

**Mackay Regional Council
Natural Environment Advisory Committee**

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, 18th August, 2015

Venue: Council Chambers

Attendance: Cr Morgan (Committee Chair and Councillor Representative), Lisa Kermode (Natural Environment Coordinator), Peter Owen (Manager Parks, Environment and Sustainability), Gerard Carlyon (Director Development Services), Caroline Sandral (Community Representative), Matthew Newland (Community Representative), Lalith Gunasekera (Mackay Regional Pest Management Group Representative), Margaret Lane (Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Representative), Ben Fisk (Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Proxy. Trent Power (Catchment Solutions) attended until 1.30 pm to present the results of the Tilapia survey.

Apologies: Cr Jones (Councillor Representative), Debbie Chamberlain (Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Representative), Rob Cocco (Reef Catchments Representative)

ITEMS	COMMENTS	ACTION / RECOMENDATION	DATE TO BE COMPLETED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.0 Welcome to new members 	Cr Morgan welcomed new community member Caroline Sandral and Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Proxy Ben Fisk to the meeting.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.0 Confirmation of minutes 	The minutes of the meeting held 19/5/2015 were confirmed as true and correct – Moved Margaret Lane, Seconded Lisa Kermode.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.0 Councillor update on the acceptance of the minutes by council 	<p>Cr Morgan confirmed that the minutes of the May meeting were received at Council's Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 24th June 2015.</p> <p>Cr Morgan highlighted the work of the Environmental Ranger and discussed the highlights of the Green Army activities to the councillors.</p>	Include the date the minutes were adopted by Council on the agenda.	October meeting

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.0 Business arising from the previous minutes • 4.1 Action list review 	<p>The action list was reviewed and updated.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.0 Presentations • 5.1 Tilapia project review by Trent Power from Catchments Solutions 	<p>Trent presented an overview of the recent Tilapia survey in the Pioneer Catchment and circulated a hard copy report. A copy of the presentation can be emailed if required (contact Lisa).</p>	<p>Council to write to Sunwater requesting that they fix the fish lock/passageway at Dumbleton Weir.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.0 General Business • 6.1 Communications • 6.2 Green Army update • 6.3 Land Acquisition 	<p>Recent media has included stories on National Tree Day, the vegetation vandalism signs installed at Bucasia and the beach access track upgrades (particularly at Sarina). The Natural Environment Levy brochure is now available and the Land for Wildlife Brochure has been updated and will soon be printed.</p> <p>Committee suggestions included using Facebook and Council Connect more.</p> <p>The Coastal Green Army team has been working at Far Beach, Quota Park and Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve.</p> <p>The Waterways Green Army team has been working at DeMoleyns Lagoon, Blue Water Trail and Janes Creek.</p> <p>Both Green Army teams have been working in the nursery at the Mackay Natural Environment Centre and assisted with the National Tree Day event.</p> <p>Standing agenda item updated as per the action list.</p>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.4 Assessment of Environmental Grant Applications 6.5 Local Weed Declaration 6.6 Levy Budget for 2015/16 and priority projects 	<p>One grant application was received from Glenella State School. The application was not supported due to the project being a landscaping rather than revegetation project.</p> <p>The school will be offered advice and plants should they wish to undertake a revegetation project.</p> <p>The advice from Health and Regulatory Services was discussed.</p> <p>Margaret Lane noted that many other local governments have undertaken Local Weed Declarations and that council and community groups may miss out on funding opportunities for control of these weeds.</p> <p>Lisa presented the end of year financials, the budget for 2015/16 and the priority projects for 2015/15.</p> <p>It was noted that all the levy budget was spent in 2014/15.</p> <p>Peter congratulated Lisa and her team on all their hard work to achieve this.</p> <p>Margaret asked for discussions to start on potential projects for 2016/17 at the next meeting. Initial discussions included plastic bag reduction initiatives, projects focused on diversion of waste from landfill and a field trip to Demoleyns Lagoon.</p> <p>The committee discussed the best way to be updated on the status of projects, particularly the priority projects, including Blacks Beach Spit and Blacks Beach Zone C, which have high budget allocations this financial year.</p> <p>Potential promotion of these activities can be discussed under communication (standing agenda item).</p>	<p>Recommendation: that the application from Glenella State School not be supported as it doesn't fit the funding criteria.</p> <p>Lisa to pass on the details of Ergon Energy's community grant project to the school.</p> <p>Margaret Lane will advise Mackay Regional Pest Management Group of the outcome.</p> <p>Potential 2016/17 project discussion to be an agenda item for the October meeting.</p> <p>Another column to be added to the priority projects list with brief updates/photos to be included. Include additional reports if significant work is achieved.</p>	<p>October meeting</p> <p>October meeting</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.0 Financial Report 	<p>End of financial year (2014/15) and 2015/16 budget were</p>		

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	presented.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.0 Other Business • 8.1 Birdlife Mackay funding request • 8.2 Ken Griffin's passing 	<p>Birdlife Mackay has requested sponsorship of \$100 to produce a calendar for 2016</p> <p>The committee were advised of the recent passing of Ken Griffin from Mackay and District Turtlewatch Association.</p> <p>A memorial plaque will be placed on one of the recently installed seats at Blacks Beach Spit.</p>	<p>Recommendation: that \$100 be made available to Birdlife Mackay, from the community groups support account to contribute to the cost of their calendar production.</p> <p>Cr Morgan will write to the family on behalf of the committee expressing condolences.</p>	

Meeting closed 2.55pm

Next meeting: Tuesday 20th October 12.30 -2.30. Note: this meeting will be held in the Reception Room.