



MINUTES

Environmental Advisory Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 10 April 2024

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	3
6. Reports	3
6.1. Hassan Walls Reports	4
6.2. Trail Running Event Hassans Walls Reserve	4
7. General Business	5
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) and Vaughan Bryers (Lithgow Tidy Towns)

Officers: Shaun Elwood, Director People and Places, and Fiona Dick (Minute Taker)

3. Apologies

Present: An apology was received and leave of absence granted to Councillor A Bryce who is unable to attend.

Procedural Motion

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

MOVED: Councillor Mayony

SECONDED: S Gregory

4. Confirmation of Minutes

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

Julie Favell and Councillor Mahony.

The minutes are proposed to be presented to the Council on 22 April 2024.

ACTION

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

MOVED: Julie Favell

SECONDED: Councillor Mahony

5. Declaration of Interest

The Mayor called for any declaration of interest.

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

6. Reports

6.1. Hassan Walls Reports

Council has commissioned 3 studies to be 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 and future reserve management plans.

The draft Flora and Fauna Study has been received with the remaining reports due with Council in late April. The Aboriginal Heritage Study was delayed following a Council request for the contractor to undertake an additional site visit with traditional owners.

The package of draft reports will be circulated to the committee once received by Council.

The Committee also recognised the contribution to the knowledge of Hassans Walls of Helen Drewe over many years with her research of native flora, the three Hassans Walls Books she contributed to, and botanic listings provided to Council. It was also recommended that the new Natural Area Management Officer be informed of Helens work and extensive knowledge.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the package of draft reports be provided to the committee once they are received by Council

MOVED: Councillor Mahony

SECONDED: Julie Favell

6.2. Trail Running Event Hassans Walls Reserve

Lithgow Environment Group has raised issues in relation to the Ridgely Didge Trail Running Event. Specifically concern that all of the Hassans Walls tracks were being used for this event not just the Sheedy's Gully Track and the protection of the flora and the fauna at Sheedy's Gully.

Council advised the event received approval on the basis that they use the trails that are currently recognised and in use.

Council is engaging World Trail to also advise on the existing sustainability in design of the current MTB trails and to provide an initial cost assessment upgrade the trails.

Council advised the Ridgely Didgy event is insured by the event organiser and a total of 270 participated in the event.

Council will be meeting with Ridgy Didgy Event Manager in a few months to review the event and post event site information and participant data.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council provides a report to the committee after receiving an assessment from World Trail.

MOVED: Julie Favell

SECONDED: Susan Gregory

7. General Business

7.1

Review of Part 5 Assessment Process for Council Works

The Environmental Factor has been engaged to conduct a review of the Councils Part 5 Assessment procedures and approvals process. Council will provide the Committee with outcome of the Review of Part 5 Approvals process.

7.2

NAMO Position and Landcare Coordinator role

Council is in the process of re-advertising the NAMO position.

LOLA has also successfully secured additional funding for the Landcare Coordinator role. The new funding, from a statewide Landcare grant, will provide for the position to be full time 5 days a week for 4 year period.

The Committee would like to thank Trish Kidd for the commitment and work she has undertaken to achieve this significant opportunity for the Landcare Coordinator role.

7.3 Clarence Water Scheme

The Committee would like a report to be provided in relation to the Clarence Water Scheme. Council advised they would have a representative at the next meeting.

7.4

Sediment control at Lidsdale

The Committee advised they have received an email from the public in relation to sedimentation control at the subdivision at Ian Holt Drive at Lidsdale.

The Committee queried if Council are meeting expected industry requirements for sedimentation control and undertaking compliance.

The Committee also wondered if Council Staff can receiving funded training from Water NSW in relation to Urban Stormwater (the former 'Blue Book')?

Council to check on what is happening with this matter.

7.5

The Mayor informed the Committee that Council will be spending \$120,000 this year in relation to cleaning up the weeds in our community.

The Committee also identified Papas Grass in a property at Castlereagh Highway which is out of control.

Council to provide a from Upper Macquarie Council (contracted weeds control provider) in relation to the weeds management to date in the LGA.

7.6

The Committee would like a notice or Media Release to be put out when public events are on in our community, especially at Hassans Walls.

8. Meeting Close

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