

UPDATE 2/9/2023:

School and community tree-plantings on Council owned or managed land

A brief and proposed resolution from BVL representative Dave Rawlins for the BSC Biodiversity Subcommittee,

Background

On the 25th of May 2023, Byron Shire Council unanimously carried [a resolution calling for a report to identify parcels of land which could be used for school and/or community tree-plantings](#) as part of wider environmental educational activities.¹ The resolution arose from Notice of Motion No. 9.2 from Mayor Michael Lyons, (File Number 12023/732) which resulted in [a short initial report from council staff](#).²

Malcolm Robertson, Manager Open Space & Facilities, Infrastructure Services, in his staff comments wrote that “The proposal to facilitate ecological restoration work coupled with environmental education has significant merit.” Further, that the proposal is consistent with Delivery Program tasks as “The proposal has alignment with existing activities to undertake Bush Regeneration within HEV sites”.

The Notice of Motion arose from a request from the *Regeneration* collaboration of local Landcare and community groups to identify potential parcels of land for future plantings and environmental educational activities. The collaboration ran a successful series of school workshops, the *Regeneration* festival, and a small multi-school tree-planting on council-owned land in 2022-2023 at the Azalea Street Rainforest Remnant in Mullumbimby. The collaboration includes Brunswick Valley Landcare, Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy, indigenous owned Explore Byron Bay, and other groups.



Following the May 25 meeting, Council staff and Dr Ray Moynihan have been corresponding and meeting about a possible site, known as the “horse paddock”. (See Map Below) **An important caveat is that nothing is yet finalised, but there is enormous possibility for a strong community-council collaboration, over multiple years, potentially involving ecological restoration on this land, with multiple benefits for many stakeholders. Brunswick Valley Landcare strongly supports these possibilities and Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy has already indicated possible funding support for an initial planting this year, as part of a 5-year project involving local schools.**

A resolution

I propose the subcommittee notes and welcomes the work underway to identify potential areas for school/community plantings, including the 'Horse Paddock' area outlined below, specifically the un-vegetated part of zone 2 and zone 6. Further, I propose the BAC encourages Council staff to continue conversations in a timely manner with the "Regeneration" collaboration to secure an ecological restoration site. This is to ensure future tree plantings have sufficient lead time for planning and obtaining funding by noting timely approvals from Council are imperative.



1. https://byron.infocouncil.biz/Open/2023/05/OC_25052023_MIN_1579_WEB.htm

2. https://byron.infocouncil.biz/Open/2023/05/OC_25052023_AGN_1579_WEB.htm