



Memorandum of Understanding

between

Byron Shire Council

and

Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc.



<DATE>



MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING
between
BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL
and
BRUNSWICK VALLEY LANDCARE Inc.



PARTIES are BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL (BSC) and BRUNSWICK VALLEY LANDCARE Inc. (BVL)

Introduction

The parties have for many years had an informal and mutually beneficial association whereby natural resource management in the Byron Shire has gained prominence. The input of voluntary expertise, training, and efforts of BVL in raising community efforts and awareness on lands within the Shire has been vitally augmented by BSC via the provision of administrative support and the expertise and efforts of its own natural resource management and bush regeneration staff.

This MOU sets this association in a written context, whereby the parties' build upon their association and continue to move ahead in a mutually respectful and beneficial manner. We both value the contribution that each makes to the communities' awareness of Natural Resource Management (NRM) and proactive actions to enhance NRM within the Shire.

Relevant Background

The primary objective of BVL is to support and inspire the community in the restoration and conservation of the natural environment. This is achieved via community awareness, training, support, demonstration, and encouragement at field days, at schools, and for local Landcare groups. BVL is funded from a variety of sources and the very significant efforts of volunteers. BSC has within its written objectives a priority on bush regeneration on its lands, and the promotion of community awareness and involvement in natural resource management, this is achieved by the funding of bush regeneration and natural resource management teams within Council, some external funding, and the active encouragement of the community in field days, community gardens, education, and the raising of awareness in the 1.5 million visitors to the Shire each year. The two groups thus each share a strong common objective and have cooperatively worked together at individual and management levels for a considerable period of time.

Disclaimer

This MOU does not entitle any legally enforceable obligations between BSC and BVL.

Primary Purpose

This MOU formalises the relationship and the inputs of BSC and BVL in the work of volunteers on public lands in the Byron Shire.

Specific Inputs

BVL will:

- Continue to seek external funding for NRM activities on public and private lands in the Shire and work jointly with BSC in the application for funding of works on its lands.
- Continue to provide a support platform for the community to access and be provided with assistance in obtaining funds for NRM at localities across the catchment.
- Maintain a register of volunteers and accredited bush regenerators for works on lands in consultation with BSC.
- Promote the MOU and individual planting days, field days and workshops via its regular newsletter and occasional media advertisements.
- Promote the MOU to its funding sources and the wider Landcare community as an example of the cooperative approach to NRM that the community seeks.
- Liaise with BSC during external funding applications of relevance and discuss where a joint application would enhance the outcomes and chances of success, agree on a joint or supported application.

BSC will:

- Liaise with BVL and its appointees in the planning of construction and/or maintenance works on or adjacent to Landcare and Dunecare sites.
- Assist with the development of Site Action Plans to guide environmental management and restoration activities.
- Promote the MOU and its benefits across the wider community,
- Continue to provide administrative support (desk, computer, phone, printing) for BVL or an appointed representative to provide the community with support, assistance, and access to external NRM funding sources. This has been proven to increase community and volunteer involvement, such that works on lands in the Shire can be conducted with the valuable assistance of external funding, under the auspices of this MOU. BSC and BVL recognise the provision of support for the community is vital as there are numerous sources for funding and applying for funding is often convoluted and daunting. Significant funds can be accessed when the community is assisted in the process, leading to many volunteers conducting significant works in the Shire.
- Facilitate liaison between BVL and Council's Biodiversity Advisory Committee, via membership on the Committee.
- Continue to work cooperatively with BVL in the application for external funding of NRM works on public lands.
- Liaise with BVL when external funding is sought so that each party is aware of proposals and in some instances, agree where a joint or supported application enhances the chances of successful funding outcomes.

- Provide BVL a designated space for storage of equipment within the Mullumbimby depot for as long as this activity is considered to fit within the designated use of the land and can be carried out without impact upon Council operational requirements.
- In the event BVL is requested to relocate, Council will use its best endeavours to offer replacement storage facilities.

Outcomes

- More focussed attention to bush regeneration and cost-effective management of public lands by volunteers and BSC in cooperative undertakings.
- Promoting the involvement of volunteers and the wider community in the restoration and management of public lands.
- Better coordination of volunteers and Council staff in community-focussed activities such as planting days and field days.
- Efficient management of volunteers and their workplace health and safety.
- Promoting better communication between the parties and acknowledging the contribution of volunteers in the natural resource management of the Shire.

Related policies and plans

- Byron Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
- Flying Fox Camp Management Plan
- Koala Plan of Management
- Public Land Plans of Management
- Council Policy - Camphor Laurel Management in Byron Shire
- Council Policy - Tree/ Vegetation vandalism

Site Planning and Risk Assessment

- The parties will carry out site assessments for planning for site activities. This will include consultation between BSC and BVL and the production of template site plans and risk assessments prior to works commencing.
- Wherever reasonably practical, training and induction will be given to volunteers prior to works being undertaken.

Communication

BSC and BVL commit to good and open communication, and that:

- Workplace, health and safety matters are addressed
- BVL and volunteers understand BSC's objectives for the lands
- BSC understands BVL's objectives as a community voluntary organisation
- BSC communicates its planned activities at relevant sites
- BVL has BSC agreement to work on public lands

Insurance

Registered volunteers undertaking approved works at designated sites are covered by Personal Accident Insurance held by BVL.

Tools and Materials

Tools are generally self-provided by volunteers, apart from some mechanised or specialist tools [eg, power-auger drills] which may be provided and operated by BSC staff.

Materials such as plants, tree guards, mulch and stakes and follow-up watering are often provided by BSC, although some of these items may also be provided by external funding obtained by BVL or BSC.

This Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed in three years.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2022.

<NAME>

President

Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc.

<NAME>

Mayor

Byron Shire Council