MINUTES
NARACOORTE LUCINDALE COUNCIL
BOTANICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 9th June 2011

COMMENCED: Meeting commenced at 2.06pm in the Council Chamber, Naracoorte

PRESENT: Cr Flynn (Chairperson), Cr Robinson, Cindy Cross, Robert Netherton, Michelle Pannell, Ann Craig, Natalie Kulus

APOLOGIES: Cr McGuire

OFFICERS: Urban Works Co-ordinator Shane Francis
Minutes Michelle Pannell

ITEM 1 CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

MOVED. ROBERT NETHERTON
SECONDED CR. ROBINSON

That the Minutes of the Botanical Advisory Committee meeting held on 7th April 2011 as typed, are confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

CARRIED 17/11
2.1 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 7TH APRIL 2011 MEETING

Council endorsed the following recommendations from the Committee at the April meeting:

Recommendation 14/11
“That the Committee recommends to Council to consider a $20,000 budget allocation in the 2011/2012 budget for town entrance beautification along Riddoch Highway.’

Recommendation 15/11
“That it is recommended that Council removes the Cyprus pine from the entrance to the Naracoorte Holiday Park subject to replacement and at the Holiday Park owner’s cost, replace it with an appropriate tree.’

Recommendation 16/11
“That the Committee recommends that Council supports the Trees for Towns project and the Naracoorte Parklands Preservation Association are nominated to undertake the program”

FOR MEMBERS INFORMATION

2.2 BUCKS FOR BUSH

The executed Funding Agreement has now been received from the SE Natural Resource Management Board. The project will receive $6185 to undertake a regeneration project of the South Parklands in conjunction with Naracoorte Parklands Preservation Association. The completion date for this project is the 30th April 2012.

Contractors from Bush Care Port MacDonnell have advice of species. Mick Deland has but not all species appropriate.

School asked that we start in the south eastern corner.

Mainly Lucerne and Buckthorn trees. Lucerne trees can be managed without chemicals.

We can’t start project until July and need to burn the area. Suggestion made that the Kids control regrowth by weeding.

In reference to South Parklands: Slow burn encouraged and add into burning of South Parklands.
2.3 CYPRESS PINE AT ENTRANCE TO NARACOORTE HOLIDAY PARK

Council resolved to remove the Cyprus pine from the entrance of the Naracoorte Holiday Park at the April meeting. This work has been completed and Shane Francis is awaiting the owner’s response in regards to their choice of an appropriate tree which will be planted at their cost.

Tree removed. Shane to chase up re-plant.

FOR MEMBERS INFORMATION

2.4 VEGETATION – AREA BETWEEN STEWART TERRACE & NORTH PARKLANDS

With the completion of the detention basin works on Stewart Terrace it has been suggested that the Committee consider future plans for the road reserves to Park Terrace.

Area suggested as an area to plant vegetation. There is a concern of blockage if area is filled up with too much leaf litter. Water retention basin should be kept clean to operate as designed to operate. Suggestion made that Cyprus trees removed and replaced with something more perceptive. Very hard to plant and maintain trees in Limestone so neat and clear better than trying to plant inappropriate trees.

To be commented on by Mayor Vickery and Cr Craig

NO ACTION TAKEN
2.5 NATIONAL TREE DAY

Request to organise corridor planting along Kingston railway and trees along entrance to Lucindale.

Mick Deland working on South school kids to plant along Kingston Avenue corridor where missed plantings. He has 500 trees.

130 acres at the saleyards needs a ring of trees.

Dump site ready to plant. Melaluca’s have done well so far at dump. Local natives also planted at the dump. Program worked with Steve Loane and didn’t go to plan as the trees were planted too late.

Suggestion made that Council have its own tree day. Tube stock only at peak in April. Example first week of June. Funding to particular day or can it be Naracoorte Lucindale Council Tree Day? Committee to check with Jan Bittner for answer. Long term program to be sorted, advertised, trees ordered etc. John to talk to principals of schools for 2012.

High School planting next Thursday to go under the National Tree Day flag.

Moved Robert Netherton
Seconded Cindy Cross

That it is recommended to Council:

That Council considers a period to represent National Tree Day following discussion with interested parties.

CARRIED 18/11
To celebrate the 30th anniversary of Trees For Life in South Australia, ElectraNet and Trees For Life have joined forces to offer a unique gift to South Australian communities. Through the Trees For Towns project, thirty communities will be supported to grow and plant one thousand local native trees or shrubs in or around their town. Not only will this enhance the appearance of each town but the project will build community spirit, pride and participation. Whether it is a gateway project or an opportunity to refresh a public park, each participating group will need Council support and permission for the planting location.

At a time when many South Australian regions and towns are facing some of their harshest challenges, we hope that this will be a gift of revitalisation, hope and vision for a better future. Over the coming weeks communities across SA will be invited to participate in a state wide revegetation project. Councils will be required to support community groups in the implementation of this unique program.

Local communities will be invited to register their interest in Trees For Towns, with the 30 most committed and well co-ordinated communities selected to participate. The project is not designed to be driven by Councils. It will be promoted to service and community groups, schools, and environmental interest groups. The role of Councils will be to support the groups and, where necessary help them identify and prepare the planting sites.

The aim is to attract participation from every region of the State, from communities large and small.

Participating community groups will be guided through the process of selecting, propagating, planting and caring for local provenance species. The training and support offered by Trees For Life is designed to ensure each seed provided has the best chance of developing into a mature drought resistant native plant, specifically selected for the local region.

For their part, communities will be able to learn more about the value of revegetation and biodiversity whilst simultaneously enhancing the local environment and contributing to the spirit of community in their town.

ElectraNet, Trees For Life, environmental partners, media groups and the LGA will be assisting in the marketing and promotion of the program.

The Timeline
February 2011 Project promotion across the State via multiple media outlets
March 2011 Program launched Tuesday 7 March
Registrations of interest open Wednesday 9 March for community groups to apply via the Trees For Life website
May 2011 Registrations of interest close 6 May
June 2011 Thirty participating towns announced 6 June
October 2011 Propagation workshops for participants
November 2011 Grower boxes and materials delivered
December 2011 Propagation commences

May - September 2012
Planting events and community celebrations take place in each of the 30 towns
Councils that are interested in supporting a community group to undertake this program should register their interest and provide their contact details to Adam Gray at the LGA at adam.gray@lga.sa.gov.au.

Catherine Sellars submitted application. Still waiting to hear if we are successful.
2.7 SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

Submission regarding 'significant trees' from R. A. Netherton

In regard to a register of Significant Trees, a rigorous and viable definition of the overworked and misunderstood statement 'significant' is needed, as it means different things to different persons. I am not aware of an appropriate definition within the "Principals of Development Control' of the Development Act 1992, and suitable for Significant Trees. Although nominally the prerogative of the Planning Department, a suitable definition should be developed by the B.A.C. for the Planning Department.

I am of the opinion that trees in private ownership should not be placed on a Council register without the expressed advice and consent of the owner beforehand. Trees or bushes on the register should be:- unusual, of historical interest, by reasonable public request, a recognised landmark or naturally threatened. All naturally occurring trees and bushes in the proscribed area are covered by the Native Vegetation Act and do not require further registering here. The list should be made publically available before final acceptance by Council along the lines of public notification under the Development Act. The example of problems with the pyramid trees in Smith Street suggest that this is warranted. This includes any future additions.

There may be some trees with significance to the S.E Aboriginal Collective. There is reputed to be a 'canoe/shield' tree in the town. This will also need to be on the register, disregarding its position. I will be able to follow this up (along with other related matters) with contacts in the Aboriginal Heritage Branch through the SENRM administration later this year.

What is intended with the “Significant Trees”. The scope of a significant tree policy can vary from creating a Significant Tree Register (similar to National Trust) through to a Trees Policy similar to Horsham City Council.

Pre Management suggested by Shane Francis. LGA document requirements are detailed. Letter to be followed up in regards to the listing of the Morton Bay Fig tree under a Heritage Register. There is a possibility of trees that Council can list. Council already has a policy, the trees could be listed under that. A detailed explanation of tree management would be required which could be sourced from the LGA document. Trees Management to be put on GPS, risk assess, soil type, root system, canopy, canopy lifted certain height and distance from kerb. Council to do a policy for managing trees, soil types. Other services involved in this ie. ETSA etc. may have an opinion on what they are happy with us planting. Gives right that if a significant tree/s is causing problems to maintain or remove. Professional needed for evaluations. The CEO to make a decision as to what detail is needed to suit NLC as it is set urban although rural and urban.
Unsafe varieties of trees listed to be put in NLC Tree Policy.

Refer Attachment 2.4:
- Letter from the Princes
- Submission from RA Netherton for addition to Tree Register
Moved Cr Flynn
Seconded Robert Netherton

That it is recommended to Council:
That Council incorporate the significant tree register as part of the tree management policy.

CARRIED 19/11

2.8 DRAFT OPEN SPACE PLAN

The Open Space Plan was endorsed at the May Council meeting and is now available for public consultation. A copy of the Plan is attached for Members comment.

DO MEMBERS WISH TO MAKE A SUBMISSION?

Example Janz Street park. Target to be divided up into house blocks.

52 parks to be maintained by Parks & Gardens. Suggestion made to read information and pass around for public response. Feedback can be put back through this meeting. The document is currently open for public consultation.

NO ACTION
Councils are exposed to common law and statutory liability for damage caused by trees both in their role as owner or occupier of land and as bodies having statutory powers and functions in relation to trees. Councils are required to appropriately manage and take responsibility for identified risks created by trees and must take reasonable action to either reduce or remove the risk of injury or property damage. The Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme (LGAMLS) has developed guidelines to assist in the adoption of a common approach to tree management. These guidelines need to be supported by Councils general policies and procedures and functions within the community and especially by the building of relationships with stakeholders.

Council’s recent risk audit identifies the need to adopt and implement these guidelines as part of a strategy to improve tree management and identify potential hazards to mitigate Council risks profile.

The guidelines have been attached for Members to consider.

Refer Attachment 2.9:

- LGMLS Guidelines for Tree Management

NO ACTION TAKEN
A report reviewing Section 41 Committee Terms of Reference, committee membership and meeting frequency was tabled at the last Council meeting and a workshop for Elected Members to discuss these issues will be convened on the 14th June prior to the report being considered at the June meeting.

Consensus with Elected Members is a need to streamline the timing and frequency of meetings. Mayor Vickery has requested that all Section 41 committees review the proposed draft Terms of Reference, discuss membership and meeting frequency. To assist with Members other commitments and improve reporting processes, the proposal is for all Section 41 committees to be convened in the first two weeks of each month and your assistance with this process would be appreciated.

Currently the Terms of Reference for the Botanical Advisory Committee are as follows:

**Members**

The Committee shall comprise:-

- 3 representatives nominated by Council;
- 4 representatives nominated by the Naracoorte and district community.

**Meetings**

Meetings will be held at least quarterly, or more frequently as may be considered necessary to discharge the functions of the Committee.

Meetings will be held in the Naracoorte Council Chamber, or such other location as may be decided from time to time.

**DOES THE COMMITTEE WISH TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND THE TERMS OF REFERENCE?**

Discussion for representation to remain 3 Council members but increase to 5 community representatives.

Refer Attachment 2.10:

- Terms of Reference

FOR MEMBER’S CONSIDERATION
Council has received the regulation advice notification from the Native Vegetation Council on the 2nd of May 2011 with the following recommendations.

The Native Vegetation Council considers that the clearance, subject to the following conditions, satisfies the requirements of the Native Vegetation Regulation 5 (1) (zj) which states - Clearance of native vegetation causing management problems

1. Clearance to be confined to reeds (Typhadomingensis and PhragmitesAustralis) within the consent areas shown on the attached plans;
2. No clearance to occur without the consent of relevant landowners;
3. A minimum of 20% of reeds to be retained within the consent area;
4. No clearance of River Red Gums Eucalyptus camaldulensis to occur within the consent area.
5. Naracoorte Lucindale Council to develop a plan in conjunction with the relevant landowners to control introduced plant species at the Memorial Oval detention pond and along the Naracoorte Creek, particularly English Ash, Golden Wreath Wattle, Willows and Sweet Briar Rose.

This will now allow Council to start the next stage of the project to organise the implementation of the clean out. Cost to be incurred by Council is estimated at $115,000.

Teagles from Millicent long reach excavator to get to areas. Mick Deland made a suggestion to put in a species to manage and water can flow underneath. Concern of excavator causing a mess. Clean up can be done by process of spraying. John to contact Robin Gericke’s to discuss the use of his machinery. Plan implemented.

Management Plan for the creek to be done.
3.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Request made by committee members that documents for meeting be sent as word rather than PDF.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Botanical Advisory Committee is scheduled for the 11th August 2011 at 2pm

CLOSURE: Meeting closed at 3.42pm

................................. CONFIRMED

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