

Minutes



Bushland and Natural Heritage Advisory Committee

**Wednesday 18 October 2023
5:00 pm**

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

Agenda items

Item	Topic / Discussion	Action
1	Welcome The meeting was declared open at 5:03 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

Members: Edward Coates, Lorraine Cairnes

2 Appointment of Chair

The committee agreed in the previous meeting 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.

In accordance with Item 5.2 of the terms of Reference, the committee appointed Councillor Anna Greco as the Chair for this meeting.

Nominations for Chair of the meeting:

- Gay Spies nominated Councillor Anna Greco
- Kay Donovan seconded.
- No other nominations were received.

The Committee unanimously approved.

3 Confirmation of Minutes – 21 June 2023

Moved by Scott Graham and seconded by Gay Spies the minutes of the 21 June 2023 were adopted unanimously.

4 Business arising from the previous minutes

Terms of Reference (ToRs) current status, Committee and Working Group.

The updated Terms of Reference were shared with the Committee.

Griffin Reserves Working Group Report

Adrienne Kabos updated the Committee that all former members of the former Griffin Reserves Advisor Group were invited to become members of the Griffin Reserves Working Party (GRWP). Matthew Keighery and Tim Stalker have both said that they would like to be on GRWP. The Working Party will report at next meeting.

Bushcare Working Group Report

A new TOR was proposed. The purpose of the group is to report and advise the committee of trends regarding volunteer engagement. Leveraging the specific demographics can include organizations such as the MOSAIC Multicultural Centre.

Artarmon Streetscape project web link:

Natural Assets Officer shared the link with the committee.

Chatswood Golf Course DA:

Council's planning team was contacted and information has been requested.

Tree removal notification:

This has been presented in detail in the Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting and has been raised to Council meeting at the October Council meeting.

Committee Resolution:

Actions from previous minutes of the meeting to be in a tabular form with responses-resolutions and shared before the next meeting.

Moved by Meredith Foley and seconded by Mark Crew.

Carried.

5 Strategic Activities

The Bushland Team Leader updated the Committee on the following:

5.1 Blue Gum Reserve Site inspection

The last site visit and key issues raised were discussed. Some members showed interest to visit again. The importance of site inspections to evaluate the outcomes of strategic actions was highlighted.

5.2 Blue Gum Walking Track app

The committee was advised that information will be added to the Willoughby Walks app.

5.3 Reserve Action Plan updates:

Committee members were informed about the status of current Reserve Action Plans (RAP) under review, including OH Reid Reserve, Flat Rock Gully and Mowbray Park. The Bicentennial Reserve and Flat Rock Gully Advisory Committee's advice was also invited to comment on that RAP.

5.4 Community Engagement:

The Bushland Team Leader informed the committee about the recent community engagement events, including the Emerge Festival and the ICOMOS Heritage visit to Willoughby. The numerous ICOMOS delegates commented favourably on Council's work in planning and implementing improvements to the complex network of Griffin Reserves in Castlecrag.

Committee members were invited to attend the Castlecrag Fair on

Sunday 22 October.

The Committee thanked the Bushland Team Leader for the updates.

6 Other Business

- Bushland Team Leader briefed the Committee about the next site visit at Stoker Park.
- Under the topic of fire reduction measures planned for the coming season, there were enquiries around the intensity and the scale of the most recent burn at Harold Reid and the likelihood of that being repeated.
- The Bushland Team Leader
 - Advised the group that the burn was intended to be of that scale and intensity.
 - Assured the group that nothing of that scale and intensity was intended within the next 12 months.

Next Meeting

Site Visit - Wednesday 15 November at 10:00 am at Stoker Park

First meeting for 2024: Wednesday 14 February 2024

Agenda Items:

- Griffin Reserves Action Plans
- Management of cats in Willoughby
- Crown lands Aboriginal claims
- Community issues

The meeting closed at 6:34 pm.

The governance to send the committee a reminder four weeks before the next meeting for nomination of next agenda items before finalising the agenda and any future cancelations first consulted with the group.

Attachment A – Action items

Date added	Matter	Latest update	Person/people responsible
21/6/23	ToRs current status, Committee and Working Group.	Complete	Governance
21/6/23	Artarmon Streetscape project web link	Complete	Nicholas Yu – has shared this information.
21/6/23	Chatswood Golf Course DA	Complete	The VMP has been completed as requested and will be monitored by the Planning Team in conjunction with Bushland staff. DA-2020/117 and DA-2021/372
21/6/23	Tree removal notification	Complete	Sustainability Advisory Committee
21/6/23	Griffin Reserves Working Group Report	Ongoing	The Working Party will report at next meeting
21/6/23	Bushcare Working Group report	Ongoing	The Working Party will report at next meeting
21/6/23	Education of community about Bushfires	Ongoing	Web Team has updated community bushfire information, including links to the RFS website in the Plan and Prepare tab