

**Mackay Regional Council  
Natural Environment Advisory Committee**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

***1.30pm, Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2017***

***Venue: Council Chambers***

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**Attendance:** Cr Camm (Committee Chair and Councillor Representative), Cr May (Councillor Representative), Lisa Kermode (Natural Environment Coordinator), Peter Owen (Manager Parks Environment and Sustainability), Caitlin Davies (Community Representative) (via telephone), Margaret Lane (Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Representative), Shelley Molloy (Mackay Regional Pest Management Group Representative), Katrina Dent (Reef Catchments Representative - Proxy), Tim Ey (Sustainability Officer) (for part of the meeting).

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

ITEMS	COMMENTS	ACTION / RECOMENDATION	DATE TO BE COMPLETED
• 1.0 Welcome	The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting, and mentioned the waterways project tour that was held prior to the meeting. The tour was very interesting and well attended.		
• 2.0 Confirmation of minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting held 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2017 were confirmed as true and correct – Moved Margaret Lane, Seconded Shelley Molloy.		
• 3.0 Councillor update on the acceptance of the minutes by Council	The May meeting minutes were accepted by the Economic Development and Planning Committee on 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017.		
• 4.0 Business arising from the previous minutes			

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 Action list review</li> </ul>	<p>The action list was reviewed and updated.</p> <p>The Shellgrit Creek proposal was discussed. Comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillors supported the creation of the trail including installation of signage and brochure development (\$10,000 budget).</li> <li>The viewing platform was removed from the proposal</li> <li>Seasonal exclusion of dogs was approved for a limited area</li> <li>Opportunities exist to create a brochure and promote bird watching and the nature trail at Blacks Beach Spit as well, and potentially other locations in the region. There are also opportunities to promote walking trails in the region and develop a local bird watching app.</li> <li>The existing regional bird watching brochure will be updated this year.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.0 Presentations</li> </ul>	<p>Nil</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.0 General Business</li> <li>6.1 Sustainability Strategy Update</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Sustainability Strategy is ready to circulate to councillors for feedback, and then it will be circulated to internal stakeholders, NEAC and the community. The final version will be presented to the Planning Committee and referred to the full Council for adoption.</p> <p>In addition to the strategy, there is also a highlights/summary report and a detailed action plan.</p>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.2 NEAC Terms of Reference</li> </ul>	<p>Discussion regarding options to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include industry groups as a member</li> <li>Invite industry groups to attend meetings or provide presentations on their initiatives</li> <li>Offer trial memberships to industry groups to see if valuable. This could apply to all groups.</li> </ul> <p>Officer representation to be discussed further</p> <p>Discussion relating to membership. The following groups were recommended for membership of the committee</p> <p>Conservation Volunteers Australia</p> <p>Mackay Conservation Group</p> <p>Mackay Regional Pest Management Group</p> <p>Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association</p> <p>Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group</p> <p>Reef Catchments NRM Group</p> <p>University</p> <p>2 community reps</p> <p>2 industry reps (Cane and mining/ports)</p> <p>State Government</p> <p>2 Councillors</p> <p>Council Officers</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Organise a meeting to discuss officer representation</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> That the Terms of Reference for the committee be altered to allow for the following representation:</p> <p>Conservation Volunteers Australia</p> <p>Mackay Conservation Group</p> <p>Mackay Regional Pest Management Group</p> <p>Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association</p> <p>Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group</p> <p>Reef Catchments NRM Group</p> <p>University</p> <p>2 community reps</p> <p>2 industry reps (Cane and mining/ports)</p> <p>State Government</p> <p>2 Councillors</p> <p>Council Officers (TBD)</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.3 Communications</li>   <li>• 6.4 Green Army update</li> </ul>	<p>Highlights from recent corporate communications include:</p> <p>Council’s stand at the Mackay Show</p> <p>Finch Hatton Show</p> <p>Platypus Beach Project – including community tree planting day held June 17<sup>th</sup>, where 100 volunteers planted 4000 plants.</p> <p>Opportunities to further promote environmental initiatives were discussed, including a potential e newsletter.</p> <p>Caitlin Davies gave an overview of the Green Army program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The final team will graduate in mid July, with invitations to the graduation ceremony to be sent shortly</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Mackay-based team started in September 2014 and there were both coastal and riparian teams</li> <li>• 9 projects in total, with 90 young people</li> <li>• Weed control conducted over 974 ha of land, over 7km fencing installed, over 70,000 plants propagated, 21,993 kg rubbish collected, over 11,000 plants planted, 17 surveys conducted and 34 community awareness raising events</li> <li>• CVA is currently investigating other funding and project possibilities.</li> </ul>	<p>and that all membership to be for 12 months, and that expressions of interest for the above membership be called.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7.0 Financial Report</li> </ul>	<p>The financial report was tabled and discussed.</p>		

