

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SUB-COMMITTEE

Meeting held in the Operational Services Area, Level One of Civic Centre, 10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier, on Tuesday 7th April 2015 at 7:30 a.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Cr P Richardson (Presiding Member)
Crs Von Stanke, D Mutton and S Mezinec

COUNCIL OFFICERS: Daryl Sexton, Director - Operational Services
Sarah Moretti, Administration Officer (Operational Services)

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, 24th February 2015 be taken as read and confirmed.

Cr Mezinec seconded Carried

QUESTIONS: (a) With Notice - nil submitted.
(b) Without Notice - nil received.

1. **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Programme Management - Clean Up Australia Day 2013 - Ref. AF11/404**

Goal: Environment

*Strategic Objective: (i) Systematically build Council as an environmentally sustainable organisation.
(ii) Use every opportunity to increase the level of community understanding and awareness of the necessity of environmental sustainability.*

The Presiding Member reported:

(a) At the Council meeting held on 15th April 2014 Council resolved:

“Council continue to support this national environmental conservation event in future years (in the same capacity as 2014)”;

(b) as such, Council staff again coordinated participation in Clean Up Australia Day (CUAD) 2015. The City of Mount Gambier provided:

- Promotion (mail out, community posters, civic centre foyer display, media release, radio interviews, flat screen advertising in the Library, Council and Main Corner plus emailing of networks)
- Co-ordination of kits and groups
- Extra bins at nominated sites
- Marshalling area and co-ordination of volunteer registrations on the Sunday
- Rubbish removal from nominated sites
- Free sausage sizzle for participants, which was a fundraiser for Rotary Lakes.

(c) Clean Up Australia 2015 consisted of clean ups held on two (2) days. The Schools Clean Up Day (SCUD) on Friday, 27th February and the Community Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday, 1st March;

Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Minutes of 7th April 2015 Cont'd...

- (d) the Schools Clean Up Day consisted of ten (10) schools participating, cleaning up their schools grounds and surrounds areas. Schools included; Acacia Kindergarten, Akuna Kindergarten, Grant High School, St Martin's Lutheran College, Tenison Woods College, Mil Lel Primary School, Mulga Street Primary School, Melaleuca Park Primary, Suttontown Primary and McDonald Park School;
- (e) the Community Clean Up Australia Day event involved approximately 133 volunteers and 7 registered community sites. During the community clean up volunteers collected approximately 19 bags of rubbish and 17 bags of recyclables, a total of 36 bags. Significantly less rubbish than previous years was collected is encouraging to see, however feedback from participants indicated rubbish left in car parks in the CBD areas is still high;
- (f) community sites cleaned up in 2015 were Valley Lakes, Potters Point/Sealy Reserve, Olympic Park and surrounding streets, McDonalds Restaurant, Frew Park and surrounding streets, Bunnings to 5SE Radio tower on Millicent road, Hawkins Road/Jubilee Highway East, the Cave Gardens and CBD area. Community areas cleaned on Schools Clean Up Day included Railway Lands by Mil Lel Primary School, Lady Nelson/Frew Park and streets to St Martin's Lutheran College and Hasting Cunningham Reserve, Shepherdson Road, Marist Park and White Avenue to Commercial Street West by Tension Woods College;
- (g) it is recommended Council continues to support this national environmental conservation event in the same capacity as 2015.

Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:

- (a) The report be received;**
- (b) Council continue to support this national environmental conservation event in 2016, in the same capacity as 2015.**

Cr Meziniec seconded

Carried

2. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Programme Management - Participation in Earth Hour 2015 - Ref. AF11/407

Goal: Environment

- Strategic Objective:*
- (i) Systematically build Council as an environmentally sustainable organisation.*
 - (ii) Use every opportunity to increase the level of community understanding and awareness of the necessity of environmental sustainability.*

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) At the Council meeting held on 17th March 2015 Council resolved:
"Council participate in Earth Hour 2015 by switching off the external lights at Main Corner, City Hall, Vansittart Park, the Library, the Centenary Tower, and the Lady Nelson Brig between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, 28th of March 2015";
- (b) as such, Council staff again coordinated participation in Earth Hour 2015. The City of Mount Gambier provided promotion (community posters, civic centre foyer display, media release, radio interviews, flat screen advertising in the Library, Council and Main Corner plus emailing of networks);

Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Minutes of 7th April 2015 Cont'd...

- (c) Council participated through taking part in 'Lights Out'. Lights were turned off from 8.30-9.30pm on the Saturday at the Main Corner, City Hall, Library, Vansittart Park, Lady Nelson Brig and the Centenary Tower. Hosting screenings of the Earth Hour documentary "Where Does My Food Come From?" at the Dress Circle, Main Corner in the weeks either side of Earth Hour. Running an Earth Hour theme at the Library during their story time sessions on Tuesday and Friday in the week leading up to the event.

Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:

- (a) **The report be received;**
- (b) **Council continue to support this global sustainability event in 2016, in the same capacity as 2015.**

Cr Mutton seconded

Carried

3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Biogas Basics Seminar - Ref. AF11/368

Goal: Diversity

Strategic Objective: (i) Develop the capacity of Council to effectively communicate and engage with our communities, other agencies and service providers

Goal: Environment

Strategic Objective: (i) Systematically build Council as an environmentally sustainable organisation
(ii) Use every opportunity to increase the level of community understanding and awareness of the necessity of environmental sustainability

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) A specialist seminar for the region on the topic of biogas was held on Friday 6th March 2015 in the Dress Circle of the Main Corner Complex. The seminar was presented by Dr Jayant Keskar of CRC CARE. The Presiding Member of the Environmental Sustainability Committee and the Environmental Sustainability Officer attended on behalf of Council;
- (b) the seminar covered biogas installations at all scales, from small installations to very large. Dr Keskar highlighted the many benefits of bioenergy, including from energy, economic and environmental perspectives. Biogas can provide heat, electricity, transport fuel and fertiliser products;
- (c) bioenergy has a key role to play in producing clean base load energy and reducing waste. The Green Triangle region has a significant potential for bioenergy with the South East alone having up to five (5) million tonnes of accessible biomass waste annually (non-forestry);
- (d) Council's participation in the South East Biomass Group through the Environmental Sustainability Officer is useful for keeping up to date with potential projects for the South East.

Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:

- (a) **The report be received.**

Cr Mutton seconded

Carried

4. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Programme Management - National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme - Ref. AF13/94

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) The City of Mount Gambier Waste Transfer Centre (WTC) has been an official collection site for the National TV and Computer Recycling Scheme (the Scheme) since March 2013. Scheme e-waste items are received at the WTC on behalf of one of the co-regulatory arrangements approved under the scheme. These items are free to dispose of for residents and small business of Mount Gambier;
- (b) up until recently the co-regulatory arrangement was willing to accept all Scheme e-waste received at the site. However, they recently placed a cap on the volume of Scheme e-waste that they will accept (and fund) from the WTC. They have told Council the reason for this is that they have met their collection targets under the Scheme, and are not funded to collect any more than their target. The volume cap they have placed on the site is only 72% of what the site averaged in 2013-2014. The service to Council has been reduced, but we know of other local governments that had their services completely cancelled with very little notice;
- (c) further to this, the co-regulatory arrangement is seeking to have a signed agreement with Council regarding the service. Council staff, including the Governance Officer, have reviewed the proposed agreement but found it to have a number of flaws. Three of the major flaws are:
 - The refusal to include South Australia as the state under which the agreement applies.
 - The refusal to include a reference to ICAC.
 - The refusal to acknowledge Council as being self-insured, and refusal to refer to the insurance arrangements of the co-regulatory arrangement;
- (d) to date, the co-regulatory arrangement has refused to negotiate on these three critical items. Since March 2013 items have been collected, removed and paid for by the co-regulatory arrangement - but if Council and the co-regulatory arrangement fail to negotiate an agreement, then the service could be removed at any time;
- (e) Council staff have liaised with a number of other collection sites for the Scheme, some are with the same co-regulatory arrangement as Council, other sites are with other co-regulatory arrangements. From these discussions it is clear that all the co-regulatory arrangements have met their quota under the Scheme and so are proving very difficult to negotiate with;
- (f) the Federal Department of the Environment is currently conducting an Operational Review of the Scheme. Submissions closed on 6th February 2015. Council made a submission highlighting its concerns to the Department. The LGA and SELGA also made submissions advocating for local governments. At this stage it is unclear whether changes to improve the Scheme will be made or not;
- (g) given these issues and uncertainties it is recommend that Council write to the Federal Member for Barker, Mr Tony Pasin MP, to seek assurances of the longevity of the scheme. Clarification should also be sought about why the long term final target of the Scheme is only 80% of the total material, and not 100%. Clarification should also be

Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Minutes of 7th April 2015 Cont'd...

sought about the rights of collection sites with regards to negotiating agreements with the co-regulatory arrangements.

Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:

- (a) The report be received;
- (b) Council write to Mr Tony Pasin MP, Federal Member for Barker, highlighting its issues and uncertainties regarding the National TV and Computer Recycling Scheme, and seeking assurances from the Federal Government regarding the questions raised in this report.

Cr Mutton seconded

Carried

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

The Environmental Sustainability Officer reported:

- (a) Environmental Sustainability Program 2015 - Project Progress

The current table outlining projects for 2015 was attached to the agenda for Members information.

Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:

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

Cr Mutton seconded

Carried

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

1. Cr Mezinec moved it be recommended:

- (a) Council invite Dr Steb Fisher to a half day workshop for all Council Members and appropriate staff to revisit the Natural Step Framework and provide a general overview of the framework to Council Members and staff.

Cr Mutton seconded

Carried

2. Cr Richardson moved it be recommended:

- (a) Council convene an informal discussion with South East Natural Resources Management Board on the issue of water sustainability and community interaction (e.g. relationship of water sustainability to population growth).

Cr Von Stanke seconded

Carried

CONFIRMED THIS

DAY OF

2015.

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PRESIDING MEMBER

The meeting closed at 8:27 a.m.