MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2021 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 93 TODD STREET

PRESENT Mayor Damien Ryan
Councillor Marli Banks (arrived 4:39pm)
Councillor Eli Melky (Chairperson)
Councillor Catherine Satour
Mr Rod Cramer - General Member
Mr Martin O'Neill - Power Water
Ms Tierneigh Parnell - Youth Member
Mr Peter Somerville - Dept. Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
Mr Alex Vaughan - Arid Lands Environment Centre

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Takudzwa Charlie - Acting Director Technical Services
Mr Oliver Eclipse - Manager Regional Waste Management Facility
Ms Stephanie Dominguez - Executive Assistant (Minutes)

13th 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	TBC
Mayor Damien Ryan	✓	✓	✓			
Councillor Marli Banks	✓	✓	✓			
Councillor Eli Melky	✓	✓	✓			
Councillor Catherine Satour	✓	✓	✓			
Rod Cramer	✓	✓	✓			
John Gaynor	✓	✓	A			
Kate Stevens	A	✓	A			
Judith Lovell	✓	A	--			
Martin O'Neill	A	✓	✓			
Tierneigh Parnell	✓	--	✓			
Peter Somerville	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 4:30 pm with a quorum.

1. APOLOGIES

Dr Kate Stevens - Land for Wildlife
Mr John Gaynor - Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security
Mr Robert Jennings - Chief Executive Officer
Mr Scott Allen - Director Technical Services
Ms Charlotte Klempin - Environment Officer

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

4. UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

Nil

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 Unconfirmed Minutes of the Previous Meeting held 30 November 2020

RESOLVED:
That the minutes from the Environment Advisory Committee meeting held 30 November 2020 be confirmed with the following amendments as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

Moved: Councillor Satour **Seconded**: Rod Cramer **CARRIED**

Section 8.1 of the Minutes will be amended to read:

8.1. Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS) Report
Mr John Gaynor, Regional Director Southern Region

The Committee received a verbal Department Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS) report from John Gaynor:

John noted that following an assessment of active erosion areas in the Todd River, an issue was raised about active erosion occurring at the confluence of Gosse Street drain and the Todd River. The LM Management Strategy Management Committee made a request to the Parks Advisory Committee for Council to consider installing more bollards to control vehicle traffic at that part of the river.

John also advised, there has been some work done on identifying the priority areas for mitigating active erosion, the location at Gosse Street and Sturt Terrace was one of them, the second is on the Southern side of the Stott Street Bridge, and the third is the Tunks Road causeway particularly on the Western side of the Tunks Road causeway. John advised DPIL and ASTC would work together to ascertain the nature and extent of work required to remediate existing, and mitigate future erosion in these locations.

John reported that Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) had declared the entire area of the Todd River between the Gap and 300m North of Schwartz Crescent as a registered sacred site. He advised that Lhere Mparntwe Management Committee hoped to obtain an over-arching AAPA Certificate to complete the mitigation work for the areas of active erosion highlighted in the LM Management Strategy.

John advised he would provide any information on the consultation process for the Northern Territory Government Waste Reduction Strategy, when it comes to hand.

John noted according to the Alice Springs Town Basin Water Availability Report, there had been no change in regard to the level of groundwater in the Town Basin.

The Chair asked for John's report to be in writing for the next meeting.

Action:
All members reports to the Environment Advisory Committee to be made in writing for future meetings to allow questions to be prepared by the Committee.

Action:
Executive Assistant to make the corrections and include the Confirmed Minutes in the next Ordinary Council Meeting agenda, to be noted.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 EAC Terms of Reference (ToR) - Acting Director Technical Services

The committee received and noted the current EAC Charter, and the draft EAC ToR.

Members of the Committee raised the value of input from youth and relevant community organisations, that specifically identified positions should be made available on the Committee for these roles, and that Council should liaise with the *Australian Youth Climate Coalition* when advertising an expression of interest for a youth member on this Committee.

Discussion ensued in regard to which Departments of NT Government should be involved, and that Council could invite government departments or other organisations, as appropriate, to meet with the Committee and discuss specific topics as the need arises.

The committee resolved the following:

RESOLVED:
That it be a recommendation from Environment Advisory Committee to Council

That the Membership on the Environment Advisory Committee include the following positions, and these be listed in the Terms of Reference:

- **Three Elected Members**
- **One youth representative**
- **Three general members from the community**
- **One representative on behalf of NT Government, and**
- **Four community organisations**

Moved: Rod Cramer **Seconded**: Tierneigh Parnell **CARRIED**

It was noted that a request for the NT Government representative should be made through the *Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet* (DCM&C), and that a suggestion could be made in a letter to DCM&C that the *Department of Environment Parks and Water Security* would be an appropriate department to attend this committee at this time.

Action:
Officers to amend the ToR to reflect the recommendation of this committee and forward in report to Council for decision.

6.2 Unsolicited Advertising (Junk Mail) Report - Acting Director Technical Services

The Acting Director Technical Services tabled the amended Unsolicited Advertising Material (Junk Mail) report, after the feedback and discussion at the previous meeting. He noted this would be forwarded to Council for decision at an upcoming meeting.

Action:
Officers to include the Unsolicited Advertising Material (Junk Mail) Report on the Agenda for an upcoming Ordinary Council Meeting.

7. DEPUTATION

Nil

8. LAND

8.1 Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS) Report Mr John Gaynor, Regional Director Southern Region

The Committee received and noted the *Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security* report.

Note: The request for amendments to the previous minutes contained in this report was tabled and resolved under 5.1 Minutes from the Previous Meeting.

8.2 Community Garden - Alex Vaughan, Policy Officer

Alex Vaughan gave a verbal report on behalf of the community garden.

Alex noted while it was a quiet time for the Garden over summer, the Lease for the Community Garden had lapsed and the Committee were in the process of developing a new community garden plan, and he gave thanks to Council for recognizing Bruce Simmons as *Centralian Citizen of the Year* for his work with the Alice Springs Community Garden.

Action:
Reminder for all committee members to table their reports in writing to allow circulation with the agenda prior to the meeting.

8.3 Feral Animals - Acting Director Technical Services

The Committee received and noted the *Feral Animals* report.

9. TRANSPORT

Nil

10. ENERGY

10.1 Solar - Acting Director Technical Services

The Committee received and noted the *Solar* report.

Mayor Ryan enquired about the reduction in productivity for the solar array at the Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre (ASALC). The Acting Director noted, the decrease in solar production highlighted damage to a number of panels which were in the process of being replaced.

11. WATER

Rod Cramer advised the *Alice Springs Plan Review Water Advisory Committee* resumed meetings late last year, now that the NTG has appointed a Chair, and they have been tasked to complete the outstanding five-year review of the *Alice Springs Water Allocation Plan 2016-2026* by the end of February 2021, with the third and second last meeting to be held on Thursday, 4 Feb 2020.

12. WASTE AND RECYCLING

12.1 Regional Waste Management Facility (RWMF) - Manager RWMF

The Committee received and noted the *RWMF* report.

Rod Cramer referred to the Ilparpa Road project and enquired about whether the recycled concrete met specifications for the road base. The Acting Director Technical Services responded, advising that the crushed concrete met the specifications to be used on the road shoulders.

Rod enquired in regard to the recycling of pallets and how staff ensure that the recycled product is not contaminated by nails. The Manager RWMF responded, advising that obvious nails are removed prior to pallets being recycled through a tub-grinder. He noted this machine has a magnet to catch any loose metal in the recycled product.

12.2 Recycling Initiatives - Acting Director Technical Services

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

Rod Cramer enquired about the 6,020kg of Paint that has been received at the RWMF. The Manager RWMF advised Council had been participating in the *Paintback* program. He noted the paint is routinely collected and recycled through this program.

https://www.paintback.com.au/about/who-we-are

13. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

13.1 Climate Action Plan - Acting Director Technical Services

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

14. OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Weeds - Rod Cramer

Rod Cramer raised that a particular weed - '*imported Eragrostis',* that was brought to the attention of the *Weeds Advisory Committee* a number of years ago, is now quite prolific around town. He expressed concern about Council's care and attention to weeds within the municipality. The Chair requested that Rod prepare a brief report for the next meeting and forward correspondence in regard to this matter to the Acting Director Technical Services.

Councillor Banks noted there could be room for Council to consider to developing a Horticulture / Ecology position within Council.

Discussion ensued in regard to Council's *Soil Erosion Group.*

Action:
Rod Cramer to forward a brief report for the EAC Agenda to be circulated with the papers for the next meeting.

15. NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 6 April 2021, 4:30pm
Council Chamber, Civic Centre 93 Todd Street

The meeting closed at 5:39 pm.