

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 August 2016 at 7:30 a.m.

MINUTES

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Cr I Von Stanke (Presiding Member) Mayor A Lee, Crs P Richardson and S Mezinec
<u>NOT PRESENT:</u>	Cr D Mutton
<u>COUNCIL OFFICERS:</u>	Daryl Sexton, Director - Operational Services Aaron Izzard, Environmental Sustainability Officer Sarah Moretti, Administration Officer - Operational Services
<u>APOLOGIES:</u>	Nil
<u>COUNCIL MEMBERS AS OBSERVERS:</u>	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 Richardson moved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday, 7th June 2016 be taken as read and confirmed.

Cr Mezinec seconded

Carried

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

1. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – Project Management - Solar Systems at Council Facilities - Ref. AF11/407

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) Council has a long standing commitment to the Natural Step Framework. Part of the Framework is gradually reducing emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere. Council has undertaken many actions to this end, one of which is investigating renewable energy.
- (b) At the 20th October 2015 Council meeting it was resolved to install solar power systems at three Council sites – the Depot, Waste Transfer Centre and Carinya Gardens Cemetery. The three systems have now been installed and are fully operational.
- (c) The Depot solar system is 29.9 kW, Carinya Gardens 10.4 kW, and WTC 5.2 kW – a total of 45.5 kW. The three systems combined are expected to result in financial savings of approximately \$14,000 per year, and 47 tonnes of GHG emissions – for 25 years, increasing as the price of electricity increases. Online monitoring for the WTC solar system is currently operational, and will be in the near future for the Depot and Carinya Gardens.
- (d) On the topic of solar it is worth noting that the Library solar system was projected to save \$18,000 per year. In its first year the system resulted in financial savings of over \$23,000.

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- (e) This financial year a 67.34 kW solar system will also be installed on the roof of the Aquatic Centre. It is projected to result in financial savings of approximately \$14,240, and 38.8 tonnes of GHG per year.
- (f) When the Aquatic Centre system is installed, the combined capacity of all of Council's solar systems will be 170 kW. This is projected to result in financial savings of approximately \$46,000-\$51,000, and 130 tonnes of GHG every year for 25 years, increasing as the price of electricity increases.

Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:

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

Cr Richardson seconded

Carried

2. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – Edible Plants in Public Space – Fruit Trees for Hastings Cunningham Reserve - Ref. AF14/96

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) In 2012 Council commenced a program of planting small numbers of fruit trees and other edible plants in Council reserves, in conjunction with local residents. To date Council has planted almost 40 fruit trees and almost 50 herb plants across the Clty. The purpose of these plantings is to promote fresh, local healthy food, and also bring residents together.
- (b) Recently Council has been contacted with a request to plant fruit trees along the shared cycling and walking Rail Trail that is currently being completed. On the surface this is an attractive idea, but there are issues with this proposal:
 - Council's lease with the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) only refers to constructing the path on the tracks, it does not contain any reference to planting fruit trees.
 - There is a high potential that the rail line contains contamination, as such, it is not advisable to plant edible plants like fruit trees in the rail corridor.
- (c) An alternative option is to plant a small number of fruit trees on the northern boundary of Hastings Cunningham Reserve. That is Council land, outside the potential contamination zone, but still within a reasonable proximity to the Rail Trail.
- (d) It is proposed to plant five fruit trees in this location - Apple – granny smith, Apple – pink lady, Pear, Apricot and Mandarin.

Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:

- (a) **The report be received;**
- (b) **Plant five fruit trees on the northern boundary of Hastings Cunningham Reserve, in order for fruit to be accessible to users of the Rail Trail**

Cr Mezinec seconded

Carried

3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – Environmental Waste Management and Education Program – Kitchen Caddy Roll Out - Ref. AF11/408

The Presiding Member reported:

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- (a) Every year Mount Gambier residents send over 2,500 tonnes of organics to landfill – the majority of which is food scraps. Over a two week period in February 2016 City of Mount Gambier staff conducted a waste audit of household rubbish, recycling and organics bins.
- (b) Over 35% of the contents of rubbish bins was food scraps, and a further 9% was garden organics. When organic material is buried in landfill it creates leachate and methane, which both have the potential to pollute the environment. It is also a waste of resources, as organics can be composted and returned back to the land on gardens and farms.
- (c) In June 2014 consultants at Blue Environment undertook detailed research into possible options for managing Council's organic waste, with the aim of reducing the amounts of organics being deposited into landfill.
- (d) At the 17 March 2015 Council meeting the following resolution was passed:

"in the 2015/2016 financial year, offer free kitchen caddies and bio-bags to the first 2,000 subscribers to the Organics kerbside service who want them, in line with Scenario 2 of the Blue Environment modelling. The approximate cost of \$15,300 to be referred to the 2015/2016 budget. This should be followed up with a survey of users, as well as random anonymous organics bin audits in October 2015 to assess the performance of the system;"
- (e) The roll out of the kitchen caddies commenced on the 31st of May 2016 and was completed on the 7th of July 2016. All 2,000 kitchen caddies were given out to subscribers of the green organics service. All caddies contained a roll of compostable bags, as well as a flyer explaining how to use the caddy and where to get replacement compostable bags.
- (f) The caddies proved to be quite popular and were taken up at rapid rate. At the time that the last caddy was given away approximately 70% of green organics subscribers had taken a caddy. Many real estate agents who bought subscriptions in bulk did not take caddies. Some subscribers already had home compost, worm farms, chickens etc. and so did not take a caddy. Some subscribers were not interested.
- (g) So far there has been good feedback about the caddies, with residents enjoying having an option to responsibly dispose of their food scraps to compost, rather than landfill.
- (h) Prior to the distribution of the caddies a random audit was taken of 100 rubbish, 100 recycling and 30 organics bins. The results of the audit were reported to the April Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee (ESSC) meeting. A survey was also undertaken. The results of the survey were reported to the June ESSC meeting. An audit and a survey will also be conducted after the 12 month trial.

Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:

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

Cr Richardson seconded

Carried

4. ENVIRONMENTAL Sustainability Report No. 4/2016 – Environmental Management – Environmental Waste Management and Education Program – Recycle Right Bin Tagging - Ref. AF11/408

Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:

- (a) **Environmental Sustainability Report No. 4/2016 be received;**

- (b) **Council continue the Bin Tagging Program and provide incentives for improving the recycling behaviour of participating households; including 10 gift vouchers worth \$20.00 each;**
- (c) **Council continue to enhance the waste and recycling education strategy through continued promotional material and increased local media activity.**

Cr Mezinec seconded

Carried

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – Environmental Waste Management and Education Program – Oatmill Cinema Advertising - Ref. AF11/408

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) The City of Mount Gambier has a strong history of environmental sustainability initiatives aimed at improving the natural environment we live in now and into the future. Since adopting the Natural Step Framework in 2008 Council has maintained its focus on working towards reducing and eliminating waste to landfill and improving reuse and recycling behaviour amongst its residents.
- (b) Behaviour change is an important step towards achieving a sustainable society and education is a key step to realizing this. As part of the education and engagement strategy within the City of Mount Gambier, a variety of written and visual materials have been used in the past. Posters; pamphlets; stickers; magnets; media releases; presentations; bin audits; bin tagging; and videos are all examples of Council's commitment to understanding and improving upon the education and attitudes of the community in relation to waste and recycling.
- (c) In order to add value to the continuous improvement of waste and recycling outcomes the education and engagement strategy is being expanded, with the creation of a year long advertising campaign to begin shortly at the Oatmill cinema.
- (d) The advertisement will be made using the services of Big Screen Advertising and aims to highlight the four major groups of recyclable products including facts relating to the energy and resources saved when recycling correctly. Information about councils' recycling services and links to the website will also be included to create greater exposure for the educational materials already produced.
- (e) The project will include the production of the advertisement; photo shoot; 30 second advertisement (for the price of 15 seconds); screening across all 3 Oatmill Cinema screens over a 12 month period; for a total cost of \$8,996 excluding G.S.T. With 3 screens and approximately 35 sessions a week, this means there will be approximately 5,460 adverts over the course of the campaign, which equates to \$1.65 per advert screening. The cost of this project will be funded internally from the Environmental Sustainability Initiatives budget.
- (f) Using the local cinema will provide the Council with an opportunity to engage the community in another forum, in a cost effective way. With a wide range of audiences this advertisement has the potential to influence and improve waste and recycling knowledge and enhance the image of Council simultaneously.

Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:

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

Cr Mezinec seconded

Carried

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – Environmental Sustainability Initiatives – Sustainability Innovation Fund - Ref. AF11/407

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) As part of Council's commitment to ongoing learning and continued improvement in the area of environmental sustainability within the community, the establishment of an Environmental Sustainability Innovation Fund was proposed in the Environmental Sustainability Report No. 1/2016.
- (b) With the possibility of a wide range of sustainability topics covered, the Environmental Sustainability Innovation Fund was proposed in order to demonstrate Council's active role in establishing Mount Gambier as a national leader in small scale environmental sustainability innovation. Additionally, the fund aims to encourage creativity and exploration of ideas within the local community; enhance the resilience of the City and increase skills, capacity and knowledge within the community. This would be achieved through grant recipients' commitment to actively share their learning's, information and knowledge with the wider community at no cost.
- (c) Following the adoption of the 2016-2017 budget, \$20,000 is available for the creation of this fund as a trial. This fund is proposed to be a merit-based grants program which means the applications must rate highly against the merit criteria.
- (d) The recommended course of action is:
 1. Environmental Sustainability Officers create a grant application form (online and hard copy) for individuals or groups residing in the City to fill out;
 2. Promotional material be created and disseminated amongst the community;
 3. Applications to be submitted to Council by Friday, October 21st 2016;
 4. Environmental Sustainability Officers to present the applications and recommend allocation of funds to the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee on Tuesday, 1st November 2016. The maximum amount of any grant available is \$5000;
 5. Following approval of funding by Council, successful applicants be notified;
 6. Applicants must undertake project within six (6) months of approval of grant;
 7. The successful applicants must submit to Council, an invoice or receipt of payment for the completed project, prior to the grant being issued, where reasonable to do so;
 8. As part of receiving the grant, Environmental Sustainability Officers will make arrangements to release the information learnt and data collected from successful applicants.

Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:

- (a) **The report be received;**
- (b) **Council endorse the activation of the Environmental Sustainability Innovation Fund and in accordance with the recommendation actions in this report.**

Cr Richardson seconded

Carried

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

The Presiding Member reported:

(a) Environmental Sustainability Program 2016 - Project Progress

The current table outlining projects for 2016 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.**

Mayor Lee seconded

Carried

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Nil

The meeting closed at 7:55 a.m.

2 August 2016
AF12/377
SM

CONFIRMED THIS

DAY OF

2016.

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PRESIDING MEMBER