

MINUTES

Conservation Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON

MEETING DATE



WEDNESDAY 30 MAY 2007

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City of
Joondalup

CITY OF JOONDALUP

MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN CONFERENCE ROOM 2, JOONDALUP CIVIC CENTRE, BOAS AVENUE, JOONDALUP ON WEDNESDAY 30 MAY 2007.

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members:

Cr Steve Magyar	<i>Presiding Person</i>
Cr Michele John	
Cr Brian Corr	
Cr Marie Macdonald	
Mrs Marilyn Zakrevsky	<i>Deputy Presiding Person</i>
Mr Ralph Henderson	
Mr Barry Fitzsimmons	
Dr Marjorie Apthorpe	
Mr John Chester	
Mrs Wendy Herbert	
Ms Alice Stubber	

Officers:

Mr Murray Ralph	Manager, Infrastructure Management Services
Mr Keith Armstrong	Conservation Co-ordinator
Mrs Jill Hewison	Administrative Secretary

DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Person declared the meeting open at 1810 hrs.

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Sue Hart
Ms Phyllis Robertson

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28 MARCH 2007

MOVED Cr John SECONDED Cr Corr that the minutes of the meeting of the Conservation Advisory Committee held on 28 March 2007 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (11/0)

In favour of the motion: Cr Magyar, Cr John, Cr Corr, Cr Macdonald, Mrs M Zakrevsky, Mr R Henderson, Mr B Fitzsimmons, Dr M Apthorpe, Mr J Chester, Mrs W Herbert, Ms A Stubber

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Mr John Wood has tendered his resignation from the Conservation Advisory Committee. Mr Wood has asked that the position remain open for a member of the Friends of Craigie Bushland however this may present difficulty in achieving a quorum.

RESIGNATION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER

MOVED Cr Magyar SECONDED Cr John that the Conservation Advisory Committee :

- 1 ACCEPTS the resignation from Mr John Wood and thanks him for his contribution to the Committee;**
- 2 NOTES the contribution to the Committee by Mrs Cherie Wood and thanks her for her many years service to the City.**

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (11/0)

In favour of the motion: Cr Magyar, Cr John, Cr Corr, Cr Macdonald, Mrs M Zakrevsky, Mr R Henderson, Mr B Fitzsimmons, Dr M Apthorpe, Mr J Chester, Mrs W Herbert, Ms A Stubber

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

IDENTIFICATION OF MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY SIT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil.

PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

MOVED Cr Magyar SECONDED Cr John that the meeting do now adjourn to conduct a workshop on the handout tabled at the meeting regarding KPIs. The meeting to reconvene at 1900hrs on 30 May 2007.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (11/0)

In favour of the motion: Cr Magyar, Cr John, Cr Corr, Cr Macdonald, Mrs M Zakrevsky, Mr R Henderson, Mr B Fitzsimmons, Dr M Apthorpe, Mr J Chester, Mrs W Herbert, Ms A Stubber

Meeting adjourned 1820 hrs and reconvened at 1915hrs.

REPORTS

ITEM 1 **BUSHLAND FENCING**

WARD: All

RESPONSIBLE Mr David Djulbic
DIRECTOR: Infrastructure Services

PURPOSE

To introduce the report titled Bushland Fencing to the Conservation Advisory Committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the March 2007 meeting of the Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC), Officers were asked to provide the CAC with a report detailing an alternative to the use of treated pine posts for the construction of fencing within the City's Coastal reserves.

BACKGROUND

The CAC is a Council Committee that advises Council on subjects relating to biodiversity and the management of natural areas within the City of Joondalup. The CAC meets on a monthly basis.

The Committee membership comprises of five Councillors, a representative from each of the City's Bushland Friends Groups and community members with specialist knowledge of biodiversity issues.

At the March 2007 meeting of the Conservation Advisory Committee, a report was requested from staff to examine possible alternatives to the use of pine posts in the construction of coastal reserve fencing within the City.

DETAILS

Issues and options considered:

Currently two types of fencing are utilised to protect bushland reserves in Joondalup. Larger conservation reserves such as Hepburn Heights Bushland and Warwick POS Bushland have CCA treated pine horizontal poles supported by CCA treated pine posts; this framework supports plastic coated "Cyclone" mesh. The most predominant fence type used by the City consists of CCA treated pine posts that supports "Ringlock" mesh. The Coastal Dual Use Path would have approximately 30 kilometres of this style of fencing alone. The cost to install this fencing type averages about \$10 per metre, this cost can have a small variation dependent on the terrain and how many corners are required at the fence's location.

A draw back with any style of fencing that uses pine posts in its construction is the flammability of the timber in the circumstance of a bushfire. This problem can be exacerbated because in the case of fire, the burning timbers can give off toxic fumes from the chemicals used to preserve the posts at the time of manufacture. To overcome this problem Operational Staff endeavour to cut native vegetation away from fencing to form a break of about one metre. This pruning regime has been common practice along the Coastal Dual Use Path for a number of years. A number of members of the Joondalup Community Coast Care Forum have raised concerns at this form of pruning and would prefer that non flammable fencing materials be used. This would allow native vegetation to grow closer to the fence and reduce the pruning requirement and also negate the requirement for the gap between the vegetation and the fence, which can be an area for weeds to grow. It is worth noting that the City has an obligation not to allow vegetation to grow in such a manner that it impedes people using the pathway or obscures vision. Indeed, it is particularly important that fast moving cyclists can be seen by other path users.

An alternative to the use of treated pine posts could be the use of recycled plastic posts. These are more fire retardant, but can be damaged by sustained proximity to a heat source. Recycled plastic fence posts have a life span greater than that of pine posts.

The cost of fencing using the recycled plastic post option is \$30 per metre. The cost of using pine posts is \$10 per metre.

The cost to replace the current form of coastal fencing with the recycled plastic post would be approximately \$900,000.

Link to Strategic Plan:

Key Focus Area

Caring for the environment.

Outcomes

The City is environmentally responsible in its activities.

Objectives

To plan and manage the City's natural resources to ensure environmental sustainability.

Strategies

- 2.1.1 Maintain and protect natural assets to retain biodiversity.
- 2.1.2 Further develop environmentally effective and energy-efficient programs.
- 2.1.3 Develop a coordinated environmental framework, including community education.

Legislation – Statutory Provisions:

The Local Government Act 1995 allows a Council to establish committees to assist a council to exercise the powers and discharge duties that can be delegated to a committee.

Risk Management considerations:

Not Applicable

Financial/Budget Implications:

Not Applicable

Policy implications:

Not Applicable

Regional Significance:

Not Applicable

Sustainability implications:Environmental

Conservation Advisory Committee objective - “To make recommendations to Council for the Conservation of the City’s natural biodiversity”.

Social

To promote partnerships between Council and the Community to protect the City’s natural biodiversity as contained within its various natural areas (bushland, wetlands and the coastal environment).

Consultation:

The Conservation Advisory Committee provides a forum for community consultation and engagement on natural areas.

COMMENT

It is considered that the current post and “Ringlock” style of coastal fencing continues to be a serviceable and cost effective form of fencing for the Coastal Dual Use Path, and that replacing or phasing out this form of fencing at this time would not be an effective use of Council funds and resources.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Conservation Advisory Committee RECEIVES the report titled "Bushland fencing".

The Conservation Co-ordinator gave an overview of the report. Discussion ensued on the feasibility of changing the type of fence posts currently utilised to protect bushland reserves along the Coastal Dual Use Path.

MOVED Mrs M Zakrevsky SECONDED Dr M Apthorpe that:

- 1 The Conservation Advisory Committee RECEIVES the report titled "Bushland fencing";
- 2 The Conservation Advisory Committee RECOMMENDS to Council that it review its current fenceline management practices along natural areas and reports back to the Conservation Advisory Committee as the current practices are detrimental to the aesthetics and the effectiveness of weed control and general conservation practices;
- 3 The City ensures that the persons who carry out the work have suitable knowledge, skills and training to carry out the work.

AMENDMENT MOVED Cr Corr SECONDED Mr B Fitzsimmons that point two (2) of the motion be amended to read "RECOMMENDS to Council that it review some of the current practices as these could be detrimental to the aesthetics and the effectiveness of weed control and general conservation practices".

Discussion ensued.

The Amendment was Put and

LOST (5/6)

In favour of the Amendment: Cr Corr, Cr Magyar, Mr B Fitzsimmons, Mr J Chester, Ms A Stubber
Against the Amendment: Cr Macdonald, Cr John, Mrs M Zakrevsky, Mr R Henderson, Dr M Apthorpe, Mrs W Herbert

Cr Corr raised concerns in relation to point 2 of the Motion.

The Motion as MOVED by Mrs M Zakrevsky SECONDED by Dr M Apthorpe Was Put and

CARRIED (6/5)

In favour of the Motion: Cr Macdonald, Cr John, Mrs M Zakrevsky, Mr R Henderson, Dr M Apthorpe, Mrs W Herbert
Against the Motion: Cr Corr, Cr Magyar, Mr B Fitzsimmons, Mr J Chester, Ms A Stubber

MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil.

REQUESTS FOR REPORTS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

MOVED Cr John SECONDED Mr B Fitzsimmons that the following reports be requested:

- 1 A report on the draft KPI document prepared by the Conservation Advisory Committee sub committee;**
- 2 A report on the strategic planning workshop which took place in September;**
- 3 A comparison report on what the Town of Cottesloe has done with its sumps and what the City of Joondalup has done with its sumps.**

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (11/0)

In favour of the motion: Cr Magyar, Cr John, Cr Corr, Cr Macdonald, Mrs M Zakrevsky, Mr R Henderson, Mr B Fitzsimmons, Dr M Apthorpe, Mr J Chester, Mrs W Herbert, Ms A Stubber

CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Presiding Person declared the Meeting closed at 2005 hrs; the following committee members being present at that time:

Cr Steve Magyar
Cr Michele John
Cr Marie Macdonald
Cr Brian Corr
Mrs Marilyn Zakrevsky
Mr Ralph Henderson
Mr Barry Fitzsimmons
Dr Marjorie Apthorpe
Mr John Chester
Mrs Wendy Herbert
Ms Alice Stubber