



MINUTES

Environmental Advisory Committee

Hartley Building
Meeting Room

Wednesday 31 July 2019
at 4.00pm

184 Mort Street, Lithgow

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1. Present, Apologies & Declaration of Interest

PRESENT: S Graves, J Favell, Councillor S Ring, C Hunter & T Kidd

APOLOGIES: E Mahony, D Roebuck & Councillor C Coleman

OFFICERS: A Muir - Director Economic Environment & Development, D Cupitt - Team Leader Environment & J Houlison (Minutes)

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: NIL

MOVED: S Graves

SECONDED: J Favell

CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were endorsed by Council on the 11th June 2019.

THAT the Minutes of the meeting of 11th June 2019 be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: S Graves

SECONDED: C Hunter

CARRIED

3. Landcare Coordinator Position

Local Landcare Co-ordinator Initiative - directed by Lithgow Oberon Landcare and housed by Lithgow City Council. Plans and funds post June 2019 through to 2023.

COMMENTARY

Agreement has been signed for the position of Landcare co-ordinator through until June 2023 – period of 4 years. A memorandum of understanding is currently being drafted between LCC & LOLA.

ACTION

THAT the Committee support the on-going initiative to house the Landcare co-ordinator within Lithgow City Council.

MOVED: J Favell

SECONDED: C hunter

CARRIED

4. Update on Farmers Creek Masterplan

On-ground works delivery - Farmers Creek Masterplan. Requested update from Council regarding planned timeframes and expenditure.

COMMENTARY

Damon Cupitt gave a brief update on Masterplan project. Currently \$300,000 committed to the project for the 19/20 financial year.

ACTION

THAT the update on the Farmers Creek Masterplan be noted.

MOVED: J Favell

SECONDED: C Hunter

CARRIED

5. Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP)

The development of Lithgow Council's RVMP with the assistance of Central Tablelands Local Land Services (CTLLS) grant funding is complete. Applied Ecology was the successful consultant to develop the plan which was complete in May 2019. Practical training of relevant Council managers, supervisors and operational staff is scheduled to take place on the 6th August 2019.

The RVMP is a mechanism to coordinate strategic management of roadside vegetation across the LGA. A robust RVMP will define the management principles that guide actions within the roadside areas and are consistent with corporate objectives and legislative requirements.

Council is responsible for the management and protection of public lands that are under the care and control of a Council. This includes parks, reserves, operational land and road reserves. Vegetation on land under the care or control of Lithgow City Council may be threatened by inappropriate activities that reduce the extent and quality of native and other vegetation and wildlife habitats. Council, as a land manager, has a responsibility to ensure activities do not have a detrimental impact on protected or threatened plants and animals or Endangered Ecological Communities.

Council, in its actions, is guided by the relevant legislation and operational guidelines such the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 or the Lithgow City Council Roadside Vegetation Management Guidelines.

The RVMP aims to communicate management requirements to internal Council staff and to external roadside users including adjacent landholders. Staff from different sections of Council will be required to assist in delivering the plan. The management actions within the RVMP identify the action priority, timing, responsibility and resourcing, and can be linked to Lithgow City Council's Delivery Plan and Operational Plan.

Monitoring progress of the actions and progress towards Council's goals for roadsides is an important facet of administering the RVMP. By linking the plan to Councils Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) process there will be accountability for annual reporting and end of term reviews. Recording daily work activities to assist in maintaining up to date records for areas of

different conservation values, specific issues such as weed management, and additional biodiversity assets such as threatened species and endangered ecological communities is fundamental to the RVMP's success.

The complete plan was provided to the Director of Infrastructure Services (DIS) for review and comment on the 27 May 2019. It will be the responsibility of the DIS to have the RVMP adopted by Council, implement and report on the plan.

A full copy of the RVMP can be accessed to download from this link;

<http://archive.lithgow.nsw.gov.au/download/Roadside.Vegetation.Management.Plan.zip>

ACTION

THAT

1. The Environmental Advisory Committee provide its support to and endorsement of the plan.
2. The plan be provided to the Operations Committee prior to being presented to Council for adoption.

MOVED: J Favell

SECONDED: S Graves

CARRIED

6. Completed Environmental Projects 2018/19 FY

- Public Reserves Management Fund \$30,000 – This funding was used exclusively for the continued treatment of environmental and noxious weeds within Hassan's Walls Reserve.
- Reserve Maintenance \$5000 – ongoing management of Hillcrest Reserve
- Habitat and Hollows Project \$10,000 funded by Environment & Waterways Alliance - The Farmers Creek Habitat and Hollows project completed an in-depth ecological assessment of Farmers Creek with the aim of providing a baseline reference point to gauge the impacts or improvements achieved via the FCPMP. We also installed 20 Hybrid Habitat Hollows adjacent to Farmers Creek as a mechanism to support biodiversity. Both of these reports are available on Council website.
- Farmers Creek Master Plan - \$450,000 - The continued implantation of the Farmers Creek Master Plan (FCMP) has seen the instillation of a pedestrian footbridge from Glanmire oval to Coalbrook Street across Farmers Creek. This is the first of three (3) bridges required to complete stage 1 of the FCMP. Future funding will see the instillation of two additional footbridges over State Mine Creek and Farmers Creek between Guy and Burton Street's in the 19/20 FY. The instillation of the bridges will provide a continues link from Geordie Street through to Lake Pillans for walkers and cyclists primarily along the Creek.

In addition to the construction of the bridge, significant environmental works have been complete along Sandford Avenue Lithgow to improve habitat value and connectivity of riparian corridor in Farmers Creek. Funded through \$150,000 of external grants a professional bush regeneration contractor has treated weeds, installed rock armouring to stabilise eroded drainage lines and established over 5000 native plants along Sandford

Avenue Farmers Creek. The same contractor has been appointed to spend \$125,000 in continuation of these works through the 19/20 FY.

ACTION

THAT the committee note the information on completed environmental projects with thanks to Council for the excellent works on Farmers Creek.

MOVED: J Favell

SECONDED: S Graves

CARRIED

7. General Business

1. Office Holders – at the close of the last meeting of the committee a question was raised as to the elected office holders of the committee (ie Chair & Deputy Chair). The Terms of Reference have been consulted where it states - "Office holders - When nominating Councillors to the Committee on an annual basis the Council shall determine which of the Councillors shall be Chair and Deputy Chair." An examination of the Council meeting minutes of 18 October 2018 indicates that Council did not appoint a Chair and Deputy Chair. Therefore, the matter is put forward for discussion and consideration of options if necessary.
2. Environmental flow that meets the same background level of the headwaters of upper Coxs River above Lake Wallace after Springvale Water Transfer line is operational end of June 2019. It be noted that letters have been sent to Energy Australia and Centennial Coal bringing this issue to their attention.
3. Damon Cupitt's resignation – recognition of Damon's huge contribution to the progression and resolution of numerous issues, but specifically the natural environment in the local area - and the enormous loss to this Council by his departure.
4. The change of meeting from the first Wednesday of the month to the Second Wednesday of the month to prevent clashes with other committees.
Next meeting proposed for Wednesday 13th November 2019.

ACTION

THAT

1. The Committee recommends the terms of reference be amended to enable the Chair and Deputy Chair be appointed by the committee at the first sitting of the committee after the annual election of Councillors in September/October and that such a process then occur at the Committee meeting in November 2019.
2. The Committee extends its thanks to Council's Team Leader Environment Damon Cupitt for his consistent hard work in achieving environmental goals within the LGA, particularly his commitment to the success of the Farmers Creek Masterplan. The loss to Council will be substantial and the continuation of his on-ground efforts for the natural environment should be continued.

3. The Committee recommends the terms of reference be amended to reflect the change of meeting date from the first Wednesday of the month to the Second Wednesday of the month.

MOVED: J Favell

SECONDED: C Hunter

CARRIED

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is Wednesday 13th November 2019 at 4.00pm in the Hartley meeting Room.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.30pm