

**Mackay Regional Council  
Natural Environment Advisory Committee**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

***1.30pm, Thursday, 23rd February, 2017***

***Venue: Council Chambers***

**Attendance:** Cr Camm (Committee Chair and Councillor Representative), Cr Gee (Councillor Representative), Lisa Kermode (Natural Environment Coordinator), Peter Owen (Manager Parks and Environment), Margaret Lane (Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Representative), Shelley Molloy (Mackay Regional Pest Management Group Representative), Rob Cocco (Reef Catchments Representative).

**Apologies:** Gerard Carlyon (Director Development Services), Matthew Newland (Community Representative), Carolyn Sandral (Community Representative), Lara Mathewson (Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Representative), Caitlin Davies (Community Representative).

ITEMS	COMMENTS	ACTION / RECOMENDATION	DATE TO BE COMPLETED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.0 Confirmation of minutes</li> </ul>	The minutes of the previous meeting held 8th December 2016 were confirmed as true and correct – Moved Margaret Lane, Seconded Lisa Kermode.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.0 Councillor update on the acceptance of the minutes by Council</li> </ul>	The December 2016 meeting minutes were accepted by the Economic Development and Planning Committee on 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2017.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.0 Business arising from the previous minutes</li> <li>• 3.1 Action list review</li> </ul>	The action list was reviewed and updated.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.0 Presentations</li> <li>• 4.1 Mackay Priority Development</li> </ul>	Andrew Schembri, Senior Strategic Planner gave a	Cr Camm will forward Margaret Lane’s feedback about the letter sent to Environmental Interest	

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<p>Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.2 Environmental Ranger update</li> </ul>	<p>presentation on the Mackay Priority Development Area</p> <p>Jenni Bailey, Environmental Ranger gave a presentation on her recent activities and initiatives</p>	<p>Groups requesting information on the PDA study area.</p> <p>Cr Camm will follow up regarding the issue of infringements for waste dumping being overturned on appeal.</p> <p>The committee supports a strong position being taken on enforcement issues.</p> <p>Gosford Tree and Vegetation Vandalism Policy and Environmental Ranger presentation to be circulated with the minutes.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.0 General Business</li> <li>5.1 Communications</li> <li>5.2 Green Army update</li> <li>5.3 Land Acquisition</li> </ul>	<p>Highlights from recent communications include:</p> <p><b>Media releases and Facebook postings</b></p> <p>Recreational Fishing Strategy</p> <p>Volunteer expo – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May</p> <p>Community grants – February round</p> <p>Gooseponds/lagoons creek fishways</p> <p>The riparian Green Army team finished on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. A graduation and farewell event was held at the MNEC.</p> <p>The final Green Army team commenced in February and is currently completing induction and training and will soon start on their on-ground projects.</p> <p>Update provided as per action list.</p>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5.4 Environmental Grant applications</li>   <li>• 5.5 Beach Plan Review</li> </ul>	<p>Support was provided for all 3 environmental grant applications</p> <p>It was noted that the 3 applications for the green arts grants were supported by the RADF Grants Assessment Panel. The three applications totalled \$17,915. The remaining funding (\$12,085) will be made available in the May funding round.</p> <p>The consultation period has ended, feedback received, and the final versions of the 3 plans are expected to be considered by Council in April.</p>	<p>NEAC recommends funding the following grant applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mackay Area Fish Stocking Association- \$5,000 for tagging and release of 5000 Barramundi fingerlings</li> <li>• Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group - \$5,000 for Landholder Support Program focussed on peri-urban land holders</li> <li>• Sarina Landcare and Catchment Management Association - \$5,000 for Landholder Support Program focussed on peri-urban land holders</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.0 Financial Report</li> </ul>	<p>The financial report was tabled and discussed.</p>	<p>Financial statements to be circulate with agenda if possible</p> <p>2017/18 budget to be discussed at the April meeting</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7.0 Other Business</li> </ul>	<p>1.0 Margaret Lane tabled some potential projects that the Landcare Group could potentially deliver should there be funding available in the 2016/17 budget</p> <p>2.0 Shelley Molloy tabled information about a potential domestic cat tracking project</p> <p>3.0 It was noted that this will be Cr Gee's last NEAC meeting, with Cr May to be the new representative.</p>	<p>NEC to discuss possible funding further with Margaret</p> <p>NEC to discuss possible funding further with Shelley</p>	

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	<p>4.0 Membership of NEAC to be included as an agenda item for the April meeting</p> <p>5.0 Field trip to the Mackay Natural Environment Centre – tentative time/date Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> 12 noon – 1.15pm (not discussed at meeting).</p>	<p>Include NEAC membership as an agenda item for the April meeting</p>	

Meeting closed 3.40 pm  
Next meeting: Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> 1.30-3.30pm.