

CITY OF JOONDALUP

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN
CONFERENCE ROOM 3, JOONDALUP CIVIC CENTRE, BOAS AVENUE, JOONDALUP
ON WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER 2000 COMMENCING AT 5.39 PM.**

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCES AND APOLOGIES

ATTENDANCES

<i>Cr S Magyar</i>	Councillor/Chairperson
<i>Cr A Nixon</i>	Councillor (arrived 5.51pm).
<i>Cr C Mackintosh</i>	Councillor
<i>Mr J Goldsmith</i>	Local Agenda 21 Officer
<i>Mr J Kirton</i>	Manager Organisational & Strategic Development
<i>Mr V Harman</i>	Community Representative
<i>Mr S Hawkins</i>	Community Representative
<i>Mrs J Richards</i>	Community Representative
<i>Mrs C Wood</i>	Community Representative

APPOLGIES

<i>Mr C Merry</i>	Community Representative
<i>Mr J Prefumo</i>	Community Representative
<i>Mr D Wake</i>	Community Representative
<i>Dr R France</i>	Community Representative

2. DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

Nil

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee held on 15 November 2000.

(Refer to Attachment 1).

**MOVED Mr V Harman SECONDED Cr Magyar that the minutes of the
Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on 15 November 2000 be
accepted as a true and accurate record.**

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

3.2 Sub Committee Minutes/Reports.

Attachment 2 contains the minutes of the Conservation Advisory Committee meeting held on 23 November 2000. No recommendations were made to Council. One motion was put and carried regarding a correction to the minutes of a meeting held on 20 July 2000.

Mrs Wood queried the accuracy of the minutes and general discussion followed.

Mr Kirton noted that the role of the Environmental Advisory Committee is one of co-ordination and referral in relation to sub-committee minutes. Such minutes can only be confirmed by the committee in question, and that it is not the role of the Environmental Advisory Committee to confirm such minutes.

Cr Magyar noted that the Environmental Advisory Committee maintains a role of co-ordination for the reporting of minutes.

MOVED Mr V Harman SECONDED Cr C Mackintosh that the Environmental Advisory Committee notes the minutes of the Conservation Advisory Committee meeting held on 23 November 2000, and that the minutes be returned to the Conservation Advisory Committee for correction.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 (Item 2); Conservation Advisory Committee.

Mr V Harman was requested to inform the Coast Care Forum of the proposed sub-committee role for the Conservation Advisory Committee and to request that minutes of the Coast Care Forum be forwarded (by e-mail to Mr Goldsmith) to the Environmental Advisory Committee for information purposes.

Mr Harman noted that the request had been made to the Coast Care Forum.

Mr Goldsmith noted that the minutes of the Coast Care Forum had not been received yet.

5. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

5.1 Welcome and Briefing to Newly Appointed Community Representatives to the Environmental Advisory Committee (Cr Magyar).

Cr Magyar welcomed the newly appointed community representatives to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Mr Kirton referred to the Terms of Reference of the committee,

“To recommend to the City of Joondalup Council on appropriate courses of action on matters that affect the environment within the region”.

Mr Kirton noted that the committee needs to consider environmental issues from a regional approach and from a sustainable development perspective, incorporating economic, social and environmental considerations (Local Agenda 21 principles).

Cr Magyar noted that the role of the committee is one of providing recommendations to Council.

The following issues were discussed;

- A work plan for the Environmental Advisory Committee needs to be prepared.
- Committee members roles and responsibilities in relation to handling confidential information, such as internal working draft documents.
- Committee members are sought to critically analyse issues.

5.2 2001 Meeting Schedule for Environmental Advisory Committee and Reporting Schedule of the Conservation Advisory Sub-Committee (Mr Goldsmith).

MOVED Mr Harman SECONDED Cr Nixon that the Environmental Advisory Committee notes the proposed 2001 schedule for agendas, meetings and minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee, and the reporting schedule for the submission of agenda items and minutes of sub-committees reporting to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

The committee discussed the report prepared on this item and agreed with the proposed meeting schedule, Table 1.

Table 1
2001 Schedule for Agendas, Meetings and
Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee

Submission of Agenda Items and sub-committee minutes/reports ⁽¹⁾	Agenda distribution	Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting	Preparation of Minutes
NA	NA	No meeting in January	NA
7 February 2001	14 February 2001	21 February 2001	23 February 2001
7 March 2001	14 March 2001	21 March 2001	23 March 2001
4 April 2001	11 April 2001	18 April 2001	20 April 2001
2 May 2001	9 May 2001	16 May 2001	18 May 2001
6 June 2001	13 June 2001	20 June 2001	22 June 2001
4 July 2001	11 July 2001	18 July 2001	20 July 2001
1 August 2001	8 August 2001	15 August 2001	17 August 2001
5 September 2001	12 September 2001	19 September 2001	21 September 2001
3 October 2001	10 October 2001	17 October 2001	19 October 2001
7 November 2001	14 November 2001	21 November 2001	23 November 2001
5 December 2001	12 December 2001	19 December 2001	21 December 2001

Note that the submission of agenda items and sub-committee minutes/reports should be submitted to Mr Goldsmith, Strategic Planning, preferably by e-mail (John.Goldsmith@joondalup.wa.gov.au).

Mr Goldsmith noted that following Council elections in May 2001, a review of committee memberships and meeting schedules will be held, and that subsequent meeting schedules are subject to change. The proposed meeting schedule noted in Table 1 is therefore subject to confirmation.

5.3 Petition Requesting City of Joondalup to Manage Natural Areas (Cr Magyar).

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 November 2000 [File Ref: 07377] referred to the following matter for consideration by the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Cr Magyar submitted a 253-signature petition from residents of the City of Joondalup requesting the City to:

- 1 ensure all natural areas (conservation areas, bush remnants and coastal dunes) within the City of Joondalup are all prioritised for an effective maintenance program;
- 2 increase budget allocation and employ personnel qualified in the care and rehabilitation of natural vegetation areas.

The petitioners are concerned that:

- (a) lack of management of bushland areas is allowing weed invasion to reduce the quality of the bushland, reducing the educational, passive recreational, aesthetic and natural heritage values of the bushland;
- (b) the City employs very few people with the bush rehabilitation skills to maintain the natural values of our bushland compared to other comparable local government authorities;
- (c) the financial benefits of lower maintenance costs of well-managed bushland compared to turf maintenance, are currently being foregone to the cost of all ratepayers.

Cr Magyar requested that this matter be referred to the Environmental Advisory Committee for a report to be submitted to Council.

Mr Goldsmith informed the committee of comments supplied by Mr D Wake.

"I support the request put forward in the petition re natural areas management (item 5.3 for December meeting). The City manages some important natural areas but does not have a staff dedicated to the task or with appropriate training. There are many examples of inappropriate management of remnant bush (removal of local understorey plants, planting of non-local species, planting of trees in heathland, prescribed burning or policy of 'letting bush burn out', letting couch grass grow into bush patches with mowers following, lack of weed control, etc.). So why not have bush regenerators on staff or as contractors? The City of Stirling does it, I think Melville has a bush regenerator on staff. In Sydney I came across of group of paid bush regenerators at The Gap.

Would it be possible to discuss the idea of a Local Greening Plan at the February meeting of the committee? I raised this briefly at the October meeting and tabled pages from a Greening Australia booklet on the idea. Such a plan can provide a framework for recognising, retaining, linking and managing remnant bush in Joondalup, and this is arguably one of the most important environmental issues we face given the loss and degradation of habitat through urbanisation".

Discussion followed;

- Qualifications suitable for staff involved in vegetation management.
- Perceived need for an additional staff officer.
- The need for a prioritised work plan for vegetation management.
- Need for funding.
- The option of using contractor workers of vegetation management.

The committee agreed that additional information was required from Mr K Armstrong and Mr D Cluning to review and discuss the petition on Bushland Management issues.

ACTION: Mr Armstrong and Mr Cluning to address forthcoming Environmental Advisory Committee meeting.

5.4 Limestone Cliff Hazards (Cr Mackintosh).

Cr Mackintosh raised concerns regarding limestone cliffs and the lack of protective fencing.

Cr Mackintosh provides the following comments on the issue:

"It was brought home to me, when a member of the public who attended the public meeting at the dual use footpath at Ocean Reef said: "We locals and our dogs know the danger and keep away from them. If people come to OUR part of the dunes, that is not our concern" or words to that effect. It is our concern, and I do know that a pamphlet was printed by the City on the dangers."

Cr Magyar comments;

Regarding limestone cliffs, Peter Hoar has been working closely with Dave Djulbic on the Limestone Cliffs Policy. The Policy was referred to Western Australian Municipal Association in the latest round of LGA meetings.

Mr Goldsmith advised the committee of Dr France's comments;

Limestone Cliffs Hazard: - this is an issue which can only become more pressing with time. The expanding population within the northern corridor from Duncraig northwards can only mean that recreational pressure on the length of coastline under the control of Joondalup will increase. Obviously, the accompanying potential for accidents associated with hazardous coastal areas will likewise increase, with a consequent increased liability risk for the City of Joondalup.

For these reasons, an ad hoc approach to hazardous areas, such as merely fencing off perceived areas of danger may not be adequate for the long term management of the coastal strip. I consider that hazardous areas should be encompassed within an overall coastal management scheme encompassing general public access (paths, etc), information/education signs, appropriate fencing, regular monitoring of recognised high-risk sites, city ranger patrols during periods of heavy public use of the coastal area, suitable remedial works on areas of ongoing instability, etc.

It may be effective to survey the coastal fringe and prioritise areas of low, medium, high and extreme risk, to target available resources.

Discussion followed, including;

- Rottnest Island has a strategic plan relating to coastal risk management (CW).
- The issue is complex and involves;
 - Communication
 - Investigations
 - Regular monitoring
 - Education
 - Fencing standards (SM).
- No other Council in Perth has yet developed a policy since the Gracetown cliff collapse event (SM).

City of Joondalup draft coastal policy to be raised at the next Environmental Advisory committee meeting.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Work Plan for the Environmental Advisory Committee (Mr J Kirton).

Mr Kirton proposed that a work plan be established for the Environmental Advisory Committee, to identify key tasks, activities, priorities and timeframes.

Cr Magyar requested that a draft work plan be prepared and distributed for comment by committee members, in the second week of January 2001. It was proposed that the work plan be considered at the February 2001 committee meeting.

ACTION: Mr Goldsmith to prepare and circulate a draft work plan.

6.2 Status of Report on Liquefied Petroleum Gas Vehicles (Mr S Hawkins).

Mr Hawkins requested an update on the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Vehicle Council report.

Mr Kirton advised that the draft LPG report was considered by the Executive, and that additional factors are being considered prior to the report being presented to Council. Issues include the outcome of recent deliberations of the Audit committee (in relation to vehicle turnover/replacement policy), fluctuating prices of fuel and a project by the Western Australian Municipal Association investigating vehicle replacement.

Cr Magyar suggested that committee members could consider such issues at the February 2001 meeting.

6.3 Update Regarding Business Recycling (Mr S Hawkins).

Mr Hawkins commented on the level of recycling services within the city, and proposed that recycling programmes for the business sector of the community be encouraged.

Mr Kirton noted that the Joondalup Business Association may be a suitable avenue for promoting recycling via local businesses.

6.4 Council authorises a portion of Council News to be allocated to Environmental Issues (Mr S Hawkins).

Mr Hawkins suggested that the recently authorised proportion of Council News which is to be available for environmental subjects, be extended to include information on Friends groups.

General discussion followed and it was noted that information and articles are needed for publication in Council News.

Mr Kirton suggested committee members be assigned the task of coordinating the preparation of articles and related information for Council News. It was agreed that Mr S Hawkins and Cr Magyar would prepare the first contribution and collaborate on future articles.

6.5 Cities for Climate Protection (Mrs Wood).

Mrs Wood sought comment on the Cities for Climate Protection Programme.

Cr Magyar noted that the Cities for Climate Protection Programme (Milestone 1) report was considered by Council on 19 December 2000.

6.6 Incorporation of Community Groups (Mrs C Wood).

Mrs Wood noted that there was a need for community groups to become incorporated to enable improved access to community funds.

ACTION: Mrs Wood to update the committee on options for promoting the incorporation of community groups. To be included as an agenda item in the February 2001 committee meeting.

6.7 Perth Air Quality Management Plan (Mr V Harman).

Mr Harman requested that a copy of the Perth Air Quality Management Plan actions be distributed to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Mr Goldsmith advised that the recently released final Perth Air Quality Management Plan would be available for consideration by the Environmental Advisory Committee. It was noted that the City of Joondalup submission as part of the public consultation phase was one of only two submissions provided by local government, the second submission being from the East Metropolitan Regional Council. The submission by the City of Joondalup on this important strategic document demonstrated the leadership role of the City within Local Government.

ACTION: Mr Goldsmith to circulate the "Actions" from the Perth Air Quality Management Plan actions to Environmental Advisory Committee members.

6.8 Agenda 21 Officer Mr J Goldsmith Commissioned by Australian Geographic to research and write the inaugural 2001 Space Calendar (Mr J Kirton).

Mr Kirton informed the committee of Mr Goldsmith's involvement in the production of the inaugural Space (astronomy) calendar for 2001, published by Australian Geographic.

Mr Goldsmith noted that he was commissioned by Australian Geographic to research and write the 2001 calendar. The calendar aims to encourage people to appreciate and experience astronomical events throughout 2001, and to encourage people to gain an appreciation of our place in Space. The calendar is complimentary to the City's pursuit of sustainable development, by encouraging a global perspective of the Earth.

The cover photograph shows the Earth from space, which graphically demonstrates the world we live on.

A copy of the calendar was tabled.

6.9 Christmas Wishes to Members of the Environmental Advisory Committee (Cr Magyar).

Cr Magyar wished all committee members a Merry Christmas.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held in Conference Room 3, Joondalup Civic Centre, Boas Avenue, Joondalup on 21 February 2001 at 5.30 pm.

CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:45 hrs.

JG

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