



MINUTES

Environmental Advisory Committee

Hartley Building Meeting Room

Wednesday 12th August 2020

at 4:00 pm

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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ITEM: 1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT: Councillor S Ring, Councillor C Coleman, J Favell, and S Graves

APOLOGIES: C Hunter, T Kidd & D Roebuck.

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

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

NIL

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

CARRIED

ITEM: 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting were endorsed by Council on the 6th April 2020.

THAT the Minutes of the meeting of 12 February 2020 be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: A Muir **SECONDED:** R Holz

CARRIED

ITEM: 3 UPDATE ON VARIOUS ITEMS

Updates requested by T Kidd

- Status of this year's planned delivery program of works of the Farmers Creek Masterplan
- Proposed "Option 3" sent on 10 July to divert re Burton St (Farmers Creek Masterplan)
- Drought Relief funding - status and planned delivery program of works
- Centennial Coal fine works - status and planned delivery program of works
- PRMF grants available to LCC - status and potential planned delivery program of works
- LCC insurance of fire and flood impacted infrastructure assets in natural areas, and planned replacement
- Bushfire Recovery funding opportunities and Resilience NSW Economic Stimulus funding opportunities

COMMENTARY –

A Muir and R Holz provided an update on T Kidd's' proposed items.

Farmers Creek Masterplan Project is 50% grant funded. Totalling \$540,000 funding allocation. There has been an assignment of \$100,000 from the enforceable undertaking from Wallerawang STP to be used for environmental works on the Farmers Creek.

The proposed "option 3" is currently being revised as there were local residents against the proposed plan. This is still in the planning stage and will be presented back to Council and the community. This would not come back to the committee for comment it would return to Council to make the decision.

A Muir supplied a brief update on Round two of the drought relief communities program.

R Holz provided an update on the Centennial Coal Fines work – Completed over 2 years weed control works undertaken by Council contractor The Bush Doctor. Currently \$40,000 remaining in the budget and is likely to be expended on further environmental works. There was a discussion on possibly using the remaining funds as leverage for further funding, maybe as in kind contribution to further funding.

Further discussion around using the funding for State Mine Creek or Vale of Clywwd Creek. Clarification on the use of the monies on Farmers Creek tributaries to be investigated by R Holz.

R Holz investigated the PRMFP now known now as CRIF – Crown Reserve Improvement Fund. Application round closed this this year without an application being made. This will be added to his reminder for application next round.

R Holz discussed Lake Pillans insurance process following the bushfires. An REF currently being undertaken. An application has been made to Department of Fisheries for dredging. Preliminary engineering plans are being drafted. S Fleischmann mentioned the request by T Kidd for any funding gaps. Currently there is no figure/price. J Favell requested sediment testing for risk.

A Muir discussed Bushfire Recovery. Council has recently employed a new Community Recovery Officer to assist and support local residents affected by the 2019 bushfires. The position is a Commonwealth and State Government funded position.

Councillor C Coleman mentioned further funding at a Federal Government level. A Muir to discuss further with the General Manager.

THAT – the information be noted

MOVED: S Graves **SECONDED:** Councillor S Ring

CARRIED

ITEM: 4 GENERAL BUSINESSES

Solar panel update

As at today (4th August), the contractor is installing a new electrical switchboard in a new purpose-built fire-rated room in the Admin Building basement. On Saturday, the power will be disconnected to allow the switchover from the old to the new switchboard. After that the inverters will be connected and the system will be live.

Update 26 August 2020- The solar panels have not been commissioned yet. Council's contractor is liaising with Endeavour Energy to get it completed ASAP.

COMMENTARY –

Councillor S Ring discussed his concern for a long term strategy for end of life for Solar Panels and batteries. As well as the long term cost of disposal of such items.

Creating homes for Threatened Species

- Letter from Central west Environmental Alliance

COMMENTARY –

R Holz presented a letter from Central West Environmental Alliance for the funding for further hollows to be established along the Farmers Creek. Arborist will create the hollows in living trees. The hollows will be added to Council's Asset system to monitor. There was a request for further Fauna studies which R Holz will supply further updates as they come in.

Tidy Towns

- Thank you letter – Keep Australia Beautiful

COMMENTARY –

R Holz presented a letter received from Keep Australia Beautiful thanking Council and the Tidy Towns committee for their involvement.

Hassans Walls – Flora & Fauna Study funding

COMMENTARY –

J Favell discussed the possibility of sourcing of funding for Hassans Walls Flora & Fauna Study. Highlighting that there is important species that are worth conserving. There being no funding from the CRIF (formerly PRMFP) this financial year other funding would need to be sourced.

J Favell also discussed the graffiti issues at Hassans Walls and the need for bollards to prevent vehicular entry.

Councillor S Ring mentioned the tracks created by mountain bikers. Councillor S Ring suggested the item be placed on the Agenda to review the actions in the Plan of Management (POM).

THAT

1. A long term strategy for end of life for solar panels and batteries be investigated and reported under the Waste and Recycling Strategy.
2. Review the actions of the Hassans Walls POM at the Committee's next meeting.
3. Hassans Walls graffiti issue be referred to the Operations Committee for action.

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

CARRIED

ITEM: 5 NEXT MEETING:

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is Wednesday 11th November 2020 in the Hartley Meeting Room.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.15pm