

**Mackay Regional Council
Natural Environment Advisory Committee**

MINUTES OF MEETING

1.00pm, Thursday, 3rd November, 2016

Venue: Council Chambers

Attendance: Cr Camm (Committee Chair and Councillor Representative), Cr Gee (Councillor Representative), Lisa Kermode (Natural Environment Coordinator), Peter Owen (Manager Parks and Environment), Matthew Newland (Community Representative), Margaret Lane (Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Representative), Shelley Molloy (Mackay Regional Pest Management Group Representative), Katrina Dent (Reef Catchments Proxy Representative).

Apologies: Caitlin Davies (Community Representative), Rob Cocco (Reef Catchments Representative), Gerard Carlyon (Director Development Services), Carolyn Sandral (Community Representative), Lara Mathewson (Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Representative).

ITEMS	COMMENTS	ACTION / RECOMENDATION	DATE TO BE COMPLETED
• 1.0 Welcome and introductions	As this meeting was the first meeting with the new Councillors, the Committee Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself. Committee members introduced themselves and highlighted their areas of interests.		
• 2.0 Confirmation of minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting held 9 th March 2016 were confirmed as true and correct – Moved Lisa Kermode, Seconded Margaret Lane.		
• 3.0 Councillor update on the acceptance of the minutes by Council	The March 2016 meeting minutes were accepted by the Economic Development and Planning Committee on 11 th May 2016.		
• 4.0 Business arising from the previous minutes			

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Action list review 	<p>The action list was reviewed and updated.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.0 Presentations 5.1 Sustainability Strategy Review 	<p>Tim Ey, Council's new Sustainability Officer presented an overview of the Sustainability Strategy review process. Council's existing strategy is not well known and lacks targets. Cr Karen May will be Council's sustainability representative and the project is due to be completed by June 2017. ICLEI's 10 Agendas for Sustainable Development will be used as a framework for the strategy which will set the long-term direction for sustainability across council and will result in improved efficiencies, reduced costs and embed sustainability performance reporting as standard practice across the organisation.</p> <p>Katrina advised a Climate Sustainability Plan is currently being produced by Reef Catchments.</p>	<p>Tim will provide information to PCL for an article in their newsletter about 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>Interpretive signage – 3 signs installed at Slade Point Reserve, 1 sign installed at Shellgrit Creek, 2 signs installed at Landings Rd.</p> <p>Media – Local Coastal Plan release, National Tree Day school and community activities, Pest fish (cichlids) found in the Gooseponds, Bean Bag bean clean up at Slade Point, Gooseponds fishway remediation downstream of Willets Rd, upstream of Malcomson St and at Old Evans Avenue, Mackay Regional Council winning the QLD Sustainable City Award, school holiday Coastcare activity at Bucasia Beach, Great Northern Clean up event, the 19 year old 'message in a bottle' found at Sarina Beach, new beach accesses installed at Far Beach and Grasstree Beach, ' the Wave' sculpture funded through the Green Arts Grants which was exhibited at the Beach Horse Races and the Parks and</p>	<p>It is recommended that council consider installing interpretive signage regarding local birds (not shorebirds) at Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve to assist with bird identification and awareness raising.</p> <p>It is recommended that council consider installing interpretive signage at the Gooseponds, particularly regarding the importance of remnant vegetation.</p>	

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	the beach and viewing platform are also proposed to help raise awareness and promote the area as a potential ecotourism site.	Committee meeting, with a view to further investigation being undertaken.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.0 Financial Report 	<p>The financial report was tabled and discussed. The levy has been reduced by 20% (no allocation to the land acquisition fund this financial year). Surplus funds are no longer available, and there have been budget reductions across many projects. At the end of October, approximately 50% of the budget was spent or committed.</p> <p>It was noted that with the Council election and the delay in scheduling a meeting, the budget was passed without being presented to NEAC prior to adoption.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.0 Other Business 	<p>1.0 Following on from discussion regarding exhibition of 'the wave' sculpture, the chair raised the issue of litter following the Beach Horse Races at Harbour Beach. Discussion followed regarding the Grasstree Beach races.</p> <p>2.0 Andergrove Woodlands Estate. Peter will further discuss this with Margaret Lane.</p> <p>3.0 Landcare support funding. Margaret Lane requested a meeting with the chair</p> <p>4.0 Floral emblem. Margaret noted that SGAP will be recommending a floral emblem for Mackay. A faunal emblem was discussed – the Eungella Honeyeater.</p> <p>5.0 Reef Catchments will be hosting the Queensland Coastal Conference in September 2017 at Lure in Airlie Beach.</p>	It is recommended that Council review bond fees for activities in natural areas with a view to increasing bonds to enable costs of environmental damage to be recovered as required.	

Meeting closed 3.15pm
Next meeting: TBA