

**Mackay Regional Council
Natural Environment Advisory Committee**

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, 7th October, 2014

Venue: Council Chambers

Attendance: Cr Morgan (Committee Chair and Councillor Representative), Cr Jones (Councillor Representative), Lisa Kermode (Natural Environment Coordinator), Peter Owen (Manager Parks and Environment), Gerard Carlyon (Director Community and Client Services) , Bruce Milles (Community Representative), Margaret Lane (Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Representative), Margaret Meng (Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Representative), Richard Brown (Natural Environment Officer) (for presentation only)

Apologies: Kerri Woodcock (Reef Catchments Representative), Reef Catchments Proxy, Lalith Gunasekera (Mackay Regional Pest Management Group Representative), Joan Fitzsimmons (Community Representative)

ITEMS	COMMENTS	ACTION / RECOMENDATION	DATE TO BE COMPLETED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Confirmation of minutes 	Minutes of 7 th October 2014 were confirmed (Bruce Milles, Margaret Lane).		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2. Business arising from the previous minutes 	<p>2.1. Community environment grants have been now been awarded as per NEAC recommendation. Mackay and District Turtlewatch Association have also received funding from the Gambling Community Benefit Committee which will enable an additional year's research to be conducted</p> <p>2.2. Nadarmi Drive Project</p> <p>2.3. Feedback on the role of the committee. Submission by Bruce Milles discussed. Submission from Cr Morgan received. Bruce was thanked for his detailed submission</p>	<p>2.1. Letter to be sent from the committee congratulating the group on receiving additional funding and also on receiving a highly commended at the National Landcare Awards</p> <p>2.2. Requested information provided, briefing no longer required</p> <p>2.3. Comments period extended until Friday 21st November. List of questions, current Terms of Reference and submission from Cr Morgan to be circulated to committee members. To be listed as</p>	<p>15/10/2014</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>21/11/2014</p>

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	2.4. Significant Tree Register	<p>an agenda item for the December meeting</p> <p>2.4. Margaret Lane to provide comments to the Natural Environment Coordinator</p> <p>Removal guidelines to be prepared</p> <p>Briefing by Project Manager City Centre no longer required</p>	<p>2/12/2014</p> <p>Completed</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Councillor update 	<p>Cr Morgan advised that council noted that the NEAC was currently being reviewed, the committee's recommendation regarding the Environmental Grant allocation and works being undertaken at Keeleys Rd Wetlands and Demoleyns Lagoon.</p> <p>It was also noted that standardised agenda, minute and action lists are available for Advisory Committees</p>	Standard agenda, minute and action list templates to be used in future	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.2 Coasts and Communities update 	<p>Update provided on Coastcare activities as per agenda</p> <p>Reminder that the Mackay Coastal Clean up will be held on 18th and 19th October</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.3 Land for Wildlife 	<p>Update provided as per agenda.</p> <p>PCL have received an extension to their agreement to 30th June 2015.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.4 Landcare Support Projects 	Updates provided by PCL and SLCMA as per agenda. PCL mentioned the recent resignation of their project officer	<p>PCL to modify their report to include hours/days</p> <p>PCL/SLCMA to write to Director Community and Client Services to consider including cost of living increases in landcare support projects</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.5 Presentation Green Army 	The Natural Environment Officer gave an overview of the Green Army program that was launched today with George Christiansen in attendance. 4 consecutive 6 month projects have been approved. Conservation Volunteers is	Update on the Green Army to be provided at the December meeting and included as an agenda item/regular report	2/12/2014

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	<p>the supervising agency and MRC is the sponsor agency. The team of 9 people and the supervisor will work on a variety of waterway sites including Blue Water Trail, Gooseponds, Janes Creek, McCreadys Creek, Muddies Creek, Morag McNichol Reserve, Keeleys Rd Wetlands, Pioneer River (Marian) and DeMoleyns Lagoon.</p> <p>The Natural Environment Officer was thanked for all his hard work in submitting the application and organising the workplan for the team</p>	<p>Margaret Lane and the Natural Environment Officer to discuss the Marian River Bank Project</p> <p>Margaret Meng and the Natural Environment Officer to discuss the possibility of including an additional site at Plane Creek</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Financials 	<p>Financials were circulated and discussed. It was noted that the report was only provided mid morning, and that there were several errors which had not been able to be corrected</p>	<p>Next year, meetings will be scheduled for the 3rd week of the relevant month to allow review/checking of the financials</p> <p>Financials received</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 Eungella book 	<p>As a follow on to the Eungella Biodiversity Project conducted last financial year, Griffith University has provided options for publishing a book. Price options are \$38,000, \$52,000 and \$65,000 for a book containing the same text/information, but differing in production quality. The committee were generally supportive of the project and thought that a smaller field book would be more useful than a coffee table book</p>	<p>Cr Morgan to discuss with Executive Officer Sustainability and Collaboration whether a list of proposed contents can be provided, whether matching funding is available from the Sustainable Futures Committee budget and whether an ebook or web based book is an option and report back to the committee</p>	2/12/2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.2 Platypus survey 	<p>The potential for a platypus survey at the Botanic Gardens Lagoon was discussed</p>	<p>Curator – Botanic Gardens to present further details at the December meeting</p>	2/12/2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.3 Effectiveness of the Committee 	<p>Bruce Milles outlined some of the projects put forward by the committee over time that weren't progressed by Council at this time for varying reasons.</p>	<p>Cr Morgan's submission to be forwarded to committee members. For further discussion at next meeting</p>	2/12/2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.4 Land acquisition 	<p>Discussion on whether appropriate zoning of land would achieve the same effect as land acquisition</p>	<p>Planning department to be asked to present at the December meeting about the potential for zoning to achieve protection</p>	2/12/2014

Meeting closed 2.55pm. Next meeting Tuesday 2nd December