



Annual General Meeting of Electors

Minutes for 16 March 2021

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1. Official Opening

The Presiding Member opened the meeting at 6:30pm and welcomed Councillors, Staff and Members of the Public Gallery. The Presiding Member also acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet the Whadjuk Noongar people.

2. Attendance and Apologies

Councillors

South East Ward

John Giardina

Janelle Sewell

Geoff Stallard

South West Ward

Lesley Boyd

Mary Cannon

Brooke O'Donnell

North West Ward

Sue Bilich

Lisa Cooper

Dylan O'Connor

North Ward

Cameron Blair

Kathy Ritchie

Margaret Thomas JP (Mayor) Presiding Member

Members of Staff

Chief Executive Officer

Rhonda Hardy

Executive Team

Gary Ticehurst - Director Corporate Services

Brett Jackson - Director Asset Services

Peter Varelis - Director Development Services

Management Team

Alida Ferreira - Manager Financial Services

Jamie Paterson - Manager Information Technology

Alison Egan - Manager Human Resources

Nicole O'Neill - Manager Customer & Public Relations

Administration Support

Darrell Forrest - Governance Advisor

Donna McPherson - Executive Assistant to the CEO

Members of the Public - 22

Members of the Press 1

Apologies Nil.

Leave of Absence Previously Approved Nil.

3. Business of the Meeting

3.1 Presentation of the 2019/2020 Annual Report

The Presiding Member invited questions in relation to the 2019/2020 Annual Report.

3.1.1 Charles Dornan, Wattle Grove

Q. In the introduction to the Annual Report the CEO states "*we are courageous in our endeavours to ensure environmental protection*". In the Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy, it is stated since 2008 the City has managed to conserve only 2.2 hectares of local natural areas while over the same period of time it has facilitated the destruction of 730 hectares of local natural area. Who do you think is responsible for this would you put it down to the City or the Councillors or would you put it down to both?

A. Taken on Notice.

3.1.2 Bev Dornan, Wattle Grove

Q. In viewing the Annual Report of the City it is very difficult to ascertain which of the four senior executives in the City has operational responsibility of outlining any strategies to Councillors aimed at protecting the environmental values of the City despite this being one of the City's Priority areas. The Draft Biodiversity Strategy clarifies there is approximately 2,500 hectares of mapped conservation value land remaining in the City. Is it correct to assume the CEO has direct oversight and accountability for liaising with councillors regarding protecting and conserving the remaining 2,500 hectares of local natural area left in the City? If this is not the case could the CEO clarify which senior position has this allocated responsibility and accountability?

A. Taken on Notice.

3.1.3 Kathleen Edmonds, Wattle Grove

Q. Given it cost the City \$43,500 why is there no reference in the 2019/2020 Annual Report of the City's receipt of the AECOM Ecological Survey regarding the biodiversity values of so-called Wattle Grove South or

Crystal Brook. The report showed Wattle Grove South/Crystal Brook is a unique biodiversity hotspot well worthy of protection. Given this is an important survey directly related to the four published priorities of the Strategic Plan. Why during the last financial year was it never tabled for discussion by council and/or referred to the Kalamunda Environmental Advisory Committee for consideration and advice to Council?

- A. The Director of Development Services advised the environmental survey undertaken by AECOM informed and assisted with the concept planning process for Wattle Grove South which was considered by Council in this financial year and will be referenced in the next Annual Report.

3.1.4 Steven Lock, Wattle Grove

- Q. Did not see any mention within the Annual Report of Local Environmental Strategy or protecting the environment?

- A. Taken on Notice

3.1.5 Kim Manson, Wattle Grove

- Q I seek clarification on the response provided to Ms Edmonds in relation to the inclusion of the AECOM Ecological Survey in the 2019/2020 Annual Report.

- A. The Director Corporate Services advised an item is reference in the Annual Report in the financial year to which the expense is incurred.

- Q. Given the statement in the 2019/2020 Annual Report says, *'we have driven rezoning of key areas of rural land within the City'* and the overwhelming response from residents in the City to stay rural has the City prepared, or began to prepare, a submission to Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) review of the Perth and Hills Plan? If so, will the submission be provided to affected residents of Wattle Grove, Maida Vale and Pickering Brook prior to submission and if not why?

- A. The Director Development Services advised the City, through its various plans and strategies, has identified matters that would be raised as part of any future review of the North East Subregional Planning Frameworks. The City has been advised through discussions with the Department of Planning they are in the process of reviewing and will release it for public comment. When the City has prepared its submission, it will be providing Council the opportunity to endorse the submission prior to it being lodged with the Department of Planning.

- Q. When you say Council you mean this is when it will be made available to the public?
- A. Yes, the City's submission will be made public through a Council Agenda prior to council's determination. The engagement process for the review is being undertaken by the Department of Planning. The broader community can put submissions on the Framework directly to the Department of Planning.
- Q. There is reference to salaries, bonus etc within the 2019/2020 Annual Report. Do any staff employed at the City of Kalamunda have KPI bonus' of cash or otherwise and if so, why are those figures not reported separately in the 2019/2020 Annual Report?
- A. The Chief Executive Officer advised no staff receive bonus'.

3.1.6 Andrea Bowe, Wattle Grove

- Q. A recent 2020 Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Study found the City of Kalamunda has presided over the loss of more tree canopy than all, bar one, local government in the whole of Australia in the past five years due to environmentally unregulated development. Can the CEO explain whilst the Annual Report has not proposed Council adopts any local planning policies focusing on biodiversity protection despite planning and development in the City being the single greatest factor contributing to habitat fragmentation and loss of biodiversity in the City?
- A. The Director Development Services advised the key action from the City's Local Environmental Land Use Strategy is the preparation of a local planning policy for the protection of significant trees on private development sites and the City is in the process of preparing the policy for presentation to Council for public advertising.

3.1.7 Iris Jones, Lesmurdie

- Q. On page 11 of the Annual Report there is reference made to Aged Care within the City. Has Council's Aged Care Advisory Committee had an opportunity to discuss the recommendations and provided advice to Council in relation to the finding of the Aged Care Royal Commission?
- A. No.
- Q. Has Council discussed the Aged Care Royal Commission's full report and recommendations?
- A. No.

3.1.8 Cr Janelle Sewell

- Q. I seek clarity in relation to somewhat defamatory comments made in an earlier question. I do not recall moving a motion in relation to the destruction of land the "size of Kings Park". I would like some clarification in relation to the comment?
- A. The CEO advised she was of the view the statement was referring to the report presented on Wattle Grove South/Crystal Brook and the conclusions and recommendation contained therein. She also advised Cr Sewell would need to seek clarification directly from the person who made the statement you require more explanation was required in relation to the comments made.
- Q. Can the Director Development Services please advise what the alternative recommendation encompassed to enable clarification?
- A. The Director Development Services advised a key consideration of the alternative motions was to provide modifications to the report to make clear there is opportunities for landowners who own property with conservation value on them to pursue a route of having conservation covenants placed on private property. Conservation covenants will seek to protect the environmental values on those private land holdings through notifications on land titles.

3.1.9 Liz Grow, Wattle Grove

- Q. After reading the 2019/2020 Annual Report, pages 24 to 33, it seems to portray the City has made great strides in protecting the Hills environment, I cannot see where this has occurred. What is being done by Councillors and officers to mitigate foreseeable environmental loss in the City of Kalamunda?
- A. The Director Development Services advised the City has a number of strategies which covers matters dealing with development and the environment some of those strategies are:
- Local Environmental Strategy
 - Local Biodiversity Strategy
 - Urban Forest Strategy
- The City has an adopted Environmental Land Use Planning Strategy. Of relevance within this Strategy is the action to prepare a local planning policy to look at the protection of significant trees on development sites and this local planning policy will be developed and presented to council for the purposes of public advertising.

In relation to the AECOM Report, it was mentioned earlier in the meeting the report was undertaken as part of work during the current financial year and as such was not report in the Annual Report presented to you this evening.

Q. Is 'Significant Trees" a species or an individual?

A. The Director Development Services advised it could be multiple trees on a development site or private property and the trees are not necessarily native they could also be of significance. The process of identification and policy will be presented to Council for the purposes of public advertising within the current financial year.

RESOLVED AGM 1/2021

That the 2019/2020 Annual Report of the City of Kalamunda be received as presented at Attachment 1.

Moved: Cr Cameron Blair

Seconded: Cr Geoff Stallard

Vote: **LOST (10/18)**

4. Any Other Business

Ms Bev Dornan presented a motion to the meeting and provided rationale for the motion.

The motion received a seconder before being put to a vote.

Cr Janelle Sewell proposed an amendment to the motion as presented. This amendment was not accepted by the mover.

RESOLVED AGM 2/2021

That this meeting of electors urges Councillors to place a moratorium on the rezoning of all rural zoned lands in the City until such time as Councillors have had the opportunity to fully consider the 2020 Kalamunda Local Biodiversity Strategy currently out for public consultation.

Moved: Bev Dornan

Seconded: Charles Dornan

Vote: **CARRIED (20/2)**

5. Closure

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the Meeting closed at 7:26pm.

I confirm these Minutes to be a true and accurate record of the proceedings of this Council.

Signed: _____
Presiding Member

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2021.