

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

2nd February 2009 – 2.00PM – 4.00PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Kermode, Helen Paulsen, Stuart Holley
Cr. May, Cr. Steindl
Saskia von Fahland, Margaret Lane, Frank Perna
Bruce Milles, Joan Fitzsimmons, Lyn Stevens

APOLOGIES: Cr. Cameron.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the new and returning committee members.

2. OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS TO DATE

1. Lisa presented an introduction and overview of the Natural Environment Levy, the role of the committee and the type of projects funded to date. A reminder that further information including past minutes, Terms of Reference for the committee and the Land Acquisition Policy are available under the environment tab on council's website.

2. Helen presented an overview of the levy budget. Mechanisms for reviewing possible increases to the levy were discussed. This will be incorporated into the annual budget review process. It was identified that a balance needs to be maintained between funding staff to undertake projects and funding on-ground works. It was also recognised that maintenance costs need to be factored in when costing projects, as this is a significant ongoing expense.

Action: The PCLC line item will be removed from the summary sheet.

Action: A breakdown of the projects category will be provided at the next meeting.

3. Robyn Birkett presented an overview of stormwater positions and projects both past and present, including the Catchment Management Plan preparation, water quality sampling (ambient and event), stormwater modelling review of the Stormwater Quality Management Plan and on-ground stormwater quality improvement works such as Nadarmi and Caledonia Drives.

Action: Robyn to present some results of the water quality monitoring at the next committee meeting.

The cigarette butt project was also discussed and it was identified that there is a real need for this project to be implemented, particularly in the City Heart area.

Action: Stormwater officers to discuss the cigarette butt project with the City Revitalisation Committee.

3. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES - MATTERS ARISING

1. **Review of the Natural Environment Plan.**

Lisa Kermode has met with Derek Ball from Reef Catchments who indicated that Reef Catchments are keen to be involved in the review. A scoping document was circulated. The intent is: to update the existing plan, taking into account recent research and mapping, to broaden the scope of the document to include the entire Mackay Regional Council area and to include fauna in addition to vegetation. The review of the Natural Environment Plan was given in principle support.

Action: Further details of possible arrangements with Reef Catchments including costs and funding opportunities to be provided at the next meeting.

2. **Vegetation Protection Policy**

Lisa raised that the previous committee were interested in developing a Vegetation Protection Policy. Further discussion is required on this item.

3. **Sandfly Creek Management Plan**

7 submissions were received for the Sandfly Creek Management Plan, ranging in price from \$8,000 to in excess of \$60,000.

The successful applicant was Reef Catchments. The report should be finalised by the end of the financial year.

4. **Significant Tree Study**

The draft scope for the significant tree study was circulated.

Margaret Lane and Lyn Stevens agreed to work with Lisa to finalise the scope of works.

It was agreed to give in principle support to developing a Significant Tree Study.

Action: Lisa to organise a meeting of Significant Tree Study sub group and distribute the draft list of Mackay trees, together with suggestions for Mirani and Sarina areas.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Promotion

A draft brochure has been developed to promote the Natural Environment Levy. This was circulated, together with an existing fact sheet on the levy developed in consultation with customer service.

Action: Comments on the documents to be provided to Lisa.

2. Funding applications

1. Midge Point Shoreline Erosion Management Plan

Lisa is currently working on a grant application to prepare a SEMP for Midge Point. It is expecting that the total project cost will be in the vicinity of \$80,000, with 50% funding by Council and 50% from the State Government. Applications are due at the end of February.

2. Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve interpretive signage project. A co-application with Reef Catchments for \$10,000 from the Queensland Government's Natural Resource Awareness Grants program has been submitted. Approximately \$3500 will need to be sourced from the levy for this, should the application be successful. Successful projects have not yet been announced.

5. **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 31st March 12-2pm (Council Chambers)

Meeting closed at 4.20 pm

RECORDED BY: Lisa Kermode