



## Meelup Regional Park Management Committee

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## Informal Meeting- Notes

**DATE:** Monday 30 April 2018, commencing 10.10 am

**VENUE:** Dunsborough District Country Club

### 1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

**Attendance Members:** Dr Bob Jarvis (Presiding Member), Mr Peter Randerson (Deputy Presiding Member), Councilor John McCallum, Councilor Kelly Hick, Mr Tony Smurthwaite and Mrs Shirley Fisher

**Officers:** Mr Greg Simpson (Environmental Management Coordinator) and Ms Kay Lehman (Meelup Environment Officer- EO)

**Apologies:** Mr Bob Ginbey, Mr. Damien Jones and Mr Albert Haak

### 2. FINANCIAL SUMMARY - Attachment A

**Proposed Direction:**

1. The Committee noted the April 2018 Financial Summary (**Attachment A**).

### 3. MEELUP VOLUNTEER UPDATE

This report covers the period 27<sup>th</sup> March to 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

For the period, there were a total of 63 man-hours of volunteer involvement.

Achievements for the period included:

- Trail clearing and pruning Eagle Bay to Rocky Point and Bunkers Bay trail head
- Trail clearing and pruning Lookout trail
- Presentation on weed identification and mapping combined with a presentation on trail condition and maintenance reporting proforma. Thanks to Tony and Kay for very informative presentations.

During the period we also had a coffee break in lieu of the normal activity. This was attended by 13 volunteers and provided an informal opportunity to discuss the previous Management Committee Meeting, the activities and actions reported in the minutes and direction the Park Committee is heading.

**Proposed Direction:**

1. Information noted by the Committee.

**4. ACTION SUMMARY PROGRESS UPDATE**

The action summary is appended as **Attachment B**.

**5. REPORTS**

**5.1 Revegetation Works - 2018**

Pyp Grass Control Area- Eagle Bay

EO met with Don Best (Eagle Bay Residents Association, REBA) on 4 April 2018 to discuss the program of weed control and revegetation at the site. The 2017 weed control spraying of the 300m section of Pyp grass on the Eagle Bay foredunes has been quite successful with the majority of the grass killed. It is now planned to slash strips of the Pyp grass to reduce the biomass and enable revegetation works to proceed in winter. The planting of 720 local native seedlings is scheduled to be undertaken by REBA, Friends of Meelup and the Busselton High School in June 2018.

Some areas will not be slashed until there is scheduled revegetation works to prevent soil erosion. The rehabilitation of this area will be implemented over several years.

It would be advantageous to install several photo-monitoring points to gauge the progress of works over time. This may be a good job for the Friends of Meelup to undertake.

Meelup Beach Community Planting Day

A community planting day is planned for Meelup Beach on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July, 10am-12 to plant 500 local native seedlings. The weekend community planting day was an initiative from the Meelup Volunteer Planning session earlier in the year to give the wider local community an opportunity to be involved in Parks activities and foster a sense of community stewardship of the Park. The Cape Mountain Bikers Inc. members have been invited to participate in the planting day.

Meelup Regional Park- other revegetation areas include:

- Zone 6 - 560 seedlings- contractor
- Zone 6 - Remediation - 2,300 seedlings, mulching jute matting erosion control- contractor
- Wildlife Corridor- 880 seedlings- Friends of Meelup, Busselton High School
- Coastal Node area- 420 seedlings- Friends of Meelup
- Car Rally gravel pit area- 300 seedlings, erosion control works using coir logs –contractor

**Proposed Direction:**

1. Information noted by the Committee.
2. The Meelup Beach Community Planting Day will be held on Sunday 10 June 2018. The event will include a sausage sizzle and a talk by Presiding Member Dr Bob Jarvis on the Park.
3. Invitation to the Meelup Beach Community Planting Day to be sent to City Councillors.

## **5.2 Meelup Beach moon viewing platform**

Quotations for the design of the Meelup moon viewing platform have been received and a summary of the project and submissions received will be present to Committee members.

### **Proposed Direction:**

1. Information was noted and discussed by the Committee.
2. The Committee endorsed the quote from Emerge Associates for the design of the viewing platform.

## **5.2 Fire Management Plan**

The development of a Fire Management Plan for the Meelup Regional Park is proposed to enable the City of Busselton to implement sound fire risk reduction practices while adequately protecting the environmental, cultural and social values of the Park.

In recent years, the imperative to address 'Life' and 'Property' in bushfire prone areas has increased. Public awareness about bushfire risks has also increased. Both these factors have led to an increased pressure on the City to reduce bush fire hazards in reserves, particularly in urban areas.

However, the City is also bound by State and Federal laws to consider the impacts of fire on environmental values of the reserves prior to any potentially degrading actions that may impact on biodiversity values.

Meelup Regional Park contains local, national and internationally significant biodiversity values including a Threatened Ecological Community, Threatened and Priority Flora including disjunct and endemic species to the Park, highly restricted and poorly reserved vegetation communities and Threatened and Priority fauna species.

The purpose of the Fire Management Plan will be to ensure that the City's ongoing management practices to reduce the fire hazards with the Park will not impact on these values. While ecological requirements are the focus of this plan, it is expected that 'Life' and 'Property' requirements will be met as a result of addressing the ecological requirements.

### **Proposed Direction:**

1. Information noted and discussed by the Committee.
2. The Committee supported a review of the Meelup Regional Park Fire Management Plan with an emphasis on fire management for the protection of ecology.

## **5.3 Dual Use Signage**

Council endorsed the Meelup Regional Park Bike Trails in December 2016 to allow the riding of bicycles on trails developed and marked for that purpose. This includes the Mountain Bike Zone in Zone 6 of the Park and several other trails and firebreaks within the Park.

It is proposed to install dual-use signage on designated bike trails in the Park including the western firebreak, wildlife corridor, Meelup Brook trail and the main trails connecting the Mountain Bike trail zone to the Dunsborough Districts Country Club bike trail network. The dual-use signage will include a Code of Conduct on sharing the trail, environmental responsibility and safety.

Refer to **Attachment C** – Council endorsed Meelup Regional Park Bike Trails

**Proposed Direction:**

1. The Committee supported the installation of dual-use trail signage as required.

**6.0 NEXT MEETING**

The next informal meeting of the Committee will be held on the 28 May 2018, commencing 10.00am at the Dunsborough District Country Club.