

**Mackay Regional Council
Natural Environment Advisory Committee**

MINUTES OF MEETING

2.00pm, Thursday, 4th May, 2017

Venue: Council Chambers

Attendance: Cr Camm (Committee Chair and Councillor Representative), Lisa Kermode (Acting Manager Parks, Environment and Sustainability), Peter Owen (Acting Director Development Services), Margaret Lane (Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Representative), Shelley Molloy (Mackay Regional Pest Management Group Representative), Lara Mathewson (Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Representative), Caitlin Davies (Community Representative), David Bowen (Observer).

Apologies: Rob Cocco (Reef Catchments Representative), Gerard Carlyon (Acting CEO), Matthew Newland (Community Representative), Carolyn Sandral (Community Representative).

ITEMS	COMMENTS	ACTION / RECOMENDATION	DATE TO BE COMPLETED
<ul style="list-style-type: none">1.0 Welcome	The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">2.0 Confirmation of minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting held 23 rd February 2017 were confirmed as true and correct – Moved Lisa Kermode, Seconded Margaret Lane.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">3.0 Councillor update on the acceptance of the minutes by Council	The February meeting minutes were accepted by the Economic Development and Planning Committee on 8 th March 2017.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">4.0 Business arising from the previous minutes4.1 Action list review	The action list was reviewed and updated. The Shellgrit Creek proposal was discussed. Comments		

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	<p>included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that Birdlife Mackay recommend that dogs be excluded from the area, • with over 320km of coastline, there are plenty of other areas to walk dogs on the beach, • compliance with the requirement to have dogs on leads was low and requires enforcement and education. <p>In relation to the Gooseponds signage project, Margaret Lane commented on council's use of herbicide, particularly at the Gooseponds and asked council to consider alternatives, such as steam weeding adjacent to pathways.</p> <p>It was noted that the Sustainability Strategy has an action regarding investigating alternatives to herbicide use such as steam weeders.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.0 Presentations • 5.1 East Point Update • 5.2 Sustainability Strategy Update 	<p>Shane Kleve gave an update on the East Point site.</p> <p>Tim Ey gave an update on the progress with the development of the Sustainability Strategy.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.0 General Business • 6.1 Communications 	<p>Highlights from recent communications include:</p> <p>Media releases and Facebook postings</p> <p>Volunteer Expo – being held this Sunday 7th May</p> <p>Platypus Beach Project – a 'Works for Queensland' project which involves weed control, restoring open beach areas</p>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.2 Green Army update • 6.3 Beach Plan Review update • 6.4 NEAC membership • 6.5 Reef Catchments' assessment to damage to natural resource assets 	<p>and the installation of some facilities</p> <p>Cyclone damage and clean up activities</p> <p>The riparian Green Army team have now completed all their training units, and have continued to work on key sites such as DeMoleyns Lagoon, Bluewater Trail and the Lagoons.</p> <p>This is the final Green Army team as Federal funding for this project has been stopped. Their graduation ceremony is scheduled for 14th July, 2017.</p> <p>The Chair provided and update on the progress with producing Local Coastal Plans for Bucasia, Blacks Beach and Grasstree Beach. Extensive community consultation has been undertaken and the plans will be presented to Council for adoption at the May Council meeting.</p> <p>Potential changes to the membership were discussed.</p> <p>Attendance at meetings by members was discussed. The importance of having meetings set in advanced and not changed was highlighted as a key way to ensure members can attend. Opportunities to dial in to meetings or skype were discussed, as well as alternative venues. The importance of proxies was discussed (for group representatives, not community members).</p> <p>Incorporating sustainability into the Terms of Reference and a potential name change to the Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee were discussed.</p> <p>This item was deferred as the Reef Catchments</p>	<p>Caitlin will provide some statistics on the value of Green Army teams at the next meeting.</p> <p>Draft changes to be made to the Terms of Reference to accommodate additional members, stipulate attendance of members at meetings, and incorporate sustainability to be circulated and discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>Existing members who do not attend regularly to be contacted to see if they still wish to remain on the committee or if attendance can be facilitated.</p>	

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<p>in the MWI region caused by TC Debbie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.6 2017/18 draft NEL Budget 	<p>representative was not in attendance.</p> <p>The financial report and proposed budget for 2017/18 were tabled and discussed.</p> <p>1.0 Mirani and Sarina Projects were discussed.</p> <p>2.0 Community projects were discussed.</p> <p>3.0 Utilising funding from the Land Acquisition Fund was discussed.</p>	<p>These budget items to be combined and renamed 'Regional Landcare Partnership.</p> <p>6 monthly Regional Landcare Partnership reports to be circulated to the committee for information.</p> <p>Councillors to discuss a potential partnership approach to funding Landcare groups and a regional solution to obtaining long term funding for the Landcare groups with the Reef Catchments Board Chair.</p> <p>An additional \$20,000 to be taken from the small project budget (48048) to fund the 'Regional Landcare Partnership'.</p> <p>Future acquittal reports to be circulated to the committee.</p> <p>Additional questions on the budget to be directed to Lisa and cc'd to the Chair.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.0 Financial Report 	<p>The financial report was tabled and discussed.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8.0 Other Business 	<p>Nil</p>		

Meeting closed 4.40 pm
Next meeting: Thursday June 29th 1.30-3.30pm.