

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 2nd June 2015 at 7:30 a.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Crs I Von Stanke, D Mutton 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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDING MEMBER: The Director - Operational Services invited nominations for the position of Acting Presiding Member for this meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee due to the absence of Cr P Richardson.

Cr Mutton nominated Cr Von Stanke to be Acting Presiding Member of this meeting.

There being no further nominations, Cr Von Stanke was elected as Acting Presiding Member of the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee for this meeting only.

APOLOGIES: Cr Mutton moved the apology received from Cr Richardson be accepted.

Cr Mezinec seconded Carried

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 Von Stanke moved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday, 7th April 2015 be taken as read and confirmed.

Cr Mezinec seconded Carried

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

1. **GOVERNANCE - Committees - Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee - Terms of Reference - Ref. AF14/283**

Goal: Governance
Strategic Objective: (i) Establish measures for Council's performance and continually compare against community expectations
(ii) Engage with national, state, regional and local forums and partnerships to provide solutions and options to continually improve Councils service delivery and performance

The Acting Presiding Member reported:

(a) At the Council meeting held on 27th January 2015 Council resolved:

"Council or the relevant standing committee will review the Terms of Reference of all Committees and Sub-Committees by 31st August, 2015 to provide for the opportunity to

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alter or amend Terms of Reference to Reflect Council's aims and objectives. This review does not preclude the winding up of any Committee or Sub-Committee.”;

- (b) as such, the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee (ESSC) Terms of Reference (TOR) will be reviewed by Council and/or the Operational Services Committee before the above date. To assist the work of the Operational Services Committee and Council, it is recommended that the members of the ESSC review the TOR and make any subsequent recommendations. The ESSC TOR are attached to this agenda;
- (c) it is recommended that item 5.1 be amended to remove the words “and Community Members”. Membership of the ESSC, and its previous status as the Environmental Sustainability Working Party, has always consisted exclusively of Elected Members. It is seen as appropriate that only Members elected by the community have voting rights to direct the work of the ESSC. This does not preclude community members being consulted on an as needs basis on specific environmental issues.

Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:

- (a) The report be received;**
- (b) item 5.1 of the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Terms of Reference be amended to remove the words “and Community Members”;**
- (c) noting the amendment to item 5.1, the Terms of Reference of the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee be adopted.**

Cr Meziniec seconded

Carried

2. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Programme Management - Environmental Waste Management and Education Program - Bin Tagging - Ref. AF11/408 - Bin Tagging

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 Acting Presiding Member reported:

- (a) This program is part of Council's waste education strategy, and involves checking the contents of waste and recycling bins from 150 properties via lifting the lid and looking at the contents, and giving specific feedback about what goes in which bins;
- (b) the program is now complete. A summary of the major results is listed below:
 - The number of contaminated recycling bins reduced by 41%.
 - The number of contaminated waste bins reduced by 47%.
 - Contamination levels within recycling bins dropped by 19%.
 - Incidents of lids being left on bottles and containers reduced by 38%.

The full report regarding the program provided by SELGA is attached to this agenda.

Given these encouraging results, this program could be used over time to reduce contamination across the town.

Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:

- (a) The report be received;
- (b) Council staff continue the bin tagging program throughout the city. The frequency of tagging being determined by staff workloads.

Cr Mutton seconded

Carried

3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Project Management - Assessment of Viability for Solar Power on Other Council Sites - PV Assessment - Ref. AF14/95

Goal: Environment

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

The Acting Presiding Member reported:

- (a) At the Council meeting held on 17th March 2015 Council resolved:

“Council commission Quark Consulting to undertake an assessment of Council’s other major facilities for their suitability for solar power.”;

- (b) the assessment for solar potential for numerous of Council’s other sites is now complete. Quark will present the major findings of their assessment, with subsequent recommendations;
- (c) the sites assessed were as follows:
 - Civic Centre
 - Aquatic Centre
 - Depot
 - Carinya Gardens
 - Waste Transfer Centre

Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:

- (a) The report be received and the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee await a further extended report on the findings of the assessments undertaken by Quark Consulting.

Cr Mezinec seconded

Carried

4. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT - Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre - Aquatic Centre Energy Audit - Ref. AF11/1532

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 Acting Presiding Member reported:

- (a) The Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre is a significant community facility which uses a large amount of electricity during the pool season. Staff connections with Zero Waste SA have resulted in Zero Waste funding a \$5,000 electricity audit of the facility;

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- (b) the audit is now complete and identified numerous possibilities that may lead to long term reductions in electricity costs. These proposed actions are now being considered by Aquatic Centre management. The audit report is attached to this agenda.

Cr Mutton moved it be recommended:

- (a) **The report be received and the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee await a further detailed report addressing the outcomes of the electricity audit and the Aquatic Centre Management response;**
- (b) **Council formally thank Zero Waste SA for funding the audit.**

Cr Mezinec seconded

Carried

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Caroline Landfill - Incoming Waste Audit - Ref. AF11/371

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 Acting Presiding Member reported:

- (a) Anecdotally there is a significant amount of material being taken to Caroline Landfill that could otherwise be recycled or composted. Some of this is of domestic kerbside origin, but there is also significant contamination coming from commercial loads. In order to understand the volumes of this material, and where it is coming from, an audit was undertaken at the landfill from 13-17 April 2015;
- (b) during this period a contractor was based at Caroline Landfill and assessed every load of material being deposited. Each load was assessed to estimate proportions of various kinds of waste – especially the proportion of recyclable and organic material present. An estimate in line with NGRS reporting criteria was also made for each load (e.g. percentages of Municipal Solid Waste, Construction & Demolition etc) – as recommended by the 2014 Blue Environment report;
- (c) of the 79 loads of waste that were taken to the landfill during that period, 38% contained more than 10% contamination – either recyclables and/or organic material. Major contaminants were recyclable plastics, woody/garden organics, cardboard and paper.

A large proportion of this material is organic, and has the potential to create leachate and methane – both pose risks to the environment. This material also uses up landfill space unnecessarily, and is a waste of resources – the material could be recycled or composted.

Of the total volume of waste deposited to the landfill during that period 23% should not be going to landfill. This material should be recycled or composted;

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- (d) one of the limitations of the audit was the presence of bagged waste, which accounted for 55% of the total volume of material taken to the landfill. It was not feasible to open every bag of waste and assess the contents during this audit. In order to get an estimate of what is contained in the bagged waste, the figures from the 2012 bin audit can be used. This audit involved opening the contents of 100 waste bins and sorting their contents. The 2012 audit found that 61% of the contents of Mount Gambier's waste bins is either recyclables or organics. Using these figures as a guide, then a total of 56% of the material taken to Caroline should not be going to landfill – it should be recycled or composted instead;
- (e) Council staff will now use this information to work with contractors and their clients to reduce contamination at the landfill. In addition, Council's ongoing community education activities will be continued.

Cr Mutton moved it be recommended:

- (a) **The report be received;**
- (b) **Council staff now work with contractors and clients to seek voluntary improvements to the waste stream entering the Caroline Landfill;**
- (c) **the results of this assessment be forwarded to SELGA Waste Committee.**

Cr Mezinec seconded

Carried

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Programme Management - Fruit and Nut Trees - Ref. AF14/96

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 Acting Presiding Member reported:

- (a) At the Council meeting held on 17th March 2015 it was resolved to release a competitive Expression of Interest (EOI) to the community for the planting of \$500 worth of edible plants in a Council reserve;
- (b) one strong submission was received, from the residents in the vicinity of the Limestone Court reserve;
- (c) the residents from Limestone Court have requested the following plants:
- Lemon x 1
 - Orange x 1
 - Mandarin x 1
 - Pear x 1
 - Walnut x 1
 - Avocado x 1;
- (d) relevant Council Officers have advised that there are no apparent issues with planting the above-mentioned plants in these reserves. No trees will be planted within 10 metres

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of houses, power lines, or water pipes – nor will they be planted so they will overhang roads or footpaths;

- (e) following the receiving of the submission, a subsequent letter was sent to residents who live in Limestone Court and Lorraine Street. The purpose of this letter was to inform those residents of the plans to put fruit trees in their local reserve, and provide them an opportunity to give feedback. Four residents responded, all supporting the proposed plantings;
- (f) there are sufficient funds in the Sustainability budget to cover the purchase of plants for Limestone Court;
- (g) Council staff are liaising with the residents who supported the submission, to organise the planting of the plants listed in the above report. Council will be advised when the date is set.

Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:

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

Cr Meziniec seconded

Carried

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Project Management - City Development Framework Project - Reminder of Natural Step Session and Water Sustainability Discussion - Ref. AF13/125

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 Acting Presiding Member reported:

- (a) At the Council meeting held on 21st April 2015 Council resolved:

“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.

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).”;

- (b) These sessions for Members and relevant staff will both be held on the 30th of June 2015.

The proposed schedule is as follows:

12:30pm	Light lunch
1pm-4pm	Natural Step with Steb Fisher
5-6pm	Water Sustainability Discussion with SENRMB.

Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:

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

Cr Meziniec seconded

Carried

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

The Acting Presiding Member reported:

(a) Environmental Sustainability Program 2015 - Project Progress

The current table outlining projects for 2015 is 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 - Nil

CONFIRMED THIS

DAY OF

2015.

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PRESIDING MEMBER

The meeting closed at 8:36 a.m.

2 June 2015
AF12/377 - SM