

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4.00PM 15TH AUGUST 2012 AT COUNCIL

Date & Time:	Wednesday 15 th August 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), Peter Evans, Thomas Ebersoll, Jeff Thurlow, Fiona Joy, Andrew Muir, Samantha Champion (Secretary)
Apologies:	Ian Milliss, Peta Lette
Confirmation of Previous Minutes 11th April 2012:	The minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting of 20 th June 2012 and were formally ratified at Council's Ordinary Meeting of 23 rd July 2012.
Moved: Neville Castle	Seconded: Sue Graves

1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Item 2 – Andrew advised that the last table of running issues was found to be from the meeting of 9th June 2010. The Committee will now need to review the minutes from each meeting since then to ascertain if any further items need to be added. In progress.

Item 3 – Andrew advised that the Land for Wildlife information has been provided to Deb McGrath of Council for the next Council Connections newsletter. Trish requested that he make contact to see if future events are scheduled as the sessions he provided information on were to be held in July 2012.

Item 6 – Andrew advised that he has invited an OEH (Private Forestry) representative on 7 June 2012 who has agreed to organise and find suitable property for field day.

1. TRACKING HISTORIC ITEMS

Date	Item No.	Issue	Recommended Action	LEAC Response
Dec 08	4	Re-activation of Hassans Walls Reserve Management Committee	David to pursue required status. Request EOI from current members and alternates as a start point. Advertise in paper?	Hassans Walls Management Committee to be reactivated once council has completed a review of all public lands.

Dec 08	4	Hassans Walls Reserve draft Plan of Management	That the draft PoM be tabled at future EAC meeting.	See above
Oct 09	7	Bungleboori Toilets	Follow up on letter Council sent to State Forest	
Oct 09	8	Plan of Management for Hassans Walls	Update EAC on progress of Plan	
Oct 09	8	<i>Leptospermum blakelii</i>	Incorporate in Plan of Management and provide protection	Soil Services to provide quote for protection.
Feb 10/10	4	Write report to Council in regard to the Hedley Thomas Presentation	Report to be written by D Durie including EAC recommendations	
Feb 10/10	7	Lake Pillans Boardwalk maintenance report and repair	Matthew Johnson to advise EAC whether Council has budgeted for urgent repairs and maintenance.	
Feb 10/10	9	Invite Suzanne Lollback to update EAC PoM for Hassans Walls	Invite to be sent to Suzanne Lollback	Invited but unavailable to attend. Update provided by SL

3.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the information be noted.

4. UPDATE REGARDING THE CLEAN UP OF FARMERS CREEK

5. COMMUNITY CLEAN UP OF RUBBISH ALONG FARMERS CREEK SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY 12 AUGUST 2012

Thomas advised that the Community Clean Up of Farmers Creek held on 12th August 2012 was a great success. There were 16 participants in all who cleaned up for a couple of hours. They found shopping trolleys, beds, tyres, plastic bottles and other rubbish upstream from Tank Street. It is proposed to hold another clean up in the near future, starting at Geordie Street.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the information be noted.

6. HASSANS WALLS RESERVE PROPOSED BOARDWALK

Andrew advised that the Tender Submissions are now in and currently being assessed. The dollar amount of the tenders received will determine when it will be possible to report it to Council before the September elections. There is likely to be a recommendation for the appointment of a contractor. The Committee requested that they be given an opportunity to provide input on the submissions and if so will be represented by Trish, Sue & Helen.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee be given an opportunity to provide input on the Tender Submissions for the Hassans Walls Boardwalk design and construction.

7. HASSANS WALLS RESERVE DOWNHILL BIKE TRACK

Helen advised that she emailed Andrew & Neville on Sunday regarding the unacceptable condition of the Padley Lookout car park. Andrew advised that he has spoken to Jim

Nichols of Council who spoke with the Works Overseer who was going to try and grade it prior to the weekend. Andrew advised that the new track is virtually completed and has been inspected by Jim Nichols of Council on Monday who commented that the CTMBC appears to have done a good job. There are still a few issues required to be fixed in order for compliance with conditions but will be complete by the weekend. The Committee requested that they be emailed advice regarding the restoration of the first track and as to whether this was a condition of the new consent. Trish Kidd again raised the necessity of GIS Mapping at Hassans Walls and for a Plan of Management. Andrew advised that he has had a number of email exchanges with CTMBC and the Club feels aggrieved that they are seen to be involved in the illegal construction of tracks. They also see the advertisement of existing walking tracks on their website as a good thing for promotion of Lithgow and provided details of studies which indicated that mountain bike riding has no greater impact than bush walking. Andrew advised that CTMBC appear to be genuine and he has no reason to doubt them. If new illegal tracks are being constructed then it would be an issue but if the advertised tracks are existing, he cannot make them take them off the website. He will meet with them after the upcoming event for a debrief and to discuss other arising issues and report back to the Committee. The Committee also advised that dumping and stripping of cars on the main road and other tracks has occurred over the last couple of weeks. Woodcutters have also been active on the Reserve. The Committee questioned Andrew as to whether Council is being paid for the use of the Reserve when it is being used for nature based recreation. Andrew advised that Council is not but it may be looked at in the debrief with CTMBC.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee

1. Request that Council formally ascertain if there is money held in reserve which could be used to engage a consultant to prepare a Plan of Management for Hassans Walls Reserve.
2. Support the preparation of a Plan of Management for Hassans Walls and its implementation as soon as possible.
3. Request that Council investigate the use of surveillance cameras at Hassans Walls.

8. LAKE PILLANS WETLANDS RESERVE

Trish advised that the Lake Pillans Wetlands Reserve boardwalk and smaller bridges are almost complete. Mayor Neville Castle determined that Tuesday, 4th September 2012 at 4pm would be the time for the official opening. Trish requested that the General Manager be invited. She also advised that the local Rotary have offered to provide a BBQ at the Official Opening.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Lithgow Tip – Fiona enquired as to why the greenwaste is unavailable at the tip. Andrew said that he was not aware this was the case and he would investigate.
2. Sustainability Officer – Fiona enquired as to the progress of filling this position.. Andrew will talk to Council's Matthew Johnson and provide an update to the Committee with the Draft Minutes.
3. Compost Bin – Fiona advised that a previous Sustainability Officer held a competition to win a compost bin which is still being stored at the rear of the Hartley Building. Fiona suggested that it be donated to the Community Nursery. Andrew will organise for it to be dropped down.
4. Treeview Estate Wetlands – Sue advised that there is a rare frog and butterfly and enquired as to whether Council has any record of the species?

5. Newnes Plateau – Thomas advised the Committee of an article published in the Lithgow Mercury on 11th August regarding 4WD and trail bikes wrecking Newnes Plateau. Forests NSW will undertake rehabilitation work as a follow up to the Swamps Work undertaken by the Bush Doctor. The Committee recommended that Council request the police undertake more patrols in the area.
6. Hassans Walls Orchids – Helen extended an invitation to the Committee for the book launch. The Committee congratulated Helen on an excellent job.
7. Mayor Neville Castle – Neville advised that this would be his last meeting as Mayor and thanked the Committee, particularly Sue & Helen who have been involved over the entire life of the Committee and Andrew who has advocated well for the Committee. In return the Committee thanked Neville for his support as Mayor.
8. Willow Program – Trish asked for an update and Andrew provided advise that Peter Evans will be the point of contact for the program. The MoU between HNCMA and Council states that three quotes will be obtained which surpasses Council's internal policy. It will initially target the Vale of Clwydd and State Mine Gully and are looking at a Stage 2.
9. Walking Track/Bike Trail through Lithgow – Trish requested an update on this historic item. Andrew advised that Council did not get funding.
10. Ibrahim Ibrahim – Andrew advised that Ibrahim commenced as Council's Environmental Health Officer on 13 August 2012.

10. CLOSE OF MEETING

MEETING CLOSED 5.30pm

Next meeting date – 10th October 2012 at 4.00pm