

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 3rd June 2014 – 12.30 – 2.30 PM

Council Chambers

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	<i>Councillors:</i>	Cr Morgan, (chair)
	<i>Council staff:</i>	Lisa Kermode, Tony De Brincat, Gerard Carlyon
	<i>Group reps:</i>	Kerri Woodcock, Kate Steel, Lalith Gunasekera (new MRPMG rep), Margaret Meng, Michelle Smith (Biosecurity Qld)
	<i>Community reps:</i>	Bruce Milles, Joan Fitzsimmons

APOLOGIES: Cr Jones, Christine Peterson

Welcome to new members.

1. **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting held 1st April 2014 were accepted as a true and correct record. (Moved Kate Steel, seconded Joan Fitzsimmons).

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

3. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. **Coasts and Communities project/coastal activities update**

The committee received a report on this item as per the agenda.

2. **Land for Wildlife Program**

The committee received the six month report on this item as per the agenda. The Landcare groups are on track to achieve outcomes as most assessments are undertaken over the winter period. Plant orders have been filled and plants have been delivered.

3. **Landcare Group support projects**

As per reports in the agenda.

SLCMA: Volunteer numbers at the nursery morning are increasing. An assistant project officer has now been employed to work with the nursery volunteers. SLCMA adopted Armstrong's Beach for the Ecobarge clean up. Looking at National Tree Day and Great Northern Clean up for the two environmental awareness days.

PCL: Planning a display at the library for 25 years of Landcare. Will be attending the Mackay show in June. Two environmental awareness days are planned for later in the year. Considering a day at Bunnings with the Pest Trailer to target gardeners and educate people about garden and environmental weeds. New staff member starting 2 days per week shortly – will be working with the nursery volunteers. Nursery will be closed during June.

4. **FINANCIALS**

Financial statements at 31st May were noted. Natalie Shanks from finance was available to answer questions.

Land Acquisition Fund - current balance is over \$1.4 million. The committee recommends continuing to think about properties to purchase or other mechanisms to protect land.

Recommendation: That council considers undertaking a prioritisation study to identify significant land for potential protection of biodiversity. It is recommended that this be undertaken internally initially. Include a cost benefit analysis to get highest biodiversity outcomes for the available funding.

Community grants – continue to be undersubscribed despite restructuring and increased promotion. As \$30,000 has been set aside for this in 2-14/15, it is recommended to continue with the grants for one more year and reassess. Consider selective marketing to groups such as the Queensland Wader Study Group. It was noted that council currently work with many groups and stakeholders to design and deliver projects, so there may not be the need for these grants, as the necessary projects are already being done in partnership.

WSUD \$300,000 allocation – the committee asked for further details on this item. Gerard gave an overview of bioretention/wsud assets and explained the recommendation he had put forward as part of Council's budget to fund some ongoing maintenance and possibly development work from the Natural Environment levy given constructed wetlands, bioretention systems and other water sensitive urban design projects are designed to achieve similar environmental outcomes to that envisaged by the Levy

The committee discussed the appropriateness of the allocation and 2 members of the committee expressed their disagreement with using Natural Environment Levy funding for this purpose.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Signs for significant trees**

The issue of identification signage for significant trees was raised. There is potential to create a self-guided tour brochure to market the significant trees. It is currently possible to do this via the google maps application but this could be promoted better.

Action: Lisa to see check that the significant tree register is easy to find on the web as members had some problems locating it

Question: Trees on public land – does council want to include trees on private land?

Action: The committee requested some examples of significant tree registers which include private land and suggested that some community consultation be undertaken as to the value of having trees on private land included on the register.

2. **Proposed Nursery Coordinator position**

Council will be considering the budget on 25th June.

3. Joan raised a potential project for revegetation and better mowing management in her area. A customer request to mowing could be raised for this.

4. **Priority projects list** – Council will be considering funding \$1,284,375.00 worth of projects. Blacks beach zone C has been added to the project list. \$205,000 potential external funding (from Reef Catchments) has been identified.

Meeting closed 2.15 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday 5th August - Council Chambers 12.30-2.30pm