

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD TUESDAY 6 APRIL 2021 IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC CENTRE, 93 TODD STREET ALICE SPRINGS NT

PRESENT

Councillor Marli Banks (arrived 4:37pm)
Councillor Eli Melky (Chairperson)
Mr Rod Cramer - General Member
Mr John Gaynor - Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security
Mr Martin O'Neill - Power Water
Mr Alex Vaughan - Arid Lands Environment Centre

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Scott Allen - Director Technical Services
Ms Charlotte Klempin - Environment Officer
Mr Oliver Eclipse - Manager Regional Waste Management Facility
Ms Stephanie Dominguez - Executive Assistant (Minutes)

13 th Alice Springs Town Council Environment Advisory Committee Attendance List 2020/2021						
	5 Oct 2020	30 Nov 2020	1 Feb 2021	6 Apr 2021	7 Jun 2021	5 Jul 2021
Mayor Damien Ryan	✓	✓	✓	A		
Councillor Marli Banks	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Councillor Eli Melky	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Rod Cramer	✓	✓	✓	✓		
John Gaynor	✓	✓	A	✓		
Martin O'Neill	A	✓	✓	✓		
Tierneigh Parnell	✓	--	✓	A		
Peter Somerville	A	✓	✓	A		
Alex Vaughan	✓	✓	✓	✓		

- ✓ Attended
✓ proxy Proxy attended in place of committee member
A Apology received
-- No attendance and no apology recorded
 Not a member of the Committee at this time

The meeting opened at 4:31 pm. The meeting proceeded when a quorum was reached at 4:40 pm.

1. APOLOGIES

Mayor Damien Ryan
Ms Tierneigh Parnell - Youth Member
Mr Peter Somerville - Dept. Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
Mr Robert Jennings - Chief Executive Officer
Mr Takudzwa Charlie - Acting Director Technical Services

The Executive Assistant Technical Services advised a number of resignations had been included as correspondence for today's meeting.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

3. CORRESPONDENCE

3.1 Email from Dr Kate Stevens - Resignation from EAC

3.2 Email from Dr Judith Lovell - Resignation from EAC

The Committee received and noted the correspondence included in the agenda as items 3.1 and 3.2. The Committee resolved to send letters of thanks to Dr Kate Stevens and Dr Judith Lovell for their time and commitment to the Environment Advisory Committee.

Action:

Officers to send a letter of thanks to Dr Kate Stevens and Dr Judith Lovell.

4. UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

4.1 EAC Expressions of Interest / Committee Membership

The Committee received and noted the EAC *Expression of Interest* advertisement and the newly adopted EAC *Terms of Reference*.

Discussion ensued in regard to the newly adopted Terms of Reference, and clarification was sought in regard to current memberships.

Action:

Officers to provide clarification to the Committee in regard to current memberships, and Expression of Interest process.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 Unconfirmed Minutes of the Previous Meeting held 1 February 2021

RESOLVED:

That the minutes from the Environment Advisory Committee meeting held 1 February 2021 be confirmed with the following amendments as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

Moved: Councillor Banks

Seconded: John Gaynor

CARRIED

5.2 Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

Nil

6. DEPUTATION

Nil

7. LAND

7.1 Community Garden - Alex Vaughan, Policy Officer ALEC

The Committee received the *Community Garden* report.

7.2 Feral Animals - Environment Officer

The Committee received the *Feral Animals* report.

7.3 Weed Management - Rod Cramer

The Committee received the *Weed Management Report* in regard to *Eragrostis* spp.

The Chair enquired what outcome Rod would like to see from this report being tabled. Rod advised the species in question had not been *Declared a Weed of Concern*, but hoped awareness and better practices in regard to verge management/weed hygiene would reduce the instance of it spreading. He noted the plant species is evident on the road verges for Bradshaw Drive and Ilparpa Road.

Mr Rod Cramer advised that to help minimise the spread of the *Eragrostis* spp. weed, a slasher should not be used by the Council especially on Ilparpa Road. With the weed now widespread, one concern is that if this invades, this weed is completely unpalatable causing a reduction on natural food supply.

Action:

The Director Technical Services agreed to discuss the plant species with Depot Management to determine what actions could be taken internally to avoid its spread and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

Action:

John Gaynor to encourage Chris Brown from the Weed Management Unit to collaborate and provide advice to the Director Technical Services on appropriate weed management practices.

8. TRANSPORT

Nil

9. ENERGY

9.1 Solar - Environment Officer

The Committee received and noted the *Solar* report.

10. WATER

Nil

11. WASTE AND RECYCLING

11.1 Regional Waste Management Facility (RWMF) - Manager RWMF

The Committee received and noted the *RWMF* report.

Alex Vaughan enquired as to whether there had been any changes in regard to paper recycling. The Manager RWMF advised at this time only cardboard was being recycled. He noted that Council was required to keep the contamination rate below 5% on paper, and due to bailing processes and limited storage available to keep the product clean, paper was not included at this time.

Discussion ensued in regard to education and sustainable factors surrounding paper recycling (collection, separation and recycling). The Chair sought input from the Director Technical Services.

Action:

The Director Technical Services to provide information on the sustainable factors surrounding recycling paper at the RWMF.

11.2 Recycling Initiatives - Environment Officer

The Committee received and noted the *Recycling Initiatives* report.

12. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

12.1 Climate Action Plan (CAP) - Environment Officer

The Committee received and noted the *Climate Action Plan* report.

Alex Vaughan enquired about the role the Environment Advisory Committee would have in regard to the next Climate Action Plan's development. The Director Technical Services advised the Committee would be involved to review and provide feedback, however the process and capacity of involvement had not yet been determined.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Alice Springs Regional Weeds Strategy

Alex Vaughan noted the action for Local Government in the [Alice Springs Regional Weeds Strategy](#) - *Targeted control in the Todd and Charles Rivers to protect river red gums*, and enquired what progress was being made in regard to Buffel grass. The Director Technical Services advised that Council has two dedicated staff, and utilized the services of Corrections to undertake actions to reduce fuel loads surrounding the river red gums which include; whipper-snipping to collar the trees and spraying.

John Gaynor noted the efforts undertaken by the Lhere Mparntwe Management Strategy partners, in the lower part of the Todd River and highlighted a good example of the collaring could be seen in the Charles River where the Weeds Management Officers had opportunistically sprayed after rains.

13.2 Environment Officer resignation

The Director Technical Services advised the Committee that this would be the Environment Officer's final EAC meeting, as she had resigned from Council and was moving on to another organisation and stage of her career. Thanks were given to the Environment Officer for her significant efforts in the Climate Action Plan implementation and projects such as the Food Organics Garden Organics trial.

14. NEXT MEETING:

To be held in June 2021 - details to be confirmed.

Council Chamber, Civic Centre 93 Todd Street

The meeting closed at 5:15 pm.