



MISSION AND VALUES OF COUNCIL

"A Sustainable Community that is inclusive, attractive, healthy and pleasant to live in, that uses our land so as to preserve our history and environment, respects the rights and equality of our citizens and manages our future growth wisely."

AGENDA

FOR MEETING OF THE

COASTAL PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

02 MARCH 2006

SHIRE OF BROOME

**AGENDA FOR A MEETING OF THE
COASTAL PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM
ON THURSDAY 02 MARCH 2006
COMMENCING AT 10.00AM**

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1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Apologies Cr A K Grosse
 Cr M L B Albert

Officers

Public Gallery

2. DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved:

Seconded:

That the Minutes of the Coastal Park Committee Meeting held on 2 February 2006 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

**FOR:
AGAINST:**

5. MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 WEED REDUCTION IN MINYIRR PARK

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Reserves 43080 and 19289 Vine Thickets Minyirr Park
APPLICANT:	Rubibi
FILE:	CTE 28
AUTHOR:	Anna Mardling
CONTRIBUTOR/S:	N/A
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	N/A
DISCLOSURE OF ANY INTEREST:	NIL
DATE OF REPORT:	17 February 2006

SUMMARY: Rubibi has identified increasing deterioration of vine thickets in Minyirr Park. A community Weed Buster Day is planned for Sunday 12 March 2006. Long-term cooperative measures are needed to reduce the incidence of weeds in the Coastal Park.

BACKGROUND

In 1999 the Shire of Broome's Coastal Park Management Plan – Broome WA identified weeds as a major problem in trying to protect the environmental and cultural values in the coastal park.

Rubibi recognising this escalating problem, applied successfully in 2001 for a grant to get a weed audit carried out in the coastal park area, and to identify the priority weeds for reduction, as well as seeking to identify the most effective method of reduction. This was undertaken by Tim Willing in CALM and he produced an accompanying report entitled, Environmental Weeds of Minyirr Coastal Park Broome – June 2000.

In 2001 CALM declared vine thickets as a Threatened Ecological Community, primarily in recognition of their limited area and vulnerability to development pressures.

Rubibi applied for a Federally funded Landcare Grant sponsored by Uncle Toby's, in 2005, that will enable us to pay for out of pocket expenses for the Weed Buster Day eg gloves, mozzie repellent, first aid, drinking water and to publicise the event.

At last month's CPMC meeting the problem of Neem Trees in the Park and generally around Broome, was identified.

While there are large areas of the Park still in good condition and almost weed free, a particular concern is the Monsoonal Vine Thickets. They are a dense community of distinctive shrubs, trees and climbers and have high cultural and conservation value for food, medicine, timber and spiritual purposes.

Each year Minyirr Park in collaboration with other groups and the community attempts to reduce the incidence of weeds. For the past three years Minyirr Park staff has organised Weed Buster Days to involve the community and to tackle the problem in the vine thickets when the ground is wet.

On a recent field visit to the Vine Thickets, in preparation for the Weed Buster Day with Kimberley Environmental Horticulturist Chris Batty, Emily Burke Coastal Land Care Project Officer, and Sharon Griffiths volunteer, it was evident that the vine thickets are increasingly under threat. While previous weed clean ups have had a measure of success (eg reduced the Neem Trees), there needs to be good follow-up to prevent reinfestation.

There is a noticeable decline in some species and general poor health of vegetation in many areas where water lays after heavy rain. An increasingly high volume of water from storm water inundation appears to be causing the deterioration in healthy vine thickets and the loss of native vegetation. This is being exasperated by the ramifications of climate change and the clearing of native vegetation that slows down inundation eg Januburu subdivision. In fact, as pointed out previously to the CPMC, by botanist Tim Willing, the Helicopter Tree (*Gyrocarpus americanus*) species has failed to adapt to the changed drainage regime in the vine thickets and has died.

COMMENT

Minyirr Park seeks the support of the Shire of Broome and hopefully CALM in providing the resources needed to assist them in protecting the vine thickets, and in their efforts to combat the weeds in the coastal park generally, through long-term cooperative strategies.

Some of the factors that need to be addressed are the management of storm water, (subject of previous CPMC items re drain screens) weed removal and follow-up tasks, the consideration with Traditional Owner's of fire plans and chemical applications, an education and awareness-raising media exercise to help people recognise the problem and to encourage residents to do their bit in helping to reduce weeds eg a concerted effort to encourage the planting of local species, reduce the use of chemicals and water-thirsty species, and to encourage the maintenance of runoff on their own properties i.e. water harvesting and reducing hardened surfaces.

The human resources required to follow-up Weed Buster Days and for ongoing weed reduction works exceed those available through the Minyirr Park project. Minyirr Park seeks Shire to work in collaboration with them and other stakeholders to address the weed issue.

SHIRE OFFICER COMMENT

Council has approved the draft Weed Management Strategy for the Broome Township area. That strategy includes the need to have all weeds on freehold, Crown lands, Reserves and Unallocated Crown Land covered within the weed strategy, which may not necessarily be under the management of the Shire. It could be the Port, CALM, Dept of Agriculture or other land manager who is required to control weeds on their property.

The draft strategy was advertised for public comment and will be presented to Council at the April meeting, once any revisions are made if necessary.

The Coastal Park reserves also need to be included in that overall strategy, however resources and funding will be required to implement any strategy.

In the case of the Coastal Park, funds will need to be allocated in the on-going annual budget for the park, as well as for any promotion, initial intensive works or associated matters as identified in either the Coastal Park plan or the Weed Strategy, once adopted.

The Coastal Park Committee need to ensure that the management plan includes weeds as a priority and Council needs to consider what resources will be required to implement and control measures.

CONSULTATION

Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Proposed weed strategy will have a new weed policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be annual funding and resource requirements to implement any weed strategy in the Coastal park. Yet to be assessed.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Consistent with the Shire's Interim Agreement with Rubibi (signed in May 1996), the implementation of the Shire's Coastal Park Management Plan (April 1999) and the Shire's Strategic Action Plan (2002-2007).

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Consensus

RUBIBI RECOMMENDATION

1. ***That Shire supports the efforts of Minyirr Park staff and community volunteers, in the 2006 Weed Buster Days.***
2. ***That Shire Parks and Gardens staff, works together with Minyirr Park staff to develop and implement long-term strategies to address the weed problem in the coastal park.***
3. ***That Shire write to CALM requesting their support and active involvement along with Minyirr Park and Shire, to protect the vine thickets, a Threatened Ecological Community, as a matter of priority.***

Moved:

Seconded:

FOR:

AGAINST:

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

1. ***That Shire supports the efforts of Minyirr Park staff and community volunteers, in the 2006 Weed Buster Days.***
2. ***That Shire Parks and Gardens staff, work together with Minyirr Park staff to develop and implement long-term strategies to address the weed problem in the coastal park.***
3. ***That Shire write to CALM requesting their support and active involvement along with Minyirr Park and Shire, to protect the vine thickets, a Threatened Ecological Community, as a matter of priority.***
4. ***That the proposed Shire Weed Strategy for the Township of Broome include the Coastal Park Reserves and resources and funding be considered annually by Council at their budget meetings.***

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the

Moved:

Seconded:

FOR:

AGAINST:

[Attachment: 1 page](#)

6. MEETING CLOSURE
