

# Minutes



**Bicentennial Reserve and Flat Rock Gully Advisory Committee**

**Wednesday 29 November 2023  
4.00-5.30pm**

<b>Location:</b>	Banksia Room, Level 6, 31 Victor St Chatswood
<b>Chair:</b>	Councillor Anna Greco
<b>Attendees:</b>	Nicola Ward – Member Kristina Dodds – Member Benita Dwyer (via zoom) – Member Denis Fernandez – Member Heidi Key – Member Jenny Roxburgh – Member Andrew Stone (via zoom) – Member Brian Norton – Member Bob Taffel – Member Les Tyrpenou (via zoom) – Member Peter Lisle- Sustainability Team Leader Julie Whitfield – Open Space Planner Busola Martins – Governance Lead Bushra Salam – Governance Administration Officer
<b>Apologies/absent:</b>	Members: NIL
<b>Guests</b>	Councillor Anna Greco

## Agenda items

Item	Topic / Discussion	Action
1	<b>Welcome:</b> The meeting was declared open at 4:01pm	
	<b>Acknowledgment of Country</b> Bushra Salam, Governance Administration Officer, acknowledged country on behalf of Council.	

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## 2 Committee Governance

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The Committee unanimously agreed to elect a chair at each meeting.

### Appointment of Chair

Pursuant to clause 5.4 of the Committee's Terms of Reference, the Committee unanimously appointed Councillor Anna Greco, the Chair for the meeting and noted that appointment of an ongoing Chairperson be reconsidered at the third meeting of the Committee.

### Nominations for Chair of the meeting

Kristina Dodds nominated Councillor Greco chair of the Meeting.

All in favour. The Committee unanimously approved.

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### Apologies

None

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### Declarations of interest

A link to the Disclosure of interest by Committee Members form was circulated with the Agenda.

<https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Council/Forms/Disclosure-of-interest-by-Committee-Members>

No declarations of interest were made.

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### Confirmation of previous minutes

The draft minutes of 20 September 2023 meeting were circulated by email to the Committee on 27 September 2023 with comments closed on 12 October 2023. A request was made after closing of minutes on 16 November 2023 to make a minor adjustment in the previous minutes as the approved document.

Adjustment was: *there will be no further site visit of Bicentennial Reserve and all members will convey their comments in the Public Spaces Evaluation report.*

Moved by Kristina Dodds and Seconded by Heidi Key.

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### Actions arising from previous minutes

#### a. Welcome New Members

The Chair welcomed new members Les Tyrpenou and Denis Fernandez who were apologies in the previous meeting.

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### 3 Strategic Activities

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#### **Bicentennial Reserve – Public Spaces Evaluation Report by the Committee**

The committee decided at the last meeting that a second site visit was not necessary. The Evaluation Report was circulated on a google doc to all members, including the new members.

Brian Norton included comments on the word document. This was discussed at length and the committee decided that they were to be accepted. The 3 other new Committee members were invited to include their feedback into the Evaluation Report, which will be updated and re-circulated by Kristina Dodds. Comments from the Committee are due prior to 30th January 2024, so they may be collated and sent to Governance for inclusion on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.

Les wanted it noted that there was insufficient lighting on one corner of Bicentennial oval, and this would need to be assessed if play was extended to Friday evenings.

The Bicentennial Reserve Public Spaces Evaluation Report to be finalized by 30 January 2024, for inclusion on the Agenda for the next Committee meeting for comment of action/works priority to be considered by Council.

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#### **The Incinerator - update on current works for the Incinerator, including background about the building, its heritage status and curtilage**

Update on the current works at the Incinerator including its background, heritage status and curtilage were provided to the Committee prior to the meeting, as follows:

*Works to be undertaken in 2023/24 involve the remediation of the lower level structure of the Willoughby Incinerator. This building currently is tenanted by a café and gallery at the upper levels and the proposed works are to be undertaken in the unoccupied ground and subfloor levels.*

*Works generally involve:*

- *The installation of new steel beams and support columns to maintain the structural integrity of the building.*
- *The connection of roof water to a new storm water system*
- *Installation of a steel mesh grating and roller door system to secure the basement*
- *Exposure of any remaining rail lines used in the original waste incineration operation*
- *Construction of new sandstone retaining walls to replace original structures and repairs to existing sandstone elements*
- *Site clearing and surface restoration*

**Open Space Team to provide follow up on the condition of the Ash Pits and any future works to be provided to the Committee.**

**Follow up on the likely**

*Works are to be undertaken under the supervision of a Heritage Advisor and a Structural Engineer to ensure works are completed in accordance with Heritage Approvals and manage any unexpected conditions that may emerge during construction.*

*It is anticipated that the works will take around 12 weeks, with a commencement likely in January 2024. 6 car spaces in the lower car park will be used as a site office and works compound.*

*The project is the final stage of a series of works undertaken over a number of years to refurbish and remediate the Willoughby Incinerator. This building is a State Heritage listed structure and works are being undertaken in accordance with the Development Approval for the overall works as well as the conditions of approval issued by the NSW Heritage Office.*

The ongoing condition and environmental health of the adjoining Ash Pits at the rear of the Incinerator was queried as to whether any remedial work is planned as the Ash Pits are inside the Incinerator heritage curtilage.

The committee asked If there is any possibility to remove the temporary fencing and the rubble within it at the rear of the building, which is the adjoining ash pit and was this included in this stage of works for the incinerator.

**removal of the rubble and broken bricks at the rear of the incinerator and then the temporary fencing that surrounds it once the remedial work is completed.**

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### **Flat Rock Gully Reserve Action Plan 2023 – Committee’s input and site observations**

Have Your Say link to the Reserve Action Plan (RAP) and the survey was circulated to the Committee at the last Committee meeting.

The Committee noted that the RAP is a 2 page document and suggested it needs a separate Plan of Management (POM) due to the complexity of the site and that it is now declared as a contaminated site. FRG is also a major water catchment zone and wildlife corridor. It was stated by Council staff that there is an overarching POM *Urban Bushland Plan of Management 2023* that covers Flat Rock Gully Reserve. RAPS are done for each bushland reserve in the City to address specific conditions particular to the site reserve. The Naremburn RAP submission was acknowledged and will be addressed by Council’s officers in their report to Council in 2024.

**Flat Rock Gully RAP will be reported to Council in 2024. A separate POM for FRG as proposed by Naremburn Progress Association will be addressed by Council officers to be discussed at next meeting**

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### **Bicentennial Reserve - EPA Contamination declaration update**

Bicentennial Reserve was declared ‘Contaminated’ by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority in September 2023. The Committee requested an update on the implications of the declaration.

Peter Lisle- Sustainability Team Leader provided update on EPA

declaration for Bicentennial Reserve which was circulated along with the Agenda, in which he noted that Flat Rock Gully was used a municipal waste facility from 1930 to 1985, and between 1985 and 1990 the area underwent extensive filling and re-contouring, including the placement of fill material from the construction of the Gore Hill Freeway. Native trees were later planted, and it transformed the area into the valuable bushland reserve and recreational space it is today.

In early 2021, Council submitted a Contaminated Land Notification Form to the NSW EPA about the possible contaminants migrating from the landfill through groundwater. In consultation with the NSW EPA, a comprehensive Environment Site Investigation was undertaken by Consulting Earth Scientists, with their 670 page report available on Council's web site.

As a result of these investigations, the NSW EPA is now proposing to list Bicentennial Reserve and Flat Rock Gully as contaminated land on the register of contained sites in NSW, and regulate it under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997.

The contamination concerns relate to the impact from leachate from the former landfill discharging downstream into Flat Rock Creek, resulting in slightly elevated ammonia concentrations that may affect stream ecology. The levels of ammonia are not at any level where they would impact humans, and are only slightly above the levels which cause concern to ecology.

Council will submit a Voluntary Management Plan under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 to the EPA for their approval in the coming months. This will outline how contamination will be managed and monitored, including key milestones and associated timelines.

Residents and visitors can continue to use the reserve and bushland as before, and our investigations undertaken by experts, and reviewed by the NSW EPA, indicate there are no dangers posed to the community.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Council/News-and-media/Bicentennial-Reserve-Environmental-Site-Report>

<https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Council/Public-notice/Former-landfill-site-at-Bicentennial-Reserve-and-Flat-Rock-Gully>

**Peter Lisle to confirm testing regime and timings and report back to the Committee.**

**POST MEETING NOTE: Peter Lisle confirmed that all information currently on the Council website is the current status.**

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#### 4 Other Business

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##### **Use of 1080 poison for fox baiting in bushland**

Benita Dwyer raised concern raised about the use of 1080 poison for fox bait as it is banned in every country except 6, which includes Australia and New Zealand. It also routinely kills non-target and

**Peter Lisle to provide in the first 2024 meeting, an update on use of 1080**

threatened native species. The Committee asked whether there are other options for fox control in urban areas, alternatives to using 1080 and enquired about extent of fox population in the City.

**poison in the LGA and options for fox control.**

#### **Issue of Flood Lights at Bicentennial Oval**

Les Tyrpenou mentioned that the lighting for the baseball on Bicentennial Oval on one corner was not sufficient for the playing of junior baseball on Friday evenings. This use has increased since the floodlighting was installed Peter Lisle confirmed that any future changes to lighting would take into account the type of activity at that time and intended use and after consultation with all stakeholders and this committee.

**Peter Lisle to report back in the first 2024 meeting, as to current lighting levels at Bicentennial Oval and any plans for future upgrades**

#### **Lighting under the underpass – the mural**

Peter Lisle explained that the electricity had been cut by Roads and that they were looking at how to restore the supply

#### **Stream watch**

Bob Taffel raised the possibility of convening a working party of the committee to look at implementing streamwatch for Flat Rock Creek. Bob, Kristina, Heidi and Jennifer said that they would be interested.

**To be discussed at the next meeting**

#### **Cat containment in FRG**

It was discussed that cat containment is an issue in FRG and could more be done by Council to contain cats going into FRG as this area is a wildlife corridor and protection zone

#### **Fence down**

A tree had fallen on a fence and this could be a hazard.

#### **Committee Governance Matters**

Governance Lead raised the matter of nominating a Chair for the rest of the term in alignment with the Terms of Reference. However, the Committee unanimously agreed to elect a chair at each meeting.

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## **5 Next Meeting**

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**Date:** Wednesday 21 February 2024

#### **Agenda Items:**

- Bicentennial Reserve – Public Spaces Evaluation Report by the Committee with inclusions from new committee members.
- WLC update re: upgrade – Angela Casey
- The Incinerator and the building rubble at the rear in the Ash pits – is this included in the scope of the next phase of restoration
- Flat Rock Gully Reserve Action Plan 2023

- Update regarding further testing for Bicentennial Reserve. PA Contamination and Council voluntary management plan.
- Lighting under the underpass – the mural
- Progress report on council use of 1080 poison in fox baiting and other forms of fox control.
- Progressing streamwatch
- Cat containment

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## 6 Meeting Conclusion

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The meeting concluded at 5:40pm.

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