ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
NOTES OF MEETING

Date of meeting: Wednesday, 27/07/2005
Present: Mr Garry Hunt (Chair)  
         Professor Phil Jennings  
         Ms Barbara Whelan
Secretary: Samantha Summerton
Apologies: Professor John Yovich, Dr Martin Anda, Professor Richard Hobbs, Dr Melanie Strawbridge, Ms Carolyn Jakobsen
Official attendees: Nil
Observers: Mr Craig Spence

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (SENATE STANDING ORDERS CLAUSE 4.2)
   Nil.

2. QUORUM
   The meeting was inquorate. The following are notes of the discussion that took place.

3. GREENHOUSE CHALLENGE
   Murdoch University is contractually a member of the Greenhouse Gas Commission. Upon review of the Greenhouse reports, Professor Jennings noted that the report does not show Murdoch in a positive light, as Murdoch has recorded a 9% increase in Greenhouse emissions. Mr Spence informed the committee that the report was an accurate reflection of the university’s position in 2003 and that the 2004 report would provide greater detail as to why Murdoch’s greenhouse emissions have increased, citing student increases and additional buildings.

4. BEELIAR WETLANDS UPDATE
   The Environmental Committee and the Senate agreed to allow 3 large parcels of Murdoch land (see attached) to be managed by CALM. CALM has asked the committee to endorse the Beelair Wetlands Update report. Mr Spence has recommended that the report be tabled at the next Resource Committee meeting. Upon endorsement by the Resource Committee, the Environmental Committee will approve the report, provided that there is no impact on the teaching experience for the Murdoch students.

   This note will be referred to the next meeting of the committee for review and action as deemed necessary.

5. ST IVES STAGE 7 AND APARTMENTS ENVIRONMENTAL SIGN-OFF
   The St Ives stage 7 has already been signed off by the Resources Committee. The Environmental Committee has had a minor input into the development: meeting with the St Ives managers to ensure the implementation of environmentally positive aspects such as provision of sufficient shading and the rejection of the use of black tiling. The committee has recognised the trade-off between an increased environmental rating and income stream. The committee therefore proposes to
recommend to the Resources Committee an option for St Ives purchasers to install energy efficient appliances, such as room insulation and skylighting, at a discounted rate from a Murdoch-negotiated supplier.

This note will be referred to the next meeting of the committee for review and action as deemed necessary.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER UPDATE

The Energy and Environmental manager, Rene deGraw tendered his resignation on Monday 25 July. In the interim period while the position is being filled, the role will be performed by a contractor, who will provide the required reports to the committee to ensure the committee meets its governance requirements.

This note will be referred to the next meeting of the committee for review and action as deemed necessary.

7. LANDSCAPING STRATEGY

The Committee has recommended the formation of a Landscaping sub-Committee. The sub-committee will address the issues of:

- lack of adequate shading on the walk between the Murdoch campus and the proposed Fiona Stanley Hospital;
- boulevarding for all Murdoch paths, with the possibility of using European trees rather than natives, as they offer more shade;
- engaging a consultant to assist in the best practice landscape management of the Murdoch campuses;
- landscape management of Bush Court now and into the future;

The committee recommends that the sub-committee look at the cultural heritage of the South Street campus, given that it was formerly the main office of the Forestry Department, when addressing Murdoch’s future landscaping needs.

This note will be referred to the next meeting of the committee for review and action as deemed necessary.

8. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RELOCATION UPDATE

A working party has been established to focus on the accommodation scheduling for the Department of Agriculture building. When the site has been chosen, the location of the ring-road needs to be addressed, with particular emphasis on thinning the foliage around it for safety purposes and the potential need to move the flooded gum trees located nearby. In order to best appreciate the location issues, the committee proposed to hold the next meeting on site.

This note will be referred to the next meeting of the committee for review and action as deemed necessary.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 The Chair noted that the committee’s terms of reference require 3 members of Senate on the committee.

This note will be referred to the next meeting of the committee for review and action as deemed necessary.

9.2 John McGowan looked at the effectiveness of using micro turbines as a back up power supply for the South Street campus. He reviewed information from Japan on the effectiveness of this power source and Craig Spence’s office will
provide the committee with a feasibility report.

This note will be referred to the next meeting of the committee for review and action as deemed necessary.

9.3 The committee will look at the possibility of waste management cogen sharing arrangements with the Fiona Stanley facility, as there is a greater environmental advantage when working with larger sites.

This note will be referred to the next meeting of the committee for review and action as deemed necessary.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE DATES FOR 2005

The Environmental Committee will meet at 08:30 in room 4.1A of the Chancellery Building on the following dates:

- Wednesday 28 September 2005;
- Wednesday 19 October 2005; and
- Wednesday 23 November 2005

Signed as a true record of the meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 27/07/2005

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Mr Garry Hunt  
Chair

Dated: August, 2005