



City of Belmont
STANDING COMMITTEE (ENVIRONMENTAL)
MINUTES
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18 September 2017

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ATTACHMENTS INDEX

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TABLED ATTACHMENTS INDEX

Tabled Attachment 1 – Item 10.2 refers
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Tabled Attachment 3 – Item 10.4 refers

***** COUNCILLORS ARE REMINDED TO RETAIN THEIR ATTACHMENTS FOR DISCUSSION
WITH THE MINUTES *****

MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (ENVIRONMENTAL) MEETING HELD IN THE RIVERVALE ROOM, CITY OF BELMONT CIVIC CENTRE, 215 WRIGHT STREET, CLOVERDALE ON MONDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2017 COMMENCING AT 6.32PM.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Cr S Wolff (Presiding Member)	South Ward
Cr B Ryan (Deputy Presiding Member)	East Ward
Cr P Marks, Mayor (Ex Officio)	East Ward
Cr P Hitt	West Ward

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr R Garrett	A/Chief Executive Officer
Mr S Morrison	A/Director Technical Services
Mr W Stephens	Manager Parks and Environment
Ms N Davey	Coordinator Environment
Mr S Glassborow (<i>dep 7.24pm & did not return</i>)	Environmental Officer
Ms E Cashman	Senior Governance Officer

OBSERVERS

Cr R Rossi, JP, Deputy Mayor	West Ward
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1. OFFICIAL OPENING

The Presiding Member opened the meeting at 6.32pm, welcomed those in attendance, and read the Acknowledgement of Country.

It is important that we acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting on today the Noongar Whadjuk people and pay respect to Elders both past and present

2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr R Lutey (Apology)	Director Technical Services
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3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST THAT MIGHT CAUSE A CONFLICT

3.1 FINANCIAL INTERESTS

Nil.

3.2 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST THAT MAY AFFECT IMPARTIALITY

Nil.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER (WITHOUT DISCUSSION)

4.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

4.2 DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION TO ALL MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE BUSINESS PAPERS PRESENTLY BEFORE THE MEETING

Nil.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**5.1 STANDING COMMITTEE (ENVIRONMENTAL) MEETING HELD 26 JUNE 2017
(Circulated under separate cover)**

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

MARKS MOVED, RYAN SECONDED,

That the Minutes of the Standing Committee (Environmental) Meeting held 26 June 2017 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED 4 VOTES TO 0

6. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS ON WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN (WITHOUT DISCUSSION)

Nil.

7. NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE APPROVED BY PERSON PRESIDING OR BY DECISION

Nil.

8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil.

9. BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

10.1 PROGRESS OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY AND TRAVELSMART PLAN IMPLEMENTATION: JUNE – AUGUST 2017

<u>Attachment No</u>	<u>Details</u>
Attachment 1 – Item 10.1 refers	Environment and Sustainability Strategy Progress
Attachment 2 – Item 10.1 refers	TravelSmart Plan Progress

Updates of progress towards the implementation of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy and TravelSmart Plan are attached for information (refer Attachments [1](#) and [2](#)). This outlines activities undertaken since the Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting on 26 June 2017.

A series of questions were asked and responded to as follows:

- Concerns were raised about the notice board at Tomato Lake (President Street end). Cr Hitt distributed photos of the notice board to the Committee. A service request was placed a few months ago to update and improve the notice board but Councillors were disappointed in the standard of the update.
- The aerators at Tomato Lake are used as required to control algal blooms. The aerators are 11kW so require a substantial amount of power to operate.
- The City's groundwater usage is consistent with usage over recent years. Approximately 74% of the allocation has been used. Improvements and savings have predominantly been made through irrigation system delivery efficiencies.
- The City has a bike repair station located at Garvey Park. There is also allocation in the budget for the installation of a bike repair station at Tomato Lake adjacent to the Bike Boulevard.
- It was noted that the Environmental Achievers Program for Business Award breakfast was a good event with informative guest speakers. It was suggested that consideration be given to changing or rebranding the event name.
- The City has assisted UWA in a research project relating to verges, providing information on the importance of verges and directing the project to potential sites in Belmont.
- The recycled bikes coordinated by the Men's Shed will be further considered as part of Bike and TravelSmart promotions.
- The BUSlink monitoring period commenced Monday, 18 September 2017. Target passenger numbers are 40 plus per week. It was noted that the improved signage on the bus and at stops was effective.
- Promotional material distributed recently, improved signage and the new stop adjacent to Red Dot on Belmont Avenue have resulted in increased patronage recently.

10.2 STREET TREE AUDIT AND 2017 STREET TREE PLANTING

<u>Attachment No</u>	<u>Details</u>
Tabled Attachment 1 – Item 10.2 refers	Urban Forest Strategy Street Tree Audit and Street Tree Planting 2017 Presentation

The Environmental Officer provided a presentation summarising the key outcomes of the City-wide Street Tree Audit and Winter 2017 Street Tree planting.

The Urban Forest Strategy Street Tree Audit and Street Tree Planting 2017 Presentation included the following:

- Street Tree Audit
- Tree Count
- Lifecycle
- Useful Life Expectancy
- Introduced or Native?
- Top Five Street Trees
- Planting 2017
- 2017 in Perspective
- 2017 Refusals
- Planting 2018

(Refer [Tabled Attachment 1](#) for further information).

A series of questions were asked and responded to as follows:

- Senescent means that the tree has reached the end of its useful life and may or will eventually go into decline.
- The street tree audit was generally undertaken outside of deciduous period to allow for species identification.
- Where there were additional concerns or questions about a tree, it will have been flagged and monitored and subsequently reaudited when appropriate.
- It was noted that the letter to residents outlining street tree planting does not explicitly state that residents can refuse the tree. Councillors have been receiving complaints in regards to this.
- The City tracks refusals of trees but does not note the dwelling type. Anecdotally, refusals tend to come from single dwelling residences.
- The Department of Housing has been supportive of the planting and has approved street trees adjacent to their properties.
- Communication and engagement with residents in relation to pruning requirements is critical.
- It was suggested that information be provided with rates notices, in the Belmont Bulletin or Southern Gazette as well as online.

Item 10.2 Continued

- The audit has identified trees that have been pruned or have had prior works undertaken however it is not possible to determine if the pruning has been undertaken by the City or has been inappropriately or maliciously done by residents.
- Engagement with the community and the provision of information about tree planting and pruning is being considered holistically as part of the Urban Forest Strategy.
- The City has approximately 12% canopy coverage. The street tree planting program will increase the canopy cover however at some point a decline is expected due to a loss of canopy cover and trees on private property as residential areas are further developed.
- An action within the Canopy Plan is to consider precinct design and planning. This will facilitate increasing canopy cover in the Kewdale Industrial zone and the Mixed Business zone. With the finalisation of the Canopy Plan, the City will be engaging businesses in order to implement this action.
- As part of road works within the Belmont Business Park, approximately 247 trees are scheduled to be planted in the Mixed Business zone during the next planting season.
- Redcliffe has fairly consistent canopy cover with trees approximately 18 metres apart on average. The quality of the canopy cover is more difficult to determine.
- Kewdale and Cloverdale verges have been audited in order to identify appropriate planting locations, similar to the program undertaken in Rivervale where more than 300 trees have been planted. There will be more constraints in Ascot due to smaller verge sizes.
- In the last financial year, four trees have been removed and replaced with a more appropriate species due to poor growth. Requests for removal and replacement are considered strategically and in the context of that particular tree species in that specific location.
- Where trees are growing poorly and canopy cover is poor, removal and replacement will be considered on a case by case basis. A tree can have a poor season and underperform but as it matures and grows it still has the potential to improve and generate a good overall outcome.
- It was suggested that residents be acknowledged and thanked for their contribution to canopy coverage and the increased number of street trees in the City so that they get on board with the program and understand the benefits of trees in the urban environment.
- The City's position is clear and consistent; a tree will not be removed due to nuisance factors such as leaf or nut drop. Removal will typically only be considered if a tree is dead, diseased or dying.
- While Box Trees generate a number of complaints due to the nut drop, they are one of the best growing trees in Belmont and make up approximately 30% of the City's top five street trees (approximately 16% of current street tree stock).

Item 10.2 Continued

- The majority of the City's Box Trees were planted approximately 40 years ago when a decision on species to plant was made using the best possible information available at the time. The City is responsible for maintaining what is in-situ in a healthy condition until its senescence and the tree is replaced.
- There are advantages and disadvantages to all tree species. Fig Trees (ie: Hills Figs) such as those in Victoria Park, Vincent, South Perth and Fremantle provide excellent canopy cover, but there are impacts on surrounding infrastructure due to their buttressing root systems and heavy shade where turf will not grow underneath.
- Box Trees do not drop year round, and if residents require assistance with maintenance and clean-up there are a number of programs, such as Home and Community Care available.
- Trees provide far more value than negative impacts to the community. A thriving tree will shed, however that is a factor of having a healthy living tree in the streetscape. The alternative is no tree at all, which will also have impacts on the community.
- It was suggested that a database of areas where mobility issues may occur due to leaf and nut litter, such as Leake Street, be considered so that additional street sweeping occurs.
- The A/Director Technical Services advised that the City is investigating the purchase of a footpath sweeper as part of the street sweeping program.
- The street sweeping contractor is already at full capacity, working six days per week, however, additional sweeping can be considered.

7.24pm The Environmental Officer departed the meeting and did not return.

10.3 PRUNING OF STREET TREES OVERHANGING PRIVATE PROPERTY

<u>Attachment No</u>	<u>Details</u>
Tabled Attachment 2 – Item 10.3 refers	<u>Street Trees and Pruning Requests – Criteria and Rationale Presentation</u>

The Manager Parks and Environment provided a presentation of case studies where residents have requested pruning of street trees overhanging private property and outcomes of assessments by the City's Arborist.

The Street Trees and Pruning Requests – Criteria and Rationale presentation included the following:

- Outline
- Urban Forestry Principle
- Objective
- Pruning Requests
- Pruning Approved
- Minor Prune Example – Modified Approval – 21 Manual Crescent – BEFORE
- Minor Prune Example – Modified Approval – 21 Manual Crescent – AFTER
- Approval Example
- Pruning Approved
- Major Pruning Example – Approval – 2 Harriet Place – BEFORE
- Major Pruning Example – Approval – 2 Harriet Place – AFTER
- Approval Example
- Pruning Refusal
- Example – Refusal – 242 Kooyong Road
- Refusal Example
- Summary

(Refer [Tabled Attachment 2](#) for further information).

A series of questions were asked and responded to as follows:

- It is common for Eucalypt trees to grow at an angle.
- Trees need to adapt to the urbanised environment. The value of the tree is in more than just the look of the tree.
- Where pruning is required, it is assessed whether 'balance pruning' of the other side of the tree is necessary. This will depend on the health, age and size of the tree. Wind load is an important consideration, and care needs to be taken to ensure the dynamics of the canopy are not unduly impacted.
- Pruning requests will involve negotiations with the property owner and will be different in each situation.
- In situations where claims are made due to tree roots affecting fences or walls, the City's insurers will assess claims of liability which will consider if the City did or did not plant the tree and the methodology and construction of the fence or wall. Generally the City's insurers will not consider cover for boundary walls and fences.
- The City has never received verified proof that allergies are attributed to a particular tree species. A causal relationship between the allergy and the tree must be proven.

Item 10.3 Continued

- Long term considerations are important, people move on but trees stay in place.
- The issue of overshadowing of solar panels by trees may need to be taken to Council for determination in the future. At present there is no impact, but in 20 years when there are more mature trees and canopy there may be concerns. There are many factors to consider in relation to this issue such as the type of panel which determines how much the shading affects its operation, the importance of solar panels into the future and understanding that buildings are permitted to shade solar panels to a certain degree so allowances for trees must also be made.

10.4 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY INDICATORS

Attachment No	Details
Attachment 3 – Item 10.4 refers	<u>Environment and Sustainability Strategy Indicators</u>
Tabled Attachment 3 – Item 10.4 refers	<u>Environment and Sustainability Strategy Indicators 2016-17 Outcomes Presentation</u>

The Coordinator Environment provided a presentation on outcomes of Environment and Sustainability Strategy Indicators for 2016-2017 (refer [Attachment 3](#)).

The Environment and Sustainability Strategy Indicators 2016-17 Outcomes presentation included the following:

- Key Achievements 2016/17
- Examples
- Business Environmental Assessment Project
- Compliance Rates
- Natural Environment and Biodiversity
- Energy Management and Carbon
- Progress Towards 2020/21 Energy Goals
- Energy Projects
- Progress Towards 2020/21 Water Efficiency Goals
- Progress Towards Waste Reduction Goals
- Results of Civic Centre Waste Audit – General Waste – by Weight (kg)

(Refer [Tabled Attachment 3](#) for further information).

A series of questions were asked and responded to as follows:

- ‘Grab a Gladi’ is a volunteer weeding day at Signal Hill bushland.
- The Coordinator Environment undertook to investigate how many stencilled ‘Let Nature Feed Itself’ signs are at Tomato Lake and consider installing more. The temporary signs were placed at locations where people have been observed feeding wildlife.
- Electric cars will be considered as fleet vehicles, however at this time they are significantly more expensive than other fleet options. Provision for electric car charge points has been made for the new Community Centre.
- Bins are on order for a collective bin station pilot program. Individual, under desk bins will be optional and waste will be sorted at the bin station.

Item 10.4 Continued

- A large proportion of the Civic Centre paper is recycled.
- Shredded paper cannot be placed in recycling bins. Shredded paper gets caught in the sorting machinery used by the EMRC.
- A large proportion of the compostable organics generated at the Civic Centre could be composted if there was the capacity available. The City uses a Bokashi system which has a 7kg daily capacity.
- Consideration will be given to a larger capacity composting system, such as a dehydrator at the new Community Centre.

8.08pm Cr Hitt departed the meeting.

- Concerns were raised at the level of recycling in WA, and the fact that recycling rates were decreasing.
- The new EMRC facility has improved equipment and machinery, which is able to sort and recycle a higher proportion of waste. This is a mechanised process.
- The EMRC is responsible for selling or disposing of waste and recyclable material. Most recyclable material from Perth is shipped out and reused in Asia.
- The EMRC has a waste education website which provides information, resources, education programs and hints for waste management.

11. ITEMS REQUIRING RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

Nil.

12. REGISTER UPDATE OF ITEMS

Officer responses to the *Register Update of Items* from the Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting on 26 June 2017 are listed below.

Date Submitted	Item No.	Item Heading	Responsible Officer	Officer Comment
14.11.16	10.1	Progress of Environment and Sustainability Strategy and TravelSmart Plan Implementation	Environmental Officer	The Director Technical Services undertook to arrange an article to be included in the Belmont Bulletin advising residents of the Waterwise demonstration verge at Miles Park. <i>Article to be submitted for publication in October 2017 edition of Belmont Bulletin, to coincide with National Water Week.</i>
14.11.16	10.1	Progress of Environment and Sustainability Strategy and TravelSmart Plan Implementation	Coordinator Environment	The Director Technical Services undertook to arrange an article to be included in the Belmont Bulletin requesting that residents do not feed the ibis at Tomato Lake. COMPLETED. <i>An article was published in the July 2017 edition of the Belmont Bulletin regarding the Ibis at Tomato Lake.</i>
14.11.16	10.2	City of Stirling-Tree Protection and Retention-Private Land and Verges	Manager Parks and Environment	A draft of the Canopy Plan will be presented to an Information Forum to inform all Councillors. <i>Scheduled for the October 2017 Information Forum.</i>
20.03.2017	11.1	Annual Review of City of Belmont Environment and Sustainability Strategy	Coordinator Environment	Flora Surveys - Officers will investigate the possibility of partnering with universities to undertake these surveys. <i>No update.</i>
26.06.2017	11.1	City of Belmont Street Tree Plan (2017 Revision)	Manager Parks and Environment	Consultants have been engaged to document all street trees in Belmont. Once information is available, it can be presented to and considered by the Standing Committee (Environmental). <i>Refer Item 10.2</i>

Item 12 Continued

A series of questions were asked and responded to as follows:

- A scheme amendment that would require properly planted trees in carparks, with the provision for cell structures was suggested.

8.12pm Cr Hitt returned to the meeting.

- Trees have been planted in the Belmont Forum carpark adjacent to Abernethy Road, however, without adequate soil volume their chance of success is considered to be low.
- Officers have met with and provided advice to Belmont Forum in relation to soil volume requirements. Cell structures for trees may be considered in future parts of the Forum development.
- Better shade and canopy outcomes in carparks should be a priority for owners and developers.
- The Canopy Plan workshops identified 13 key objectives that are considered to be worthwhile pursuing, with increasing canopy coverage the top priority.
- Plane trees are considered to be ideal for carparks.
- The trees in the Forster Park carpark planted approximately four years ago using the cell technology are now providing significant shade.
- When planning for and planting street trees, soil volume, root plate growth and the potential for buttressing and ground heave needs to be considered.
- As this was Cr Hitt's last Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting before retirement from Council, the Presiding Member and Committee thanked Cr Hitt for his years of service to the environment.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Standing Committee (Environmental) will be held on Monday 20 November 2017 commencing at 6.30pm.

14. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Presiding Member thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.22pm.

MINUTES CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that these minutes of the Standing Committee (Environmental) Meeting held on 18 September 2017 were confirmed as a true and accurate record at the Standing Committee (Environmental) Meeting held 23 October 2017:

Signed by the Person Presiding: _____ *S.K. Wolff*

PRINT name of the Person Presiding: _____ *or Steve Wolff*