

**Mackay Regional Council
Natural Environment Advisory Committee**

MINUTES OF MEETING

*Tuesday, 15th December, 2015, 2pm
Venue: Council Chambers*

Attendance: Cr Morgan (Committee Chair and Councillor Representative), Cr Jones (Councillor Representative) (present from 2.30 pm), Lisa Kermode (Natural Environment Coordinator), Peter Owen (Manager Parks, Environment and Sustainability), Caroline Sandral (Community Representative), Caitlin Davies (Community Representative), Margaret Lane (Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Representative), Jock Hansen (New Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Representative), Rob Cocco (Reef Catchments Representative) (present from 2.20 pm).

Apologies: Matthew Newland (Community Representative), Gerard Carlyon (Director Development Services), Lalith Gunasekera (Mackay Regional Pest Management Group Representative), Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association

ITEMS	COMMENTS	ACTION / RECOMENDATION	DATE TO BE COMPLETED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.0 Confirmation of minutes 	The minutes of the November meeting held 27/10/2015 were confirmed as true and correct, subject to correction of the date of the previous meeting to 18/8/15 – Moved Lisa Kermode, Seconded Caroline Sandral.	Margaret Lane will discuss the attendance of the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group Representative with the group	1 March 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.0 Councillor update on the acceptance of the minutes by Council 	The minutes of the November NEAC meeting were accepted by Council on 2nd December 2015. Cr Morgan highlighted the Land Acquisition Policy and the activities of the Green Army to the councillors. There was no additional discussion of the minutes.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.0 Business arising from the previous minutes • 3.1 Action list review 	The action list was reviewed and updated.		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.0 Presentations • 4.1 Litter Research – Caitlin Davies 	<p>Caitlin presented an overview of the Gladstone Harbour Catchment Care Program</p>	<p>Rob Cocco to follow up with the Federal Government regarding potential funding availability for litter research initiatives and projects</p>	<p>1 March 2016</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.0 General Business • 5.1 Communications • 5.2 Green Army update • 5.3 Land Acquisition • 5.4 Brainstorm 2016/17 budget ideas 	<p>Highlights of recent media coverage includes:</p> <p>Little McCreedys Creek Project</p> <p>Coastcare activities including the Bucasia Beach event held in November and the Harbour Beach Clean up and Turtle Education activity held in December</p> <p>Coastcare photographic competition</p> <p>The Coastal Green Army team is due to finish in February/March 2016, and then the 3rd round team will commence.</p> <p>The Riparian team will finish up on 23rd December, with a graduation ceremony to be held at the MNEC, and the round 4 team will commence on 25th January.</p> <p>Two more riparian team rounds have been approved by the Federal Government</p> <p>Feedback on the policy and guidelines circulated at the previous meeting can be provided to Lisa.</p> <p>Ideas included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vegetation mapping project 	<p>Officers to develop a scope and cost estimate, including what mapping exists, what is required and what other agencies are planning to do</p>	<p>1 March 2016</p>

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	<p>More detailed vegetation mapping including finer scale mapping, and mapping of wildlife corridors and biodiversity hotspots</p> <p>Need to determine what mapping currently exists and what other agencies such as the State Government will be doing in the next few years to avoid duplication of effort.</p> <p>Determining local conservation values may be required, including extent of regional ecosystems remaining in the area.</p> <p>2. Wildlife corridor project</p> <p>This could form part of a biodiversity plan (Reef Catchments is developing a regional biodiversity plan) or a separate strategy. Note corridors are species specific.</p> <p>3. Gooseponds project</p> <p>Certain sections of the Gooseponds (including Willets Rd to Evans Ave and Willets Rd to Malcomson St) contain remnant vegetation. Management of these areas could be improved to reduce mowing and encourage regeneration.</p> <p>The management intent would need to change, as the focus is currently on recreational values. Several studies and management plans could inform the scope of the project.</p> <p>4. Review and update the Natural Environment Plan and prioritisation system</p> <p>5. Slade Point Reserve Project</p> <p>There has been considerable investment in an ongoing weed management program. Is there any fencing, directional signage, track maintenance or upgrades to the information boards/shelters required?</p> <p>6. Kommo toera trail</p> <p>This trail exists on Bulk Ports Land. Weed management may be required.</p> <p>7. McReadys Creek reserve</p>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.5 PCL application for funding for Walkerston project 	<p>Friends of Slade Point Reserve organised for fencing to be undertaken in this area. Are further works required?</p> <p>8. Continue with the Coastal Program</p> <p>9. Potential to implement recommendations from the Water Quality Improvement Plan.</p> <p>It was noted that maintenance of existing project sites is a high priority and will influence the number of new projects able to be undertaken.</p> <p>After briefly introducing the project, Margaret and Jock from PCL left the room while the committee considered this proposal</p> <p>There was discussion on the steepness of the bank and associated risks of having an unsupervised volunteer work on this site, the risk of having the bridges (new and existing) wash away, the high risk associated with using the current structure (which will need to be removed), the lack of potential for public access and the need for the costs associated with the in-kind support to be included in the proposal.</p>	<p>Gerard Carlyon to provide clarification on the intent of this project and the committee will defer making a recommendation until this information is received</p>	<p>1 March 2016</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.0 Financial Report 	<p>The financial report was received.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.0 Other Business 	<p>Margaret Lane requested additional support for PCL and SLCMA post the expiry of the current 3 year funding agreement</p> <p>Cr Morgan wished everyone a Merry Christmas and closed the meeting at 4.15pm</p>	<p>Opportunities for future funding to be discussed with Lisa, with a view to progressing a new agreement</p>	

Next meeting - Tuesday 1st March, 1.30 -3.30pm Council Chambers.