

Bushland Management Advisory Committee

Date	22nd September, 2020	Time	6pm – 9:30pm	Location	Zoom
-------------	----------------------	-------------	--------------	-----------------	------

Attendance: P= Present, A= Apologies

P	Cllr Browne	P	Alexi Boyd	P	Ross Walker
A	Cllr Hutchence	P	Robin Buchanan	P	Peter Coad
A	Cllr Marr	P	Margery Street	P	Rachel Whiteley
P	Cllr Nicita	P	Katie Devine	P	Julie Ryland
A	Cllr Heyde	P	Joanne Caldwell	P	Tim Macdonald
P	Cllr McIntosh	P	Mike Barrett	P	David Sheils

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened at 6:10pm by Cllr Browne.

2. Attendance and apologies

Welcome to Cllr McIntosh

3. Adoption of previous minutes

25th September – joint meeting with ESAC. Moved by Ross Walker, seconded by Joanne Caldwell

4. Business arising from previous minutes

5. Correspondence

6. Biodiversity Conservation Strategy – Member response

Tim Macdonald, Strategy Manager from Natural Resources provided a brief overview of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy prior to the discussion.

Primary discussion points within individual submissions included the following:

- Prioritisation of actions, with discussion regarding the high, medium, low and ongoing status of tasks. The tasks which were identified as ongoing were discussed as potentially requiring a high, medium and low status. It was noted that high priority tasks are for commencement within 5 years, with ongoing tasks considered of importance and to occur continuously.
- Impacts of the Green Infrastructure Framework on fauna movement, particularly through more aggressive common species utilising corridors and habitat over threatened species. Success of underpasses and wildlife bridges was also discussed. BMAC resolved they would like to see more research undertaken on the proposed corridors and methods of connection.
- Integration of bushfire and biodiversity, with consideration for cultural burning
- Education, with positive messaging focused on fostering appreciation for biodiversity and environmental amenity based on social benefits and engaging with primary and secondary schools. A holistic approach was noted, combining education, enjoyment and engagement.
- Best practice pest management, particularly involving chemical usage
- Consideration for a 5-year review for high priority tasks. It is noted that Council has aligned the strategy with current resourcing plans
- Expectation that internal and external policies reflect the overarching goals of the strategy

7. Biodiversity Conservation Strategy - BMAC submission

A copy of the BMAC submission has been provided to members for review.

8. Urban Forest Strategy – Member response

David Sheils, Manager Parks provided a brief overview of the Urban Forest Strategy prior to the discussion.

Primary discussion points within individual submissions included the following:

- Private tree management to be prioritised
- Education surrounding tree “ownership” and responsibility, including those planted on the nature strip
- More frequent canopy cover assessments to assist with canopy loss data
- Increased access to tree seedlings for residents

9. Urban Forest Strategy – BMAC submission

A copy of the BMAC submission has been provided to members for review.

10. Q&A

Incorporated into strategy discussion

11. General Business

N/A

12. Future meetings:

- BMAC – 29th September (Water Sensitive Hornsby, Climate Wise and Sustainable Hornsby Strategy)
- BMAC – 6th October (to be confirmed)
- BMAC – 24th November regular meeting

13. Outcome of tonight’s meeting

Meeting minutes circulated with additional commentary

The meeting was closed at 9:30pm by Cllr Browne.

Bushland Management Advisory Committee

Date	29th September, 2020	Time	6pm – 9:45pm	Location	Zoom meeting
-------------	----------------------	-------------	--------------	-----------------	--------------

Attendance: P= Present, A= Apologies

P	Cllr Browne	P	Alexi Boyd	P	Ross Walker
P	Cllr Marr	P	Robin Buchanan	P	Peter Coad
A	Cllr Hutchence	A	Margery Street	P	Rachel Whiteley
P	Cllr Nicita	P	Katie Devine	P	Susie Smith
A	Cllr Heyde	P	Joanne Caldwell	P	Tim Macdonald
A	Cllr McIntosh	P	Mike Barrett	P	David Beharrell

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

The meeting was opened at 6:05pm by Cllr Marr.

2. Attendance and apologies

3. Climate Wise Strategy – Submission discussion

A review was undertaken of the BMAC Climate Wise Strategy member submissions to determine what points are to be put forward in a Committee submission.

Primary discussion points within individual submissions included the following:

- Broad support for the strategies and goals
- It was noted that ESAC supports the Net Zero Emissions by 2050 target as outlined in the Climate Wise strategy. The group proposed that the emissions reductions progress should be assessed to investigate the ability to achieve Net Zero by 2030.
- The use of LEDs in Council lighting adjoining bushland
- Carbon sequestration
- Construction detail requirement to address future climate change concerns such as insulation to address increasing urban heat.
- The future of transport across the LGA including public transport and cycling/walking paths
- It was clarified that the term ‘town centre’ is not exclusive to Hornsby Town Centre
- The Grants Officer position would be to service all strategies under Sustainable Hornsby
- Potential for solar panel use on shopping centres/industrial areas
- Establishment of a Climate Wise public webpage similar to the 25,000 trees website
- The group discussed a Carbon Emissions Trading Scheme with support for an advocacy role rather than implementing a scheme through Council
- Support for investigation of solar farm/wind farm opportunities

4. Water Sensitive Hornsby Strategy – Submission discussion

A review was undertaken of the BMAC Water Sensitive Hornsby member submissions to determine what points are to be put forward in a Committee submission.

Primary discussion points within individual submissions included the following:

- Broad support for the strategies and goals

- Removal of the term 'beautiful landscapes' to be replaced with language which promotes appreciation of natural landscapes.
- The implementation of rainwater tanks for new developments. It was noted that rainwater tanks are required under current planning legislation.
- Use of sewerage waste water and the potential for reuse within Hornsby.
- The enhancement of education across all strategies
- Implementation of permeable paving across Council projects
- The Committee noted that State Government support for the policies and associated objectives would assist in implementation.
- The Committee noted that the strategy demonstrated Council could improve its policies and management with other agencies to improve WSUD.

5. Sustainable Hornsby Strategy 2040

A review was undertaken of the BMAC Sustainable Hornsby 2040 member submissions to determine what points are to be put forward in a Committee submission.

Primary discussion points within individual submissions included the following:

- Broad support for the strategies and goals
- The education element of the Water Matters Strategy could be expanded, particularly to include assistance with procurement for local businesses seeking to minimise single use products.
- The Committee identified that E-waste recycling options were minimal for the rural areas of the LGA, a biannual collection for rural residents or additional drop off locations was proposed, with support for further education/definition of E-waste.
- Recycling education including all education levels
- Support for the cycling strategy in walking & cycling active transport, with a view to providing a wholistic experience when combined with elements of other strategies such as the Green Infrastructure Framework and promotion of small business.
- The negative interpretation of wording associated bushfire risk in Natural Hazards Strategy could be followed up with positive comment or education intention. Wind speeds was noted to be amended to identify what it represents.
- Reiteration of the desire for an emissions trading scheme.
- The HLEP and HDCP should support the Sustainable Hornsby 2040 strategies to assist in the enforcement of overarching goals through planning and compliance.
- Potential for the assessment of land zoning to enhance environmental protection (such as Open Space to Environmental Management)

6. General Business

- Members are encouraged to provide a personal submission through the following link: <https://future.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/draft-sustainable-hornsby-2040-strategy/>
- Community webinar, Tuesday 13th October 6:30-8pm
<https://future.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/event/sustainable-hornsby-2040-webinar/>

7. Future meetings:

- BMAC – 6th October
- BMAC – 24th November regular meeting

The meeting was closed at 9:45pm by Cllr Browne.

Bushland Management Advisory Committee

Date	24 th November, 2020	Time	6pm – 7:45pm	Location	Zoom
-------------	---------------------------------	-------------	--------------	-----------------	------

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened by Cllr Mick Marr at 6pm.

2. Welcome to Country

3. Attendance and apologies

P= Present, A= Apologies

P	Cllr Browne	P	Margery Street	P	Peter Coad
P	Cllr Marr	P	Katie Devine	P	Rachel Whiteley
A	Cllr Hutchence	P	Joanne Caldwell	Guest	Julie Ryland
P	Cllr Nicita	A	Mike Barrett	Guest	Tim Macdonald
A	Cllr Heyde	P	Ross Walker		
P	Alexi Boyd	P	Robin Buchanan		

4. Adoption of previous minutes

- BMAC Meeting 25th February 2020
- Joint Meeting of BMAC and Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) 25th August 2020
- BMAC Meeting 22nd September 2020
- BMAC Meeting 29th September 2020
- BMAC Meeting 6th October 2020

Motion: All meeting minutes were adopted by the Committee. Moved by Cllr Marr, seconded by Alexi Boyd.

5. Matters Arising Previous Minutes

Following the February meeting, the Committee requested a second presentation regarding the risks and benefits of synthetic ovals with a comparison to turf ovals. Discussion was moved to general business.

6. Sustainable Hornsby 2040 Exhibition update

Peter Coad provided an update on the exhibition of Sustainable Hornsby 2040. The strategies were exhibited from 10 September to 12 November 2020. The draft Strategies were received well by the community with comments being collated by staff following the consultation period. Following the review process, the draft Strategies will be amended as required and presented to Councillors for adoption in early 2021. The actions associated with each strategy will then be integrated into Council's Integrated Planning & Reporting framework.

7. Bushfire Management Strategy Development

Peter Coad provided a presentation on the draft Bushfire Management Strategy being developed by Council to inform the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Bush Fire Risk Management Plan currently under review.

Hornsby Council is a member of the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Bushfire Management Committee and currently committed to supporting delivery of the 2016-2021 Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Bushfire Risk Management Plan. This multi-agency plan identifies community assets which are at risk of bushfire and sets a 5-year program to reduce, mitigate and manage risk. This includes asset protection zone works, community education, upgrades to structures and other bushfire management processes.

The Plan, due to be reviewed in 2021, will be informed by Council's strategic work under the Sustainable Hornsby 2020 and the 2020 NSW Bushfire Enquiry. The Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Bushfire Management Committee will oversee implementation of the 2021 plan, contributing to a reduced bush fire risk across the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai LGA's.

Committee member discussion included:

- Potential for a webinar to be held by Council. It is anticipated further information will be made available however the format and delivery agency is yet to be determined (See: <http://hkbfmc.org/>).
- Will Council be implementing the 'Firesticks' approach to cultural burning? Cultural burning is a recommendation associated with the NSW Bushfire Enquiry however Council does not undertake its own burning activities as this operational task is managed by the NSW RFS. It is anticipated that cultural burning practice will become incorporated into the NSW RFS burn planning and operations.

8. Haulage Road Cheltenham update

Peter Coad provided a presentation on the status of site restoration at Haulage Road. During construction associated with the M2 Motorway, contractors required access through high quality vegetation. The impacted area includes the road and the adjoining bank which meets the M2 downslope. The access was granted on the condition that the site be restored to the same condition following completion of the works.

Landscapers engaged to undertake the works do not appear to have undertaken the restoration in accordance with Council's expectations. The construction works left an unnatural landform and altered hydrology. Native plant survival is low due to soil acidity, which has increased weed growth throughout the area. Weed species not previously found in the local area are now prevalent, likely due to the low-quality fill imported to the site. Contractors have now left the site as their works are considered completed despite the poor condition of the vegetation.

Council has written to the Hon. Dominic Perrottet, Member for Epping, and the Hon. Andrew Constance, Minister for Transport and Roads to highlight its dissatisfaction in the outcome and has requested \$240,000 in funding be provided to remediate the damage. No responses have been received.

The Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust has been directly involved with bush regeneration on site. Committee members discussed the opportunity to assist in this capacity. It was also recommended that members elect a representative to speak on local radio and contact the Hon. Matt Kean, Member for the Energy and Environment and Member for Hornsby. Members are also encouraged to raise awareness about this issue with the community.

9. Hornsby Quarry update

Peter Coad provided an update on the Hornsby Quarry Project. The Earthworks DA has now been approved through the Sydney North Planning Panel with an offsets strategy and vegetation and habitat enhancement plan required as a condition of approval. Council is working with the NSW

Biodiversity Conservation Trust to establish the offsets strategy with the aim to retain offsets within the site boundary.

The Vegetation and habitat enhancement plan will cover the entire Hornsby Quarry site (approximately 42ha). This plan provides considerations of Powerful Owl habitat, including the staging of the earthworks to avoid disturbance during nesting periods. Vegetation clearing has been reduced from the original clearing footprint to 0.5ha with the primary goal of making the site safe. Tenders are currently on exhibition with construction to commence in the new year.

10. Westleigh update

Peter Coad provided an update on the Westleigh project. A conceptual master plan under development to identify the location of structures, features and key activities proposed for the site. The master plan will be exhibited in 2021, allowing the community to comment on the proposal.

A second access proposed through the Sydney Water property (to the south) had raised previously raised concerns. However, difficulties in gaining access to the site have now been resolved, in turn also mitigating traffic congestion and emergency access concerns. Additional preliminary investigations will be ongoing to support the Development Application process.

Discussion amongst the Committee included:

- Mountain biking activity in the reserve, financial contributions pledged to the sport and environmental protection are at odds.
- Will the master plan include information on stormwater and wastewater management? Groundwater is a high priority due to the need to identify contamination associated with the original landfill on the site. It was confirmed that water cycle management will not be included at the concept stage; however, it will be considered in the Development Application process.

11. Byles Creek update

Peter Coad provided an update on the Byles Creek corridor. Council engaged a consultant to determine if current zonings and planning controls provide adequate protection of biodiversity values for the Byles Creek corridor. Through this process, the community need for improved access was identified. In response, appropriate alignment and formalisation of the existing walking track is currently being investigated.

12. Education Grant Applications

Tim Macdonald provided a presentation on the grants currently sought by Council. Three grant applications have been submitted over the past month as follows:

Application 1 - "Greening Our City" Green Innovations Stream (\$75,000 over 12 months)

This project will engage with residents who have expressed concern regarding planting trees on street verges as part of the 25,000 trees project to understand their apprehensions and to develop a framework that improves community support for these important planting programs. This grant supports delivery of the Urban Forest, Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Wise Strategies.

Application 2 - Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Grants (\$100,000 over 12 months)

Council is seeking to build community capacity to increase personal/private property resilience to bushfires. The project will pilot an evidence-based approach to bushfire education with targeted

messaging and activities focused on what it means to be a "good neighbour" (as recommended by the NSW Bushfire Inquiry). This education program will move beyond existing HSC bushfire education activities which are characterised by bushfire awareness events, it will deliver a more in-depth focus on long-term resilience in the face of worsening bushfire risk.

Application 3: Environmental Trust Education Stream (\$237,108 over 5 years)

Entitled 'Our Bushland Shire - Connecting communities and species in times of change', this project will focus on addressing threats to the biodiversity on private land to support threatened species recovery and climate change adaptation outcomes.

This project will apply behavioural science, and its associated toolkit of strategies, to provide a new perspective on conventional wisdom to address key threatening processes for biodiversity in the shire. A suite of methods will be developed and applied to best identify, understand and enable target audience behavioural change.

Two pilot locations will be investigated, including one rural/peri-urban and one residential location before being expended across the shire. The project will focus on connecting people to nature by delivering more than 50 actions identified in Councils Biodiversity Conservation, Urban Forest, Water Sensitive and Climate Wise strategies.

13. Play Plan and Economic Development and Tourism Strategy

Peter Coad provided an overview of these two strategies and their relevance to biodiversity/bushland conservation. The Committee were also informed that Council has commenced working on a Natural Area Recreation Strategy as recommended in the draft Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. This work will look to support the following outcomes:

- Diverse nature-based recreation opportunities are available and accessible.
- The community connects with nature through participation in sustainable nature-based recreation.
- The environment is protected through well managed nature-based recreation.
- There is community awareness of the cultural heritage significance of the City's natural areas.

This strategy will include walking trails, mountain biking trails and other recreation in natural areas. Council will seek to identify appropriate locations for small track systems to meet the growing demand through this strategy.

14. Mountain Biking

Peter Coad provided commentary on the expansion of mountain biking within the Hornsby LGA. Prompted by the Coronavirus pandemic, natural areas have seen an increase in use across walking tracks and mountain biking. Many new locations have been impacted since March within the Hornsby LGA.

The approach taken by Council staff begins with signage when new tracks are created. Signage which was erected prior to the October school holidays was largely effective, however some damage continued. An increased presence of Council Rangers has assisted in some reserves to manage the unauthorised usage.

Council is engaging with the mountain biking community, with meetings to advise the community on the impacts of mountain biking trails to bushland and improve overall perception. The aims of these meetings are to reduce the unauthorised trails, targeting new trails quickly and following up with the presence of Rangers.

The Committee noted that parents are often involved with unauthorised trail construction as well as their children. Members are able to contact Natural Resources staff in the event that new trails are identified.

15. BMAC in 2021

Many of the projects addressed in 2020 will continue into 2021, with the addition of strategic documents being adopted and actioned. BMAC will continue to assist in the implementation of the strategies, particularly those items which are included in the Committee's charter.

Meetings in 2021 will seek to be held in an appropriate location which meet Coronavirus safety measures.

16. General Business

Probability of grant success

Council is optimistic for success with the grants currently in development. The projects are innovative with a clear community focus and professional stakeholder involvement.

Sportsground Lighting and Synthetic Turf

The 25 February 2020 meeting resolved that BMAC seeks a second presentation on the specific impacts of sportsground lighting and synthetic turf associated with Council's sportsgrounds.

It was noted that the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy includes a Dark Sky Policy action which will look to address impact of lighting types and temperatures on native fauna.

Motion: BMAC be involved in future developments associated with sportsground lighting.

Hornsby Quarry inspection

An inspection of the Quarry will be arranged for BMAC members prior to commencement of earthworks.

17. Next meetings

- 4th Tuesday in February, May, August & November
- 23rd February, 25th May, 24th August & 23rd November 2021

The Meeting was closed at 7:45pm by Cr Marr.



MINUTES

Meeting Details

Bushland Management Advisory Committee

Location	Zoom meeting
Date and Time	Tuesday 23 February 2021 – 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Members – Bushland Management Advisory Committee		Present	Apology
Robert Browne	Councillor - Chair	P	
Mick Marr	Councillor – Deputy Chair	P	
Joseph Nicita	Councillor	P	
Michael Hutchence	Councillor		A
Joanne Caldwell	Community representative	P	
Katie Devine	Community representative	P	
Margery Street	Community representative	P	
Mike Barrett	Community representative	P	
Robin Buchanan	Community representative	P	
Ross Walker	Community representative	P	
Alexi Boyd	Community representative	P	

Staff		Present	Apology
Peter Coad	Manager - Natural Resources		A
Tim Macdonald	Strategy Manager – Natural Resources		A
Rachel Whiteley	Planning and Biodiversity Assessment Officer	P	
Steve Fedorow	Director – Community and Environment	P	

No.	Agenda Item
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The meeting was opened by Cllr Robert Browne at 6:10pm.</p>
2.	<p>Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>Cllr Browne informed the Committee of the recent change to the wording of Councils Welcome to Country.</p>
3.	<p>Attendance and apologies</p>
4.	<p>Adoption of previous minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMAC Meeting 24th November 2020 <p><u>Motion:</u> All meeting minutes were adopted by the Committee. Moved by Cllr Joe Nicita, seconded by Robyn Buchanan.</p>
5.	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes</p> <p><u>Cheltenham Haulage Road update</u></p>

No.	Agenda Item
	<p>Steve Fedorow provided an update on the rehabilitation of the haulage road. Council reached out in 2020 to the Hon. Dominic Perrottet, Member for Epping, and the Hon. Andrew Constance, Minister for Transport and Roads. In January 2021, Council was informed by Ms Eleni Petinos MP, the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Roads that the NSW Government considered that the rehabilitation program and handover to Council had been completed and that the Government had no further responsibility for the site.</p> <p>Ross Walker provided an update on the progress made by the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust regarding this matter. Ross also advised that the Hon. Dominic Perrottet, Member for Epping has been contacted by the BCCT has accepted an invitation to the BCCT AGM.</p> <p><u>Education Grants</u></p> <p>Steve Fedorow advised that unfortunately Council was unsuccessful with two grant applications, including the "Greening our City" Green Innovations Stream for engagement with the community around tree planting, and Increasing Resilience to Climate Change for improving community resilience to bushfires.</p> <p>Council is still awaiting the outcome of the third application, "Our Bushland Shire – Connecting Communities and species in times of change".</p> <p>The Committee noted their ongoing interest in the grants available to Council and requested that they receive further updates in future.</p>
6.	<p>Presentation - Biodiversity Conservation Strategy</p> <p>Steve Fedorow presented an overview of the community engagement results for the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.</p> <p>There were 56 submissions received with many raising concerns over the portrayal of mountain biking, highlighting support for improving the connection between people and nature, and improved education and collaboration. Other topics raised included protecting and enhancing vegetation cover, climate change, pest management, fire management, increased involvement with Aboriginal groups, biodiversity monitoring and population growth.</p> <p>These submissions resulted in amendments to 6 KPIs within the strategy and elevation of 13 actions to higher priority. Two additional actions were also added, including 'assess presence of migratory species and manage potential habitat accordingly', and 'assess benefits and impacts of GIF on biodiversity'.</p> <p>Discussion moved to the BMAC submission to the Strategy, and a question was raised about any changes that were made to the Strategy in response to the BMAC submission. A request was made that BMAC be provided with an update on amendments made to the Strategy arising from the BMAC submission. It was noted that the March Council report included a table that outlined where changes were made to the Strategy resulting from the public consultation period.</p> <p>BMAC was advised that upon adoption of the Strategy by Council, a range of high priority actions from the Strategy would be brought forward into the 2021/2022 Operational Plan.</p> <p>Action: A summary of changes made to Biodiversity Conservation Strategy be provided to BMAC members as noted in the March Council report.</p>
7.	<p>Urban Forest Strategy</p>

No.	Agenda Item
	<p>Steve Fedorow presented an overview of the community engagement results for the Urban Forest Strategy. Of 34 submissions, the key themes were advocating changes to the 10/50 clearing code to stop inappropriate tree removal, concern for unauthorised tree removal, sufficient resources for delivery of actions, more frequent canopy mapping, increased involvement with Aboriginal groups and resolving conflicts between tree shading and solar panels, as well as shared pathways and street trees.</p> <p>Changes resulting from these submissions included the elevation of priority for 11 actions, and 2 new actions including 'explore issues and confirm policy position regarding trees (new and proposed) with solar panels' and 'explore design options where existing and proposed street trees can be provided in conjunction with expanded pathways'.</p> <p>In 2021/2022, Council will begin working on actions from the strategy including the development of a public urban tree management policy, liaising with utility and external service providers, engagement with the State Government to secure suburban vegetation mapping, revision of DCP provisions, development of LEP standards, update to the Green Offsets Policy and engagement with State Government agencies to lobby for policy and planning instrument change.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Water Sensitive Cities</p> <p>Steve Fedorow presented an overview of the community engagement results for the Water Sensitive Cities Plan. Of 13 submissions, the key themes were increased compliance and planning controls, promotion of effluent, black and grey water recycling at various scales, support for collaboration with other industries and government agencies, promotion of water sensitive practice, education and increased community engagement including businesses and encouragement for Hornsby to demonstrate best practice.</p> <p>Changes resulting from these submissions included additional examples of water sensitive practice and explanation of Hornsby Councils current actions and how they will continue. Two new actions were added including 'assess Council projects and external proposals for compliance with water sensitive urban design requirements' and 'implement asset maintenance and renewal of water sensitive projects to ensure ongoing performance and effectiveness'.</p> <p>In 2021/2022, Council will begin working on actions from the strategy including a review of ecological data to identify challenges and opportunities for improving waterway health, implementing trial projects that promote water sensitive design, development of a strategy to engage community groups on water conservation, establish a forum for discussion on implementing place-based water sensitive design and developing compliance measures for waterway health.</p> <p>The Committee noted support for the promotion of effluent, black and grey water recycling.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Climate Wise Hornsby Plan</p> <p>Steve Fedorow presented an overview of the community engagement results for the Climate Wise Hornsby Plan. Of 32 submissions, the key themes included community education and collaboration with businesses, accelerating targets to 2030 or earlier, lobbying the State and Federal Government, increased monitoring and reporting, increased solar use, electric vehicles and active transport, declaring a climate emergency and improvement of planning controls including the DCP and LEP.</p>

No.	Agenda Item
	<p>Changes resulting from the submissions included increasing the priority of 7 actions, and addition of 6 new actions. Corporate actions include 'implement waste strategy', 'review procurement determination' and 'requirement for contractors to report emissions'. Community actions included 'implement walking and cycling strategy and increase active transport' and 'prepare homes for extreme weather events and efficiency' and 'lobby State and Federal Government to green the electricity grid'.</p> <p>In 2021/2022 Council will begin working on actions from the strategy including installation of solar panels at Council facilities, investigation of renewable energy procurement, completion of the LED streetlighting project, implementing Car Share and electric vehicle charging stations, investigation of community solar projects and education for solar, batteries and energy efficiency.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Presentation - Natural Areas Recreation Strategy</p> <p>Steve Fedorow provided an update on the Natural Areas Recreation Strategy. The strategy is a key action arising from the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy to be developed over 12-18 months. It will determine what recreational opportunities are available within and adjacent to natural areas. Council is investigating how other Councils are managing natural area recreation to provide best practice outcomes which provide for the growing outdoor recreational interest in Hornsby Shire.</p> <p>The strategy will assist in the management of conflicting recreation uses in natural areas from a strategic level. This approach will allow Council to provide a range of recreational opportunities for the community while maintaining the biodiversity and significance of our natural areas. The strategy will focus on the coming 10 years and include commentary on recreational activities including mountain biking, camping, hiking, walking, and aquatic recreation.</p> <p>The Committee noted interest in being involved throughout the development of the strategy, prior to community consultation. Clarification will be sought to determine what opportunities for collaboration are available. The Committee also noted that the strategy should use language which consider all users of natural areas as well as uses, including the social impacts for walkers using tracks which are utilised by mountain bikers.</p> <p>Action: The Committee requested an updated presentation on the strategy in the May meeting.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Hornsby Quarry Update</p> <p>Steve Fedorow provided an update on the Hornsby Park development. The Development Application involving earthworks has been approved by the Sydney North Planning Panel and the project is currently seeking tenders for site stabilisation works for April/May.</p> <p>The draft master plan has been completed and consultation with Councillors are underway. Community engagement will commence in March/April.</p> <p>Action: The Committee is invited to a site visit with Council staff on Friday 12th March at 9:30am.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Westleigh Park Update</p> <p>Steve Fedorow provided an update on the Westleigh Park development. The conceptual master plan has been completed including a recent review to minimise the development footprint and reduce edge effects. Councillors have been engaged and community engagement will occur in March/April in alignment with the Hornsby Park master plan.</p>

No.	Agenda Item
	A Development Application is being prepared with planning and design consultant teams, which will inform the final master plan and detailed design.
13.	<p>Byles Creek Walking Trail Study</p> <p>Steve Fedorow presented an update on the Byles Creek Walking Trail Study. The preferred trail alignment has been identified and an ecological assessment has been completed by Cumberland Ecology. Council is currently seeking planning advice on land tenures to deliver a walking trail. It is anticipated that this will be completed in a period of 2-3 months.</p>
14.	<p>Byles Creek Planning Study</p> <p>Steve Fedorow presented an update on the Byles Creek Planning Study. Elton Consulting and Eco Logical Australia have been engaged to undertake the study in accordance with the Study Brief endorsed by Council on 9th December 2020. Initial works include a background review and field surveys. Community consultation will provide the opportunity to comment on the study once advertised. The study is aiming to be in draft form for presentation at the August Council meeting.</p>
15.	<p>Local Strategic Planning Statement Review</p> <p>Steve Fedorow informed the Committee that the LSPS Strategies are in various stages of adoption through council. While the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 required that the LSPS is updated every 7 years, it is expected that Hornsby Councils will be updated more regularly to align with new strategic studies. Following adoption by Council, the LSPS documents will inform changes to the LEP and DCP with community consultation throughout the process.</p>
16.	<p>General Business</p> <p><u>Proposed BMAC Agenda Schedule</u></p> <p>The proposed agenda schedule has identified strategies which the Committee has expressed interest in and largely follows a number of actions listed in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.</p> <p><u>BMAC Members schedule of matters to be addressed</u></p> <p>The Committee was requested to review the schedule of matters to be addressed. JC raised that flora and fauna monitoring is not shared with the community resulting in residents being unaware of both terrestrial and aquatic species found within Hornsby. An interest was raised in the sharing of science-based information associated with Councils existing monitoring.</p> <p>The schedule was broadly accepted by the Committee with the addition of increased fauna monitoring and sharing of information.</p> <p><u>Draft Off-Leash Dog Park Strategy Update</u></p> <p>An update was provided on the draft off-leash dog park strategy, which has been prepared to meet the growing pressure on dog friendly facilities. Nine parks have been identified with 2 parks unfenced, and the strategy is currently in the community consultation period. The Committee is invited to provide comments individually through the exhibition period in March. Submission details</p>

No.	Agenda Item
	<p data-bbox="397 300 1206 327"><u>Natural Resources Education, Engagement and Communications Strategy</u></p> <p data-bbox="397 342 1386 474">The Committee was informed that an education focused strategy is being developed to provide a more systemic, collaborated and integrated direction for education, engagement and communication activities through to 2028. The Committee indicated support for the strategy.</p>
<p data-bbox="326 548 613 575">17.</p>	<p data-bbox="397 548 613 575">Future meetings:</p> <p data-bbox="397 590 686 617"><u>Future BMAC meetings</u></p> <p data-bbox="397 632 1386 835">Discussion was held regarding the future of meetings for 2021. It was suggested that meetings could commence at 5pm for the remainder of the year. As the May meeting is the final formal meeting of BMAC prior to the upcoming election it was proposed that this suggestion be considered when Committee are re-established following the September 2021 election. The Committee also suggested that meetings will alternate between face to face and zoom, where possible. The next meeting of BMAC is scheduled as follows:</p> <p data-bbox="472 850 867 949">6pm – 8pm, 25th May 2021 Federation Room Council Chambers 296 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby</p>

The Meeting was closed at 8:45pm by Cr Marr.



MINUTES

Meeting Details	
Bushland Management Advisory Committee	
Location	Federation Room – Council Chambers
Date and Time	Tuesday 8th June 2021 – 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Members – Bushland Management Advisory Committee		Present	Apology
Robert Browne	Councillor - Chair	P	
Mick Marr	Councillor – Deputy Chair	P	
Joseph Nicita	Councillor		A
Michael Hutchence	Councillor	P	
Joanne Caldwell	Community representative		A
Katie Devine	Community representative		A
Margery Street	Community representative	P	
Robin Buchanan	Community representative	P	
Ross Walker	Community representative	P	

Staff		Present	Apology
Peter Coad	Manager - Natural Resources	P	
Tim Macdonald	Strategy Manager – Natural Resources	P	
Rachel Whiteley	Planning and Biodiversity Assessment Officer	P	

Guests		Present	Apology
Martin Pluss		P	

No.	Agenda Item
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The meeting was opened by Deputy Chair Cllr Marr at 5:40pm.</p>
2.	<p>Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>Cllr Browne made the acknowledgement of Country</p>
3.	<p>Attendance, Apologies and Remembrance</p> <p>The Committee noted the passing of Mike Barrett and Bob Salt. Both were highly respected community representatives that provided many valuable contributions to the conservation of bushland across the Hornsby Shire.</p> <p>Alexi Boyd was also recognised for her role on BMAC. Alexi recently resigned from her position on BMAC to take on a new role in Canberra.</p>
4.	<p>Adoption of Previous Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMAC Meeting 23 February 2021 <p><i>Motion: BMAC Minutes of the 23 February 2021 meeting, be adopted.</i></p> <p>Moved by Ross Walker, seconded by Robin Buchanan. Carried.</p>
5.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p><u>Cheltenham Haulage Road</u></p> <p>Ross Walker provided an update on the Cheltenham Haulage Road and the ongoing work undertaken by the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust in managing the spread of weed species at this location. As planned, the Trust had The Hon. Dominic Perrottet attend their AGM with concerns regarding the site being a key point of discussion. Peter Coad provided an update on negotiations being made with Transport NSW to secure funding to remediate the site over a 4 year period.</p> <p><u>Grant Applications</u></p> <p>The Committee were notified that Council application “Our Bushland Shire – Connecting communities and species in times of change” was unsuccessful in gaining (\$237,000) funding under the NSW Government’s Environmental Trust Education stream. Council will continue to apply for funding assistance in support of urban greening and biodiversity education.</p> <p><u>Sustainable Hornsby</u></p> <p>BMAC members were provided with information on the amendments made to <i>Sustainable Hornsby 2040</i> documents in response to the BMAC submission.</p> <p><u>Natural Areas Recreation Strategy</u></p> <p>The meeting was informed that this strategy is in the early stages of development. Staff are progressing a consultant brief and considering how best to engage the</p>

No.	Agenda Item
	<p>expertise of a recreational planner as required. Further updates will be provided to the Committee as the project progresses.</p> <p><u>BMAC Agenda Schedule</u></p> <p>The BMAC schedule continues to be implemented as proposed with items being incorporated into the meeting agendas accordingly.</p> <p><u>Draft Off-leash Dog Park Strategy</u></p> <p>The Committee were reminded that the Draft Hornsby Council Off-leash Dog Park Strategy was to be considered by Council at its meeting of 9 June 2021. The report to Council can be seen on page 27 of Council papers via the following link: https://businesspapers.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/Open/2021/06/GM_09062021_AGN.PDF.</p>
6.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Nil reported.</p>
7.	<p>Presentation - Six Places Bushland Walk</p> <p>Guest Martin Pluss provided a presentation on his 'Six Places Bushland Walk' (working title) concept. The proposal aims to bring the community together, encourage healthy living and highlight Hornsby's heritage, First Nations Peoples and the bushland environment.</p> <p>Martin discussed his proposed walking routes from Hornsby to Westleigh, with options from Westleigh through Cherrybrook, West Pennant Hills, Thornleigh and Pennant Hills. This proposal follows existing trails and encourages the formalisation of some sections and creation of interactive experiences through interpretive signage.</p> <p>Discussion revolved around the positivity of this proposal, the support gained from the state government and the ease of incorporation into the Natural Areas Recreation Strategy. The incorporation of technology (interpretive audio, QR Codes etc), its ability to improve educational outcomes and the role of interpretive signage as part of the bushwalking experience was discussed. The Committee will be provided a copy of Martins presentation with the minutes.</p> <p>Motion: BMAC supports consideration of a Six Places walking track concept in the development of the Natural Areas Recreation Strategy, with the aim to educate the community on the significant amenity of their local area and investigate opportunities to connect the track network. BMAC encourages the continued collaboration with Martin Pluss on the development of the six places concept.</p> <p>Moved by Ross Walker, seconded Margery Street. Carried.</p>

No.	Agenda Item
8.	<p>Presentation – Plans of Management for Natural Areas</p> <p>BMAC were provided with an overview of the process Council is undertaking in updating its Plans of Management for Community Crown Lands.</p> <p>Since the Crown Lands Act 2016 was enacted in July 2018 Council has become the Crown Land Manager for 90 former reserve trust lands, most of which Council already managed. Council Crown Land Managers must assign one or more community land categories to Crown land in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993. The process of assigning land categories does not propose any change of use.</p> <p>Council is to assign an initial land category to Crown land and submit this to the Minister for approval. Under the Natural Areas categorisation, parcels fall under Bushland, Escarpment, Foreshore, Watercourse or Wetland. Following Councils endorsement in April 2021, categorisations for 223 land parcels have been submitted to the Minister for Local Government and are awaiting approval.</p> <p>The Minister will review Council’s assigned land categories and either acknowledge and approve the category assigned or direct Council to change the category. Once Council receive the Minister’s approval of the assigned land categories, Council Crown Land Managers must proceed to develop and adopt Plans of Management for the land. The process for developing Plans of Management includes public consultation.</p>
9.	<p>Natural Resources Education, Engagement and Communication Strategy</p> <p>Tim Macdonald provided a brief overview of the aim of the strategy which will provide clear direction for Council’s Natural Resources Branch in its delivery of education, engagement and communication activities to 2028. In doing so, the strategy will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a more systemic, collaborative and integrated approach to the delivery of natural resource-focused education, engagement and communication for our local community, public authorities and Council staff • Identify, prioritise and consolidate natural resource initiatives and activities as recommended by the strategic planning work of Council’s Community and Environment Division • Adopt best practice approaches to listening, understanding, collaborating, informing and reaching out to external and internal stakeholders on natural resource management matters • Complement reactive and opportunistic approaches to education, engagement and communication by Council • Recognise and explore differences and synergies across education, engagement and communications between different branches in Council.
10	<p>BMAC Submission: Hornsby Park & Westleigh Park</p> <p>It was confirmed to Committee members that the BMAC submission, as provided via email on 8th June 2021, was submitted to the engagement team. The Committee was advised that a 2-week extension has been granted for public submissions to Westleigh Park.</p>

No.	Agenda Item
11	<p>Presentation – Byles Creek Walking Trail Study</p> <p>Peter Coad discussed the Byles Creek Walking Trail Study. In July 2020, Council requested the land acquisition strategy be reviewed to ensure ecological values were adequately protected. The report concluded that no additional land was required to be acquired to protect ecological values but did note social values were evident by the presence of a walking track in the area.</p> <p>In August 2020 Council determined that the funds from the sale of 179 Beecroft Road Cheltenham be used to establish a walking strategy including the Byles Creek walking trail. In December 2020 the preferred pathway alignment was identified and is being assessed for suitability by Councils consultant.</p> <p>Council is continuing its investigations into how the trail will be accessed through private land. A report will be provided to Council, based on these investigations, to determine Councillors priorities for implementing of a walking trail in this area.</p>
12	<p>Byles Creek Planning Study</p> <p>Peter Coad discussed the Byles Creek Planning Study, which seeks to review the planning controls for R2 low density residential land surrounding open space zoned land. Community engagement has been undertaken and a report is being prepared prior to presentation to Council. In response, discussion was had by Committee members regarding weeds in the area.</p> <p>.</p>
13	<p>Presentation - Vegetation Mapping</p> <p>Council updated its vegetation mapping using the ELA 2018 mapping which covers all vegetation plus a 10-metre buffer. This layer is utilised in DCP planning and covers National, State and locally significant vegetation. In 2020, Council resolved to update its terrestrial biodiversity layer within the LEP in response to the mapping updates. To do so a Planning Proposal to support the update of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Layer was prepared. This typically only covers state significant vegetation however Council sought to protect National, State, Regional and locally significant vegetation communities including a 10-metre buffer. This planning proposal was submitted to DPIE in October 2020. and Council is still awaiting a response.</p> <p>Discussion included queries around the state departments deliberations and the strategic direction of this proposal.</p>
14	<p>Biodiversity Offset Policy</p> <p>The Biodiversity Offset Policy was proposed for update in 2018 to align with updated mapping and legislative changes.</p> <p>The policy operates under the 'avoid, minimise, mitigate, offset' principle. It is intended to apply to both areas of mapped vegetation, remnant stands and individual trees. The update will be progressed once the Terrestrial Biodiversity Layer Planning Proposal is determined.</p>
15	<p>Greening our Shire/25,000 Trees Project Update</p>

No.	Agenda Item
	<p>An update was provided to the Committee on what started as '25,000 trees' project and has continued as 'Greening Our Shire'. Almost 11,000 trees are now planted in the streetscape and the remainder in bushland and park areas. Preparations are being made to plant the 30,000th tree.</p> <p>Robin Buchanan enquired on the success rate of the street plantings following an encounter with several failed plantings. It was highlighted that vandalism has sadly been experienced however Council is replacing failed plantings on request. Cllr Browne enquired on the plans to continue a similar program into the future. The Urban Forest Strategy supports continuing greening the shire efforts, with resourcing of any future programs dependent on the future council direction.</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>General Business</p> <p>No general business was raised.</p> <p>A general comment was made that the Committee structure has contributed to enhanced understanding of BMAC Member appreciation of Council process and the ability to better inform residents of bushland management issues.</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>Future BMAC Meetings</p> <p>The final meeting of BMAC under the current Council term will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 24th August 2021 Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm Federation Room, Council Chambers 296 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby <p><u>Please note</u> that at the end of this current term of Council i.e. Friday 3rd September 2021, all Council Committees will be dissolved and therefore current community members will cease to be members of the BMAC. Members will be encouraged to apply when new committee arrangements are determined.</p>

The Meeting was closed at 8:00pm by Cr Browne.