

Reference: AF12/377

30th August, 2016

MEMBERS

NOTICE is given that the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee will meet in the following Meeting Room on the day, date and time as follows:

Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee
(*Conference Room – Level 1*):

Tuesday, 6th September 2016 at 7:30 a.m.

An agenda for the meeting is enclosed.



Mark McSHANE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORM

I _____,
(insert name)

have received a copy of the agenda for the ordinary special meeting of the

_____ Council Committee Board
(insert full name of Committee/Sub-Committee/Board)

to be held on: _____
(insert date of meeting)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

I consider that I have a:

material conflict of interest pursuant to section 73 (complete and sign below)

actual or **perceived** conflict of interest pursuant to section 74 (complete and sign overleaf)

of the *Local Government Act 1999* ("the LG Act") in relation to the following agenda item:

(insert details - include Agenda Item No, Report Number, Item/Report Subject Title)

which is to be discussed at that meeting.

MATERIAL

The nature of my **material** conflict of interest is as follows [*ensure sufficient detail is recorded, including the reasons why you (or a person prescribed in section 73(1) of the LG Act) stands to obtain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the consideration of the matter at the meeting of the Council in relation to the agenda item described above*]:

In accordance with section 74(1)(b) I will be leaving the meeting room while the matter is being discussed and voted on.

Signature

Date

In accordance with section 75A(2)(b) I propose to not to participate in the meeting in relation to the matter.

ACTUAL

The nature of my **actual** conflict of interest is as follows *[ensure sufficient detail is recorded, including the reasons why the conflict between your interests and the public interests might lead to a decision that is contrary to the public interest in relation to the agenda item described above]:*

Where I have proposed to participate in the meeting I intend to deal with my **actual** conflict of interest in the following transparent and accountable way *[ensure sufficient detail is recorded as to the manner in which you intend to deal with the actual conflict of interest in a transparent and accountable way].*

OR

PERCEIVED

The nature of the **perceived** conflict of interest is as follows *[ensure sufficient detail is recorded, including the reasons why you consider that an impartial fair-minded person could reasonably consider that you have a perceived conflict of interest in the matter].*

Where I have proposed to participate I intend to deal with the **perceived** conflict of interest in the following transparent and accountable way *[ensure sufficient detail is recorded as to the manner in which you intend to deal with the perceived conflict of interest in a transparent and accountable way].*

Signature

Date

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SUB-COMMITTEE
Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 6th September 2016 at 7.30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – Programme Management – Edible Plants in Community Spaces - Ref. AF14/96
2. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – Staff Development – Spark MEFL Conference Summary Report 2016 - Ref. AF11/1164
3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Project Management – Natural Step Framework and the Community Plan - Ref. AF13/125
4. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee - Reports for Information - Ref. AF12/377

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SUB-COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held in the Conference Room, Operational Services Area, Level One of Civic Centre,
10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier, on Tuesday 6th September 2016 at 7:30 a.m.

AGENDA

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

COUNCIL OFFICERS: Daryl Sexton, Director - Operational Services
Aaron Izzard, Environmental Sustainability Officer
Carmel Ron, Environmental Sustainability Officer
Sarah Moretti, Administration Officer - Operational Services

APOLOGIES: moved the apology received from be
accepted.
seconded

COUNCIL MEMBERS
AS OBSERVERS:

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: moved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on
Tuesday, 2nd August 2016 be taken as read and confirmed.
seconded

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

**1. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – Programme Management – Edible Plants in
Community Spaces - Ref. AF14/96**

The Environmental Sustainability Officer reported:

- (a) In 2012 the City of Mount Gambier began a program of engaging local residents and community groups to come together and plant small numbers of fruit trees and other edible plants in Council reserves. Due to its success in the past, the City of Mount Gambier has continued to roll out this program with the help of the community.
- (b) In March 2016, Council put out a competitive Expression of Interest (EOI) to partner with local residents to plant fruit and nut trees in local reserves. The EOI was used to encourage participants to agree to work with their neighbours to help look after the trees - including watering over summer - and to make sure that the fruit and nuts get eaten.
- (c) Strong submissions from neighbours near Michielan Reserve; Sealy Reserve; and Tenison Woods College were put together and all were selected to have fruit and nut trees planted in their local reserve.
- (d) As part of this year's program, 26 fruit and nut trees have been planted including:
 - Apricot x 1
 - Apple x 6
 - Avocado x 2

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- Fig x 1
- Lemon x 1
- Lime x 1
- Mandarin x 1
- Nectarine x 1
- Orange x 2
- Peach x 1
- Pear x 6
- Plum x 2
- Walnut x 1

- (e) Council coordinated with local residents and these plantings took place on Friday 29th July, in line with Planet Ark's National Schools Tree Day.
- (f) Positive feedback has been provided by participants from this program and some trees have already begun producing fruits and nuts since the program was launched. Additionally, the outcomes of this program strongly link with desired outcomes outlined in the Community Plan – The Futures Paper 2016-2020, including that residents participate in activities that promote physical and mental wellbeing and that the community is engaged in building a sustainable future.

moved it be recommended:

- (a) The report be received.
- (b) Council continue the Edible Plants in Community Spaces program.

seconded

2. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – Staff Development – Spark MEFL Conference Summary Report 2016 - Ref. AF11/1164

The Environmental Sustainability Officer reported:

- (a) Over Thursday 18th and Friday 19th of August, Carmel Ron, Environmental Sustainability Officer, attended the inaugural Spark Conference run by Moreland Energy Foundation Limited (MEFL) in Melbourne. The conference was created to ignite local action on climate change and consisted of two days of inspiring panel discussions and workshops geared towards generating action-oriented outcomes.
- (b) The format of the conference included various plenary sessions where all participants attended (which can found at <http://www.mefl.com.au/get-involved/spark-conference/program/>) and 6 workshops of which only 4 could be attended by each participant.
- (c) The sessions which were attended by the Officer included:

1. How can business-as-usual include climate action from SMEs?

The panellists in this session included a mix between local government representatives and business people. The discussion revolved around how best to engage small-medium size enterprises to take steps in improving their energy efficiency as well as investing in renewable energy solutions. The link between positive environmental outcomes and positive economic outcomes was emphasised and the language of successfully engaging businesses was included. The standout point in this session was relating to Environmental Upgrade

Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Agenda for 6th September 2016 Cont'd...

Agreements (EUAs), and the role council's could play in encouraging businesses to take further steps in the area of energy.

2. How do we unblock the community-owned renewable energy pipeline?

In this session the issues and opportunities relating to community-owned renewable energy projects were discussed. Whilst the legislation was specific to Victoria, the barriers for community groups passionate about taking action in this area were universal. The models which would be used in the future were explained by community members and it was highlighted how important the purchasing costs, financing and feed-in tariffs were on project outcomes. In this respect the interesting point of what actions Council could take to assist in improving outcomes for such projects was considered.

3. How can our housing stock stack up against the challenge of a tougher climate?

This session focussed on links between improving the standard of housing in order to meet both a tougher climate and better health outcomes. The discussion aimed at increasing an understanding of how various building options have direct impacts on energy demands in the future and the negative health impacts of living in inefficient homes. This was especially important for vulnerable residents and relevant to pre-emptively improving physical and mental health in the community. An important note from the discussion included the need to consider investments in building and efficiency to make sure accessibility and affordability were not compromised.

4. Activating the community on urgent climate action

The panellists in this session came from local government, state government and engaged individuals. Each presented their organisation's or their own journey and approach to engaging with the community on climate action. The Darebin Council Solar Savers program was outlined to demonstrate how local government can play a key role in assisting the community to transition to low carbon energy solutions. Passionate individuals emphasised the importance of highlighting the need to take action on climate change through personal stories and grass roots education. The use of story telling was shown to give a voice to the cause without overwhelming people into inaction. This session gave insight into the need for steps to be taken through government and equally to be driven by the community as well.

- (d) Overall the conference provided a platform for discussion and ideas for future investigation. The lessons learnt from the conference were that in every aspect of the community action on climate change was necessary and possible to achieve, and that Local Government has an important role to play in encouraging, supporting, leading and building momentum for such achievements.

moved it be recommended:

- (a) The report be received and contents noted;
- (b) Environmental Sustainability Officers further investigate opportunities for transitioning the Council and community to a low carbon future.

seconded

3. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Project Management – Natural Step Framework and the Community Plan - Ref. AF13/125**

The Environmental Sustainability Officer reported:

- (a) The City of Mount Gambier has a history of strong support for Environmental Sustainability. Council's strategic plans over the past ten years have all significantly featured environmental sustainability. The Community Plan strongly features environmental sustainability, with "Our Climate, Natural Resources and Heritage" as one of its four pillars.
- (b) At the 20 May 2008 Council meeting, Council formerly adopted the Natural Step Framework, to be used as a planning tool to enable Council to integrate environmental and social considerations into strategic decisions, as well as daily operations. The Natural Step Framework is Council's measure of what it means to be "environmentally sustainable".
- (c) In order to make sure that Council continues to move towards environmental sustainability, it is necessary to periodically measure progress in relation to the Natural Step. The purpose of this report is to give a snapshot of Council's progress, and outline some of the challenges in achieving environmental sustainability. It is envisaged that this snapshot will also inform the implementation of the Community Plan.
- (d) The Natural Step Framework conditions are:

To become a sustainable society we must...

1. Eliminate our contribution to the progressive build-up of substances extracted from the Earth's crust (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions, toxic metals etc.).
 2. Eliminate our contribution to the progressive build-up of chemicals and compounds produced by society (e.g. plastics, synthetic chemicals etc.).
 3. Eliminate our contribution to the progressive physical degradation and destruction of nature and natural processes.
 4. Eliminate our contribution to conditions that undermine people's capacity to meet their basic human needs.
- (e) The Community Plan states Council's desire to make Mount Gambier a "recognised environmentally sustainable place", and improving the "sustainability of Council operations". To be truly environmentally sustainable Council needs to be meeting the Natural Step Framework conditions outlined above.
 - (f) In recent years Council has undertaken many environmental sustainability projects, and made significant progress towards environmental sustainability. Council is moving in the right direction, but still has a fair way to go to meet the Natural Step conditions.
 - (g) Some of the significant challenges Council faces in moving towards true environmental sustainability include those listed below. This list is not exhaustive, but provides a snapshot of some the challenges when progressing towards environmental sustainability:

Energy

- Reduce electricity use as much as practical.
- Electricity supplied by on site renewable energy.
- Any shortfall in electricity generation to be supplied by green power.

Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Agenda for 6th September 2016 Cont'd...

Fuel

- All fleet vehicles run on renewable fuel e.g. electric vehicles, with electricity being supplied by renewable energy.
- All plant run on biodiesel or other renewable fuel source.

Materials

- Only purchase items / materials that are made from renewable resources or 100% recycled materials.
- Eventually eliminate use of synthetic chemicals.

Waste

- Eventually eliminate sending waste to landfill.
- Steps towards no waste: separation, recycling, salvage, composting, deposit schemes. Ultimately any residue (much less than now) incinerated – with heat recovery and electricity generation.

Water

- All run off from roads filtered before being discharged to the aquifer.
- Reduce water use as much as practical.
- All Council buildings capture and use rainwater.
- Use rainwater and grey water on reserves.

Local food

- All catering is supplied using locally grown organic food.
- Emphasis on slightly under catering rather than over catering – to reduce food waste.

Infrastructure

- Council provides best practice cycling and pedestrian infrastructure – to encourage active lifestyles, as per the Community Plan.

Emissions

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions as much as practical.
- Any residual emissions abated through purchase of carbon offsets.

These actions will take time, and technological development will play a part in many of them. The important thing is that Council is trending towards meeting the Natural Step conditions.

- (h) In order to fulfil the Community Plan all decisions should be made with the Natural Step conditions in mind. The CHAT tool that Council staff have developed is useful in this regard. The tool is used to assess the holistic outcomes of potential projects and programs. This ensures that along with the financial components, the environmental and social components are also considered – leading to more holistically beneficial projects. The tool is easy to use, systematic and measurable.

moved it be recommended:

- (a) The report be received and contents noted;

Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Agenda for 6th September 2016 Cont'd...

seconded

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

The Environmental Sustainability Officer reported:

(a) Environmental Sustainability Program 2016 - Project Progress

The current table outlining projects for 2016 is attached to the agenda for Members information.

moved it be recommended:

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

seconded

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

The meeting closed at _____ a.m.

30 August 2016
AF12/377
SM

Environmental Sustainability Program 2016 – Project Progress

Updated: 6th September 2016

Project	Summary	Progress Notes
Salvage Yard	Investigate opportunities for re-establishing a salvage yard in Eucalypt Drive.	On 17 November 2015 Council resolved to abandon the EOI process, and authorise selected staff to liaise directly with potential operators. These discussions are now taking place.
Organics Next Steps	Investigate opportunities for reducing the amount of organic waste being put in Council's kerbside rubbish bins.	At the March 2015 Council meeting Council approved the release of 2,000 kitchen caddies with bio-bags to organics bin subscribers in the 2015-2016 financial year. The caddies have all been given out. Bulk buy opportunities for compost bins and worm farms are also being investigated.
Bin Tagging	This involves checking the contents of waste and recycling bins from 150 properties, and give specific feedback about what goes in which bins.	A third round of bin tagging is now complete.
2016 KESAB Awards	Nominate City of Mount Gambier for numerous categories within the KESAB awards.	Council's submission for the 2016 Sustainable Communities awards has been submitted. Judging will occur later in the year.
Carbon Neutrality	Council endeavours to operate in a carbon neutral environment.	On 19 April 2016 Council resolved that as from 1st July 2017, the City of Mount Gambier endeavour to operate in a carbon neutral environment, including a possible levy and on landfill customers to offset carbon emissions from the landfill. Background work on this matter is being conducted.
Solar Systems – Depot, Transfer Station & Carinya	Install solar systems at these three facilities.	All three systems are now fully operational. Monitoring of Depot and WTS systems are operational, Carinya still to be complete.
Aquatic Centre Solar System	Installation of a 67 kW solar system on the roofs of the Aquatic Centre.	Initial electrical works to occur this week.
Park & Stride Mount Gambier	The aim of this 12 month project is to encourage community members who come to central Mount Gambier to shop, to park in an off-street car park and walk to shop, rather than drive from shop to shop.	The program has been launched. So far there have been almost 800 Facebook page likes, over 150 Surveys completed, over 150 people make the public commitment, and thousands of Facebook 'Post Reach'. A variety of prizes have been given including shop vouchers and P&S eftpos cards.
Caroline Landfill Audit	Audit the trucks depositing waste to the landfill to identify opportunities to reduce the amount of recyclables and organics that are being deposited.	Contractors have been contacted to let them know the results of the audit and to find a way forward to reduce contamination.
Efficient Homes Project	This project involves installing temperature loggers in houses constructed of a variety of materials – rammed earth, modern eclectic, modern brick veneer and limestone – and leaving them in situ for 12 months.	The final set of loggers for 2015-2016 have been installed in the fourth home. Loggers will remain in situ for 12 months.
Aquatic Centre Energy Audit	An audit of the electricity use of the Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre. It is anticipated that the auditors will make recommendations for improving the efficiency of the facility, leading to long term reductions in electricity costs.	Follow up investigations are currently being undertaken.
Mount Gambier: Edible City	Run a series of workshops on home food production, from beginner to more advanced topics.	ESO staff are giving talks and a workshop as part of the Endless Pleasure program. Four fruit trees have been planted on the northern boundary of

		Hastings Cunningham Reserve, adjacent to the Rail Trail.
Resource Efficiency Review	Review of Council operations to identify what level of resources are currently being used, and identify opportunities for increased efficiency.	Some initial data received from Finance and suppliers. Analysis of data will commence in the near future as the ESO work program allows.
Fruit Tree EOI	Involved working with residents to put a small number of fruit trees in their local reserve.	Fruit trees have been planted at Michelin Reserve, and Tenison Woods College.
Smaller Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smart Living profiles. - Talks at schools and community groups on environment and sustainability topics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Five Smart Living profiles have been completed. - Talks undertaken on an ongoing basis upon request. Numerous radio interviews have been undertaken.
Environmental Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clean Up Australia Day - Earth Hour - Ride to Work Day - Walk to Work Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete. - Complete. - 19 October. - November.
Library Solar Power System	Installation of a 57kW solar system on the roof of the Library, to supply 25-30% of the Library's electricity needs.	The system is now switched on and fully functional. The display inside the library will be switched on in the near future.
Blue Lake Solar Lighting	Involves the installation of solar lights around the footpath around the Blue Lake.	Installation of the lights is now complete. All lights are now operating as designed. Timing issue has been resolved.
Carbon Reporting	Measure and report on Council's carbon emissions for the 2014-2015 financial year. Assess if Council triggers any carbon and/or climate change legislation.	The 2014-2015 report has been completed.