

MINUTES

Greening Randwick Committee

Wednesday 19 February 2020

Meeting held at 6:00pm in the Randwick Room

Attendee Name	Organisation	Initials
Cr Kathy Neilson	Randwick Council	KN
Cr Lindsay Shurey	Randwick Council	LS
Cr Philipa Veitch	Randwick Council	PV
Joe Ingegneri	Randwick Council	JI
Kerry Colquhoun	Randwick Council	KC
Dennis Flaherty	Randwick Council	DF
Bronwyn Englaro	Randwick Council	BE
Peter Ryan	Community Representative	PR
Graham Turner	Community Representative	GT

Item		Action
1.0	Welcome and Introductions	
1.1	Committee members were welcomed to the meeting.	Note.
2.0	Apologies	
2.1	Cr Brendan Roberts, Heidi Dokulil and Linda Newnam.	Note.
3.0	Tree Data Update	
3.1	<p>Council's Acting Coordinator Tree Management Services, Dennis Flaherty discussed tree data collection with the Committee.</p> <p>Up to 30 characteristics are obtained as part of the data collection. These include the species, GPS, health, girth, height, canopy and the asset value of the tree.</p> <p>The cost for data collection has been estimated at \$15/tree for an estimated 15,000 trees. The project has \$100,000 funding allocated in the current budget. Priority for data collection would be based in denser street tree areas which are in the northern areas of the LGA. Additional funding will need to be sought in the 2020/21 financial year.</p> <p>There was discussion of the valuable attributes to be included in the data collection. It was agreed that the data is valuable in developing strategies and being informed.</p> <p>I-Tree includes a database with information on Australian species, associated growth rates and predicted maximum growth size. Opportunities for planting on vacant sites would be identified during surveys and included in the data base. I-Tree attributes would be accessible by the tree team in Council and updated in the field by Council officers.</p> <p>In response to an enquiry regarding tree planting, the committee was advised that there was \$40,000 allocated to the 2019/20</p>	<p>Note.</p> <p>RCC is obtaining a second quote to determine value for money.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p>

	budget for tree planting and that Council officers are seeking to increase the figure for 2020/21.	
3.2	Bronwyn Englaro advised the potential for street tree plantings to be an inclusion in the new Developer Contributions Plans 7.11 EP&A Act. The GSC target is 40% tree canopy by 2030. RCC have a 50% target increase from the 14.2% tree canopy cover (OEH) in 2009.	Note.
4.0	Public Trees – Established/Resilience	
4.1	<p>Councillor Philipa Veitch raised the challenges in establishing trees during drought periods. The drought impacts on soil moisture impacting tree and shrub health and leading to death.</p> <p>The committee members considered options to maintaining the health of trees during drought. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater use and management, • Water cycle management and reuse of stormwater, • Selecting species based on their resilience in drought conditions, • Newly planted trees to be watered for 6 months, • Permeable area around trees should be looked at and where possible improved. <p>It was noted that established trees do not need watering. It was outlined that watering of mature trees would require so many resources that it was not feasible.</p> <p>Committee members discussed the issues faced by newly established trees. Dry soil, vandalism and infrastructure impacts contribute to the decline in newly planted trees. DF advised other factors contributing to the cause of tree deaths, including insect attack, fungus, fire, and lightning strike.</p> <p>The new plantings are watered to establish the trees.</p> <p>It was noted that other Councils have been using mulch or having native meadows around trees.</p>	<p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p>
5.0	Malabar Headland Hazard Reduction Burning	
5.1	<p>On behalf of the Friends of Malabar, Councillor Philipa Veitch outlined concerns for the hazard reduction burn by NPWS that includes over 50% of the western section.</p> <p>The committee discussed the capacity of the flora and fauna to cope with the burn given the current drought conditions. GT noted that NPWS normally burn an area of at least 10ha due to costs and logistics</p> <p>The burn is proposed for autumn this year or the following year.</p>	Note.
5.2	PV advised committee members of cultural burns using the mosaic burning technique. These burns are known as cool burns. The burns using this technique remain low and allow animals to climb above the fire to survive.	BE - An item on this control burn is to be placed on the agenda for the next Malabar

	<p>Committee members agreed that the issue is not whether to burn or not. The issue is how the burns are conducted.</p> <p>Council will continue to work with NPWS on this proposal.</p>	<p>headland interagency group meeting proposed for March.</p>
6.0	Potential Initiatives	
6.1	The committee discussed potential initiatives to encourage tree planting and for the community to build connections with trees.	Note.
6.2	<p><u>Adopt a Tree</u></p> <p>This program would be the same as the adopt-a-drain program that Council has currently rolled out.</p> <p>Currently, street tree contractors put a leaflet in the letter box when a new tree is planted. It requests the owner to help establish the tree by regularly watering.</p> <p>The committee discussed the Tree Planting Initiatives by Planet Ark and NPWS's Plant a tree for me.</p> <p>It was noted that such an initiative would help community members to better relate to trees.</p> <p>It was also noted that if community members adopted a tree, it may become very challenging to remove a tree based on health or tree root damage.</p>	<p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p>
6.3	<p><u>Commemorative Trees</u></p> <p>Landcare support the Trees for Mum initiative that involves memorial trees planted in memory of mothers that have passed.</p> <p>The City of Sydney has a policy and a plan for commemorative trees. They offer commemorative trees at \$40,000 per tree in Hyde Park and lower priced locations down to \$1,000 per tree. There is no plaque, rather a public register.</p> <p>Commemorative seats are popular in Randwick. There are less locations for seats and an alternative option is worth consideration. Commemorative trees will provide an alternate option. RCC would need to develop a policy and plan of implementation.</p>	<p>Note.</p> <p>To be considered in more detail at the next meeting.</p>
6.4	<p><u>Ideas for encouraging planting of trees on private property</u></p> <p>To encourage tree planting, the committee discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When adopting a tree to offer an app where you can map the tree on private property, • Tree adoption on private and public land, • Consideration of the value of trees and their connection with the community, • Providing the community with advice on how to look after their local trees, • Initiatives that extend beyond the existing audience, 	Note

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A public register that can be an acknowledgement to the community or businesses that sponsor an area of tree planting. 	
7.0	General Business	
7.1	<p>The committee discussed the DCP controls under the new GSC targets and goals. The DCP does not provide a definition for trees. It has criteria to exempt an application for pruning or removal.</p> <p>The definition of a tree should be based on species. Further, the definition for canopy cover should include species of shrubs.</p>	<p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p>
7.2	<p>Ideas for the next committee meeting was discussed and Cr Philipa Veitch invited committee members to suggest agenda items.</p> <p>A Cooling the City strategy has been adopted by Penrith Council to minimise the impacts of urban heat through tree planting and landscaping. More information on Cool Streets will be sought for further discussion by the committee.</p>	<p>Investigate education initiatives to demonstrate the benefits of trees, heat reduction, and air pollution reductions.</p> <p>Further information on Cool Streets to be sought and discussed at the next meeting.</p>
8.0	Next Meeting	
8.1	The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 29 April 2020 at the Randwick Council Administration Building in the Randwick Room.	Note.
9.0	Close	
9.1	The meeting closed at 8:30pm	Note.