

Minutes



Bicentennial Reserve and Flat Rock Gully Advisory Committee

**Wednesday 21 February 2024
4.00-5.30pm**

Location:	Microsoft Teams
Chair:	Councillor Anna Greco
Attendees:	Bob Taffel- Mmber Nicola Ward – Member Kristina Dodds – Member Heidi Key – Member Andrew Stone – Member Brian Norton – Member Les Tyrpenou – Member Peter Lisle – Sustainability Team Leader Stephen Alderton – Open Space and Recreation Lead Bushra Salam – Governance
Apologies/absent:	Members: Benita Dwyer; Denis Fernandez; Jenny Roxburgh
Guests	Councillor Anna Greco Simon Brown – WCC Wildlife Officer

Agenda items

Item	Topic / Discussion	Action
1	Welcome The meeting was declared open at 4:05 pm when a quorum was reached.	
	Acknowledgement of Country Governance Administration Officer, acknowledged Country on behalf of Council.	
2	Committee Governance The committee agreed in the previous meeting that they did not want to appoint a permanent chair and that community	

members would appoint a chair at each meeting.

Appointment of Chair

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:

- Kristina Dodds nominated Councillor Anna Greco seconded by Heidi Key.
- Against: None
- All in favour

The Committee nominated Councillor Anna Greco the Chair for the meeting. The Committee unanimously approved.

Apologies

Members: Benita Dwyer; Denis Fernandez; Jenny Roxburgh

Declarations of interest

A link to the Disclosure of interest by Committee Members form was circulated with the Agenda. No declarations of interest were received.

Confirmation of minutes – 29 November 2023

Members of the Committee were sent the draft minutes prior to the meeting and the feedback received was included in the final draft and approved electronically. The committee unanimously accepted the minutes of the 29 November 2023 meeting.

Moved by Kristina Dodds and Seconded by Les Tyrpenou

Actions arising from previous minutes

- a. Bicentennial Reserve – Public Spaces Evaluation Report by the Committee with inclusions from new committee members.***

The new members of the Committee have provided

their feedback and has already been circulated (no change since it was last emailed on 18/12/2023).

Moved by Kristina Dodds and seconded by Les Tyrpenou, the Committee recommended the following:

Motion: *The Public Spaces evaluation report by the Committee to be actioned & tabled.*

Adopted unanimously.

b. Flat Rock Gully Reserve Action Plan 2023

Peter Lisle (Sustainability Team Leader), informed the Committee that Flat Rock Gully Action Plan 2023 is on the agenda of the Council meeting going to be held on 26 February 2024.

On a query about having a separate Plan of Management request from the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations (FWPA), Councillor Greco noted that she has received a letter from FWPA and the Councillors will consider that letter at the 26 February Council meeting.

Simon Brown (Wildlife Officer) pointed out that the Council currently has a detailed Bushland Plan of Management (POM) for all reserves in the local Government Area (LGA) This document includes reserve descriptions, assets, and broader management priorities. Each reserve also has its own Reserve Action Plan (RAP) document that includes a summary of the reserve and finer details of works to be carried out over a set period. Crown Lands NSW, who own significant portions of the council-managed reserve network, has directed that there cannot be more than one POM for each reserve. So, as all bushland reserves in the LGA are already covered by the Willoughby Council Bushland POM, Flat Rock Gully Reserve cannot have its own POM.

The committee decided to source more information and revisit this discussion at the next meeting.

c. Update on testing for Bicentennial Reserve.

Peter Lisle drew attention to Council's previous announcement on the council website about the contamination at Flat Rock Gully.

To be discussed in next meeting as Standing item

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

He stated that since the discovery of contaminants last year Council have been proactive in dealing with the EPA and engaged a specialist consultant to develop a draft Sampling and Quality Assurance Plan. This draft has been submitted to EPA for approval. The Committee will be updated when a reply is received though no timeline for a response has been given.

Given recent news reports about contaminated mulch being used in numerous sites around Sydney, Les Tyrpenou enquired if any mulch used around the LGA maybe be contaminated too,

Stephen Alderton stated that Council does not use the supplier used at the centre of interest, and uses our own tree mulch for the majority of our projects around the LGA.

However, there are some sites where mulch has been provided by an external supplier and these sites would be subject to testing over the next week to confirm all mulch supplies in Willoughby's public spaces are safe

Action: To make this a standing item for the next meetings.

d. *The Incinerator Update*

Stephen Alderton (Open Space and Recreation Lead), advised that an update on the Incinerator Remedial Works would be provided as part of the meeting minutes.

Update: Remedial works at The Incinerator are ongoing with the site clearance completed and retaining walls laid. Additional steel and columns due to be delivered in early March. Project on track to be completed around Easter.

e. *Defective Lighting under Flat Rock Gully Drive*

Peter Lisle stated that the lights were believed to be the responsibility of Roads and Maritime Services NSW and will update the next meeting.

f. *Progress report on council use of 1080 poison in fox baiting and other forms of fox control.*

Simon Brown noted that Council does not use 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate). Council has an integrated pest management approach for the control of foxes with various controls including shooting, trapping and bait when appropriate with shooting being most highly effective measure.

3 Strategic Activities

3.1 WLC update re: upgrade

Stephen Alderton advised the Committee that an update on the WLC Upgrade was being provided to Council at its February meeting with a subsequent project update to be provided on

the project webpage.

3.2 Progressing Streamwatch

Peter Lisle informed the committee that Council employs Sydney Water to conduct regular water testing all around the LGA with full reporting shown in the Waterway Health page of the Council website.

To be discussed in next meeting

See <https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Environmental-Health/Water/Waterway-health>

The Committee will review the information and discuss in the next Committee meeting.

3.3 Cat containment

WCC Wildlife Officer noted that over the last 15 years Council has we had three rounds of letter box droppings & door knocking in all of Bushland boundaries. He suggested the Committee to use an App called Feral Scan which allows for recording sightings of foxes, rabbits and cats. Councillor Greco requested Simon Brown if he could update the Council website with this information.

Simon Brown to update the Council website.

4 Other Business

- Benita Dwyer raised (via email) the issue of water pooling at the entry gate to Bicentennial Reserve. Open Space and Recreation Lead would look into that and raise to the right team, Peter Lisle advised that often for issues like these raising a Customer Service Request (CSR) can be a good way of reporting issues such as these. Councillor Anna Greco also encouraged the Committee to utilize Council's Customer Service Request system available on Council's website to log any maintenance requests/issues.
- Kristina Dodds reported that the lights in the Flat Rock Gully are still not working. This was first raised at the

July 2023 committee meeting. Peter Lisle said he would follow up.

5 Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday 17 April 2024 (4:00-5:30pm)

Agenda Items: To be decided

6 Meeting Conclusion

Meeting concluded at 5:45 pm
