

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4.00PM 7TH NOVEMBER 2012 AT COUNCIL

Date & Time:	Wednesday 7 th November 2012, 4.00pm to 6.00pm
Venue:	Hartley Building Meeting Room, Lithgow City Council
Meeting Purpose:	Lithgow Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting
Chair:	Trish Kidd (Lithgow Oberon Landcare Association)
Guest Speakers:	Maddison Bailey (Lithgow City Council)
Present:	Councilor Col Hunter (Lithgow City Council), Helen Drewe (Lithgow & District Community Nursery), Sue Graves (Lithgow Tidy Towns Committee Inc), Trish Kidd (Lithgow Oberon Landcare Association), Thomas Ebersoll (Lithgow Environment Group Inc), Ian Milliss, Andrew Muir (Lithgow City Council), Peta Lette (Lithgow City Council), Samantha Champion (Lithgow City Council) (Secretary)
Apologies:	Councilor Martin Ticehurst (Lithgow City Council), Peter Evans (Hawkesbury Nepean CMA), Jeff Thurlow, Fiona Joy
Confirmation of Previous Minutes 11th April 2012:	The minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting of 15 th August 2012 and were formally ratified at Council's Ordinary Meeting of 15 th October 2012.
Moved: Col Hunter	Seconded: Ian Milliss

1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No business arose from the minutes of 15th August 2012.

2. 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	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

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the information be noted.

3. HASSANS WALLS BOARDWALK PLANS

Maddison Bailey (Lithgow City Council) advised that Council has \$200,000 available to construct a disabled access boardwalk at Hassans Walls Lookout. Following a selective tender process, five tenderers were invited to submit designs. Council resolved to reject all submissions and re-scope the project in consultation with Tidy Towns and the Environmental Advisory Committee. Following discussions with two of the tenderers invited to submit proposals, Council has received 2 alternate plans from each:

- STEELWORKS option A: construct a boardwalk straight from picnic shelter to the trig station (due to topography of land and disabled access grades, this would be approx 2.5m off the ground at some points along the boardwalk)
- STEELWORKS option B: construct a boardwalk which zig zags from the picnic shelter approx halfway towards trig station (this would be lower to the ground than option A)
- ABUD option A: construct a boardwalk straight from picnic shelter to the trig station (very similar to steelworks option A)
- ABUD option B: construct boardwalk as in option A with stairs in the middle to lower the boardwalk to natural ground level – however this will not provide disabled access).

Maddison requested that the Environmental Advisory Committee discuss the proposals and provide any comments relevant to the project for inclusion in the revised specifications. There was a general feeling of positiveness for the route.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee:

1. Indicate they hold a strong preference for local sandstone product should the carpark be upgraded in the future.
2. Recommend that consideration be given to decking material and lifespan.

4. MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR HASSANS WALLS

The Committee was advised that there is currently no funding held in reserve for a management plan for Hassans Walls and Council would have to agree to provide funding through the normal budgetary process.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee recommend Council:

1. Consider allocating an amount of \$60,000 in line with the next budget for a plan of management for Hassans Walls.
2. Contact Crown Lands to see if funding can be sought for a plan of management for Hassans Walls.

5. HUNTING IN STATE FORESTS

LEG was contacted by a resident of Hampton on how he is affected by hunters. In summary, his property is invaded by hunters and he has no way of protecting himself as a

result of state government's policies. The Committee did not see this issue as being within its terms of reference.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee recommend that Lithgow Environment Group approach the concerned resident of Hampton and propose that he ask in writing that Council support him by way of approaching the Local Member.

6. AUSTRALIA DAY BBQS

Sue Graves requested council support and encouragement for street neighbourhood groups getting together on Australia day for BBQs and discussing how they can develop sustainable streets. She believes that free kits are available for interested groups.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee recommend that Council investigate the acquisition of kits and if practicable advertise.

7. DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLANS

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee recommend a report be brought back to the next meeting on a broad sustainable energy policy.

8. LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL'S WALKING TRACK AND BIKE TRAIL PLAN

Noted, discussed and received by the Committee that approximately two years ago money was expended on a development concept plan for a bike trail proposal utilising unformed roads from one end of town to the other. Who is the Council resource and how can this be progressed?

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee recommend the appropriate Council officer be invited to the next meeting to give a briefing.

9. ONGOING INVOLVEMENT AND RESOURCING TO THE SAVE OUR SWAMPS PROGRAM

Blue Mountains City Council and Lithgow City Council undertook a Save Our Swamps mentoring program which was very successful but there has been no follow up or maintenance since the cessation of the program. The Committee was advised that following a recent recruitment Council's Environment Division will have full staff resources and Council may be able to apply more resources to this area in the future.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the information be noted.

10. BICENTENARY CROSSINGS - EVENTS EARLY 2013.

May 2013 will mark the 200 year anniversary of the first crossing of the Blue Mountains.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the information be noted.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Thomas Ebersoll enquired about fluoridating the Lithgow water supply. The Committee was advised that fluoridation is scheduled to go ahead in December and ongoing regulated testing is required by NSW Health.

2. Iain Milliss advised that he was recently the recipient of the 2012 Freemantle Arts Centre Print Award for their collaborative work Yeomans Project. The art work explores the influence of Percival Alfred Yeomans, an Australian farmer and engineer whose research into sustainable agriculture continues to attract international acclaim.
3. The Group Manager, Environment and Development advised that with the commencement of the new Council it is time to re-establish the Committee and call for Expressions of Interest. There is also new Committee Terms of Reference with one key change being that all s355 Committees of Council will have Councillors as Chairpersons. The 2012/13 Councillor representatives will be Councillor Hunter and Councillor Ticehurst. The current Committee were thanked for their contributions.

CLOSE OF MEETING

MEETING CLOSED 6.00pm