
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL BUSHCARE REPRESENTATIVES GROUP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL 2016 IN JERVIS BAY ROOM 1, CITY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE, BRIDGE ROAD, NOWRA, COMMENCING AT 4.12 PM

The following members were present:

Mike Clear
Tony Jennings
Bill Pigott
Frances Bray
Jason Carson – Local Lands Service

Others present:

Tim Fletcher – Director Planning and Development Services
Kelie Lowe - Environmental Services Manager
Isabelle Ghetti – Manager Natural Resources
Alasdair Stratton – Bushcare Coordinator

Apologies were received from Clr Gash, Bryan Lenne, Annie Boutland

1. Nomination of Chairperson

In the absence of Clr Findley, the Committee nominated an acting Chairperson for the meeting.

MOTION: Moved: Bill Piggot / Second: Frances Bray

RESOLVED that Mike Clear be nominated to act as Chairperson in Clr Findley's absence.

CARRIED

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

MOTION: Moved: By Consensus

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council Bushcare Representatives Group held on Monday 14 December, 2015 be confirmed.

CARRIED

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

3. Five (5) Bushcare Group Action Plans - Review

File 51838E

Alasdair Stratton provided a PowerPoint presentation and gave an overview of the Bushcare Action Plans Review.

Members discussed the Committee's strategy to respond to objections or concerns raised in regard to the actions in reviewed Bushcare Action Plans. The Committee also discussed the long and short term outcomes from the action plans.

MOTION:

Moved: By Consensus

RESOLVED that Council staff investigate and report back to the Council Bushcare Representatives Group, options for addressing rubbish dumping, illegal camping, and the impacts of these activities on the reserve at Captain St, Vincentia.

CARRIED

The Committee considered how consultation with the community is undertaken and discussed various options, for example, face to face meetings. It was suggested that brief on-site meetings or drop in sessions could be considered in the early stages of the review process.

Tim Fletcher explained the review process and suggested that more informal meetings could be considered. A discussion paper could be developed to outline a range of strategy options and working principles.

The Committee also discussed development of:

- A set of procedural steps for future members to follow to enable consistency in deliberations.
- A set of criteria to assist staff to assess submissions.

MOTION:

Moved: By Consensus:

RESOLVED that Council staff provide a discussion paper to the Council Bushcare Representative Group regarding:

- a) Consultation options in both the preparation of a Bushcare Action Plan and its acceptance.
- b) Development of a set of criteria to assist staff and the committee in submissions.
- c) Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation criteria be considered as part of the discussion paper.

CARRIED

The Committee expressed their appreciation for recognising the contribution of volunteers hours of labour and hectares rehabilitated in the presentation.

MOTION:

Moved: By Consensus

RECOMMENDED that Council adopt the five (5) reviewed Bushcare Group Action Plans (2016) as follows:

- a) Kioloa Bushcare Action Plan – Review 2016
- b) Bens Walk Bushcare Action Plan – Review 2016
- c) Moeyan Hill Bushcare Action Plan – Review 2016
- d) Milton Rainforest Bushcare Action Plan – Review 2016
- e) Barfleur Beach, Plantation Point and Stuart King Reserve Bushcare Action Plan – Review 2016

CARRIED

Frances Bray expressed concern that the Bushcare Action Plan sites may include significant Aboriginal sites that are not recognized in the Bushcare Action Plans. The Committee discussed how the Bushcare Program could acknowledge and connect to the Aboriginal community.

The Committee agreed that this issue is to be included in the discussion paper and a part C was added to the recommendation above to reflect this.

Tim Fletcher highlighted the importance of the Bushcare groups in maintaining natural area assets.

GENERAL BUSINESS

4. Local Government Organics Collection System Grants

The Committee discussed the information contained in the email sent from Annie Boutland to the Committee regarding the Local Government Organics Collection System grants (green waste management). Green waste dumping in the bush continues to be a problem.

The general consensus of the Committee is that this is not the core business of this Committee and should be referred to the appropriate team in Council. Staff confirmed that the email from Annie had already been referred to Council's Waste Management team for consideration.

5. Additional Item – Land Use Rezoning

Frances Bray suggested that Bushcare Groups be invited to make recommendations about the environmental values of their sites with regard to land use rezoning, noting that long term needs should be considered as there is increasing pressure on sites being used for inappropriate recreational activities.

Tim Fletcher asked the Committee to consider if volunteers would want to be involved in this way, noting that they would need to be aware of complex zoning information.

The Committee discussed the value of Bushcare groups' participation in this process and what merit there may be in Bushcare groups contributing input regarding reclassification.

Kelie Lowe confirmed that Council staff do consider the environmental value of sites when considering the appropriateness of zoning.

Isabelle Ghetti advised that it is difficult to zone all natural areas as E2 as many of these sites, particularly foreshore reserves, are used for recreational purposes. It was also noted that there is specific legislation to protect the environmental values of bushland no matter what the zoning is.

It was also noted that volunteers are able to access the minutes of the Council Bushcare Representative Group meetings through Council's website and that information on the Strategic Land Review currently being undertaken could be communicated to all Bushcare volunteers via the Bushcare Links newsletter.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 6.20 pm.

Mike Clear
CHAIRPERSON