
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 18th December 2012 – 12.00 noon – 2.00 PM

Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE: Cr Jones (chair)
Lisa Kermode, Peter Cluff, Stuart Holley
Peter Alden,
Joan Fitzsimmons
Presenters: Hailey Bolland

APOLOGIES: Di Williams, Bruce Milles, Cr Morgan, Saskia von Fahland

1. **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting held 30th October 2012 were accepted as a true and correct record and have now been accepted by council.

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. Financials – a separate account has been created for expenditure relating to blacks beach spit, and this expenditure has been transferred from the ‘various on ground projects number’.

Expenditure for the significant tree register has been check and will be corrected in the next financial report.

2. The Natural Environment Plan is now live on council’s website and corporate communications have been asked to assist with media.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Sustainable Futures Committee and sustainability initiatives**

Hailey Bolland gave a presentation on council’s recent sustainability initiatives including:

- Paget depot received the 2012 Premier’s Cabinet Climate Smart award
- Council is a gold subscriber to Planet Footprint
- EcoMackay website
- Development of a sustainability framework and strategy
- EcoMackay Expo 2012

The committee discussed the \$100,000 funding allocated to sustainability initiatives. The Eungella monitoring project is unlikely to go ahead due to logistical difficulties.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Coasts and Communities project/coastal activities update

The committee received a detailed report on this item.

Volunteer numbers for the Coasts and Communities Activities have been high with approximately 100 volunteers participating in activities over the year. Many positive comments have been received about the Coasts and Communities Program.

The committee discussed the Keeley's Rd Wetland site. The main focus of weed control is Broad-leafed Pepper Tree. The adjacent site could potentially be considered for vegetation offsets.

2. Land for Wildlife Program

The committee received an update on this project.

Few assessments have been undertaken as the contracts only took effect on the 1st November.

3. Landcare Group support projects

Detailed reports on this item were received.

The final report for Pioneer Catchment and Landcare was received.

4. Special Projects funded projects (African Tulip and Sarina Community Native Gardens projects)

Detailed reports were received.

5. Significant tree register

Update provided as per agenda.

6. Blacks Beach Spit

Update provided as per agenda.

It was noted that the Conservation Group have applied for funding to undertake educational work to highlight the Spit's values. Council supports this application. All activities will need to be coordinated by council and be in line with the objectives of the Management Plan.

5. FINANCIALS

It was noted that the next financial statement will show committals for the recently let contracts.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

1. St Helens campground fencing

The fencing around the campground has been completed. Beach access has not been blocked off, however this can be considered as part of the Beach Plan for the area.

Action: Map showing St Helens campground fencing to be sent to Crs Jones and Morgan.

2. Pest plant declaration

The recommendation regarding the pest plant declaration has not yet gone to Council. The committee discussed the process to be followed.

1. Investigate opportunities to declare weeds
2. Write to DAFF requesting nominated weeds be declared
3. State parliament enact this under the relevant legislation.

Action: A meeting to be organised between Peter Alden and Stuart Holley to confirm the process to be followed for declaring weeds.

3. Joan asked about the East Point development

Action: Stuart Holley to follow up about the East Point Development and report back.

The chair thanked everyone for their contribution to the committee this year and wished everyone a safe and happy Christmas break.

Meeting closed 1.25 pm

Next meeting: 5th February - Council Chambers 12.30-2.30pm
Apologies – Joan Fitzsimmons

7. UPDATED ACTION LIST

Actions arising from this meeting

Action: Map showing St Helens campground fencing to be sent to Crs Jones and Morgan.

Action: A meeting to be organised between Peter Alden and Stuart Holley to confirm the process to be followed for declaring weeds.

Action: Stuart Holley to follow up about the East Point Development and report back.

Actions arising from the October meeting

Action: Sarina Catchment and Landcare group to submit a final report which covers all activities undertaken over the Landcare Group Support project period.

Actions arising from previous meetings

Action: Cr Morgan, Jessica Renton, Stuart Holley and Peter Cluff to discuss the potential to increase penalty units (particularly for vegetation clearing) with local laws staff and report back to the committee

Action: Councillors to discuss with Stuart Holley and investigate how the Natural Environment Plan could inform development and report back to the committee.

Action: Stuart Holley to speak to Peter Alden about the process for weed declaration.

Action: Lisa update the Environment Levy brochure *In progress*

Action: Committee to consider the Pest Management proposal at the August meeting.
To be considered by the committee