



Environment Advisory Committee Meeting

2 August 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Suzie Haslehurst', is written over the printed name.

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 10 August 2023.

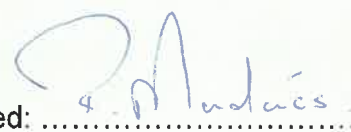


Suzie Haslehurst

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Confirmed Minutes

These minutes were confirmed at a meeting held on 1 November 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 4.02pm.

1.1 ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

B Woodworth welcomed to the meeting.

1.2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Members

Cr P Hart	Councillor (Chair)
Cr R Madacsi	Shire President
Cr S McCormick	Councillor
Cr D Wrench	Councillor (via zoom)
Mrs J Hart	Community Member
Mr J Von Perger	Community Member

Staff

Mr H de Vos	Executive Manager Development and Regulation
Mrs M Rebane	Executive Assistant
Mr G Warburton	Reserves Management Officer (<i>arrived at 4.11pm</i>).

Visitors

B Woodworth

Apologies

Mrs E Hall	Community Member
Mr B Foley	Community Member

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

Minutes of Meeting held on 3 May 2023

OFFICER'S EAC006/08/23	RECOMMENDATION/EAC	RESOLUTION	NO.
MOVED	Cr R Madacsi	That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting held on 3 May 2023 be confirmed.	
			MOTION CARRIED 6/0

2.2 REVIEW OF STATUS REPORT

2.2.1 Update of Status Report

Attachments:	1. Update of Status Report
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The Status Report was reviewed and updated.

2.3 INWARD/OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE

2.3.1 Regenerative Agriculture and its opportunities/possibilities/policy challenges in Toodyay

Date of Report:	28 July 2023
Applicant or Proponent:	J Von Perger
File Reference:	COC14
Author:	M Rebane – Executive Assistant
Responsible Officer:	H de Vos – Acting CEO / Executive Manager Development and Regulation
Attachments:	Nil

Mr Justin Von Perger has teamed up with a recent Regenerative Agricultural Graduate, Bronwyn Woodworth, to present to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Mr G Warburton entered Council Chambers at 4.11pm.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/EAC RESOLUTION NO.EAC007/08/23

MOVED Cr R Madacsi

SECONDED Mrs J Hart

That the Environment Advisory Committee receives the presentation and notes there may be further opportunities to research this concept in terms of what we do as a Shire for the community.

Voted For: Crs P Hart, R Madacsi, S McCormick, J Hart and J Von Perger

Voted Against: Nil

Note: Cr Wrench was not on-line when the vote was taken.

MOTION CARRIED 5/0

Attachments	
1	Regenerative Agricultural Presentation

3 BUSINESS LEFT OVER FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (IF ADJOURNED)

Nil.

4 OFFICER REPORTS

4.1 Status of Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy

Date of Report:	28 July 2023
Applicant or Proponent:	Shire of Toodyay
File Reference:	COC14
Author:	H de Vos – Acting CEO / Executive Manager Development and Regulation
Responsible Officer:	H de Vos – Acting CEO / Executive 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 seen a positive development with the Shire submitting a grant funding application for the Local Biodiversity and Native Vegetation Management Project. This is a joint application with the Shire of Victoria Plains.

Specifically, the grant seeks funding for the preparation of a Local Biodiversity Strategy and the application is also to allocate funding for a shared Environmental Officer between the two Shires.

It is recognised that considerable work was already performed on the draft local biodiversity strategy, however, the Shire has found that the consultants originally engaged no longer seem to want to work on the project.

Therefore, whilst there are additional delays with this new approach, it is seen as a good opportunity to have fresh eyes to look at the work and also an opportunity to align it with the recently adopted Council Plan.

The grant funding will be announced in early August and all work must be completed by November 2024.

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 Council Plan 2023 – 2033

Planet: Our natural assets and ecosystems are being maintained and protected for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Outcome 3. Our natural assets and ecosystems are being maintained and protected for future generations.

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

Note:

The Executive Manager Development and Regulation provided an overview in relation to the report at 4.08pm.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/EAC RESOLUTION NO. EAC008/08/23

MOVED Mr J Von Perger

SECONDED Mrs J Hart

That the Environment Advisory Committee recommends to Council the following:

That Council:

1. Notes the delays associated with the local Biodiversity Strategy;
2. Notes the significant progress made; and
3. Welcomes the submission made for grants funding to provide necessary resources to complete this important project.

MOTION CARRIED 6/0

5 OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE**5.1 FERAL PIG MATTERS**

Cr Rosemary Madacsi provided an overview as follows:

- A meeting was called this month for the Toodyay Feral pig working group to present findings from Cairns to look at strategically managing the programme now that is managed by the Shire Rangers.
- Her attendance at the Cairns conference made it clear if we are not taking out 70% of the population we are failing.
- There is ongoing liaison with farmers occurring.

6 CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environment Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held on 1 November 2023 commencing at 4.00pm.

7 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 5.24pm.



ATTACHMENTS MINUTES

**Environment Advisory Committee
Meeting**

Wednesday, 2 August 2023

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Regenerative Agriculture in Toodyay

- What is Regenerative Agriculture?
- Why do should it be adopted?
- How can Regenerative Principles can be applied in the Shire of Toodyay?

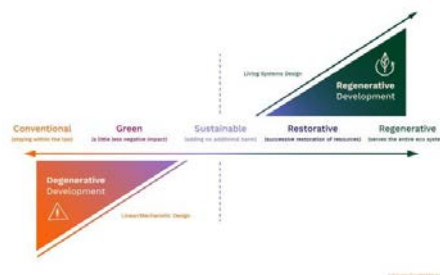


Toodyay Shire Vision 2018: "We are a vibrant rural community that respects our environment, celebrates our past and embraces a sustainable future".



Highly value:

- Community support and spirit
- Natural environment with healthy ecosystems
- Local economy built on agriculture and emerging tourism, arts and cultural opportunities
- Rural lifestyle in a historic town



What is Regenerative Agriculture?



“Regenerative agriculture is the production of food and fibre from the biological life of the world’s land and waters through managing simultaneously the indivisible complexity of human organisations, economy, and nature to sustain all businesses, economies, and civilisation.”

Alan Savory

Core principles





Soil: an amazing and undervalued resource



Benefits to the community and the agricultural sector



Regenerating Communities

- Aim to create rural resilience, through the joining of ecological, economic and cultural resilience combined
- Incorporation of indigenous knowledge has social and cultural benefits to first nations people, and further reversing environmental damage done
- Improved mental health will boost economic outputs and social conditions



Regenerating Country

- Builds soil health
- Brings biological and social systems back to life
- Nurtures the water cycle
- Promotes biodiversity
- Draws down atmospheric carbon
- Enhances nutrient density in food
- AND Builds profitability for the farmer



Case Study: Landscape Rehydration



1 - Landscape Rehydration at the Wood's Farm Toodyay



2 - July 2021 slowing water down with a series of leaky weirs

How can you support Regenerative Agriculture ?



You as an individual:

- Support companies who advocate for Regen farming
- Shop local or find those online farming regeneratively
- Purchase clothing from regenerative fabric (natural fibres)
- Become an advocate and educate yourself
- Use products until the end of their life and consider waste streams



You as a Shire:

- Regenerating land through biodiversity
- Verge management
- Re-evaluate Planning and Policy to suit alternative livestock management methods
- Provide resources and information (field days and workshops)
- Review the function and necessity of firebreaks
- Encourage First Nations-led initiatives or co-create



3 - Firebreaks - contributing to erosion

Thank
You

“We
have to have topsoil; it’s paramount to our survival.” Rob Myers



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.
03/05/2023	Verge Maintenance Policy	<p>Points raised during clarification of the policy and verge maintenance were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage for verges not to be sprayed if the owners wish for it and the resource implications needing to be looked at for the signage; • Spraying and the verge management activities. • Timing of the verge maintenance spraying program (VMSP) before everything seeds. • Types of biodegradable sprays being used. • Verge flora identification. 	Completed 24 May 2023	EMDR	Completed 24 May 2023	<p>2.8.23 – G Warburton advised verbally about all the conditions being included in the contract. All the bullet points on the status report have been specifically incorporated into the contract for the Verge Spraying for Toodyay. A lot of preplanning and groundwork went into ensure these points were met.</p> <p>The Chair contact the CEO and ask that a bulletin be put up notifying people that they can apply to have a sign to have their verge not sprayed.</p> <p>Sign design was discussed.</p> <p>RMO to present the design and dimensions of the signs to make sure they are available for the spraying program next year.</p>

EAC STATUS REPORT
 Environmental Advisory Committee

Supporting Officers
 MDR/RMO



Meeting Date	Purpose	Resolution / Other Comment	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary and record of Council Meeting Resolution No.
03/05/2023	Regenerative Agriculture	<p>Question</p> <p>Is the target a broadacre or hobby farm?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The focus is on small landholders as opportunities are different to what broadacre farmers are doing.</p> <p><u>Points raised:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost effectiveness measures – whether they exist or not. • Livestock affecting topsoil and looking at ways stocking density rates are set for properties and the choice of guidelines for the area. • Livestock provide effective weed control. <p>Question</p>	Completed 2/8/2023	J Von Perger / EMDR	Completed 2/8/2023	<p><u>Action Completed:</u></p> <p>J Von Perger presented at the August 2023 meeting.</p>

EAC STATUS REPORT
 Environmental Advisory Committee

Supporting Officers
 MDR/RMO



Meeting Date	Purpose	Resolution / Other Comment	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary and record of Council Meeting Resolution No.
		<p>What is in the committee's means to start with in respect of promoting regenerative agriculture?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Initiate the conversation in the community to get an awareness and follow through with community meetings. See our role more as facilitators rather than doing anything.</p> <p>Question</p> <p>Has the Shire looked at effective ways of getting that information to the community?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>We can be using our website much better. We are in discussions around this. We need to make time and find resources to improve.</p>				

EAC STATUS REPORT
Environmental Advisory Committee

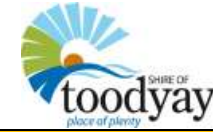
Supporting Officers
MDR/RMO



Meeting Date	Purpose	Resolution / Other Comment	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary and record of Council Meeting Resolution No.
03/05/2023	Lot 3 (No. 34) Stirling Terrace, Toodyay - Proposed Tree Removal	<p>That the Environment Advisory Committee recommends to Council the following:</p> <p>That Council supports the proposal to remove two lemon-scented gums and to prune a third as indicated in the Attachment 1 at Lot 3 (No. 34) Stirling Terrace, Toodyay subject to the following condition:</p> <p>(a) That the applicant plants and maintains new native species of a non-self-pruning variety, to the satisfaction of the Shire of Toodyay, within three months of the date of the approval.</p>	May 2023 OCM	MDR	Tba	<p>2.8.23 – Applicant doing development in piecemeal approach and changing her mind a lot and she has now requested all four trees removed from the front of the building. It will be a good idea to get an indication on how the committee feels about this.</p> <p>Character of the area – streetscape, etc. Can at least one be retained?</p> <p>If they are not native trees and can impact quite considerably on the integrity of the building perhaps the EAC should not comment on it particularly with planting native species that are flammable. Are we over-regulating and allow them</p>

EAC STATUS REPORT
Environmental Advisory Committee

Supporting Officers
MDR/RMO



Meeting Date	Purpose	Resolution / Other Comment	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary and record of Council Meeting Resolution No.
						<p>creative input to their own property.</p> <p>This is a heritage area so the trees are part of it. I have not looked at the area but it might have an impact on the heritage look.</p> <p>EMDR: we need to direct comments from environmental point of view.</p> <p>Native species that are less fire prone to be looked at that might be able to be replaced on the area.</p> <p>Have the trees been considered as part of the heritage profile? EMDR said that that the Heritage Council do not have objections to them being</p>

EAC STATUS REPORT
Environmental Advisory Committee

Supporting Officers
MDR/RMO



Meeting Date	Purpose	Resolution / Other Comment	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary and record of Council Meeting Resolution No.
						<p>removed.</p> <p>Environmental point of view, freedom to do their own property how they wish because the trees alone are not adding any great deal to the environment and they might be able to create good setting to be environmentally friendly. Do not know we have any capacity to dictate what they should do?</p> <p>If there is any impact to wildlife using the trees for housing, protection and feeding? Birdlife (EMRD), possum perhaps but not an irreversible situation. New vegetation planted may be appropriate.</p> <p>Suitable plants for</p>

EAC STATUS REPORT
Environmental Advisory Committee

Supporting Officers
MDR/RMO



Meeting Date	Purpose	Resolution / Other Comment	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary and record of Council Meeting Resolution No.
						managing fire risk. Shire has a landscaping policy as well that will apply to the decision.
03/05/2023	DRAFT Verge Maintenance Policy	That the Environment Advisory Committee recommends to Council the following: That Council adopts the DRAFT Verge Maintenance Policy, as amended (Attachment 1).	May 2023	EA	24/05/2023	Council Resolution: OCM110/05/23
02/08/2023	Regenerative Agriculture and its opportunities/possibilities/policy challenges in Toodyay	That the Environment Advisory Committee receives the presentation and notes there may be further opportunities to research this concept in terms of what we do as a Shire for the community.	Completed – Minutes provided to Council in August 2023	EA	Completed – Minutes provided to Council in August 2023	Completed – Minutes provided to Council in August 2023

EAC STATUS REPORT
Environmental Advisory Committee

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Meeting Date	Purpose	Resolution / Other Comment	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary and record of Council Meeting Resolution No.
02/08/2023	Status of Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Notes the delays associated with the local Biodiversity Strategy; Notes the significant progress made; and Welcomes the submission made for grants funding to provide necessary resources to complete this important project. 	Completed – Minutes provided to Council in August 2023	EA	Completed – Minutes provided to Council in August 2023	Completed – Minutes provided to Council in August 2023