



## Environment Advisory Committee Meeting

1 February 2023

# Minutes

To: Environment Advisory Committee Meeting Members and Councillors.

Here within are the Meeting Minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting, held on the above-mentioned date in the Shire of Toodyay Council Chambers, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay WA 6566.

  
Suzie Haslehurst  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



## Preface

When the Chief Executive Officer approves these Minutes for distribution they are in essence "Unconfirmed" until the next Committee Meeting, where the Minutes will be confirmed subject to any amendments made by the Committee.

The "Confirmed" Minutes are then signed off by the Presiding Person.

Attachments that formed part of the Agenda, in addition to those tabled at the Meeting are incorporated into separate attachments to these Minutes.

## Unconfirmed Minutes

These minutes were approved for distribution on 3 February 2023.



Suzie Haslehurst

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

## Confirmed Minutes

These minutes were confirmed at a meeting held on 3 May 2023.

Signed: 

*Note: The Presiding Member at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed is the person who signs above.*



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## 1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

Cr P Hart, Chairperson, declared the meeting open at 4.41pm.

### 1.1 ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Nil.

### 1.2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

#### Members

Cr P Hart	Councillor (Chair)
Cr R Madacsi	Shire President
Cr D Wrench	Councillor
Mrs J Hart	Community Member
Mrs E Hall	Community Member
Mr J Von Perger	Community Member ( <i>via zoom</i> )

#### Staff

Mr H de Vos	Manager Development and Regulation
Mr G Warburton	Reserves Management Officer
Mrs M Rebane	Executive Assistant

#### Visitors

Nil

#### Apologies

Mr B Foley	Community Member
Cr S McCormick	Councillor

### 1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

The Chairperson advised that no disclosures of interest in the form of a written notice had been received prior to the commencement of the meeting.

## 2 MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### 2.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

#### 2.1.1. Minutes of Meeting held on 2 November 2022

#### **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/EAC RESOLUTION NO. EAC001/02/23**

**MOVED** Mrs J Hart

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting held on 2 November 2022 be confirmed *subject to the following amendment:*

- *Cr D Wrench's name being removed from the attending members list, as she is recorded as an apology for that meeting.*

**MOTION CARRIED 6/0**

## 2.2 REVIEW OF STATUS REPORT

### 2.2.1 Updated Status Report

Attachments:	1. Updated EAC Status Report.
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The EAC Status report did not contain anything to be reviewed. The updated status report is attached to these minutes.

## 2.3 INWARD/OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

## 3 BUSINESS LEFT OVER FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (IF ADJOURNED)

Nil.

## 4 OFFICER REPORTS

### 4.1 Status of Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy

Date of Report:	27 January 2023
Applicant or Proponent:	Shire of Toodyay
File Reference:	COC14
Author:	H de Vos – Manager Development and Regulation
Responsible Officer:	H de Vos – Manager Development and Regulation
Previously Before Council:	3 August 2022
Author's Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Council's Role in the matter:	Review
Attachments:	Nil

### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an update on the Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy.

### BACKGROUND

The Shire of Toodyay continues to work with the Environment Advisory Committee to prepare a Local Biodiversity Strategy.

## COMMENTS AND DETAILS

This project has stalled due to resourcing issues. Whilst it is a priority, there are other priorities higher on the list which are consuming time and resources. This is predominantly due to a full policy review being conducted. And other significant works such as the Draft Local Planning Scheme No. 5.

The policy review is to be completed by June 2023 and the Draft Local Planning Scheme No. 5 will be before Council at the March 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting.

## IMPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER

### **Consultative:**

The aim is to have a workable draft to then put out to the community and stakeholders in accordance with the Shire's recently adopted Community Consultation and Engagement Policy.

### **Strategic:**

*Shire of Toodyay Community Strategic Plan – Toodyay 2028*

Objective 1: Preserve and protect our natural assets for future generations

Objective 2: Ensure sustainable operating practices

*Shire of Toodyay Environmental Management Strategy 2015*

The Local Biodiversity Strategy is a key objective of the EMS in order to:

- Protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity values in Toodyay;
- Actively manage threats to biodiversity values; and
- Recognise the importance of private land conservation.

### **Policy related:**

*Community Consultation and Engagement Policy.*

*Risk Management Policy*

### **Financial:**

Funds have been allocated in the budget to be used towards an environmental consultant.

### **Legal and Statutory:**

*Local Government Act 1995*

### **Risk related:**

The most significant risk the Shire of Toodyay faces by not having sound environmental stewardship of its lands is the uncontained, irreversible impact to the environment particularly with regards to loss of biodiversity which is considered to be a catastrophic impact. Given the issues of climate change, population growth and land clearing as well as a reduction in water resources, the negative impact on the environment is therefore considered likely. Together in accordance with the Shire's Risk Policy, the risk by not acting is extreme.

**Workforce related:**

The strategy does take a moderate amount of officer time. With the reduction in staffing including the loss of the Environmental Officer position, this has meant that environmental matters have not been given the attention they truly deserve. The EAC should make a recommendation to Council to consider budget allocations for more staff resources for environmental matters.

**VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION 1**

That the Environment Advisory Committee recommends to Council the following:

That Council:

1. Notes the delays associated with the Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy.
2. Considers allocating funds in future budgets for the provision of either a dedicated Environmental Officer or a contractor to facilitate, implement and monitor Environmental strategies within the Shire of Toodyay.

The Manager Development and Regulation provided an overview of the report.

Clarification was sought and the motion was reworded and put.

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/EAC RESOLUTION NO. EAC002/02/23**

**MOVED** Cr D Wrench

That the Environment Advisory Committee recommends to Council the following:

That Council:

1. Notes the delays associated with the Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy due to resourcing.
2. Allocates funds for the provision of an Environmental Officer position or services to coordinate the implementation of the Shire's Environmental Strategies and policies.

**MOTION CARRIED 8/0**

**5 OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE**

Points raised as follows:

- Feral Pig update;
- Japanese Encephalitis;
- Significant Trees; and
- Cat working conference.

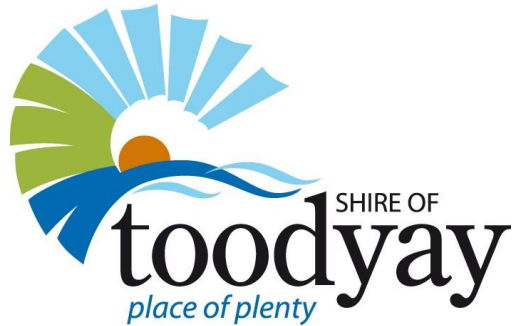
**6 CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environment Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held on 3 May 2023 commencing at 4.00pm.

**7 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 5.20pm.





# **ATTACHMENTS MINUTES**

**Environment Advisory Committee  
Meeting**

**Wednesday, 1 February 2023**

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2.2.1 Updated Status Report.  
Attachment 1 Updated EAC Status Report. ....4

**EAC STATUS REPORT**  
Environmental Advisory Committee

Supporting Officer  
*Manager Development & Regulation*



Meeting Date	Purpose	Resolution / Other Comment	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary and record of Council Meeting Resolution No.
01/02/2023	4.1 Status of Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy	<b>EAC002/02/23</b>  That Council: 1. Notes the delays associated with the Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy due to resourcing. 2. Allocates funds for the provision of an Environmental Officer position or services to coordinate the implementation of the Shire's Environmental Strategies and policies.	ASAP	MRD	T.B.A.	