



City of Belmont
STANDING COMMITTEE (ENVIRONMENTAL)
MINUTES
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24 August 2020

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ATTACHMENTS INDEX

Attachment 1 – Item 11.1 refers

Attachment 2 – Item 11.1 refers

TABLED ATTACHMENTS INDEX

Tabled Attachment 1 – Item 10.1 refers

**MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (ENVIRONMENTAL) MEETING HELD IN
THE RIVERVALE ROOM, CITY OF BELMONT CIVIC CENTRE, 215 WRIGHT STREET,
CLOVERDALE ON MONDAY, 24 AUGUST 2020 COMMENCING AT 6.30 PM.**

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Cr S Wolff (Presiding Member)	South Ward
Cr B Ryan (Deputy Presiding Member)	East Ward
Cr P Marks (Ex Officio)	East Ward
Cr L Cayoun	West Ward

OBSERVERS

Cr R Rossi	West Ward
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IN ATTENDANCE

Ms M Reid	Director Infrastructure Services
Ms J Parker	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment
Ms N Davey	Coordinator Environment
Mrs J Cherry-Murphy	Senior Governance Officer

1. OFFICIAL OPENING

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

The Presiding Member read the Acknowledgement of Country.

***Before I begin I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of
the land on which we are meeting today, the Noongar Whadjuk
people, and pay respect to Elders past, present and future leaders.***

2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr J Christie	Chief Executive Officer
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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 21 OCTOBER 2019
(Circulated under separate cover)**

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

MARKS MOVED, CAYOUN SECONDED,

That the Minutes of the Standing Committee (Environmental) Meeting held 21 October 2019 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. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

10.1 REVIEW OF POLICY BB2.2¹ – STREETScape POLICY

<u>Attachment No</u>	<u>Details</u>
Tabled Attachment 1 – Item 11.1 refers	Environment and Sustainability Strategy Action 3.5 – Discussion

The Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment provided an update on Action 3.5 of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy:

*At time of next review of Policy BB3- Streetscape Policy, consider inclusion of reference to **street tree planting (compulsory)** and investigate and establish a local law (head of power) to enable financial penalties for removal or damage to street trees.*

The Review of Streetscape Policy presentation included the following:

- Environment and Sustainability Strategy Action 3.5 – Discussion
- Current Process
- Reasons for Rejections
- Officers comments on Resident Pushback
- Environment and Sustainability Strategy Action
- Officer Comment
- Proposed Compulsory Planting
- Proposed Actions

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

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

- Last year the City received 192 rejections for verge trees, although approximately 1,000 trees were still planted.
- At present the City still has opportunities to plant in public places/verges in alignment with the Urban Forest Strategy. In the future, when the City has saturated all other opportunities, consideration of measures in addition to the proposed compulsory planting may be required.
- Streetscape upgrade includes road widening where trees have been removed and every proposed street upgrade should provide an opportunity for improved planting to be considered and in this scenario, compulsory planting to align with the landscaping plans for the upgrade.

¹ Please note this was previously Policy BB3

Item 10.1 Continued

- The City has recently engaged a new contractor for the watering of newly planted trees and checks do take place to ensure that this is being undertaken.
- The cost to purchase, plant and maintain a newly planted tree for two years is approximately \$2,000. It is important for the City to ensure the contractors are watering as per their contract.
- Letters regarding verge planting are currently sent to the owners of the property only. To help reduce the number of objections, consideration of how and when tenants are informed and a review of the communication style to improve engagement, including further contact nearer the planting date, will be undertaken.
- The Street Tree Plan is used to assess verges and nominate different species for the different size of verges.
- The Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment undertook to check the trees planted along Oats Street against the Street Tree Plan to assist with refining the criteria.
- Street trees should be considered at the development application stage and the Departments will work together on this.

**10.2 DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OPERATIONAL PLAN
2020-2026**

The Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment outlined the proposed major review of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy in 2021, with consideration being given to splitting this document into a succinct strategy document and creating a supporting plan to outline implementation of the strategy.

Relates to Corporate Business Plan Key Action: *Develop a new Environment and Sustainability Operational Plan for implementation in 2021-2026.*

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

- The review is to align with a newer approach on how the City is delivering Strategies and focus on more succinct strategies and moving information associated with implementation into an operational plan.
- A strategy is for a longer period time, say 3-5 years, whereas a plan is about implementation and can be updated more often.
- The plan, being operational, would be approved by the Executive Leadership Team and not require approval by the Standing Committee or Council.
- It may be possible to base the operational plan on the objectives under Natural Belmont in the new Strategic Community Plan which would negate the requirement for an Environment and Sustainability Strategy.
- Other Councils have advisory groups with members of the community involved rather than committees.
- A general discussion took place regarding the following options:
 - ❖ The Standing Committee (Environmental) inviting an independent member of the community to join the Committee.

Item 10.2 Continued

- ❖ The Standing Committee (Environmental) becoming an Advisory Group that includes members of the community with relevant expertise.
- ❖ A separate small group of advisors for consultation.
- Community engagement is often undertaken through the Strategic Community Plan and Workshops. As part of this process feedback is received and considered when reviewing strategies.
- The Standing Committee (Environmental) Terms of Reference are due for review in 2021 and at this time options on the future of the Committee can be considered.

11. ITEMS REQUIRING RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

11.1 ANNUAL REVIEW OF CITY OF BELMONT ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY (2020 VERSION)

NATURAL BELMONT

ATTACHMENT DETAILS

Attachment No	Details
Attachment 1 – Item 11.1 refers	<u>Proposed changes to Environment and Sustainability Strategy – With Track Changes</u>
Attachment 2 – Item 11.1 refers	<u>Revised Environment and Sustainability Strategy (2020 version)</u>

Voting Requirement	:	Simple Majority
Subject Index	:	20/003: Environment Plan
Location/Property Index	:	N/A
Application Index	:	N/A
Disclosure of any Interest	:	Nil
Previous Items	:	16 April 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting Item 12.5
Applicant	:	N/A
Owner	:	N/A
Responsible Division	:	Infrastructure Services

COUNCIL ROLE

- Advocacy** *When Council advocates on its own behalf or on behalf of its community to another level of government/body/agency.*
- Executive** *The substantial direction setting and oversight role of the Council eg adopting plans and reports, accepting tenders, directing operations, setting and amending budgets.*
- Legislative** *Includes adopting local laws, local planning schemes and policies.*
- Review** *When Council reviews decisions made by Officers.*
- Quasi-Judicial** *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.*

Item 11.1 Continued

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the revised City of Belmont Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021 (2020 version) to the Standing Committee (Environmental) prior to referral to Council for endorsement.

SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

A minor annual review has been undertaken of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021.

The proposed changes are being presented to the Standing Committee (Environmental) for comment, prior to referral of the updated Strategy to Council for endorsement.

The revised Strategy will take effect from the date of Council endorsement and expires on 30 June 2021.

LOCATION

Not applicable.

CONSULTATION

Councillors were invited to contribute towards the minor annual review of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy.

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS²

In accordance with the Strategic Community Plan 2016-2036 Key Result Area: Natural Belmont.

Objective: Protect and enhance our natural environment.

Strategy: Ensure the City has policies and practices that safeguard and enhance the natural environment.

Corporate Key Action: 212: Conduct annual review of the City of Belmont's Environmental & Sustainability Policy & Strategy.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council Policy NB2.1 Environment and Sustainability Policy states that the City of Belmont will develop, implement and regularly review an organisation-wide Environment and Sustainability Strategy.

² Note: The Strategic Community Plan Implications outlined are reflective of the City of Belmont Strategic Community Plan 2016 – 2036. Council recently endorsed the City of Belmont 2020 – 2040 Strategic Community Plan which, as a result of COVID-19 administrative implications, is yet to be implemented across the City

Item 11.1 Continued

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

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

BACKGROUND

The City of Belmont Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021 was first endorsed by Council on 27 July 2016 and provides strategic direction for environmental activities throughout the City.

As per the 'Environment and Sustainability Policy' (Council Policy NB2.1), the City is committed to the development, implementation and regular review of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy.

The 2020 minor annual review of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021 was delayed pending review of the City of Belmont Strategic Community Plan.

As the Strategic Community Plan 2020-2040 has now been endorsed by Council, the revised Environment and Sustainability Strategy can be considered by Council.

OFFICER COMMENT

Recommended changes to the Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021 have been identified and are shown as track changes in [Attachment 1](#). Comments are included in [Attachment 2](#) to explain the changes made.

The proposed changes include:

- Terminology changes to names of internal Departments/positions, State Government agencies and stakeholders
- Updates to reflect new Strategic Community Plan 2020-2040
- Expansion of scope of Environmental Management System, as per requirements of the ISO 14001 standard
- Removal of action numbers in Executive Summary, as these change with each annual review
- Removal of references to a 'TravelSmart Workplace Plan' as this is not in use
- Inclusion of 2019-2020 actions anticipated to be complete by 30 June 2020 in the 'Previous Achievements' section
- Amendments to key stakeholders to include new groups (Urban Forest Working Group and Belmont Environmental Group Inc) and remove the Belmont Bayswater Rivercare Assoc. which has disbanded
- Amendment to the description of the role of the Standing Committee (Environmental) to reflect the current Terms of Reference
- Amendment to the Environment and Sustainability Policy to reflect the 2019 Council Policy Manual review (endorsed by Council in December 2019)
- Inclusion of reference to the Belmont Hub (previously Faulkner Civic Precinct Community Centre)
- Inclusion of new 'ongoing' actions:
 - Undertake annual review of EnviroLaw Compliance Register (currently undertaken as a result of an opportunity for improvement from May 2019 external audit)
 - Support the Belmont Oasis in the Waterwise Aquatic Centre Program (currently in progress to achieve Waterwise Gold)

Item 11.1 Continued

- Participate in the Cities Power Partnership program (currently undertaken as approved by the Executive Leadership Team)
- Implement the Waste Minimisation Plan and Work Instruction - Waste Minimisation and Management for Faulkner Civic Buildings (documents to be produced in completion of 2019-2020 action 5.5)
- Assist and encourage applicants for developments to incorporate verge landscaping that supports environmental outcomes and other community benefits
- Seek opportunities to showcase and promote demonstration verge landscaping, including through signage
- Amendment to indicators for the Business Environmental Assessment Project
- Deletion of the following action and indicator, due to Kooda ceasing operations in January 2020:
 - ‘Ongoing’ action: Compost organic waste generated from the Civic Centre, Ruth Faulkner Public Library, Harman Park Community Centre and the Operations Centre office
 - Indicator: Annual quantity of organic waste composted from City operated buildings
- Removal of actions completed (or those anticipated to be completed) in 2019-2020 from the “New Actions” tables, including:
 - 1.1 Develop guidelines and assist and encourage applicants for developments to establish verge landscaping that supports environmental outcomes and other community benefits
 - 5.5 Develop a Waste Minimisation Plan for the Faulkner Civic Precinct, including the Civic Centre, Ruth Faulkner Public Library, Functions Centre and new Community Centre
 - 5.6 Undertake a Water Sensitive Cities Index benchmarking workshop
- Addition to the ‘New Actions’ tables
 - 2.4 Develop a Nature Passbook to highlight nature-rich locations within the City of Belmont and fun nature play activities for families
 - 5.5 Implement *Action 3: Energy audit and energy-water strategy* of the Water Sensitive Cities Benchmarking and Assessment Report
- Change to responsibility for Action 2.1 to the Manager Parks, Leisure & Environment (previously Parks Technical Officer)
- Extension of timeframes for several actions to 2020-2021
 - 1.1 Contribute towards review of the City’s Local Planning Scheme, particularly the Environmental Strategy Supporting Document and consider relevance of inclusion of the UN Sustainable Development Goals
 - 2.1 Develop updated guidelines that promote establishment of edible verge gardens and Waterwise and Fertilise Wise verges with ecological values, for release upon gazettal of the revised City of Belmont Local Law
 - 2.3 Review Community Contribution Fund criteria to consider category for environmental awareness initiatives and eligibility for schools
 - 6.1 Participate in the EMRC’s “Understanding and Managing Flood Risk in Perth’s Eastern Region” project Stage 4: Flood Intelligence and Adaptation Planning.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost of implementing individual new actions is documented in each Chapter of Part II of the Strategy.

Item 11.1 Continued

The additional direct financial cost arising from the 2020 review is associated with the new action:

- 2.4 Develop a Nature Passbook to highlight nature-rich locations within the City of Belmont and fun nature play activities for families.

The cost of this action (\$5,400) has been included in the 2020-2021 Environmental Services Budget.

The proposed new action *5.5 Implement Action 3: Energy audit and energy-water strategy of the Water Sensitive Cities Benchmarking and Assessment Report* can be undertaken utilising existing data, with no additional budget or resourcing requirements.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Continuous improvement through annual review of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy will assist the City's ability to protect and enhance the natural environment.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Environment and Sustainability Strategy is anticipated to result in a beneficial social impact, particularly via the 'Community Awareness, Engagement and Behaviour Change' theme, which aims to -

“engage with the wider Belmont residential and business community to promote and encourage involvement in environmental programmes, sustainable behaviour change and minimise risk of pollution incidence”.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

MARKS MOVED, RYAN SECONDED.

That the Standing Committee (Environmental) recommend that Council endorse the City of Belmont Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021 (2020 version) ([Attachment 2](#)), to take effect immediately.

CARRIED 4 VOTES TO 0

12. REGISTER UPDATE OF ITEMS

Nil.

13. NEXT MEETING

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

14. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Presiding Member thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.36pm.

