

MEMORANDUM

TO: DEPUTY MAYOR
COUNCILLORS
FROM: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DATE: 25 OCTOBER 2006
FILE REF: 12168
OTHER REFS: 00906
LETTER NO:
SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Over the last week, I have reflected on various issues which are appearing in the Agenda of the Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC). There have recently, through the CAC meetings, been efforts to have the Council adopt plant listings for plantings throughout the City and a Notice of Motion on this matter will be dealt with at the next Council meeting.

It seems to me that some of the Advisory Committees are tending to drift into the day to day operations of the City, which poses a number of concerns for me as Chief Executive Officer. It is, however, also clear that the lack of an Environmental Management Plan or Landscape Master Plan for the City highlights there is no documentation or defined position of the Council on a wide range of matters relating to the strategic direction of this issue.

An Environmental Management Plan would cover such issues as land, water, biodiversity, air and solid waste management. The Plan, which would cover the whole of the City, would highlight Council's commitment to protecting and enhancing the environment and the endorsement of leadership through best practice environmental management, with particular reference to the ecology of the district and sustainable use and management of the City's natural resources. In essence, an Environmental Management Plan would clearly articulate to the community the strategic position of the Council to ensure a balance between the built and natural environment where any built environment activities enhance the City's relationship with the natural environment.

A second document is a Landscape Master Plan. The scope of this document would relate to activities within the natural areas, use of and plantings in public open space, recreation reserves and the like, Council building facilities and road reserves, particularly medians, verges and intersectional treatments. The lack of a strategy or guidelines in this area, I believe, has resulted in the activities of the CAC endeavouring to constrain plantings by prescribing what can be done. Even if the Council endorses this approach, we are still left with a vacuum in terms of a Plan, which clearly articulates both the strategic direction and parameters of Council policy in relation to the landscape environment.

I have, as of today, commenced the preparation of a scope for the development of both an Environmental Management Plan and a Landscape Master Plan. It is my intention to ensure that advice from both the SAC and the CAC is input into the scoping of the projects and the opportunity is available to those groups to have input into the development of the two Plans. I hope that through this exercise we can, in an integrated and engaging way, move forward using the collective energy and intellect of all parties in enhancing our environment.

GARRY HUNT
Chief Executive Officer