

SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL BUSHCARE REPRESENTATIVES GROUP

to be held on Wednesday 13 April 2016
commencing at 4.00 pm

City Administrative Centre
Bridge Road
NOWRA NSW 2541

31 March, 2016

Dear Member

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby requested to attend the meeting of the Council Bushcare Representative Group to be held on **Wednesday 13 April 2016** commencing at **4.00 pm** in the City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra in the Jervis Bay Room for consideration of the following business.

Yours faithfully

R D Pigg
General Manager

Please note that refreshments will not be supplied at this meeting

BUSINESS OF MEETING

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Report – Planning & Development Services
5. Addendum Reports
6. General Business
Local Government Organics collection system grants

MEMBERSHIP – Quorum (5)

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Mayor – Cllr Gash | Dr Mike Clear |
| Cllr Findley – Chairperson | Mr Tony Jennings |
| All Councillors | Representative – Local Land Services |
| Mrs Annie Boutland | Representative – Office of Environment & Heritage |
| Ms Frances Bray | Mr Bill Pigott |
| Mr Bryan Lenne | |

Cell Phones:

Council's Code of Meeting Practice states "All cell phones are to be turned off for the duration of the meeting".

Purpose: To act as an advisory group on all matters relating to the future directions of the Bushcare Policy and program.

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL BUSHCARE REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2015 IN JERVIS BAY ROOM 1, CITY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE, BRIDGE ROAD, NOWRA, COMMENCING AT 4.07PM

The following members were present:

Clr Findley – Chairperson
Clr White – arrived 4.11pm
Clr Kitchener
Annie Boutland
Tony Jennings
Bryan Lenne
Bill Pigott
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 Mike Clear, Frances Bray.

Clr Findley acknowledged the traditional owners of our country, and payed respect to Elders past and present.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

MOTION:

Moved: Consent

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council Bushcare Representatives Group held on Thursday 12 February, 2015 be confirmed.

CARRIED

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

2. Environmental zones raised through the LEP Review Process

File 33363E

Note: Clr White – arrived 4.11pm

The Committee discussed the need to consider formal developments and scenic overlays within the Environmental Zones. Any dramatic changes for zoning are considered at the zoning stage. It was agreed that environmental attributes need to be balanced against developments.

It was noted that the previous Regional Plan had the Conservation Plan within it, however, at the moment both the old and new plan are both in place.

The Committee stated that the community does not want this Conservation Plan to be compromised as it is something the community is taking seriously.

Director of Planning and Development Services – Tim Fletcher, clarified that many business uses that are permissible in the environmental zones relate to dwellings and are not related to environmental attributes of the land.

MOTION:

Moved: Consent

RESOLVED that the Council Bushcare Representative Group receive the Environmental Zones Raised through the LEP Review Process report for information.

CARRIED

3. Statistics – Asset Custodian File 20861E

Bill Pigott was excited by this topic at the previous meeting. He asked if there would be financial implications if the natural assets become marketable and if there was any further information on the financial implication as the ecological value improves over time i.e. could there be a negative effect or could it be viewed as a potential income?

Environmental Services Manager – Kelie Lowe, confirmed that they are not included as yet, but they will be included in the future, Kelie is discussing this with the Assets Manager. In the past Council has not had a full understanding of all natural assets and they are unable to fully quantify them, but that is being focused upon at the moment.

Kelie acknowledged all the great work Megan Birmingham has done in relation to the work on assets management in natural areas.

The Committee suggested Council could apply for funding. Council is always keen to gain grant funding where it is possible. The initial focus is to gain a better understanding of the assets and what needs to be done in relation to these. The wider issue is how natural assets are valued and recorded, this will need to be developed over time. Councils Finance Team has advised they require an appropriate accounting model.

MOTION:

Moved: Consent

RESOLVED that that the Council Bushcare Representative Group receive the Statistics – Asset Custodian report for information.

CARRIED

4. Five (5) Bushcare Group Action Plans – Review File 26279E, 26280E, 26281E

Alastair Stratton, provided the Committee with a presentation.

The Committee clarified with staff that the Currarong Village Bushcare Group are still active and are a much larger group.

Natural Resources Manager – Isabelle Ghetti, advised the committee that it does take a lot of time to do a review process as there is a lot of consultation. She asked the Committee for their ideas for improving the review process:

- Annie Boutland mentioned that the requirements for Bushcare Reviews seem over and above.
- Tim Fletcher did see a positive side of consulting with the community.
- It was suggested that maybe a batch could be done together at one time and within the Bushcare Policy there is a possibility of extending the period i.e. every 5 years instead of every 3 years.
- It could also be possible to use technology for more effective consultation. There is a Facebook site called the Ulladulla Noticeboard for the posting of semi-official things. Maybe they exist for other parts of the Shoalhaven and these that could be utilised.
- There is a site called Slide Share and it gives the opportunity to the community to go online to view these. There could also be a survey attached to gain basic responses for feedback.

To celebrate the great work and achievements of the Bushcare Groups and Council at the time the Plan of Action is reviewed (in the middle of the year) there could be a presentation for the Group and to acknowledge the community capacity role these plans facilitate. There is also a need to get the information out the community, this would assist in further developing the community

- It was suggested that a video could be sent to the CCBs.
- The information could be shown on the Council webpage.
- A one page document could be sent with the rates notice.
- Plans that are in a geographic block could be combined for CCBs.
- Maitland created a 'sense of place' – this was created as a learning resource of numerous places. Council could create a template from that and adapt it to the Shoalhaven.
- There are potentially volunteers that are not interested in pulling weeds but have other skills e.g. analysis assistance.

Bill Pigott was pleased to see the engagement of schools (our future bush carers)

It was mentioned that the Field Day (including Bangalee) could be revived

Bush tours of bush sites, for Councillors can be included in the familiarity tours, every tour should include a bush care group.

MOTION:

Moved: Consent

RECOMMENDED that Council adopt the five (5) reviewed Bushcare Group Action Plans (2015) as follows:

1. Callala Bushcare Group Action Plan Review 2015;
2. Currarong Dunecare/Bushcare Group Action Plan Review 2015;
3. Lake Wollumboola Bushcare Group Action Plan Review 2015;
4. Rennies Beach Bushcare Group Action Plan Review 2015; and

5. Bangalee Reserve Bushcare Group Action Plan Review 2015.

CARRIED

Note: This recommendation will be submitted to the Strategy and Assets Committee, Tuesday 19 January 2016.

GENERAL BUSINESS

5. Additional Item – Congratulations on Great Work and Achievements File 42643E

MOTION: Moved: Consent

RECOMMENDED that

- a) Council congratulate the Bushcare Groups and Program Managers for the fantastic work throughout 2015 and acknowledge the work that has been put into the review of plans.
- b) The Bushcare Representative Group also congratulate Council for its ongoing support and commitment to the programs, of which the outcomes and achievements in respect to environmental improvements and community capacity are extraordinary.

CARRIED

Note: This recommendation will be submitted to the Strategy and Assets Committee, Tuesday 19 January 2016

6. Additional Item – Grotto Reserve File 27661E

MOTION: Moved: Consent

RECOMMENDED that Council investigate the potential unauthorised use of the Grotto Reserve, associated with the use of the caravan park.

CARRIED

Note: This recommendation will be submitted to the Strategy and Assets Committee, Tuesday 19 January 2016

7. Additional Item – Future Meetings File 42643E

An email from Mike Clear was read out to the Committee regarding inappropriate frequency of meetings.

It was agreed that the Committee would like to hold two meetings per year and there was a need to hold them closer together. i.e. 6 months apart.

The Committee decided that April and October would work within the budget.

The April meeting would be for strategic discussion. The October meeting would be for review.

It was suggested that a working group could be formed and hold a yearly forum working morning tea.

MOTION:

Moved: Consent

RECOMMENDED that the Council Bushcare Representatives Group hold two meetings per year, the first to be held in April and the second to be held in October.

CARRIED

Note: This recommendation will be submitted to the Strategy and Assets Committee, Tuesday 19 January 2016

8. Additional Item – Christmas and New Year Wishes

The Chair, Clr Findley wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for the work they had done over 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5.50 pm.

Clr Findley
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL BUSHCARE REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

WEDNESDAY, 13 APRIL 2016

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

1. **Five (5) Bushcare Group Action Plan - Review**

File 51838E

SECTION MANAGER: Kelie Lowe

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to present the review of five (5) Bushcare Group Action Plans, and the outcome of community consultation.

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**

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the five (5) reviewed Bushcare Group Action Plans

The five (5) Bushcare Group Action Plans have been reviewed by Council's Planning and Development officers and State Government agencies staff from NSW Crown Lands. All plans have been sent to Council Consultative Bodies (CCBs) and all residents and ratepayers within 200 metres of the reserve effected by the five (5) Beach Action Plans. This is in accordance with Council's Bushcare/Parkcare Policy and Procedures 2009, and Council's Community Engagement Policy.

2. Adopt some of the reviewed Bushcare Group Action Plans and seek a review or make changes to the others

Implications: The positive or negative implications of choosing this option would depend on the proposed changes.

3. Not adopt any of reviewed Bushcare Group Action Plans

Implications: This decision would significantly affect volunteer's morale and result in a loss of volunteer participation in Council's Bushcare program.

DETAILS

The following Bushcare Action Plans were due for review:

1. Kioloa Bushcare Action Plan;
2. Bens Walk Bushcare Action Plan;
3. Moeyan Hill Bushcare Action Plan;
4. Milton Rainforest Bushcare Action Plan; and
5. Barfleur Beach, Plantation Point & Stuart King Reserve Bushcare Action Plan

As part of this review, Council has consulted with the community to seek input into the draft plans.

Part C of MIN08.117 Ordinary Council meeting dated 29 January 2008 states that:

“Council affirms its direction that planting and other associated pursuits should only be done by abovementioned groups in accordance with Bushcare and Parkcare action plans as approved by Council”.

This part of the Council resolution requires that all Bushcare and Parkcare Groups operating on Council owned or managed land prepare plans for adoption by Council.

Part D of MIN08.1552 Ordinary Council meeting dated 25 November 2008 states that:

“An all-embracing Consultation Policy be developed that will include nearby residents, the wider community, Tourism Shoalhaven, CCBs, Chambers of Commerce, community groups, church groups and local schools.”

The level of consultation required is dependent on the actions outlined within the plan and is specified in chapter 6, Community Consultation, of the Bushcare/Parkcare Policy, 2009.

Under the Council’s Community Engagement Policy engagement matrix all Bushcare Action Plans are classed as local low impact project. Therefore, combined with the requirements of the Bushcare Policy all five (5) reviewed Bushcare Action Plans used direct communication via a mail out to all residents/ratepayers within 200m of the subject reserve and CCBs. All five (5) reviewed plans were made available on Council’s website.

There were 488 residents/ratepayers notified, as well as the Vincentia Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc., Ulladulla and Districts Community Forum, Berry Forum, Bawley Point – Kioloa Community Association Inc.

Following consultation, Council received submissions about the reviewed Milton Rainforest Bushcare Action Plan; Barfleur Beach, Plantation Point & Stuart King Reserve Bushcare Action Plan; and Kioloa Bushcare Action Plan. No submissions were received about the other reviewed plans. A summary of the submissions is tabled below.

- **Barfleur Beach, Plantation Point & Stuart King Reserve Bushcare Action Plan Review (D15/259829) - Summary of Submissions – 14 submissions received from 14 individuals**

| Summary of Issues raised by submissions | Changes made or actions taken as a result of the submissions | Number of submissions that raised this issue |
|---|---|---|
| <i>Maintain and provide natural stability to coastal dunes, whilst maintaining visual views to water for shared pathway users</i> | <i>All revegetation contained in the Bushcare Plan are consistent with the adopted Plantation Point Plan of Management and Landscape Master Plan adopted by Council in 2012, which addresses the maintenance of views from the reserve and path. The Plan of Management is a higher order strategic document which is informing the operational Bushcare Plan. The Plantation Point Plan of Management went through extensive community consultation.</i> | 4 |
| <i>Supported the Bushcare Plan</i> | <i>N/A</i> | 5 |
| <i>Opposed new action 4 in Area 1 – Plantation Point as follows: “As per the Plantation Point Landscape Master Plan, mulch isolated Bangalay Gum trees in area 2 of Plantation Point Reserve and plant out area to link up isolated trees and improve the trees health.”</i> | <i>This action has been removed from the draft plan as it is not regarded as a high priority and resources are best allocated to high priority actions. This action would require extensive community negotiations and the environmental outcome is not worth the resources it would require to implement.</i> | 5 |
| <i>Opposed to new action 2 in Area 2 – Stuart King Reserve as follows: “Work with Council Asset and Works Division to close vehicle access to Captain St road to prevent on-going dumping of rubbish and illegal camping”.</i> | <i>This action has been removed from the draft plan as it is not regarded as a high priority and resources are best allocated to high priority actions. This action would require extensive community negotiations and the environmental outcome is not worth the resources it would require to implement.</i> | 4 |

- **Kioloa Bushcare Group Action Plan Review (D15/344913) - Summary of Submissions – 1 submission received from 1 individual**

| Issues raised by submissions | Changes made or actions taken as a result of the submissions | Number of submissions that raised this issue |
|---|--|---|
| <i>Rehabilitation of unauthorised walking tracks installed on O'Hara Headland Crown Reserve</i> | <i>New action under the O'Hara Headland area specifically states that only formalised walking track as per the Draft Walking Track Strategy will be maintained by Council staff and Bushcare volunteers.</i> | 1 |

- **Milton Rainforest Regeneration Bushcare Group Action Plan Review (D16/4798) - Summary of Submissions – 1 submission received from 1 individual**

| Issues raised by submissions | Changes made or actions taken as a result of the submissions | Number of submissions that raised this issue |
|---|---|---|
| <i>Strongly urges Council to continue to provide on-ground support with the provision of Bushcare Field Officer</i> | N/A | 1 |
| <i>Supports the use of monitoring to access success</i> | N/A | 1 |
| <i>No reference in BAP to whom is going to be responsible for repair and maintenance of Community Prayer Wheel</i> | <i>New action included for Council staff to undertake a risk assessment on the asset and assess cost of repair.</i> | 1 |

The five (5) reviewed Plans were placed on Council's website under [Documents for Exhibition](#). A Councillor briefing to outline the content of the reviewed Plans and results of community consultation was held on 12 April 2016.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost of implementing the actions within the five (5) reviewed plans over three years, including voluntary labour, will be a total cost of \$141,220. These costs will be funded through Council's existing Bushcare program budget and voluntary labour, as follows:

- \$22,720 (accommodated through existing budgets) materials/equipment and direct support from casual Bushcare Field Officer staff;
- \$22,500 in existing salaried staff time; and
- In-kind volunteer contribution \$96,000.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

CCBs and 448 residents and ratepayers were informed of the opportunity to comment on all five (5) reviewed Bushcare Action Plans via the post or email. 488 letters were sent out to all residents and ratepayers within 200 metres of the reserves where Bushcare actions are proposed or will continue.

Residents/Ratepayers were able to view the draft Bushcare Action Plans via a "**Documents on Exhibition**" web link on Council website and were given 28 days to make a submission. People without internet access were able to contact Council and request a hard copy of the plan and make a submission via mail. This community engagement is in line with Council Community Engagement Policy for low impact local projects.

CONCLUSION:

This report demonstrates the value of Bushcare volunteers to manage natural areas under the care and control of Council. The community is largely supportive of the exhibited five (5) reviewed Bushcare Action Plans. The report outlines the consultation process and how submissions received have been considered and addressed. It is recommended that the five (5) reviewed Bushcare Group Action plans be adopted.

Tim Fletcher

DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES