



Clarence Valley Biodiversity Advisory Committee - Meeting Minutes

10:00 am Tuesday 19th 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 & deadline</i>
1. Introduction	New members of committee on arrival	All members
2. Meeting opening – 10:05am 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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<p>3. Purpose and membership of the Committee</p>	<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"> 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. 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. 3. That the Committee members contribute to community education and raising awareness of biodiversity and management within the Clarence Valley. 	<p>Purpose - from <i>Terms of Reference</i></p>
<p>4. Member introductions – 10:10 to 10:50am</p>	<p>Summary – see end of minutes</p>	<p>All – no further action</p>



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<p>5. Advisory Committee – induction documents 10:50 to 11:20am</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"> - Australia State of the Environment report 2021 released today - Acknowledged that CV has second highest biodiversity values - Need to value the environment; and watch volunteer burn out - Land managers need to bring focus that cost to environment needs to be budgeted – concern about handouts - River – brings everyone together – end point of the environment – extend to floodplain and riparian zones - Recognise that landholders are threatened by providing knowledge of environmental values on their property e.g. Koalas. - 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 - Offsets – need to understand better – topic for discussion 	<p>Adopted by all – no further discussion</p>



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



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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