



City of Belmont
STANDING COMMITTEE (ENVIRONMENTAL)
MINUTES
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19 September 2016

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ATTACHMENTS INDEX

Attachment 1 – Item 10.1 refers
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TABLED ATTACHMENTS INDEX

Tabled Attachment 1 – Item 10.2 refers
Tabled Attachment 2 – Item 10.3 refers
Tabled Attachment 3 – Item 12 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, 19 SEPTEMBER 2016 COMMENCING AT 6.32PM.**

MINUTES

PRESENT

Cr S Wolff (Presiding Member)	East 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 S Cole	Chief Executive Officer
Mr R Lutey	Director Technical Services
Mr W Stephens	Manager Parks and Environment
Ms N Davey	Coordinator Environment
Mr S Glassborow	Environmental Officer
Ms E Cashman	Senior Governance Officer
Ms S D'Agnone	Governance Officer

OBSERVERS

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

6.32pm The Presiding Member welcomed all those in attendance and declared the meeting open.

Acknowledgement of Country

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

2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

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 27 JUNE 2016
(Circulated under separate cover)**

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

MARKS MOVED, RYAN SECONDED,

That the Minutes of the Standing Committee (Environmental) Meeting held, 27 June 2016 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

8.1 CR P HITT

1. Have bottlebrush trees been planted by the City over the past year? Over the years concerns have been raised and various complaints made about bottlebrushes, which include concerns about the amount of canopy coverage they provide, their slow growth and the trees obscuring sightlines and vision.

Response

The Manager Parks and Environment advised that some bottlebrush trees have been planted over the past year. The City prefers not to plant this species but the trees are readily available, easy to propagate, have a virtually 100% survival rate and provide feed and an environment for birds and insects. When there are shortages of other tree species and a request for a verge tree is made, bottlebrushes are easily available and generally well accepted by residents.

To maximise canopy cover, bottlebrushes are not the best tree, and it would be better to wait for different species to become available, but there are benefits to bottlebrushes beyond their canopy cover.

Over the past year, more bottlebrush trees have been planted than initially anticipated.

8.2 CR S WOLFF

1. Where do bottlebrush trees sit in terms of selection priorities?

Response

The Manager Parks and Environment advised that in accordance with the Street Tree Plan, species selection is based on verge width. Bottlebrushes can be appropriate for medium to small verges, and sit at the end of the preferred species list.

The Director Technical Services advised that bottlebrushes are on the approved list and are suitable in some locations.

6.37pm The Chief Executive Officer departed the meeting.

It is not the City's preference to plant bottlebrushes, and in future planting of these trees will be reduced.

6.38pm The Chief Executive Officer returned to the meeting.

8.3 CR R ROSSI

1. Could a list of all the trees planted and the locations of the planting over the last year be provided to Councillors?

Response

The Manager Parks and Environment undertook to provide Councillors with a list of all the trees planted and the planting locations over the last year.

9. BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

10.1 PROGRESS OF ENVIRONMENT PLAN, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY AND TRAVELSMART PLAN IMPLEMENTATION: JUNE 2016 - AUGUST 2016

Attachment No	Details
Attachment 1 – Item 10.1 refers	Environment Plan Progress
Attachment 2 – Item 10.1 refers	Environment and Sustainability Strategy Progress
Attachment 3 – Item 10.1 refers	TravelSmart Plan Process

Updates of progress towards the implementation of the Environment Plan, Environment and Sustainability Strategy and TravelSmart Plan are attached for information (refer Attachments [1](#), [2](#) and [3](#)). This outlines activities undertaken since the Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting on 27 June 2016.

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

- It was noted that tube stock planted at Tomato Lake had been pulled out by Ibis and required replanting.
- The Coordinator Environment undertook to investigate methods to protect tube stock from Ibis such as cages built over the plants.
- The Bike Boulevard design is underway but not yet finalised. It has taken time for an agreement to be reached on the preferred design for intersection treatments and slow points.
- Stop sign configuration will not change on Surrey Road. There will be raised plateaus at each section, with the aim to keep cyclists moving, however at major crossroads, cars will still have priority with treatments and refuges for cyclists.
- The City has not undertaken measures to reduce the Ibis population, particularly at Tomato Lake, due to the difficulty involved with the process.
- The process followed by Perth Airport at Munday Swamp is that every two weeks an ornithologist inspects nests, determines the type of egg and tips the nest if Ibis eggs are detected. This has been undertaken every two weeks over the past two years and has led to a reduction in numbers. The Department of Parks and Wildlife have advised the City that a licence for this sort of operation will be difficult to obtain for Tomato Lake due to the public access of the area.
- A Working Group associated with landfill sites is undertaking an overall study of Ibis in Perth, with initial reports advising that Ibis can travel up to 100km per day and will feed, roost and breed in different locations.
- Ibis seem to use Tomato Lake for breeding only. Observations have indicated up to 100 pairs that also now seem to be using a second island.
- The canopy plan is progressing and an internal workshop will be held soon. Once the internal workshop has been held, a Councillor workshop will be arranged. The Councillor workshop has been tentatively scheduled for mid to late October.

Item 10.1 Continued

- A fact sheet advising residents and property owners of the City's verge requirements is available on the City's website and when requested.
- The City's local laws are under review and Officers are recommending that synthetic turf be prohibited on verges.
- Synthetic turf is not ecologically friendly or recommended due to the energy intensive process to make it, the ground underneath the turf becomes rock hard, no fauna utilise the environment, problems arise relating to reinstatement when utilities need to be upgraded, the turf becomes too hot to walk across in summer, street trees become impossible to plant and the turf sub layer is impervious so there is almost 100% run off when it rains, impacting the capacity of the City's drainage system.
- Approximately 30 sites of Noongar significance are located in the City. These sites are located on all types of property, not just City of Belmont land. A full listing of sites of Aboriginal significance can be found on the Department of Aboriginal Affairs website.
- A modified penalty of \$500 is all that is currently able to be issued under the current local laws for the removal or damage of a street tree.
- The local government sector needs leadership from the State government to bring in legislation and penalties that will be applicable across the state.
- It may be viable to bring back bonds for street tree protection.
- More promotion of recommended verge treatments will be undertaken once the City's local laws have been amended.
- A sign was installed on Belgravia Street opposite Miles Park approximately two years ago advertising a water wise verge example.
- It was suggested that information on verge treatments be included in the Belmont Bulletin.
- Officers will be including information on the Urban Forest Strategy in the Belmont Bulletin on a regular basis.
- The site of the former Ascot Water Playground will be sold as private property and therefore the City will have no control over the trees on this site.

10.2 ENVIRONMENT PLAN INDICATORS 2015-2016

Attachment No	Details
Attachment 4 – Item 10.2 refers	<u>Environment Plan Indicators 2015-2016</u>
Tabled Attachment 1 – Item 10.2 refers	<u>Environment Plan Indicators 2015-2016 Presentation</u>

The Coordinator Environment provided a presentation on outcomes of Environment Plan Indicators for 2015-2016 including comparisons to previous years (refer [Attachment 4](#)).

The Environment Plan Indicators 2015-2016 Presentation included the following:

- Key Achievements for 2015-2016
- Foreshore Stabilisation Projects Implemented
- Revegetation Projects Implemented
- Energy/Water Efficiency Projects Implemented
- Partnerships and Funding
- Urban Forest
- Community and Businesses
- Electricity Consumption for Top Five Consuming Sites in 2015/2016 and Comparison to Previous Year
- Annual Electricity Consumption at Contestable Sites 2010/2011 to 2015/2016
- Corporate Scheme Water Consumption 1999/2000 to 2015/2016
- Historical Potable (Scheme) Water Use for Top Five Water Consuming Sites
- Community Scheme Water Use (kL) per Capita
- Non-Potable (Groundwater) Consumption 2010/2011 to 2015/2016

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

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

- Fishing line and hook bins have been installed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife and are emptied each month by Native Animal Rescue. A report on bin usage and a thorough audit is provided to the City annually. It was noted that the bins are well used, especially where there are no other bins or rubbish collection services available, such as at the Garratt Road Bridge.
- The City is currently trialing steam weeding with the equipment on loan from the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC).
- The shade sails for the Wilson Park playground will still be installed. Trees have been planted for long term shading.
- 13 trees have been planted at sumps over the past year.
- Electricity and water usage figures for Centenary Park do not include the toilet facilities. These facilities are included as part of the building management account.
- The Administration Building electricity usage is provided as one account, which includes the Civic Centre, Library, Senior Citizens Building and part of Faulkner Park. Electricity usage is seasonal, with more electricity used in summer for air conditioning.
- Seasonal patterns for electricity usage have been noted as office type buildings often have higher cooling requirements than heating requirements.

Item 10.2 Continued

- The indicator “trees protected through the Municipal Heritage Inventory” consists of all trees listed in the inventory in the year of reporting. It is not referring to trees that have been added to the inventory during that year.
- The City expects that recycled concrete used for road base is adequately tested and is not aware of asbestos being present in the product. The Director Technical Services undertook to confirm this road base is being tested and to advise why the City East Alliance ceased using recycled concrete road base during the upgrade of Great Eastern Highway.
- The Belmont BUSlink trial will continue until June 2017 with costs roughly split 50/50 between the City and Belmont Forum. The BUSlink trial will be assessed prior to June 2017 and any further renewal will be a decision of Council.
- The Rivervale tree audit involved visiting and cataloguing each tree with the relevant data and then estimating approximate life spans in order to determine when replanting and replacement will be required.
- The information collected is accurate at the day it was collected, however Officers are working hard to ensure data is kept current and updates are made when trees are planted or removed.
- The City does not receive data on the amount of recycled batteries collected. The Director Technical Services undertook to enquire with the EMRC to find out if data on battery collection is available.
- Development Applications are referred to the Parks and Environment Department when Planning Officers identify any environmental implications, such as acid sulphate soils, street trees or wash down requirements in industrial zones.

10.3 CITY OF STIRLING – TREE PROTECTION AND RETENTION – PRIVATE LAND AND VERGES

<u>Attachment No</u>	<u>Details</u>
Tabled Attachment 2 – Item 10.3 refers	<u>Tree Protection and Retention Presentation</u>

The Manager Parks and Environment provided information on the City of Stirling's tree protection and retention policy development.

The Tree Protection and Retention Presentation included the following:

- City of Stirling – Tree Protection and Retention – Private Land and Verges
- Draft Street and Reserve Trees Policy (on Public Land)
- Reasons for Policy
- Options – Trees on Private Lands
- Option 1 – Business as Usual
- Option 2 – Retain or Plant Trees (Policy and Scheme Amendment)
- Option 3 – Retain, Plant or Cash-in-Lieu for Trees (Policy and Scheme Amendment)
- Option 4 – Comprehensive Tree Protection (Policy and Scheme Amendment)
- Street Trees
- Conclusion

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

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

- The option of planting trees elsewhere does not address local canopy cover goals and defeats the purpose of the Urban Forest Strategy. Good planning requires the provision of green space and urban greenery, which provide numerous benefits.
- There needs to be flexibility in these sorts of policies, particularly when zoning allows a certain number of dwellings to be built. If tree retention policies act to constrain building, this creates uncertainty.
- These types of policies need to be staged and incremental in order to be successful.
- The Committee noted that they will be interested in seeing the “finished product” from the City of Stirling and advised that the City of Subiaco is undertaking a similar project.
- The figures provided in the presentation are sobering and show that something needs to be done to retain and improve tree canopy levels.
- The City of Stirling has approximately 12.7% canopy coverage. Belmont was recorded as having the lowest canopy cover in Western Australia at 9% coverage. This figure includes airport land, which is not owned by the City and does not and never will, have much canopy cover for good reason. If the airport land is taken out of consideration the City's canopy coverage goes up by 2%.
- The Manager Parks and Environment advised that an update on this item following the City of Stirling's anticipated October resolution will be provided at the 14 November 2016 Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting.

11. ITEMS REQUIRING RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

11.1 CITY OF BELMONT WATER EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN 2016-2021

NATURAL BELMONT

ATTACHMENT DETAILS

<u>Attachment No</u>	<u>Details</u>
Attachment 5 – Item 11.1 refers	City of Belmont Water Efficiency Action Plan 2016-2021

Voting Requirement	:	Simple Majority
Subject Index	:	30/017
Location/Property Index	:	N/A
Application Index	:	N/A
Disclosure of any Interest	:	Nil
Previous Items	:	N/A
Applicant	:	N/A
Owner	:	N/A
Responsible Division	:	Technical Services

COUNCIL ROLE

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Advocacy | <i>When Council advocates on its own behalf or on behalf of its community to another level of government/body/agency.</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Executive | <i>The substantial direction setting and oversight role of the Council eg adopting plans and reports, accepting tenders, directing operations, setting and amending budgets.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Legislative | <i>Includes adopting local laws, local planning schemes and policies.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Review | <i>When Council reviews decisions made by Officers.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Quasi-Judicial | <i>When Council determines an application/matter that directly affect a person's right and interests. The judicial character arises from the obligation to abide by the principles of natural justice. Examples of quasi-judicial authority include local planning applications, building licences, applications for other permits/licences (eg under Health Act, Dog Act or Local Laws) and other decisions that may be appealable to the State Administrative Tribunal.</i> |

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the City of Belmont Water Efficiency Action Plan 2016-2021 (refer [Attachment 5](#)) to Council for endorsement.

SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

The Water Efficiency Action Plan 2016-2021 outlines the City's commitment to water efficiency actions across different business units being coordinated by the Parks and Environment Department. This action plan does not duplicate actions from other corporate strategies rather it consolidates them into one reporting platform.

Item 11.1 Continued

LOCATION

N/A

CONSULTATION

N/A

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

In accordance with the Strategic Community Plan Key Result Area: Natural Belmont.

Objective: Enhance the City's environmental sustainability through the efficient use of natural resources and minimise the City's carbon footprint.

Strategy: Manage water use with a view to minimising consumption.

Corporate Key Action: Corporate Business Plan 2016 to 2020: Action 227 - Meet requirements for 2016 Waterwise Council Program accreditation

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Water Efficiency Action Plan supports the City's Environment and Sustainability Policy NB3, with direct relevance to the following policy commitments:

- I. Undertake continual improvement of the Environmental Management System in order to enhance environmental performance of City operations.
- IV. Efficient use of energy, water, paper and other resources, reducing waste generated and implementing renewable energy technologies to minimise the City's carbon footprint.
- V. Planning for and implementing measures to 'future proof' City operation against the predicted impacts of climate change.

The City's Environmental Purchasing Policy NB1 supports actions being implemented through this plan, in particular, providing for the purchase of specific environmentally preferable goods and services.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

There are no specific statutory requirements in respect to this matter.

BACKGROUND

The City has been an endorsed Waterwise Council since 2010 and through the Corporate Business Plan and Strategic Community Plan, remains committed to maintaining this accreditation. This commitment represents our promise to the community to maintain our facilities and public open spaces to be as water efficient as possible. In a drying climate and with increased pressure to conserve water resources, participation in the program can assist the City in continuing to provide the community with high quality services (i.e. facilities, irrigated public open space, events).

Item 11.1 Continued

In 2016, the Water Corporation changed the criteria for the program and now requires all participants to develop and implement a Water Efficiency Action Plan (WEAP), based on the Department of Water's template. In order to meet requirements for 2016 Waterwise Council Program accreditation, the WEAP is required to be submitted to the Water Corporation by 31 October 2016.

OFFICER COMMENT

The WEAP includes actions focused on maintaining and advocating water efficiency, education and best practices in potable and non-potable water use (scheme and groundwater use). The implementation of the plan does not introduce actions or objectives which are not currently covered in other associated plans, for example the Environment and Sustainability Strategy. Rather, this plan consolidates these actions to better enable the City to report on water consumption and efficiencies during a water year (equivalent to financial year).

The overall objective of the WEAP is to ensure that Waterwise actions implemented in our facilities and public open spaces are being monitored and the water savings or efficiencies are being reported against. As per the Waterwise Council Program requirements, the City will submit to the Water Corporation an annual report to demonstrate its commitment to conserving potable and non-potable water and to demonstrate achievements as a Waterwise Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications evident at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of this Action Plan will assist the City in reducing water use in some facilities and remain water efficient in its public open spaces.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no social implications at this time.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

HITT MOVED, MARKS SECONDED,

That Council endorse the City of Belmont Water Efficiency Action Plan 2016-2021, as detailed in [Attachment 5](#).

CARRIED 4 VOTES TO 0

12. REGISTER UPDATE OF ITEMS

Officer responses to the *Register Update of Items* from the 27 July 2016 Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting are listed below.

Date Submitted	Item No.	Item Heading	Responsible Officer	Officer Comment
21.03.2016	12	Register Update of Items	Manager Parks and Environment	<p>The Director Technical Services undertook to provide the Committee with more information concerning the City of Stirling's policy regarding the protection of trees on private property at a future Standing Committee (Environmental) Meeting.</p> <p>The Manager Parks and Environment provided information on the City of Stirling's tree protection and retention policy development at the 19 September 2016 Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting.</p> <p>The Manager Parks and Environment advised that an update on this item following the City of Stirling's anticipated October resolution will be provided at the 14 November 2016 Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting.</p>
27.06.2016	10.1	Progress of Environment Plan and Travelsmart Plan Implementation	TravelSmart Officer	<p>The Coordinator Environment undertook to update the TravelSmart Plan Progress document to include information and comments on when certain actions have been completed. This updated reporting style will be provided for the next Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting.</p> <p>Completed with new format included in Attachment 3</p>
27.06.2016	10.1	Progress of Environment Plan and Travelsmart Plan Implementation	TravelSmart Officer	<p>The Coordinator Environment undertook to provide Councillors with information on how the bike safety track at Peachey Park is used and monitored.</p> <p>Completed with Memorandum distributed to Councillors 25 July 2016.</p>

Item 12 Continued

The Manager Parks and Environment provided an update on Street Tree planting requests (refer [Tabled Attachment 3](#)).

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

- Approval from adjoining property owners is presently required before street trees are planted. Four out of five owners at the complex on the corner of Kooyong Road and Campbell Street have agreed to street trees being planted.
- The City has an informal policy of requiring adjoining property owner approval for street tree planting as those that do not want street trees may damage or remove any planted without approval, however as part of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy, compulsory street tree planting will be investigated.
- Owners adjacent to Redgum Park were consulted as part of the park upgrade which occurred approximately two years ago. Trees that have been planted need time to grow and develop before further planting is considered.
- It would be very expensive to transplant mature trees from the Ascot Water Playground due to the size of the trees, nature of the sloping site and the crane required. It is technically possible but would be prohibitively expensive.
- The sump at the corner of Toorak Road and Newey Street has been planted. Three trees were planted as constraints and sightlines on the corner were taken into consideration.
- It was noted that the Green Star Design presentation at the 13 September 2016 Information Forum was very informative and interesting points were raised. Any presentation by the consultant at a Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting would incur a cost. Extensive notes have been taken for the reference of Councillors who were not in attendance at the Information Forum.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Standing Committee (Environmental) will be held on Monday 14 November 2016 commencing at 6.30pm.

14. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Presiding Member thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.08pm.

MINUTES CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that these minutes of the Standing Committee (Environmental) Meeting held 19 September 2016 were confirmed as a true and accurate record at the Standing Committee (Environmental) Meeting held 14 November 2016.

Signed by the Person Presiding: _____ *Steve Wolff*

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