MINUTES of the Environment and Recreation Committee of Leichhardt Municipal Council held in the Supper Room on 7 April 2010.

Present at the meeting: Cr Daniel Kogoy, (Chair), Cr Vera Hannaford, Cr Gordon Weiss, Cr John Stamolis, David Lawrence, Paul Geraghty, Gillian Leahy, Kim Wheatley

Staff Present: Doug Anderson, Vince Cusumano, David Eckstein

Apologies Cr Rochelle Porteous, Bev Maunsell, Bronwen Campbell, Gill Dawson, Aaron Callaghan

Meeting Commenced: 6.35pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

Cr Daniel Kogoy 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

ERC11/10 RECOMMENDED

That apologies be accepted for the non attendance of Cr Rochelle Porteous, Bev Maunsell, Bronwen Campbell, Gill Dawson and Aaron Callaghan.

ITEM 1 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cr Kogoy identified a non-pecuniary interest regarding reference, in the Summary of Resolutions table, to land controlled by the State Transit Authority.

ERC12/10 RECOMMENDED

That Cr Kogoy’s non-pecuniary interest be noted and accepted.

ITEM 3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 3 February 2010

ERC13/10 RECOMMENDED

This is page 1 of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment and Recreation Committee held on 7 April 2010.
1. That Council adopt the minutes of the Environment & Recreation Committee held on 3 February 2010 with the accompanying recommendations.

2. That a hard copy of letter of thanks to Cheryl Walker, Waste Projects Officer be provided at the June 2010 Environment and Recreation Committee meeting.

3. That clarification on the status of the Gladesville Hospital / Cornucopia Café and Nursery – in relation to the NSW Government tender for operational activity be sought and the committee advised.

4. That correspondence concerning cat control at Balmain campus of Sydney Secondary College be provided for the June 2010 Environment and Recreation Committee meeting.

ITEM 4
SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

ERC14/10 RECOMMENDED

That the information in the Summary of Resolutions be received and noted.

ITEM 5
CORRESPONDENCE


ITEM 6
REPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITY – Nil

ITEM 7.1
CLIMATE CHANGE TASKFORCE – CORPORATE MINUTES

David Eckstein clarified two items from the CCTF Meeting recommendations that Councillors had sought further information upon at the March 2010 Ordinary Council Meeting – namely:

- “That a budget be made available for new staff in the environment team, with a focus on on-ground implementation”
- “That Council support any community group aiming to bulk-purchase renewable energy through promotion and media”
Regarding budget for staffing focused on implementation
A significant funding allocation has been made for several greenhouse gas abatement initiatives in the draft 2010-2011 budget. This funding could be accessed to enable suitably skilled staff to be hired on contract to project manage delivery of specific programs such as overseeing the tender process, design and delivery of cogeneration plant at LPAC.

Regarding Council support for community-based bulk purchase of renewable energy technology
Council’s support would be in the form of, for example, providing meeting spaces for the community, and promoting a community bulk-purchase program, if established, on Council’s website, as opposed to Council playing a lead role in administering any renewable energy bulk purchase scheme.

Cr Stamolis sought clarification regarding the core purpose of the Climate Change Taskforce and questioned whether the name of the committee fully reflected the matters it considers – including energy usage, energy efficiency and sustainable energy.

ERC15/10 RECOMMENDED

1. That the minutes of the Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) – Corporate Strategy meeting held on 3 March 2010 including the additional recommendations made by Council at the 23 March 2010 Ordinary Meeting be noted (C96/10).

2. That consideration be given to renaming the Climate Change Taskforce to the Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Taskforce.

ITEM 7.2
CLIMATE CHANGE TASKFORCE – COMMUNITY MINUTES

ERC16/10 RECOMMENDED

That the minutes of the Climate Change Task Force – Community Strategy meeting held on 3 March 2010 be noted.

ITEM 8.1
URBAN FOREST STRATEGY SECTIONS 3 - BENEFITS OF URBAN TREES BROCHURE & PARK SIGNAGE

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council adopt the wording provided for information leaflet on key points of the Urban Forest Policy.

2. That Council adopt the proposed draft format for diverse value of trees sign to be used in parks.

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**LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**ERC17/10 RECOMMENDED**

1. That Council adopt the wording provided for information leaflet on key points of the Urban Forest Policy.

2. That Council adopt the proposed draft format for the ‘diverse value of trees’ sign to be used in parks, with review of wording prior to finalisation

3. That placement of information signs of this type be incorporated into all future Plans of Management for parks in the LGA.

**ITEM 8.2 URBAN FOREST STRATEGY SECTION 4 EXISTING TREES IN THE LEICHHARDT MUNICIPALITY**

**ERC18/10 RECOMMENDED**

That Council adopt the next section of the Urban Forest Strategy, this being:

- Section 4 Existing Trees in the Leichhardt Municipality

**ITEM 8.3 COMMUNITY BASED FAUNA MONITORING PROGRAM**

Doug Anderson indicated that further consideration of the near-term value of the proposed biodiversity monitoring website was required. An alternative more targeted program (for example targeting specific pest species) may be more appropriate.

David Eckstein indicated that Council’s direct experience with schools has shown that there is seriously limited ability to ‘take on more’ tasks, given existing curriculum and other established activities. Therefore strong school engagement within the proposed website was not assured.

Gillian Leahy described the current problems with rat infestation around the Whites Creek Community Garden, and the Mosman black rat control (and native rat re-introduction) program.

David Lawrence enquired about the status of the Canberra Indian Mynah control program. Doug Anderson advised that completion of the study by late 2010 is unlikely but that the trial is already providing important indication of the effectiveness of control of this species when undertaken at a regional scale.

**ERC19/10 RECOMMENDED**

That work on the proposed full biodiversity monitoring website be deferred in preference for more targeted programs – a short report will be provided on proposed fauna biodiversity and fauna pest control focussed programs.

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ITEM 8.4
FUNGAL DISEASE FUSARIUM IN GLADSTONE PARK PHOENIX PALMS

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council remove infected palms in Gladstone Park and as much of root ball as possible in accordance with the Sydney Environmental and Soil Laboratory report.

2. That a development application be lodged for the removal of these trees as Gladstone Park is listed on Council’s LEP 2000 as being a Heritage site.

3. That Phoenix Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) to be replaced by Livistonia Palms (*Livistona australis*).

4. That all Council staff and contractors will be required to sterilise their saws and other pruning implements prior to undertaking works on Phoenix Palms in Council parks and when moving from one park to another which have this species of plant in them.

ERC20/10 RECOMMENDED

1. That Council remove infected palms in Gladstone Park and as much of root ball as possible in accordance with the Sydney Environmental and Soil Laboratory report.

2. That a development application be lodged for the removal of these trees as Gladstone Park is listed on Council’s LEP 2000 as being a Heritage site.

3. That Phoenix Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) to be replaced by Livistonia Palms (*Livistona australis*).

4. That all Council staff and contractors will be required to sterilise their saws and other pruning implements prior to undertaking works on Phoenix Palms in Council parks and when moving from one park to another which have this species of plant in them.

5. That Council seek to promote this tree health issue to the public.

**Related Update – Relocation of Victoria Road Washingtonia Palms**

Council’s Parks Manager updated the Committee regarding the relocation of the mature *Washingtonia* Palms that were removed as part of the State Government major works on Victoria Road, Rozelle.

No suitable location has been found within Council’s parks and street environments. A proposal to place the trees at the corner of Norton Street and the City West link has also proved unsuccessful with the RTA opting to maintain the existing Jacarandas at that location.

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As no local site can be found for the palms Council has informed the RTA that it should seek alternative locations beyond the municipality.

ITEM 8.5
BALLAST POINT PARK (VERBAL REPORT)

Council has contacted SHFA regarding a Memorandum of Understanding regarding park management practices. SHFA have advised that the agency does not consider an MoU necessary, and that current arrangements are considered satisfactory.

Cr Stamolis recommended that representations be made to the NSW Government to enable transfer of Ballast Point Park to care and control of Council. The recommendation was seconded by Gillian Leahy.

ERC21/10 RECOMMENDED

That representations be made to the NSW Government to enable transfer of Ballast Point Park to care and control of Council, with appropriate on-going maintenance funding budget provided by the State Government as part of any transfer arrangement.

Note: At the April 2010 Ordinary Meeting, Council made a change to the Recommendation ERC21/10. Council resolved that:

“A report be prepared on the issue of Ballast Point Park being transferred to Leichhardt Council, particularly in context of the Long Term Financial Plan, Strategic Asset Management Plans and Council’s Risk Management Plan”.

ITEM 8.6
STEPHEN STREET TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENTS (VERBAL REPORT)

Resident opposition to the proposed street tree removal and replacement has led to an alternative approach, namely trial of root control barriers for two of the trees most affecting the pavement.

Cr Stamolis noted the importance of the Urban Forest Policy as a means of improving community understanding of tree management matters in Leichhardt.

ITEM 8.7
COMMUNITY NURSERY UPDATE

No update provided.
ITEM 8.8
FLINDERSIA TREE – NORTON STEET (VERBAL REPORT)

Despite efforts to improve the health of this particular tree, its condition continues to decline. Removal is to be scheduled with replacement with a semi-mature tree, specifically a Flowering Pear.

ITEM 10
OTHER BUSINESS - NIL

ITEM 11
NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2 June 2010 at 6:30pm.

Other Meetings for 2010: 4 August, 6 October, 1 December

Meeting closed at 6:35pm