



City of Belmont
STANDING COMMITTEE (ENVIRONMENTAL)
MINUTES
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20 November 2017

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ATTACHMENTS INDEX

Attachment 1 – Item 10.1 refers

Attachment 2 – Item 10.1 refers

Attachment 3 – Item 10.2 refers

TABLED ATTACHMENTS INDEX

Tabled Attachment 1 – Item 10.2 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, 20 NOVEMBER 2017 COMMENCING AT 6.31PM.

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 L Cayoun	West Ward

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr J Christie	Chief Executive Officer
Mr W Stephens	Manager Parks and Environment
Ms N Davey	Coordinator Environment
Mr S Glassborow	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 6.31pm, 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 SPECIAL STANDING COMMITTEE (ENVIRONMENTAL) MEETING HELD 23 OCTOBER 2017
(Circulated under separate cover)**

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

CAYOUN MOVED, RYAN SECONDED,

That the Minutes of the Special Standing Committee (Environmental) Meeting held 23 October 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

8.1 CR R ROSSI

1. There is a potentially contaminated sump at 541 Abernethy Road, also known as the Aitkin Way sump which is owned by the Water Corporation. Does the City receive any feedback or monitoring information from the Water Corporation on this site?

Response

The Manager Parks and Environment advised that the question would be taken on notice.

The City is informed and receives information if a site within the locality is reported as a known or suspected contaminated site or if there is a classification change; however the City does not receive additional monitoring results from these sites. There are a number of sites in Belmont that are classified under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*.

It was noted that at this particular sump, the water is mainly contained within the site. It is in only very large events that the basin will meet capacity and water drain from this site to the Canning River.

9. BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

10.1 PROGRESS OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY AND TRAVELSMART PLAN IMPLEMENTATION: SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 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 18 September 2017.

Committee Notes

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

- The City assisted in cleaning up a hydrocarbon spill originating from a business adjacent to Severin Walk. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation infringed the offending business.
- As part of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy, the City has committed to either purchasing natural power or carbon offsets. The City no longer purchases natural power as there was a significant price increase. The decision on whether to purchase natural power or carbon offsets will be dependent on prices at the time.
- The City does not have any interaction with a business known as ‘Power Ledger’.
- The Coordinator Environment undertook to confirm accuracy of Ibis and nest numbers provided in [Attachment 1](#) from a recent count undertaken at Tomato Lake.
- Ibis tend to nest in one area, and then feed elsewhere. The reason for the lower number of nests at Tomato Lake in the 2017 count is unknown.
- The City has received verbal advice from the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) that they are not supportive of the realignment of the parks and recreation reserve near Hilton Grove. The City is awaiting confirmation in writing. Concepts for the area, which include the provision of steps and an improved interface with the road will be further investigated.
- The Manager Parks and Environment undertook to provide an update on foreshore stabilisation works at the next available Information Forum.
- There is a pilot bin trial underway upstairs at the Civic Centre. The trial involves separating waste into the appropriate centralised bins in order to maximise recycling. Results will be reviewed in December.
- Officers separate and empty their own recycling. Cleaners only empty general waste bins.
- The City and Council need to lead by example in waste management and recycling.

Item 10.1 Continued

- Contamination of recycling where separate bins are provided at events or in parks can be a problem. Any contaminated recycling is diverted to landfill.
- Cross contamination of recycling at events is a challenge that needs to be managed. Effort and publicity need to be put into education and a reliance on members of the public to do the right thing.
- Paper handtowels and shredded paper cannot be recycled and are directed to landfill.
- The City recycles soft plastics from the Civic Centre. There is a collection container in the staff kitchen, which is taken to REDcycle as required.
- The City currently has a 2-bin waste management system. A 3-bin system involves the additional separation of organic food and garden waste.
- It was noted that the State Government may initiate programs encouraging local governments to move to a 3-bin system.
- It is intended that when the EMRC Resource Recovery Facility is operational, waste that is now diverted to landfill will be converted to energy. The City would then be able to purchase this energy as required.
- Foreshore stabilisation works at The Esplanade (near Forbes Street) are due to commence on 27 November 2017, rocks will be used to extend the foreshore banks up to the high tide line.
- The City is aware of sand and sediment accumulation from the Perth Airport Southern Main Drain entering the river. This is due to the construction of the living stream and is the responsibility of Perth Airport. The Manager Infrastructure Development is in contact with the appropriate representatives at Perth Airport, notifying them of the issue and providing advice where required.
- Delays in the construction of the Surrey Road Bike Boulevard are due to delays in the approval of intersection designs from Main Roads WA and the Department of Transport. These designs are not yet finalised and concern the major intersections of the Bike Boulevard (Surrey Road/Francisco Street, Surrey Road/Alexander Street, Surrey Road/Wright Street, and Surrey Road/Oats Street). The City is waiting on approval of the design for the first major intersection (Surrey Road/Francisco Street), before completing designs for the other three intersections. The minor intersections typically utilise a raised intersection area and change priority to the Bike Boulevard corridor.
- The most recent BUSlink data reported that 73 passengers used the service last week. This increase can be attributed to a visit to businesses with a BUSlink promotional pack and information.
- In response to a request by Belmont Forum, the service will continue to run between Christmas and the New Year. This amounts to four additional days of the service which is not considered to be significant.

Item 10.1 Continued

- Consideration for other routes and pick up locations are not part of this assessment as the route has been fixed, but may be further investigated in the future. The Caravan Park, hotels and motels along Great Eastern Highway and The Springs may be possibilities for a similar service.
- Concerns were raised that the service has been running for over two years and should be established by now.
- It was noted that the creation of an additional stop on Belmont Avenue has led to patronage increases.
- The 12 week assessment period ends on 8 December 2017. BUSlink passenger numbers must average 40 or more per week over this period and patronage should indicate a positive trend line. If this target is not met or if Belmont Forum withdraws funding support, the service will not continue in 2018.
- The Belmont Forum needs to be on board with any consideration of other routes as they are the major sponsor/funder of the service.
- The BUSlink service was initially established to serve the mixed business zone.
- Information has been provided to Council through memorandums and updates at Information Forums and Standing Committee (Environmental) meetings.
- Concerns were raised that the service is being sustained through promotion efforts using Officer time and resources.
- There may be opportunities for a similar service elsewhere. Further investigation of other routes and stop locations would need to be undertaken.
- The assessment period ends on 8 December 2017. If the service does not continue in 2018, there will be a notification period, advising users of the service and businesses in the area that the service will cease in 2018. This information will be provided to Council via a memorandum.
- Concerns were raised about visibility of the chicanes on the Bike Boulevard with cars hitting and running over some of the chicanes. Larger plantings in these areas were requested. It was suggested that planting occur as soon as possible to assist with visibility.
- All signage for chicanes, slow points and intersections on the Bike Boulevard will be standard but may not have been installed until recently.
- The Manager Parks and Environment undertook to provide further information on signage and planting in chicanes on the Bike Boulevard, and to investigate if the chicanes will be painted white for visibility.

10.2 VERGE LANDSCAPING INCENTIVE INVESTIGATION

Attachment No	Details
Attachment 3 – Item 10.2 refers	<u>Waterwise Verge Incentive Scheme</u>
Tabled Attachment 1 – Item 10.2 refers	<u>Waterwise Verges; Programs and Incentives Presentation</u>

The Environmental Officer presented the outcomes of an investigation of potential verge landscaping incentives (refer [Attachment 3](#)), as per the following Environment and Sustainability Strategy action (2017 version), completed in June 2017.

‘2.3 Consider incentives for establishment of verge landscaping that supports environmental outcomes through the Water Corporation’s Waterwise Verge Enhancement Scheme or equivalent.’

Committee Notes

The Waterwise Verges; Programs and Incentives Presentation included the following:

- Item 10.2
- E&SS Actions
- Climate
- Max °C
- Min °C
- Climate
- Green is Important
- Waterwise
- What is a Waterwise Garden?
- Waterwise Garden Design
- How?
- Verge Garden Programs
- Waterwise Councils
- City of Belmont Program

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

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

- In respect to verge gardens, ‘boxing out’ refers to excavating material to ensure the finished level of mulch is at the same height as the adjacent kerb so that there is no spill over.
- Reticulation of verges is allowed, however if the reticulation is damaged it is up to the owner to repair and replace. The City does consider this and works around private irrigation or undertakes appropriate repairs; however other utility providers may not be as considerate when works are undertaken.
- The City attempts to promote Waterwise programs as much as possible. The Waterwise section of the website is currently under review. Where possible the City promotes Waterwise incentives, and has installed two Waterwise verges and promotes Waterwise initiatives through the Belmont Bulletin.
- Discounts available on water efficient products and services are promoted through the ‘Switch Your Thinking’ Rewards for Residents program.

Item 10.2 Continued

- Verges are crown land that are vested in local government.
- In general, owners and occupiers will maintain verges as they maintain their own property in order to improve and maintain property appearance.
- When the City's *Consolidated Local Law* is gazetted, artificial turf on verges will be a non-compliant material.
- Artificial turf is not a recommended material as there are a number of negative environmental consequences, such as adding to the urban heat island effect, soil compaction and its effect on natural microbes.
- The prohibition of synthetic turf will not be applied retrospectively. Any synthetic turf installed before the *Consolidated Local Law* is gazetted will be compliant.
- At present, a verge garden is permitted on more than 50% of the verge, with the ratio dependent on if there is a footpath or not. The priority is to ensure that there is a safe environment. Compliance will also be dependent on the treatment proposed.
- There may be situations where it will be appropriate to incentivise the removal of artificial turf. This may be considered as part of the program.
- Generally loose stones or pebbles are non-compliant materials. Verge materials need to be compactible and cannot cause spill or trip hazards. Mulch is acceptable if the particles are less than 30ml in size and the verge is boxed out to prevent spillage.
- It was suggested that current brochures about verge treatments should be removed from the front counter and information provided that changes and incentives are coming soon.
- The review of Local Planning Scheme No.15, which is currently underway may consider analysing verge and road widths. Verges are used for a number of purposes, such as parking, for the provision of trees and gardens and they are also reserved for utilities. Verges are a great resource if managed well.
- It was noted that it was often preferable to park under more mature verge trees due to the shade they offer.
- This shows that the growth benefit of verge trees is exponential. The City attempts to protect and maintain these trees as they are growing as there are many future benefits, such as the shade and canopy provided.
- The proposed program requires scoping; however it is not proposed that the City provides direct financial support. In-kind support and resources are proposed as incentives.

7.51pm Cr Rossi departed the meeting.

- It is expected that there will be better responsibility for verge gardens if the support is in-kind and the property owner installs it themselves. It will also be more cost effective for the City to source plants and materials.

Item 10.2 Continued

- Resourcing the program will require funding as compliance will need to be monitored.
- The program provided by the Town of Victoria Park offers a rebate if the Waterwise verge is implemented and maintained for three months.
- The City currently offers an annual free mulch day for residents.

7.53pm Cr Rossi returned to the meeting.

- Dependent on the nature of the program, if funding or support is required for the installation of a verge treatment, an application to the City will need to be made and assessed.
- If an owner does not require funding or support and the proposed treatment is compliant, no application or notification to the City is necessary.
- It is the City's responsibility to ensure that the streetscape is pedestrian friendly. Therefore, fencing, rocks, etc. are not permitted on verges. If a verge is non-compliant, Officers are able to enforce local laws to ensure compliance, however the City needs to be made aware of any non-compliance.
- It is expected that residents will maintain verges and the City will act when notified of non-compliances.
- The City does not have a registered verge program. Technically, only the resident or those that the resident has permitted are allowed to park on the verge adjacent to a property.
- It is possible to convert verges to on-street car bays; however the cost will be approximately \$5,000 per bay. The provision of these bays will depend on the circumstances and if Council deems it to be appropriate.
- There is often ample room and in some cases it is legal to park on the road, but drivers choose to park on verges or footpaths.

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 18 September 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. An article was posted on the City of Belmont Facebook page mid-October 2017.
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. The draft Canopy Plan will be presented to the Senior Management Group in December 2017 and to an IF early 2018
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. No update available
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). COMPLETED. Information was presented in Item 10.2 of the 18 September 2017 Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting.
18.09.17	10.4	Environment and Sustainability Strategy Indicators	Coordinator Environment	The Coordinator Environment undertook to investigate how many stencilled 'Let Nature Feed Itself' signs are at Tomato Lake and consider installing more. Progressing

Item 12 Continued

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

- The Canopy Plan is progressing and will be presented to the Senior Management Group in December. Subsequent to approval, it is expected that the Canopy Plan will be discussed at an Information Forum in February.
- The review of Local Planning Scheme No. 15 will incorporate actions to encourage tree retention and planting in carparks. Discussions with the Planning Department will ensure that there is the ability to enforce these actions.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Standing Committee (Environmental) is to be advised.

14. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Presiding Member thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.00pm.

MINUTES CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that these minutes of the Standing Committee (Environmental) Meeting held on 20 November 2017 were confirmed as a true and accurate record at the Standing Committee (Environmental) Meeting held 19 March 2018:

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

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

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