

Cedar Grove Environmental Centre

Community Reference Group Minutes

Meeting details

Date: Tuesday 21 January 2020

Time: 6.30pm – 7.35pm

Location: Cedar Grove Environmental Centre – Cedar Grove Road, Cedar Grove

Attendees

Interim Chairperson (Acting): Tony Goodhew (Water Infrastructure Manager – Council)

Community Reference Group members: Rachel Hughes, Janet Tovell, Anthony Ormsby, Debbie Brezac, Guy Di Mattina, Tracey Hanna

Logan City Council Officers: Mark Vaughan (Alliance Manager)

Logan Water Infrastructure Alliance (LoganWIA) Officers: Gus Trabolssi (Project Manager), Caitlin Gilbert (Community and Stakeholder Engagement Officer/Minute taker)

External: Murray Swales (Principal Natural Areas – SLR Consulting)

Apologies: Tania Keelan (Community and Stakeholder Engagement Officer - LoganWIA), Craig Bridges (CRG member)

Agenda

No.	Item
1	<p>Discussion of last meeting's minutes (close out any open action items).</p> <p>Outstanding action items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Coordinate site visit by the Landcare Group Committee.2. CRG to report back any community concerns about further offset planting on site.
2	<p>Project / program status update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Three week look ahead handout- Program key milestones
3	<p>General business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Landcare facility- Cedar Grove Environmental Centre opening event- Update on future of house and milking shed on site- Update on Dennis / Rodgers Roads- Nutrient offset project at Veresdale- Future dissolution of the CRG

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Meeting Minutes

No.	Details	Action	Due
1	Previous meeting's minutes		
	Previous minutes from 19 November 2019 were accepted.		
	Actions items carried over from meeting on 19 November 2019 – see agenda		
1	A tentative date was put forward by the CRG to coordinate a site visit with the Landcare Group Committee for the morning of Saturday 22 February 2020. This date was accepted by Council and LoganWIA officers. LoganWIA officers will coordinate the visit with the Landcare Group Committee for this date.	LoganWIA	31/01/2020
2	<p>CRG members advised that there was no negative feedback or community concerns about further offset planting on site.</p> <p>Council officers advised Council's Health, Environment and Waste branch was regularly looking for available land across Logan City for offset planting purposes. There are already 34,000 plants across the Cedar Grove site (25 species endemic to the area).</p> <p>Council officers suggested the CRG consider what areas may be worth preserving as 'functional space' for future community facilities or use (based on accessibility, topography etc.).</p> <p>A CRG member suggested that areas of open space/ paddocks should be left clear to keep the breezes flowing through the area.</p>	Note	
2	Project / program status		
2.1	<p>A hard copy of the 3-week look ahead was provided to CRG members, highlighting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All on-site buildings are complete and are now being fitted out. - Offset planting is now complete. - Construction of a concrete road around the structures is underway. - The old milking shed has been cleaned up this week and will be inspected by a structural engineer in the coming weeks. - Landscaping is underway on site. - Installation of the solar array will commence in early February 2020. - Pre-commissioning activities will commence in early February 2020. 	Note	
2.2	<p>The following key program milestones were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The site will be powered at the end of February 2020 by the already installed Energex lines and transformers. This means that the next CRG meeting (to be held in March 2020) could take place in the Administration Building. - The treatment plant will enter the commissioning period in Feb-May 2020. This involves testing the treatment process by running water through the plant to make sure it is ready to accept wastewater. 	LoganWIA	31/01/2020

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The treatment plant will be discharging highly treated water into the wetlands by the end of June 2020. This will initially involve discharging the water from the treatment plant into the wetlands, and taking it back through the treatment process until the agreed nutrient levels are reached (to discharge into the river as per the environmental license). This takes time as the wetlands need to build up biofilm to prevent algae growth. The wetlands plants have grown significantly over the last month. LoganWIA officers will email the latest photos of the wetlands to the CRG members. Council officers advised the wetlands now looked similar to the wetlands at the Maleny Wastewater Treatment Plant on the Sunshine Coast that CRG members visited in 2018. 		
3	General Business (Cedar Grove Environmental Centre / Landcare Facility / offset planting)		
3.1	<p>Landcare Group Committee members met with Council's Corporate Property team in November 2019 to discuss the drafting of the lease for the Landcare Facility within the grounds of the Cedar Grove Environmental Centre.</p> <p>Council officers advised the Landcare Facility lease agreement had been drafted and was currently with Logan Water for review and approval. Once reviewed, the Landcare Group Committee will receive the lease for their review. If there are no issues, Council officers will arrange to get the lease signed and ready to be reviewed and approved at the City Infrastructure Committee meeting in February 2020, prior to Logan City Council entering 'caretaker mode' on 20 February 2020.</p> <p>Council officers explained to the CRG that prior to the election of new Councillors in March 2020, Logan City Council would be entering 'caretaker mode'. This meant that no major decisions would be passed during this time. Thus, it was in the best interest of LoganWIA and the Landcare Committee to have the lease finalised before this.</p> <p>LoganWIA officers provided an update to the CRG on the status of the Landcare facility construction. Initial layout of the area has occurred this month and was observed by the CRG during a walking tour prior to the meeting. It was advised that construction activities were currently on hold as LoganWIA needed to make a submission to Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) for a compliance assessment. All non-functional scope items would be submitted to EDQ in one application, along with the construction schedule. LoganWIA officers will provide an update on the status of the EDQ submission prior to the next meeting.</p> <p>Council officers advised they had a monthly meeting with EDQ on Thursday 30 January and would discuss the upcoming compliance submission for the Cedar Grove Environmental Centre at the meeting.</p>	LoganWIA	17/03/2020
3.2	A member of the CRG sent photos of multiple locations along Cedar Grove road where the edges of the road were breaking away and attributed this to frequent truck movements from construction.	Note	

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No.	Details	Action	Due
	Council officers advised the photos had been forwarded to Council's Road Construction and Maintenance Branch, and it was expected that any new damage would be added to their maintenance program.		
3.3	<p>An appropriate timing for the Cedar Grove Environmental Centre opening event was discussed and the following key points were made by Council and LoganWIA officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ideally, the timing of the opening event would coincide with the plant being operational. - The construction of the Landcare facility would be complete and potentially growing seedlings. - The community walking track would be open for public use. - The odour control facility would be working and would have had time to build up biofilm prior to the opening day. - Council would like to achieve a level of certainty that the plant is fully operational before opening. <p>Council officers, LoganWIA officers and CRG members agreed that at this stage, early August 2020 would be the most appropriate timing to host the Cedar Grove Environmental Centre opening event.</p> <p>Council and LoganWIA officers are to commence planning the event in accordance with the agreed timing. LoganWIA officers are to put forward a tentative date to the CRG prior to the next meeting.</p>	LCC/ LoganWIA	17/03/2020
3.4	<p>A member of the CRG suggested there was potential to use five hectares of the remaining land within the Cedar Grove Environmental Centre for koala habitat, as this would not require land above the flood line and could be funded by a State Government grant.</p> <p>Council officers advised this would be outside of the non-functional scope masterplan and they would discuss the concept with Council's Health, Environment and Waste branch as a separate matter.</p>	LCC	17/03/2020
3.5	<p>The CRG members were provided with an update on the progress of repurposing of the old milking shed. LoganWIA officers advised that when the shed was first inspected, the structural engineer could not give a definitive opinion on whether it could be restored to comply with the building code and allow public access. The shed has since been cleaned up by the site team, as observed by members of the CRG prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The structural engineer would revisit in the coming weeks to provide advice on whether the structure can be brought up to standard to comply with the building code to allow for public use.</p> <p>Council officers advised that if the shed could be modified to ensure compliance, this may come at a significant cost and would need to be weighed up against the cost of building a new structure for the same purpose. LoganWIA officers will provide cost estimates for comparison on</p>	LCC/ LoganWIA	22/02/2020

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	<p>the refurbishment of the milking shed versus construction of a new structure for consideration by the CRG.</p> <p>It was agreed by the CRG that the preferred option would be to restore the milking shed if the costs were the same or within a small margin of difference. If the cost is significantly higher to restore the milking shed, the CRG would meet out of session to discuss further options.</p> <p>A member of the CRG suggested that in the event the milking shed would need to be pulled down, the wood could be recycled for community benefit. LoganWIA officers will engage the Men's Shed to discuss options if the milking shed is to be pulled down.</p> <p>Council officers advised that given the old farm house was structurally unsafe, contained asbestos and was unable to be rehabilitated. It would need to be removed or demolished prior to the opening event. Council officers will go back to the Gittins family to address their previous enquiry about removing the house.</p>		
3.6	<p>Council officers advised that discussions are continuing with Seqwater regarding Council's proposal to purchase their property at the end of Rogers Road, however they have not reached a resolution.</p> <p>Council's intention is to purchase the land and provide access to Seqwater. Council has also applied to close Dennis Road and provide an easement to Seqwater for a future pipeline.</p>	Note	
3.7	<p>Council officers provided an update on the riverbank restoration activities at Veresdale, as part of a project to offset the remaining nutrients released from the wetlands at the Cedar Grove Environmental Centre. The project involves restoration of a section of eroded river bank frequently undermined during floods, subsequently releasing sediment containing nitrogen phosphorus into the river. The area of the riverbank is being restored using 9,000 tonnes of rock armour to stabilise it during floods. The rock armour 'mattress' will be 12 metres high once complete. There is also an area of vegetation being planted above the rock armour.</p> <p>Council officers advised that Council would be undertaking more of these projects in later stages to reduce sediment and offset nutrients to achieve a beneficial environmental outcome.</p>	Note	
3.8	<p>The CRG Terms of Reference and future dissolution of the CRG was discussed, given that stage 1 of construction and commissioning of the Cedar Grove Environmental Centre would be complete midway through 2020.</p> <p>It was agreed by CRG members that the group would disband following the opening event in August 2020.</p> <p>Council officers advised that following the election in March 2020, the new Councillor for Division 11 would be offered the opportunity to chair future meetings.</p>	Note	

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3.9	A member of the CRG asked what the purpose and function of the large cement object was that had recently been placed in the corner paddock on site. It was speculated that it may be a feeder or water trough for the cattle. LoganWIA officers will clarify what this is and notify CRG members.	LoganWIA	22/03/2020
3.10	<p>A member of the CRG asked for clarification regarding a letter that had been distributed in December 2019 about access to recycled water.</p> <p>Council officers advised that the letter was sent to request community input on demand for recycled water in areas surrounding the Cedar Grove Environmental Centre. The feedback would be used to help establish the most cost-effective way to manage recycled water from future stages of the plant.</p> <p>From what Council has learned from other utility providers and Councils is that the distribution of recycled water to a network of small users has proven to be not cost-effective, and Council's preference would be to find a small number of large users to receive recycled water from the plant. Ideally, there would be four or five major agricultural users close to the plant.</p> <p>Council has a preference to reuse water in future as the plant has a limited discharge licence. The ultimate aim would be for the treatment plant to discharge nothing into the river to achieve a net environmental benefit and provide a guaranteed drought proof supply to agricultural users. However, the demand for recycled water is weather dependent and Council will need to maintain a discharge when the demand isn't there.</p> <p>A member of the CRG suggested that the Landcare facility that will be built within the Cedar Grove Environmental Centre would be a good candidate for recycled water as the facility would likely use up to 20,000 litres per day. It was agreed that the method of distribution of the recycled water to the facility (either through a storage tank or piping directly to the facility) would need to be discussed further once the strategy investigation progressed further.</p>	Note	
Date for next meeting			
4.0	The next meeting is planned for Tuesday 17 March 2020 at 6.30pm. There is the option of meeting prior to the Landcare Group Committee site visit on 22 February 2020 (tentative) to make a decision on the milking shed if required.	Note	

Actions

- Coordinate a site visit by the Landcare Group Committee for 22 February 2020 9:00am (LoganWIA).
- Distribute the latest drone images of the Wetlands and WWTP site to the CRG (LoganWIA).
- Provide an update on the status of the submission for compliance of non-functional scope items to EDQ (LoganWIA).
- Put forward a tentative date for the Cedar Grove Environmental Centre opening event (Council/ LoganWIA).

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- Seek advice from Council's Health, Environment and Waste branch on the process to plan and apply for a grant to build a koala habitat on site at the Cedar Grove Environmental Centre (Council).
- Go back to the Gittins family to address the previous enquiry about taking the old farm house offsite (Council).
- Provide cost estimates for comparison on the refurbishment of the milking shed versus construction of a new structure for consideration (LoganWIA).
- Provide clarification on the purpose and function of the large cement object on site (LoganWIA).