



# **LATE ITEMS ORDINARY MEETING**

## **AGENDA**

**14 APRIL 2015**

*Your attendance is required at an Ordinary meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chambers, 232 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton on 14 April 2015 commencing at 9.00am for transaction of the enclosed business.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. R.", written in a cursive style.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
10 April 2015

Next Meeting Date: 12.05.15

**Please note:**

In accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, please be advised that all discussion held during the meeting is recorded for the purpose of verifying the minutes. This will include any discussion involving a Councillor, staff member or a member of the public.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
L	<b>OFFICERS' REPORTS .....</b>	<b>1</b>
L.1	TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF KERSHAW GARDENS.....	1
L.2	REUSE OF TIMBER SALVAGED FROM ROCKHAMPTON BOTANIC GARDENS AND KERSHAW GARDENS .....	3



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## L OFFICERS' REPORTS

### L.1 TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF KERSHAW GARDENS

**File No:** 1464  
**Attachments:** Nil  
**Authorising Officer:** Michael Rowe - General Manager Community Services  
**Author:** Margaret Barrett - Manager Parks

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#### SUMMARY

*Kershaw Gardens was heavily impacted by Tropical Cyclone Marcia in February 2015. In order to ensure public safety and enable the remediation and reconstruction of the Gardens, full closure is required.*

#### OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve:

1. In accordance with Council Local Law No 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2011, section 8, the temporary closure of Kershaw Gardens in order to carry out restoration and construction works arising from the impact of TC Marcia.
2. In accordance with Council Local Law No 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2011, section 8 (2) this closure to be for an initial period of six months
3. Area of closure in accordance with the approved rehabilitation and restoration plan.

#### COMMENTARY

TC Marcia struck Rockhampton on 20 February 2015, with significant impacts across the park estate, primarily tree fall, erosion and damage to facilities and amenities. Of all, Kershaw Gardens has been greatly impacted as the effect of the tree fall and erosive nature of the rainfall has impacted the land-fill capping across the Gardens, exposing waste of varying nature.

#### BACKGROUND

Kershaw Gardens was established in the late 1970's/ early 1980's on the banks of Moore's Creek with some areas of the Gardens established on closed land-fill. The Gardens have been closed to the public since the event, in line with the Local Disaster Coordinator advice that all Parks were closed. Signs have been erected to this effect.

The Australian Defence Force was deployed to clear (and has cleared much of) the fallen trees through the Gardens; but fallen trees remain in various areas of the Gardens.

Minimal maintenance has been carried out; some damage assessment information has been collected, but more detail is required.

In response to the exposed land-fill waste, CQGroup, environmental consultants to Council, have drafted a Site Management Plan to inform Council on the work practices and risk reduction strategies that need to be employed in the restoration and redevelopment of the Gardens.

Recommendations of the draft Site Management Plan that have been implemented include:

- A detailed WH&S Plan for contractor and workers has been drafted by RRC Safety Unit.
  - Cordoning off of barbeque/ picnic and playground areas and removal of the playground equipment at Knight St playground. This is to further discourage use by visitors and needs to be done in order to reinstate land-fill capping prior to reinstatement of these items.
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- Briefing of staff on the general precautions to be taken if working at the site in the interim.
- Initial identification of areas on site for possible disposal of root balls of fallen trees and any excavated material prior to re-capping.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The Parks Capital budget has an allocation for redevelopment of new amenities and facilities at Kershaw Gardens, work on these has commenced:

- An electronic playground was installed late in 2014 and is not affected by the current issues and can stay in its current location.
- Procurement has been completed for the installation of a new sewerage rising main and new toilet block. Work is proceeding on the installation of these items. Engaged contractors have been inducted and will be working in accordance with the Site Management Plan. Indications are that this work will commence in mid-May.
- Extraordinary Special Assistance (Category D) has been sought from the Commonwealth Government, via the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to fund the remediation and restoration of the Kershaw Gardens.

### **LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT**

Council Local Law No 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2011, section 8 provides the power for Council, by resolution, to temporarily or permanently close a local government controlled area to public access.

### **STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

Staff assigned to maintenance responsibilities at Kershaw Gardens have been redeployed to the Botanic Gardens to assist with restoration activities.

### **CONCLUSION**

The full closure of the Kershaw Gardens will ensure public safety and enable the required remediation and restoration activities.

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**L.2 REUSE OF TIMBER SALVAGED FROM ROCKHAMPTON BOTANIC GARDENS AND KERSHAW GARDENS**

**File No:** 1464  
**Attachments:** 1. Photographs of Timber Stockpile  
**Authorising Officer:** Michael Rowe - General Manager Community Services  
**Author:** Margaret Barrett - Manager Parks

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**SUMMARY**

*As part of the Clear and Salvage phase post Tropical Cyclone Marcia, a significant amount of timber has been stockpiled to allow the opportunity for future unspecified uses. This report outlines possible uses for and disposal of the stockpiled timber.*

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council approves the disposal of the timber stockpile through sale by tender and gifting to appropriate organisations as outlined in the report.

**COMMENTARY**

Tropical Cyclone Marcia struck Rockhampton on 20 February 2015, with significant impacts across the park estate, primarily tree fall with a high number of trees lost in streets, in nearly all parks and in the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens and Kershaw Gardens. A number of the logs from these felled trees have been salvaged and stockpiled for re-use.

**BACKGROUND**

As part of the Clear and Salvage phase post Tropical Cyclone Marcia, a significant amount of timber has been stockpiled to allow the opportunity for future unspecified uses. The rights to all salvaged timber (ex both Gardens) have been purchased by Council for a nominal sum.

There are a number of drivers to deal with the stockpile in a timely manner. These include degradation of the timber through weathering and fungal attack as well as the need to clear and restore the stockpile site at Gracemere.

There are many ideas, opportunities and possible applications for the timber ranging from use in its natural (unprocessed) form through to milled or finished timber for cabinetry and with diversity of end uses from utilitarian through to objet d'art.

The timber stockpiled is predominately Bunya Pine (*Aruacaria bidwillii*), Carribean Pine (*Pinus Caribea var hondurensis*) with a small number of Kauri Pine (*Agathis robusta*) and a few hardwood logs of unknown species.

Ideas promulgated include making furniture, craft goods, rocking horse, guitars; and use in flooring or wall panelling, carved sculptures.

Options Council may consider include:

- Gift (as is or milled) to not-for-profit organisations for use in a specified manner (e.g. creation of commemorative and/or decorative pieces). Recipients may be required to provide one or more objects to Council in return for the allocation of the timber. Articles produced may generate income or revenue for the recipient organization or for Council;
- Sell wholly or in part, as is or milled for unspecified uses and direct the proceeds of sale towards a public commemorative piece;
- Process timber wholly or in part and sell at commercial rates;
- Award funded commissions for the delivery of an artistic or sculptural piece to add to the Art Gallery collection.
- Use in creative community recovery projects.

The attachment contains some photographs of the stockpiled timber.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There is no specific budget allocation for this project. The economic value of the timber and therefore potential revenue is unable to be effectively estimated.

The John Villiers Trust Cyclone Social Recovery Fund may be a possible source of assistance; an application will need to be made or auspiced by an appropriately registered charitable organisation.

### **LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT**

Council's administrative policy on Asset Disposal covers the various disposal options available. Depending on the estimated market or listed value of the timber, the General Manager Communities has the delegation to approve the disposal methods, maximising the return to Council.

### **CONCLUSION**

There has been some community interest in re-using salvaged timber from each of the Gardens for useful, decorative and commemorative purposes. Such items with a link to the impact of TC Marcia on the community and Council may assist in the recovery process.



# **REUSE OF TIMBER SALVAGED FROM ROCKHAMPTON BOTANIC GARDENS AND KERSHAW GARDENS**

## **Photographs of Timber Stockpile**

**Meeting Date: 14 April 2015**

**Attachment No: 1**

