



City of Belmont
STANDING COMMITTEE (ENVIRONMENTAL)
MINUTES
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27 June 2016

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ATTACHMENTS INDEX

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Tabled Attachment 3 – Item 10.2 refers

Tabled Attachment 4 – Item 10.2 refers

Tabled Attachment 5 – Item 10.3 refers

Tabled Attachment 6 – Item 10.4 refers

Tabled Attachment 7 – 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 27 JUNE 2016 COMMENCING AT 6.32PM.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Cr S Wolff (Presiding Member) South Ward
Cr P Marks, Mayor (Ex-Officio) East Ward

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr W Stephens Manager Parks and Environment
Ms N Davey Coordinator Environment
Ms E Cashman Senior Governance Officer

OBSERVERS

Cr R Rossi, JP, Deputy Mayor West Ward

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

Cr B Ryan (Deputy Presiding Member) (Absent) East Ward
Cr P Hitt (Absent) West Ward
Mr S Cole (Apology) Chief Executive Officer
Mr R Lutey (Apology) Director Technical Services

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 19 APRIL 2016
(Circulated under separate cover)**

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

MARKS MOVED, WOLFF SECONDED, That the Minutes of the Special Standing Committee (Environmental) Meeting held 19 April 2016 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED 2 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 – MARCH 2016 TO MAY 2016

Attachment No	Details
Attachment 1 – Item 10.1 refers	Environment Plan Progress
Attachment 2 – Item 10.1 refers	TravelSmart Plan Progress
Tabled Attachment 1 – Item 10.1 refers	Environment Plan Implementation Update Presentation
Tabled Attachment 2 – Item 10.1 refers	Environmental Achievers Program for Business Nomination Form

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 21 March 2016.

Committee Notes

The Environment Plan Implementation Update Presentation included the following:

- Updates (Progress of Environment Plan Implementation)
- Updates (Outcome of EMRC Stakeholder Consultation Workshop – Regional Environment Strategy)

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

The Environmental Achievers Program for Business Nomination Form (refer [Tabled Attachment 2](#)) was provided to the Committee for distribution.

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

- Turf at Garvey Park is being laid this week and will be ready for the Avon Descent.
- There has been one registration so far for the Living Smart course. It is still over a month until the course commences and it is expected that more registrations will be forthcoming.
- All member Councils use the EMRC's environmental services to some extent. Projects like canopy mapping are ideal for the EMRC to undertake as a regional perspective is needed.
- When the EMRC's environmental services began, very few local governments had environmental staff, and the environmental services offered focused on day-to-day environmental concerns. Now that member Councils have a number of environmental staff, the EMRC is better placed to work on regional projects.
- 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.

Item 10.1 Continued

- Infringement notices are only issued if there has been a serious breach. If operators are unaware of discharges, warnings and education are provided before infringement notices are considered.
- The 4% increase in scheme water consumption relates to the 2014-2015 year. The increase in consumption is due to water usage at leased facilities over which the City has minimal control. The introduction of the Planet Footprint monitoring system will make anomalies easier to detect.
- The Coordinator Environment undertook to provide Councillors with information on how the bike safety track at Peachey Park is used and monitored.
- The TravelSmart Officer works closely with schools to provide bike safety training. Training for Years five to seven has been completed and younger students are now being targeted.
- It was suggested that the bike safety track at Peachey Park would be a good place to undertake bike safety training.

10.2 GREEN SPACE ALLIANCE DISCUSSION PAPER

<u>Attachment No</u>	<u>Details</u>
Tabled Attachment 3 – Item 10.2 refers	Green Space Alliance Presentation
Tabled Attachment 4 – Item 10.2 refers	Green Space Alliance Position Statement

The Manager Parks and Environment provided an overview of the formation and purpose of the Green Space Alliance and the work it has done in preparing a Position Statement and Discussion Paper.

Committee Notes

The Green Space Alliance Presentation included the following:

- Green Space Alliance

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

The Green Space Alliance Position Statement (refer [Tabled Attachment 4](#)) was provided to the Committee for information.

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

- WALGA did not engage with the Green Space Alliance.
- Belmont is the only local government represented. This is due to the Manager Parks and Environment's involvement as Chair of the UWA Turf Industries Research Steering Committee.

Item 10.2 Continued

- There has not been a lot of traction yet, however the issue has started to be picked up. The Green Space Alliance has sent through information to Ministers and shadow Ministers and is hopeful that the issues and position will be picked up as part of the upcoming State election.
- The Green Space Alliance was launched just over a week ago and promotion through the Marketing Department will be considered.
- Diminishing water supplies and increasing population levels are areas of concern. There is little to no security over water supply for green spaces and no guaranteed supply into the future. This is being raised as an issue through the Green Space Alliance.
- The Green Space Alliance is hoping to spark debate in the community in order to generate positive resolutions.
- Groundwater used in Belmont comes from the superficial, shallow aquifer which is not suitable for drinking water due to iron bacteria contamination.
- Recycled water being injected into the aquifer in other locations is used for drinking water purposes.
- The City is in a good position at present with its Department of Water groundwater licence, with approximately 60% of the total allocation used.
- Parks and green spaces are designed on a case-by-case basis as part of an overarching public open space plan. All factors, such as population densities and future water allocations are taken into consideration. The balance of green spaces and mulched areas, which have lower water requirements, needs to be considered.
- Green spaces are recognised as being beneficial to mental health and wellbeing, and social issues are positively impacted by green spaces. The provision of, and access to green spaces has critically important health benefits.

10.3 OUTCOMES OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR DRAFT ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2016 – 2021

Attachment No	Details
Tabled Attachment 5 – Item 10.3 refers	<u>Outcomes of Public Consultation Presentation</u>

The Coordinator Environment summarised outcomes and comments received during the public consultation period for the Draft Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021.

Committee Notes

The Outcomes of Public Consultation Presentation included the following:

- Outcomes of Public Consultation for Draft Environment and Sustainability Strategy (Refer [Tabled Attachment 5](#) for further information).

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

- 350.org is a not for profit group focused on climate change.
- Two responses were received through Belmont Connect.
- Belmont Connect is helpful in that it is a resource that is used to promote community participation.
- Due to the low number of responses received to questions 4 and 5 of the feedback form, the information/suggestions provided on current and emerging environmental issues will not shape the strategy, but it is useful, interesting information about what community members think.
- Average daily household electricity consumption data can be requested from Synergy. This data can be used to compare usage to other households in your suburb.
- Additional information on ecological value and fauna habitats will be included in street tree plans. This is in addition to information already provided such as average height, colour, etc.
- It is generally known what approximate size certain species of trees will grow to. The Eucalyptus maculata tree was a popular species 20 years ago and was not thought to get that large, particularly if root systems are constrained.
- Root systems from trees on Wright Street have broken out to find water, which has caused the road to heave.
- There are a number of potential solutions, such as an educting system used in the Netherlands which lowers the tree's root plate, followed by the installation of mini cell structures to create sufficient soil volume for the tree. Then the road surface is re-laid, generally using permeable paving. This system is not used anywhere in Australia at present.
- This solution would need to be investigated carefully and fully. Experience and risk mitigation strategies would also be considered/required.

Item 10.3 Continued

- It was suggested that the verges on either side of Wright Street be investigated as an option for widening the road to accommodate these street trees.
- Significant investment and work has been put into Wright Street, resulting in its avenue like look, and the City is prepared to spend money on Wright Street.
- Consideration is being given to investigating turf management practices within 50 metres of wetlands. At present the buffer zone adhered to by the City is 15 metres. A number of other factors need to be considered around wetlands, such as the direction of drainage.
- People who made submissions will be advised of the outcomes of the strategy.
- The submission from the City of Canning provided some background information and suggestions. The catchment in Kewdale flows through to Canning, which is why the City of Canning has an interest.
- There is no best answer on when the best time to act on Wright Street will be. To have effective tree canopy, there is the need for appropriate soil volumes allowing for growth.
- There may be a need to reconstruct Wright Street completely.
- The rejuvenation cost of Wright Street between Belmont Avenue and Abernethy Road was approximately \$1 million.
- The Committee provided support for the revised Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021, which includes new and amended actions as a result of the public consultation period, going directly to the 26 July 2016 Ordinary Council Meeting for final endorsement. Questions and comments about the revised Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021 will be answered at the Agenda Briefing Forum.

10.4 DEMONSTRATION OF PLANET FOOTPRINT ENERGY AND WATER MONITORING

<u>Attachment No</u>	<u>Details</u>
Tabled Attachment 6 – Item 10.4 refers	<u>Demonstration of Planet Footprint Presentation</u>

The Coordinator Environment provided a demonstration of the Planet Footprint energy and water monitoring system and reporting functionality, to which the City is subscribed.

Committee Notes

The Demonstration of Planet Footprint Presentation included the following:

- Demonstration of Planet Footprint

(Refer [Tabled Attachment 6](#) for further information).

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

- Planet Footprint will be utilised by staff who manage facilities. It will enable any issues to be detected earlier and long term trends can also be analysed.
- Anomaly reports, personalised reports, graphs and other reporting tools can all be generated.
- The 75% increase in electricity usage at the Ascot Waters compensating basin will be investigated.

11. ITEMS REQUIRING RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

11.1 REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STANDING COMMITTEE (ENVIRONMENTAL)

NATURAL BELMONT

ATTACHMENT DETAILS

<u>Attachment No</u>	<u>Details</u>
Attachment 3 – Item 11.1 refers	Revised Terms of Reference - Standing Committee (Environmental)

Voting Requirement	:	Simple Majority
Subject Index	:	154/007: Standing Committees
Location/Property Index	:	N/A
Application Index	:	N/A
Disclosure of any Interest	:	Nil
Previous Items	:	Item 10.3 - 16 November 2015 SC (ENV) Items 10.2 & 10.3 - 21 March 2016 SC (ENV) Item 12.4 - 24 May 2016 OCM.
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 revised Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee (Environmental) (refer [Attachment 3](#)) to Council for endorsement.

Item 11.1 Continued

SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

A revision to the Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee (Environmental) is required to ensure consistency with the Draft Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021 (the Draft “Strategy”), endorsed by Council for release for public comment at the 24 May 2016 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Following close of the public consultation period on 20 June 2016 and consideration and incorporation of comments received, it is intended that the Strategy, the Environment and Sustainability Policy contained within it and the revised Committee Terms of Reference will be presented to Council for final endorsement at the 26 July 2016 Ordinary Council Meeting.

This timing will result in the revised documents, including the Terms of Reference being in effect for the first Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting of 2016-2017 scheduled for 19 September 2016.

LOCATION

N/A

CONSULTATION

There has been no specific consultation undertaken in respect to this matter.

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

In accordance with the Strategic Community Plan Key Result Area: Business Excellence.

Objective: Achieve excellence in the management and operation of the local government.

Strategy: Ensure decision making is supported by effective information and knowledge management.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The revised Terms of Reference are consistent with the Draft Environment and Sustainability Policy (contained within the Draft Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021), which has been developed to replace the current Environmental Enhancement Policy (Policy NB3).

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

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

Item 11.1 Continued

BACKGROUND

The City of Belmont's Standing Committee (Environmental) first met on 9 May 2005 and continues today. The original Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee (Environmental) were:

The purpose of this Committee is to consider and recommend to Council on matters of strategic importance and relevance to the City of Belmont, in relation to the environment, public land and streetscapes. In particular, monitoring the progress with and undertaking the review of the Environment Plan and ISO14001 - 2004 Environmental Standards Audit reports.

The current Standing Committee (Environmental) Terms of Reference are:

To consider and recommend to Council on matters of strategic importance and relevance to the City of Belmont in relation to the environment, public land and streetscapes.

In particular, monitoring the progress with and undertaking the review of the Environment Plan.

The revised Standing Committee (Environmental) Terms of Reference are included in [Attachment 3](#).

A revision to the Standing Committee (Environmental) Terms of Reference is pertinent to ensure consistency with the new Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021, for the first meeting of the Committee in 2016-2017 on 19 September 2016.

The following process has been undertaken to date in development of the revised Terms of Reference:

- Information provided to Councillors on proposed review process and timeframes at 16 November 2015 and 21 March 2016 Standing Committee (Environmental) meetings, with reference included in Item 12.4 Draft City of Belmont Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2016-2021, 24 May 2016 Ordinary Council Meeting;
- Review of the requirements of the ISO 14001: 2015 Environmental Management Systems standard, to which the City will transition to in 2017-2018;
- Development of content by the Coordinator Environment, consulting with relevant internal departments including Governance, Parks and Environment and Planning Services;
- Discussion at 31 May 2016 Business Improvement Team meeting;
- Discussion at 1 June 2016 Senior Management Group meeting.

OFFICER COMMENT

The revised Terms of Reference provides clear guidance on the purpose and objectives of the Standing Committee (Environmental) and the duties and responsibilities of Committee members.

The content has been significantly expanded from the current Terms of Reference, however does not substantively change the current role performed by the Committee.

Item 11.1 Continued

The key changes to current wording of the Terms of Reference involves:

- Removal of specific reference to 'public land' and 'streetscapes' under the Purpose of the Committee, with these areas encompassed by; 'matters of strategic environmental importance and relevance to the City of Belmont';
- Replacement of references to 'Environment 'Plan' with 'Environment and Sustainability Strategy'.

The following aspects have been added as Objectives in the revised Terms of Reference, to reflect what is currently being undertaken by the Committee:

- Assist Council in meeting requirements of its Environmental Management System;
- Provide guidance and assistance to facilitate effective management of the City of Belmont's environmental responsibilities;
- Development and recommendation of Council environmental policies;
- Monitoring of environmental performance against objectives and targets.

Duties and Responsibilities are outlined, including the scope and expectations for Committee members and membership guidelines are provided on Committee membership, staff, invitees/attendees and meetings.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no negative environmental implications at this time. The revised Terms of Reference, once endorsed will assist the Committee (and Council) achieve beneficial environmental outcomes as stated under Purpose and Objectives.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The added Duties and Responsibilities section of the revised Terms of Reference reflects the important role of Committee members in communicating Council environmental policies, strategies and plans to the community.

The following aspect in particular aims will result in positive community outcomes;

5. Promote and encourage involvement of the community in the City's environmental programs.

Item 11.1 Continued

Committee Notes

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

- Terms of Reference for all Standing Committees are currently being reviewed and updated.
- The current Standing Committee (Environmental) Terms of Reference are detailed in the report.
- The revised Terms of Reference expand and detail the Duties and Responsibilities of the Committee, the membership of the Committee, staff attendance at Committee meetings and meeting frequency information.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

MARKS MOVED, WOLFF SECONDED, That Council endorse the revised Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee (Environmental) (refer [Attachment 3](#)).

CARRIED 2 VOTES TO 0

12. REGISTER UPDATE OF ITEMS

Attachment No	Details
Tabled Attachment 7 – Item 12 refers	Register of Updates Presentation

Officer responses to the *Register Update of Items* from the Standing Committee (Environmental) meeting on 19 April 2016 are listed below.

Date Submitted	Item No.	Item Heading	Responsible Officer	Officer Comment
24.03.2016	10.2 & 10.3	Environment and Sustainability Policy Commitments and Environment and Sustainability Strategy	Coordinator Environment	The Coordinator Environment undertook to provide a copy of the sump presentation made to the Committee in 2015. Completed with Memorandum distributed 8 June 2016.
24.03.2016	12	Register of Updates	Manager Parks and Environment	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.

Item 12 Continued

Committee Notes

The Register of Updates Presentation included the following:

- Planting within Drainage Reserves
- Selby Park
- Severin Walk

(Refer [Tabled Attachment 7](#) for further information).

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

- The City of Stirling is investigating policy options which would require developers to make provisions of one tree per 500sqm of developable land and requirements to maintain trees on private property in certain circumstances.
- Innovative design is required to build around trees, which will involve additional costs.
- The City is focusing more on protecting existing verge trees and installing more trees on verges, as requirements for trees on private property may be problematic.
- Large trees in and around developments can be maintained if they are designed for from the beginning and allowances are made. Appropriate soil volume, with room for growth is required.
- A culture that values trees needs to be developed. Once this culture is developed, people will design and develop around trees.
- All sump sites, including Water Corporation sump sites have been investigated, and planting was determined on a case-by-case basis. Some of the sites investigated have constraints preventing any planting. The City is attempting to beautify these areas and add to the overall tree canopy.
- Protection of trees planted at the Toorak Road site will be investigated. Large tree stakes or bollards may be required.

13. NEXT MEETING

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

14. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 8.00pm.

