ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday 2 March 2011

Leichhardt Council

www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au
Environment and Recreation Committee Terms of Reference

The Environment and Recreation Committee, being guided by the principles of ecologically sustainable development and maximising local passive and active recreation opportunities, deals with, but will not be limited to, the following:

Environment Policy development on:

- Council’s Sustainability Strategy
- Environmental health
- Waste minimisation and resource recovery
- Stormwater management
- Corporate Sustainability
- Trees and open space
- Landscaping
- Environmental education
- Pollution monitoring
- Biodiversity conservation and enhancement

Recreation Policy development on:

- Open space plans of management and masterplans
- Management of companion animals in open space
- Management and provision of open space, including small parks and sports fields
- Management and provision of recreational facilities
- Provision of recreational programs and services

Chairperson: Cr Rochelle Porteous
Deputy Chairperson: Cr Michele McKenzie

Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora nation on whose Country we are meeting today, and their elders past and present.
NOTICE is hereby given that a meeting of the Environment & Recreation Committee will be held in the Supper Room, Leichhardt Town Hall on Wednesday, 2 March 2011 at 6:30pm.

Peter Head
General Manager

AGENDA

Acknowledgement of Country

1. Apologies

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and Non-pecuniary Interest

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting: 1 December 2010 P04

4. Summary of Resolutions P12

5. Correspondence

6. Reports from the Community

7. Report – Climate Change Taskforce Minutes (Feb 2011) P24


10. Report – Footprints Eco Festival P39

11. Report – Community Native Nursery Site, 22 Wisdom Street, Annandale and White Street properties P42

12. Reports on Major Projects: Environment and Recreation – Nil

13. Other Business

14. Next Meeting – 4 May 2011
### Item 3

**LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIVISION:</th>
<th>ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>SUBJECT:</td>
<td>ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES - 1 DECEMBER 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUTHOR:</td>
<td>GILL DAWSON \ MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN PLANNING</td>
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<tr>
<td>FILE REF:</td>
<td>F05/00015-5</td>
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<td>DATE:</td>
<td>18 FEBRUARY 2011</td>
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### DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY - ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

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<tr>
<th>Financial Implications:</th>
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<td>Policy Implications:</td>
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<td>Leichhardt 2020+ Strategic Plan Objective:</td>
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<td>Other Implications:</td>
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1. **Purpose of Report**

To advise Council of the status of Minute Recommendations of the Environment & Recreation Committee held on 1 December 2010.

2. **Recommendation**

That Council adopt the minutes of the Environment & Recreation Committee held on 1 December 2010 with the accompanying recommendations.
MINUTES of the Environment and Recreation Committee of Leichhardt Municipal Council held in the Supper Room on 1 December 2010.

Present at the meeting: Cr Rochelle Porteous, Cr Vera-Ann Hannaford, Cr John Stamolis, David Lawrence, Paul Geraghty, Sally Gillespie, Gail Kennedy, Bev Maunsell, Bronwen Campbell

Staff Present: Vince Cusumano, Gill Dawson, Aaron Callaghan, Doug Anderson, Rebecca Blackburn

Apologies Cr Daniel Kogoy, Cr Weiss, Stephen Arnerich, Gillian Leahy

Meeting Commenced: 6.36pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

Cr Porteous performed acknowledgement of country in the capacity as Chairperson.

I acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora nation on whose Country we are meeting today, and their elders past and present.

BUSINESS:

ITEM 1
APOLOGIES

ERC56/10 RECOMMENDED

That apologies be accepted for the non attendance of Cr Daniel Kogoy, Cr Weiss, Stephen Arnerich, and Gillian Leahy.

ITEM 2
DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

ITEM 3
MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 6 October 2010

ERC57/10 RECOMMENDED

1. That Council adopt the minutes of the Environment & Recreation Committee meeting held on 6 October 2010.
ITEM 4
SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

ERC58/10 RECOMMENDED

That the information in the Summary of Resolutions be received and noted with the following amendments to be included in the revised Summary of Resolutions.

Additional Resolutions to:

1. ERC47/09 – Update on Celtis Sinensis
   - To reflect that the draft brochure will not be developed until declaration by DPI.

2. ERC41/10 – Tree Destruction-Darling St Rozelle
   - That photo of tree guards to be provided at the next meeting.

3. ERC47/10 – Summary of Resolutions re Community Native Nursery
   - That a report be brought back to the March 2011 Committee meeting on the progress of the community native nursery.

4. ERC53/10 – Proposed Tree Removal by the RTA on the City West Link Rd
   - That the RTA be requested to confirm the consultation strategy regarding the proposed tree removal adjacent to the City West Link.

ITEM 5
CORRESPONDENCE

ERC59/10 RECOMMENDED

5.1 LETTERS SENT RE TREE DESTRUCTION – DARLING ST ROZELLE

That letters sent to the pubs and the Leichhardt Local Area Command re Tree Destruction at Darling St Rozelle be noted.

5.2 SCCG Annual Reports 2009-2010

1. That the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Annual Reports 2009-2010 be noted.

2. That a letter be written acknowledging receipt of the Annual Report.
3. That update reports on the work by Sydney Coastal Councils be brought back to the Committee on a regular basis.

Matter arising:

That a letter is written to David Eckstein acknowledging his services and assistance to the Environment and Recreation Committee. Committee members are invited to email comments for inclusion to Manager Environment and Urban Planning.

ITEM 6
REPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Verbal report from the Friends of Whites Valley Creek Park on the community garden education and community garden talks recently undertaken. The Pestofest event which was held at the Stables was discussed. Council was thanked for providing the “community garden open” banner.

ITEM 7
CLIMATE CHANGE TASKFORCE MINUTES – 3 November 2010

ERC60/10 RECOMMENDED

That the minutes of the Climate Change Taskforce meeting held on 3 November 2010 be noted.

Moved and Adopted.

ITEM 8
RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY FORUM

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That this report be received and noted.

ERC61/10 RECOMMENDED

1. That this report be received and noted.

2. That the General Manager is approached and requested to ask the Events Coordinator to include the environment forum in the calendar of community events and administer the running of this event. That the event be held in April 2011.
ITEM 9
STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT (2009-2010)

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the information in this report be received and noted.

ERC62/10 RECOMMENDED

1. That the information in this report be received and noted.

2. That the Council website be checked to ensure advice is provided to residents on with the recycling/disposal of redundant televisions, computers etc.

3. That the feasibility of requiring new residential unit developments to install individual water metres per unit be investigated. That liaison with other NSW Councils on this matter occur.

ITEM 10
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION


ERC63/10 RECOMMENDED

1. That the report on Environmental Engagement Strategy be deferred for consideration at the March 2011 Committee Meeting.

2. That report be revised to include a summary table and a copy of the Environmental Engagement Strategy and Action Plan is included in the amended report.

ITEM 11
COMMENCEMENT OF THE BUSHCARE CARBON OFFSETTING SCHEME

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

1. That the endorsed BCOS be commenced in January 2011 on the basis of volunteer hours recorded during the period 1st Jan – 31st Dec 2010

2. That, following commencement of the scheme, with the purchase of offsets for the year 2010, offsets be purchased on an ongoing quarterly basis as set out in the October 2009 report to the Ordinary Council Meeting.
3. That funding be sought in the 2011-2012 budget to continue with the Bushcare Carbon Offset Scheme

**ERC64/10  RECOMMENDED**

1. That the endorsed BCOS be commenced in January 2011 on the basis of volunteer hours recorded during the period 1st Jan – 31st Dec 2010 and that the financial contribution for carbon offsets from Council is capped at $5,000 for 2010/11 financial year.

2. That, following commencement of the scheme, with the purchase of offsets for the year 2010, offsets be purchased on an ongoing quarterly basis as set out in the October 2009 report to the Ordinary Council Meeting.

3. That funding be sought in the 2011-2012 budget to continue with the Bushcare Carbon Offset Scheme at a budget level of $10,000 per year for three years commencing from 2011/12.

**Matter Arising:**

**ERC65/10  RECOMMENDED**

That the sponsorship policy review be resolved as a matter of urgency by the General Manager, that a workshop be held with Councillors and this issue is brought back to the Ordinary Council for consideration as soon as possible.

**ITEM 12**

**URBAN FOREST STRATEGY – SECTION 9 OF TREE ASSET MANAGEMENT**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council adopt the next section of the Urban Forest Strategy, that being: Section 9 – Tree Asset Management

**ERC66/10  RECOMMENDED**

1. That Council adopt the next section of the Urban Forest Strategy, that being:
   - Section 9 – Tree Asset Management

2. That significant trees identified at Birchgrove Park and Elkington Park are included in the Urban Forest Policy’s significant tree list. These being: *Eucalyptus tereticornis* – Birchgrove Oval and *Eucalyptus racemosa* – Elkington Park.

3. That the Manager Parks and Streetscapes and his Team be thanked by the Committee on the report.
ITEM 14
OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

ITEM 15
NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2 March 2011 at 6:30pm.

Meetings for 2011:

2 March 7 September
4 May 2 November
6 July

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm
LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REPORT

DIVISION: ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

AUTHOR: GILL DAWSON
MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN PLANNING

FILE REF: F97/00807

DATE: 

WORD PROCESSING REF: F:\Planning - Administration\Committees\Environment & Rec Committee\2011\1103 - Mar\Agenda\Env & Rec Agenda 020311.doc

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1. **Purpose of Report**

   To advise Council of the status of the Environment and Recreation Committee Resolutions of December 2010.

2. **Recommendations**

   That the information be received and noted.
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<tr>
<td>ERC 16/08 COMMUNITY ORCHARD PROPOSAL, WHITES STREET</td>
<td>That funds be set aside for the establishment of an orchard, chicken run and bee hive in the 2008-9 budget in accordance with the adopted plan of management for White Creek Valley Park (noting a slight variation to the fence line).</td>
<td>Council is still awaiting information from the Department of Planning on the disposal of these properties to Council and contamination issues that may be associated with these areas. Report to February 2011 Ordinary Meeting.</td>
<td>Vince Cusumano Manager Parks and Streetscapes</td>
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<tr>
<td>ERC50/08 URBAN FOREST POLICY UPDATE</td>
<td>2. That sections of the proposed Urban Forest Strategy be presented to the Environment and Recreation Committee over the next year for discussion and comment.</td>
<td>2. All sections completed apart from Section 5 Tree Preservation Order which will form part of the LEP review.</td>
<td>Vince Cusumano</td>
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<tr>
<td>ERC39/09 BIRCHGROVE TREE</td>
<td>2. That the sapling which recently died next to the mature <em>Eucalyptus tereticornis</em> at Birchgrove Park be replaced by two <em>Eucalyptus tereticornis</em>. 3. That Council examine opportunities for additional plantings and landscape embellishment at Birchgrove Park in consultation with the community.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Heidi Webb Parks Technical Officer</td>
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| ERC31/10 AUGUST 2010 | **Note: Additional resolutions from August meeting**  
- That a report be prepared for the Environment & Recreation Committee on how other council’s policies for tree and vegetation planting address sight lines. The report to include recommendations on how such a policy could be implemented. | **Awaiting information from Parks and Leisure Australia. Report to May Committee meeting.** | |
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| ERC47/09 UPDATE ON CELTIS SINENSIS (August 09) | 1. That Biodiversity Officer to produce a *Celtis sinensis* information leaflet for targeted distribution to residents. The leaflet to include alternative trees suitable for planting which are good food and habitat sources for small birds and possums.  
2. That a programme including the issuing of control notices, community education and eradication measures to control Celtis sinensis be implemented as outlined in Section 4 of this report.  
3. That Biodiversity Officer to be authorised to issue weed control notices. | 1, 2 & 3 Awaiting declaration by DPI. A draft brochure is being developed in anticipation of declaration by DPI. Brochure will be presented to Environment & Recreation Committee prior to being finalised. | Doug Anderson |
<p>| June Resolutions | | | |
| ERC26/10 Resource Recovery Initiatives For Organics | 2.4 That the information on resource recovery initiatives (based on an environmental education approach) is also made available and promoted on the Council’s web site through an educational video. | 2.4 To be actioned | Allan Willding |</p>
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| ERC28/10 Urban Forest Strategy Sections 7 Guidelines For Tree Management | 2. That Council officers develop an education programme for local residents outlining the Urban Forest Policy, suitable trees for planting on their properties and residential responsibilities in maintaining private trees.  
3. That as part of the development of the new LEP a review is undertaken on registering significant trees which exist on private property within the LGA.  
4. That Council investigate and report back to the Environment and Recreation Committee on the provision of a means tested service for urgent tree maintenance on private land with special emphasis on aged pensioners and people with disabilities. That the investigation also includes options for volunteer gardening services which currently exist in this area. | 2. To be developed.  
3. To be investigated.  
4. To be investigated. | Vince Cusumano |

**August Resolutions**

| ERC36/10 Update on the Handover of the Community Native Nursery Site, 22 Wisdom Street, Annandale | 1. That the report be received and noted.  
2. That further clarification be sought on the division of the properties at Whites Creek Valley Park and what stage this is at as a matter of urgency. Any update to be provided to the committee | A report is on the agenda of the 22 February 2011 Ordinary Council Meeting. | Lyn Gerathy |
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<td>Other Business</td>
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<td>Item 10.1</td>
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<td>For Discussion – Tree Destruction – Darling St Rozelle</td>
<td>1. That Council purchase 5 steel guards for use with “at risk saplings” and that the use of larger trees be investigated.</td>
<td>1. Trees planted and guards to be placed on smaller remaining trees after consultation with original resident that raised the matter with ERC Mark Furness. Report to come back to May Committee Meeting.</td>
<td>Vince Cusumano Doug Anderson</td>
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<td>ERC41/10</td>
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<td>October Resolutions</td>
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<td>Summary of Resolutions</td>
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<td>ERC47/10</td>
<td>That the information in the Summary of Resolutions be received and noted with the following amendments to be included in the revised Summary of Resolutions.</td>
<td>On 22 February 2011, at the Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved to enter into the Land Transfer Agreement with the Department of Planning, with authority delegated to the General Manager to finalise the terms of the agreement and sign the agreement. Details about the agreement and the future restrictions on use of the sites are set out in the Report to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 22/2/11 – item 39 on the agenda – available from Council’s website. It is anticipated that the Agreement will be signed in March 2011 and Council can then call for tenders to demolish the Nissan Hut and remediate the site in accordance with the existing Remediation Action Plan commissioned by D. Planning, ready to commence construction of the Native Nursery.</td>
<td>Vince Cusumano Doug Anderson Lyn Gerathy</td>
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<td>2. Additional resolutions to ERC 03/10 – Community Orchard, White Street</td>
<td>• That written correspondence is sent to the relevant state department seeking an immediate closure and securing of the properties at White Street to prevent access by vandals who are currently damaging the property. • That Council seeks a meeting with the relevant department and prepares a report to the next Environment and Recreation committee seeking clarification on the status of the houses at White Street.</td>
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<td>COMMUNITY GARDENS POLICY FOR LEICHHARDT LGA ERC4910</td>
<td>1. That the Committee note and receive this report.</td>
<td>1. Completed</td>
<td>Aaron Callaghan</td>
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<td>2. That it is noted that consultation is formalised with community groups including Friends of Whites Valley Creek Park and Transition Leichhardt in developing the community garden policy.</td>
<td>2. Completed (community garden workshop held on January 24th 2011 with all groups listed-consultation to continue with the release of the draft Community Garden policy). Draft policy to be placed on exhibition in March 2011.</td>
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<td>PROPOSED TREE REMOVAL BY THE RTA ON THE CITY WEST LINK RD ERC53/10</td>
<td>1. That Council receive and note this report.</td>
<td>1. Completed</td>
<td>Vince Cusumano</td>
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<td>2. That the community is consulted by way of an on-site meeting with local residents.</td>
<td>2. 3 RTA contacted and advised consultant will provide consultation strategy by end of March.</td>
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<td>distributed through Annandale and Rozelle/Lilyfield Precinct Committees and the Friends of Whites Valley Creek Park.</td>
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<td>4. That RTA liaise with Leichhardt Council to arrange this meeting.</td>
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<td>5. That a list of local species is provided to the RTA.</td>
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<td>4. Awaiting RTA’s response following the October Committee meeting.</td>
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<td>5. Actioned</td>
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### December Resolutions

**Summary of Resolutions**

**ERC 58/10**

That the information in the Summary of Resolutions be received and noted with the following amendments to be included in the revised Summary of Resolutions.

Additional Resolutions to:

1. **ERC47/09 – Update on Celtis Sinensis**
   - To reflect that the draft brochure will not be developed until declaration by DPI.
   - 1. Noted
2. **ERC41/10 – Tree Destruction-Darling St Rozelle**
   - That photo of tree guards to be provided at the next meeting.
3. **ERC47/10 – Summary of Resolutions re Community Native Nursery**
   - 3. Refer comments above.

**Vince Cusumano**
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<td>• That a report be brought back to the March 2011 Committee meeting on the progress of the community native nursery. 4. ERC53/10 – Proposed Tree Removal by the RTA on the City West Link Rd  • That the RTA be requested to confirm the consultation strategy regarding the proposed tree removal adjacent to the City West Link.</td>
<td>4. RTA contacted and advised consultant will provide consultation strategy by end of March.</td>
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<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>5.1 Letters Sent Re Tree Destruction – Darling St Rozelle</td>
<td>That letters sent to the pubs and the Leichhardt Local Area Command re Tree Destruction at Darling St Rozelle be noted.</td>
<td>Noted</td>
<td>Vince Cusumano</td>
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<td>5.2 SCCG Annual Reports 2009-2010</td>
<td>1. That the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Annual Reports 2009-2010 be noted.  2. That a letter be written acknowledging receipt of the Annual Report.  3. That update reports on the work by Sydney Coastal Councils be brought back</td>
<td>Noted</td>
<td>Rebecca Blackburn</td>
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<td>to the Committee on a regular basis. Matter arising: That a letter is written to David Eckstein acknowledging his services and assistance to the Environment and Recreation Committee. Committee members are invited to email comments for inclusion to Manager Environment and Urban Planning.</td>
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<td>Gill Dawson</td>
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<td>Renewable Energy Policy Forum ERC61/10</td>
<td>1. That this report be received and noted. 2. That the General Manager is approached and requested to ask the Events Coordinator to include the environment forum in the calendar of community events and administer the running of this event. That the event be held in April 2011.</td>
<td>Report presented to the Climate Change Taskforce meeting 2 February 2011. Forum to be held on 3 May 2011 at Leichhardt Town Hall. Minutes of CCTF meeting adopted at the February 2011 Ordinary Meeting (C64/11).</td>
<td>Rebecca Blackburn</td>
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<td>State Of The Environment Report (2009-2010) ERC62/10</td>
<td>1. That the information in this report be received and noted. 2. That the Council website be checked to ensure advice is provided to residents on with the recycling/disposal of redundant televisions, computers etc. 3. That the feasibility of requiring new residential unit developments to install individual water metres per unit be investigated. That liaison with other NSW Councils on this matter occur.</td>
<td>1. Noted 2. Actioned 3. Report to March 2011 Committee Meeting.</td>
<td>Rebecca Blackburn</td>
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<td>ENVIRONMENT &amp; RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA – MARCH 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Environment &amp; Recreation Committee</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2010</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS</th>
<th>ACTION/TAKEN PLANNED &amp; ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE</th>
<th>OFFICER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental Engagement Strategy</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC63/10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. That the report on Environmental Engagement Strategy be deferred for consideration at the March 2011 Committee Meeting.  
2. That report be revised to include a summary table and a copy of the Environmental Engagement Strategy and Action Plan is included in the amended report.  

Report to March 2011 Committee Meeting.  
Rebecca Blackburn

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>COMMENCEMENT OF THE BUSHCARE CARBON OFFSETTING SCHEME</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERC64/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. That the endorsed BCOS be commenced in January 2011 on the basis of volunteer hours recorded during the period 1st Jan – 31st Dec 2010 and that the financial contribution for carbon offsets from Council is capped at $5,000 for 2010/11 financial year.  
2. That, following commencement of the scheme, with the purchase of offsets for the year 2010, offsets be purchased on an ongoing quarterly basis as set out in the October 2009 report to the Ordinary Council Meeting.  
3. That funding be sought in the 2011-2012 budget to continue with the Bushcare Carbon Offset Scheme at a budget level of $10,000 per year for three years commencing from 2011/12.  

1, 2 & 3. Commencement of the scheme will be deferred until sponsorship issue is resolved (see matter arising ERC65/10 below).  
Doug Anderson
| Environment & Recreation Committee  
December 2010 | SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS | ACTION/TAKEN PLANNED & ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE | OFFICER |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------|
| **Matter Arising:**  
ERC65/10 | That the sponsorship policy review be resolved as a matter of urgency by the General Manager, that a workshop be held with Councillors and this issue is brought back to the Ordinary Council for consideration as soon as possible. | Review underway. | David Marshall |
| **Urban Forest Strategy**  
– Section 9 of Tree Asset Management  
ERC66/10 | 1. That Council adopt the next section of the Urban Forest Strategy, that being:  
   - Section 9 – Tree Asset Management  
2. That significant trees identified at Birchgrove Park and Elkington Park are included in the Urban Forest Policy’s significant tree list. These being: *Eucalyptus tereticornis* – Birchgrove Oval and *Eucalyptus racemosa* – Elkington Park.  
3. That the Manager Parks and Streetscapes and his Team be thanked by the Committee on the report. | 1. Noted  
2. Noted  
3. Actioned. | Vince Cusumano  
Vince Cusumano  
Gill Dawson |
### DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY - ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Implications:</th>
<th>Nil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Implications:</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Leichhardt 2020+ Strategic Plan Objective:**

- Community Well-being
- Accessibility
- Place where we live and work
- A sustainable environment
- Business in the Community
- Sustainable Services and Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staffing Implications:</th>
<th>Nil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notifications:</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Implications:</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. **Purpose of Report**

To advise the Environment and Recreation Committee of the status of minute recommendations of the Climate Change Taskforce meeting held on 2 February 2011.

2. **Recommendations**

That the minutes of the Climate Change Taskforce meeting held on 2 February 2011 be noted.
Minutes of the Climate Change Taskforce of Leichhardt Municipal Council held in the Supper Room on 2 February 2011.

Present at the commencement of the meeting: Councillors: Gordon Weiss, Daniel Kogoy, Rochelle Porteous (Chair)

Staff: David Marshall, Peter Gainsford, Peter Conroy, Mark Barrett, Rebecca Blackburn, Gill Dawson, Guido den Teuling

Community: Richard Dudley Smith, Lea Richards, Stephen Arnerich

Meeting Commenced: 6:30pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

Cr Porteous performed acknowledgement of country in the capacity as chair.

I acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora nation on whose Country we are meeting today, and their elders past and present.

BUSINESS

ITEM 1
APOLOGIES

Recommendation
That apologies be accepted for the non attendance of Peter Cormican.

ITEM 2
DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS - Nil

ITEM 3
MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 3 November 2010

Recommendation
That the minutes of the Climate Change Taskforce meeting held on 3 November 2010 be accepted.

Moved Cr Kogoy, seconded Cr Porteous.

ITEM 4
Matters Arising From Previous Meeting - Nil
ITEM 5
SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS
That the information in the summary of resolutions be received and noted.
Moved Cr Kogoy, Seconded Cr Porteous.

ITEM 6
PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS - STATUS UPDATE
Officer Recommendation
That the report be received and noted.

Recommendation
1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That a report be brought back to the next meeting on the Environmental Funds available and committed and on the process involved for the preparation of the Energy Management Plan.

Moved Cr Kogoy, Seconded Cr Porteous.

ITEM 7
UPDATES ON PROJECTS TO REDUCE CORPORATE CARBON EMISSIONS AND IMPROVE MONITORING
Officer Recommendation
That the information be received and noted.

Recommendation
1. That the information be received and noted.
2. That the opportunity to install fans in offices and other rooms be investigated.

Moved Cr Kogoy, Seconded Cr Porteous.

ITEM 8
CARBON EMISSIONS FORUM
Officer Recommendation
That
the date for the forum be set for Tuesday 3 May 2011 at Leichhardt Town Hall; and
the outcome of the forum is clarified and speakers confirmed.

Recommendation

1. That

   - the date for the forum be set for Tuesday 3 May 2011 at Leichhardt Town Hall;
   - further discussion regarding potential speakers be held via email; and
   - up to $5,000 from the Major Issues Budget be allocated for the engagement of an iconic speaker and a letter box drop to residents with potential cross promotion for the eco festival.

2. That the regular forums held for DAs include such matters as passive solar design, new technologies and innovative ways to reduce carbon emissions in new development.

Moved Cr Kogoy, Seconded Cr Porteous.

ITEM 9
ENERGYMARK

Officer Recommendation

That the information be received and noted.

Recommendation

1. That the information be received and noted.

2. That a report be brought back to the next Committee meeting and that Council promote the program in the community and run the program in-house.

Moved Cr Kogoy, Seconded Cr Porteous.

ITEM 10
OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 CORRESPONDENCE – FEED IN TARIFF (HON BARRY O'Farrell, MP)

That correspondence received from Hon Barry O'Farrell, MP regarding Feed in Tariff (NSW Solar Bonus Scheme) in reply to Council's letter dated 25 November 2010 be received and noted.

Moved Cr Kogoy, Seconded Cr Porteous.
ITEM 11
NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Climate Change Taskforce will be held on 6 April 2011.

OTHER MEETINGS FOR 2011:

1 June
3 August
5 October
7 December

The Meeting closed at 7.55pm
Item 8

LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REPORT

DIVISION: ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: WATER METERS IN APARTMENT BUILDINGS

AUTHOR: REBECCA BLACKBURN
ACTING TEAM LEADER ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

FILE REF: TBC

DATE: 16 FEBRUARY 2011

DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY - ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Implications:</th>
<th>Staff time to promote water conservation program in apartment buildings.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Implications:</td>
<td>Potential implications for work on the development control plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Plan Objective:</td>
<td>Sustainable Services and Assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Sustainable Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aligns with specific themes in draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy, which links to Leichhardt 2020+.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffing Implications:</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notifications:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Implications:</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. **Purpose of Report**

To report about the feasibility of requiring new residential unit developments to install water meters.

2. **Recommendations**

That the information in this report be received and noted.

3. **Background**

At the last Environment and Recreation Committee meeting held on 1 December 2010 the following recommendation was made and adopted at the December 2010 Ordinary Council Meeting:

ERC62/10 (C616/10)

“That the feasibility of requiring new residential unit developments to install individual water metres per unit be investigated. That liaison with other NSW Councils on this matter occur.”

4. **Report**

4.1 **Benefits of Installing Individual Water Meters in Apartment Buildings**

Seventy percent of water used in Sydney is due to residential use. Multi-unit buildings are the second biggest users of water consuming 19% of Sydney’s water, compared with 51% for single dwellings and 12% for industry, 10% for commercial and 4% for government.

Individual water meters are not usually provided in unit and apartment buildings, and as a result around 40% of households in Sydney do not pay for their individual water use. IPART estimates that not receiving an individual bill increases the cost of the bill by about 19%\(^1\). According to Sydney Water individual water meters also has the potential to reduce water use in apartment buildings by around 10%\(^2\).

4.2 **Sydney Water Policy Regarding Water Meters**

Sydney Water was contacted to find out what their policy was regarding individual metering in apartment buildings. They said that they neither require individual metres in multi unit apartment nor are not against it, as long as the meters were located such that they can be read.

Sydney Water conducted a trial of individual water meters in apartment blocks in Hornsby in 2006. It was found that it was technically feasible to install individual

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\(^1\) Metropolitan Water Plan 2006

metering in new buildings. Wireless systems can be installed to enable the meters to be read remotely.

Sydney Water calculates that the approximate additional cost for the pipes would be an extra $100 per unit, assuming that the piping was part of the original design. Sydney Water would supply and install the water meters although the cost would be passed onto the consumer. This means that instead of being charged a portion of the strata’s water metre cost, each owner would be charged a service fee similar to an owner of an individual house. It was unclear exactly how this might change costs for the owner, because existing water charges to owners in strata buildings varies enormously depending on the size of the building. The total overall cost to the consumer also would have to be weighed up against expected savings due to using less water – according to IPART this could be up to 19%.

Sydney Water advised that currently no Council in NSW requires individual metering in apartment buildings. At this stage it’s unclear if Council has the authority to include water meters in the new Development Control Plan, although Sydney Water said they would be interested in working with Council on this matter. More research is required.

4.3 Policy in Other States
In South East Queensland individual sub metering is required for townhouses and units built after 1 January 2008.

4.4 Other opportunities to save water in multi unit apartments
Council is not restricted to just using planning regulations to reduce water use in apartment buildings. Other Councils such as Willoughby Council and North Sydney Council offer education programs to reduce energy and water consumption in high rise apartments.

There are a number of Sydney Water programs which Council could promote including washing machine rebates and Waterfix. Waterfix is a program to reduce household water use by fixing leaks and installing water efficient showerheads and tap aerators. The consumer is charged only $22 although the retail value of the program is $150.

If Council wanted to conduct a similar type of program it would need to be included in the delivery program for 2011-2012.

5. Summary
Individual water metering in apartment buildings has the potential to save water and reduce the price of water bills to the consumer. However more research is required to determine whether Council could introduce controls requiring individual water metering in apartment buildings. An environmental education program for apartment buildings could be incorporated into the 2011-2012 delivery program, pending availability of funding.
# LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

## REPORT

**DIVISION:** ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT  
**SUBJECT:** ENVIRONMENTAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY  
**AUTHOR:** REBECCA BLACKBURN  
**FILE REF:**  
**DATE:** 18 FEBRUARY 2011  
**WORD PROCESSING REF:** F:\Planning - Administration\Committees\Environment & Recreation Committee\2011\1103 - Mar\Agenda\Env & Rec Agenda 020311.doc

## DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY - ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Implications:</th>
<th>Allocation of Environmental Education budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Implications:</td>
<td>New Environmental Engagement Strategy and Action Plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Strategic Plan Objective:| Community Well-being  
|                          | Place Where We Live & Work  
|                          | A Sustainable Environment  
|                          | Sustainable Services & Assets |
| Staffing Implications:   | Actions carried out by Council’s Sustainability Engagement Officer and other environmentally based staff |
| Notifications:           | Nil |
| Other Implications:      | Nil |
1. Purpose of Report


2. Recommendations


3. Background

At the last Environment and Recreation Committee meeting held on 1 December 2010 the following recommendations were made and adopted at the December 2010 Ordinary Council Meeting:

ERC63/10 (C616/10)

1. That the report on Environmental Engagement Strategy be deferred for consideration at the March 2011 Committee Meeting.

2. That report be revised to include a summary table and a copy of the Environmental Engagement Strategy and Action Plan is included in the amended report.

Environmental engagement is the term used to describe how Council can build capacity in our community to think and act for the environment.

Council has made a clear commitment to environmental engagement through the employment of a full-time Sustainability Engagement Officer, as well as through the allocation of an associated budget for delivery of environmental education outcomes.

4. Report

The Environmental Engagement Strategy 2010-2014 has been developed to reflect Council’s commitment to environmental engagement and to establish a strategy for Council engagement with the community and staff on environmental issues. The accompanying action plan for 2010-2011 provides a detailed plan for action and will be developed on an annual basis.

4.1 The Environmental Engagement Strategy 2010-2014

The Environmental Engagement Strategy establishes guiding principles that specify how environmental engagement actions will be developed, delivered and enhanced with authenticity. These principles are provided below:

Leichhardt Council’s environmental engagement actions will:
a. Be founded upon evidence-based community needs analysis
b. Be informed by, and strive toward best practice
c. Encourage active participation, lifelong learning, motivation and capacity building
d. Be fair and accessible to all
e. Encourage partnerships
f. Incorporate an ongoing evaluation, review and reporting framework supporting continual improvement
g. Remain current and relevant
h. Be efficient in terms of resource use
i. Be transparent and accountable in process by providing a clear, consultative and well-documented program

Additionally, the Environmental Engagement Strategy establishes a process through which the Environmental Engagement actions carried out by Council are to be implemented, evaluated, reviewed, developed and reported on.

Each of the steps in the cycle is informed by the guiding principles (above) and provides a clear line of accountability for Council’s actions to the community. This cycle has been developed to ensure Council’s actions are based upon evidence from the community, to suit the needs of the community and our environment.

4.2 The Environmental Engagement Action Plan 2010-2011

Annually a new action plan will be developed for deliver of programs, events and actions throughout the next financial year. The action plans will be founded upon the guiding principles established in the Environmental Engagement Strategy and informed by evidence-based evaluation, surveying and desktop study results from throughout that year.

The 2010-2011 Action Plan includes pre-existing Council programs and events which are already standing fixtures on the Council calendar, as well as new initiatives to achieve the aims of the Environmental Engagement Strategy.

A total of 37 actions are proposed in this years action plan. Examples of some of the new programs listed include:

- Environmental grants to build capacity in the community and support community-driven environmental actions;
- Environmental schools network for teachers and parents to share ideas, generate support and communication links for environmental improvements;
- Introduction of a “Green Team” for Council staff aiming to generate new ideas and share knowledge across the organisation.

This action plan will be evaluated, reviewed and reported on at the end of the 2010-2011 financial year. At this time, a new action plan based on evidence collected, will be developed for the 2011-2012 year.
### Actions for the Whole Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Environmental Grants:</td>
<td>New Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Flora and Fauna on Council Website:</td>
<td>New Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Forums:</td>
<td>New Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treading Lightly:</td>
<td>Ongoing Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Permaculture Training:</td>
<td>One-off Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footprints Eco-Festival:</td>
<td>Annual Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bushcare:</td>
<td>Ongoing Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for Local Environmental Community Groups:</td>
<td>Ongoing Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Run Environmental Events:</td>
<td>Ongoing Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk Against Warming:</td>
<td>Annual Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Tree Day:</td>
<td>Annual Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Shopping Guide:</td>
<td>Ongoing Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean Up Australia Day:</td>
<td>Annual Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Hand Saturday:</td>
<td>Annual Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companion Animal Campaign:</td>
<td>New Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoke-free Alfresco Dining Campaign:</td>
<td>New Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool Campaign:</td>
<td>New Campaign</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council’s Environmental Website:</td>
<td>Ongoing Service</td>
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### PART B: Actions Specifically For Young People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OOSH Eco Bag Competition:</td>
<td>New Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco Toys and Books for Council Libraries:</td>
<td>New Purchase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Program Trash to Treasure:</td>
<td>New Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Activities Program:</td>
<td>New Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watch Our Watts:</td>
<td>New Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetland Tours for Local Schools:</td>
<td>New Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Green Steps and Extension:</td>
<td>Grant Funded Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops for Schools:</td>
<td>Ongoing Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenway Schools Program:</td>
<td>New program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Schools Network:</td>
<td>New Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Assistance For Schools:</td>
<td>New Service</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### PART C: Actions Specifically For Council Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Team:</td>
<td>New Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Purchasing Training:</td>
<td>New Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave Your Car at Home Day:</td>
<td>New Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Induction:</td>
<td>Ongoing Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Hour:</td>
<td>Annual Event</td>
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</table>

### PART D: Other Actions

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Surveys:</td>
<td>New Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney Water Sustainable Business Program:</td>
<td>Continuing Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sydney Environmental Educators Network:</td>
<td>New Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Association of Environmental Educators:</td>
<td>Annual Membership</td>
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# Draft Environmental Education Budget 2010-2011

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Budget ($)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Treading Lightly Series</td>
<td>4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Wind and Renewables forum</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Forum 2</td>
<td>3000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Environmental grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young people</td>
<td>Summer Activities Program</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young people</td>
<td>Thursday program Trash to Treasure</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young people</td>
<td>Eco toys and books for Council libraries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young people</td>
<td>OOSH Eco Bag Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young people</td>
<td>Workshops for schools</td>
<td>9600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young people</td>
<td>Watch Our Watts</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young people</td>
<td>Little Green Steps and extension</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council staff</td>
<td>Leave Your Car at Home Day</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council staff</td>
<td>Earth Hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council staff</td>
<td>Green Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Facilitator insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>AAEE membership</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL $40,000**

## 5. Summary/Conclusions

The Environmental Engagement Strategy has been developed to reflect Council’s commitment to environmental engagement and to establish a strategy for Council engagement with the community on environmental issues. It identifies...
clear guiding principles to ensure Council’s actions are evidence-based and founded upon fairness, accessibility and efficiency. These principles will be applied throughout the engagement cycle and will steer improvements to future action plans. The accompanying action plan for 2010-2011 is being implemented, and will be evaluated, reviewed and reported prior to the commencement of the 2011-2012 action plan.
2010-2014 Environmental Engagement Strategy
& 2010-2011 Action Plan
Acknowledgements

Leichhardt Council acknowledges that this land traditionally belonged to the Gadigal and Wangal people, of the Eora nation. Council acknowledges the descendants of the Gadigal and Wangal people who reside within the area, as well as all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have made the Leichhardt Municipality their home.
Introduction

Environmental issues are complex and inter-related. They affect us both at our doorsteps and more peripherally — and to effect change, different approaches are often required. Environmental engagement is a vital element in the mix of solutions to address such complex issues. Successful environmental engagement will enable our community to think and act to improve our shared environment.

This document seeks to establish a path by which Council can best engage with the community to take appropriate action when facing environmental challenges together. In doing so, Council aims to build capacity and to help equip the community with the tools and skills needed to minimise impacts on the environment. Council seeks to engage the community as a whole on environmental issues — from schools to businesses, from households to individuals, and within Council itself.

This document has been developed to establish a clear and strategic framework for Leichhardt Council to engage with the whole community and thus to deliver sustainable environmental outcomes. The key components of this document are the guiding principles for environmental engagement and the annual action plan. The guiding principles will be used to inform the annual action plan — and to test the relevance and appropriateness of each environmental engagement action.

This document places engagement, education and learning at the forefront of Council's response to environmental issues by developing a clear framework so that "best practice becomes common practice" (London: DfES, 2003).

Rationale

Who Cares About the Environment is a state-wide survey of the NSW community’s knowledge, actions and attitudes to the environment. This information has been collected since 1994. The 2009 Who Cares About the Environment report revealed that 78% of people in NSW were concerned about the environment; the
environment was identified as one of the top five issues requiring government attention (DECCW, 2009; 5). Council can and will draw on a range of approaches when acting on these community concerns. Engagement on environmental sustainability, being a long term and socially relevant response, is a vital tool in Council’s toolbox when doing so.

Council has made a clear commitment to environmental engagement through the employment of a full-time Sustainability Engagement Officer, as well as through the allocation of an associated budget for delivery of environmental education outcomes.

Other key roles at Council that contribute to the outcomes contained within this document include the Waste & Resource Recovery Project Officer, Biodiversity Officer and Environmental & Public Health Education Officer. This document will enhance this commitment by proposing a strategic pathway to make the best use of these resources.

Without a clear strategy, evaluation and reporting framework, it will not be clear whether or not Council’s environmental engagement activities have been successful. This document will include each of these elements — strategy, evaluation and reporting — to help ensure a successful program.

The Broader Planning Framework

The Leichhardt Environmental Engagement Strategy links to Council’s overall planning framework. The two key documents to which it links are the Leichhardt 2020+ Strategic Plan and the Leichhardt 2010-2014 Environmental Sustainability Strategy. These lines of accountability are outlined below:
Leichhardt 2020+ Strategic Plan

Within Council’s overall planning framework, the Environmental Engagement Strategy sits under the Leichhardt 2020+ Strategic Plan.

The 2020+ plan functions to assist Council in meeting the vision of Leichhardt as a sustainable and liveable community by identifying key sustainable environment goals and objectives. These are outlined below:

Our Vision
Community and Council will work together to promote and develop Leichhardt as a sustainable and liveable community.

Sustainable Environment: Goal
A sustainable environment created by inspiring, leading and guiding our social, environmental and economic activities.

Sustainable Environment: Objectives
1. Develop our commitment and capacity to consistently support environmental sustainability
2. Minimise our impacts on the environment
3. Protect, restore and enhance our natural environment and native biodiversity within our urban context
The 2020+ vision, goal and objectives steer this Environmental Engagement Strategy.

Leichhardt Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2010-2014

The Leichhardt Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2010-2014 focuses upon Council’s response to eight environmental ‘themes’. It provides a number of actions for Council to pursue during this timeframe, each directed at specific environment outcomes. The key objective of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, one which links immediately to this Environmental Engagement Strategy, is to “provide education services and incentives focused on promoting a cultural change and commitment to sustainability in community and staff”. The Environmental Engagement Strategy directly responds to this broader strategic objective.

State and Federal Plans

In addition to the links with current Council planning framework outlined above, this document is also aligned with state and federal strategies, particularly the Australian Government Caring for Our Future - the Australian Government Strategy for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014 and the NSW Government Learning for Sustainability - the NSW Environmental Education Plan 2007-2010. This document has been developed on the strength of a thorough desktop study of these and a series of other relevant plans, policies and strategies.

Timeframes

This is the first Environmental Engagement Strategy for Leichhardt Council. It is anticipated that a review will be undertaken in 2014 for a revised strategy from 2015. A key outcome of this first strategy will be to develop a clear set of guiding principles for the delivery of sustainability engagement activity by Leichhardt Council.
Each year, the strategy will be supplemented by an annual action plan which will specify actions to be delivered by Council. These action plans will serve to meet the objectives of the strategy via sizeable and achievable short term actions items, ranging from events to funding programs, inter-Council partnerships and organisational memberships. The action plan will be revisited annually in order to maintain currency, to respond to the changing needs of our community and to utilise available resources.

Why Engagement?

The foundation of this document is engagement.

Environmental engagement is the term used to describe how we can build capacity in our community to think and act for the environment. Council understands this term to encompass environmental education, education for sustainability and education for sustainable development. The distinction between these concepts is provided below:

**Environmental Education:**

Environmental education encompasses “raising awareness, acquiring new perspectives, values, knowledge and skills, and formal and informal processes leading to changed behaviour in support of an ecologically sustainable environment”.

(Environment Australia, 2000; p3)

**Education for Sustainability (EfS):**

“Learning for sustainability motivates, equips and involves individuals, and social groups in reflecting on how we currently live and work, in making informed decisions and creating ways to work towards a more sustainable world... (EfS) aims to go beyond individual behaviour change and seeks to engage and empower people to implement systemic changes”.

(Tilbury et al, 2005; p 115)
**Education for Sustainable Development:**

“Education for sustainable development aims to equip individuals, organisations and communities to deal effectively with the complex and inter-related social, economic and environmental challenges they encounter in their personal and working lives, in a way that protects the interests of future generations”.

(DEH, 2007, pp.4)

Key principles drawn from these three important concepts inform this document. Environmental engagement therefore involves elements of environmental education, it involves learning for sustainability and it involves education for sustainable development. In other words, environmental engagement is based upon strategic communications about environmental matters of all types and at all levels.

**Our Community**

The Leichhardt Local Government Area has a population of 52,000. The 2006, Census data revealed the Leichhardt community to be young and prosperous. The two major groups in the community are baby boomer homeowners in their fifties, who are typically long term residents, and younger Generation X city workers, who typically rent and leave the area in their mid-thirties. The Leichhardt population has a higher average income than the Sydney average, however a significant proportion (17%) of Leichhardt residents are low income earners. The proportion of Leichhardt residents born in Australia is slightly higher than the Sydney average. The main overseas birthplaces and the proportion of residents born in each location are provided in the table below:
One of the key principles underlying the preparation of this document is that Council’s environmental engagement actions should be inclusive and accessible, providing a fair distribution of service to all members of the community. Organisational resource limitations mean that tailored engagement services cannot be delivered to the whole community; however it is a reasonable and achievable aim that every person in the Leichhardt community is given the opportunity to become involved in Council’s environmental engagement actions.

Therefore it is vital that people from each of the following demographics are reached as this Environmental Engagement Strategy is implemented:

1. *People of all ages*

2. *People of varying cultural backgrounds.*

   Note: Italian is still the alternative language to English which has the broadest reach insofar as engaging the Leichhardt community is concerned.

3. *People of all income levels*

4. *People from all sectors of the community, including:*
   - Residential community
   - Schools community (all levels of schooling, including early childcare)
   - Businesses
   - Community groups
   - Council staff
This plan seeks to provide each of these demographic and sectoral groups with access to Council’s environmental engagement actions.

**Guiding Principles**

The guiding principles of this document ensure the environmental engagement actions will be developed, delivered and enhanced with authenticity.

These are the guiding principles of Leichhardt Council’s environmental engagement actions. They will:

a. Be founded upon evidence-based community needs analysis
b. Be informed by, and strive toward best practice
c. Encourage active participation, lifelong learning, motivation and capacity building
d. Be fair and accessible to all
e. Encourage partnerships
f. Incorporate an ongoing evaluation, review and reporting framework supporting continual improvement
g. Remain current and relevant
h. Be efficient in terms of resource use
i. Be transparent and accountable in process by providing a clear, consultative and well-documented program

Each of these principles will guide the development of the 2010 action plan and subsequent action plans.

**Action Plans**

The guiding principles provide a framework to guide Leichhardt Council’s environmental engagement actions. Using them as the mandate for **how** things will be done, the annual action plans specify **what** will be done. Action plans provide a more detailed plan for action for the following period and will be developed on an annual basis.
An engagement cycle has been developed to ensure that the action plans are driven by a continuous improvement process. Figure 1 illustrates the steps of the engagement cycle; the action plan is developed, implemented and evaluated, reviewed and reported upon annually.

**Figure 1: Engagement Cycle**

Each of these steps is critical to the overall success of the program and will be carried out by following the guiding principles. The relevance and importance of each step is outlined below:
**Implementation:** The implementation phase of the cycle is ongoing throughout the year and involves the delivery of the actions specified in the action plan.

**Evaluation:** The evaluation phase of the cycle will measure how well the aims and outcomes of the program are being met. Where possible, feedback will be sought from participants and others engaged in the program. Different evaluation methods will be used for different types of engagement activities. The manner in which feedback is sought will be relevant and as consistent as possible in order to provide more robust evaluation data. At the very least, however, data on postcode, age group, gender and first spoken language will be collected. **Appendix A** provides a sample evaluation sheet which is currently used for workshops to the community.

**Review:** The review will analyse the past year’s action plan and its outcomes. It will be informed by the following processes:

- Evaluation — as outlined above;
- Community surveys — which will commence in the first term of the engagement cycle and will gauge the knowledge, behaviours, attitudes and skills of the community around environmental issues;
- Desktop study — which will track current and emerging issues and trends in environmental engagement and will provide best practice examples from within the Leichhardt area and beyond.

**Development:** The development phase will use the information and data gathered in the review phase to form a new action plan for the coming year. This phase will also allow for scoping the resources available to Council, including staffing, funds, time frames and material assets. This will help ensure that the resources available to Council are used creatively and efficiently to optimise the environmental learning outcomes for the community. This phase will be carried out with close reference to the guiding principles.
**Reporting:** An annual environmental engagement report will be provided to Council at the end of each cycle. This will provide details of the evaluation outcomes, budgetary spending, and the successes and failures of the program period. In addition, this reporting will include the proposed action plan for the following year as it emerges from the development phase, and a draft budget. The reported information will also be used in the wider Council reporting context, for example in the annual State of the Environment Report.

All reporting should be objective, comprehensive and clearly expressed to ensure a process that is transparent and accessible by the public. It is currently projected that the reporting phase will fall at the end of each financial year. Reports about major projects will also be provided intermittently throughout the year as required.

**Conclusion**

This document has been developed to reflect Council’s commitment to environmental engagement and to establish a strategy for Council engagement with the community on environmental issues. It identifies clear guiding principles to ensure Council’s actions are evidence-based and founded upon fairness, accessibility and efficiency. These principles will be applied throughout the engagement cycle and will steer improvements to future action plans. This cycle builds evaluation, review and reporting into the annual action plans so that best environmental engagement practice becomes common practice.
Action Plan 2010-2011

This action plan comprises three parts; the first being a summary of program evaluation carried out during the previous year, the second a summary of the desktop study findings, and the third an action plan for the following year. To ensure that it is based in firm evidence and serves the needs of our community, the action plan is informed by the guiding principles of the strategy, robust evaluation and desktop study, as outlined above.

What The Community Has Told Us

2009-2010 Program Evaluation

Written evaluations were undertaken at a number of engagement events in the 2009-2010 period, including workshops held at childcare centres, schools, in the community and the Footprints Eco Festival. A summary of this feedback is provided below.

Childcare Centres

In the 2009-2010 period workshops on sustainable living topics were offered to the staff and parents of Leichhardt Council’s childcare centres. After each workshop, participants were asked to complete evaluation forms. When asked how Council could support their centre to become more sustainable, a variety of responses were received. These are summarised below:

Council could provide:

- Centres with more information and support about green purchasing;
- More resources to support environmental education;
- Daytime workshops for parents and kids;
- General support from Council staff.

Wider community

During the 2009-2010 period, Council ran the Footprints Eco Festival, as well as the Treading Lightly series of workshops. The community was asked to provide
feedback at each of these events. When asked what topic areas Council should focus on, participants delivered a variety of responses which are summarised below.

The community is interested in:

- Information on water retention, greywater and rainwater tanks;
- Green home renovations;
- Cycling tips/routes;
- Natural cleaning information and recipes;
- Solar power information;
- Home energy efficiency information;
- Information on green improvements for small properties;
- Green strata tips;
- Energy testing equipment in the library.

As this is the first action plan to be developed by Leichhardt Council, this community feedback is necessarily limited in scope. Following the first full engagement cycle, more substantial feedback data will be available to use as a basis for evaluation, and thus to inform the next action plan.

**Desktop Study**

A desktop study of current engagement practices and topic areas at a local, state and federal level has been carried out to ensure that this action plan remains current and relevant. Key findings are outlined below:

**National Themes**

The Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) is the peak body representing the environmental education profession. This desktop study included a review of key AAEE publications and the following topic areas have been identified as significant to the broader Australian community:

- Climate change;
- Affordable sustainability;
• Water harvesting/conservation;
• Food choices.

Additionally, the following engagement methods have been highlighted as effective in the current environment:
• Mentoring;
• Catchment-based education;
• School teacher support;
• Sustainability through dialogue;
• Kids teaching kids;
• Collaborative learning.

**State Themes**
The NSW Environmental Education Plan 2007-2010 establishes the following priority themes for NSW:
• Climate change;
• Total water cycle management;
• Biodiversity conservation;
• Landscape management;
• Sustainable production and consumption;
• Pesticide and chemical management;
• Air quality;
• Sustainable housing;
• Sustainable transport.

**Local Themes**
The Department of Climate Change and Water also supports local government projects through Environmental Trust funding. Local government projects supported by the Environmental Trust this financial year include projects which involve:
• Community gardens;
• Climate change adaptation;
• Sustainable business;
• Bushcare training;
• Sustainable trades capacity building;
• School eco art.

This action plan has been developed in order to encompass as many findings of this desktop study as feasible in the first year of the engagement cycle. As the environmental engagement program matures a more comprehensive action plan will be developed.

Actions 2010-2011
This action plan contains a list of environmental engagement actions planned for the 2010-2011 year, a brief description of the action and a statement of its broad aim. These actions are presented in four categories:

• Part A: Actions which are of relevance to the whole community;
• Part B: Actions which specifically focus on young people;
• Part C: Actions which specifically focus on Council staff;
• Part D: All other actions.

The action plan has been developed based upon the evaluation and desktop study evidence provided above and follows the guiding principles of the Environmental Engagement Strategy. The action plan includes pre-existing Council programs and events which are already standing fixtures on the Council calendar, as well as new initiatives to achieve the aims of the Environmental Engagement Strategy.

Appendix B contains the Draft Environmental Education budget for the 2010-2011 period.
PART A: Actions For All Of The Community

Community Environmental Grants: New Program
In 2011 Council will launch an environmental grants program for the community. The grants program will be themed according to the evidence provided through the evaluation and desktop study above. Where possible, the grants program will be tied to existing grant programs provided by Council.

The aims of this program are to build environmental capacity in the community and to encourage community-driven environmental activity.

Local Flora and Fauna on Council Website: New Service
A new section of Council’s website providing flora and fauna information and tracking will be developed this year. Residents will be able to identify plant and animal species via a catalogue of images and information. And in turn, this built-in online fauna tracking mechanism for use by the community will help Council to monitor species in the Leichhardt area.

The aims of this service are to provide information on valuable native flora and fauna and to provide a tool for Council to work with the community to monitor species.

Public Forums: New Event
A public forum has already been held on an environmental topic with another planned for next year. A forum on Wind and Renewable Technology, both at the national and local levels, took place in July 2010. The second forum will be held in the first half of 2011 and will address how the nation can achieve significant carbon reductions via renewable energy policy. These forums seek broad community attendance and speakers from academic institutions, relevant commercial industry and non-government organisations are invited to participate.

The aim of these events is to provide a large number of community members with a deeper understanding of complex topic areas associated with the necessary shift to renewable energy.
Treading Lightly: Ongoing Program

Treading Lightly is an adult education program which delivers a range of free events and workshops to the community. This is a joint initiative of Leichhardt, Ashfield, Canada Bay, Strathfield and Burwood Councils; the partnership aims to deliver a broad calendar of sustainability events and learning opportunities for the community. A calendar of events on offer is issued each six months and residents from each of the Local Government Areas are welcome to attend.

The aim of this program is to provide individual community members with the opportunity to learn how to live more sustainably through a number of diversely themed learning opportunities.

Introduction to Permaculture Training: One-off Program

Permaculture is a holistic system of living which helps households reduce both food waste and the environmental impact of food production and distribution. This year Council will be offering Introduction to Permaculture training sessions for up to 30 Leichhardt residents. The program will be offered in order to build the community’s capacity to live more sustainably. Interest in Permaculture is high in the inner west of Sydney and Council will supporting this interest by providing this learning opportunity for the community.

The aim of this program is to provide interested residents with an opportunity to gain an in-depth, comprehensive and practical understanding of local environmental systems.

Footprints Eco-Festival: Annual Event

The Footprints Eco-Festival is planned to be run a second year in 2011. Weather permitting, the festival will be held at Whites Creek Valley Park. The festival will include a range of workshops, activities, music, stalls and entertainment — all with a sustainability message. This event has become Council’s largest environmental engagement activity.

The aim of this event is to expose a broad spectrum of community members to a range of environmental topics simultaneously.

Bushcare: Ongoing Program
Council is committed to sustaining local Bushcare groups through various forms of support. This includes including training and the provision of technical advice for community volunteers. With the anticipated opening of a new and improved community native nursery, it is likely that Council’s commitment will extend to the supply of local native plants for use in residential gardens.

The aims of this program are to improve native vegetation and habitat in the local area and to build capacity of those involved in the program.

**Support for Local Environmental Community Groups: Ongoing Support**

There are a number of environmentally focussed community groups currently active in the Leichhardt area and Council recognises the benefits they bring to the community. Council can provide the following support to groups with a specific environmental focus:

- Promotion of community events on Council’s website;
- Provision of meeting spaces upon request (fee waiver applications required);
- Review of non-Council funded environmental grant applications

The aim of this support is to enable and enhance environmentally based community groups in the area.

**Community Run Environmental Events: Ongoing Support**

At various times throughout the year, community groups such as schools approach Council for assistance with their events. Environmentally themed events are becoming more common, and it is therefore important for Council to establish how it can best respond to such requests. Assistance available for the 2010-2011 financial year will be provided as follows:

**For profit organisations:** Council may provide educational and promotional flyers for circulation to the community;

**Not-for-profit organisations:** Council may provide educational and promotional flyers, promotion on the Leichhardt Council website, giveaways or staff for a Council stall (if event is held within standard business hours).
Adequate lead-time will be required and provision of these services will depend on staff workloads at the time of the event/request.

The aims of this support are to encourage community groups and organisations to hold environmentally themed events and to distribute Council resources in a fair way.

**Walk Against Warming: Annual Event**

Walk Against Warming is an annual event advocating for action on climate change in which the Leichhardt community has participated for many years. Council has provided financial support, promotion and a banner across the Leichhardt Town Hall. Council will participate and support this event this year.

The aims of this event are to show Council support for action on climate change and to encourage the community and Council staff to participate.

**National Tree Day: Annual Event**

National Tree Day is a national tree planting event where volunteers from the community come together to plant and care for native trees and shrubs. This year plantings will contribute to the native vegetation corridor being established by local communities as part of the Cooks River to Iron Cove Greenway. The Greenway corridor passes through the Leichhardt, Ashfield, Marrickville and Canterbury LGAs along the Hawthorne Canal, and along the Rozelle to Dulwich Hill goods railway corridor. Council will support National Tree Day by supplying plants, tools, gloves and a sausage sizzle.

The aim of this event is to provide the wider community with hands-on biodiversity enhancement experience.

**Sustainable Shopping Guide: Ongoing Program**

In February 2010, Council launched a sustainable shopping guide with a particular focus on food. This guide, available in both hardcopy and online, lists local businesses and markets which sell sustainable food including Fairtrade products. This year, the online Sustainable Shopping Guide will be updated and expanded to feature new local businesses and community enterprises that are committed to providing Fairtrade consumables and products.
The aim of this program is to enable the community to make informed choices when shopping.

Clean Up Australia Day: Annual Event
Clean Up Australia Day is an annual event during which volunteers from various sectors of the community get together to remove waste from the environment. Leichhardt Council will continue support for Clean Up Australia Day activities this year via the provision of waste collection at registered sites across the local government area.

The aim of this event is to involve the community in removing waste from the environment in their local area.

Second Hand Saturday: Annual Event
Second Hand Saturday is a community garage sale program to promote reuse and neighbourhood socialising which has been operating in Leichhardt since 2000. Second Hand Saturday is scheduled to run in the first half of 2011.

The aim of this event is to encourage the cycling of resources in the community and avoid waste to landfill.

Companion Animal Campaign: New Campaign
Approximately one third of households in the Leichhardt area own a dog. This year Leichhardt Council will be working to encourage responsible dog ownership, especially in our open spaces. Dogs Day Out is an annual community event that promotes responsible dog care, education and management for dog and other animal owners in the Leichhardt Municipality. This year a survey will be carried out to gather information and feedback from dog owners to inform future education programs. Additionally, a Leichhardt Council Dog Owner's Guide will be launched at this event.

The aim of this campaign is to inform the community of responsible pet ownership practices.

Smoke-free Alfresco Dining Campaign: New Campaign
This year Council will be commencing a campaign to encourage smoke-free alfresco dining on Council land. The focus will be on promoting people’s right to a healthy environment and on the health effects of passive smoking. The environmental impacts of cigarette butt litter will also be addressed as part of this campaign. Community education will take place via the Council website, signage, business operator education, the distribution of literature and Ranger training. Smoke-free alfresco dining on Council land will be officially in force from July 2011. 

*The aim of this campaign is to improve the environmental health of the community in the streets of Leichhardt.*

**Swimming Pool Campaign: New Campaign**

Council will be joining a statewide swimming pool education campaign that aims to draw attention to the critical importance of swimming pool barriers meeting the requirements of the relevant statutory requirements. A Swimming Pool Laws Brochure and Home Swimming Pool Safety Checklist will be distributed to every private pool owner and occupier. Leichhardt Council will combine these safety messages with tips for reducing the environmental impact of swimming pools such as energy and water saving measures and waste water options.

*The aims of this campaign are to promote swimming pool safety and to reduce the environmental impacts of private swimming pools.*

**Council’s Environmental Website: Ongoing Service**

As the key interface with the general public, Council’s website is a great way to engage with the community. This year Council will improve the ‘Environment’ section of the website to allow the community better access to relevant information.

*The aim of this service is to provide an information source for the community which is readily used and easily accessible.*
PART B: Actions Specifically For Young People

OOSH Eco Bag Competition: New Program
OOSH stands for Out of School Hours. This year Council is running an Eco Bag Design Competition, inviting all 12 local OOSH centres to participate. Students will be issued a bamboo fibre bag which will be the canvas for their environmental art. Prizes will be awarded and that the bags will be displayed in the local area.

The aims of this program are to encourage environmental conversations between young people and to demonstrate to the community how young people feel about their environment.

Eco Toys and Books for Council Libraries: New Purchase
Leichhardt libraries are a great example of re-use in action. Books, toys, magazines DVDs, and CDs can be borrowed free of charge. This year a range of new eco toys and books will be purchased for use by the community. The books will be environmentally themed and the toys will be made from sustainable materials.

The aim of this purchase is to provide the community with access to a range of environmentally themed books and sustainable toys.

Thursday Program Trash to Treasure: New Program
The Thursday Program is run through the Community Development section of Council and is targeted at teens. This is a drop in style program whereby teens come and go after school. The program offers snacks, music and activities. This year, two special ‘Trash to Treasure’ Thursdays will be provided as part of this program. Teens will be able to drop in and make items such as sculpture, jewellery and gifts from re-use materials such as electronic chips, CDs and packaging materials with the guidance of Reverse Garbage re-use centre.

The aim of this program is to engage teens in a fun way on the concepts of waste and consumption.

Summer Activities Program: New Program
Sydney Coastal Council Group (SCCG) coordinates a Summer Activities Program each year through which Councils deliver a range of activities to their communities. SCCG coordinates the promotion of the program. This year Leichhardt Council will provide summer activities to contribute to this program. Possible activities include a bush tucker tour or tours of the Whites Creek wetland. The Summer Activities Program is delivered in January during the school holidays.

*The aim of this program is to engage young people on topics related to the environment during their holiday period.*

**Watch Our Watts: New Program**

Each year Observatory Hill Education Centre offers specific environmental education opportunities for schools. This year they are offering Watch Our Watts, an education program focused on energy use and tracking. This program encourages primary and secondary schools to partner up and learn collaboratively about how to make their schools more energy efficient. Leichhardt Council will support this program this year.

*The aim of this program is to provide experiential learning for school children on the topic of energy and climate change.*

**Wetland Tours for Local Schools: New Program**

Whites Creek Wetland is a site of great ecological benefit and also offers great opportunities for students to learn about the environment. This year Council will offer primary schools visits to the wetland and lessons about the site. Depending upon the age group, students will be provided with a tour of the surrounding area and the wetland including an explanation and demonstration of the function of the manmade wetland. Students will also discuss how their behaviour impacts the health of public open spaces and waterways.

*The aim of this program is to engage school children at a demonstration site about urban ecological systems.*

**Little Green Steps and Extension: Grant Funded Project**

Little Green Steps is an Environmental Trust grant funded collaboration project between Canterbury, Hurstville, Leichhardt, Waverley and Woollahra Councils.
which seeks to enhance the sustainability of childcare centres. The key outcomes of the project include environmental audits, environmental management plans for the centres, professional development for early childhood professionals and environmental education resource kits. In 2010, the Little Green Steps project will be finalised. The outcomes of the project will be continued and enhanced this year via the provision of workshops and environmentally themed books for Leichhardt Council childcare centres.

The aim of this project is to create sustainable children’s centres for the delivery of quality sustainability education.

**Workshops for Schools: Ongoing Program**

Leichhardt Council works closely with local schools to provide children with access to quality environmental education. One of the key ways Council does this is by providing workshops for schools on topics including composting, worm farming, non-toxic body care and growing a kitchen garden. This program has been highly successful in the past and will continue in 2011.

The aim of this program is to provide school children with hands on experience and learning opportunities in a diverse range of sustainable living topic areas.

**Greenway Schools Program: New program**

The Greenway project is establishing a recognisable environmental, cultural and transport corridor linking the Cooks River to Iron Cove. Leichhardt Council is a partner in the Greenway project which includes a schools program comprising lessons, activities and environmental walks for schools in the Greenway area. Leichhardt Council will work collaboratively with schools and the Greenway project team to develop and implement this program.

The aims of this program are to extend the benefit of the Greenway project to schools and to provide them with opportunity to engage with the local environment.

**Environmental Schools Network: New Network**

Many local teachers, parents and students are doing great things for the environment. In order to encourage and support them, this year Council will
establish an Environmental Schools Network to assist schools on their path to sustainability. The networks will include school site visits and information sharing opportunities. Council will coordinate this group and provide information as required.

*The aims of this network are to help schools to share ideas, generate support for environmental actions and to create communication links between stakeholders.*

**Grant Assistance For Schools: New Service**

A number of environmental grants are available through government and private organisations. Grants are available for a variety of possible outcomes including outdoor school classrooms, kitchen gardens, biodiversity improvements and installation of energy or water efficiency measures. This year Council will provide a grant reviewing service to schools seeking such environmental grants.

*The aim of this service is to assist schools which are seeking to enhance their environmental performance through grants.*
PART C: Actions Specifically For Council Staff

Green Team: New Network
This year Council aims to establish a “Green Team” of Council staff. This group will be made up of staff from across Council who would like to make a difference and assist Leichhardt Council in becoming a more environmentally sustainable workplace.

The aim of this network is to harness ideas and to share knowledge from those across the organisation for environmental improvements at Council.

Green Purchasing Training: New Program
This year Council staff will be offered Green Purchasing Training. This training will be geared toward staff who frequently make Council purchases or run events.

The aim of this program is to inform staff of Council’s Purchasing Policy and to advise how to make sustainable choices when purchasing on behalf of Council.

Leave Your Car at Home Day: New Event
Leave Your Car at Home Day is an event whereby Council staff are encouraged to use a form of transport to get to work other than a car. A breakfast will be provided to those who participate and kilometres will be tallied for prizes and Council reporting.

The aim of this event is to encouraged staff to consider the impacts of various transport modes.

Staff Induction: Ongoing Program
Full day staff induction, in which background information about Leichhardt Council is provided, is given to new Council staff upon arrival. As part of this induction, environment staff deliver a session which covers what Council is doing environmentally and the responsibilities of staff in ensuring Council actions are performed in a sustainable fashion. This program will continue to be delivered to new staff in 2011.
The aim of this program is to inform new Council staff about environmental initiatives at Council.

**Earth Hour: Annual Event**

Earth Hour is an annual event during which individuals, businesses and communities turn off their lights and think about the energy they use. Council supports Earth Hour by turning off lights at Council buildings and also runs a competition for staff to encourage energy saving actions at home and in the workplace.

The aim of this event is to encourage staff and the community to make energy efficiency measures at home and in the workplace.
PART D: Other Actions

Community Surveys: New Research
During this engagement cycle, Council will survey the community and gather feedback to inform future action plans. In order to ensure validity, surveys will focus on a single demographic annually and make alterations to the action plan according to the results. The surveys will assess the community’s knowledge, concerns, skills, behaviours, attitudes and preferred ways of learning about environmental topics.

The aim of this research is to gain a clear understanding of how Council can engage the community most effectively on environmental issues.

Sydney Water Sustainable Business Program: Continuing Project
Sydney Water, Canada Bay and Leichhardt Council have partnered up for a project which will help small to medium business become more sustainable. Business sustainability officers have been employed to work with businesses in the area to help cut waste, and to save water and energy. This is a free service which includes audits, advice and education for participating businesses.

The aim of this project is to provide opportunity for local small businesses to operate in a more environmentally sustainable fashion.

South Sydney Environmental Educators Network: New Network
South Sydney Environmental Educators Network (SSSEEN) is a group of Sydney-based environment educators who meet quarterly. It is a free network which is run and hosted by members. The majority of members are local government officers who work in environment and sustainability. This network allows Council officers to plan joint Council projects, share ideas and troubleshoot. Council supports this network by attending and occasionally hosting meetings in Council spaces.

The aims of this network are to forge partnerships, generate ideas and to create new projects around environmental engagement.
Australian Association of Environmental Educators: Annual Membership

Leichhardt Council is a longterm paid member of the Australian Association of Environmental Educators (AAEE), the peak body for the environmental education profession. This association provides research papers, conferences and a broad range of information and networking opportunities for Council staff. Leichhardt Council will remain a paid member for 2010-2011 and relevant staff will utilise the benefits of the association membership.

The aim of this membership is to ensure Council staff and programs remain up to date on national changes and innovations in the environmental education sector.
PARTICIPANT FEED BACK FORM

Thankyou for participating in today’s workshop. To help us improve our future programs please take a few minutes to provide some feedback.

Date: ___________ Age group (please tick):
Your postcode: _______ 15-25 45-55
Your gender: M F 25-35 55-65
Is English your first language? Yes No
If not, which language is? _______________________

5 What was your least favourite part of today’s workshop?

6 Do you feel confident applying the principles you learnt today at home?
Yes  ☐  Maybe  ☐  No  ☐

7 Would you recommend this workshop to others?
Yes  ☐  Maybe  ☐  No  ☐

8 What else could Council do to help you live more sustainably? i.e. What other workshops, services or activities could be provided?

9 Would you like to join the email list to find out about future events similar to this one? If yes, please provide your email address

10 How did you find out about today’s workshop?

Note: Information provided assists us in tailoring our programs to meet the community needs and will not be used for any other purpose.

Thankyou for your feedback!
Appendix B: Draft Environmental Education Budget 2010-2011

Many of the items on the action plan correspond with line items in this budget but some are funded through other budget areas and are therefore not accounted for below.

Draft Environmental Education Budget 2010-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Budget ($)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Treading Lightly Series</td>
<td>4000</td>
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<td>Community</td>
<td>Wind and Renewables forum</td>
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<td>Community</td>
<td>Forum 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community</td>
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<td>Young people</td>
<td>Eco toys and books for Council libraries</td>
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<td>Young people</td>
<td>OOSH Eco Bag Competition</td>
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<td>Young people</td>
<td>Workshops for schools</td>
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<td>Young people</td>
<td>Watch Our Watts</td>
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<td>Young people</td>
<td>Little Green Steps and extension</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council staff</td>
<td>Leave Your Car at Home Day</td>
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<td>Facilitator insurance</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>Environmental Engagement Strategy development</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>AAEE membership</td>
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**TOTAL** $40,000
References


# LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

## REPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIVISION:</th>
<th>GENERAL MANAGER’S OFFICE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUBJECT:</td>
<td>FOOTPRINTS ECO FESTIVAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUTHOR:</td>
<td>COSTA ATZEMIS – COMMUNITY EVENTS COORDINATOR</td>
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## DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY - ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Implications:</th>
<th>$20,000 budgeted from Community Events</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Plan Objective:</td>
<td>Community Well-being</td>
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<td>Place Where We Live &amp; Work</td>
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<td>A Sustainable Environment</td>
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<td>Sustainable Services &amp; Assets</td>
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<td>General Manager’s Department</td>
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<td>Traffic</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Development Application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Implications:</td>
<td>Site Impact</td>
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</table>

39
1. **Purpose of Report**

   To inform Council of the plan and date change for the Footprints Eco Festival 2011.

2. **Recommendations**

   1. That Council approve the date change from Sunday, 5 June 2011 to Sunday, 28 August 2011.

   2. That Council note that a committee comprising of Cr Kogoy, Cr Hannaford, Cr Stamolis, Council Officers and interested community members will be convened to assist program development.

   3. The committee will meet in April 2011 to confirm the program.

   4. That the program be reported to the Environment and Recreation Committee in May 2011.

3. **Report**

   The inaugural Footprints Ecofestival was held 6 June 2010. The event was scheduled to take place at Whites Creek Valley Park, however, due to rain the event was moved to the Leichhardt Town Hall at the last moment. This resulted in a reduced program of events to that which had been planned.

   June is predominately a wetter month hence it is recommended that the Eco Festival be moved to the month of August which is statistically a drier month. This will minimise the risk of the event being washed out once again.

   An outline of the proposed event is provided below.

   **Footprints Eco Festival**
   “Take steps to reduce your carbon footprint”
   Date: Sunday 28th August 2011
   Time: 11am – 3pm
   Location: Whites Creek Valley Park, Piper Street Annandale.
   Scope: To attract people not already incorporating ecologically friendly practices in to their lifestyle in an effort to educate them on simple measures to effect change.
   Anticipated Crowd Size: Up to 1,000

   Keep Australia Beautiful Week runs from 22-28 August 2011. The Eco Festival could tie in with this. **Footprints** will focus on demonstrating and showcasing environmentally sustainable practices suitable for implementation in residential
homes as well as projects and programs available instigated by Leichhardt Council.

Activities will include organic food stalls, market stalls selling environmentally friendly products, information stands promoting programs, projects, businesses and community groups who have an environmental product available.

Light entertainment including acoustic music and children’s entertainment will occur throughout the day within the park. Roaming entertainers will deliver environmental themes to participants.

Walking tours of the Community gardens and wetlands area will take place at regular intervals. Tree planting will be conducted on the Annandale side of Whites Creek in an allocated space, facilitated by Council’s Biodiversity officer. Talks will be delivered by relevant experts throughout the day on a variety of topics.

The Council Community Bus will operate certain hours of the day picking up commuters at certain points.

A “No Cars” policy will be implemented in all promotions of the event as there is not sufficient space to accommodate participants arriving by car. Bike Parking will be available on site and bike routes encouraged.

The Environment & Recreation Committee, environment staff and other interested environment/sustainability stakeholders will provide input on the environmental sustainability and recreation aspects of the festival.

The following people will be invited to contribute their input to the development of the program, to shape an interactive and interesting event that will attract and educate a wider group of people, particularly younger people.

- Community Development Officer, Youth Focus
- Youth Council
- Community Development Officer, Open Space
# LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

## REPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIVISION:</th>
<th>ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUBJECT:</td>
<td>WHITES CREEK VALLEY PARK – TRANSFER OF PROPERTIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUTHOR:</td>
<td>GILL DAWSON – MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN PLANNING</td>
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## DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY - ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Implications:</th>
<th>Nil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Implications:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Strategic Plan Objective:| Community wellbeing  
|                          | Sustainable service and assets |
| Staffing Implications:   | Nil |
| Notifications:           | Nil |
| Other Implications:      | Nil |
1. **Purpose of Report**

To advise the Committee of the negotiations with the Department of Planning in relation to the transfer to Council of land to be part of the Whites Creek Valley Park.

2. **Recommendations**

That the report be noted.

3. **Report**

Council considered a report on this matter at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 22 February 2011 at which Council resolved C18/11:

1. That Council enter into the Land Transfer Agreement with the Minister administering the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 subject to the final terms of the Agreement being satisfactory to Council’s General Manager.

2. That authority is delegated to the General Manager to finalise the terms of the Agreement and to execute the Agreement, and any other documents required to give effect to these resolutions, for and on behalf of Council.

A copy of the report is provided as an attachment to this report.
LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REPORT

DIVISION: CORPORATE AND INFORMATION SERVICES
SUBJECT: TRANSFER TO COUNCIL FROM DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING – WHITES CREEK VALLEY PARK
AUTHOR & TITLE: LYN GERATHY – MANAGER PROPERTY AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES
FILE REF: F09/
DATE: 15 February 2011
WORD PROCESSING REF: G:\BP\REPORTS\FINAL\220211\TRANSFER OF WCVP.DOC

DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY - ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications: Department of Planning is to reimburse reasonable costs of demolition and to remediate the lots not yet under Council’s care control and management. Council is to pay the costs of embellishment. An amount of $200,000 was previously budgeted for the Native Nursery at 22 Wisdom Street, Annandale.

Policy Implications: Financial responsibility

Strategic Plan Objective: 1. Community well-being.
6. Sustainable service and assets.

Staffing Implications: Council will be handling the tendering and project management.

Notifications: Those who previously made submissions. Various Council Committee members.

Other Implications: Nil
1. **Purpose of Report**

To update Council on the negotiations with the Department of Planning for the transfer to Council of land to be part of Whites Creek Valley Park, and to recommend that Council enter into an agreement.

2. **Recommendations**

1. That Council enter into the Land Transfer Agreement with the Minister administering the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 subject to the final terms of the Agreement being satisfactory to Council’s General Manager.

2. That authority is delegated to the General Manager to finalise the terms of the Agreement and to execute the Agreement, and any other documents required to give effect to these resolutions, for and on behalf of Council.

3. **Background**

The 1951 County of Cumberland scheme identified land around Whites Creek for future acquisition for public open space. Since then, the Department of Planning (“Planning”) and its predecessors have purchased land with funds from the Sydney Regional Development Fund (to which Councils contribute) as funding and the properties became available.

Previously, Planning would purchase the properties, usually demolish the improvements (except for the cottage and stables at 31 White Street which the community wanted retained) and then by gazettal give care control and management of the sites to Council. Council has care control and management of the following sites owned by Planning:

- 17 White Street, Lilyfield
- 19-21 White Street, Lilyfield, rear portion.
- 29-31 White Street, Lilyfield
- 23 White Street, Lilyfield
- 45-47 White Street, Lilyfield
- 18 Wisdom street, Annandale
- 15 Argumbau Street, Annandale

Planning has also acquired the following sites but they are not under Council’s care control and management:

- 19 -21 White Street, Lilyfield, front section
- 35 White Street, Lilyfield
- 37 White Street Lilyfield
- 39 White Street, Lilyfield
- 20-22 Wisdom Street, Annandale.
Planning is still to acquire:

- 23 White Street, Lilyfield

which is expected to be when the current owner wishes to sell.

Council is responsible for the sites which are already under its care control and management. In respect of those sites owned by Planning but not yet under Council’s control, it had been understood that Planning would demolish the improvements and remediate the sites at its cost before handing over to Council which would embellish at its costs. Planning obtained development consent in April 2006 to demolish the Nissan Hut at 22 Wisdom Street but has taken no action to do so. Council has development consent to construct a Native Nursery, following demolition of the Nissan hut.

Planning had previously advised that it wished to transfer the title of all lots into Council’s name, rather than care control and management. The parties have been negotiating the terms of the transfer for some time. The main issue has been how much each party would pay, or bear the risk of the costs, to remediate or manage any contamination to make the sites suitable for use as Public Open Space and connected with that, the timing of the transfer of title compared to the remediation being done and costs paid.

Meanwhile, in 2009, a proposal was made by interested local families that the houses at 35, 37 and 39 White Street be retained and renovated to provide accommodation for people with mild intellectual disabilities under a family centred model of Independent Supported Living. There was opposition to the proposal from other residents. There are other issues with the proposal for these particular houses to be retained and renovated for Supported Living. It is doubtful if it is permitted for community land and whether the houses could be leased for this purpose. The adopted Plan of Management for Whites Creek Valley Park has the houses to be demolished, with only the house and stables at 31 White Street, now a local community centre, to be retained. As set out in the October 2010 Report to Council, the national standard for public open space is benchmarked at 2.81ha per 1,000 people. Whilst Lilyfield at 2.66ha / 1,000 people is the ward with the highest ratio of open space per person in the LGA, it is still below the national standard. Annandale (on the other side of Whites Creek Valley Park) has the lowest ratio in the municipality at 0.73 ha / 1,000 people. The Leichhardt local government area overall has 1.7ha / 1,000 including Callan Park and Ballast Point Park. Council has a program of acquiring additional lands to increase public open space.

In November 2009, Planning made an offer to transfer the title of all lots in Whites Creek Valley to Council, with Council to take them “as is” but Council must demolish the improvements including 35, 37 and 39 White Street houses (but not the community centre and stables at 31 White Street) and convert the space to public open space. Planning offered $325,000 as its full contribution to the demolition and remediation of those lots not yet under Council’s control. This sum included $40,000 for Site Investigations and any necessary remediation of contamination in 21, 35, 37 and 39 White Street after demolition of the houses. Based on the costs of similar investigations and work elsewhere, this amount was considered potentially seriously insufficient and that Council risked being left with very high costs.
On 8 December 2009, Council resolved,

1. **That the Mayor write to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Minister Kelly MP and the State Member for Balmain, Verity Firth MP, seeking that the property at 22 Wisdom Street identified as the site for the Community Nursery within Whites Creek Valley Park be formally handed over to Council with the appropriate level of funding for the demolition of the disused building and remediation of the site immediately.**

2. **That the handing over of the property at 22 Wisdom Street not be delayed due to ongoing discussions on the handover of the properties at 21, 35, 37 & 39 White Street, Lilyfield.**

3. **That Council make a Freedom of Information application to obtain from the Department of Planning all reports and assessments relating to contamination and remediation and the estimated costs of remediation in respect of 22 Wisdom Street, Annandale and 21, 35, 37 and 39 White Street, Lilyfield.**

A Freedom of Information application was made to Department of Planning in December 2009 and then in January 2010 to the Office of Strategic Lands within Land and Property Management Authority to which the relevant section of Planning had been transferred. Documents were received and Council had them reviewed by an Environmental/Contamination consultant. This supported the concern that the level of funding which had been offered by Planning was insufficient to demolish the structures and remediate the 5 lots which had not been passed to Council’s control.

On 19 October 2010 Council resolved, **“That Council receive and note the report on the open space impact considerations if the properties at 35, 37 and 39 White Street Lilyfield are not delivered as open space.”**

Planning remains adamant that all the titles will be transferred first, which the report author thinks is to limit its liability under the Contaminated Land Management Act, 1997. It is pointless to continue with the argument if Council wants the land for open space in the short term. It just becomes more important that the Agreement contains sufficient enforceable obligations on Planning to reimburse Council a sufficient contribution towards demolition and remediation.

**4. Report**

Contamination and the costs of remediation are big issues that have arisen since Planning first acquired lots at Whites Creek.

In January 2011, an amended draft Land Transfer Agreement was received from Planning. The Agreement provides for Planning to reimburse to Council the reasonable costs of undertaking the investigations, demolition and remediation and obtaining a Site Audit of each lot which is not now under Council’s control. The main features relating to transfer, remediation and costs were as follows.

- If required by Planning, there will be a public ceremony for the handing over of the sites to Council. Signs must acknowledge the contribution of Planning, as well as the Sydney Regional Development Fund and Council.
• Planning will transfer to Council the title to all the lots it owns in Whites Creek Valley Park, both those already under Council’s control and those which have not yet been handed to Council. With the transfer of title comes the right to possession and control of those lots not already under Council’s control. The exception is the part of 21 White Street which is leased. Planning is to obtain vacant possession first and then transfer the title and property to Council.

• Council must promptly call for tenders for the demolition of the Nissan Hut at 22 Wisdom Street, Annandale (for which development consent was granted in 2006) and remediation of that site in accordance with the Remediation Action Plan obtained by Planning.

• Council must also promptly call for tenders for the demolition of 35, 37 and 39 White Street, and also 21 White Street once it is vacant and handed over to Council. Council must then have the sites investigated for contamination and call for tenders to undertake any remediation required and then obtain a Site Audit Certificate.

• The Agreement specifies that the standard of remediation is to be that for a park, recreational open space, playing field under the EP&A Guidelines.

• An officer of Planning is to be on the tender evaluation panel.

• Planning will reimburse the costs for each site to Council on submission of a tax invoice.

Council had requested some amendments to the draft Agreement. These included technical matters and clarifications and were designed to ensure Planning’s compliance with its obligations under the Agreement and otherwise to improve Council’s position. Many have been agreed, including that Planning will pay $325,000 (Planning’s original offer) to Council on the transfer of titles without Planning’s obligations to reimburse costs being limited to that amount. If the work costs more than this amount, Planning will be obliged to reimburse the extra. Some requested changes need not be pursued but the recommendations have been phrased to indicate that there are still a small number of outstanding requests for changes to the terms of the Agreement and some fining tuning of the wording of some changes which have been agreed in principle.

Council must note the nature of the transfer of title and the on-going obligations and limitations on Council imposed by the Agreement. The transfer may be described as giving Council a bare legal title, similar in some ways to Council being a trustee with obligations to the beneficiary and controlled by the trust deed. Some of the on-going obligations are set out below.

• The land must remain classified as “community land” under the Local Government Act, 1993. The land can only be used for a purpose permitted for community land and categorised as a natural area, a sportsground, a park, an area of natural significance or general community uses under the Local Government Act, defined in the Agreement as Recreational Purposes.
• At least 90% of the site must be open space with no structures other than paths and similar items without roofs. This is measured over all the lots to be transferred to Council by Planning, both those now under Council’s control and those not now under Council’s control, but excluding those purchased by Council itself or owned by Sydney Water. The stables and cottage at 31 White Street and the proposed Native Nursery at 22 Wisdom Street are allowed, but they count towards the 10% permitted structures. With those buildings on the site but others demolished, up to about 95% of the site transferred will be open space.

• Council cannot change the use of the land without the prior permission of Planning. It requires to be involved in the preparation of any new Plan of Management. Council cannot alter the Plan of Management for Whites Creek Valley Park without Planning’s consent.

• If less than 90% of the total area transferred by Planning is open space, without roofed structures, or if any part of the land is not used for Recreational Purposes, Planning can require Council to retransfer the land to Planning for $1.

• These Restrictions on Use are to be registered on the certificates of title of all the lots prior to the registration of the transfers to Council.

• If the land is compulsorily acquired, the compensation paid must be paid to Planning and not retained by Council.

• Planning may lodge a caveat against the titles to give notice of and protect its rights to a re-transfer and other rights under the Agreement.

The transfer of title will not make Council the full owner and Council cannot treat the properties as if Council were the absolute owner. At all times, Council’s dealings with and the uses of the properties are subject to the conditions of the Agreement. Any breach means that Council can be required to re-transfer the properties to Planning.

It is recommended that Council enter into the Agreement in the form of the current draft subject to Planning agreeing to some requested amendments.

As soon as the Agreement is signed by both parties, Council can commence action to demolish the Nissan Hut, remediate the site and construct the Native Nursery at 22 Wisdom Street, Annandale.

5. **Summary/Conclusions**

The Department of Planning has purchased land around Whites Creek to become public open space. Planning is to transfer the properties, including the title, to Council which will project manage the works to convert the sites to open space. Planning has agreed to reimburse to Council the costs of demolition, Site Investigations for contamination, remediation and the obtaining of a Site Audit that the land is suitable for public open space, park and playing field in accordance with the EP&A Guidelines.
It is recommended that Council resolve to enter into the Agreement.

Although the title of the properties will be in Council’s name, Council will not be the absolute owner. Council is limited in the use of the properties and what can be built. Any change of use requires Planning’s consent, use must be in accordance with the Plan of Management and any changes to the Plan of Management or the preparation of a new Plan of Management must involve Planning and is subject to its consent. If Council breaches the on-going terms of the agreement, Planning can require Council to re-transfer the properties to Planning.
## ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION COMMITTEE
### OPERATION GUIDELINES

1. **Date & Time**
   - First Wednesday of every second month commencing in March
   - 6:30pm – 8.30pm. The timing of the meeting can be extended by vote on the night.

2. **Location**
   - Leichhardt Town Hall Supper Room

3. **Chair**
   - Elected by Councillors and as determined

4. **Quorum**
   - Two Councillors (including chair)
   - In the absence of a quorum at the Environment & Recreation Committee meeting, it is proposed that the meeting proceed as long as one (1) Councillor is present (ERC10/05).

5. **Time period to wait for Quorum**
   - 30 minutes from starting time of meeting

6. **Councillor and Staff Attendance**
   - 4 Councillors
   - Manager Environment & Urban Planning and/or
   - Team Leader Environment Strategy, Sustainability Engagement Officer
   - Senior Parks & Open Space Planner, Parks & Open Space Planner
   - Manager Parks & Streetscapes

7. **Community Representation**
   - Participation by community members, representatives of local community organisations and government agencies is to be actively encouraged.

8. **Decision made by Committee**
   - Decisions are made by majority vote of Councillors and community representatives.
   - Where a vote is tied the Chair shall exercise a casting vote.
   - Committee meeting minutes, including all decisions made by the Committee shall be referred to a meeting of Council to be endorsed.
   - Following the absence of a quorum at the Committee meeting, the Committee Agenda will be reported to the Ordinary Council meeting as a supplementary item (ERC10/05).

9. **Agenda and Report Availability**
   - Agendas and reports will be circulated to committee members by mail in the week prior to meeting.
   - Agendas and reports will be made available to the public 7 days prior to the meeting.

10. **Conflict of Interest**
    - At the commencement of each meeting the chairperson will ask all persons present to declare any conflicts of interest in relation to any items on the agenda. The chairperson will determine what action should be taken if such a conflict.