



MINUTES

Environmental Advisory Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 8 February 2023

at 4:00 PM

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1. Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to begin this meeting by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of this land on which we meet today. I would also like to pay respect to Elders both past, present and emerging.

2. Present

Present: Mayor Statham, Councillor Almudena Bryce, Councillor Eric Mahony, Trish Kidd, Julie Favell, Susan Gregory

Officers: Craig Bulter, Michael McGrath, David Anderson, Brendan Livingstone, Fiona Dick (Minute Taker)

3. Apologies

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes were endorsed by two members of the Committee being:

Councillor Bryce and Julie Favell

The minutes are proposed to be presented to the next Council Meeting.

ACTION

THAT the Minutes of the meeting of be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: Councillor Bryce

SECONDED: Julie Favell

5. Declaration of Interest

6. Presentations

Nil

7. Reports

7.1. Funding Council has Received for Lake Pillans

Summary

Great news about this funding Council has received for Lake Pillans. The embargo has been taken off the funding Council has received.

Commentary

Attachments

Recommendation:

THAT

- Council is sending out quotes. This is early days and Council will be meeting landscapers and architects. Council is looking at security and new shelter for the site. Committee congratulated Council about getting this funding.

MOVED: Trish Kidd

SECONDED: Julie Favell

CARRIED: Unanimously

7.2. Hassans Walls Reserve

Summary

A consultant has been engaged to conduct an assessment and provided a Brief for Flora and Fauna Assessment of Hassans Walls Reserve along with a Brief for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment of Proposed Mountain Biking Trails Network at Hassans Walls Reserve.

The Mountain Bike Strategy has been recognised only as a concept, not a strategy. Council is requiring an Environment and Heritage study to be conducted prior to adopting a strategy to incorporate those elements. (See page 3 of the Flora and Fauna Assessment for location).

It appears to be an opportunity.

The Committee has enquired whether anyone from Council has contacted Central Tablelands Mountain Bikes in regards to the concept.

Commentary

In regards to the Rocky Trail plan, previously raised by Council, the Committee is under the impression that the plan was no longer proceeding. The Committee had written a strong letter to Council about their concerns of this.

The plan was not entirely complete and Council did not want to proceed until further investigation was accomplished to provide a better understanding of the concept. Activities require adequate management.

Attachments

Recommendation

THAT

- Council will contact Craig Flynn to enquire with the progress stage of the signage.
- The Mine Subsidence Plan is to be updated.
- Actively pursuing for a Bushland Officer for the management of bushland. Considering the possibility of sharing a Bushland Management Office with Blue Mountains Council or Oberon Council.
- Advise Council if anyone from the Committee has sighted any slack lines at Hassans Walls.

MOVED: Councillor Bryce

SECONDED: Susan Gregory

CARRIED: Unanimously

7.3 Lithgow LGA

Summary

Council are prioritising to use native plants throughout the LGA. This process is completed through a regulated system.

Heavily damaged trees due to infrastructure have been observed throughout streetscapes. Council have collaborated with Energy Companies with a list of standard trees and are in discussions with developers to rectify issues.

Commentary

Attachments

Recommendation

THAT

- Council encourages the planting of native trees in newly developed areas.
- Consider the planting of native trees throughout the street areas. (Note currently not in Council policy but able to make arrangements)

MOVED: Julie Favell

SECONDED: Councillor Bryce

CARRIED: Unanimously

7.4 Hassans Walls Reserve Lithgow

Summary

Refer to 7.2 of minutes.

Commentary

Attachments

Recommendation

THAT

MOVED: Councillor Bryce

SECONDED: Julie Favell

CARRIED: Unanimously

7.5 Hyde Park Reserve Hartley

Summary

The road into Hyde Park Reserve has a lot of pot holes and requires urgent attention.

Commentary

The Committee noted the access road fall on vacant Crown Land managed by the Crown. The Committee discussed whether Council should become a Trustee or investigate the information in relation to the Crown Land for a Community Trust. Council will go and assess the access road into Hyde Park. The Committee advised Council needs is to communicate about the Aboriginal Heritage Site.

Attachments

Recommendation

THAT

- Access point into Hyde Park requires rectification. (Return as a standing item)
- Council to assess this road.

MOVED: Councillor Bryce

SECONDED: Julie Favell

CARRIED: Unanimously

7.6 Hassans Walls Reserve Lithgow

Summary

Discussion whether Ridgy Didge Running Event has received Council approval to proceed in 2023.

Commentary

The Committee advised this is the second year this event has happened and it is not being managed correctly.

The Committee would like to know if a DA has been put into Council?

The Committee would like Council to provide a report in relation to the compliance and legislation of this event. Council will speak with their legal Counsel.

The Committee advised we need to get the balance of this event correct.

The Committee would like this item as a standing item for the next meeting.

The Committee raised concerns about the legality and validity of this event.

Attachments

Recommendation

THAT

Action/Recommendation

- Ridgy Didge Running Event (return as standing item)
- Committee would like a report on approvals and compliance.

MOVED: Councillor Bryce

SECONDED: Julie Favell

CARRIED: Unanimously

7.7 Threatened Species Management

Summary

Commentary

Committee asked for Council to brief senior staff

Attachments

Recommendation

THAT

Council to relay information to relevant staff.

MOVED: Councillor Bryce

SECONDED: Julie Favell

CARRIED: Unanimously

8. General Business

9. Meeting Close

Next Meeting: Wednesday 10 May 2023 at 4.00pm in the Committee Room

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5.10pm.