

Environment Strategic Reference Group

Date: 28th September 2023

Time: 5.30

Location: Banksia 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		✓
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	✓	
Mandy Marino, Waste Team Leader	✓	
David Henry, Environmental Assessment Planner	✓	
Alex Burgess-Buxton, Natural Resources Officer	✓	
Bianca Klein, Environment Services Team Leader	✓	

Item	Key Speaker (s)	Notes	Agreed Actions
1. Acknowledgement of country	Chair	The Chairman Councillor Banasik provided the Acknowledgement of Country	-
2. Attendance and apologies	Chair	Apologies were received from Wil D'Arcy, Barbara Jolley, Rowland Ware and Vicki Cullen. A Quorum was not established but the group agreed to proceed.	-
3. Disclosure of interests	Chair	Nil	-
4. Confirmation of previous minutes	Chair	Moved Councillor Banasik Seconded David Clayton	-
5. Actions arising from previous minutes	Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A site tour of the Australian Wildlife Sanctuary be coordinated for SRG members. It was agreed to seek a tour of the Wildlife Sanctuary facility followed by a Committee meeting in November. • A site tour of Shred-X facility at Warragamba be investigated for the group. 	The Manager of the Sanctuary to be contacted to confirm details for the December meeting
6. Protection of koala habitat during hazard reduction activities	ABB	<p>Council's Natural Resource Officer provided the following information in response to an enquiry from the previous meeting:</p> <p>The implementation of the Southern Highlands Bushfire Risk Management Plan is overseen by the Bushfire Committee.</p> <p>An environmental assessment is undertaken to identify the risks of a proposed hazard reduction to wildlife, including koalas.</p> <p><i>Guidelines for Considering Koalas in Planned Burns</i> released in 2022 contains a range of actions when considering the planning and undertaking of planned burns in koala habitat.</p> <p>A Hazard Reduction Certificate is produced by the land management agency who will prepare a Burn Plan to comply with requirements of the Certificate. Such a Plan includes an Ignition Strategy that addresses issues such as fire height.</p>	No further actions. The presentation was well-received and a comment was made that it is good to see all agencies working collaboratively.
7. Waste update	MM	The Team Leader of Waste Services provided an update on the activities of	

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		<p>the Section. An enquiry was raised over the current capacity of the Bargo Waste Management Centre. Staff advised in response that capacity is limited and close to full and that the Committee note that Council is currently working on a closure plan for the site and a report to Council early next year on the future of the site.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2023/24 Bulky Waste Clean Flyer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The new bulky waste clean up flyer for 23-24 is being prepared and will start to be mailed out to Zone 1 residents starting in November 23 ○ Appropriate promotion on FB, in newspapers & community newsletter will occur 2. Festive Season Recycling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In operation again by popular demand ○ Commencing Monday 11 December 2023 – Friday 5 January 2024 ○ The information has been incorporated into the 2023/24 waste booklet recycling calendar on the front of the waste booklet. ○ Appropriate promotion on FB, newspapers & community newsletter will occur 3. Waste to Art Textiles Recycling – Flossy the Glossy Black Cockatoo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Held on Tuesday 15 August 2023 ○ The Glossy Black Cockatoo will be used for waste education and caring for the environment and will be used at waste education events in schools and community events. ○ Approximately 20kg of disregarded textiles that was destined for land fill have been reused. ○ Created by Staff and launched at Illuminate with a naming competition. 4. Illuminate – Public Place Recycling and Waste Diversion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Green connect was engaged again to deliver a public place recycling system and education on how to use the system on Saturday 16 September 2023 ○ Stats will be provided when the report is finished. 5. RID Online Annual Stats: 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Illegal dumping stats from 22-23 FY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 585.90 tonnes ▪ 254 illegal dumping incidents ▪ 8 counts of regulatory action ▪ \$51,454.46 for collection & disposal costs ▪ 7.6% increase from previous FY 6. Draft Waste DCP ○ Consultant has been engaged to update and provide final draft of Waste DCP ○ When ready a public consultation program will be undertaken via the Your Say Platform. 7. Regional Garage Sale Trail: ○ Council has again signed up and is participating the promotion of reuse opportunities via the National Garage Sale Trail program. This is being coordinated at a regional level by Macarthur Strategic Waste Alliance. ○ Assistance to promote the opportunity for people to host a garage sale or shop the trail would be greatly promoted. ○ This year if people are more comfortable have a stall at a central location they can join the regional event at Narellan Sports Hub. ○ Friesian Way Picton was the first street to sign up to Garage Sale Trail in Australia in 2019. 	
<p>8. Overview of Council activities in regard to biodiversity including koalas</p>	<p>DH</p>	<p>Councils Environmental Assessment Planner provided a presentation on Council activities broadly comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Snap shot of biodiversity values ● List of main threats to biodiversity ● Council activities on biodiversity and koalas in particular. ● Need for advocacy and advocacy currently being undertaken by Council. This includes the recent lodgement of detailed submissions on the review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act and Local Land Services Act. <p>An enquiry was raised over the ability of Council to control lot sizes. Staff advised in response that Council does not have the ability and a significant constraint is</p>	<p>-</p>

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		<p>requirements for lot densities prescribed at the state level.</p> <p>A further comment was made over the issue of provided koala corridor widths in the vicinity of Appin under the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (CPCP). Council staff agreed that the approach taken by the CPCP in responding to the recommendations of the Office of Chief Scientist had resulted in creating 'pinch points'/narrow sections of suitable habitat corridors.</p>	
<p>9. Identified opportunities to advocate on biodiversity matters</p>	<p>All</p>	<p><u>Threats presented to wildlife associated with rodent poison</u></p> <p>Glenn Sant raised a comment on the impacts to wildlife, particularly predatory birds, from rodent poison. I.e consuming poison-affected prey.</p>	<p>Staff will speak to Local Land Services to obtain advice and provide potential advocacy options regarding this matter to the next meeting.</p>
		<p><u>Effects of light pollution on wildlife</u></p> <p>An advocacy item regarding the potential impacts of light pollution was raised. Victoria Park was provided as an example where the lights have been observed to be on several hours after people have left the site. A suggestion was made over the possible installation of automatic timers for lights at such facilities.</p> <p><u>Effects of road strike on wildlife</u></p> <p>Refence was made to various resolutions of Council regarding road strikes to koalas, wombats. Noting Council is writing to the Minister as an advocacy approach regarding potential impacts to wildlife that is currently being taken by Council and requesting support from the State Government.</p>	<p>Environment staff will undertake internal consultation on the requirements of the DCP regarding impacts of lighting and use of timers and provide advice at the next meeting.</p>
<p>10. General business</p> <p>Biosecurity Policy Review</p> <p>Grey Headed Flying Fox update</p> <p>Conclusion of the Camden Gas Project</p>		<p><u>Biosecurity Policy Review</u></p> <p>An updated Policy will be publicly exhibited for 28 days from early October 2023. The Policy contains a minor amendment from the previous version to include reference to broader biosecurity issues.</p> <p><u>Update on Grey Headed Flying Fox Camps</u></p> <p>The Stonequarry Creek Camp at the last count in August 2023 was 6,700</p>	<p>-</p>

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		<p>(significantly down from the previous approximately 23,000 in May). Key points raised at the National Flying Fox Forum attended by Council staff in September are summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coexistence and community engagement and awareness is the key (not dispersal) • While there is a high level of available information, significant research on a wide variety of aspects associated with Flying Foxes is needed. • The trial of thermal drones in identifying the size of camps has produced promising results. However, there is constraints due to licencing requirements for flying of drones over private property such as the Picton Camp. • A research study on the resistance of Flying Foxes to antibiotics identified that resistance increased in heat stressed bats. <p><u>Conclusion of the Camden Gas Project</u> Council staff provided a brief history and advised that this Project had recently ceased production of coal seam gas and all gas wells are scheduled to complete decommissioning by the end of the 2024/25 Financial Year.</p>	
11. Actions from previous meeting		No matters referred	-
12. General Business		<p><u>Design of lights on facilities and larger developments and related Council controls</u></p> <p>David Clayton raised the effects of lights on larger developments (with specific reference referred to the expanded Service Centre on the Hume Highway) on Bogong Moths. He referred to received advice from Project Moth that raised potential impacts of such lights on the migration of Bogong Moths. Comments were raised over the need for such lights and the assessment of their impacts on Bogong Moths in particular at the development application stage. The member suggested that a representative</p>	Project Moth will be contacted by staff over present at a future meeting.

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		<p>of Project Moth be invited to a future meeting of the Committee.</p> <p><u>New member of the Environment SRG</u> The attendees were advised that one current vacancy existed from the SRG as a result of the resignation of a member. The Committee agreed with the suggestion the MacArthur Branch of the National Parks Association be invited to fill this vacancy as an organisation representative.</p>	<p>An expression of interest be sought from the NPA.</p>
		<p><u>Attendance at Environment SRG meetings</u> The group was advised that the meeting was the third Environment SRG meeting where a Quorum was not established under the Terms of Reference. A discussion was held over possible options to increase the members present. The following comments and suggestions by members present were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Starting time of the meetings</u> An enquiry was made over whether the starting time of 5.30 could be made later as this time is difficult with work commitments. CM referred to the Terms of Reference which states the start time for all Advisory and Strategic Reference Groups is 4.00. The Committee agreed that a survey be distributed to all current members seeking the preferred starting time of the minutes. ○ <u>Possible increase in numbers of members of the Committee</u> A Committee member suggested the current 10 total members be increased as a means of increasing numbers attending meeting. Staff referred to Council Guidelines which said Committees could have a maximum of 10 members. 	<p>Survey to be distributed to members.</p> <p>Staff to enquire over the permissibility of more than 10 members</p>
13. Future meetings		7 December Meeting closed 7.35	

LINKS (also emailed to the group)