

**Mackay Regional Council
Natural Environment Advisory Committee**

MINUTES OF MEETING

1.30pm, Thursday, 31st August, 2017

Venue: Council Chambers

Attendance: Cr May (Councillor Representative and Acting Chair), Lisa Kermode (Natural Environment Coordinator), Peter Owen (Manager Parks Environment and Sustainability), Margaret Lane (Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Representative), Shelley Molloy (Mackay Regional Pest Management Group Representative), Saskia von Fahland (Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association), Rob Cocco (Reef Catchments Representative).

Apologies: Cr Camm (Committee Chair and Councillor Representative), Gerard Carlyon (Director Development Services), Carolyn Sandral (Community Representative), Caitlin Davies (Community Representative), Katrina Dent (Reef Catchments 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 and thanked them for their attendance.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">2.0 Confirmation of minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting held 29 th June 2017 were confirmed as true and correct – Moved Margaret Lane, Seconded Lisa Kermode.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">3.0 Councillor update on the acceptance of the minutes by Council	The June meeting minutes were accepted by the Economic Development and Planning Committee on 9 th August 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.		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.0 Presentations 	<p>Nil</p>	<p>Action: Jason Grandcourt to be invited to present on waste-related issues including:</p> <p>Plastic Bag phase out</p> <p>Container deposit scheme</p> <p>Recycling – where does it go? How much ends up in landfill</p>	<p>October meeting</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.0 General Business 6.1 Sustainability Strategy Update 6.2 NEAC Terms of Reference 6.3 Communications 	<p>The Sustainability Strategy was adopted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting on 23rd August.</p> <p>Margaret Lane thanked Tim Ey for sending out the strategy and for discussing it in detail with her.</p> <p>Cr May reiterated that there are 66 actions and 33 targets which will help to embed sustainability within council operations and see council work with partners including industry and the community to deliver sustainable outcomes across the region, which will have economic as well as environmental benefits.</p> <p>A Council report has been prepared with changes to the Terms of Reference proposed. The aim is to have the report considered at the September Council meeting.</p> <p>Highlights from recent corporate communications include:</p> <p>MNEC nursery, volunteers and staff were featured on a recent council connect video which is currently showing on TV and is on Council's Facebook page. A second clip featuring the field teams will be featured next month.</p>		

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	<p>budget is \$20,000 split between the August and February funding rounds (ie \$10,000 per round).</p> <p>Two applications will be referred to other grant categories as they don't meet the funding criteria.</p> <p>Note: Margaret Lane declared a conflict of interest as the PCL representative and did not vote on this item.</p>	<p>Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group - \$4,950 for a Drainage Line Restoration Project at the Gooseponds. The Mackay Natural Environment Centre Nursery will supply the required plants for this project free of charge.</p> <p>Conservation Volunteers Australia - \$5,000 to undertake maintenance work at the Gooseponds and Woodlands Estate, following on from previously funded projects at these locations.</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 8.1 Keeleys Road wetlands project 8.2 Feeding birds (at the Gooseponds) 8.3 Vegetation Mapping Project 8.4 Coastal Plan Feedback Submission 	<p>The Keeleys Rd Wetland Project was discussed. The potential to improve weed management on the adjacent NQBP land was highlighted. A coordinated weed control program across the different land tenures would be ideal.</p> <p>Feeding birds at the Gooseponds (and other locations) is creating issues including Domestic Geese attacking people. Signage highlighting the problem is planned.</p> <p>This project, which involves 1:25,000 scale mapping of vegetation across the municipality, is being scoped at present and an update will be provided to the committee when the project has progressed.</p> <p>Margaret noted that she didn't receive feedback on how the comments she made in her submission were addressed.</p>	<p>Action: meeting to be organised with NQBP regarding a coordinated program to control weeds in the area. Crs May and Camm, Natural Environment staff and Pest Management staff to be involved.</p>	

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	Due to the number of comments made, it was not possible to advise submitters how each comment was dealt with during the review, but emails were sent to submitters inviting them to view the adopted plans and included a contact if they wanted to discuss anything further.		

Meeting closed 2.45 pm
Next meeting: Thursday October 19th 1.30-3.30pm.