



# **MINUTES**

## **Public Reserves Advisory Committee Meeting**

**1 October 2019**

**MINUTES OF NORFOLK ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL  
PUBLIC RESERVES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE NORFOLK ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
ON TUESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2019 AT 4:00PM**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Name	Representative	Present	Apology
John McCoy	Deputy Mayor	X	
Lisle Snell	Councillor	X	
Aaron Graham	Norfolk Island Cattle Association	X	
Marg Christian	Norfolk Flora and Fauna	X	
Nigel Greenup	Park Manager, Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	X	
David Evans	Community Representative		X
Joy Walker	A/Group Manager Services	X	
Phillip Wilson	A/General Manager		X
Murray Thompson	Manager Planning and Environment	X	
James Castle	Senior Environmental Officer	X	
Robyn Adams	Mayor	X	

**1 WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed the committee to the meeting and opened the meeting at 4:05pm.

**2 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Name	Agenda Item	Type	Nature of Interest
		Conflict of Interest	

**3 CONFIRMATION AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Minutes of the September meeting were confirmed.

Moved: Lisle Snell

Seconded: Aaron Graham

Unanimous

**4 REPORTS FROM OFFICERS****4.1 Senior Environmental Officer Report****Plans of Management for Public Reserves**

The public submission period for feedback on Draft Plans of Management for Bumbora, Ball Bay, Stock, Middleridge, Anson Bay and Hundred Acres Reserves closed on 20<sup>th</sup> September. We received an excellent response from the community with a range of suggestions for improved management of the 6 Reserves and supporting planned management actions, and we will work through and address these with the Public Reserves Advisory Committee (PRAC). This feedback will be summarised and presented to the PRAC at the November meeting.

Draft Plans of Management have been prepared for Headstone, Point Ross Reserve and Two Chimneys Reserves.

Work will commence on Plans of Management for Selwyn and Cascade Reserves in October 2019, and the work on the Overarching Plan will commence soon after.

At this stage it is proposed to have one document containing Plans of Management for the KAHVA Reserves (to cover natural assets and environmental/ecological issues within these Reserves) and to compliment the KAHVA CMP, but this proposal is open for discussion.

**Management of Public Reserves**

Planning is currently underway for revegetation projects within Norfolk Island Public Reserves in 2020 with native plants sourced from the Parks nursery. The plantings will include endemic threatened species such as Coastal Coprosma, Norfolk Island Euphorbia and Oleander; and other endemic species including Flax, White Oak and Norfolk Island Pine.

The area currently managed by mowing within Hundred Acres and Selwyn Reserves has been modified to allow the natural regeneration of native species under Norfolk Island Pines and other native trees within these Reserves. Mowing schedules for other Reserves will be

Safety signs have been delivered and will be put up in Headstone, Hundred Acres, Point Ross, Two Chimneys and other Reserves in dangerous cliff side areas during October.

**Norfolk Island Morepork**

Staff are currently working with Parks to install and monitor nest boxes for the critically endangered Norfolk Island Morepork in some Public Reserves across the Island. The first round of monitoring has just been completed in Two Chimneys, Bumbora and Ball Bay Reserves, and the nestboxes will be monitored monthly during the breeding season to determine if breeding has been successful or if the nest boxes are being occupied by introduced species such as Red Parrots or Starlings.

**Weed Management**

Contractors are targeting Madeira Vine in Hundred Acres Reserve and planning is underway for the control of African Boxthorn within Hundred Acres.

An infestation of Three-cornered Jack (or Double G weed) was treated near the groyne at Ball Bay

Reserve on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, and roadside weed control will continue during October.

NIRC staff have spent a considerable amount of time targeting Cascade Onion with selective herbicide on Roadsides and on vacant land including Driver Christian Road, Allendale Road, Stockyard Road, Collins Head Road, Cascade Road, Christian Lane, Store Road, and vacant land around the Guide Hall.

Woody weeds and Thistles have also been targeted at Puppies Point, Kingfisher Paddock, and across various roadsides across the Island.

### **Pest Animals**

Feral chicken and Crimson Rosella control is underway across Public Reserves with assistance from Parks contractors, and rat and cat control is continuing. Feral chicken control efforts will increase in coming months prior to the “no culling” period in December, January and February.

A total of 100 rat bait stations have been deployed into Bumbora, Point Ross, Headstone and Hundred Acres Reserves, and these will be checked periodically.

NIRC contractors eradicated 72 feral chickens and 9 Tarler birds from Norfolk Island Reserves during August and September. Parks contractors have also been assisting with the control of pest species under a permit issued by the Conservator of Public Reserves. A number of feral chickens, Tarler birds and Crimson Rosella’s have been eradicated through this arrangement. Parks are covering the cost of this work, which is greatly appreciated.

The “Use Firearms to Humanely Destroy Animals” course is being arranged for November. NIRC and Parks employees will complete this training. An employees from KAHVA will also undertake the training to allow them to control feral chickens and Tarler birds at KAHVA.

We have applied for a permit to cull Tarler Birds on private land across the Island, and we currently have a permit for culling within Bumbora Reserves and at KAVHA.

No feral cat control was undertaken in September due to commitments with the Argentine Ant Eradication Program detector dog and other work.

Parks are currently placing cameras across the Island for the next round of feral cat monitoring and no feral cat trapping will be undertaken during this period.

### **Argentine Ant Eradication Program**

The first round of baiting Argentine Ants with the Yamaha Fazer Drone is complete, and monitoring by CSIRO has shown that Argentine Ant numbers have decreased within baited areas since the aerial baiting commenced.

The next round of aerial baiting commenced on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Once again the drone will be operating around Collins Head Road, Driver Christian Road, Taylors Road, Mt Pitt Road, Queen Elizabeth Avenue and at the Airport and Waste Management Centre. The plan is to apply the bait from the drone 8 times over each zone to achieve eradication in the zones targeted this year, and then target new areas next year once these zones are confirmed eradicated.

The trainer for the Argentine Ant Eradication Program detector dog (Bella) was on Island from the 6<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September, and Bella is now on track to detect any remaining Argentine Ants within zones baited as part of the current drone work.

Argentine Ant Eradication Program staff are baiting from vehicles with blowers, assisting the drone work and monitoring Argentine Ants to measure the impact of the baiting program.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That a Frazer Drone demonstration day be arranged by the Senior Environmental Officer for early November so that Public Reserves Advisory Committee members can see how the drone operates while distributing Argentine Ant bait.

Moved: John McCoy      Seconded: Marg Christian      Unanimous

**5      ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS****5.1      NORFOLK ISLAND FLORA & FAUNA SOCIETY INC****DISCUSSION**

As the next meeting (November) falls on Melbourne Cup day, could we please make a decision early as to whether the meeting should be cancelled or the date changed, to allow for members' possible absences on that day

**PROPOSED ADVICE**

Decide on change of date, or cancellation of the November meeting of this committee

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the date for the Melbourne Cup Day meeting (05/11/2019) be changed to the following week (12/11/2019).

Moved: Marg Christian      Seconded: Aaron Graham      Unanimous

### 5.3 DRAFT PLANS OF MANAGEMENT FOR PUBLIC RESERVES

#### SUMMARY

Draft Plans of Management for Headstone, Two Chimneys and Point Ross Reserves are attached for review, and the recommendation is that these draft Plans be placed on public exhibition

#### DISCUSSION

The 56 Day Public Submission Period for the 6 complete Draft Plans of Management closed on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, and excellent feedback has been received from the community on Draft Plans for Ball Bay, Anson Bay, Stock, Middleridge, Hundred Acres and Bumbora Reserves. This feedback will be collated and summarised for the November PRAC so we can discuss the inclusion of some of the information received into final plans.

The Senior Environmental Officer has completed Draft Plans of Management for Headstone, Two Chimneys and Point Ross Reserve (attached) and these can now be placed on Public Exhibition as prescribed in the Public Reserves Act 1997 (NI).

Work on the Draft Plan of Management for Selwyn Reserve has commenced, and work on the Draft Plan of Management for Cascade Reserve will also commence in October with an expectation that these will be tabled at the November PRAC.

Draft Plans of Management for the KAHVA Reserves will commence in November. At this stage it is suggested that one document containing 4 separate Plans of Management is prepared to cover environmental issues (pest animals, noxious weeds, threatened species, habitat rehabilitation etc.) within the KAHVA Reserves, but this is open for discussion.

Work on the Draft Overarching Plan of Management will commence in late November – early December and all going to plan this should be complete prior to Christmas.

#### Recommendations:

It is recommended that the three Draft Plans of Management for Headstone, Two Chimneys and Point Ross Reserves be placed on public exhibition as prescribed in the Public Reserves Act 1997 (NI).

It is recommended that one document is prepared containing 4 separate Plans of Management covering environmental issues for the KAHVA Reserves, rather than prepare 4 separate Plans for these Reserves.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Draft Plans of Management for Headstone, Two Chimneys and Point Ross Reserves be placed on public exhibition for 56 Days.

Moved: Marg Christian      Seconded: Aaron Graham      Unanimous

#### RECOMMENDATION

That one document be prepared containing 6 separate Plans of Management for environmental issues (pest animals, noxious weeds, threatened species, habitat rehabilitation etc) for the 6 Reserves in the KAHVA area, rather than prepare 6 separate Plans for these Reserves.

Moved: John McCoy      Seconded: Marg Christian      Unanimous

**6 CLOSE OF COMMITTEE MEETING**

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 November 2019

The Chair closed the meeting at 5.12pm