

FILE NO: 064/036

MINUTES

Rehabilitating Roe 8 Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday 9 December 2021, 3-5pm

The Wetlands Centre Meeting Room

Advisory Committee attendees:

Felicity	Bairstow	FB	Community
Catherine	Baudains	CB	Australian Association for Environmental Education WA
Diana	Corbyn	DC	Wildflower Society
Phoebe	Corke	PC	Save Beeliar Wetlands
Tim	Barling	TB	Conservation Council WA
Mitchell	Garlett	MG	Traditional Owner
Angela	Jakob	AJ	Coolbellup Community Association
Kim	Dravnieks	KM	Community
Catherine	Prideaux (Chair)	CP	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Other attendees:

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

Linda Metz (LM) – Acting Environment Manager, City of Cockburn

Christine Athanassiou (CA) – Rehabilitating Roe 8, Administrative Assistant

Apologies:

Lou Corteen	Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor
Jaye Snowden	Aboriginal Reference Group Cockburn
Rachel Standish	Perth Urban Restoration Science Advisory Committee
Bruce Webber	Western Australian Biodiversity and Science Institute
Jozina de Ruiter	Hamilton Hill Community Group

1. Welcome and Apologies

2. Observance of Acknowledgement of Country

CP welcomed members to the meeting.

3. Minutes from previous meeting

Meeting minutes from 11 November 2021 were moved and seconded by PC and CB.

4. Conflict of interest declaration

nil

5. Business arising from previous meeting

5.1 Action items arising from previous meetings

5.1.1 DBCA to present North Lake concept plan to committee – An update from Tim Fisher, Regional Parks Unit Manager

CP noted that DBCA is preparing a concept plan showing a range of options for recreational enhancements at North Lake. The plan will include options for upgrade to the current day use area, formalized car parking at entry points, path upgrade options and potential locations for boardwalks/lake viewing areas. Areas for weed control and rehabilitation will also be identified on the plan. Once complete, DBCA will send the concept plan for feedback out to members of the RR8, and the Beeliar Regional Park Community Advisory Committee out of session, so it can be discussed at the first meeting in 2022.

ACTION: Tim Fisher (DBCA) to send concept plan to Christopher Beaton (City of Cockburn), who will be overseeing the project for the immediate future.

5.1.2 Offer Zoom option for committee meetings

FB advised that she had set up regular zoom meeting option so members can join meetings remotely, if required. IS noted that members should please let her know if they were planning to attend via Zoom.

5.1.3 Thank you letter to CEO Tony Brun

Committee made suggestions for updated letter and suggested new Project Manager to get in contact with CEO, once appointed.

ACTION: IS to send 'thank you' letter to CEO Tony Brun by 17 December 2021

5.1.4 WABSI to stay informed via agendas and to be contacted as-needs basis

IS mentioned there may be capacity for WABSI to become involved with the RR8 project.

BW had informed IS prior to the meeting that:

- WABSI recently launched its latest program – Addressing Weed Threats – which may well have relevance to the RR8 work. See here for the program document: <https://wabsi.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Addressing-weed-threats-to-biodiversity.pdf>
- BW’s WABSI focus is moving into “Urban Biodiversity Resilience”, which may provide opportunities to link in with the RR8 program in places, once focus of their efforts becomes clearer.

ACTION: IS to forward weed threats pdf and urban biodiversity resilience commission flyer

5.1.5 Other action items arising from previous meeting:

Action item	Person to action	Status
DBCA to present North Lake concept plan to committee	Tim Fisher (DBCA)	To be sent prior to February 2022 session
Contact Gardening Australia to enquire regarding follow-up	New Project Manager	Carried over
Send ‘thank you’ letter to CEO Tony Brun	Izzy Streckhardt (IS)	Amended and to be sent by 17 Dec 2021
Forward folder with Norfolk Pine island stumps information so members can pursue this outside of the committee	IS to forward to PC	Completed
Promote citizen science project	All	Ongoing, members to promote in particular over school holidays
Offer Zoom option for committee meetings again	Felicity Bairstow	Ongoing
Send open invitation to the Wetlands Centre	IS	Completed
Terms of reference to be updated to reflect the Wetlands Centre’s position as ‘not filled’	IS and committee	Completed
WABSI to stay informed via agendas and to be contacted on an as-needs basis	BW and IS	Ongoing
Finalise Annual Report	IS	Completed and printed copies shared with members
Distribute updated RMP to all members before summer break – 2018 Management Plan Version 2 (2021)	IS	IS to forward Version 2 to all members, members to commence review over summer break.
RMP review to be tabled March 2022	IS	Remind members

		Feb 2022 and confirm whether out-of-session meeting needs to be scheduled for March 2022
Send invitation on information sharing around Aboriginal archaeological survey to ARG via Barbara Freeman	IS	Completed

5.2 Path Network Plan – Malvolio bushland track

IS mentioned narrow limestone track intended to be installed next week. Christopher Beaton and IS decided to postpone to late January, being mindful of rushed clearing that happened in this section before Christmas 5 years ago. Letter of notification drafted. Committee suggested to distribute open letter as “friendly community notice” to residents. PC suggested to include how well the rehabilitation is going.

ACTION: PC to draft letter

ACTION: Christopher Beaton to distribute letter prior to works

5.3 Aboriginal archaeological survey

IS informed that she had touched base with Fiona Hook at Archae-aus and ARG for suitable dates for info-sharing event and that the event was scheduled for 14 December 2021 at the Wetlands Centre. Invitations were shared at recent ARG meeting. IS and PC mentioned that they found out after invitations had been sent that it will clash with another event City of Fremantle are facilitating. IS noted that participant numbers will likely be low, however will still run for those who RSVP and run another session next year. ‘Invitation only’ event for direct participants / Elders and therefore not open to Advisory Committee members.

6. Correspondence

<u>Outward</u> 22.11.2021	The Wetlands Centre	Open Invitation – The Wetlands Centre’s Representation on the RR8 Advisory Committee
<u>Inward</u>		<u>Nil</u>

7. Project Manager Update

Project Manager Update was briefly discussed by the committee.

Committee mentioned end of events season. IS provided update on successful and well-attended Nyungar language class held in Malvolio bushland run by Sharon Gregory. Comprehensive, provided 20-minute overview of history, lots of kids attended.

CP asked how Birdlife citizen science project was progressing, IS responded saying there were a few more surveys recorded. IS wants to follow up with Tegan Douglas at Birdlife regarding name change of zones from 'RR8' to 'Wildlife Corridor'.

CB suggested it is a good time to push citizen science projects during school holidays, going for late evening walks when it is cooler. IS did blog post on the website

ACTION: members to promote citizen science project.

FB commented on Turtle Corner plants looking stressed. IS mentioned that the cardboard tree guards that were being trialled had been removed as they were unfortunately not performing as well as anticipated and had been smothering the plants. Site is getting watered fortnightly.

8. Other Business

8.1 Upcoming aerial (drone) vegetation mapping

IS informed committee about drone activity, as per previous years. Contractor Emapper will be flying a drone over the corridor to monitor changes in vegetation cover, height and health. At this point can't distinguish between weed or native plant, therefore weed control had to be fully completed prior to mapping. Specific weather conditions are necessary. Works to commence early next week. IS flagged that last year there were issues with marked launch/landing sites being intentionally destroyed by members of the public, causing delays for the drone operators. FB said she would post on "all about Bibra Lake"; members encouraged to share information on upcoming works with their groups.

8.2 Powerline pruning

CP shared further information from Ezgi Perincek, A/Senior Operations Officer, RPU

- Western Power have submitted a notification form to DBCA to undertake pruning of vegetation around transmission lines within Roe 8 rehabilitation corridor.
- It is critical works for fire risk mitigation purposes.
- At this stage, works are proposed to begin in mid-January, however this is dependent condition of the site at the time, as works can only be undertaken in dry soil conditions.
- DBCA are liaising with the City of Cockburn, Western Power, and tree contractor to ensure there is minimal disturbance.

- The vegetation clearance requirements for North Lake transmission lines are a horizontal clearance of 11 meters and a vertical clearance of 7 meters. Works will be undertaken within the Roe rehabilitation corridor (vertical clearance) and to the north and south of the corridor (vertical and horizontal).
- Only Eucalyptus that have formed epicormic growth resulting from previous pruning works will be removed from the corridor. No other vegetation will be removed. There will be some pruning of Banksias and Paperbarks. There is also a requirement to prune the larger Eucalyptus trees to the north and south as they are growing within the 11 meter horizontal clearance zone. DBCA will continue to work with the City of Cockburn, Western Power, and tree contractor to determine most appropriate access points to ensure minimal disturbance.
- DBCA will provide an update regarding precise Scope of Works once it is determined.

CP mentioned Sensitive Area does not correspond with EPA act.

IS made some suggestions regarding mitigation measures for disturbance, which she had discussed at a site meeting with Ezgi Perincek, for example having an Environmental Officer on site.

ACTION: CP to inform Project Manager / Christopher Beaton when works are planned to commence.

8.3 Nesting Rainbow bee-eaters

IS shared that Rainbow bee-eaters have been nesting across the corridor, several diggings / potential nests spotted in S7. CB noted that there is around 6 different individuals around Wetlands Centre. CB noted there were a few nests in the revegetation zone near the Wetlands Centre. Committee raised concerns about Western Power using firebreaks, which are preferred nesting habitat. Committee members noticed they arrived in October and suspect they should be leaving end of Jan. CB observed they respond to environmental triggers, with later rains this year, they may stay later. IS is concerned about S7 due to watering and flooding nests, as well as potential of trampling by watering contractors. CB suggested stakes and red mesh. IS has spoken to Dean Huxley (WA Wildlife) and Tegan Douglas (Birdlife) and has been informed that the birds don't seem to mind orange mesh, if at an appropriate distance. IS suggested Jarrah stakes with rope.

ACTION: FB to get in touch with Tegan from Birdlife regarding Rainbow bee-eater nesting season to determine by what time it is safe to assume that birds have left the nest

ACTION: IS to touch base with DC regarding equipment drop and potential date to fence of nests together with volunteer(s)

8.4 Annual RMP Review

Will be coming up soon. Updated one is on the website.

ACTION: IS to check the updated version is on the website and email pdf

8.5 Changes to RR8 Project Manager position

LM updated the committee on structural changes within the City, in particular within the Sustainability and Environment business unit and the Operations and Maintenance business unit. The RR8 project is being managed out of the Sustainability and Environment business unit.

It was shared that IS will not be acting Rehabilitating Roe 8 PM from 17 December 2021, as she will be going back into her substantive role, having fulfilled one year of Acting responsibilities. The City will be recruiting externally to fill the position. The term will be from appointment early 2022 through to July 2023, pending ongoing funding from Main Roads and extension of the Service Agreement contract that the City has with Main Roads. First point of contact from 18 December 2021 will be Christopher Beaton, Head of Sustainability and Environment (c.beaton@cockburn.wa.gov.au, 08 9411 3444). IS will still be working with the City and able to provide some assistance to the new Project Manager. IS encouraged committee members to think about potentially suitable applicants.

FB raised concerns about communication between the City's Environmental Officers and the team, LM responded saying there is an existing relationship, and that the City will continue to foster good relationships and know how important those lines of communication are and can be achieved.

ACTION: CA to send new City of Cockburn management structure to committee members

MOTION: Committee would like to formally acknowledge the significant support, leadership and excellent services provided by Linda Metz since the formation of this committee and thank Isabella Streckhardt for her ongoing support and hope to be able to work with her in the future.

9. Committee member report and information sharing

The committee briefly discussed whether the one of the two 'RR8 Highlights and Achievements' poster, as well as the 'How are we tracking' poster should be stored at the Wetlands Centre. Committee agreed that CB would be the custodian over these two community posters.

MG: Christmas dinner on Tue. Thanked everyone for gathering around this table for the past year. It has been very informative for him and is looking forward to next year and being able to be in this group and walk beside each other. Noted the importance of the project.

Committee thrilled to have MG on board and thanked him.

CB: Positive feedback on conference. AAEE are still going strong. Strong submission on government parliamentary commission into school's response to climate change. Lot of strong submissions, particularly from Sustainable Schools Network and Association.

CP: Ezgi got Senior Operations Officer role, her position needs to be filled internally. Amber is contact for time being. Christopher Beaton to liaise with Ezgi regarding contact details for Amber.

ACTION: Christopher Beaton to liaise with Ezgi Perincek regarding contact details for Amber, for any liaison regarding Hope Road North / Bibra Drive sites.

KD: advised the committee that she will not be staying on the committee going forward, as she has other commitments and shared that this would be her last meeting.

Acknowledgement: thank you on behalf of the committee. The committee thanked KD and acknowledges her outstanding contribution to bringing the project to where it is today, including diplomatic meetings.

IS noted that the Community Representative position will need get advertised and filled in the new year.

DC: Wildflower society have continued to support the program, CCWC project in S7. Haven't been able to keep on top of Veldt grass this year. Seed collecting on Saturday focusing on daisies. Have license and written permission from City of Cockburn. Will keep an eye out for rainbow bee-eater nests.

ACTION: IS to provide 10 buckets and secateurs to DC

PC: Conservation Council will be working on a biodiversity campaign next year. Hamilton Hill Community Group had their movie night.

10. Appointment of Chair for next meeting

FB appointed as Chair for February 2022 meeting.

11. Next Meeting

Thursday 10 February 2021 3-5pm at The Wetlands Centre, Cockburn.

Meeting closed at 4.42pm