



MINUTES

Environmental Advisory Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 16 August 2023

at 4:00 PM

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The Chairperson declared the meeting opened at 4.00pm.

1. Acknowledgement of Country

Lithgow City Council acknowledges Wiradjuri Elders past and present of the Wiradjuri nation - the original custodians of the land on which the Lithgow's communities reside. The Council also extends our respects to our neighbouring nations.

2. Present

Present: Mayor M Statham, Craig Bulter (GM), Councillor A Bryce, Councillor E Mahony, Trish Kidd (Lithgow Oberon Landcare Association), Julie Favell (Lithgow Environment Group Inc.), Susan Gregory (Lithgow & District Community Nursery)

Officers: Matthew Trapp, Matthew Johnson, Fiona Dick (Minute Taker)

3. Apologies

Officers: Brendan Livingstone

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting 10 May 2023 were confirmed by the committee members through consultation and then noted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting of 22 May 2023

ACTION

THAT the Minutes of the meeting of 10 May 2023 be formally confirmed by the Committee.

MOVED: Councillor Bryce

SECONDED: Councillor Mahony

5. Declaration of Interest

The Mayor called for any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

6. Reports

6.1. Hassans Walls Reserve Track & Trail Audit

Council advised there are 3 studies being completed for the Hassans Walls Reserve including:

- Flora and Fauna Study is being undertaken by the Environmental Factor Consultants
- Aboriginal heritage Study by Niche Consulting
- Recreational Track audit by Gondwana Consulting

The 3 studies are being undertaken to help inform Council on the draft Hassans Walls Mountain Bike Strategy. The reports will be provided to Council in late November 2023. These studies will be provided to the EAC Meeting in December.

There was no Mine Subsidence Study completed, this was not part of the scope of work.

The Committee understood that EAC reps would be consulted by the consultants where relevant. To date, only Gondwana has contacted LEG and LOLA. Neither Environmental Factor Consultants or Niche Consulting have contacted EAC community stakeholders. Gondwana Consulting made early contact with the EAC as a part of this process.

It was stated by Council's administration reps that the mountain bike project was only at concept stage and is not a Council endorsed project. Council will later determine if they adopt the concept or not.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. Council staff confirm with the consulting firms listed, the status of their community engagement with relevant stakeholders from the EAC (or any others noted by Council as being relevant) for input, prior to finalisation. This will allow draft reports to be tabled back to the EAC for review.
2. The three draft studies relating to the Hassans Walls Reserve be provided to the Committee for review prior to completion/endorsement.

MOVED: Councillor Mahony
CARRIED

SECONDED: T Kidd

6.2. Farmers Creek Works

- Council has obtained environmental permits to undertake works within Farmer's Creek with a Fisheries Permit for the works that is underway at Burton Street. Council staff are undertaking the Part 5 assessments to ensure all permits and environmental requirements are completed.
- Council is obtaining a survey to reaffirm that there will be no negative impacts on flood levels.
- Council will have to investigate further the work at the Zig Zag, as a stop work has been commissioned as they could not get an approval.
- Council has done assessments after the floods at Inch Street.
- There have been barriers put up further downstream where works have been undertaken.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. The committee note the report provided on the in-creek works on Farmer's Creek
2. Council staff provide to the committee, at a later date, an update about Farmers Creek works with regard to safety for children and animals.

MOVED: J Favell

SECONDED: S Gregory

CARRIED

6.3. Threatened Species Habitat - Lithgow Solid Waste Facility

- Council met on-site at the Lithgow Solid Waste Facility (LSWF) in February 2023, with staff from the Department of Planning & Environment (DPIE – formerly OEH), Local Land Services (LLS), Lithgow City Council (LCC) and representatives from the Lithgow Oberon Landcare Association (LOLA), regarding the slashed area opposite the weighbridge.
- Any further response from the DPIE Compliance Team is still pending.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council be acknowledged for their honest response to the incident, and implementation of a range of revised practices and procedures to prevent this type of event from reoccurring.

MOVED: Councillor Bryce

SECONDED: Councillor Mahony

CARRIED

6.4. Lake Pillans Wetlands Reserve Planning

- Plans for the Lake Pillans area will be on public exhibition soon. Council welcomes feedback and comments on the draft plans during the exhibition period
- The Committee raised the issue of the potential impacts from establishing permanent lighting at Lake Pillans. There are a lot of birds and native fauna that are diurnal and reside in the wetland to sleep and roost at night.
- Staff confirmed lighting will be dimmed sensor lighting but will explore all options to meet requirements for environment and public safety.
- The Committee raised concerns that permanent lighting may invite the wrong people to Lake Pillans, attract anti-social behaviour and potentially create safety risks. Staff understand the issue and will consider how best to approach this issue.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT The Committee notes the exhibition period and review the plan whilst on exhibition.

MOVED: Councillor Mahony

SECONDED: Councillor Bryce

CARRIED

7. General Business

1. Update on the proposal for a Natural Resource Management Officer
 - Council has approved the position for a Natural Resource Management Officer.
 - Council is working through the position description to ensure it covers the appropriate tasks.
 - Most Councils have a Natural Resource Management Officer.
 - Council advised the Committee that they would present the draft Position Description to the Committee for review and input regarding the roles and responsibilities of the position, prior to it being finalised.
2. The Committee would like to thank Matthew Trapp for being very co-operative with a matter reported by Julie Favell. It was requested that the matter be reported back to the next committee meeting.
3. Staff confirmed that funding for the Mountain Bike Trail Development in the LGA was provided to the Central Tablelands Mountain Bike club under the Regional Tourism Activation Fund. Council is a stakeholder, but the project is being run by National Parks.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. Council provides a position description for the Natural Resource Management Office to the Committee.
2. Council provides any update received from the National Parks in regard to the Mountain Bike Trail Development.

MOVED: Councillor Bryce

SECONDED: Councillor Mahony

8. Meeting Close

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