

## CITY OF MANDURAH

# MANDURAH ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY GROUP

Minutes for meeting held on Friday 20 January 2017

0900am - City of Mandurah's Tuckey Room

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Advisory Group is to advise on general **environmental** issues, consistent with the intent of the City's Strategic Community Plan 2013-2033.

### **Objective**

The Advisory Group's objective is to represent the diverse views of the community on **conservation** and **environmental** matters in a democratic manner.

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### **ATTENDANCE:**

#### **Members:**

Cr Caroline Knight (Chairperson and Elected Member Representative)  
David Thomas  
Murray Love (*joined the meeting at 0910am*)  
Allison Dixon  
Ben Dreckow Manager Planning and Land Services (*apology*)

#### **In Attendance:**

Brett Brenchley Manager Environmental Services  
Bren Dreckow Manager Planning and Land Management Services  
Eryn Jackson Senior Environmental Management Officer  
Aaron Lucas Co-ordinator Approvals - Planning  
Bonnie Beal Senior Environmental Education Officer  
Janneke Greenham Minute Secretary

#### **Apologies/Absent:**

Cr Lynn Rodgers (Elected Member Representative) (*not required to attend*)  
Cr Jane Field (Elected Member Representative – Deputy) (*not required to attend*)  
Shirley Joiner (*apology*)  
George Pascott (*apology*)  
Barry Small (*apology*)

#### **Guests:**

Mel Horton Bouvard Coastcare Co-ordinator  
Kyle Boardman Coordinator Waste Management (*Item 4.4*)

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST**

Nil

### **2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 2 December 2016**

MOTION

**That the minutes recorded at the meeting of 2 December be held as a true and correct record.**

MOVED: Dave Thomas                      SECONDED: Janneke Greenham

CARRIED

### 3. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL AND COUNCIL STAFF

#### 3.1 Water Sensitive Cities Index (Natalie Lees)

The City of Mandurah strives to be a leader in integrated water cycle management and as part of that journey the City is going to undertake a benchmarking process by the Water Sensitive Cities Index. The index process will benchmark the City's progress and provide strategic direction and actions on how to improve the way water is managed in our local government area. The Index is a result of the federally funded Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Water Sensitive Cities which the City has been a member of since the CRC began in 2012.

The Index is a tool that offers the ability to benchmark cities based on performance against a range of urban water indicators that characterise a water sensitive city. This will allow the City to set targets, model the impact of potential management responses, track progress over time, and collaborate more effectively with other industry organisations to manage water in ways that enable vibrant, liveable, productive, resilient and sustainable urban communities.

The index process will involve a one day workshop that is facilitated by the CRC involving internal and external stakeholders responsible for water management within the local government area, including the Department of Water and Water Corporation.

More information, including an example of the report produced for a local government, can be found at: <https://watersensitivecities.org.au/content/project-d6-2/>

Discussions were held.

MEAG support the Water Sensitive Cities Index.

### 4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST/PREVIOUS MEETING

#### 4.1 Rope Bridge for Ring Tail Possums – Peel Retreat, Dawesville (Allison Dixon) *(previously item 4.1 – December 2016 meeting)*

Subsequent to the November MEAG meeting, Eryn has provided some data on the Caves Road rope bridge for sharing with Members.

(This item was deferred from the December 2016 meeting).

Eryn advised that:

- A budget request has been placed.
- Building permit will be required.
- Arborist inspection will be required.
- Site visit to be arranged.

#### 4.2 (Allison Dixon) - Planning Commission Meeting *(previously Item 4.2 – December 2016 meeting)*

Meeting scheduled for Friday 11 November with Allison Dixon, Ben Dreckow and the Planning Commission regarding fauna relocation on subdivision approvals.

Outcome to be tabled at the January 2017 meeting. (This item was deferred from the December 2016 meeting).

Ben advised the following:

RE fauna relocation conditions on subdivision applications – the City to highlight when fauna needs relocating, and to be more specific. Not a blanket request on all subdivision applications. Include applicant on advice. Mapping.

- 4.3 Feeding of Water Birds (George Pascott) (previously item 4.2 November meeting)**  
George said that many families were feeding bread, etc, to water birds. Eryn advised that this was actually illegal, but the public needed to be educated about this, with interpretive signage placed accordingly.

Subsequent to the meeting, Eryn investigated the potential for interpretative signage at this site (Cox Bay Foreshore - Reserve R46069), and provided this at the meeting.

Brett advised that some 14 local water sites had been monitored for water quality, and some results showed contamination 400% over and above accepted levels.

Members agreed that signage is recommended, ie – “don’t feed the birds” – but to include the reasons why.

**ACTION: Brett to provide action plan for treating eutrophic lakes, including signage to MEAG.**

Subsequent to the meeting, Brett has provided the following:

*The issue is bigger than just feeding birds but that is certainly a part of the problem of poor water quality in park lakes. The City is part way through a study, and the outcome will be a list of actions for the City to complete in order to address the issue.*

*Appropriate signage will be considered in that action plan amongst a number of other actions like oxygen diffusers and establishing better macrophyte beds along the banks of lakes. However, these actions won’t be implemented until next financial year as this year we have no budget allocation for it.*

*Currently I have included this work in my teams’ business plan. Budget requests are due in January 2017 and I’ll be requesting resourcing in order to conduct these works. Pending budget approval, we’ll be in a position to get some signage in.*

**Item complete.**

- 4.4 Tim’s Thicket Waste Facility (Mel Horton) (previously Item 4.3 – October 2016 meeting)**

*Below are comments and minutes from previous meetings:*

Mel requested an update on the status of this facility, to pass onto the Bouvard Coastcare Group.

**ACTION: Janneke to liaise with Kyle Boardman (the City’s Co-ordinator of Waste Management), to see if he would be available to address Members at the next MEAG meeting, with an update on this facility.**

Kyle Boardman was not available to present at the October nor November MEAG meetings, and provided the following, in response to the above:

*“The Tims Thicket Septage and Inert landfill facility has historically consisted of two main operations: Class 1 Inert Landfill and Septage Facility. The Septage facility operations ceased in November 2014 due to issues with the pond liners.*

The City continues to operate the inert landfill at the site – although volumes are relatively small. The licence for the facility was amended in August 2016 to include a category 13, which will allow the City to crush the large stockpile of concrete onsite. The City, in conjunction with its waste contractor Cleanaway, is currently seeking a qualified crushing contractor to carry out the crushing operations onsite. It is expected that crushing operations will commence by late October 2016 and last for about 3 weeks. The crushed material will be tested in accordance with the licence conditions and utilised by the City in municipal works.

The City was also issued with a Works Approval in December 2015 to construct a small transfer station at the Tims Thicket site. The transfer station was to be located between the septage treatment facility and inert landfill. The project was subject to funding from the Department of Environment Regulation (DER), which expired in mid 2016 due to the lengthy delays in obtaining the necessary approvals. As a result the project is on hold. The City has however been advised by the DER that a further funding program will be released in the coming months – related to waste infrastructure projects in regional areas – and the City has been encouraged to resubmit the project for funding under this program.

The City has also recently submitted an application to the DER to upgrade the septage facility infrastructure at the site. The DER are currently considering this application.”

**Item complete.**

Discussions were held, and it was requested that Kyle Boardman be invited to a subsequent meeting.

**ACTION: Janneke to invite Kyle to a subsequent meeting.**

Mel Horton tabled a report to council re the dumping of waste into the area. Concern is that the leach field is going through this area. Mel asked if there was a plan of where that contaminated waste went. Were barrels of liquid buried there in the past?

Caroline reiterated her comments to council, which are recorded in the minutes of 13 September, and are as follows:

“Councillor Knight asked if staff are aware that the drip field location at Tim’s Thicket is spraying over the dry inert waste area. Councillor Knight asked for assurance in regard to the environmental effects of this action.

The Director Works and Services advised that discharge from the ponds can be dissipated over the dry inert area with no environmental effects. This has been designed in consultation with the Department Environmental Regulation (DER) to replace the current system of managing overflow through discharge into the ground. The proposed septage pond upgrade will have an enhanced quality of effluent and the mechanism for dealing with any overflow (1 in 10 year storm event) is to drip feed the water over a large vegetated area. The DER were currently processing an application by the City for the upgrading of the septage ponds.”

Mel asked if the bores in the vicinity were monitored, and by whom, and were results of water testing available?

Inner land fill – who is responsible for the compliance of this?

The item was again tabled at the 2 December meeting:

**(Mel Horton) Tims Thicket Sewage Ponds (previously Item 10.2)**

MEAG requests that the future Tims Thicket sewage pond plan is referred to MEAG prior to submission to DER for approval.

Kyle addressed the Group and gave extensive background information.

The facility closed 2 years ago. Report went to council in July 2016 requesting an upgrade to the facility.

Currently, it sits with DeR, then to be referred to EPA next week, who will make an assessment.

MEAG request an update in the future.

#### 4.5 Seascapes Pirate Park (Allison Dixon)

On the Bushland Management Plan there is supposed to be an interpretive sign, installed at the time when the Park/POS was vested to the City of Mandurah. Maybe this has been overlooked. If so, how many other Reserves/POS, have been overlooked?

Interpretive signage advising the public of snake presence, is a public safety concern, and now the weather has warmed up more people are out and about and seeing snake activity along the coastal footpaths, toilets, parks and POS areas. Snake awareness signs are vital for these areas.

(This item was deferred from the December 2016 meeting).

Discussions were held.

Will the old boardwalk be removed?

Two x interpretive signs should be installed (by the developer).

**ACTION: Eryn to contact Mirvac to install signage.  
Eryn to advise if the City has plans to remove the old boardwalk.**

### 5. FROM LAST COUNCIL MEETING

Ben Dreckow to report on items which were discussed at the December Council meeting, and were relevant to MEAG:

#### 5.1 Halls Head Precinct Plan Modifications

Council resolved:

Under Clause 36 and 45(2) of Schedule 2 of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*, Council provides the local government report dated 9 December 2015 to the Western Australian Planning Commission for the proposed Modification No 4 to the Halls Head Town Centre Precinct Plan (Submitted as Plan Ref PA1272/STP03 dated 17 June 2016 and modified in Plan Ref: 03/1159/002L), recommending that the plan should not be approved for the reasons set out in the report.

#### 5.2 Amendment No 135 to TPS3– Wanjeep Street/Pinjarra Road, Coodanup – Final Approval

It was recommended that Council adopt Amendment 135 for final approval.

## 6. **NOMINATION OF MEAG REPRESENTATIVE FOR ATTENDANCE AT 2017 COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The roster below has been drawn up for MEAG members to attend the Council meetings for 2017. An agenda will be posted to Members (or hand delivered) prior to the meeting. An agenda is also set aside for MEAG members and can be collected at the door. If you are unable to attend your rostered meeting, please consult another MEAG member and organise to swap with them. Planning Committee meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month, and Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, in the Council Chambers (83 Mandurah Terrace) and commence at 5.30pm.

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Member to Attend</b>
7 February	Murray Love
7 March	Allison Dixon
4 April	George Pascott
2 May	Dave Thomas
6 June	Barry Small
4 July	Murray Love
1 August	Allison Dixon
5 September	George Pascott
3 October	Dave Thomas
? November	Barry Small
? December	Murray Love

## 7. **ITEMS REFERRED BY MEAG MEMBERS**

### 7.1 **Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) (Allison Dixon)**

Banksia woodlands are now protected under the 2016 Bio Act. How will the City of Mandurah proceed with implementing the various legal and environmental requirements pertaining to developers and government agencies requiring approval to develop land that have TEC.

Land with TEC that has already been given approval cannot be overturned. Perhaps known populations of the listed as critical endangered WRTP could help. Include land that is earmarked for educational purposes, such as the land between Bailey Boulevard and Dandaragan Drive in Melros.

Discussions were held. An information sheet is available at the link below.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/banksia-woodlands-swan-coastal-plain-guide>

## 8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

8.1 The next meeting scheduled for MEAG is on Friday 17 February 2017, in the City's Tuckey Room, commencing at 0900am.

## 9. **LATE ITEMS**

### 9.1 **Fairy Terns Nesting in the Marina at Breakwater Parade (Eryn Jackson)**

Due to the Fairy Terns nesting in the marina, building activity has been delayed. An alternative nesting habitat is to be created prior to next year. A grant application has been submitted. Murray advised that he has extensive knowledge of the history of Fairy Terns at the Marina. Rebecca Cassells to be in contact with Murray.

**ACTION: Rebecca to provide further information at the next MEAG meeting.**

**10. QUICK UPDATE (a forum whereby Members can contribute to a 'quick update' and inform the group of relevant activities/items)**

**10.1 Barry Small**

Lovers of dolphins and those that rescue them thank Environmental Services for providing the **attached** stranded dolphin signage at Lake Goegrup.

Mandurah Tree Advocates thank Natalie Lees and Bonnie Beal for meeting with their members who have a focus on street trees.

**10.2 Allison Dixon**

Requested that no prescribed burning is done in ringtail possum areas.

**10.3 Brett Brenchley**

Introduced Bonnie Beal to the Group. Bonnie has been appointed to the position of Senior Environmental Education Officer.

**10.4 Mel Horton**

Met with Eryn and Allison re reporting on ring trail possums.

**10.5 Murray Love**

Tindale Reserve fire. Assessment of the impact on the Reserve. Rehabilitation required?

Weed control.

Vegetation surveys – done by DePAW Herbarium.

Dumping of rubbish – to be cleared.

**10.6 Eryn Jackson**

Positive comments about her role.

**10.7 Bonnie Beal**

Bonnie has been appointed to the position of Senior Environmental Education Officer.

**11. CLOSE**

With no further business the meeting was closed at 10.25am.

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Chairperson's Signature

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Date