

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SUB-COMMITTEE

Meeting held in the Conference Room, Operational Services Area, Level One of Civic Centre,
10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier, on Tuesday 29th April 2014 at 7:30 a.m.

MINUTES

- PRESENT: Cr I Von Stanke (Presiding Member)
Crs D Mutton and A Smith
- APOLOGIES: Cr Smith moved the apology received from Cr B Shearing be accepted.
Cr Mutton seconded Carried
- COUNCIL OFFICERS: Daryl Sexton, Director - Operational Services
Aaron Izzard, Environmental Sustainability Officer
Team Leader - Administration (Operational Services), Sally Wilson
Administration Officer, Rene Furlong

COUNCIL MEMBERS

AS OBSERVERS: Nil

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE BOANDIK PEOPLES AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND WHERE WE MEET TODAY. WE RESPECT THEIR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND AND RECOGNISE THE DEEP FEELINGS OF ATTACHMENT OUR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE WITH THIS LAND.

- MINUTES: Cr Mutton moved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday, 25th March 2014 be taken as read and confirmed.
Cr Smith seconded Carried
- QUESTIONS: (a) With Notice - nil submitted.
(b) Without Notice - nil received.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Renewable Energy Options Investigation - Mount Gambier Library Solar System - Ref. AF11/407

Goal: Environment
Strategic Objective: (i) Systematically build Council as an environmentally sustainable organisation

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) At the 18th March 2014 Council meeting the following resolution was adopted:

“Subject to an allocation in the 2014/2015 adopted Budget, Council release a tender for the installation of a possible lease arrangement solar power system on the entire roof of the Library.”

A [draft] tender has now been prepared and the specification details of the draft contract were attached to the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee agenda;

- (b) the tender is for a lease-to-own arrangement only. The rationale behind this is that the savings in electricity costs are matched by the lease payments, meaning that there is no net impact on both the operational budget and the capital budget. Lease payments are typically made for 5-7 years, after which the solar system would be owned by Council. From the point that the final lease payment is made, all savings on electricity present

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financial savings on Council's operating costs. Savings could be over \$30,000 per year and potentially over \$900,000 over a 20 year period;

- (c) the topic is being re-presented to Council as the wording of the 18th March 2014 resolution requires clarification. As stated above, the purpose of pursuing a lease-to-own arrangement is so savings on electricity costs can pay for the solar system, and so have no net impact on the budget. Council will not know the exact impact on the budget until it receives firm prices through an open tender process.

Cr Smith moved it be recommended:

- (a) **The report be received;**
- (b) **Council proceed to release an open tender for a lease to own solar system for the Mount Gambier public library, and following the tender process a further report is to be presented to Council.**

Cr Mutton seconded

Carried

2. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Recycling Business Options for Eucalypt Drive - Salvage Yard Expressions of Interest - Ref. AF14/34

Goal: Building Communities

Strategic Objective: (i) Strive for an increase in services and facilities to ensure the community has equitable access and that the identified needs of the community are met

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) At the 28th January 2014 Council meeting it was resolved to develop an EOI for the operation of a materials recovery facility (salvage yard) at Council's 3 Eucalypt Drive site, then have Find Workable Solutions (FWS) and Future Employment Opportunities (FEO) review the EOI before final release;
- (b) the EOI has been developed and reviewed by FWS and FEO, and a copy of the EOI was attached to the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee agenda;
- (c) following the close of submissions responses will be collated for review by an assessment panel. It is proposed that the assessment panel be made up of the Presiding Member of the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee, Director - Operational Services, Governance Officer, Environmental Sustainability Officer and a Zero Waste staff member - to be nominated by Zero Waste SA;
- (d) the assessment panel will bring a recommendation back to Council.

Cr Smith moved it be recommended:

- (a) **The report be received;**
- (b) **Council appoint the following people to the assessment panel of the salvage yard Expression of Interest:**
- **Presiding Member of the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee**
 - **Cr Des Mutton**
 - **Director - Operational Services**
 - **Governance Officer**

- Environmental Sustainability Officer
- Zero Waste staff member

(c) invite Zero Waste SA to nominate a staff member to be on the assessment panel.

Cr Mutton seconded

Carried

3. **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT** - Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee - Reports for Information - Ref. AF12/377

Goal: *Environment*

Strategic Objective: (i) *Systematically build Council as an environmentally sustainable organisation*

(a) Environmental Sustainability Program 2014 - Project Progress

The current table outlining projects for 2014 was attached to the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee agenda for Members information.

Cr Mutton moved it be recommended:

- (a) The report be received;
- (b) item (a) as above be received and noted for information.

Cr Smith seconded

Carried

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

4. **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT** - Unconventional Gas Mining - Ref. AF14/38

Goal: *Environment*

Strategic Objective: (i) *Support initiatives that value and preserve our unique environment and contribute to environmental sustainability*

Cr Mutton moved it be recommended:

- (a) The City of Mount Gambier opposes the possible unconventional gas exploration and operations within the South East region of South Australia;
- (b) Council calls on the State Government to impose a moratorium on unconventional gas exploration and mining (including hydraulic fracturing) in the South East to enable detailed analysis and community understanding of the issues involved, particularly:
 1. Environmental risks for use and contamination of surface and underground water resources, and the use and application of harmful chemicals
 2. Geological risks associated with hydraulic fracturing
 3. Impact on land use, and potential impacts on agricultural industries and food security
 4. Social and personal impacts (such as those already evident in Eastern states)
 5. Potential impact on tourism and related industries
 6. Potential impact on the Premier's Clean Green Food strategy which has been identified within the State Strategic Plan as one of the key economic drivers
 7. The applicability of existing State Government regulations to the South East region

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- (c) **Council calls on the State Government to recognise that there is a strong case for adopting different regulations regarding unconventional gas mining in the South East, respecting both community sentiment and the potential risks this technology poses for the region;**
- (d) **Council calls on SELGA to adopt a clear stance on the matter supporting a moratorium to allow careful independent analysis and advice.**

Cr Smith seconded

Carried

The meeting closed at 7:50 a.m.

30 April 2014
AF12/377
RJF