NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the Loxton Recreation Grounds Committee will be held at the Loxton Council Office Chambers on Tuesday 3 June 2014 commencing at 7am

John Sylvia
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

Monday 26 May 2014

A G E N D A

1. Present

2. Apologies

1. Confirmation Of Minutes Of Previous Meeting held 1 April 2014 (attached)

   Recommendation: That the minutes of the Loxton Recreation Grounds Committee meeting held Tuesday 1 April 2014 be taken as read and confirmed.

5. Business Arising from Minutes & Action Plan

6. Correspondence

   6.1 Loxton Plane Trees Report

      Recommendation

      That correspondence item 6.1 be received

7. Reports

   7.1 Heritage Park (Section D) Project

   The Loxton Recreational Grounds Committee (LRGC) has changed its focus for the redevelopment of Heritage Park (Section D) with the aim to look into creating a wood/tree sculpture park. A small advisory panel has met on 14 March 2014 and 2 May 2014 to progress this project (the minutes of these meetings are attached).

   The sculpture park advisory panel meeting held in March 2014 outlined a proposed budget for the project. This included a $20,000 amount to enlist an artist to do the sculpture works.

   It is recommended that the LRGC endorse the proposed budget for the project and request Council to commence a request for quote process to seek a suitable artist to do the sculpture works. The request for quote process will require the artist to provide a timeframe for the
work, an indication of how they would interpret the theme of local flora and fauna for the sculptures and an indication of how the sculptures will need to be maintained to ensure longevity.

7.2 LRGC Project Budget Update

The following table indicates the budget and expenditure up to 31 April 2014 for the LRGC projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>2013/14 Budget</th>
<th>Expenditure to 28/2/14</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loxton Cemetery Gate</td>
<td>4900</td>
<td>4645</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rail Land Concept Plan</td>
<td>22500</td>
<td>65.85</td>
<td>Centenary Feature Committee have developed a concept plan for this area that will need to be reviewed by the LRGC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Park (Section D)</td>
<td>35106</td>
<td>2385.76</td>
<td>Expenditure to date has been for irrigation supplies bought in preparation for the project. May need to purchase LNPS sign from this budget. ($180 outstanding-sign frame) Project to be carried forward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Feature (East Tce)</td>
<td>2500</td>
<td>481.81</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Tree Planting</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>790.32</td>
<td>Expenditure to date has been for footpath hole boring/ Droppers supplied to D Kimber</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above budget update should be read in conjunction with the project planning sheets.

7.3 Councils draft 2014/15 Annual Business Plan

The Council held a Special Council meeting on Friday 23 May 2014 and at that meeting it was resolved to adopt its draft 2014/15 Annual Business Plan for public consultation.

The setting of an Annual Business Plan is always a challenging task in prioritising and determining what projects it will seek to achieve and to manage its expenditure and income with the aim of minimising any rate increase. The 2014/15 Annual Business Plan process was made more challenging by the announcement of the federal Government through its budget in May to reduce its funding of the Loxton Waikerie Council by $420,000. As a result of this Council did need to further reduce its expenditure than was initially expected.

The following projects supported by the LRGC have been included in the draft 2014/15 Annual Business Plan:
- Railway Land Concept Plan
- Heritage Park (Section D) – expenditure not spent in 2013/14
- East Terrace Revitalisation including the removal and redevelopment of Stage 5 of the project which includes the land immediately adjacent the Loxton Hotel (Alan Hosking’s rest)
7.4 **LRGC Project Planning for 2014/15**

The LRGC Chairperson, Robert Fielke met with Councils CEO and Director Infrastructure Services on Friday 9 May 2014 to discuss several issues. One of the outcomes from this discussion was the suggestion that the LRGC need to be more strategic in its approach to improving the Loxton township, such an approach would benefit Council during its deliberations during the Annual Business Planning period.

To that end it is recommended that the LRGC develop a “Loxton Township” plan/strategy for what it wants to achieve over the next 5 years or so. The plan will need to be adopted by Council and also subject to community engagement. The plan would ideally include some broad objectives (that may align with those of the committee) and identify specific projects such as town entrance signage, development of cycling and walking trails, town beautification and streetscape improvements.

**Recommendations:**

*That reports numbered 7.1 to 7.4 be received.*

*That the Loxton Recreational Grounds Committee:*

1. *Receive the minutes of the Sculpture Project Advisory Panel meetings held on the 14 March 2014 and 2 May 2014.*
2. *Endorse the proposed budget for the project.*
3. *Request that Council commence a request for quote process with the aim of enlisting the services of an appropriately skilled artist for wood carving and tree sculpturing to implement the sculpture park theme.*

8. **Business Plan & Action Plan**

9. **Other Business**

10. **Next Meeting** Tuesday 5 August 2014

11. **Closure**
REPORT
TO
LOXTON WAIKERIE
DISTRICT COUNCIL
ON
PLANE TREES
IN
LOXTON AND WAIKERIE

May 2014

BY
ANDREW WALLADGE MAIH
Proprietor
BERRI NATIVE PLANTS
Brief

Provide recommendations regarding Plane trees within specified areas in the Loxton and Waikerie townships.

Executive Summary

Once it is clearly understood that Platinus species - Plane trees;

- will not survive at all in a district with a 250mm yearly average rainfall,
- will not perform to an acceptable level unless they are planted in what could be considered ‘good’ soil,

-will not perform to an acceptable level unless they receive substantial irrigation under and beyond their canopy,

-will be damaged by conditions during most spring and summer periods and beyond acceptable levels in extreme conditions in those periods,

logical decisions can be made about existing individual trees, whole groups of trees and determining the suitability for their use in future plantings.

Underperforming Plane trees in the Loxton Waikerie district should be removed and replaced.

Basis for Recommendations

The recommendations and observations stem from a meeting I attended of the District Council of Loxton Waikerie Recreation Grounds Committee in Loxton on Tuesday October 16, 2007, a subsequent meeting with Mr John Sylvia in Loxton on Thursday, November 15, 2007 and numerous visits to Loxton since 1987. More recently, inspections were made in Waikerie (McCoy Street) and Loxton (Bookpurnong Road and East Terrace) on April 1, 2014.
General Observations

Reports have been written regarding the town plantings and while generally the information has been sound and would apply in ‘normal’ years regarding rainfall and temperatures there has I believe a number of factors that have placed additional pressure on existing plantings of material originating from high rainfall areas.

Years of water restrictions and subsequent higher cost of water particularly on domestic properties has meant that trees in public areas adjacent to private property has had reduced ‘off target’ watering from other sources.

Many irrigated properties have converted to drip irrigation dramatically reducing ‘off target’ watering from other sources such as ground water.

Lawn areas have been reduced significantly and irrigation onto lawns has reduced significantly over the last decade, reducing ‘off target’ watering from other sources.

Expectations of watering as a community as a whole has changed significantly over the last decade. (When was the last time you heard a sprinkler running during the day?)

Expectations of a lush, well watered garden has changed significantly meaning that poor performing trees are more likely to be accepted as normal.

Unreasonable expectations of performance of specifically Plane trees in the Riverland on poorer soils without adequate irrigation will be a recipe for failure.

I have seen Plane trees stressed at times in districts with 500mm + average yearly rainfall and locally (< 250mm average yearly rainfall) examples of Plane trees that are well watered significantly damaged during the combination of high temperatures and wind.
General Recommendations

These recommendations are specific to Platinus species but can also be applied to other large deciduous trees in public plantings.

If we accept the fact that plane trees will only thrive in the Riverland with regular irrigation (that is under and beyond the canopy) on ‘good’ soils, many existing plantings would need to be replaced in the longer term with more appropriate species.

Plane trees growing near to the ideal location (regular irrigation under and beyond the canopy on ‘good’ soils), may need additional irrigation to perform acceptably. By acceptably, I mean growing to somewhere near half their normal height (say 10m) with a canopy that casts close to 100% shade with some browning of leaves during hot (but not extreme) weather in summer.

If unacceptable growth is less than 8m for 10 years growth, noticeable thinning of the canopy to the point of providing 60% shade or less and / or the accompanying stunting (increased trunk diameter proportional to the size of the tree and reduced leaf size), these individual trees or groups of trees should be removed once a suitable replacement is selected. (Or before!) Anything else would be simply delaying the inevitable.

This would include examples on McCoy Street and many on Bookpurnong Road. Examples on East Terrace are situated in areas of lawn are fairing substantially better.

Some examples sourcing adequate water with some form of wind break to protect them from burning winds in spring and summer could be retained as they fulfil the criteria of acceptable growth. A good example would be the two Plane trees immediately west of the Loxton Library benefiting from over spray and leakage from the fountain.

Considering the many dryland species of shade trees that could be used in public plantings that do not require additional irrigation once established and will thrive on less than ideal soils to use underperforming deciduous trees such as Plane trees simply defies horticultural logic.
Conclusion

As many examples of Plane tree in both Loxton and Waikerie would not come anywhere near acceptable and are unlikely to recover well I would recommend their removal and should be replaced with dryland trees that are carefully chosen for their suitability.

Perhaps a town with dry land plantings predominating and irrigated areas along with deciduous shade trees restricted to high use/multiple use areas with a good depth of soil, shelter and substantial irrigation will be the future.
# Action Plan – Exception Report

## PURPOSE OF REPORT
To advise committee members of the individual action items outstanding from previous committee meetings. Action items should be directly related to Business Plan Items and/or related to the Specific Objectives of the Committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Action Required</th>
<th>Action Status</th>
<th>Responsible Officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05/11/13</td>
<td>Prunus Trees planted in Heritage Park</td>
<td>The committee review the health of the Prunus Trees in Heritage Park in Spring 2014.</td>
<td>Will do in Spring 2014</td>
<td>LRGC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/11/13</td>
<td>Loxton North Primary School Plaque/Heritage Park</td>
<td>A plaque be installed in Section C of Heritage Park for the Loxton North Primary School. Sign to be the same as other signs already installed.</td>
<td>LNPS have responded to John Sylvia. Cost for sign is $150 plus installation and frame. Costs to be allocated to Heritage Park (Section D) project.</td>
<td>J Sylvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/04/14</td>
<td>Excess Rails</td>
<td>That the excess rails in front of Snake Island and Heritage Park be ultimately used in front of the arboretum park</td>
<td>Item 9.4 Excess Rails Cr Kimber moved Cr Vowles seconded That the excess rails in front of Snake Island and Heritage Park be ultimately used in front of the arboretum park. CARRIED</td>
<td>J Sylvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/04/14</td>
<td>Jacaranda Trees</td>
<td>That three of the worst Jacaranda Trees in East Terrace, Loxton be pollard (cut right back) as a trial.</td>
<td>Amendment Cr Thiele moved Cr Kimber seconded 1. That council note the poor condition of some of the Jacaranda trees in East Terrace. 2. That council investigate the likelihood of success of pollarding the worst Jacaranda trees in East Terrace. CARRIED Cr Kimber moved Cr Zeppel seconded That this matter be considered at the</td>
<td>J Sylvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Date</td>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Action Required</td>
<td>Action Status</td>
<td>Responsible Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/04/14</td>
<td>Trees at Apex Park</td>
<td>That the trees that have sprouted/grown as a result of the floods at the Loxton Apex Park be thinned out ASAP</td>
<td>CARRIED</td>
<td>J Sylvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/04/14</td>
<td>Gum Tree – Loxton Hotel</td>
<td>That the gum tree in front of the Loxton Hotel (near creek bed) that is riddled with borers be lopped and considered to be sculptured by the artist engaged to sculpt trees at Heritage Park Section D. and that it be anticipated that trees will be planted in its place.</td>
<td>COMPLETED</td>
<td>J Sylvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/04/14</td>
<td>Letter of Appreciation</td>
<td>That letters of appreciation be sent to Doris Phelps and Ian MacInnes for their input with planting and materials around the Loxton West Dam precinct.</td>
<td>COMPLETED</td>
<td>T Weston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task</td>
<td>Responsible Person</td>
<td>Anticipated Start Date</td>
<td>Anticipated Completion Date</td>
<td>Actual Completed Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Works request to have area tidied up</td>
<td>J Sylvia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Plant Species Identified</td>
<td>J Sylvia</td>
<td></td>
<td>14/08/2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Budget bid to be submitted</td>
<td>J Sylvia</td>
<td>30/04/2014</td>
<td>30/04/2014</td>
<td>30/04/2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>