



MINUTES

Environmental Advisory Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Wednesday 9 April 2025

at 4:00 PM

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The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 4:04 pm.

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.

The Chair acknowledged our 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

Present: Mayor Cass Coleman, Clr Eric Mahony, Julie Favell, Trish Kidd, Jackie Altair, David Peters

Officers: Shaun Elwood (Director People & Places), Ailis Chapman (Natural Area Management Officer), Cassie Turner (Minutes)

3. Apologies

Clr Steve Ring, Susan Gregory, Sharon Riley

MOVED: Mayor Cass Coleman

SECONDED: Jackie Altair

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes were presented and endorsed at the Council meeting of 24 March 2025.

MOVED: Mayor Cass Coleman

SECONDED: Jackie Altair

5. Declaration of Interest

Nil

6. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

ITEM 1

Vehicle Access Hyde Park Reserve Hartley

Summary

The vehicle access road that leads to Hyde Park Reserve is crown land, with no active land manager. The access road is in very poor condition, and has restricted regular vehicle access for some time, particularly after rain events.

The reserve is effectively land-locked (except for 4WDs), via the Vacant Crown Road. This isolates the area from the public, creating an ideal space for anti-social activities and vandalism.

Please see Business Paper – Agenda – EAC 12 June 2024

Council's response was as per the below;

It was previously recommended that Council investigate viable options for the active management of the vehicle access road to Hyde Park Reserve in order to make it more accessible.

It was also previously discussed that Council has no capacity to assume responsibility for the maintenance of roads that are currently outside its care and control. The road into Hyde Park is a Crown Road that leads into a crown reserve. This is not a Council maintained asset.

If Council was to receive funding from Crown Lands to perform maintenance, alongside Crown Lands written confirmation that this is 'one-off' works that do not constitute Council's willingness to maintain the asset in perpetuity, this would be a proposal Council may likely consider.

The Natural Area Management Officer confirmed that the Grant Application is only for within the reserve and the outcome of the grant should be known in May.

A pathway forward to manage the untrafficable road and resulting erosion and sediment transfer is seen to be with great difficulty. Extensive work would be required irrespective of vehicles or not.

Reality is that the road work will need to be sought through grants etc as currently there is no current LCC funding source. If the Crown Lands grant is successful, we may also need to seek further funding.

If the grant for the reserve was successful, some road repairs would be required and it would need to be looked at as to where the vehicle access would be terminated.

NAMO to also approach with Saving our Species.

Significant volume of imported fill is required to supplement grading hence why the cost will be high. Minor maintenance will not suffice.

It was asked if anybody approached the Crown Reserve Manager being Hartley Recreational Reserve Trust and a member living adjacent to reserve.

An important note was that the reserve is a Environmental wildlife corridor.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends to identify and work with adjoining Crown land and reserve managers to identify potential management options for the road and network within the reserve. Investigate the possible funding avenues of designating the CL road as a fire trail.

MOVED: David Peters

SECONDED: Julie Favell

ITEM 2

Management of Native Vegetation at Lake Pillans Wetland

Summary

Issues raised in June 2024 regarding invasive cutting and clearing of revegetation zones at Lake Pillans Wetland; please see Business Paper – Agenda – EAC 12 June 2024.

Commentary

The Council recommendation was as per the below;

Recommendation

THAT Council undertake consultation and co-ordination with LOLA in regard to managing natural area rehabilitation and assets at Lake Pillans Wetlands.

The consultation has been limited. LOLA advised that they have not been contacted to confirm process.

It was resolved that Eric Mahony would also raise this issue in the Infrastructure Committee.

The Natural Area Management Officer (NAMO) did advise that since the issues were raised in June 2024, consultation between Council's Recreation Parks and Gardens, Community and Culture Teams and LOLA has occurred both in direct response to this incident and as part of the Lake Pillans shared path upgrade.

LOLA's Local Landcare Coordinator, Steve Fleischmann met with the Kirkconnell crew in 2024 to lay mulch lines to further delineate planting areas. During this consultation it was identified that it would be of benefit to prepare a site management plan for Lake Pillans Wetland Reserve. The report is currently being prepared and will be circulated to stakeholders for comment once drafted and a site meeting to discuss.

It was mentioned that the valuable relationship between all stakeholders needs to continue.

Admin Action: Follow up and arrange a meeting with Mayor, GM, LOLA (Trish Kidd), Jackie Altair (Tidy Towns), Cllr Mahony & Director People & Places on a Wednesday afternoon to come up with a strategy to move forward.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council note the matters arising from previous minutes.

MOVED: Mayor Cass Coleman

SECONDED: Julie Favell

7. Committee Items

7.1. LEGs Indian Myna Project to Update Committee and Future Continuity for this Project

Talking Points on the Lithgow Indian Myna Reduction Project were circulated amongst the Environmental Advisory Committee prior to the meeting.

Discussion took place on how Council could help the project team to continue to make people aware that this project is running.

- * Community newsletter
- * Community welcome bag with photos.

The possibility of an aviary located at a site like the Council Animal Shelter was discussed.

The Director People and Places advised it would need to be outside the pound grounds due to physical restraints, hygiene, size limitations and welfare standards.

Groundwork has been done for Council and wanting to manoeuvre a way forward with this project. Size of Avery would need to be investigated and possibility of being adjacent to pound.

Admin Action: Meeting to be scheduled with Ailis and Julie to discuss.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee recommends a report to the Environmental Advisory Committee from Council considering options for an aviary on Council land for the humane storage and euthanasia of Indian Mynas.

MOVED: Julie Favell

SECONDED: Trish Kidd

CARRIED

7.2. Indigenous Rangers Program IRP

Grant - \$10 million over 4 years.

Focused on building skills and experience amongst local and external people. Land management skills and Business skills for conservation management, weed management, track construction , pest control.

Structure is currently being finalised by Mingaan Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (MWAC)

Governance measures to be put in place by MWAC..

Depot to be locked down to store equipment etc.

Fee for Service arrangements will be established. Training. Agreement will need to be worked through with land managers.

Possible connection to sourcing Protecting our Places grants.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council note the verbal report.

MOVED: Mayor Cass Coleman

SECONDED: David Peters

CARRIED

7.3. Event Licensing and Environmental Controls to Reduce Impacts on Council Reserves

The NAMO advised that the Ridgely Didge trail running event Licensing included Environmental protection measures that aim to avoid and minimise impacts to sensitive environments at Hassans Walls Reserve. This includes roping off sensitive areas and stationing marshals to stop runners leaving the tracks. The event is not permitted to create new tracks within the reserve. This license is only issued annually for the single event that year, and is reviewed and continually monitored for opportunities to improve management arrangements.

Intent is to establish a Commercial/Tourism policy for reserves managed and owned by Council. At present Ridgely Didge is the only event event currently licensed and fee charged.

Current fee structure being proposed for next year is based on Blue Mountains fee structure. Half day and full day fee structure.

requires detail that Council legal obligations need to be clarified and confirmed. Does Council have the delegated approvals or are additional required for lands managed under authority (i.e. Crown Land)?

Public Notification - Exclusive use of public lands - Nature based recreations. Processes to be confirmed. Notifications need to occur to avoid any process issues.

Foundational work needs to occur.

Initial impact study, constraint mapping should be considered to be part of the user fee.

Process Needs to be made a priority. Confidence in the process needs to be met.

Admin Action:

1. A report is brought back to the committee on the current status of plan of management for Hassans Walls Reserve
2. A program for the development of the licensing for nature based activity is brought to the committee.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council note the minutes and administration actions.

MOVED: Julie Favell

SECONDED: Trish Kidd

CARRIED

8. General Business

There was no general business as the meeting had already run over time.

9. Meeting Close

Next Meeting: 11 June 2025, 4:00pm in the Committee Room at Lithgow City Council.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5:45 pm.