



# MINUTES

Environmental Advisory Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre  
Committee Room  
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 12 June 2024

at 4:00 PM

# ORDER OF BUSINESS

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The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 4:03 pm.

## 1. Acknowledgement of Country

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The Mayor acknowledged Wiradjuri Elders past and present of the Wiradjuri nation - the original custodians of the land on which the Lithgow's communities reside and extended respect to our neighbouring nations.

## 2. Present

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Present:

Mayor Maree Statham  
Councillor Eric Mahony  
Trish Kidd  
Julie Favell  
Susan Gregory  
Vaughan Bryers

Officers:

Shaun Elwood  
Trinity Newton (minutes)

## 3. Apologies

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Apology - Councillor Almy Bryce

## 4. Confirmation of Minutes

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### ACTION

THAT the Minutes of the 10 April 2024 Environment Advisory Committee:

1. Be taken as read and confirmed.
2. Be noted as being presented and adopted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 27 May 2024 Resolution Number 24-116.

**MOVED:** Vaughan Bryers

**SECONDED:** Julie Favell

## 5. Declaration of Interest

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There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

## 6. Reports

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### 6.1. Lake Pillans Site Management

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An overview of the history of Lake Pillans restoration program was given to the Committee by T Kidd, Lithgow-Oberon Landcare representative, and discussion was held on the negative impact on some of the restoration works from recent Council site maintenance practices.

- Management of the bush regeneration sites is usually the works undertaken by LandCare.
- Vehicle access restriction points have been incorporated into the current plans for new onsite improvement works to be undertaken by Council this winter.
- LCC has had discussions with their Parks & Recreation Team regarding the recent works carried out within Lake Pillans and the environmental impacts for these jobs.
- The LandCare Officer is working on a management plan to clearly set out what is involved and expected of the rejuvenation. This will be worked through with LOLA and LandCare representatives. An onsite meeting with Councils Parks team and relevant staff and Landcare representatives will be arranged to confirm future maintenance practices.
- Tidy Towns indicated that they are having similar issues and would like some conversations on this also.
- LCC team were open to change of practice to deal with the issues that have been identified at Lake Pillans.

Councillor E Mahony entered the meeting and apologised for his lateness.

The Committee discussed condition mapping as well as asset management process for Lake Pillans reserve..

Councillor Mahony raised the LCC volunteer policy which is yet to be implemented. The Director of People and Place gave advice on the council process on this.

#### **ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council update the committee at the next meeting with the program strategies to managing natural area rehabilitation and assets at Lake Pillans Wetlands.

**MOVED:** Councillor E Mahony

**SECONDED:** Julie Favell

**CARRIED**

### 6.2. Vehicle Access Hyde Park Reserve Hartley

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Concern was raised by members over the deteriorating condition of the dirt surface vehicle access road into the reserve. The road is a Crown lands road and Council is not funded to maintain the road.

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The Committee were informed by T. Kidd that there may be external funding sources available from Crown Lands.

Council has concerns that it may face perceptions of obligations to continue maintaining the road if funding has is received only as a one off.

Hyde Park has cultural connection as a Women's Place but also is a site for one of the rarest plants in the world.

It was noted that Council is the manager of the Crown Lands Reserve, but not the access road.

Discussion on options included:

- Consider blocking off the road access
- There are currently natural restrictions for two wheel drive vehicles while 4WD are still able to access the area.
- Having vehicle access leaves the area open to damaging and anti social activities.
- Access required for fire/emergency services
- Gated access or foot access system could be utilised.
- Funds availability from Crown Lands would be an issue for doing anything with the road access.
- Challenging management as part of the road is used for access by a neighbour, beyond this point, prior to road deterioration up to 52 vehicles were observed to access the site on a summers day, where do the vehicles park?

**ACTION:** Management options would need to be considered.

#### **ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council actively investigate viable options for the reserve.

**MOVED:** Trish Kidd

**SECONDED:** Susan Gregory

**CARRIED**

### **6.3. Hassans Walls Reserve Technical Reports**

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Council has received three reports that were commissioned, Ecological assessment report, Cultural Heritage assessment report and the Recreational track audit.

These have been provided to Council in a draft format and will be provided to the Committee as draft reports restricted to the committee's review. The Flora and Fauna report is prominently for Sheedy's Gully and not every track.

A meeting to discuss the reports can be arranged if the committee feels the need.

These reports, and earlier report proposals such as the Mountain Bike Strategy, will be used to inform develop the Plan of Management for Hassans Walls. The existing Plan of Management, which is not

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formerly enacted due to historical process issues, still provides guidance for the reserves management and will continue to do so until the new PoM is prepared.

A timeframe for the development of the new Plan of Management will be advised.

The committee noted that there were no physical management policies set for the management of events within the reserve.

**ACTION:**

Administration to seek clarification as to the Plan of management's status being current.

**ACTION / RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the package of draft reports be provided to the committee for initial review.

*(Note: The draft reports were subsequently circulated by Council to the committee members on 18 June 2024).*

**MOVED:** Julie Favell

**SECONDED:** Susan Gregory

**CARRIED**

## **7. General Business**

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- Natural Area Management Officer will be commencing in mid-July. This is a full time position.
- Land Care Co-ordinator – full time four year position funded through Landcare grants.
- Oakey Park – Bells Road

Parks & Reserves Team wanted to table with the committee that five of the Robinia trees presenting public safety risks will be replaced with Oak trees.

**ACTION:** A copy of the arborist report on the Robinia Trees to be supplied to the Oakey Park residents group.

- Director People and Place gave support to the report and the recommendations due to the risk presented by the existing trees noted.
- Committee requested that a review of Risk appetite for tree management needs to be considered for the removal of trees.
- The Committee asked if the arborists considered wind management and the risk to council with the remaining trees.

**ACTION:** Administration to check if the arborists considered wind management and the risk to council with the remaining trees.

- The Committee noted that specific mountain tree frog species are present in this area.
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- There was an understanding taken out that there were to be a replacement of trees on Island Parade. Prior Undertakings by Council that consultation was to occur with Oakey Park residents. Verbal undertakings to people in Oakey Park that has not been done. Oakey Park residents do not want to loose faith in the council.
- The initial meeting with council staff was good and productive.
- Bins and swings at Oakey Park – there is a playground being constructed in Oakey Park now.
- Cr Mahony – thank you to Council for following up on soil erosion management at South Bowenfels and West Lithgow.
- Discussion and a request was tabled to provide 'blue book' training to LCC staff to understand what the minimum requirements are.

**ACTION:** A request to review the sediment issues occurring at Glen Davis.

- The committee were given information on the prevention notice for Hepburn Street matters.

**ACTION:** A request to pass onto the staff an appreciation for the weed spraying and mowing on the side of the road in the area recently.

## **8. Meeting Close**

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Next Meeting: 14 August 2024 at 4pm at Maldhan Ngurr Ngurra.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 4:58 pm.