



MINUTES

Environmental Advisory Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 8 November 2023

at 4:00 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Acknowledgement of Country	3
2. Present	3
3. Apologies	3
4. Confirmation of Minutes.....	3
5. Declaration of Interest.....	4
6. Reports.....	4
6.1. Environmental Initiatives being undertaken by the Western Sydney University's Maldhan Ngurr Ngurra Lithgow Transformation Hub	4
6.2. Flora and Fauna studies within the Hassans Walls Reserve	4
6.3. Collaboration between Lithgow Council and LOLA at the Lithgow Landfill	5
6.4. Part 5 Assessment Process for Council Works.....	5
6.5. Clarence Water Scheme	6
6.6. Natural Area Management Officer Position.....	6
7. General Business	6
8. Meeting Close	7

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, Councillor E Mahony, Trish Kidd (Lithgow Oberon Landcare Association), Julie Favell (Lithgow Environment Group Inc.), Susan Gregory (Lithgow & District Community Nursery), Councillor Ring, Karen Purser (Western Sydney University's Maldhan Ngurr Ngurra Lithgow Transformation Hub)

Officers: Matthew Trapp, Shaun Elwood, Brendan Livingstone, Matthew Johnson, Jonathon Edgecombe and Fiona Dick (Minute Taker)

3. Apologies

An apology was received and leave of absence granted to Councillor A Bryce who is unable to attend due to work commitments.

Procedural Motion

That a leave of absence be granted to Councillor A Bryce.

MOVED: Julie Favell

SECONDED: Trish Kidd

4. Confirmation of Minutes

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

Susan Gregory and Julie Favell.

The minutes are proposed to be presented to the Council on 27 November 2023.

ACTION

THAT the Minutes of the meeting of 8 November 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: Susan Gregory

SECONDED: Julie Favell

5. Declaration of Interest

The Mayor called for any declaration of interest.

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

6. Reports

6.1. Environmental Initiatives being undertaken by the Western Sydney University's Maldhan Ngurr Ngurr Lithgow Transformation Hub

Karen Purser from Western Sydney University Maldhan Ngurr Ngurr Lithgow Transformation Hub provided a presentation in relation to Environmental Initiatives which are being undertaken at the University which are Environmentally based as follows:-

- Ecology Mapping
- INaturalist Program
- Bio Blitz #1 - Lake Pillans
- Bio Blitz #2 - Fungi Workshop
- Bio Blitz #3 - Bracey's Lookout Bushwalk
- Bio Blitz #4 - State Mine Heritage Park
- Summer Heat Detective Program
- One Million Turtles Program
- Painted River Project Lake Pillans

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT Western Sydney University Maldhan Ngurr Ngurr Lithgow Transformation Hub have Environmentally based programs which the Committee might be interested in.

MOVED: Susan Gregory

SECONDED: Julie Favell

CARRIED

6.2. Flora and Fauna studies within the Hassans Walls Reserve

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 the coming weeks.

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

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the draft studies relating to the Hassans Walls Reserve be provided to the Committee for review prior to completion.

MOVED: Councillor Mahony

SECONDED: Susan Gregory

CARRIED

6.3. Collaboration between Lithgow Council and LOLA at the Lithgow Landfill

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council provide a report to the Committee at the next meeting.

MOVED: Councillor Mahony

SECONDED: Susan Gregory

CARRIED

6.4. Part 5 Assessment Process for Council Works

- Council provided an update in relation to a variety of projects which they are working on.
- Council has engaged a consultant in relation to the review of Council's operations.
- The consultant will be interviewing Council staff on a 'no harm' basis and be provided with documentation on Council's operations.
- Council staff will be provided with training on Council's operations.
- A review will be put into place in regards to what improvements can be made and to make sure that Council providing the correct procedures.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council provide a report to the Committee once the review is completed.

MOVED: Councillor Mahony

SECONDED: Julie Favell

CARRIED

6.5. Clarence Water Scheme

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council provide a report to the Committee at the next meeting.

MOVED: Councillor Mahony

SECONDED: Susan Gregory

CARRIED

6.6. Natural Area Management Officer Position

- Council has provided the position description to the Committee
- This is a Council funded position.
- Position to report to the Environment Team Leader
- Committee has been pushing for this position for many years
- Council is preparing valuation for the grading of the position
- Council is looking to advertise of the Christmas period and will close late January 2024

Commented [SE1]: Note: after discussion Committee agreed that a late Jan close was acceptable.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee provide in writing any amendments to the position description to Council by Friday 17 November.

MOVED: Susan Gregory

SECONDED: Julie Favell

CARRIED

7. General Business

There was no General Business.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

MOVED:

SECONDED:

CARRIED

8. Meeting Close

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5.05pm.