

Environment Strategic Reference Group

Date: 27th February 2023

Time: 5.30pm

Location: Council Chambers / Boardroom (Shire Hall) and via MS Teams

Members	Present	Apology
Andrew Merchant		✓
Francesca Douglas		✓
Glenn Sant		✓
Ngairé McCarthy		
Barbara Jolley	✓	
Rowland Ware	✓	
David John Clayton		✓
William D'Arcy	✓	
Geraldine Cox	✓	
Vicki Cullen		✓
Harry Burkitt – Standing Guest		
Councillors (Any attending Councillors are voting members, not guests)	Present	Apology
Councillor Michael Banasik (Chair)		✓
Councillor Briggs (Deputy Chair)	✓	
Mayor Matt Gould		✓
Councillor Brandstater	✓	
Council Staff	Present	Apology
Corey McArdle, Manager Waste and Environmental Services	✓	
David Henry, Acting Environmental Services Team Leader	✓	
Luke Brash, Acting Sustainability Coordinator (PT)	✓	
Ibrahim Muharrem, Acting Environmental Assessment Planner	✓	
External Presenters		
N/A		

Item	Notes	Agreed Actions
1. Acknowledgement of country	Councillor Briggs provided an Acknowledgement of Country.	
2. Attendance and apologies	<p>Apologies: Mayor Matt Gould, Councillor Michael Banasik, Andrew Merchant, Francesca Douglas, Glenn Sant, Will D'arcy</p> <p>Corey McArdle introduced himself as the new Manager of Waste and Environmental Services</p>	
3. Disclosure of interests	Nil	
4. Confirmation of previous minutes	Moved Cr Banasik Cr Gould	
5. Presentation by Council Staff on Integrated Water Management	Ibrahim Muharrem presented on Council's Integrated Water Management journey so far.	<p>Action: Councillor Briggs recommended the SRG sign a letter of support for the work Council is undertaking on promoting integrated water management and better WSUD across the Shire.</p> <p>Action: Links to Councils Integrated Water Management documents to be shared with the SRG.</p>
6. Presentation by Council Staff on Thirlmere Lakes Research Program	<p>David Henry presented on the Thirlmere Lakes Research Program and a brief history of the site.</p> <p>David Henry also addressed questions of water quality from mining operating including fractured bedrock and poor water quality discharges.</p> <p>Rowland Ware stated that this would be an optimum time for data to be captured as the lake is now full therefore, information can be gathered on how long it takes to discharge/evaporate.</p>	<p>Action: Tim Prichard's presentation on Thirlmere Lakes to be circulated to the SRG members.</p>
7. Actions from Previous Meetings	<p>Action 1: Meetings be arranged with Council staff and wildlife carers with subsequent meetings with Councillors Banasik and the Mayor to be held in early 2023.</p> <p>Luke brash has held a few meetings with WIRES since last meeting. Currently in the process of organising a community park planting as a food bank site to support wildlife carers.</p>	<p>Action: Council to talk with energy companies to enquire if they can install nest boxes while undertaking their own operations.</p>

	<p>Luke also provide a general update on activities which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media posts • Wildlife first aid courses • Free plants for carers • Work with carers at weri beri creek • Work with WIRES regarding food bank at Tahmoor park and community tree planting day being planned for 29 April • Collaborating with WIRES and rehabilitation on private land • Koala Project officer now working directly with Council • Investigations on feasibility of wireless road side fencing • Men’s shed making nest boxes • DA conditions regarding offsetting onsite and requirements for nest boxes • Investigations on alternatives to nest boxes and artificial hollows • Nest box display at Community Nursery <p>Action 2: Council staff to consider planting of koala habitat trees within Appin on Council owned land such as Appin sportsground and report back to the next meeting.</p> <p>Luke Brash provided an overview of Council’s current investigations so far. Luke Brash also provided an overview of the partnership between the NSW Koala Team who have provided a Regional Koala Officer, Xuela Sledge, who will work out of Wollondilly Council one day a week.</p> <p>Action 3: A recommendation be made to Council to advocate to Resilience NSW to keep recovery centres open longer.</p> <p>To be completed by Councils Community Recovery team.</p> <p>Geraldine Cox suggested that energy contractors be approached to see if they would be willing to put nest boxes up during works.</p>	<p>Action: Luke Brash to extend invite of the planting day to support local wildlife carers to the SRG.</p> <p>Action: SRG write to Xuela Sledge to welcome her and her contribution to Wollondilly Shire.</p> <p>Action: Geraldine Cox requested a list of bush regeneration contractors that Council use.</p>
<p>8. Matters from Advisory Groups</p>	<p>Ibrahim Muharrem attended the Indigenous SRG and provided an overview of the Sustainability Policy, also noting that further consultation will occur for the strategy – especially the principle ‘caring for country’.</p> <p>Ibrahim Muharrem asked the Indigenous SRG if it was ok to hold a clean up Australia Day at Potholes Reserve given the significance of the site – members approved.</p>	
<p>9. General business</p>	<p>Geraldine Cox raised the issue of cats and mentioned the need for cat containment. There was also a discussion on the Companion Animals Act.</p>	<p>Action: Geraldine Cox to send links on successful cat containment programs and to</p>

	<p>David Henry provided a quick overview of the biodiversity offset scheme.</p> <p>Councillor Briggs suggested the SRG visit the Australian Wildlife Conservatory and Feathered Friends and find out how they can be better supported.</p> <p>Councillor Briggs requested an update on the SRG group email.</p> <p>Barbara stated that she couldn't log on until 6:30.</p>	<p>check the Companion Animals Act for any constraints.</p> <p>Action: SRG members to contact the regulatory team to ask what can be done about stray cats.</p> <p>Action: Council to organise a visit to the Australian Wildlife Conservatory and Feathered Friends for the SRG members.</p> <p>Action: Council to follow up on the SRG email group.</p> <p>Action: Council to look into why Barbara couldn't log on until 6:30 via teams.</p>
Next Meeting	TBC	

LINKS

Integrated Water management Documents:

<https://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/environment-biodiversity-and-sustainability/water-management/integrated-water-management/>