

MINUTES

KALAMUNDA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING 6PM THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2020 OPERATIONS CENTRE BOARDROOM 10 Raymond Rd Walliston

1.0 OPENING OF MEETING – The Presiding Member opened the meeting at 6:08pm

2.0 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES – Presiding Member

Attendance

Committee Members

Kevin Goss	Presiding Member
Victoria Laurie	Deputy Presiding Member
Mark Schilling	Community Representative
Holly Bradley	Community Representative
Cara Sheppard	Community Representative (via Skype)
Maria Kelly	Community Representative
Cr Kathy Ritchie	Council Delegate

Staff

Stephanie Brokenshire	Strategic Planning Officer
Dallas Lynch	Coordinator Natural Areas
Brett Byfield	KEAC Support Officer

Apologies

Cr Janelle Sewell	Council Delegate
Cr Brooke O'Donnell	Deputy Council Delegate
Rupert Duckworth	Community Representative
Peter Forrest	Community Representative
Rod Strang	Manager Parks & Environmental Services

3.0 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

3.1 Disclosure of Financial and Proximity Interests:

- a) Members must disclose the nature of their interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting. (Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995*)
- b) Employees must disclose the nature of their interest in reports or advice when giving the report or advice to the meeting. (Section 5.7 of the *Local Government Act 1995*)

3.2 Disclosure of Interest Affecting Impartiality

- a) Members and staff must disclose their interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting in respect of which the member or employee has given or will give advice.

Maria Kelly noted an interest affecting impartiality relating to Wattle Grove South, as she has a property in the area. The interest was noted, and she stated that she would vote impartially.

4.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

5.0 ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

5.1 Environmental and Land Use Planning Strategy (ELUPS)

Purpose

To understand the many elements of ELUPS, to review progress with their implementation, and to hear future plans relating to the Strategy.

Background

The Council adopted ELUPS on 23 July 2019 <Attachment 1>.

ELUPS is one of several planning strategies and has the specific purpose of 'reporting on the status of current natural environmental factors and influences in the City and developing strategies to enhance and improve biodiversity and promote sustainable planning practises which are sensitive and complementary to the existing natural ecosystem.' ELUPS sets out priorities and timelines for strategy development <Attachment 2>.

Note: The full report with detailed mapping appended is too 'megabyte heavy' to be distributed by email.

In the lead up to Council's decision, a KEAC Working Group was created and reported to the KEAC Meeting of the 4 April 2019. A copy of the report is attached as **<Attachment 3>**. The specific recommendations that came from that report were:

- *KEAC's recommendation could be that the Local Biodiversity Strategy and its updated ecological assessment of City reserves is specifically identified as a resource for the ELUPS Biodiversity objective.*
- *It is recommended that KEAC assists with reviewing officer's program by advising on priorities and the sequence of activities based on urgency and views of the community.*
- *KEAC's recommendation for the protection of trees on private property is through the mechanism of a Scheme amendment.*

It was noted in the report that "KEAC could be listed as a 'partner' on more of the actions (timeline), such as the Green Links and the Street Tree Masterplans."

KEAC's recommendations and advice were accepted, with one exception. In a separate and prior Council meeting it rejected the recommendation of a Scheme amendment for protection of significant trees on private property, and in doing so retained the original option of a Local Planning Policy to 'address retention of significant trees on development sites.'

Presentation

Stephanie Brokenshire, the Strategic Planning Officer at the City of Kalamunda, presented on the ELUPS, relating to:

- Introduction of ELUPS for the benefit of new KEAC members -
 - o Role of ELUPS in the pantheon of environmental and planning strategies
 - o Powers of the ELUPS in Planning/City decision-making process
 - o Strategies within ELUPS that intersect with the Local Environment Strategy, the Local Biodiversity Strategy and the Urban Forest Strategy
 - o Strategies that have relevance to the Climate Change Emergency Declaration motion
- Focus on the areas from ELUPS that KEAC were most engaged with
 - o Local Biodiversity Strategy
 - o Document Mapping
 - o Community Engagement
 - o Three precincts/zones of the City
 - o Trees on Private Property
 - o Actions
 - o KEAC's potential contribution
- Crossover between ELUPS and LES as 'peak policies'

- Clarify what constitutes a significant tree and what may appear on a Natural Heritage Register, and their functions in local planning policies
- Current progress in implementing actions against timelines

Discussion

KEAC members noted that there has been significant improvement to strategic direction for the environment, with the introduction of the Local Environment Strategy, ELUPS, and the upcoming Local Biodiversity Strategy review and Urban Forest Strategy. It was noted that ELUPS is a big improvement over what was available previously. Actions originating from ELUPS were discussed.

Committee Members raised their concern that the number of strategies concerning the environment would potentially exhaust customer attention. The intended local planning policies or scheme amendments that come underneath ELUPS, will dictate the effectiveness of the strategy. They will empower the strategy.

There will be a consultation phase for any scheme amendment relating to ELUPS, which will provide KEAC with the opportunity to provide feedback on that scheme amendment. There will need to be clarity on what constitutes a significant tree and on exemptions relating to retaining vegetation on development sites.

5.2 Local Environment Strategy (LES) Promotion and Community Engagement

Purpose

To agree on further steps to promote and distribute the LES, and on how to better engage the City community in positive actions for environmental improvement.

Background

When KEAC worked on LES development it had a vision that it would engage our community with the City to jointly protect and improve the environment with agreed strategies and actions, while learning, getting involved and celebrating success.

At KEAC's 16 January 2020 meeting it was agreed that:

- KEAC is highly satisfied with the LES document, and the contribution of Victoria Laurie and staff on the development of the document: and
- Victoria Laurie, Maria Kelly and Cr Janelle Sewell will liaise with the Manager of Public and Customer Relations for LES' promotion and to propose a communications strategy to strategically disseminate the document.

Consideration

From the discussion with Nicole O'Neil, Manager Public and Customer Relations, Vicki Laurie prepared a report with recommendations for KEAC's consideration <Attachment 4>.

Discussion

In addition to the agreements reached on increasing LES promotion and engagement, the report recommended that KEAC looks into the proposed significant tree questionnaire and existing lists of 'heritage trees'. Clarification sought under Agenda Item 5.1 will inform KEAC's consideration of this recommendation.

Members discussed methods for promoting the Local Environment Strategy. One of the main areas of improvement identified was the provision of more copies of the LES. It was suggested that at least an additional 50 copies be printed. Other suggestions were for a summary brochure and for an educational poster, which could sum up the LES in an accessible manner.

In terms of advertising, the one page advertisement that the City of Kalamunda has with the Echo could be used to help advertise the LES.

An issue was raised that when someone had asked for a copy of the LES at City's front counter, and at Kalamunda Library, it was not available.

Recommendation

That KEAC:

- adopts the recommendations in the report;
- appoints a working group to follow through on these recommendations, specifically-
 - preferred changes to the City's website,
 - drawing up a list of destinations for LES distribution, and
 - assisting with success stories for media coverage.

Further, KEAC requests that funds are allocated for a larger LES print run, and the Strategy is then distributed throughout the community. A brochure and poster are requested to be developed to improve messaging relating to the LES.

MOVED: Victoria Laurie

SECONDED: Councillor Kathy Ritchie

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.3 Urban Forest Strategy

In 2019 Council requested that an Urban Forest Strategy be created. Recently, GHD was chosen for the supply of the Strategy and a workshop was undertaken to develop a vision for an Urban Forest Strategy, and what should go into it.

The timeframe for creating the Strategy is 6 months. A Working Group has been formed, with representatives from internal staffing. Victoria Laurie and Mark Schilling represent the community on the Working Group.

KEAC will look at the Urban Forest Strategy once it comes as a draft form, prior to going to Council in May. The two KEAC members on the Committee will report back to KEAC throughout the process.

5.4 Climate Emergency Declaration

A petition and motion were put to the General Electors Meeting, recommending that Council sign the WALGA Climate Emergency Declaration, and the motion carried by a large majority. KEAC may be involved in providing advice to Council relating to it. KEAC's paper to Council could include:

1. An impact statement, in terms of impact on the community. Figures on rainfall, heat island statistics, other statistics that show evidence of climate change within the City's borders.
2. Description of positive things that the City of Kalamunda is doing to manage the impacts
3. Identify what more the City can do under existing strategies with resourcing implications.

6.0 URGENT BUSINESS WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDING MEMBER

6.1 Meeting dates for Special Meetings

KEAC resolved to use Wednesday nights for Special Meeting of KEAC to ensure maximum numbers of members are able to attend.

7.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of KEAC is scheduled for the 16 April 2020, however KEAC may meet for a Special Meeting in March, depending on the timing of Council consideration of Declaration of Climate Emergency

8.0 CLOSURE