

2. COMMUNITY BOARD COMMITTEES

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The purpose of this report is to provide Board members with an opportunity to review the current structure of its committees.

BACKGROUND

The committee structure was introduced to the Board earlier this year, and subsequently implemented in March 2002, when it was agreed that the future running of the committees would be reviewed in six months' time (September 2002). The reason why this review has been brought forward a month is to enable this matter to be considered alongside a review of the Board's current funding practices/policies.

CURRENT COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Community Services and Development Committee - comprising Sonia Gill (Chairperson), Lynda Carter, Sue Wells, Oscar Alpers and Phil Clearwater (ex officio).

Finance and Policy Committee - comprising Elizabeth Maunsell (Chairperson), Carole Anderton, Sue Wells, Oscar Alpers and Phil Clearwater (ex officio).

Parks, Environment and Leisure Committee - comprising Lynda Carter (Chairperson), Barry Corbett, Carole Anderton, Paul de Spa and Phil Clearwater (ex officio).

Transport Committee - comprising Paul de Spa (Chairperson), Barry Corbett, Elizabeth Maunsell, Sonia Gill and Phil Clearwater (ex officio).

Each committee has its own terms of reference, and meetings are scheduled on a monthly basis. For information purposes it should be noted that, to date, the above committees have met on the following number of occasions:

Community Services & Development Committee	3
Transport Committee	3
Finance & Policy Committee	4
Parks Environment & Leisure Committee	2

On canvassing other Community Advocates as to how their individual boards' committees functioned, it was generally agreed that committees do work, and there were definite advantages to them as opposed to having, say, two full Board meetings per month. The following feedback was provided:

- Improvement in relationships (both within the Board and between Board members and staff).
- Improvement of communication.
- Improvement of skills (especially for Board members in regard to chairing committees and gaining confidence).
- Assists the Board process (clarifying difficult matters and extra work done before getting to Board meetings).
- Involves the Board with the community (i.e. site visits, deputations).

Of the five other community boards, only one board has not introduced committees. However, it has recently been acknowledged that trying to direct all business to one meeting per month is not working well and, to alleviate this problem, the introduction of committees is now being considered.

PROPOSED STRUCTURE

If the Board decides to adopt the suggested changes as outlined under the Chairperson's Comments below, this would provide an opportunity for the time already allocated for the Parks, Environment & Leisure Committee to meet, to be utilised for the Board's cultural training. At the Board's meeting held on 4 June 2002, it was suggested that the training be undertaken during September and October 2002. The training will be provided by way of three, three-hour sessions, at a suggested time of 4.30pm to 7.30pm, now proposed for the following dates (subject to The Reverend Maurice Manawaroa Gray's availability):

Wednesday, 11 September 2002

Thursday, 10 October 2002

Thursday, 31 October 2002

Recommendation: For consideration and discussion.

Chairperson's

Comments:

The Transport Committee is working well. Time is efficiently spent in meetings and they are kept short. Officers are normally there to speak to reports and this procedure works well.

Of the other Committees, the Parks, Environment and Leisure Committee is the one which has had the least business to deal with, and it is suggested that perhaps this committee could be combined with the Transport Committee.

Although the Community Service and Development Committee has not had a lot of business to attend to recently, this is due mainly to the stage most projects have reached. As a number of projects are currently active and will be reported back in due course, I am reluctant to change the set-up for this committee, as I feel it needs to be kept as a separate entity.