



**Clarence Valley Biodiversity Advisory Committee - Meeting Minutes**

**10:00 am Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**CVC Council Chambers - 2 Prince Street Grafton**

**Present:** Cr Greg Clancy (Chair), John Edwards, Linda Wright, Laura Noble, Barbara Linley, Phil Redpath, Peter Lake, Adrian Deville, Joanne Cunningham, Krister Waern, Heather Mitchell (CVC Staff), Reece Luxton (CVC Staff), A/GM Laura Black (part)

**Apologies:** Cr Peter Johnstone, Scott Lenton, Adam Cameron, Jonathon Yantsch, Nigel Blake

<i>Item</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Responsible person &amp; deadline</i>
<b>1. Introduction</b>	New members of committee on arrival	All members
<b>2. Meeting opening – 10:05am</b> Cr Greg Clancy as Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the members of this new committee.	Acknowledgement of Country Committee acknowledged to work to best of its ability	Cr Greg Clancy



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<b>3. Purpose and membership of the Committee</b>	<p>Cr Clancy outlined background to the Committee – following previous committee set up for development of Biodiversity Strategy 2010. Climate Change Committee related but needed separate one for Biodiversity.</p> <p>Committee to look at <u>strategy and policy</u> relating to biodiversity issues impacting on Council and the community.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That biodiversity management professionals and interested community representatives collaborate to guide implementation of Council's <i>Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2025</i> and provide input to biodiversity strategy, policy, and programs relevant to the Clarence Valley's biodiversity.</li> <li>2. That Committee members promote Council's biodiversity management activities and Committee activities to their community or agency networks as well as to the wider CV community when sanctioned by the Committee.</li> <li>3. That the Committee members contribute to community education and raising awareness of biodiversity and management within the Clarence Valley.</li> </ol>	Purpose - from <i>Terms of Reference</i>
<b>4. Member introductions – 10:10 to 10:50am</b>	Summary – see end of minutes	All – no further action



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<p><b>5. Advisory Committee – induction documents 10:50 to 11:20am</b></p>	<p>Reece Luxton outlined the induction documents emailed to all members - <i>Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct policy, and Advisory Committee Handbook.</i></p> <p><i>Note - requirements of a quorum (50% + 1), voting rights (one vote per member excluding CVC staff) and advised that members covered by Council's insurances when undertaking Committee business.</i></p> <p>Discussion on various issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Australia State of the Environment report 2021 released today</li> <li>- Acknowledged that CV has second highest biodiversity values</li> <li>- Need to value the environment; and watch volunteer burn out</li> <li>- Land managers need to bring focus that cost to environment needs to be budgeted – concern about handouts</li> <li>- River – brings everyone together – end point of the environment – extend to floodplain and riparian zones</li> <li>- Recognise that landholders are threatened by providing knowledge of environmental values on their property e.g. Koalas.</li> <li>- Discussion on value of 'triple bottom line' how to best raise profile of environment in this framework/need to value it/provide a lens to promote environment more</li> <li>- Offsets – need to understand better – topic for discussion</li> </ul>	<p>Adopted by all – no further discussion</p>





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review Tree Management policy – awareness around local provenance discussion</li> <li>- Heather noted that a project to develop plant identification for the CVC area is to be underway 22/23</li> <li>- Phil Redpath queried the level of vegetation surveys available and note the Nymboida Roadside Vegetation Plan – recommend as an agenda item for next meeting</li> <li>- Laura Noble raised the issue of a tree register – has one been developed? - for trees of significance for Council to consider in development applications (including dead trees for habitat purposes)</li> <li>- Joanne Cunningham queried action – ‘coordinate education programs...soil and water management’ – who and how will this be addressed?</li> <li>- Recognise the importance of education to next generation – school children</li> <li>- Peter Lake noting KPI of 5000 trees – other Councils provide free trees to the public – can CVC undertake this as well?</li> <li>- Identified that objective of net vegetation gain needs to be addressed</li> </ul>	<p>Agenda item: Roadside Vegetation Management</p> <p>Action: check on tree register</p> <p>Action: check on education program delivery</p>
<p><b>8. General business</b></p>	<p>Recommended that contact details for each of the members be distributed – no objections received.</p>	<p>Reece – with minutes of meeting</p>



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9. Action items	Action list to be developed Agenda items for next meeting to be forwarded	Reece – with minutes of meeting
10. Meeting closed – 12:35pm		

Minutes confirmed by Chair Cr Greg Clancy

Signature

Date 26/07/2022



### Summary – member introductions

Krister Waern (NSW DPE BCD) – part of North East team for over 10 years and we have teams in coastal management and flooding, compliance and regulation, threatened species (SOS) and Planning which I am part of. The planning team provide advice on proposed developments, planning proposals, threatened species licencing; also assist Council with mitigating impacts from flying foxes.

Phil Redpath (community) – ecologist for 30 years; landscape scale flora and fauna assessments; involved in various environmental legislation review and implementation; would like to see CV become leader in planning, legislation (LEP) and implementation

Adrian Deville (community) – zoology/biology knowledge; background in Local Government (CHCC Sustainability Officer, Byron SC Environment Officer); State Government (OEH/DPE); worked in local Landcare Groups; ecotourism in the Clarence, current work on land for conservation project in Pillar Valley

Heather Mitchell (CVC) – NRM (Biodiversity) Officer – work on a broad range of biodiversity issues such as restoration projects, flying-foxes, koalas, environmental assessments etc; develop and review vegetation management plans; riparian management; previous work in TAFE, Fisheries, and NPWS in the water reform process.

Linda Wright (community) – environmental advocate in CV for 27 years, long-term member of Valley Watch and Maclean Flying Fox Working Group; architect for CELF; coordinator for Clarence Valley Koala Group; interested in wildlife habitat trees getting into the ground.

Joanne Cunningham (community) – working with Dundurrabin/Blicks community project through Regional NSW; background in Aquatic ecology water research and env. assessment. Secondary Science teacher; passionate about the environment and the need to find solution that avoid destroying habitat.

Reece Luxton (CVC) – Coordinator NRM – 4 years, working on biodiversity, biosecurity and bushfire program and projects; previously Weed management 23 years; previous work in State Government and Landcare Groups; interested in working collaboratively with stakeholders and community to deliver outcomes to benefit environment.



Peter Lake (community) – lived in CV since 2007 – farmer; looking to increase recognition of balance – bring perspective to committee; floodplain area – looking at economics in isolation becoming difficult; understanding consideration for biodiversity

John Edwards (community) – lifetime observation of natural world; 43 years in CV – 20 years active conservation group member; issues to note include water quality; under scrubbing (reduces 90% of biodiversity); plethora of laws/plans with little enforcement; bushfire management (impact on biodiversity); reconcile 25m clearing laws; intensive horticulture issues; private conservation agreements – rate relief – paid by State Government; recognise Biodiversity Strategy 2010 has good content to follow.

Barbara Linley (community) – farmer/family therapist for 30 years; 5 years in CV; owns land at Tullymorgan and Taloumbi, with koala and emu populations; undertaking cool burns on property; worried biodiversity losses and conservation issues which led to presidency of Lions Club of Clarence – Environmental; next project – cats; involved with Southern Cross University and regenerative farming practices, interested in biodiversity credits and soil carbon

Laura Noble (community) – interested in biodiversity since young age; in CV since 2004, working at Nymboida Canoe Centre, started bush regen on lantana and privet; worked on Indian myna control program since 2010 with CVCIA – building environmentally friendly traps; own 167 acres at Kungala with Land for Wildlife; want to help Council become a good example of biodiversity conservation

Laura Black (CVC) – wanted to attend to meet new members of committee; and express appreciation for committing time for the benefit of Council; recognise that we are a thinly resourced organisation and support from the community needed.

Cr Greg Clancy (CVC) – willing to represent people and biodiversity through commitment to protecting the environment; everyone should be involved; recognise conservative political nature of community; CVC has achieved a lot for climate change and biodiversity; passion is dealing with cats and fire; interest in working with First Nations; local provenance of plantings is crucial, for example concern about koala food trees sourced from the Richmond; roadside vegetation management needs to be improved; as does ecological reporting with DA's; note precautionary principle.

END