



# **MINUTES**

## **Public Reserves Advisory Committee Meeting**

**2 June 2020**

**MINUTES OF NORFOLK ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL  
PUBLIC RESERVES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE NORFOLK ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING ROOM  
ON TUESDAY, 2 JUNE 2020 AT 4:00PM**

**PRESENT:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Apology</b>
John McCoy	Deputy Mayor		
Andrew Roach	General Manager		
Lisle Snell	Councillor		
Aaron Graham	Norfolk Island Cattle Association		
Marg Christian	Norfolk Flora and Fauna		
Nigel Greenup	Park Manager, Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden		
David Evans	Community Representative		
Bruce Taylor	Interim General Manager		
Jim Castles	Senior Environmental Officer		
Robyn Adams	Mayor (observer)		

**1 WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed the Committee to the meeting and opened the Meeting at 4:00pm.

The Chair read the Statement of Respect: We acknowledge our elders past and present; and we acknowledge the Norfolk Island People, the traditional custodians of this Island.

**2 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

**3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Nil

**4 REPORTS FROM OFFICERS****4.1 DRAFT NORFOLK ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL PEST PLANT AND ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN****SUMMARY**

The Draft Norfolk Island Regional Council Pest Plant and Animal Management Plan is attached for review by the Public Reserves Advisory Committee.

It is recommended that the Draft Plan be placed on Public Exhibition for feedback from the community for a period of 28 days.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Draft Norfolk Island Regional Council Pest Plant and Animal Management Plan**

## 4.2 DISCUSSION - SAND EXTRACTION IN CEMETERY RESERVE

### SUMMARY

There is a limited amount of accessible sand on Norfolk Island and there are very few locations where it can be mined without significantly damaging the environment and/or archaeological sites. Currently the only accessible sources of sand for essential building and construction on Norfolk Island are within Cemetery and Point Hunter Reserves, and the extraction of sand from these areas is unsustainable.

Sand mining in a public reserve is not within the objects of the *Public Reserves Act 1997* and the need to phase out sand mining has been discussed during the update of Plans of Management in the past. The need to halt sand mining has also been identified in the Heritage Management Plan for the World Heritage site.

The quality of the sand from Cemetery and Point Hunter Reserves is poor. The sand is mainly calcium carbonate it is not as chemically stable as the sands derived from granite (mainly quartz sand) and other continental rocks that are most suitable for use by the construction industry.

It has been suggested that crushed basalt dust may a suitable substitute for most uses of calcarenite sand on Norfolk Island, and the importation of building grade sand has also been discussed as an option in the past.

It is recommended that another source of sand or alternatives/substitutes for sand should be explored as part of the update of the Plans of Management for the KAHVA Reserves, and a date to phase out sand extraction should be set within the Plans.

### ATTACHMENTS

Nil

### 4.3 PROGRESS WITH PLANS OF MANAGEMENT FOR PUBLIC RESERVES

#### SUMMARY

Final Plans of Management are now complete for the following Public Reserves. These Final Plans were endorsed by Council at the May Council meeting and will now be forwarded to the Commonwealth for Ministerial Approval.

- **Anson Bay**
- **Ball Bay**
- **Bumbora**
- **Headstone**
- **Hundred Acres**
- **Point Ross**
- **Two Chimneys**
- **Stock**
- **Middleridge**

Work is expected to commence on Draft Plans of Management for the following Reserves in early 2020-21 in order of priority.

1. **Quarantine Reserve**
2. **One Plan of Management for (6) Kingston/KAVHA Reserves (Cemetery, Government House Domain Reserve, Kingston Common Reserve, Kingston Recreation Reserve, Point Hunter Reserve, War Memorial Reserve).**
3. **Overarching Plan of Management (or Part A)**

The Draft Plan of Management for **Selwyn Reserve** is complete and the community consultation process finished on 14th March. Once again, feedback from the community was supportive of the proposed actions within the Draft Plans.

We have commenced discussions with Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications about funding and responsibilities for the ongoing management of **Selwyn Reserve** and **Cascade Reserve**, and if Council should proceed with Plans of Management for these Commonwealth Reserves.

#### ATTACHMENTS

Nil

#### 4.4 PEST AND NOXIOUS WEEDS PROGRAM UPDATE

##### SUMMARY

##### PEST ANIMAL CONTROL

Feral cat and rat control is continuing within Public Reserves on Norfolk Island.

A contractor has been targeting feral chickens, Red Parrots and Tarler Birds in Council Reserves since January.

A total of 343 feral chickens, 20 feral cats, 29 Red Parrots and 9 Tarler birds were eradicated in Public Reserves in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019-20.

The 2019-20 total numbers of pest animals eradicated from Public Reserves up until mid-May 2020 is **754 feral chickens, 54 feral cats, 274 Red Parrots and 28 Tarler birds**.

Final figures for 2019-20 will be provided at the July Public Reserves Advisory Committee meeting.

##### ARGENTINE ANT ERADICATION PROGRAM UPDATE

The Argentine Ant Eradication program is on track. The team have completed baiting in Zone 3 and are searching for remaining ants within the areas recently baited by drone and from the ground - zones 4, 5, 7, 10 and 11.

Monitoring has so far shown that there has been a significant reduction in Argentine Ant numbers within treated areas when compared to areas that have not been treated. Follow up targeted baiting will be used to eradicate the existing ants within these areas.

As expected, there are still some small pockets of ants present within the areas previously treated by sugar bait and hydrogels, but these areas are small and most are easily treated.

The remaining pockets of Argentine Ants are being baited from a tractor or truck with a motorised blower attached to distribute dry sugar containing a small amount of Fipronil.

Fipronil is an insecticide with very little potential activity in vertebrates. It is a standard chemical used widely globally within agriculture, but it is being used at less than 1000<sup>th</sup> the rate of typical applications.

No bait or insecticides are being applied in gas form or as a mist that could be blown off target or inhaled by people or livestock.

All products and methods are approved by Australia's chemical authority, the APVMA. A major component of the approval process is that the products and treatments meet health requirements in that they do not pose a risk to people or livestock.

The hydrogel bait and the dry sugar bait are safe for use around bees. Monitoring by NIRC staff has found that bees are not attracted to any of the ant baits and do not feed from the baits. This corroborates research conducted by other teams throughout the world also using sugar-based baits for ants who have also found that bees are not attracted to, and do not feed from, sugar-based ant baits.

Planning for the treatment of other zones is underway, and the work plan for 2020-21 will depend upon travel restrictions due to Covid-19 and the impact of this on the ability of the Yamaha drone crew to travel to and from Norfolk Island.

The Argentine Ant Field Officer Position is currently vacant and we are relying on experienced contractors and casual staff to keep the program running effectively.

An expression of interest call went out for the kennelling and handling of Bella the Argentine Ant Detector dog and the Kennelling contract has been Awarded to Fitzzy's Farm.

There is no current contract for handling Bella and we are looking at options to engage a trainee dog handler as a council employee as soon as possible.

### **HABITAT RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT**

The restoration and maintenance of vegetation communities within Public Reserves is being considered as part of the current update of the Plans of Management.

All Plans of Management contain high priority actions to ensure the protection and enhancement of native vegetation within Public Reserves.

Native seedlings have been ordered from the Parks Nursery for restoration work.

Fencing at Cascade Reserve has been replaced and/or repaired to protect native vegetation and allow better management of stock grazing within the Reserve.

We are working with DITCRD to obtain funding for follow up weed control within Cascade Reserve and revegetation activities are planned for quarter 4 of 2019-20.

There is also the possibility that we will receive funding for extra work in Reserves in 2020-21, but this is yet to be confirmed.

### **RESERVE MANAGEMENT**

A safety audit was undertaken in March within Public Reserves with Councils Insurance Company to identify areas where visitor safety could be an issue, and plans are being developed for the installation of signage and barriers in priority locations.

Cliff top safety signs were ordered and prepared and have been installed at Headstone and Hundred Acres Reserve.

Walking track signs have been installed in Hundred Acres Reserve and feedback from the community has been very positive.

Planning is underway to install a waterless composting public toilet within Hundred Acres Reserve and the maintenance of Reserve facilities continues.

Planning is underway to install gas BBQ's and small shelters/pergolas at Anson Bay Reserve, and potentially Bumbora Reserve and Two Chimneys Reserve (to be confirmed).

### **PROGRESS WITH PLANS OF MANAGEMENT FOR PUBLIC RESERVES**

Work on Plans of Management for Public Reserve is continuing - this is covered in a separate report

### **PEST PLANT AND ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Draft Pest Plant and Animal Management Plan is now complete – this is covered in a separate report.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

**5 ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Nil

**6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 7 July 2020 .

**7 CLOSE OF COMMITTEE MEETING**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at [enter time](#).

.....

Chair

Dated: [enter date](#)