

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4.00PM 20th JUNE 2012 AT COUNCIL

Date & Time:	Wednesday 20 th June 2012, 4.00pm to 6.00pm
Venue:	Hartley Building Meeting Room, Lithgow City Council 180 Mort Street
Meeting Purpose:	Lithgow Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting
Chair:	Trish Kidd
Guest Speakers:	Nil
Present:	Councilor Col Hunter, Councilor Neville Castle, Helen Drewe, Sue Graves, Trish Kidd (Chair), Ian Milliss, Peter Evans, Thomas Ebersoll, Jeff Thurlow, Andrew Muir, Samantha Champion (Secretary)
Apologies:	Fiona Joy, Peta Lette
Confirmation of Previous Minutes 11th April 2012:	The minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting of 11 th April 2012 and were formally ratified at Council's Ordinary Meeting of 25 th June 2012.
Moved: Neville Castle	Seconded: Sue Graves

ITEM 1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No business arose from the minutes of 11th April 2012.

ITEM 2 TRACKING HISTORIC ITEMS

The last Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes that contain a 'Table of Running Issues' is from 9th June 2010. For discussion at the next meeting as to which items need to remain on the table and which items need to be added from meeting minutes since that date.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the information be noted.

ITEM 3 GUEST SPEAKER - JOHN ASQUITH - COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT NETWORK INC.

The Land for Wildlife Program is a positive engagement program that promotes recognition for landholders who are preserving habitat for wildlife. It is based on an agreement with no obligations and no costs associated and helps to revitalise interest in Land Care Groups etc. it is not dependent on funding. John Asquith can run sessions between 14th and 28th July 2012 if landholders are given the opportunity to engage and complete expressions of interest. John suggested that Council make forms available at the Administration Centre & Library and place an article in the Council Column. The program has recently been promoted in Bathurst through the Council newsletter, newspaper, radio etc and so far there have been 10 interested landholders. One day property assessments are then undertaken.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council support the promotion of the Land for Wildlife Program and provide details in the next available Council Connections and provide a point of contact for interested landholders.

ITEM 4 BIODIVERSITY FUND - ROUND ONE - CONNECTING STREAMS PROJECT

Council's application to Round One of the Biodiversity Fund was unsuccessful. The Committee questioned who will be preparing the funding application for future rounds of the Biodiversity Fund and what will happen to the leftover funds from the Sustainability Officer position.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Andrew Muir talk to Community & Culture Manager to ascertain the status of the position and the development of the Farmers Creek Project.

ITEM 5 THE WORSENING ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION OF FARMERS CREEK - UPSTREAM FROM TANK ST BRIDGE

Jeff Thurlow advised the Committee about litter issues in Macauley Street. There is lots of discarded rubbish (particularly fast food papers) and shopping trolleys as well as weed growth.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Andrew Muir to discuss the matter with Iain Stewart including whether the installation of signage for littering can occur and what resources could be deployed for a general clean up.

ITEM 6 OUTSTANDING COUNCIL MEETING ACTIONS – 30th MAY 2011 - FACILITATE A SPECIAL MEETING FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN REGARD TO LAND USE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PLAN & INVITES DECCW TO PRESENT A NATIVE FORESTRY FIELD DAY WITHIN THE LITHGOW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

These items relate to outstanding Council Meeting Actions from the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting of 13th April 2011. For discussion with Sherilyn Hanrahan as to a special meeting in regard to land use planning and development of the local environmental plan and Councillor Hunter to provide further information and a contact for the Native Forestry Field Day.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT no further action be taken regarding a presentation by Council's Strategic Planner and that Councillor Hunter provide contact information in relation to a Native Forestry Field Day.

ITEM 7 HASSANS WALLS DOWNHILL BIKE TRACK COMPLETION

Helen Drewe enquired to the status of the Hassans Walls Downhill Bike Track Completion. Andrew advised that there have been issues of legal access for the new track but it has been all but rectified. The Committee also questioned whether the consent for the new track made mention of a 12 month completion timeframe. Trish Kidd also enquired when GIS Mapping will take place at Hassans Walls.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT

1. Andrew Muir report back to the Committee the status of the new track and conditions of consent.

2. Andrew Muir make contact with Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club advising them that Council would requesting that the unofficial tracks at Hassans Walls not be advertised on the website as it is adding to the degradation of land.

ITEM 8 GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Update on Garbage & Recycling Contract - Andrew Muir advised that a consultant has been engaged to prepare tender documents and a first draft has been received. It will be reported to Council at some stage in the future and should be in operation within 12 months.
2. Meeting Minutes Procedure - The Draft Minutes will be sent out within 14 days of the meeting to the entire Committee. Once responses have been received from three (3) committee members it will be considered that the minutes are officially confirmed and they will be reported to the next Committee meeting for formal ratification
3. Update on Lake Pillans - The contractor is currently finishing the bridge/boardwalk and has been engaged for two additional bridges. It will be completed by Mid-July. The Committee congratulated all concerned.

ITEM 9 CLOSE OF MEETING

MEETING CLOSED 6.00pm

Next meeting date – 15th August 2012 at 4.00pm