



**City of Belmont**  
**STANDING COMMITTEE (ENVIRONMENTAL)**  
**MINUTES**  
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21 March 2016

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**ATTACHMENTS INDEX**

Attachment 1 – Item 10.1 refers  
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Attachment 3 – Item 12 refers

**TABLED ATTACHMENTS INDEX**

Tabled Attachment 1 – Item 10.2 refers  
Tabled Attachment 2 – Item 10.2 refers  
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 21 MARCH 2016 COMMENCING AT 6.30PM.**

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**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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr S Cole	Chief Executive Officer
Mr R Lutey	Director Technical Services
Mr W Stephens	Manager Parks and Environment
Ms N Davey ( <i>arr 6.31pm</i> )	Coordinator Environment
Ms E Cashman	Senior Governance Officer

**OBSERVERS**

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

**6.30pm** The Presiding Member welcomed all those in attendance and declared the meeting open.

**2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Cr P Hitt (Apology)	West Ward
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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.

**6.31pm** The Coordinator Environment entered the meeting.

**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 16 NOVEMBER 2015  
(Circulated under separate cover)**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

***RYAN MOVED, MARKS SECONDED, That the Minutes of the Standing Committee (Environmental) Meeting held, 16 November 2015 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.***

**CARRIED 3 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 PLAN AND TRAVELSMART PLAN IMPLEMENTATION – NOVEMBER 2015 – FEBRUARY 2016

<u>Attachment No</u>	<u>Details</u>
Attachment 1 – Item 10.1 refers	<a href="#">Environment Plan Progress November 2015 - February 2016</a>
Attachment 2 – Item 10.1 refers	<a href="#">Progress of TravelSmart Plan Implementation December 2015 - February 2016</a>

Updates of progress towards the implementation of the Environment Plan and TravelSmart Plan are attached for information (refer Attachments [1](#) and [2](#)). This outlines activities undertaken since the Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting on 16 November 2015.

#### Committee Notes

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

- Officers visited Hartfield Park in Kalamunda to inspect a trial where groundwater is being injected into the aquifer. Kalamunda is at its full groundwater licence allocation and cannot increase the allocation except through this injection process.
- For this project, stormwater is captured and then injected into the aquifer.
- Substantial external funding was received to fund the majority of this project. There will also be ongoing costs to fund.
- The aquifer at Hartfield Park is a confined aquifer in cracked rock which does not leak. The injection site is also close to the stormwater capture site. The geology and location restraints are completely different in Belmont, and this sort of project is not possible in Belmont.
- There are a number of issues that will need to be monitored such as contamination and downstream impacts.
- Kalamunda is undertaking this trial aquifer injection as an allocation increase was not allowed and the park was not yet established. No irrigation could occur as there was no water.
- The situation in Belmont is different, as the City is able to get an increased licence allocation at this time for new Public Open Space.
- 32 business environmental assessments were undertaken in January. There were no breaches detected. A greater number of assessments were undertaken in January due to the joint assessment project being undertaken with the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER). The DER is working with six other local governments on the assessment project and going forward, a DER Officer, in consultation with a City Officer will be assessing businesses in Belmont approximately once per month.

*Item 10.1 Continued*

- The foreshore works at Garvey Park will not be completed in time for the Autumn River Festival. The event is still going ahead, with information provided about the works at the event.
- There have been a few issues with soil during the foreshore works. Screw piles have been inserted five metres into the ground as part of the works.
- There is no jetty being constructed as part of these works. A floating jetty was being considered, however the water depth was not suitable at the site. Suggestions for a jetty at another location have not yet been finalised.
- The upgrade to Gould Park has not been completed. These works are scheduled to start in April and should finish by mid-June. Members of the public will be able to picnic at Gould Park, but there will be no barbeque on site.
- A bicycle pump station, similar to those seen in Victoria Park is being considered for Garvey Park, near the kiosk and bike parking facilities. As issues with vandalism can occur with these pump stations, one location will be trialled.
- There will be a demonstration of how to convert a bike to an electric bike at the upcoming Autumn River Festival. A manufactured electric bike will also be on display.
- A scheme water leak of one litre per minute over several months is a significant leak. The leak was not identified until the bill was received. The City is in the process of moving all the accounts to Planet Footprint, which automatically flags differences in usage figures which will help ensure that this does not occur again.
- The City receives individual accounts for each meter/location.
- There is no provision for additional toilets similar to those at Tomato Lake in the Garvey Park Master Plan. The location and provision of toilets at Garvey Park needs to consider the 1/100 flood level, as structures cannot be built below this level.
- Numerous additional portable toilets are supplied for the Autumn River Festival.

**Note**

**Item 10.2 Environment and Sustainability Policy Commitments and Item 10.3 Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021 were presented and discussed together.**

**10.2 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITMENTS**

<b>Attachment No</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Tabled Attachment 1 – Item 10.2 refers</b>	<a href="#"><u>PowerPoint Presentation</u></a>
<b>Tabled Attachment 2 – Item 10.2 refers</b>	<a href="#"><u>Environment and Sustainability Policy Commitments Handout</u></a>

The Coordinator Environment discussed the proposed policy commitments in the draft Environment and Sustainability Policy, which will replace the current Environmental Enhancement Policy.

These will form the basis for the new Environment and Sustainability Strategy.

**Committee Notes**

The Coordinator Environment provided a PowerPoint Presentation which included the following:

- Items 10.2 & 10.3 – Outcomes
- Background Information
- Review Process & Timeframes
- Relevant Corporate Documents & Hierarchy
- Why the Name Change?
- Relevant Strategic Community Plan Objectives and Outcomes
- ISO 14001:2015 – Relevant Requirements
- Memo Distributed 1 March – Content
- Councillor Suggestions Received
- 2009 Workshop: Critical Issues
- Councillor Suggestions Received
- DA6 Vision Plan and Implementation Strategy
- Community Centre Faulkner Civic Precinct
- Councillor Suggestions Received
- Councillor Suggestions Received – Relevant to UFS/Canopy Plan
- Environment & Sustainability Policy
- Plan Actions – Chapters
- Ongoing Plan Actions – Corporate Philosophy
- New Plan Actions – Corporate Philosophy
- Ongoing Plan Actions – Community Awareness, Engagement and Behaviour Change
- New Plan Actions – Community Awareness, Engagement and Behaviour Change
- Ongoing Plan Actions – Natural Environment and Biodiversity
- New Plan Actions – Natural Environment and Biodiversity
- Ongoing Plan Actions – Prevention of Pollution and Environmental Degradation
- New Plan Actions – Prevention of Pollution and Environmental Degradation
- Ongoing Plan Actions – Resource Use, Waste and Carbon Emissions

*Item 10.2 Continued*

- New Plan Actions – Resource Use, Waste and Carbon Emissions
- Ongoing Plan Actions – Climate Change Adaptation
- New Plan Actions – Climate Change Adaptation

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

A handout detailing amendments to ongoing actions and new actions proposed for the Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021 was provided to the Committee. (Refer [Tabled Attachment 2](#) for further information).

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

- The strategy will be for the years 2016-2021.
- The construction of the lookout at Bilya Kard Boodja Lookout is a recreational upgrade and is not considered to be part of the strategy.
- The City does not list the top five or ten issues/considerations in other plans or strategies. The Strategic Community Plan (SCP) identifies and details the key issues of the City.
- Listing the top issues or actions was suggested so that the most critical issues could be focused on as there are many objectives and actions to consider.
- The policy statement sections of the strategy will detail critical issues. Two policy statements concern corporate operations and the four remaining policy statements will detail critical environmental issues.
- The Canopy Plan and canopy considerations fall under the Urban Forest Strategy.
- Climate change considerations look at what has been predicted due to climate change, such as storm activity, higher rivers and heat spells, and then considers how City Officers and projects are affected. These impacts are considered in plans, designs and policies.
- Other local governments have similar climate change policies and all East Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) local governments have climate change strategies.
- Water considerations and water supply were considered critical issues and will be covered by the use of resources policy statement in the strategy.
- The City is aware of a number of issues and is in discussions with the Water Corporation regarding regulating, restricting and metering bores.
- The City has already undertaken a lot of work to reduce its water usage. This work includes upgrading and replacing irrigation systems to ensure that they are efficient as possible and the reduction of turf and hydro zoning practices to reduce water consumption.

*Item 10.2 Continued*

- Communications from the Department of Water (DoW) indicate that cuts to licence allocations are only a matter of time. It is therefore very important to liaise with DoW to set out suitable timeframes to adjust to reduced allocations and model water usage based on the required cuts.
- The City will continue to pursue efficiencies in its irrigation systems; however, at this stage it is unclear what extra efficiencies can be introduced.
- The DoW has not made any particular efficiency suggestions to local government.
- The DoW licence requires that meters are installed and that the City stays within its allocation limit.
- All local governments need to adopt practices to adapt to lower rainfall and lower water availability. Some local governments may not be doing what they should in this regard.
- Any local government that over abstracts groundwater will run into problems in the future, as the over abstraction will draw salty water into the aquifer.
- There has been a constant flow of water to the Ascot Waters basin this year, which is lucky considering the heat, there has been no king tides adding salty river water to the source. There can be no guarantee about the irrigation water for Ascot Waters until a new water source is built.
- It was suggested that water collected from the roofs of new buildings be used to irrigate gardens.
- Species selection is carefully considered and species that do not require much water, whether native or introduced will be investigated.
- Reduction in turf must consider the future growth and density requirements of the City; this will be considered and incorporated into an action relating to hydro zoning.
- Hydro zoning does not necessarily mean reducing turf. Hydro zoning looks at increasing efficiency, in some areas that may mean turf reduction.
- The City is exploring options for watering Public Open Space areas in future years.,
- It was suggested that private developers be worked with to ensure tanks are installed on roofs and on the ground of new developments to capture water.
- Groundwater is often the cheapest and easiest option for watering. Often other alternatives will have a significant cost to utilise.
- Perth Airport utilise underground stormwater tanks, the water stored is used for toilet flushing. Perth's climate and seasonal rainfall makes this the only feasible use of the water collected and stored in this way.
- The proposed living stream through Development Area 6 will come out near the boardwalk at Ayres bushland, not at Garvey Park. Water needs to be pumped to Garvey Park.

*Item 10.2 Continued*

- Scheme water will not be used for irrigation; cost comparisons have been made to illustrate the nature and feasibility of irrigation options.
- Compulsory street tree planting will be considered when the streetscape policy is next under review.
- Work on the Canopy Plan is underway, with Josh Byrne and Associates contracted to develop the plan. Engaging stakeholders and ensuring that the community is excited about the plan will be critical in the consultation process and to the success of the Canopy Plan.
- The water requirement for trees is not a problem if species are correctly selected.
- In a changing climate, with more intense storms and rainfall events, a larger number of trees is considered to be of great benefit. The tree canopy will filter the rainfall which will mean that stormwater drains do not overload.
- Drainage systems in the City have been undergoing upgrades for the last 25 years. Drainage strategies have ensured that previously occurring drainage issues have been largely resolved. At present, drainage systems are upgraded as required based on ultimate densities and drainage requirements.
- Compulsory street trees are at this stage an internal suggestion.
- People need to accept that more trees are required in urban environments. The City only receives occasional complaints about trees and it is only on very rare occasions that serious damage is caused.
- As structures are allowed closer to property lines, more community tolerance to street trees must be encouraged.
- The City's policy is to keep as many trees as possible. The trees are professionally assessed, and the vast majority of trees are determined to be in a good, healthy condition with no need of removal.
- Any new street trees are selected with consideration to verge widths and future use.
- The public must be educated on the benefits of trees. Interference and over pruning of trees will often lead to more problems. If there are significant overhanging issues, the City will do what is possible.
- Many other local governments in Perth manage large trees, and green, leafy suburbs are considered to be desirable.
- The City has a number of mechanisms in place to manage trees, such as gardening services for those who can no longer undertake the work themselves.
- There is often no benefit to pruning and trimming trees and these actions can make the issue worse, however leaf drop may need to be managed.
- It is an objective of the City to remove as many overhead wires as possible so that street tree canopy can be increased.

*Item 10.2 Continued*

- Perth often has had a historical culture of tree lopping, which needs to be changed as there are numerous benefits to trees.
- Dramatically pruning and cutting off the top of trees will have dramatic effects on future growth, as it will produce denser branches thus producing even more leaves.
- For the corporate planting day, there is a need to find an area in Belmont that is 2000m<sup>2</sup> to convert to a planting area. This area is used to offset fleet vehicle emissions. There are issues in finding a large enough area as corporate planting has been undertaken for over ten years and all the larger areas in the City such as Garvey Park, Ascot foreshore and Tomato Lake have already been planted.
- Sump planting is more a community event as they are not large enough for the corporate planting day. For the corporate planting day, an area needs to be found where 2000 trees can be planted in one day.
- All community and corporate planting days are publicised and will still be publicised.
- There are a number of smaller locations to undertake smaller plantings more appropriate for community planting days. For the corporate planting day a large site where 2000 trees and 2000 understorey plants can be planted is required.
- The location for the corporate planting day is still to be confirmed, with a site at Perth Airport suggested.
- The City undertakes both corporate planting days and community planting days.
- The Waterwise Council program is voluntary; however there are certain Water Corporation requirements that must be adhered to.
- The City has a dangerous trees policy. If a complaint about a tree on private property is received, the tree will be assessed. If the tree is determined to be dangerous an order will be served for the removal of the tree. The removal is at the expense of the property owner.
- The arborist will apply QTRA standards, which takes into consideration the tree species, the age of the tree, the history of the tree and the occupancy beneath the tree to make a determination.
- If a tree is determined to be dangerous, it will be removed. Assessments are undertaken whether it is on public or private property.
- Property owners are allowed to trim or prune trees overhanging from neighbouring properties to their own boundary line.
- Public Open Space is the City's responsibility.
- As per a previous presentation made to the Committee, sump planting will be occurring over the coming years and will commence in winter 2016. The action in the strategy is to ensure that sump planting is captured and implemented.
- Sump planting will include street trees in front of sumps and some minor plantings in the sumps themselves.

*Item 10.2 Continued*

- Generally slopes in the sumps are too steep, so the removal of fences will not be considered, even after the areas have been planted. The angle of the slope will not change after planting occurs. This is due to safety concerns.
- In the drying climate with larger storm events, sumps become even more important. They may be used less frequently, but to a greater capacity.
- Many of the sumps in the City are owned by the Water Corporation, and any changes or planting in the sumps must have Water Corporation approval.
- The Coordinator Environment undertook to provide a copy of the sump presentation made to the Committee in 2015.
- Sump water generally drains away quickly and sumps generally do not have mosquito issues. The water will not be in the sumps long enough to become mosquito breeding grounds and sump activity is generally in winter which is not mosquito breeding season.
- At present land on the Ascot foreshore is privately owned, and the only way to acquire this land is if the properties are subdivided. The feasibility of this bike path is being considered, but at present the land is privately owned so no further action can be undertaken.
- On average the City has been upgrading five irrigation systems per year.
- Any further comments and suggestions on the draft Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021 are to be sent to the Coordinator Environment.
- The draft Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021 will be considered at the 19 April 2016 Special Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting, then the 24 May 2016 Ordinary Council Meeting and will then be put out for public comment.

### **10.3 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2016- 2021**

The Coordinator Environment discussed proposed goals, targets and actions to be included in the new Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021.

This included suggestions received from Councillors prior to the deadline, as per the Memorandum distributed to Councillors on 29 February 2016.

#### **Note**

**Item 10.2 Environment and Sustainability Policy Commitments and Item 10.3 Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021 were presented and discussed together (refer page 5).**

#### 10.4 REVIEW OF CITY OF BELMONT BUSINESS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

<b>Attachment No</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Tabled Attachment 3 – Item 10.4 refers</b>	<a href="#"><u>PowerPoint Presentation</u></a>

The future of the City of Belmont Business Environmental Awards was discussed at the 17 November 2014 meeting of the Standing Committee (Environmental).

The Committee agreed to review the status of the Awards pending the information on the final costs for 2014. It was felt that these costs would assist the Committee to reach a consensus on how to proceed for the 2015 awards.

The total costs for the Awards were provided via Memorandum on 25 November 2014, and totalled \$20,167.

In the subsequent Annual Review and Extension of the City of Belmont Environment Plan (Item 11.1 - Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting held 23 March 2015), the following amendment was made:

***Modification to frequency of the City of Belmont Business Environmental Awards from annual to biennial (every two years)***

The Coordinator Environment discussed a proposal for the 2016 Awards for the Committee's consideration.

The proposal also relates to Action 7.1 of the City of Belmont Environment Plan 2010-2016 which is to *consider participation in the 'Switched on Business' programme or equivalent, to encourage water and energy efficiency of local businesses*".

#### **Committee Notes**

The Coordinator Environment provided a PowerPoint Presentation which included the following:

- Review of City of Belmont Business Environmental Awards

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

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

- Issues have arisen in the past as in some years very few nominations have been received and it is not known if there will be enough nominations for a winner in each category.
- It is suggested that exceptional cases be recommended for Opportunity Awards, which provide greater recognition.
- Standard nominations would not be recommended for Opportunity Awards.
- The intent of the event is to recognise and share achievements so that other businesses can implement initiatives. The recognition will be acknowledged by reading out the citation at the event and through the information sheets created.

*Item 10.4 Continued*

- A nomination will not necessarily mean recognition will be awarded. All nominations will be verified by Officers.
- There will always be more people invited to the event than those that win awards or receive recognition.
- The Committee indicated that they endorsed the trial of the Business Environmental Recognition Event.

**11. ITEMS REQUIRING RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

Nil.

**12. REGISTER UPDATE OF ITEMS**

Date Submitted	Item No.	Item Heading	Responsible Officer	Officer Comment
16.11.2015	10.1	Progress of Environment Plan and Travel Smart Plan Implementation	Coordinator Environment	<p>Send all residents of the Balneum Apartments a letter detailing the Swan River Trust's advice and restrictions on pruning and removal of foreshore vegetation.</p> <p><i>Awaiting imminent release of Department of Parks &amp; Wildlife's vegetation protection brochure, to enclose with letter.</i></p>
	10.1	Progress of Environment Plan and Travel Smart Plan Implementation	Coordinator Environment	<p>Liaise with Belmont Forum Centre Management regarding the provision and location of bike racks and the provision of end of trip facilities.</p> <p><i>The Manager Parks &amp; Environment and TravelSmart Officer met with Belmont Forum Centre Management on 26 November 2015 to discuss these issues.</i></p>
	10.1	Progress of Environment Plan and Travel Smart Plan Implementation	Coordinator Environment	<p>Liaise with Belmont Forum Centre Management regarding the provision and location of bike racks and the provision of end of trip facilities.</p> <p>Liaise with Belmont Forum Centre Management regarding the provision of trees in car parks.</p> <p><i>The Forum were supportive of provision of trees in carparks and interested in tree cell technology. Belmont Forum's Marketing Manager advised that she would pass on the information provided to the consulting engineer undertaking the car park redesign.</i></p> <p><i>To date, no feedback has been received.</i></p> <p><i>The Forum were also supportive of bike parking facilities and remain open to potential upgrades at the Forum but were non-committal as to what that entailed and where they would be located.</i></p>

Item 12 Continued

16.11.2015	10.1 and 10.3	Progress of Environment Plan and Travel Smart Plan Implementation	Coordinator Environment	Various Actions. A memo was circulated to Councillors on 20 November 2015 addressing a number of issues raised at the 16 Nov 2016 SC(Environmental) Meeting. (Refer <a href="#">Attachment 3</a> )
16.11.2015	10.3	Update on Review of Environmental Management System and Associated Documents	Manager Parks & Environment	<p>Investigate whether street signs can be installed providing direction to local parks.</p> <p><i>It is expected that longer term residents would be sufficiently familiar with their local parks to not need directional signage. New residents receive a copy of the TravelSmart guide in their packs, which includes the location and names of all parks and facilities available (i.e. drinking fountains, picnic areas, dog exercise areas, playgrounds, BBQs, toilets etc).</i></p> <p><i>In addition, information for all residents and visitors can be found in the City's parks brochure, on the City's website (with walk-through videos for some sites), on Intramaps, Google Maps, Nearmaps and other maps sites, in the rear pages of the street directory and on 'satnav' devices, etc. Already, difficult to find significant parks such as Garvey Park and Redcliffe Park are sign posted. It is considered that providing signs to give direction to the City's parks would not be a cost effective way to additionally promote their locations.</i></p>

An update was provided as follows:

- Three trees in front of the Balneum Apartments have been poisoned. A letter from Department of Parks and Wildlife was sent to all residents asking for information and advising that vegetation protection signs in the location of the poisoned trees are possible.
- 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.

**13. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Standing Committee (Environmental) will be held on Tuesday, 19 April 2016 commencing at 6.30pm.

**14. CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 8.34pm.

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**MINUTES CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned certifies that these minutes of the Standing Committee (Environmental) Meeting held 21 March 2016 were confirmed as a true and accurate record at the Special Standing Committee (Environmental) Meeting held 19 April 2016.

Signed by the Person Presiding: \_\_\_\_\_



PRINT name of the Person Presiding: \_\_\_\_\_

B A RYAN