

FILE NO: 064/036

MINUTES

Rehabilitating Roe 8 Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday 11 February 2021, 2pm-4pm

The Wetlands Centre Meeting Room

Advisory Committee Attendees:

Kim	Dravnieks (Chair)	KD	Community
Phoebe	Corke	PC	Save Beeliar Wetlands
Felicity	Bairstow	FB	Community
Tim	Barling	TB	Conservation Council WA
Diana	Corbyn	DC	Wildflower Society
Jozina	De Ruiter	JR	Hamilton Hill Community Group
Bruce	Webber	BW	Western Australian Biodiversity and Science Institute
Lou	Corteen	LC	Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor
Tom	Perrigo	TP	The Wetlands Centre, Cockburn

Other attendees:

Isabella Streckhardt (IS) – Acting Rehabilitating Roe 8 Project Manager (City of Cockburn)

Catherine Baudains – Australian Association for Environmental Education WA (Observer)

Apologies:

- Rachel Standish - Perth Urban Restoration Science Advisory Committee
- Catherine Prideaux - Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Coolbellup Community Association (new member not appointed yet)
- South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (new member not appointed yet)
- Aboriginal Reference Group Cockburn (new member not appointed yet)

1. Appointment of Chair

KD was appointed Chair for the meeting.

2. Welcome and Apologies

3. Observance of Acknowledgement of Country

4. Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from December 2020 meeting: Minor corrections required. Meeting minutes accepted, moved by PC and seconded by JR.

5. Conflict of interests declaration

Nil

6. Business arising from previous meeting

6.1 **Advisory Committee memberships**

IS provided update on status of February 2021 - February 2023 memberships. IS advised that Coolbellup Community Association and Australian Association for Environmental Education WA were yet to formally appoint their members, however it was highly likely that previous members would continue, while the Aboriginal Reference Group and the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council had yet to appoint members. PC informed that she attended ARG meeting and that the decision taken was that Heidi Mippie would be ARG representative, Mitchell Garlett would be the SWALSC representative and young member Jaye Snowden would be second representative.

KD pointed out the possibility for people to attend as observers. IS shared that she had invited both Jaye Snowden and Mitchell Garlett to attend as observers in order for them to gain an insight into the RR8 Advisory Committee meetings. The committee agreed to wait and see how the ARG and SWALSC positions would fall into place over the next three months and that it would be invaluable to receive input and contributions from Heidi, Mitchell and Jaye.

6.2 **Norfolk Island Pines - Expression of Interest artwork.**

IS provided update on correspondence with Department of Planning Lands and Heritage, who advised that the P17015 Norfolk Island Pine Trees were not in the State Register of Heritage Places but included in the Assessment Program, and as such any proposal for the trees had no statutory requirements under the *Heritage Act 2018*. IS shared that the wish of the community to transform the Norfolk island pines into artwork acknowledging the history and significance of the site and its history was shared with Main Roads at the 6-monthly Rehabilitating Roe 8 Governance Committee Meeting in December 2020. Main Roads were however not supportive of art work, as

there was no provision for art work under the Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP). Committee discussed that the RMP had to be checked for this. FB pointed out that the RMP is not only about rehabilitation of the land but also about the rehabilitation of the people. Committee felt strongly that transformation of Norfolk island pine stumps is part of healing for the community. TP suggested to still go ahead with planning and if Main Roads was not willing to fund this, other avenues could be pursued.

Committee discussed that semantics around the Norfolk island pines were important and instead of it simply being labelled 'artwork', their transformation was part of the historical and social restoration and recognition, as well as being an interpretation of the values of Beeliar Wetlands, while providing educational value and opportunity for community engagement.

IS suggested that Main Roads might be open to the idea of the Committee seeking permission from Main Roads to turn the pines into artwork and seeking alternative funding, for example from the City of Cockburn or Lotterywest

TP voiced that it was important to keep Main Roads on tie and to proceed with planning and to not let them be the stumbling block.

Lou Corteen the meeting joined via Zoom.

KD recapped that transformation will be approached as part of the interpretation and that Main Roads permission will be sought, while looking for other funding.

CB shared that Lotterywest, National Heritage Trust or existing partnerships with City of Cockburn could be pursued.

TP highlighted opportunity for reconciliation, given the European and aboriginal history of the location. PC highlighted that art piece is mentioned in RMP.

IS shared Main Roads' suggestion to plant two replacement Norfolk island pine seedlings, which was also suggested by Department of Planning Lands and Heritage. The suggestion was not supported by the committee.

LC advised via Zoom that she had technical issues and that she would join the meeting in person shortly and asked to wait for her to arrive to discuss the Path Network Plan.

Action: IS to forward relevant sections of last two meetings' minutes to the committee

Action: KD to revisit steering committee notes and RMP regarding the mention of artwork and Norfolk island pines

Action: KD to create draft letter to Main Roads for the purpose of discussion and clarification

6.3 Signage Plan

IS advised that Neville Collard strongly disagreed with Sharon Gregory's spelling and that Neville voiced that in his opinion Sharon did not have authority to make decisions on spelling for the Beeliar area.

PC asked whether spelling had been checked against the Nyungar Dictionary, which had been approved by Traditional Owners. DC highlighted issues with following this dictionary, as it covered such a large area. IS shared that the City of Cockburn had recently decided to adopt Sharon Gregory's spelling.

TP asked whether signage plan was tied in to the interpretive plan. KD and FB advised that this plan was for the Roe 8 corridor and that it does not intersect with Bibra Lake plan.

KD recapped that there were still issues with naming.

CB raised the issue of potential consequences, as Sharon's spelling will be used by the Wetlands Centre across the road, however Neville is a well-respected Traditional Owner by the local community and not taking Neville's input on board could be an insult.

CB also raised the question whether it might be worth using local spelling suggested by Neville and using it as a talking point on why it would be different from the Wetlands Centre spelling.

LC arrived.

Action: IS to seek feedback from Gail Beck regarding Sharon's and Neville's advice on spelling

6.4 Path Network Plan

IS advised that landing page had been created on RR8 website, inviting community members to express interest to be invited to online survey via 'contact form'.

PC expressed concerns about having the words 'bitumen' or 'concrete' included in the survey.

KD highlighted that there are concrete paths in place in sections while she personally was not supportive of these, the community needed to be consulted regarding these types of access to the corridor.

PC shared that any form of hardstand was an invitation to disaster, in particular in light of recent damage done by an unauthorised vehicle to the Manning Park stairs.

LC voiced strong concerns about the draft survey being leading. LC shared that the survey seemed somewhat pre-determined, as the draft started with a statement outlining that a path would be put through the east-west spine and mostly asked people about what material these paths should be made of, instead of asking more broadly whether people wanted a path at all. LC

raised that environmental values were only getting addressed in the very last question. LC also criticized that there was no mention of cultural sensitivities and regarding keeping paths away from culturally significant sites, as well as for the need for indigenous input into the location of the paths.

KD commented that endorsed vision was incorporated but suggested to include a section that over the last two to three years we have been working to engage the community to rehabilitate the corridor, including planting and weeding, and now was the time to have a shared vision of how accessible the area should be. KD added that this may mean that there may be minimal access to respect the indigenous and environmental heritage and that it is up to the community to make this decision.

TB brought up the topic of Labor's recent announcement on committing \$3 million dollars towards a Beeliiar wetlands board walk, where the question was not asked whether the space should simply exist for nature's sake. KD suggested to talk about Labor's commitments towards a board walk as separate item.

TP highlighted that a trail is an educational tool to increase knowledge, awareness and understanding of the values of a place and leading to a commitment and to help people understand the values and commit to long term conservation. TP suggested that this simple introduction may set the tone regarding 'how to'. KD highlighted that language around 'paths' needed defining so people can understand that leaving 'as is', is an option.

PC questioned whether we should offer all options in the survey, questioning whether the corridor was an area that should even be opened to bikes. PC highlighted that if there is a hard stand path, there needed to be access for prams and wheelchairs, which means scooters and motorised vehicles can access the space, which leads to them going off track. LC suggested adding 'revegetating sandy paths' as an option. LC noted there might be people who are opposed to any paths and that feedback from a lot of participants at the CCWC workshop was that many only wanted existing firebreaks around the outside to be maintained but other paths to be closed off.

DC noted strong opposition to bikes accessing the corridor and KD noted that 'scooting' might need to be removed from survey.

TB stressed that survey needed to be turned on its head and that the consultant needed to be advised that the survey was not necessarily about creating paths, but rather about rehabilitation and community. DC asked what members' views on dogs in the corridor were. IS suggested to discuss these matters at upcoming workshop.

CB noted that in preparation for the workshop, the points of contention should be forwarded to consultant, for example managing bikes if wheelchair access was provided in sections, and that the overarching aim will be to not facilitate fast-track motorbike lane through the bushland.

KD highlighted that some small sections may remain or become formal paths, for example section linking to bus stop, however it needed to be made clear that not all sections of the corridor required formal paths, and that the aim was to formalise some existing paths and rehabilitate paths no longer needed.

IS discussed potential dates for workshop and sharing of a doodle poll was suggested, after IS confirmed potential time slots with consultant. IS asked whether committee would like to include broader community in workshop and committee agreed to not do so. IS asked whether online survey would be sufficient. CB concerned that certain people will not be reached if community survey is held exclusively, however previous face-to-face also did not attract large numbers. CB suggested printed survey to take to resident groups, schools and to look at expressions of interest first before considering face-to-face workshop for broader community.

Action: IS to liaise with consultant and committee to find suitable workshop date in March

Action: IS to send detailed meeting minutes to Path Network Plan consultant prior to workshop.

6.5 Aboriginal Archaeological Survey

IS shared preliminary findings of Aboriginal archaeological survey, which was carried out in December. KD suggested media release on preliminary findings before election, however committee disagreed. IS reminded committee that any media regarding the Aboriginal archaeological survey needed to be run past Main Roads. LC enquired whether anyone was working on getting de-listed site re-registered. KD advised that there had not been any progress after lead archaeologist worked toward this a few years ago.

TP enquired whether another survey was planned, IS advised that this was not the case at this stage and TP noted that traditionally when creating a pathway, this would be something to be mindful of.

LC suggested that something like the Terra Rosa report that was done around Clontarf Hill and Dixon Park, which investigated the European and indigenous cultural significance of the area could be carried out as part of the Path Network Plan. TP highlighted that this element was often overlooked. KD pointed out that it was not feasible to assess the entire rehabilitation site. PC confirmed that Terra Rosa report was entirely anecdotal and done through interviewing and did not involve an archaeological dig. PC pointed out that the area of the entire corridor is part of a dreamtime story and that it was worth having a conversation around this. JR highlighted that this information could also inform signage. PC advised that the Terra Rosa survey cost around 50k, which was covered through a grant by Simone McGurk.

6.6 Hands Healing the Land-Community Science Conference

IS provided update on conference planning, advised that majority of speakers confirmed and numbers currently capped at 80. Posters and flyers were printed for committee members to take with them and distribute. IS looking into streaming and filming of event, however no speakers will attend remotely, as conference aim is to connect community. CB offered to put up posters at Murdoch University.

6.7 Anti-social behavior on Malvolio Rd

IS met with affected residents, underlying issue seemed of personal matter and police are actively involved.

6.8 Provision of water source from wildlife within rehabilitation area

IS advised that budget for habitat creation could be utilised for water trough, coupled with signage encouraging people to enjoy and appreciate wildlife. Watering contractors who are on fortnightly roster could top it up. KD enquired whether wetting agent was added. IS noted that this was the case, however different watering run could be utilised for this.

PC asked how deep the water source would be and suggested that water source should dry up in between two weeks, to avoid animals becoming reliant on it. KD advised that water source has been permanent as residents have looked after it for years. BW enquired whether input from consultant was sought. IS advised that she had spoken to ecologist Mike Bamford in regards to this who advised that by the time cockatoos have come to Perth they are adaptive and will find alternative water source if one was to be provided nearby instead.

6.9 Correspondence

Outward	Nil
Inward	Nil

7. Project update from Rehabilitating Roe 8 Project Manager – update provided to committee

IS clarified that the asbestos that had been cleaned up had been dumped recently. Fence repairs were carried out in response to the fire, as well as vandalism. Eroded path on Stock Rd West had now been remediated. DC confirmed that all mulch had been spread out. DC enquired if weeding bags had been collected and IS confirmed that she had picked them up. IS shared that papers committee meeting for the conference went well and valuable feedback was received. IS advised that spraying contractors who will commence works next week will be reminded of no-spray area in Stock Rd West, IS to drop off stakes for LC to install.

DC asked whether seed collection would be carried out in S7 and IS confirmed that upcoming seed collection will only fall into DBCA-managed reserves. TP enquired what will happen to collected seeds and IS advised that seed will be used to grow tubestock. TP talked about The Wetlands Centre's new, not for profit, accredited nursery with capacity to grow 50,000 plants per year and that this would be an opportunity for the City going forward, as well as an opportunity to get more people proactively involved. LC shared about seed collection carried out as part of CCWC workshop together with DC. TP stressed again that nursery was not for profit. LC enquired how much space was taken up with the Wetlands Centre's propagation and TP advised that

currently no nursery space was taken up by the Wetlands Centre. CB shared that the old space had been at capacity and that it would be interesting to know what the new nursery's capacity is.

Action: IS to drop off stakes for S7 site for LC and DC to mark 'no-spray' boundary

8. Other business

KD enquired whether anyone had received an update on Labor's election bid announcement regarding committing \$3 million dollars towards a board walk. Neither IS nor other committee members had received update.

FB advised that there had been an announcement and additional comment by the Minister for the Environment who stated that function of this infrastructure was to stop Roe 8 once and for all.

KD wondered if this was in light of the Path Network Plan being developed.

KD and TP suggested to take pro-active approach, congratulating Labor to further explore the possibility.

FB highlighted that by the time the committee drafted the letter, it will be election time. FB advised that she will be talking to Peter Tinley before next meeting. TP advised to be pro-active and to put it in writing.

LC reiterated concerns regarding the future of Roe 9. LC shared that the City of Cockburn had an item on their agenda supporting the Cockburn Coast drive and was very concerned that pressure was intentionally engineered in order to force a way for Roe 9 to go through to Stock Road. Concerns regarding Cockburn Coast drive being on the agenda were shared by PC and CB.

Action: KD to begin working on draft letter, after FB has spoken with Peter Tinley, to be sent on behalf of Advisory Committee at a later stage

9. Committee member report

CB shared that AAEE will be at Coogee Live, Millenium Kids and Eco Action also to be at stall. CB offered to share information on Hands Healing the Land at Coogee Live. IS advised that she would also be at Coogee Live, however only for part of one day.

Action: CB to share information on Hands Healing the Land at Coogee Live stall

DC - advised that Linda Metz will take wildflower group for a walk through Manning Ridge in Manning Park on 20 February 5.30-7pm.

LC - weeding and seed collecting continued, weed mapping to commence soon and shared that fortnightly weeding had been shifted to evenings to beat the heat.

JR - advised that Section 18 was being put in for development.

TP - shared that partnerships with likeminded organisations were key objectives.

10. Appointment of Chair

CB to be Chair, if formally appointed by next meeting

Meeting closed 4:01PM

11. Next Meeting

Thursday 11th March 2021, **3pm (not 2pm)**, at Wetlands Centre and via video link option