage cats • A tender has been let for next year which will run for 2 years with a 1 year extension. It will apply to both foxes and rabbits • Baiting can only occur in two places in the local area – the Field of Mars and Brush Farm. • Feral cats and domestic cats are also causing a lot of devastation of native animal populations • It was noted that Willoughby Council traps and releases cats with notes to their owners. 	<p>Information regarding control of household cats by other local government areas to be sent to Nicola</p> <p>Council to give further consideration to ways of reducing the impact of feral pests</p>	

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Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
<p><u>Bush Regeneration Contract Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council oversees 30 bush regeneration sites • The tender was renewed approx. 1.5 years ago. • Staff visit the major sites once per month • Visits are timed for when contractors are on site where possible. • Dale briefly explained the contractor performance management process. • An annual report with before and after photos is prepared by contractors • Recommendations are included in the annual report for the following year if they receive project 	<p>This matter is to be listed on the agenda for the next meeting to allow a full discussion on this matter.</p> <p>A meeting between Clrs Pendleton, Perram Nicola Booth/Sam Cappelli and Peter Brown is to be arranged.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Shrimptons Creek Embellishment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Brown of Council outlined the scale of development proposed over the next 20 years in the vicinity of Macquarie Uni and Ivanhoe Estate. • He advised the State Government will spend \$5mill on a project of Council’s choice in this area. • John outlined Council’s intention to seek funding to better utilise the parks in this area being Elouera, Quandong and Wilga. • The shared bike path at Shrimptons Creek will be improved and lit. • Improvements to the water quality and removal of vegetation along the creek will also be undertaken • Work should commence in the second half of next year. 	<p>Nicola and Sandra to speak with John regarding removal of appropriate vegetation along Shrimptons Creek</p> <p>Local residents to be notified</p> <p>Proposal to go on Council’s website to allow for comment.</p>	

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Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
<p><u>Tree DCP Review</u></p> <p>On 10th March 2015, Council resolved that the above DCP be reviewed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meryl Bishop outlined the current provisions of the DCP and the means available for contesting a refusal by Council for a tree on private land. • The regulations pertaining to tree removal on public land were also outlined. • Meryl further advised that following an examination of procedures by other Councils, that it was obvious that the processes required to be undertaken by applicants was not clear and that the appeal process was not easily understood. • The necessity for residents to replant a tree to replace one which had been removed caused a lot of angst • The time taken to determine applications was also an issue • Meryl then outlined the changes proposed to the DCP. • The changes were circulated prior to the meeting 	<p>Feedback will be received by Council on the DCP until 8th December 2015</p> <p>The proposed DCP will then be placed on exhibition early in 2016.</p> <p>This matter to be relisted on the agenda of this committee when the DCP is on exhibition</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of the previous meeting</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 17th August 2015 were noted.</p>	<p>The minutes of the meeting dated 17th August 2015, were adopted.</p>	

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Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
<p>4. Actions arising from the previous minutes</p> <p>Planting schedule for natural areas in parks</p> <p>David Thomas addressed the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He advised that often the wrong types and species of plant are placed in Council parks and elsewhere and that they are never removed even when the error becomes obvious. • At other times, planting occurs in an unnatural manner. • There is a need for a guide that people can use when undertaking planting in natural areas. • The guide could be a single document showing general planting and specifics for each reserve which could be used by residents and volunteers • Staff support this concept, but not in terms of its use a policy • It was noted that it is important not to remove work undertaken by volunteers in good faith unless it is essential for plantings to be removed. <p><u>Biodiversity Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicola has spoken with the consultant. • An early draft should be available at the beginning of 2016. <p><u>10/50 update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative changes have recently been introduced which mean that if a DA states a tree is to be retained then it cannot be removed under 10/50 rules. • Foreshores have been excluded from 10/50 legislation • World Heritage areas have been removed from the legislation 	<p>Staff to examine this idea in more detail and report to the next meeting of this committee as to how this suggestion can proceed.</p> <p>The document by Mr Thomas was tabled</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Council's website to be updated with the recent amendments to the legislation.</p>	

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Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
<p>4. General Business</p> <p><u>Greenhouse gas emission plan</u></p> <p>A question was raised regarding whether Council has any intention of determining a new greenhouse gas emission plan?</p> <p><u>Wildlife protection areas</u></p> <p>It was noted these will be included in the biodiversity plan.</p> <p><u>Budget for volunteer regeneration workers</u></p> <p>Sam Cappelli will review data in regard to the above and meet with Peter Brown to discuss further in the new year.</p> <p><u>Endorsement of Simone McGinley</u></p> <p>The committee was advised that Simone McGinley a bushcare volunteer for central ward, would like to nominate for membership of the Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee</p> <p><u>Close of meeting</u></p> <p>Clr Pendleton thanked all on the committee for their contributions.</p>	<p>Sam Cappelli to provide a response</p> <p>Wildlife protection areas to be included in biodiversity plan</p> <p>Nicola to provide Sam with a spreadsheet of all historic data from 2006.</p> <p>The nomination of Simone McGinley was endorsed.</p>	
<p>5. Next Meeting</p> <p>8 February 2015</p>		