



Minutes

Environmental Advisory Committee
 28 May 2014
 4.00-6.00pm

Name of Committee	
Item Number	Agenda
1	Welcome/present/ apologies
2	Confirmation of minutes
3	Business arising from previous minutes
4	Pedestrian/ Cycle way Blast Furnace Park to Lake Pillans- Matthew Johnson
5	Sustainability policy
6	Save our Swamps Program in the LGA
7	What is Councils policy in reducing the pollutants by mining discharge water into any waterway that does not reflect the natural background levels

8	Farmers Creek (Vale of Clwydd) Willow Project – status update Farmers Creek – available funding – status update Farmers Creek – Strategic Precinct Planning – status update Lithgow Region Walking Track and Bike Trail – status update Hassans Walls Reserve – Plan of Management – status update Hassans Walls Reserve - Downhill Bike Track Save Our Swamps Program in the Lithgow LGA
9	General Business
10	Business of an urgent nature
11	Next Meeting 20 August 2014

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES 28 MAY 2014**



ITEM: 1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT: Thomas Ebersoll, Sue Graves, Trish Kidd, Peter Evans, Clr Col Hunter, Julie Favell.

APOLOGIES: NIL

OFFICERS: Damon Cupitt, Andrew Muir, Peta Lette

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: NIL

ITEM: 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 26 February 2014 were endorsed by two members of the Committee being Thomas Ebersoll and Julie Favell.

ACTION

THAT the Minutes of the meeting of 26 February 2014 be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: Julie Favell

SECONDED: Peter Evans

ITEM: 3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

It was noted that:

- Lake Pillans reopening was a successful day and demonstrated good collaboration between Council and Community groups.
- An application has been submitted to the EPA for a Litter Program.

Furthermore, in response to concerns regarding coal seam gas proposals there will be a presentation to Council on 23 June 2014 in the Council Chambers by Department Trade & Investment. Environmental Advisory Committee members are invited to attend.

ACTION- Environmental Advisory Committee members note the invitation to attend the presentation on the coal seam gas approval process on 23 June 2014

MOVED: Thomas Ebersoll

SECONDED: Sue Graves

ITEM: 4 PEDESTRIAN/ CYCLEWAY BLAST FURNACE PARK TO LAKE PILLANS.

Council's Manager – Community and Culture addressed the Committee and advised that there is funding and partnership money available for resurfacing of the steep gradient of the pedestrian / cycle way from Blast Furnace Park to Lake Pillans

ACTION – The Environmental Advisory Committee support the proposal for future improvements linking Blast Furnace Park to Lake Pillans

MOVED: Clr Col Hunter

SECONDED: Julie Favell

ITEM: 5 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Council has an internal sustainability working party. It was suggested that they could focus on sustainable policies to include areas such as Main St lighting.

ACTION - Members of the Committee bring sample sustainability policies to next meeting for discussion.

MOVED: Damon Cupitt

SECONDED: Thomas Ebersoll

ITEM: 6 SAVE OUR SWAMPS

The Lithgow Environment Group representative suggested that there is a need to follow up with Forestry regarding Happy Valley restoration work. It has been reported that damage has been done by four wheel drive vehicles in the area.

ACTION- A Council officer be requested to attend the site and make contact with the program coordinator for a progress report.

MOVED: Julie Favell

SECONDED: Thomas Ebersoll

ITEM 7: WHAT IS COUNCILS POLICY IN REDUCING THE POLLUTANTS BY MINING DISCHARGE WATER INTO ANY WATERWAY THAT DOES NOT REFLECT THE NATURAL BACKGROUND LEVELS

SUMMARY

At present there is no policy in relation to this issue. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) are the regulatory authority,

ACTION- The EPA be approached in relation to the requirements for pollutants from mining activities having regard to the natural background level.

MOVED: Peter Evans

SECONDED: Julie Favell

ITEM 8: FARMERS CREEK (VALE OF CLWYDD) WILLOW PROJECT; FARMERS CREEK FARMERS CREEK – STRATEGIC PRECINCT PLANNING ,LITHGOW REGION WALKING TRACK AND BIKE TRAIL, HASSANS WALLS RESERVE – PLAN OF MANAGEMENT HASSANS WALLS RESERVE - DOWNHILL BIKE TRACK

SUMMARY

The Lithgow Oberon Landcare representativespoke on several issues. Firstly, in relation to the Lithgow Region Walking & Bike Track, there are a number of projects operating throughout the LGA that need to be planned and have a responsible person to achieve satisfactory outcomes.

Hassan's Walls Down Hill Bike Track - There are unapproved mountain bike tracks in Hassan's Walls Reserve, with a sign stating riders can cut vegetation to maintain the track, can this be verified?

ACTION - That Council officers be requested to investigate the conditions of approval for the downhill mountain bike track at Hassan's Walls to ensure compliance.

MOVED: Julie Favell

SECONDED: Trish Kidd

ITEM 9: GENERAL BUSINESS

COMMENTARY

There was discussion in relation to the desire for more action and outcomes from the recommendations & ideas generated through the committee. The Group Manager indicated that this is appreciated, but there are also terms of reference and

resourcing issues to be considered and in this context there had been some good outcomes.

The Committee would like to be advised that the \$60,000 allocated to Hassan's Walls Management Plan is in fact available in the current Operational Plan. This was confirmed as well as Council expectation that the committee play a role in its development.

Andrew Muir advised the Committee that Council is looking at undertaking thinning of vegetation below Bracey's Lookout in the near future

ACTION- The Committee notes its expected role to participate in the preparation of the Hassans Walls Plan of Management.

RECOMMENDATION- NIL

MOVED: Trish Kidd

SECONDED: Julie Favell

ITEM 10: BUSINESS OF GREAT URGENCY

COMMENTRY

There was no business of great urgency.

ITEM 11: NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: 28 August 2014 / 4pm
Hartley Building

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6pm