



MINUTES

Environmental Advisory Committee

Hartley Building Meeting Room

Wednesday 12 February 2020

at 4:00 pm

ORDER OF BUSINESS

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Welcome, present, apologies & declarations..... | 3 |
| 2. Confirmation of Minutes..... | 3 |
| 3. Election of Chair & Deputy Chair..... | 3 |
| 4. Review Policy 10.13 Removal of Trees in a Public Place..... | 4 |
| 5. Firebreaks around Lithgow and outlying areas/villages..... | 4 |
| 6. The use of Native Species with higher fire resistance..... | 4 |
| 7. Bushfire policy, soil erosion control after bushfires and flood event management..... | 4 |
| 8. Post Bushfire Recovery Management, Risk Assessments, Risk Mitigation, APZ's and more..... | 5 |
| 9. Special Biosecurity Zone for Management of Invasive aquatic weed in the Water NSW Sydney Drinking Water Catchment..... | 5 |
| 10. General Business..... | 5 &6 |
| 11. Next Meeting..... | 6 |

1. Present, Apologies and Declaration of Interest

PRESENT: S Graves, J Favell, Councillor S Ring, C Hunter (left at 5pm), T Kidd (arrived at 5pm)

APOLOGIES: Councillor C Coleman

OFFICERS: J Edgecombe – Director – Infrastructure Services, A Muir – Director - Economic Development & Environment, R Holz – Team Leader Environment, S Fleischmann – Landcare Coordinator and R Goddard (Minutes)

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: NIL

MOVED: A Muir **SECONDED:** Councillor S Ring

CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting was endorsed by Council on 26 August 2019.

THAT the Minutes of the meeting of 31 July 2019 be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: A Muir **SECONDED:** Councillor S Ring

CARRIED

3. Election of Chair & Deputy Chair

Nominations were called for the position of Chair for the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Mr Col Hunter nominated Councillor Steve Ring to the position of Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee. The nomination was seconded by J Favell. Councillor Ring accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received. Councillor S Ring was elected as Chair unopposed.

Councillor Steve Ring nominated Mr Col Hunter to the position of Deputy Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee. The nomination was seconded by Sue Graves. Mr Hunter accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received. Mr Col Hunter was elected unopposed.

ACTION

That the election of councillor Steve Ring as Chair and Mr Col Hunter as Deputy Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee be noted.

4. Review Policy 10.13 Removal of Trees from Public Land

COMMENTARY – Council’s Director of Infrastructure Services, Mr Jonathon Edgecombe, outlined the draft Removal of Trees from Public Land Policy to the Committee. He also indicated that a Standard Working Procedure (SWP) would be proposed. T Kidd asked if the Policy name could be changed. The name of the policy will remain the same. Financial hardship for residents was also discussed.

THAT the Director of Infrastructure Services be requested to add a Hardship Clause to the draft policy when presented to Council for adoption

MOVED: A Muir

SECONDED: S Graves

CARRIED

5. and 6. – Firebreaks around Lithgow and Outlying areas/villages and the use of Native Species with Higher Fire Resistance

COMMENTARY

Councillor S Ring explained that there needs to be physical barriers for protection around the community. RFS will be mapping the recent fire and looking at removing vegetation to reduce risk. This is a long term issue to maintain a clear area.

ACTION

THAT when information comes to hand the matter be reported back to the Committee for further discussion as appropriate.

MOVED: A Muir

SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED

7. Bushfire Policy, Soil Erosion Control after Bushfires and Flood Event Management

COMMENTARY – S Graves spoke with an officer at Blue Mountains City Council in regards to soil erosion etc. The Director of Infrastructure Services mentioned that Council will respond to residents in the event that water flows through properties when required, however where the water is flowing from one private property to another the Council would have no authority to take any action. **Communication issues following lack of water repairs to broken pipes.**

COMMENTARY – This matter was dealt with by Council – Operations Committee issue.

THAT – the information be noted

MOVED: A Muir

SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED

8. Post Bushfire Recovery Management, Risk Assessments, Risk Mitigation, APZs and More

COMMENTARY -

T Kidd spoke about the hierarchy of risk assessment, risk mitigation and recovery management within Council-owned and managed bushland reserves and natural areas post-fire, the management and maintenance of Asset Protection Zones (APZs) on Council-owned and managed public bushland reserves, and adjacent to private land, a list of fire-resistant non-invasive native plant species recommendations via Other Council's Development Control Plans (DCPs). It was noted that a business case for an officer within council to oversee these types of issues was being considered.

THAT the Committee support any proposal for the creation of a Lands Management Officer to oversee land management issues.

MOVED: S Graves **SECONDED:** J Favell

CARRIED

Note – Committee members Trish Kidd, Sue Graves and Julie Favell disagreed with the version of the minutes in regard to this item. They are of the view that the position under investigation should be titled "Bushland Management Officer".

9. Special Biosecurity Zone for Management of Invasive Aquatic Weed in the Water NSW Sydney Drinking Water Catchment

COMMENTARY – R Holz presented a letter from Shoalhaven City Council asking for support in urging the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales to establish a special biosecurity zone that specifically protects the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment.

THAT this item to be placed on the next meeting's agenda for further discussion.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring **SECONDED:** J Favell

CARRIED

10. General Business

1. Lithgow & District Community Nursery committee - regarding seed collection on Hassans Walls Reserve

COMMENTARY - Approval from Council is required as people are unlawfully collecting seeds. J Favell will inform the relevant people.

2. Could Lithgow City Council advise of their decision on the current RDF proposal at Mt Piper Power Station?

COMMENTARY – A Muir indicated that a report is being presented at the Council meeting of 24 February 2020 and decision has not yet been made.

- 3. Council to provide information via social media as it comes to hand on areas that people can walk/drive in the areas managed by LCC as well as SF and NPs? I have contacted Simon - LCC Tourism Manager suggesting a rolling working document updates each day.**

COMMENTARY – that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Senior Managers met with the Minister for Small Business and the local member and discussed the need for additional state support to promote the recovery effort particularly tourism.

This could be undertaken if a new Lands Management Officer is employed and they could send information through to Tourism for their website.

- 4. Nursery** – Cleanup from Army Reserve – All requests to be sent through to J Edgecombe as the Australian Defence Force already has priority jobs to do.

ACTION – A Muir will on-forward any request for this issue.

- 5. Update on Lake Pillans** – R Holz met an Engineer at Lake Pillans for the redesigning of the boardwalk. It is only a concept at this stage.
- 6. Keep Australia Beautiful** – R Holz invited S Graves to the Annual Litter Conference on 10/11 June 2020 in Sydney – free registration - S Graves will get back to R Holz if she is going to attend.
- 7. Solar Panels – Administration Building**

Installation is expected over the Easter shutdown period

8. Landcare Coordinator introduction & update

COMMENTARY - S Fleischmann was introduced to the Committee as the new Council Landcare Coordinator. He has been working closely with T Kidd and getting to know the area. There is a meeting this Saturday 15 February 2020 to discuss the previous 5 workshops which he will be able to put together a priority plan from the results of these workshops.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is Wednesday 13th May 2020 at 4.00 pm in the Hartley Meeting Room.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.35pm