



# Environmental Advisory Panel

## MINUTES

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### **Environmental Advisory Panel (EAP)**

*Wednesday 13 March 2019 from 6.00pm – 8.00pm*

*Angus Room, Strathalbyn Library*

Council representatives: Cr Karyn Bradford, Cr Melissa Rebbeck

Community members: Meredith Tohill, Jo McPhee, Tim Vale, Ben Simon

Staff in attendance: Shen Mann – Senior Governance & Strategy Officer

Apologies: Christine Trenorden, Mayor Keith Parkes, Grayson Saruwaka – Environmental Strategy Project Officer, Anne Liddell – Group Manager Leadership

**1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country – Shen**

**2. Guest Presenter – Peter Mirtschin, Clayton Bay Southern Bell Frog Breeding Program**

Peter spoke to the decline of snake and frog abundance, the reasons for this decline, and the importance of raising community awareness and encouraging community participation in efforts to support recovery.

Peter then described the Southern Bell Frog captive breeding and release program being developed in partnership with FAME (The Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species) and the Clayton Bay Nursery & Environment Group (CBNEG) with the philanthropic support of Peter and his wife. The facility will be hosted by CBNEG on land owned by Alexandrina Council.

The Panel discussed options for helping the project to secure State/Federal Government funding as well as possible community fundraising initiatives and identified the need for complementary fox control to give release programs the best chance of success.

**3. Panel Admin – Shen Mann**

The Panel considered appointment of a Chairperson and agreed to accept the nomination of Christine Trenorden, with Cr Bradford to act as Chair in the event of Christine's absence.

The Panel considered options for recruitment of a sixth community representative following the election of Cr Bradford and her appointment to the Panel as an Elected Member. The Panel requested that they be given the out-of-session opportunity to recommend to an appointment from the existing pool of applicants (i.e. those who applied for inaugural membership in 2017).

The Panel agreed to adopt a quarterly meeting schedule with meeting dates for the remainder of the 2019 calendar year as follows:



## Environmental Advisory Panel

- Wednesday 22 May 2019 – Goolwa
- Wednesday 21 August 2019 – Strathalbyn
- Wednesday 20 November 2019 – Goolwa.

### 4. Goolwa Wharf Public Place Recycling Trial – Jo McPhee

Jo presented the audit results of the summer 2018-19 trial of public place recycling (PPR) bins at the Goolwa Wharf. Two bin stations were installed at Goolwa Wharf one week prior to Christmas 2018. The results of the trial were encouraging with contamination rates in recycling bins at both stations being very low.

The Panel noted the audit recommendations and recorded their support for further PPR stations of the type trialled at Goolwa Wharf to be rolled out in other priority locations across the Council. Priority locations suggested by the Panel include:

- Horseshoe Bay at Port Elliot, noting support for this initiative from the Port Elliot Primary School Sustainability Group;
- Goolwa Beach, noting that the Surf Life Saving Club could be recruited as a community partner;
- Strathalbyn Memorial Gardens in vicinity of public toilets, with suggestions for possible community partners to be discussed with the local Ward Councillors;
- Mount Compass Main Street, with community partner suggestions to also be sourced from the local Ward Councillor.

The Panel considered options for minimising the cost of further stations. Suggestions included: (1) seeking corporate sponsorship/branding of PPR stations from adjacent businesses, and (2) partnering with local Men's Sheds to help build the PPR stations from recycled materials such as pallets.

### 5. 2019 Calendar of Environmental Events – Shen

The Panel was asked to consider priorities for Council's environmental engagement activities in the 2019-20 financial year, noting that within current resource levels it is only possible to deliver two such events per year.

The Panel identified the following priorities:

- September 2019 - National Threatened Species Day, noting this as an opportunity to celebrate and raise awareness of the many threatened bird, frog and plant species in our region. Noting also that World Migratory Bird Day in May falls at a time when migratory bird numbers in our region are low.
- June/July 2020 – World Oceans Day and/or Plastic Free July with the potential opportunity to partner with Port Elliot Primary School re their Plastic Free Port Elliot initiative.
- 2019 Short Film Competition – recommended theme of "A River Near You". Opportunity to combine screening of winning films with World Environment Day or National Threatened Species Day.
- September 2020 – Sustainable House Day.

## Environmental Advisory Panel

### 6. 2019-20 Council and Environmental Strategy Budget – Shen

The Panel noted the budget bids being submitted by Council's Environmental Strategy Team into the 2019-20 Annual Business Plan & Budgeting Process and expressed support for the following projects being considered in expenditure of the recurring operating budget for environmental strategy:

- Further energy & solar audits for Council buildings;
- Urban heat/canopy mapping to inform street tree program;
- Public Place Recycling Trials; and
- Delivery of environmental events program.

### 7. Action List and Current Events/Project Updates

The Panel were advised of the following current events/project updates:

- Tree Policy/Procedure – endorsed by Council in January 2019.
- Whale Nursery Protection Area – consultation closed 1 March 2019 with report on outcomes to be taken to Council for decision.
- Gazania Free Gardens – campaign to run during April/May 2019
- Equinor Environment Plan – submissions due 20 March. Council will make a submission opposing oil exploration in the Great Australian Bight.
- NVC Consultation on Interim Roadside Vegetation Guidelines – final Council submissions due 1 July 2019.

### 8. Panel Member Updates

Cr Rebbeck

- Noted work with local dairy farmer at Langhorne Creek re attempting to address impacts of abundant Cape Barren Geese on lucerne production.
- Noted work with Murray Darling Association Region 6 to respond to Royal Commission and support producers to farm with less water.

Cr Bradford

- Noted she has been encouraging individuals and organisations to apply for membership of Murray Darling Association Region 6.
- Noted community concern re change of land ownership and grazing of native vegetation/revegetation works undertaken by CLLMM Recovery Program near Kindaraur Road at Clayton Bay. Cr Bradford to contact DEW.

Tim Vale

- Working with CFS to develop biodiversity training module for Fire Prevention Officers.

Merri Tohill

- Volunteering as coordinator of Angas River Catchment Group one day per week.
- Noted negative impact of hot weather on survival rates of revegetation works.



## Environmental Advisory Panel

Jo McPhee

- Requested that Council respond to letter from Hindmarsh Island Landcare re closure of McLeay Road.

Ben Simon

- Noted extent of works being undertaken by Goolwa Coastcare, including 14 working bees throughout the year despite funding uncertainty.
- GWLAP also experiencing difficulties with revegetation survival rates due to drought and kangaroos.
- In absence of State/Federal funding, fee for service works are playing an important role in supplementing income of GWLAP.

### 9. Next Meeting Date

- 22 May 2019 at 6pm in Goolwa
- Guest Speaker: Nick Whiterod, Nature Glenelg Trust

### 10. Close – 8.15pm