

Subject:	Minutes - Sustainability Working Group Meeting - 14 December 2022	Page 1 of 8
File No:	CLR/22/60/11	
Document Ref:	D22/167914	
Venue:	MS TEAMS	
Date:	Wednesday, 14 December 2022	
Time:	5.30pm	Started at: 5.30pm Closed at: 7.12pm
Chair:	Kylie McMahon, Executive Officer – City Resilience	
Meeting Support (MS):	Amanda Janvrin – Civic Services Manager	
Staff Convenor:	Kylie McMahon	
Circulation:	Working Group members and website	

Committee Members as per the Terms of Reference

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
	X	Penny Pedersen	Councillor	City of Ryde
	X	Bernard Purcell	Councillor	City of Ryde
X		Jan Aiello	Community Representative	
X		Hope Ashiabor	Community Representative	
X		Peter Davies	Community Representative	
	X	Bev Debrincat	Community Representative	
X		George Divisek	Community Representative	
X		Wendy Evans	Community Representative	
X		Kerry Gallagher	Community Representative	
		Jill Hartley	Community Representative	
	X	John Herbert	Community Representative	
X		Jordan Hodgson	Community Representative	
X		Austin Kim	Community Representative	
X		Balu Moothedath	Community Representative	
X		Gary Patni	Community Representative	
X		Chathurkia Perera	Community Representative	
X		Pamela Reeves	Community Representative	
		Amelia Saul	Community Representative	
		Annie Sim	Community Representative	
X		Katherine Spencer	Community Representative	
		Jo Taranto	Community Representative	
X		Vlad Tudor	Community Representative	
X		Jane Valentine	Community Representative	
X		Shu-fang Wei	Community Representative	

City of Ryde Staff

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
X		Kylie McMahon	Executive Officer – City Resilience	City of Ryde
X		Sandra Payne	Team Leader – Natural Areas	City of Ryde
X		Elsbeth Pike	Team Leader – Waste Contracts and Projects	City of Ryde
X		Amanda Janvrin	Civic Services Manager	City of Ryde

Details	Action																								
<p>1. Welcome and Apologies</p> <p><u>Acknowledgment of Country</u></p> <p>Kylie McMahon welcomed all present and provided an Acknowledgement of Country.</p> <p>Attendees and apologies were noted.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>																								
<p>2. Adoption of Previous Minutes – 14 September 2022</p> <p>The minutes from previous meeting held on 14 September 2022 were adopted. (Moved by Peter Davies and seconded by Shu-fang Wei).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>																								
<p>3. Actions Arising from the Previous Minutes</p> <p>Sandra Payne provided the following update regarding Actions arising from the previous meeting held on 14 September 2022:-</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #cccccc;"> <th>Action</th> <th>Assigned</th> <th>Notes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="3">From September 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1. Presentation is to be forwarded to members with the draft minutes</td> <td>Environment</td> <td>Presentation forwarded via email 6 October 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Staff to confirm if there are plans to extend Shrimptons Creek lighting through Santa Rosa Park</td> <td>Natural Areas team / Parks</td> <td>Update to be provided at December meeting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Staff to request members' top 3 priority areas</td> <td>Environment</td> <td>Requested via email 6 October 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Fox sighting at Glades Bay Park to be included in feral animals sighting spreadsheet</td> <td>Natural Areas team</td> <td>Feral animals sighting spreadsheet updated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Copy of Net Zero Emissions Plan to be forwarded to members as soon as it is placed on public exhibition</td> <td>Sustainability/ Resilience team</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Link to Solar Schools State Government pilot program to be forwarded to Jo Taranto</td> <td>Sustainability/ Resilience team</td> <td>Sent by Manager Environment</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Action	Assigned	Notes	From September 2022			1. Presentation is to be forwarded to members with the draft minutes	Environment	Presentation forwarded via email 6 October 2022	2. Staff to confirm if there are plans to extend Shrimptons Creek lighting through Santa Rosa Park	Natural Areas team / Parks	Update to be provided at December meeting	3. Staff to request members' top 3 priority areas	Environment	Requested via email 6 October 2022	4. Fox sighting at Glades Bay Park to be included in feral animals sighting spreadsheet	Natural Areas team	Feral animals sighting spreadsheet updated	5. Copy of Net Zero Emissions Plan to be forwarded to members as soon as it is placed on public exhibition	Sustainability/ Resilience team		6. Link to Solar Schools State Government pilot program to be forwarded to Jo Taranto	Sustainability/ Resilience team	Sent by Manager Environment	<p>Noted.</p>
Action	Assigned	Notes																							
From September 2022																									
1. Presentation is to be forwarded to members with the draft minutes	Environment	Presentation forwarded via email 6 October 2022																							
2. Staff to confirm if there are plans to extend Shrimptons Creek lighting through Santa Rosa Park	Natural Areas team / Parks	Update to be provided at December meeting																							
3. Staff to request members' top 3 priority areas	Environment	Requested via email 6 October 2022																							
4. Fox sighting at Glades Bay Park to be included in feral animals sighting spreadsheet	Natural Areas team	Feral animals sighting spreadsheet updated																							
5. Copy of Net Zero Emissions Plan to be forwarded to members as soon as it is placed on public exhibition	Sustainability/ Resilience team																								
6. Link to Solar Schools State Government pilot program to be forwarded to Jo Taranto	Sustainability/ Resilience team	Sent by Manager Environment																							

Subject:	Minutes - Sustainability Working Group Meeting - 14 December 2022	Page 3 of 8
-----------------	---	-------------

Details	Action	
7. Staff to provide an update on the verge policy next meeting.	Environment	Update to be provided at December meeting
4.	Terms of Reference Adoption	
Kylie McMahon advised that the additions discussed at the last Working Group meeting have been included into the Terms of Reference 2022. The Terms of Reference were adopted by the Working Group.	Noted.	
5.	Sustainability Working Group Priority Areas:-	
Kylie McMahon confirmed that the three (3) priority areas for the Working Group were as voted on by all members were as follows:-	Noted.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Biodiversity, Bushland and Trees b. Community Awareness and Education c. Waste 		
Kylie invited the members to input their top 3 priority areas into a spreadsheet / table that will be circulated to members and then a poll will identify the outcomes for the group to work on in the coming term. Kylie advised that she will get the table out to the group in January and then report back the outcome areas at the next meeting.	Kylie to circulate a table for members to nominate their top 3 actions under each of the priority areas	
Initial ideas by members:		
<p><u>Shu-fang Wei</u> Shu-fang advised that a community education program to encourage residents to better coexist with the natural environment would be a good idea. Also, the more people that get in touch with nature the more they appreciate their natural areas. Community education is also important, once a project has been identified we can then invite group leaders to assist with promoting the project to enable more people to participate under a local champion based model e.g. a program hosting of community 'tea parties' to discuss key issues and connect groups. Weeding programs are also noted as important.</p>		
<p><u>Jane Valentine</u> Jane supports Shu-fang's idea, noting that the weeds have gone crazy this year because of the rain and that we should be encouraging people to get involved in their local bushcare group. Weed identification and biodiversity is also very important.</p>		
<p><u>Hope Ashiabor</u> Hope referred to the priority list and suggested that if we are ranking the priorities, then Education should be first on the list as we live in a very diverse community and education will increase volunteers and raise awareness and encourage people to take ownership of the programs.</p>		
<p><u>Balu Moothedath</u></p>		

Subject:	Minutes - Sustainability Working Group Meeting - 14 December 2022	Page 4 of 8
-----------------	---	-------------

Details	Action	
	<p>Raised the issue that Bunnings is selling weeds (such as Agapanthas) which are spreading seeds all over the area after the flowers are finished and it is important to educate people regarding this. In terms of biodiversity, people should focus on endangered species, such as the native tamarind so that we don't lose that species altogether. Also noted was looking at balcony planting and bringing back the birds. In regards to waste, Coles don't recycle soft plastics anymore which means that they will end up in some other country or in landfill.</p> <p><u>Austin Kim</u> Austin noted educating people with regards to recycling and waste and it would be a good idea to separate recyclables and have an additional bin with a different coloured lid (eg. blue or purple) to put glass in.</p> <p><u>Elsbeth Pike (Council Waste Team)</u> Elsbeth advised that there is not a huge recycling benefit with regards to the separation of glass from paper and plastics in the way that we have our recycling process operating at the moment. Elspeth advised that there could be some potential benefits to separating recyclables, however if you put all of your recycling into the one bin, this significantly decreases the costs, it also means that people have fewer bins to store and you still get good environmental outcomes.</p>	
6.	<p>Council Updates</p> <p><u>Grant Update</u></p> <p>Kylie McMahon advised at the last meeting that Council had received a grant to be able to install the second in-river swimming site in the Parramatta River and confirmed that work on that project is underway.</p> <p>Council has received another grant for the installation of an all-abilities bushwalk in the Field of Mars. This will be a \$1 million project which will enable people of all abilities to experience the natural area. Kylie advised that a working group will be formed for this project, which is one of the first of its kind and will deliver a much-improved walking trail experience and improve safety and access to the boardwalk.</p> <p><u>Net Zero Emissions Pathway Community Consultation</u></p> <p>Kylie McMahon advised that Council completed a 'Have Your Say' community consultation which included being sent out to over 3,000 e-newsletter subscribers, user groups and also had a pop-up stall at the Granny Smith Festival in October 2022 with over 400 community interactions on key net zero priorities community wanted council to address. Food organics (FOGO) was one of the priorities together with EV charging and infrastructure and planning with Council staff looking at how we can progress these actions.</p> <p><u>Council Adoption – Net Zero + Green Revolving Fund</u></p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

Details	Action	
	<p>Kylie McMahon confirmed that the Net Zero + Green Revolving Fund went through and was adopted by Council. The Green Revolving Fund is a sustainable funding source which will deliver 38 different actions to reduce emissions and improve resource efficiency in our utility using assets. The fund works by using initial 'seed' start-up funding to deliver efficiency projects with the savings from those projects going back into the fund in order to regeneratively fund additional new projects into the future and reducing emissions long term.</p> <p><u>Organisational Restructure</u></p> <p>Kylie McMahon advised that Council is currently undergoing a restructure which includes the recent appointment of a Chief Executive Officer (who was a former Director) and the establishment of two (2) General Managers. One General Manager will be responsible for Business and Operations and the second General Manager will be responsible for a new department called City Shaping. Kylie advised that half of the previous Environment team will be moving into the City Shaping area (City Resilience) and the natural areas team to the Operations section of Council. No change will occur with the working group.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>General Business</p> <p><u>Green Links Corridor – George Divisek</u></p> <p>George discussed the issue of public versus private conflict, citing an example of his Bushcare work at Darvall Park, when he was asked to cease local works due to complaints from an adjoining resident and he has concerns about this repeating in the Shrimptons Creek Green Links area between North Road and Quarry Road because the residents objected to the cycleway. George advised that the extension of the nature corridor from Santa Rosa Road Reserve is a great idea and planting trees and shrubs in an easy natural way to assist the environment. George advised that there is nothing standing in the way of Council fulfilling the second part of granting the easement now in this area and it would be good to start planting in winter 2023 and we can revisit the cycleway later.</p> <p>Kylie advised that Council does not have permission at this time to undertake the planting of trees and shrubs in the extension of the nature corridor as Council has not adopted to include that land between Quarry Road and Blaxland Road. Kylie confirmed that the land is owned by Sydney Water and there is no funding for any works in that stretch of the corridor. Further conversations between the two asset owners will continue towards this outcome.</p> <p><u>Community Garden, Verge Garden Policy and Meadowbank Garden Update – Jordan Hodgson</u></p> <p>Kylie McMahon advised that the strategic urban strategy team are undertaking the work on the Community Gardens Guideline and a draft has been formulated. The process involved reviewing Community Gardens Policies and Processes from numerous other Council's and the Policy is progressing well with a draft almost ready to be presented to Council's Executive Leadership Team.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

Details	Action	
<p>Jordan had asked about the community consultation in this process and also a timeframe for the Community Gardens Policy. Kylie advised that there was not a consultation process as there was no significant change to the actual policy itself. The matter was reported back to Council via information bulletin update. Presently there is not a defined indication of when it will be presented to Council as it needs to go to the Executive Leadership Team first but should be presented to Council early next year.</p> <p><u>Verge Policy</u></p> <p>Kylie McMahon advised that the Policy has been updated to allow which continues residents to apply to Council via written submission to plant low maintenance plantings and garden beds on verges. Kylie noted that when considering applications, Council needs to take into consideration such as safety and asset issues together with the need to maintain nature strips.</p> <p>Jordan advised that expecting residents to apply and then get a permit creates barriers and we should be looking at reducing those barriers. Jordan advised he will send details through an example of a community garden guideline</p> <p><u>Meadowbank Community Garden</u></p> <p>Kylie McMahon updated that Memorial Park was not identified as a suitable location however, Woolway Reserve will be considered. Jordan advised that design of the garden is important, and we need to involve the community from the start, including first nations engagement and bringing them onboard together with other experts.</p> <p><u>Emission and Cost Saving Initiatives</u></p> <p>Kylie McMahon advised that she would send out a link regarding converting electric and gas hot water services to a heat pump solution. This can be done in the home and there are advantages in terms of long term cost savings and emissions reductions. Other initiatives by the State Government for emissions reductions include for the pool and lighting and can be found via the weblink.</p> <p><u>Weeds</u></p> <p>Shu-fang advised that we should write to the local member or petition parliament to require stores selling plants that are potentially weeds to have them stop selling them. Sandra Payne advised that there is some information where the State Government has put together a list of non-weedy plants with a green tick to assist in the education of residents. Sandra will send a copy of the list through to members.</p>		<p>Noted</p> <p>Jordan to send Kylie details of a community garden guideline</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Kylie to send a link regarding converting electric and gas hot water services to a heat pump solution.</p> <p>Sandra to send through details of the gardening responsibly accreditation scheme for nurseries</p>

Details	Action	
<p><u>Porters Creek Site</u></p> <p>Pamela requested an update on the Porters Creek site and where we are up to with the Community Recycling Centre. Kylie advised that it was a long project where Council aspire to make it a signature site, however the State Government rejected the change in land use so the project cannot proceed at present. This is being worked on.</p>		Noted.
<p><u>FOGO</u></p> <p>Pamela asked if we have a new contractor for garbage collection and if so were they interested in doing FOGO? Elspeth advised that the garbage contract does not run out until 2025 at the earliest and that the FOGO component is something that will be assessed as part of the next garbage contract. Elspeth advised that by 2030 the State Government has advised that all Councils must comply with food and garden organics (FOGO).</p>		Noted.
<p><u>Thornleigh Recycling Centre</u></p> <p>Pamela advised that styrofoam can be recycled at Thornleigh, however, believes that it was only for people within that Local Government area. Kylie advised that the Thornleigh Recycling Centre is a good resource for recycling many items and is also taking soft plastics.</p>		Noted.
<p><u>Public EV Charging Stations</u></p> <p>Pamela asked if there were any plans for more public EV charging stations around the Local Government area. Kylie advised that there has been lots of interest and she currently has about six (6) proposals to date. Kylie advised that there is one (1) proposal which has been progressing however, Council has interest to move into the fast-charging space if suitable.</p>		Noted
<p><u>Issues with private vs public trees</u></p> <p>Chaturkia advised that there are many people who want to make their neighbourhood green but sometimes run into issues with private vs public (e.g. a resident planted a tree and the roots have now gone into the pipes and Sydney Water have advised that it is the resident's responsibility). Chaturkia advised that we should be creating awareness of these kinds of issues at the Development Application stage. Knowledge transfer is also important between property owner and renter and also previous owner and current owners of the property. Education is key and it would be helpful for residents to know what kind of tree they can plant and where it can be planted on the property.</p>		Noted.
<p><u>Recycling of Soft Plastics</u></p> <p>Jan advised that the recycle smart program is a free service to residents in their homes and takes polystyrene to recycle and wanted to know if Ryde has considered this program. Elspeth advised that there was a report presented to Council last Tuesday which outlined that all recycle smart do is transport, they do not recycle so there needs to be an end point for the items to go to. Elspeth advised that at this time, we are not planning on going with them because 60% of what they transport is soft plastics and there is limited options for actually recycling soft plastics at the moment. Elspeth advised that there are very</p>		Noted.

Subject:	Minutes - Sustainability Working Group Meeting - 14 December 2022	Page 8 of 8
-----------------	---	-------------

Details	Action	
	limited options for recycling soft plastics at the moment and there are significant costs involved which takes away from other programs that Council can offer residents so Council is looking at other opportunities. Coles, Woolworths and Aldi have submitted a request to the State Government to create a task force to look into new opportunities for recycling soft plastics, however, they are very difficult to recycle and will be well into next year.	
8.	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>The next Working Group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 14 March 2023 from 5:30pm – 7.00pm. The meeting is to be held at: Level 1A, 1 Pope Street, Ryde and via MS TEAMS in the Committee Room.</p>	Noted.