

Subject:	Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting – Minutes of Meeting Page 1 of 6		
File No:	CLR/07/8/101/1/6		
Document Ref:	D21/46765		
Venue:	Microsoft Teams and Meeting Room Top Ryde (16 Seats) – Level 1A Pope St, Ryde		
Date:	Wednesday 10 th March 2021		
Time:	5.00pm	Started at: 5:00pm	Closed at: 6:30pm
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	

City of Ryde Staff

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Kylie McMahon	Manager Environment	City of Ryde
x		Katie Helm	Senior Coordinator Environment	City of Ryde
	x	Sandra Payne	Natural Areas Coordinator	City of Ryde
x		Sean Simpson	Natural Areas Project Officer	City of Ryde
x		Linda Smith	EA to Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde
x		Vince Cusumano	Casual POM Officer	City of Ryde
x		Michael Longworth	Senior Coordinator – Parks Planning	City of Ryde
x		Andrew Ginns	(Parks – Planning Consultant)	Gondwana Consulting

Details	Action
<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>Noted</p>
<p>2. Apologies</p> <p>Attendance and apologies are as noted above.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>3. Adoption of previous Minutes – 9th December 2020</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting of 9th December 2020 were adopted.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>4. Actions arising from the previous Minutes</p> <p>All actions arising from the December meeting have been completed.</p> <p>In addition, the following information was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A native plant giveaway by Council and the Habitat community nursery will be undertaken in May 2021. Residents will be offered a selection of tree species to increase canopy cover in the city for private property planting. - Council projects and species selection; comment on plant selection - Council actively promotes native species for both internal and external projects. Recently Council has recently engaged a panel of suppliers who can provide native tube stock for the next 3-year period. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Promotion in Council's Smarter, Cleaner, Greener newsletter will promote</p>

Subject:

Minutes – Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting – 10 March 2021

Page 3 of 8

5.	<p>Update on Draft Generic Plan of Management for Natural Areas</p> <p>Andrew Ginns from Gondwana provided an update on the Plan of Management.</p> <p>The following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project has been ongoing for the past 15 months - Several Plans of Management have already been adopted by Council - At present, plans for both Meadowbank Park and Field of Mars are being undertaken. - The last in the suite of Generic Plans to be undertaken covers Natural Areas. - The Natural Areas Generic Plan of Management incorporates both community and Crown land - The approval of the Minister is needed due to the inclusion of Crown lands in the approval process - When the Plan is applied, all reserves are shown and the natural areas in each reserve are also identified - The Generic Plan specifics for each reserve but will be general in nature for all reserves. Other supporting plans of Council will provide specific actions (e.g. Biodiversity Plan) - Community consultation for the Plans include matters of interest that the community want considered. Council staff have also been consulted for the process. - Action plans have been provided to this committee for review and comment. - The draft Plan for Natural Areas was submitted to Council in September 2020 and then sent to Minister to seek approval to go to public exhibition. - Approval for the exhibition was provided prior to Christmas but the exhibition period did not commence until February to avoid the holiday period. The exhibition period will close 21st March 2021. Comments can be made via email or Councils Have Your Say webpage. - A summary report will be prepared following consideration of further submissions and where changes are considered necessary where the report can be amended where required. 	Noted
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Subject:

Minutes – Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting – 10 March 2021

Page 4 of 8

6.	<p>Standing Items</p> <p><u>Sustainability matters</u></p> <p><u>Clean Up Australia Day</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Pedersen: attended sites at the rear of Ryde Secondary College and Magdala Park and noted the excellent attendance at Clean-up Australia day sites by community. The fantastic work of the scouts at Magdala Park was noted. - Cllr Gordon attended the Field of Mars clean up site and commented that it was very pleasing that there was not much rubbish at that site. - Kissing Point Park was cleaned by PRCG on the day prior to Clean-up Day. - Less tonnage was collected this year and it was difficult to tell if this was a result of less people helping or maybe less rubbish. <p>Noted were the increase in the waste streams of disposable face masks and coffee cups due to COVID</p> <p><u>Redevelopment of Marsden High School</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marg Kelly asked will Council continue the corridor through Marsden High. - It was noted that this matter should be pursued to ensure that the corridor remains, and the Department of Education protects the area in any redevelopment of the site. <p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <p><u>Net zero community consultation results</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Councils are required to address Net Zero Emissions by 2050 as per the Local Strategic Planning Statements (2020). - City of Ryde has an endorsed 100% renewable energy target for 2030 for Council operations which will feed into the development of our the Net Zero 2050 plan. - Currently 38.4% of our energy is coming from renewables. - In reaching the 2050 target, both Council operations and the community sector will be considered - Council undertook community consultation on development of the plan through 'Have Your Say' in November 2020. During the consultation, 85 survey responses and 2 email submissions were received. Just over half of the respondents would like Council to set a long-term target of Net Zero by 2040. <p>Respondents would like to see Council prioritise the planting of trees, lobbying of the State and Commonwealth Governments, low emission vehicles and Council leading by example, incentives and more education</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>A letter to be sent to the Dept of Education and local State Members seeking an update on the proposal for the land adjoining the Marsden High site.</p> <p>Noted</p>
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Subject:

Minutes – Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting – 10 March 2021

Page 5 of 8

- Results show that respondents are willing to act with regard to their electricity, transport and waste usage. Council can assist in this through education programs.
- Council are using consultants to examine the city's emissions profile through data review to input into the pathway
- Bev D suggestion: Solar batteries for streets could be considered for streets which is currently being trialled by selected councils.

This to be investigated once pathway is developed

Natural Areas and Biodiversity update**Walking trail audit**

- A walking trail audit has been conducted in high priority parks and reserves with existing walking trails as part of delivering on the Ryde Biodiversity Plan actions.
- Items examined include steps, bridges, track type, length etc
- A grading system has now been created in respect of Council's assets and tracks for future maintenance considerations
- The walking trails have also been mapped with GPS for the future promotion of walking trails in the City of Ryde and development of walking trail brochures.

Saltmarsh Management Plan

- Consultants will be doing site assessments along the Parramatta River and within the Field of Mars Reserve.
- They will be looking at climate change impacts, such as sea level rise as well as human impacts on the Saltmarsh
- Council has recently applied for a grant through the Environmental Trust to monitor recovery and resilience of salt marsh areas.
- If successful the grant funded project will be undertaken in collaboration with Macquarie University

Feral animals

- Control of rabbits has been undertaken at Ryde Park, Dunbar Park and Yamble Reserve through the release of RHDV as a part of a coordinated release by LLS.
- Fox control has been undertaken at the Field of Mars, Brush Farm Park, Darvall Park and Councils Porters Creek depot.
- The program targets outbreaks of feral animals.

Noted

Biosecurity weeds officer recruitment

- Recruitment of a new Biosecurity Officer has been completed with Pretisha Ram successfully appointed as the new Natural Areas and Biosecurity Monitoring Officer to deliver the grant program.

Noted

Subject:

Minutes – Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting – 10 March 2021

Page 6 of 8

Sustainability Festival 2021– Wilga Park, Macquarie Park

- Plans underway for the Sustainability Festival to be held on Sunday 6 June at Wilga park pending COVID restrictions

Community Partnership project

- Tzu Chi volunteers helped with native tree planting at Waterloo Park contributing to corridor plantings in the City of Ryde. A positive step in recommencing volunteer programs after the COVID restrictions.

Noted

Parramatta River Catchment Group

- The PRCG meeting will be held tomorrow night at Bedlam Bay to show attendees the new swim site in Hunters Hill Council area pending testing outcomes.
- A new “Get The Site Right” sediment and erosion campaign is being launched with a Blitz day to be held on 20th May
- River Aware Campaign is now being rebranded to “Love Your Waterways” as it is expanding to include the Cooks River and Georges River. A new campaign will kick off in July and feature a Facebook and Instagram contest
- There are currently 150 members in the Riverkeeper network with a new program commencing soon.

Duck Creek

- One of the PRCG’s sites containing issues with waste and pollution connecting to the Parramatta River. Last year the PRCG visited Duck Creek and since then, a clean-up of the area involving business and members of the community has been undertaken collecting large volumes of plastic waste (20 people collecting 84 bags in a few hours)
- A film was made of the work (YouTube)
- To reduce this sort of damage, the PRCG is attempting to create love for the river by creating swim sites. It is hoped this will discourage littering and the ruining of the river

Ryde River walk

- It was noted that the Powerful Owls which live near one section of the river walk are ok with Council partnering with Birdlife Australia to look at more ways to protect them with the area to be revegetated to prevent public from going up to the tree and to stop dogs

PRCG Litter vacuum

- New foreshore litter vacuum cleaner was recently purchased and used at Kissing Point Park.
- At the site there were many birds including the Bar tailed Godwit suggesting that the area is not suitable for a dog off leash area

Subject:

Minutes – Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting – 10 March 2021

Page 7 of 8

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The trial of the area as an off-leash site concludes at the end of April community encouraged to have their say on web <p>Committee comments on dogs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was noted that ducks and other species have left the Field of Mars due to off leash dogs that swim in the river - Dogs travel from Santa Rosa Park and make tracks along the river - More consideration of the effects of domestic animals and development along Shrimptons Creek is needed <p><u>Council Have Your Say – exhibitions open</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ross Street, - Magdala Park - Shared used path lighting - Shrimptons Creek - Kissing Point Park – dog off leash - 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Future education programs can consider this where appropriate</p>
6.	<p>General Business and matters without notice</p> <p><u>Macquarie Shopping Centre Development and Creekline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bev has been in contact with Council's Senior Coordinator Neighbourhood Activation and Elton Consulting, who is the consultant for Macquarie Shopping Centre. Discussion has been held regarding the provision of a green link from Shrimptons Creek through the shopping centre. - The development's landscape architect is working with the shopping centre and has suggested a green/ vegetation concept to be integrated into the development. This is to be confirmed. <p><u>Litter at Kissing Point Park</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Larger bins are to be installed at this site to assist with the rubbish that is left at this site when boats return from a day out <p><u>Recycling stickers for commercial and home bins</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New stickers are being introduced to show in picture form what can be recycled. <p><u>Nappy reduction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since the last meeting of this group, a workshop has been conducted to show how to use reusable nappies <p><u>Greater Sydney Landcare Network</u></p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Subject:

Minutes – Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting – 10 March 2021

Page 8 of 8

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater Sydney Landcare Network will be planting 100,000 trees in areas with under 30% canopy coverage. This work will take place mainly in western Sydney - Can this information be promoted to Bush care volunteers? - It is known as the 'Creating Canopies Project' with planting to take place on public and private land including hospital sites, koala habitats etc <p><u>National Tree Day 2021</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noted that this should be going ahead in July pending any COVID restrictions. <p><u>Single use plastic ban</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SA has started ban on single use plastics - Vic will start in 2023. <p><u>Habitat rich gardens</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pam R; asked if Council could recognise people who have gardens that are habitat rich and which are fauna friendly – perhaps through a reduction in rates - Staff advised the verge planting report is being prepared requiring collaborative input from many areas of Council as the planting would impact stormwater, the waste team which needs to ensure safe passage for rubbish collection, access for the disabled etc - Peter D; noted that urban street verges can comprise of the last remaining 40% of possible planting space to achieve cooling objectives <p><u>Terracycle</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pam R; Recycling company for several waste products that cannot be put in the yellow recycling bin at home including; toothbrushes, coffee pods and cosmetic containers. It was asked if council could put terracycle collection points in the LGA. Body Shop and others used to do it but stopped during COVID. - Marg K; noted that the dentist at Putney takes toothbrushes and toothpaste containers - Also noted that the Federal government is looking at banning polystyrene 	<p>Staff to note and where possible, promote through channels</p> <p>No known program to date to CoR however report being brought to Council by Assets Department later in 2021 on verge planting</p> <p>Noted – Staff to note to Assets Department for consideration in their new policy/ plan</p> <p>Staff to liaise with Waste team for response and consideration</p>
8	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 9th June, 5:00pm - 6.30pm in the Council Chambers – Level 1A Pope St, Ryde</p>	