

Minutes



Bushland and Natural Heritage Advisory Committee

Wednesday 21 June 2023
5:00 pm

Location:	Bottlebrush Room, Willoughby City Council Depot, 25-27 Gibbes Street, Chatswood
Chair:	Councillor John Moratelli
Attendees:	Meredith Foley – Member Edward Coates – Member Gay Spies – Member Kay Donovan – Member Scott Graham – Member Nicholas Yu – Natural Assets Officer Alfred Bernhard – Bushland Team Leader Samantha Connor – Governance, Risk and Compliance
Apologies/absent:	Adrienne Kabos; Mark Crew; Ross Wellings; Lorraine Cairnes
Guests	Councillor John Moratelli Councillor Anna Greco

Agenda items

Item	Topic / Discussion	Action
1	Welcome The meeting was declared open at 5:04 pm	
	Acknowledgement of Country <i>Willoughby City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we meet today, the Gamaragal People, and their connections to land, waters, and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including those who may be in attendance today.</i>	

Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made.

Apologies

Adrienne Kabos

Lorraine Cairns

2 Appointment of Chair

In accord with Item 5.2 of the terms of Reference, the committee appointed John Moratelli as the Chair for this meeting. The committee agreed that they did not want to appoint a permanent chair for the next 12 months and that community members would appoint a chair at each meeting.

3 Confirmation of Minutes – 17 May 2023

Moved by Scott Graham and seconded by Ed Coates the minutes of the 17 May 2023 were adopted unanimously.

Business Arising from the minutes included:

- Working Party (Griffin Reserves) Terms of Reference – have not been given to committee and not resolved by Maxine
- Motion from Lorraine Cairnes – Feedback to advisory committee about council's decision of the committee recommendations

Meredith Foley expressed disappointment about the number of meetings per annum, prescribed in the Terms of Reference. Meredith would have liked to have 6 meetings up until December and then again from Jan to May 2024. Staff advised the reasons for the set number of meetings in the ToR and the opportunity to use the working groups for additional meetings.

Response to query regarding the working party ToR; Working Party ToR to be provided to the committee for consideration.

Natural Assets Officer to provide an update at the next meeting.

4 Working Party on the Griffin Reserves Action Plan of Management (GROPOM)

The Working Party is yet to meet and will report at the next meeting.

Motion: That Kay Donovan and Lorraine Cairnes attend the Bicentennial Reserve and Flat Rock Gully committee meeting on 28 June to liaise with the Bicentennial Reserve and Flat Rock Gully Advisory Committee.

Moved: Gay Spies **Seconded:** Meredith Foley
Unanimously carried.

5 Strategic Activities

Update on Natural Heritage Register

Bushland Team Leader provided an update including:

- The intent of the document to assist the planning team to deal with the management of trees and to maintain a corridor of trees on private property and areas not managed on Council land.
- The register is an instrument for preservation of significant vegetation and natural features.
- An ongoing audit was conducted and documented remnant vegetation.
- State planning policy determines population and planning density which can result in reduction of tree canopy.
- Mentioned state policy and the Land and Environment court overriding Council strategy and policy/decisions.

The committee thanked the Bushland Team Leader and Natural Assets Officer and noted the presentation was very interesting.

Bushcare Working Party

Scott Graham provided an overview of the working party, including its intention to improve engagement with the community with the help of council officers. A report will be forthcoming to the next committee meeting.

Kay Donovan gave an overview of an overseas university student group to be involved in the Bushcare program. The group may assist current volunteer groups to gain experience relevant to their own area of study.

5 Other Business

Urban Canopy in Chatswood:

- Council is investigating sites within the Chatswood urban area where tree planting can take place to increase the canopy in and around the CBD. Plantings will be implemented in the next financial year.
- Council has implemented initiatives to engage with community including the *Love Your Trees* campaign and face to face conversations with residents.

Wildlife corridors:

Meredith Foley requested information about Chatswood Golf Course. Response: Council has requested a Vegetation Management Plan from the proponent. Council has a strategic objective to maintain *right of way* for public through a portion of the golf course that is too steep to be included as part of the course. This negotiation is ongoing.

Meredith Foley requested the committee consider the following requests:

That the committee be provided with the proposed planting palette for Artarmon Station. In response, the ongoing liaison with the

Requested a link to the committee on the vegetation areas and DAs – officers will request this from the Planning Team

Provide committee with a

engineering design team was outlined.

That Council implements notifications, similar to DA notifications, for tree removal applications.

MOVED Meredith Seconded: NIL

Motion Lapsed for want of a seconder.

link to the Artarmon upgrade.

Planting is completed in line with the Vegetation Plan for the site.

Provide the current procedure to the committee.

Explore opportunities for improvements to notifications, with the planning team.

Table Meredith's document for the next meeting agenda

Next Meeting

Date:

Site Visit - Wednesday 16 August at 10:00 am at the Blue Gum Park

Wednesday 20 September 2023, 5:00 pm (Bottlebrush Room, Willoughby City Council Depot).

Agenda Items:

Tree removal notification.

The meeting closed at 6:40 pm.
