



SHIRE OF KOJONUP

MINUTES

Natural Resource Management
Advisory Committee

NRMAC - 05

15 August 2019

MINUTES FOR THE KOJONUP NRM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF GUESTS	3
2	ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES	3
3	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	3
4	SUMMARY OF RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE	3
5	APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE	3
6	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	4
7	ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION	4
8	PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS & PRESENTATIONS	4
9	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	4
10	FINANCIAL REPORT	5
11	STATUS REPORTS	8
12	ITEMS	13
13	MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN	16
14	NEXT MEETING	16
15	CLOSURE	16
16	ATTACHMENTS (SEPARATE)	16

AGENDA

1 **DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF GUESTS**

The Presiding Member, Cr Ned Radford, declared the meeting open at 1:07pm.

2 **ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES**

MEMBERS

Ned Radford	Councillor – Presiding Member
John Benn	Councillor
Kath Mathwin	Community Representative
Marina Murray	Supervisor Horticulture Tradesperson
Jane Kowald	Landcare/NRM Officer
Paul Retallack	Senior Ranger/Building Maintenance Coordinator

OBSERVERS

APOLOGIES

Rick Mitchell-Collins	Chief Executive Officer
Graham Blacklock	Community Representative
Jennifer Edgerton-Warburton	Community Representative

3 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Nil

4 **SUMMARY OF RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Nil

5 **APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

6 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

KOJONUP NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 6 JUNE 2019.

RECOMMENDATION/COMMITTEE DECISION

5/19 Moved: John Benn Seconded: Kath Mathwin
That the minutes of the Kojonup Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee meeting held 6 June 2019 be confirmed as a true record.

CARRIED

7 **ANNOUNCEMENTS** BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Graham Blacklock has indicated he will no longer be able to be a member of the Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee as he is relocating to Albany.

The NRM/Landcare Officer will compose a letter to thank him for his contributions to NRM/Landcare over the years.

8 **PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

9 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

10 FINANCIAL REPORT

Attachment 10.1 – Financial Report Period May 2019

Attachment 10.2 – Financial Report Period June 2019

Discussion was had around Point 1 of the Reserve Account Definition and how best to proceed to use approved allocations from Reserve Account funds to eradicate Bridal Creeper and Tagasaste. A field trip will be held to view possible sites to invest in weed removal before the next Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee meeting.

Bridal Creeper along the Tunney, Mather, Treasure and Denney roads around the townsite have been sprayed this year.

The NRM/Landcare Officer has received the 10 year road plan from the Works Manager and will need to work out a procedure to map/remove weeds that are along these roadsides.

RECOMMENDATION/COMMITTEE DECISION

6/19 Moved: Jane Kowald Seconded: John Benn

That the Financial Report for the period ending May 2019 – June 2019 be received and noted.

CARRIED

ATTACHMENT 10.1 FINANCIAL REPORT PERIOD MAY 2019

**SHIRE OF KOJONUP
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
For the period ending 31 May 2019**

A/c	Description	Type	Resp. Officer	18/19 Total Budget	18/19 YTD Actuals
Operating Expenditure					
5612	NRM - Office Expenses	Exp.	CEO	\$1,500	\$210
5616	NRM - Consultancy Fees	Exp.	CEO	\$22,000	\$16,603
5601	NRM - Vehicle Costs	Exp.	CEO	\$500	\$0
5684	NRM - Publications	Exp.	CEO	\$0	\$2,303
5614	NRM - SWCC Project	Exp.	CEO	\$0	\$4,057
5723	NRM - 20m Trees Grant Expenditure	Exp.	CEO	\$16,000	\$9,692
5722	NRM - State NRM Grant Expenditure	Exp.	CEO	\$48,866	\$36,458
5686	NRM - Enviromental Reserve M'ment	Exp.	MWS	\$11,000	\$5,741
				\$99,866	\$75,066
Operating Revenue					
5603	NRM - Grants	Inc.	MCS	-\$3,936	-\$8,409
5613	NRM - Contributions	Inc.	MCS	\$0	\$0
				-\$3,936	-\$8,409
	<i>less amount already transferred this financial year</i>				\$0
	(Profit)/loss to be transferred (into)/out of NRM reserve account:			\$95,930	\$66,656

Reserve Account

Definition (money may be used for):

For the Shire of Kojonup to progress the following projects:-

1. Bridal Creeper and tagasaste Eradication program.
2. Managing water resources including water harvesting and re-use opportunities in the Shire for the use in Kojonup parks and reserves during summer.
3. Undertake weed management and planting of native trees and shrubs in conjunction with Schools, Kojonup Aboriginal Corporation and community groups within identified Reserves such as:
 - a) Myrtle Benn, Farrar and Quin Quin;
 - b) Showground's area; and
 - c) Blackwood Road arboretum.

to improve bio diversity, fauna habitat and natural resource management outcomes.

	17/18 Total Budget	17/18 YTD Actuals
Natural Resource Management Reserve Account		
- Opening Balance	\$167,506	\$167,506
- Transfer from Reserve	-\$95,930	\$0
- Transfer to Reserve	\$0	\$0
- Interest Earned	\$3,350	\$248
- Closing Balance	\$74,926	\$167,754

ATTACHMENT 10.2 - FINANCIAL REPORT PERIOD – JUNE 2019

**SHIRE OF KOJONUP
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
For the period ending 30 June 2019**

A/c	Description	Type	Resp. Officer	18/19 Total Budget	18/19 YTD Actuals
Operating Expenditure					
5612	NRM - Office Expenses	Exp.	CEO	\$1,500	\$888
5616	NRM - Consultancy Fees	Exp.	CEO	\$22,000	\$18,917
5601	NRM - Vehicle Costs	Exp.	CEO	\$500	\$0
5684	NRM - Publications	Exp.	CEO	\$0	\$2,303
5614	NRM - SWCC Project	Exp.	CEO	\$0	\$4,057
5723	NRM - 20m Trees Grant Expenditure	Exp.	CEO	\$16,000	\$9,692
5722	NRM - State NRM Grant Expenditure	Exp.	CEO	\$48,866	\$36,458
5686	NRM - Enviromental Reserve M'ment	Exp.	MWS	\$11,000	\$9,334
				\$99,866	\$81,650
Operating Revenue					
5603	NRM - Grants	Inc.	MCS	-\$3,936	-\$8,409
5613	NRM - Contributions	Inc.	MCS	\$0	\$0
				-\$3,936	-\$8,409
	<i>less amount already transferred this financial year</i>				-\$72,223
	(Profit)/loss to be transferred (into)/out of NRM reserve account:			\$95,930	\$1,018

Reserve Account

Definition (money may be used for):

For the Shire of Kojonup to progress the following projects:-

1. Bridal Creeper and tagasaste Eradication program.
2. Managing water resources including water harvesting and re-use opportunities in the Shire for the use in Kojonup parks and reserves during summer.
3. Undertake weed management and planting of native trees and shrubs in conjunction with Schools, Kojonup Aboriginal Corporation and community groups within identified Reserves such as:
 - a) Myrtle Benn, Farrar and Quin Quin;
 - b) Showground's area; and
 - c) Blackwood Road arboretum.

to improve bio diversity, fauna habitat and natural resource management outcomes.

	17/18 Total Budget	17/18 YTD Actuals
Natural Resource Management Reserve Account		
- Opening Balance	\$167,506	\$167,506
- Transfer from Reserve	-\$95,930	-\$72,223
- Transfer to Reserve	\$0	\$0
- Interest Earned	\$3,350	\$2,943
- Closing Balance	\$74,926	\$98,226

11 STATUS REPORTS

11.1 NRM/LANDCARE OFFICER REPORT – STATE NRM COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS A16046

The project is currently on track with a variation approved to plant 6,000 more native seedlings and fence 4km. The project is located at Carrolup on David McFall's property.

11.2 REGIONAL BIOSECURITY GROUP (RBG) FORMATION

Glenice Batchelor and Jason Dearle from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development will be attending the Council Briefing Session on Tuesday, 20 August 2019 from 10am to present to Councillors about RBG's and how they work.

In regards to committee decision:

- 24/18 *Moved: Kath Mathwin Seconded: John Benn*
That the Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee recommends to Council that a Local Law is developed to eradicate the following species from the Shire:
1. *Pattersons Curse (Echium plantagineum);*
 2. *Black Wattle (Acacia decurrens);*
 3. *Golden Wattle (Acacia pycnantha); and*
 4. *Flinders Range Wattle (Acacia iteaphylla).*

An agenda item for council to consider RGB's will be progressed by the NRM/Landcare Officer.

11.3 FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION (FPC) COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

[Attachment 11.1 – Event Summary Report St Bernard's Catholic Primary School](#)

[Attachment 11.2 – Event Summary Report Kojonup District High School](#)

A total of 122 students/teachers/educational assistants visited Myrtle Benn Flora and Fauna Sanctuary to learn about tree's life cycle and hunt for bugs. The events were well received by the students and teachers with interest to be involved with future Landcare activities. FPC supplied money to purchase binoculars and magnifying glasses which were a hit with the students.

Many thanks to Sue O'Halloran, Chris Lewis, Wayne Zadow and Travis from Kojonup Bus Service for donating their time and equipment for the events as it is greatly appreciated and never taken for granted.

11.4 PLANET ARK SCHOOLS TREE PLANTING DAY FRIDAY 26 JULY 2019

Three volunteers and 3 Shire of Kojonup staff helped plant 4,200 seedlings at the old rubbish tip on the 7 August 2019. The year 8 class (16 students and 2 teachers) from Kojonup District High School, led by Melissa Shephard, also helped and their efforts will be continued in the subsequent years until the whole area is planted out.

More topsoil is required on the site for plants to survive.

COMMITTEE DECISION

7/19 Moved: Paul Retallack Seconded: Marina Murray
That the NRM/Landcare Officer follows up with the Department of Environment, in accordance with the Landfill Closure Plan.

CARRIED

11.5 RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Corporate Strategic Plan, reference 1.2.6 (page 12) states that Works and Services will develop environmental management plans for significant Shire Reserves, which should be completed in 2020/2021.

Jane Kowald and Marina Murray are working to progress this with the idea of producing an overarching document briefly describing all reserves in the Shire. High value reserves will be identified as part of this process and it will be recommended that these reserves have an individual environmental management plan written for them by an appropriate consultant.

No further progress has been made to date.

11.6 USING LOW RATES OF CHEMICAL IN RESERVES FOR WEED MANAGEMENT

At the Reserve Management Forum held by the Shire of Kojonup in 2017, John Moore, Department of Agriculture and Food, gave a presentation on the effect of herbicides on natives, from which the roadside misting idea has sprung which has been much discussed by the Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee.

Jane Kowald, Marina Murray, Mark Swinfield and Latasha Hira have been working together to extend this idea to be used in reserves of low biodiversity value and high weed burden. A demonstration will be conducted in the bush area opposite the cemetery along Tunney Road.

This patch of bush was chosen as it has a high density of freesia bulb weeds growing as well as a variety of grasses and tagasaste. Treatments that will be included in the demonstration are as follows:

1. 0.1g/10L Metsulphuron
2. 0.5g/10L Metsulphuron
3. 250mL/100L Glyphosate
4. 500mL/100L Glyphosate
5. 750mL/100L Glyphosate

Treatment plots were sprayed on the 2 July 2019 and photo monitoring has been taking place. Jane Kowald and Marina Murray will review the sites and decide if a re-spray is required. Ongoing monitoring will be taking place and a small report written at the conclusion of the experiment.

If a suitable treatment for bulbs could be found, another suitable site for treatment would be the west side of Treasure Road, along the old railway line.

11.7 GEOGRAPHICALLY STRATEGIC FOX BAITING INTERVENTIONS COLLABORATED ACROSS THE GREAT SOUTHERN DISTRICT AREA OF WA TO REDUCE POTENTIAL INJURY OR DEATH TO OUR INDUSTRY-VITAL FARM SHEEP POPULATIONS

This collaborative project is funded by the Australian Government through the 'Communities Combating Pest and Weed Impacts during Drought Program – Biosecurity Management of Pests and Weeds'. Shire of Kent NRM Officer, Paul Leoni, is leading the project which includes the Shires of Lake Grace, Kent, Jerramungup, Gnowangerup, Plantagenet, Cranbrook, Broomehill-Tambellup, Kojonup, Katanning, Woodanilling and Wagin (see map below, note Dumbleyung has pulled out).



Map 1: Fox baiting participating Shires

This project proposes to implement three periods of regional fox baiting between ~Jan-2020 to ~Jun-2021 at strategically selected sheep farm properties (and adjacent buffer areas) across a ~11.5 Shire single continuous block in the Great Southern of WA, for the purpose of reducing potential fox predation impacts on the local sheep industry. Local organisations have been designated to each Shire/s to facilitate implementation of fox baiting interventions. This proposal will demonstrate the logistical efficiencies of collaborating a fox baiting program at a regional scale.

Funding requested will support:

- 1 The selection of strategically located sheep farms (and their buffer areas) within each Shire;
- 2 Landholders of selected farms to acquire their 1080 accreditation and 1080 permits.
- 3 Contracting of pest control experts, who will provide and distribute 1080 (and other) fox baits for use at the selected sheep farms; and
- 4 Collection of results of baiting activities and reporting.

So far, 11 applications have been received by landholders in the Shire of Kojonup. The 1080 accreditation workshop will be run in Kojonup on Wednesday, 21 August 2019 from 8am-12pm at the Sporting Complex. Applications will be accepted until that time so please spread the word.

11.8 WEED CONTROL BY MISTING THE STANDPIPE RESERVE, KOJONUP-KATANNING ROAD

John Benn has kindly offered the use of his mister for the experiment. The NRM/Landcare Officer and Marina Murray will conduct the spraying in the next couple of weeks when the weather is suitable.

11.9 EASTERN STATES WATTLES

A letter was written to Main Roads Western Australia about the Black (*Acacia decurrens*) and Golden (*Acacia pycantha*) Wattles growing along the Kojonup-Katanning Road, and the possibility of removing them. The response was non-committal.

The NRM/Landcare Officer will compose another letter about the weeds, with the offer to organise their removal at Main Roads cost.

Letters may also be sent to landowners along that road whom have the wattle species growing on their properties to ask that they consider removing them for environmental benefits.

11.10 OLD RUBBISH TIP ROAD WEED SPRAYING

A site of past failed revegetation has been recognised as carrying a large weed burden and has been sprayed. It has been suggested that this area be planted to native mixed species again in an effort to reduce the weed load.

11.11 20 MILLION TREES PROJECT

Infill planting of root stock has been completed at the Old Gravel Pit site along the Collier-Changerup Road. Survival rates of germinating seeds was very low due to no summer rain.

One thousand (1,000) seedlings will be planted in the next week at the Old Speedway site by the Kojonup Aboriginal Corporation.

RECOMMENDATION/COMMITTEE DECISION

8/19 Moved: Marina Murray Seconded: John Benn
That the Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee accepts the NRM/Landcare Officers Status Reports.

CARRIED

12 ITEMS

12.1 SHARP RUSH DEMONSTRATION SITES – FOLLOW UP

At the last Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee meeting it was proposed that a follow up of the sharp rush demonstration sites be conducted. The NRM/Landcare Officer visited the sites on the 11 June 2019 and an article was published in the Shire of Kojonup’s E-News, Edition 158:

Sharp Rush Demonstration Sites Update

In 2017 the Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee set up demonstration sites for Sharp Rush Control along the Collie-Changerup Road and Kojonup-Broomehill Road. These sites were sprayed in September 2017 with Glyphosate 360 Bioactive (10/100L) and Pulse (2/1000L), and again in 2019. Most plants have died but the sites will be re-visited again this year as there are seedlings and some re-sprouting to control.

**Collie-Changerup Road Demonstration Site
17 February 2017**



11 June 2019



**Kojonup-Broomehill Road Demonstration Site
17 February 2017**



11 June 2019



Marina Murray and Jane Kowald will meet to discuss the future of these sites as there are some re-sprouting of sharp rush.

12.2 LANDCARE SUCCESSES

From the last Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee meeting it was resolved that an attempt to highlight Landcare successes was made. As a result of this, an article was published in the Shire of Kojonup's E-News, Edition 161, on Sharon and Jorn Ramel's efforts to remove sharp rush from their property. I will be contacting Leah Woods for her story in the upcoming issues of the E-News.

This year Landcare Australia is celebrating 30 years and are seeking stories from across Australia. The Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee should consider the story of Myrtle Benn Flora and Fauna Sanctuary. If so, the NRM/Landcare Officer would like some help to compile information in a format suitable for submission.

SHARP RUSH ERADICATION, CAN IT BE DONE?

Then Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee have been interested in removing Sharp Rush for several years and wanted to share some stories from landowners in the district about their efforts to get rid of the weed.

Name: Sharon Ramel

Target weed: Sharp Rush

How long have you been trying to remove Sharp Rush from your property?

I started manually removing sharp bush on our infrequent visits to the farm in 2015. There were a small number in the front regeneration project on the farm so manual removal worked well. At the same time, I started monitoring the other side of that area (there is a dam and brook flowing into it). Again, manual removal was and still is used. I have and continue to monitor removing a few every year. There were a few hundred to begin with - mostly small so easy to deal with. This is a rare photo dated 10th April, 2015.



We were coming down here from Perth for revegetation projects - fencing, planting and controlling bridal creeper, cape tulip and sharp rush within those areas. At the time we noticed one particular year in a paddock were once we had a few that they had literally exploded in numbers, investigation in 2017 when we finally moved here shocked us as there were two dams with creeks and a swamp choked by the proliferation of them. At one of the properties borders they were so thick and tall; I could not walk through. I went out on the quad bike with my trusty mattock and came home in disbelief at how this had gotten to this magnitude.

There was one other significant (but smaller than above) area around the fresh water soak, creek and dam heading down to Tone Rd. On one side of a farm fence line I dug them out - 100's of them. The other side they were too thick and it is sinky wet in there!

How many methods have you used, what are they and how effective were they?

Digging, fire, fire & scalping, spraying and spraying followed by fire.

Digging is definitely the most effective IF you get the entire plant. The areas I have dug out (2 out of the five areas they had fewer weeds to start with) has seen minimal re-growth.

Spraying is so hit and miss as you need to wet every bit of the reed. Jorn decided to help in 2017/18 and didn't believe me - although we swept through every large area of weeds with them not being drenched it was not as effective. We then followed up going through again on the quad and spraying individual plants thoroughly.

We have burned them twice - once very unsuccessfully - they quadrupled and became so dense they were impenetrable. We clearly burned at the wrong time of the year. Plus, we burned them around a fresh water lake as we didn't want to compromise the water quality....Very unsuccessful as again they proliferated and we lost trees to the fire, Jorn did follow up and scalped a small area - this actually worked with minimal reoccurrence on the scaled area.



The fresh water lake before and after treatment.

Fire - we follow up burned just before the beginning of the fire season last spring on 2018 - this has been effective in reducing the height and we intend to spray and burn (and dig out lesser colonies).

Why do you think it is important to remove Sharp Rush from your property?

It is incredibly invasive and difficult to remove once established. The seed bank is horrendous. Whilst I hear from quite a few farmers that "its a bit of feed for the sheep", I don't think the sheep find it palatable enough to keep it from spreading and is not worth it in the long term. We have watched its significant spread throughout the south west in the 10 years I have been coming down here to the farm.

How does it make you feel now that you have removed it all?

That we have a long way to go..... this happened under our watch..... this weed is trouble. We have investigated how we could manage holistically – i.e. cow, sheep, pig food - however none of them have a taste for it.

13 **MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

Nil

14 **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the NRM Advisory Committee is to be Thursday, 14 November 2019 at 1:00pm in the NRM/Landcare/Southern Dirt Office.

15 **CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the Presiding Member thanked the members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 2:34 pm.

16 **ATTACHMENTS (SEPARATE)**

Attachment 11.1 – Event Summary Report St Bernard’s Catholic Primary School

Attachment 11.2 – Event Summary Report Kojonup District High School

Presiding Member

Date