Date of meeting: Thursday 17/08/2006

Present: Mr Garry Hunt (Chair)  
Dr Martin Anda  Ms Beth Strang  
Mr Mal Bradley  Mr Craig Spence  
Professor Phil Jennings  Prof John Yovich  
Assoc Prof Jim Macbeth

Secretary: Jeremy Rigg

Apologies: Prof Nick Costa, Ms Carolyn Jakobsen, Dr Melanie Strawbridge.

Official attendees:

1. APOLOGIES
   Prof Nick Costa, Ms Carolyn Jakobsen, Dr Melanie Strawbridge.

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

3. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE
   The Director, Commercial Services noted that a new Environmental Planning Officer has been appointed and this presented an opportune time to consider changes to the structure of the Committee that may improve its operation, such as the creation of sub-committees or working parties.

   General discussion ensued and key points included:
   - The creation of sub-committees may only compound the problem of ensuring all members are available to attend.
   - An Environmental Management Plan for the University by the Environmental Planning Officer, and of a workplan for the Committee for 2007 will be developed by the Environmental Planning Officer. It is expected that this will improve the availability of agenda papers with project updates prior to meetings.

4. CORPORATE SERVICES UPDATE
   The Director, Commercial Services, briefed the Committee on the following topics:
   4.1 Environmental Planning Officer
       A new Environmental Planning Officer has been appointed, and will commence on 4 September 2006.
   4.2 Pine Trees – St Ives
       The removal of 15 to 20 pine trees facing South Street as part of Stage 8 of the St Ives development was discussed. The size of the land involved
does not allow for consideration of alternative designs that would preserve these trees.

Discussion about the impact of this development upon the habitat of Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo ensued. It was noted that a report from Birds Australia relevant to this topic is due to be published later this year. A query was raised in relation to the applicability of Commonwealth environmental protection legislation, and the Director, Commercial Services will manage this.

The Chair moved that the Committee express its concerns to the Resources Committee that preservation of trees and habitats be given due consideration in relation to the planned Stage 10 of the St Ives development, and to recommend that the broader issue of protection of bird habitats within the region be reported upon to the Committee following the issuing of the Birds Australia report.

Resolved: To:

EC/05/2006

(i) express the Committee’s concerns to the Resources Committee that preservation of trees and habitats be given due consideration in relation to the planned Stage 10 of the St Ives development; and

(ii) recommend that the broader issue of protection of bird habitats within the region be reported upon to the Committee following the issuing of the Birds Australia report.

4.3 Research Boulevard

Clearing for this road will commence in October or November 2006, and is expected to be completed by March 2007.

4.4 University Ring Road

There has been reconsideration since the 18/05/06 meeting, and the road may now run in front of the Wesfarmers building, depending on engineering issues and linkages to other roads that need to be managed.

4.5 DAFWA Relocation

The location of wetlands and field plots have been considered in planning the location of this building. A water management consultant will be engaged to ensure that the issues are appropriately addressed. This will include drainage and sump issues.

4.6 Design Guidelines

An arborist has been engaged to develop a significant tree register for the University, and Professor Phil Jennings and Adjunct Associate Professor Alex George are to be consulted as part of this process. The reintroduction and future planting of trees will also be discussed.

The design guidelines are in the process of being developed with Hames Sharley architects. Representatives of Hames Sharley will attend the next meeting of the Committee to present the draft guidelines, and papers will be made available prior to the meeting.
5. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE DATES FOR 2006

There was discussion as to the planned Thursday 05/10/2006 date for the next meeting as being unsuitable for some members. The Environmental Committee will meet at 16:00 in room 4.1A of the Chancellery Building on the following dates:

- A date to be agreed upon, by circulation, in late September or early October.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Mal Bradley noted item 6 from the minutes of 18/05/06, and that it did not appear that all of the items in his paper regarding Renewable Energy had been addressed. The Director, Commercial Services will address these at the next meeting.

Professor Phil Jennings requested that the Environmental Planning Officer reintroduce the one page proforma document that has been used previously to provide details of the energy, water and waste status of projects.

Ms Beth Strang suggested that consideration also be given to developing an induction package for new Committee members, to provide background on key environmental issues for the University.

Signed as a true record of the meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 17/08/2006

MR GARRY HUNT
CHAIR

Dated: September, 2006