

Minutes for the Leards Forest Environmental Trust Inc. Meeting

Meeting Held: 31 October 2019 at 12:00pm

Venue: Boggabri Golf Club

Present: Cath Collyer (CC), Cr Robert Kneale (RK), Darren Swain (DS), Hamish Russell, John Hamson (JH), Julie Heiler (JH), Cr Lloyd Finlay (LF), Peter Forbes, Ros Druce (RD), Sebastian Moreno (SM),

Independent Chair: David Ross (DR) **Independent Secretary:** Debbie Corlet (DC)

Apologies: Jane Linehan

1. Welcome & apologies

DR welcomed everyone to the meeting. New Community Development person, Jane Linehan, to replace Ros Solomon.

2. Declaration of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests

DR asked the members if they were okay to bring up any pecuniary interests if there was an issue with respect to the funding applications. Members accepted this.

3. Business Arising and Previous Minutes

The minutes from May 2019 Trust meeting were endorsed by members and seconded by CC.

-) The Fact Sheet that Ros S was working on as an action, has intentionally remained open due to lack of clarity regarding the Trust's future structure.
-) Constitution has been completed by DR.
-) Section 356 Action regarding Impact – can now be closed.

4. Review and consideration of applications

Requirements for quotes - 1 quote = if under \$10,000, 2 quotes = if under \$50,000 and 3 quotes = if over \$50,000.

-) **Boggabri Church** – Wish to install solar panels at the church. They have seeking \$11,550.00 and 2 quotes have been provided. They propose to provide a small contribution of \$1,050, themselves, for a usage monitor and surge protection. The application was well received by the Trust with unanimous support by the Trust for funding to be provided. DR to write a letter to the church and a letter to Council to get funds released as quickly as possible.

5. Future of the Trust

DR asked everyone to come today prepared with thoughts about the Trust's future structure and how to ensure it remains sustainable.

DR has spoken to many of the Trust members, including the mines, about exploring the option of the funds being transferred from an account administered by NSC to one administered by the Trust, itself.

It would need written approval from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. Furthermore, if the 3 mines are supportive of this option (as Council is), then the Department would support this change.

Before the Trust discusses that option, DR wanted the Trust to know of a development that, he, himself, had only been made aware of. Namely, there was a conversation which took place at the Ordinary

Moved: Cr Lloyd Finlay **Seconded:** Cr Robert Kneale

1. That Council note Cr Finlay's Delegates Report from the Leards' Forest Environmental Trust Inc. Committee Meeting held on Thursday 16 May 2019.
2. That Council write to the Leards' Forest Environmental Trust to clarify the requirements to release funds under s356 of the Local Government Act 1993, noting that the Council decision is for the release of funds, not a decision on the application merits of all projects received.
3. That Council offer to release the funding under its various VPA's relating to the Leards' Forest Environmental Trust, only after agreement from the Trust to accept the funds.

In Favour: Crs Catherine Redding, Robert Kneale, Maxine Booby, Ron Campbell, Ron Campey, Lloyd Finlay, Ann Loder and Cameron Staines.

Against: Nil

DR – So in summary, this motion has recently been ratified by the Council.

Ros – So it can't be changed down the track?

LF – No, if they want to change it again, it needs to go back to the 3 mines and the process has to start again. All Council members were in favour.

DR – With that in mind, are we comfortable then as staying as is.

Unanimous endorsement was made by Trust members to stay as we are. DR thanked LF and RK for all that they did to facilitate this significant development, after 18 months of trying to negotiate the situation with NSC.

General Business

DR – Now that we have direction again, there are things like the Constitution, which is finalised, but I need to check if I have to formally submit it to NSW Fair Trading. We also haven't really promoted this Trust and we've only had 1 or 2 applicants each 6 months. PF asked the other day about how much funding the Trust still had available. To let everyone, know, we have approximately \$260,000 remaining in the Trust at the end of the 18/19 financial year. We have provided funding, ballpark, to the tune of \$30,000 since then (will have this confirmed once NSC's independent auditor provides a financial statement for the recent financial year). So, there is still ample funding available. How can we increase awareness of the Trust? Do you think we should ask Roz Solomon and bring her back into the picture?

After a general discussion, it was agreed for DR to approach Amanda Wales, NSC's Grants Officer, re the Fact Sheets. Action on DR.

It was noted that CCC members had previously observed that the community needs better understanding of the Trust and what it does so we can promote the Trust and grants available to people including the indigenous community.

DS – Do we need to report back to the BTM Committee. DR to take care of (the following day when the Joint CCC was to be held).

PF – Dan Martin no longer with us. Suggestion from Trust members resulted for a letter from the Trust to be drafted to thank him for what he's done. Action on DR.

General discussion about the opportunities for the indigenous community.

DR – Gentle reminder that since we are acting as a conduit, and now have clarity about the Trust's future, we now have the opportunity to collectively and individually get the information out to the community.

DR – Remember we have received approval from DPIE that the Trust's funding can cover natural, social and built environmental improvement projects.

DR – Do we need more representation here on the Trust?

CC – BTM each have an industry representative, a community representative and the Independent Chair and Secretary.

DR – We are down 1 community member since Caz resigned. Has to come from a CCC through an application. DR to approach Lyndal Crowley. Action on DR.

With respect to instigating an AGM as required under our legal obligations – DR noted that Council has informed him that the Independent Auditor will not be coming until November which means we cannot hold our AGM today without the Financial Statements and I cannot table the Annual Report. Once finalised, I will organise the meeting with everyone as soon as possible. Once Council confirm – I'll organise within 2 weeks. Action on DR.

RD – I'm just worried about not lodging with the Fair Trading.

DR – Advised that there is six (6) months after the end of the financial year. Action on DR to look into this.

In preparation for our AGM, it was observed that elections would need to take place with 4 positions available – President (DR), Vice President (CC), Treasurer (DR) and Secretary (DC).

Unanimous agreement for the new positions to be President (DR), Vice President (RD), Treasurer (DR) and Secretary (DC).

PF – Advised that because the mines contribute financial funds, they are unable to be on the Committee.

Everyone provided gold coin fees for annual membership, which was donated to the Boggabri Golf Club.

DR closed the meeting at 1:01pm.

Date for next Meeting

Next meeting to be held on Thursday 14 May 2020.

Action List

Action Owner	Action to be completed
DR	\$26,000 hadn't been spent. DR to get in touch with Clare.
DR	Boggabri Church - DR to write a letter to Nicholas at the church and a letter to Council to get funds released as quickly as possible.
DR	To talk to Roz, Jane and Amanda about the Fact Sheet and Council Grants.
DR	Dan Martin no longer with us. A letter from the Trust to thank him for what he's done.
DR	Community member down since Caz resigned. DR to approach Lyndal Crowley.
DR	AGM – once Council confirm – DR to organise within AGM meeting 2 weeks.
DR	Advised that there is six (6) months after the end of the financial year. Action on DR to look into this.