

**Mackay Regional Council  
Natural Environment Advisory Committee**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

***1.30 pm, Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2016***

***Venue: Council Chambers***

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**Attendance:** Cr Morgan (Committee Chair and Councillor Representative), Lisa Kermode (Natural Environment Coordinator), Peter Owen (Manager Parks and Environment), Margaret Lane (Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Representative), Lara Mathewson (Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Representative), Shelley Molloy (Mackay Regional Pest Management Group Representative), Katrina Dent (Reef Catchments Representative), Caroline Sandral (Community Representative), Matthew Newland (Community Representative).

**Apologies:** Cr Jones (Councillor Representative), Gerard Carlyon (Director Development Services), Jock Hansen (future Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Representative), Rob Cocco (Reef Catchments Representative).

ITEMS	COMMENTS	ACTION / RECOMENDATION	DATE TO BE COMPLETED
• 1.0 Confirmation of minutes	The minutes of the December meeting held 15 <sup>th</sup> December were confirmed as true and correct – Moved Margaret Lane, Seconded Lisa Kermode.		
• 2.0 Councillor update on the acceptance of the minutes by Council	The minutes of the December NEAC meeting were accepted by Council on 3rd February 2016. 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.		
• 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"> <li>4.0 Presentations</li> <li>4.1 Vegetation mapping proposal</li> </ul>	<p>Gerard Fergusson presented ideas for a vegetation mapping study to map the region at a 1:25,000 scale.</p>	<p>The committee support the proposal and recommend that funding a potential vegetation mapping project be incorporated into the 2016/17 budget process.</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 Environmental Grant applications</li> </ul>	<p>Highlights from recent communications include coverage of the Gooseponds fish kill, start of the Lagoons project, Coastcare activities including the Valentine’s Day event at the MNEC, litter baskets in the city centre, Earth Hour, Green Arts Grants and videos of activities at the MNEC.</p> <p>Council will be applying for additional teams as part of round 5. It is likely that the maximum number of teams will be applied for (15) over a 3 year period. Coastal and riparian teams will be applied for and a Botanic Gardens team is also being considered. There will be scope to work with organisations such as the catchment groups to undertake works on sites such as Louisa and Plane Creek and possibly the community gardens site subject to meeting the site criteria. The Demoleyns Lagoon site is another key site that could be included as a site for the waterways team, or alternatively could have a dedicated team.</p> <p>Two applications were received for the February round of the Environment Grants.</p>	<p>The committee recommends that both projects be supported as follows:</p> <p>Mackay Conservation Group - \$12,846 for continuation of bird surveys in the Crediton and Cathu State Forests to provide information on the Eungella Honeyeater.</p> <p>Conservation Volunteers Australia – \$5,000 to undertake flora and fauna surveys at Demoleyns Lagoon including a bird survey and mapping class 2 and 3 pest plant and animal species, weed control and revegetation maintenance activities and an</p>	

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		educational workshop and training session.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.0 Financial Report</li> </ul>	<p>Financial report was discussed and it was noted that the budget for 2016/17 would be very tight with possibly only a few hundred thousand dollars available for projects (including maintenance of all current projects) compared to the \$1.5 million available this year. Surplus levy funds no longer exist. Where possible, savings will be made in the 2015/16 budget to allow additional projects to be undertaken and for existing sites to be maintained next financial year.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that additional information will be available on the 2016/17 budget at the next meeting.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.0 Other Business</li> </ul>	<p>The chair advised that it would be her last meeting (due to the upcoming council elections) and thanked everyone for their efforts on the committee.</p>		

Meeting closed 3.05pm  
Next meeting: TBA