



Clarence Valley Biodiversity Advisory Committee - Meeting #5 Minutes

9:30 am Wednesday 5th April 2023

Clarence Environment Learning Facility – Armidale Road

Present: Cr Greg Clancy (Alt), Cr Peter Johnstone (Chair), John Edwards, Laura Noble, Barbara Linley, Peter Lake, Linda Wright, Adrian Deville, Phil Redpath, Reece Luxton, Heather Mitchell. Pat Edwards (guest) Leonie Blane (Guest)

Apologies: Nigel Blake, Krister Waern, Joanne Cunningham, Scott Lenton, Erin Brady

<i>Item</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Responsible person & deadline</i>
1. Meeting opening – 9:30am Cr Peter Johnstone (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed guests	Acknowledgement of Country Resignation received from member Joanne Cunningham – accepted by BAC. Advice from Governance section suggests the committee can still function with the current membership. Should there be more resignations then undertake EOI and further seek endorsement from Council.	Cr Peter Johnstone Motion: That a letter of thanks be sent to Joanne Cunningham and BAC to continue with current membership. Moved: PR 2 nd : BL – carried.
2. Minutes of meeting #4 held 2 February 2023	Moved: Phil Redpath; seconded: Barbara Linley – all in favour - carried	



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<p>3. Matters arising from previous meeting</p>	<p>1. Roadside vegetation management plan (RVMP) – update from previous meeting</p> <p>2. Animal Control Strategy – cat management (BL) – BL gave out the flyer from the Lions Group – ‘care for your cat’ – individuals putting them in letterboxes and also conducting a survey as cats are the only allowable roaming domestic animal. Issues regarding roaming and native wildlife.</p> <p>Animal Control Strategy (CVC) is to be developed by an external consultant. Scope has been developed and a request for tenders has been sent out. Umbrella document overarching the keeping of animal policy and procedures that the regulatory services staff implement.</p> <p>GC – upcoming council workshop in May to include ‘keeping of animals’. Post workshop will be able to define what we can and can’t do under the <i>Companion Animals Act</i>, and what lands can Council act on (wildlife protection zones).</p> <p>LN - motion to send to council to consider during Councillor workshop with content on ‘what council should do with cats’ = provided by Barbara Linley – as per PDF - cat control motion 1 and 2.</p> <p>3. Report – Tullymorgan Road – illegal clearing (JE)</p>	<p>Noted – no further action</p> <p>Cat controls letter</p> <p>Motion from Barbara Linley considered and recommend put to Councillors workshop to be held 2 May</p> <p>RL to follow up on progress of actions from LGNSW Annual Conference – range of motions with LGNSW</p> <p>To note – further advice required.</p>



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	<p>JE – someone now spraying regrowth on Council side of fence. In a rural landscape, best recourse is Enviroline – NSW BCD has the compliance aspect. Council has investigated and identified limited scope for action, nothing in legislation allowing on the spot fines. Went to LGNSW Conference to follow up on changing legislation to allow an increase in fines and on the spot fines.</p> <p>Discussion regarding clear pathway for illegal clearing – JE call has been forwarded to EPA as timber on the ground was thought to be PNF.</p> <p>AD - Vegetation that has been picked up in the RVMP as important, adjacent landholders to be sent a letter (as opposed to the rates notice which is going online)</p> <p>PR – concern about limited regulatory action in this area – environmental law needs to be same as criminal law.</p> <p>4. Report – Offsets (JE) – as per tabled document with meeting papers.</p> <p>5. Update – 30/30 and wildlife protection areas (GC) Deferred to next meeting.</p> <p>6. Request to support end to native forest logging – Council meeting to note report.</p>	<p>Motion: That BAC to recommend Council employ a qualified ecologist responsible for advice on Development Assessments and investigation of vegetation clearing complaints –</p> <p>Moved: JE Sec: PR – carried.</p> <p>Report noted – consider Biodiversity Offset Policy to be reviewed next meeting</p> <p>Action – next meeting</p> <p>Noted.</p>



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4. Item 1 – misuse of CVC land - notification in rates notice (refer draft motion in attachments)	Identify how unauthorised clearing on council land inc. road reserves can be prevented <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motion from Laura - attachments - Request from Linda – email RL – contacted CVC comms team –looking at community engagement tools such as IAP2 – develops and suggests a range of different actions to take. Suggest development of subcommittee	<i>Action:</i> Subcommittee to develop messages to get out to community with appropriate tools – RL/BL and others interested
5. Item 2 – Update on Council Actions - biodiversity projects – koala/flying fox - CV Plant Id website project	Information update from NRM staff Reece/Heather – koala projects Heather – LGNSW Susan Island Restoration Flying-fox Plant ID - Erin Brady – Project Officer for project – refining list of 350 plants to launch the website – for regeneration and backyard garden projects, with list growing with more data added through time. Also will include a citizen science page on Clarence Conversations too.	
Morning tea – 11:00 to 11:15am		
6. Item 3 – draft CVC strategy – Green Infrastructure	RL presented information provided by Murray Lane – GI Strategy on exhibition for comment until 21 st April. Committee members encouraged to review individually, as BAC will not have reconvened for next meeting before the end of the exhibition period.	Jasmine Oakes and Murray Lane – apologies for meeting and provided draft notes



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7. General business	1. BL – Beach Policy – current status 2. LN – Significant Tree Register – possibility of mapping these trees – if opportunity to fund arises, this action is on the list to enact.	RL to find out where the Beach Policy is up to
8. Action List	Action list to be noted Agenda items for next meeting to be forwarded up to 7 days before next meeting	Reece – with minutes of meeting
10. Meeting closed – 12:05pm	Next meeting – 14 June 2023 – CVC Council chambers, Grafton	

Minutes confirmed by Cr Greg Clancy

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Greg Clancy".

Date 5 May 2023

END