

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 at 7:30 a.m.

### MINUTES

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

COUNCIL OFFICERS: Daryl Sexton, Director - Operational Services  
Michael McCarthy, Manager, Governance & Property  
Aaron Izzard, Environmental Sustainability Officer  
Sarah Moretti, Administration Officer - Operational Services

APOLOGIES: Cr Von Stanke moved the apology received from Cr D Mutton be accepted.

Cr Mezinec seconded Carried

### 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 Von Stanke moved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 be taken as read and confirmed.

Cr Mezinec seconded Carried

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

### **1. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS - Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) Liaison - Direct Action Plan - Ref. AF11/950**

*Goal: Environment*

*Strategic Objective: (i) Systematically build Council as an environmentally sustainable organisation  
(ii) Plan and implement infrastructure to protect and enhance the natural and built environment, including in response to climate change influences*

The Presiding Member reported:

(a) The "Direct Action Plan" is the Federal Government's policy for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with human influenced global warming. The LGA recently commissioned Australian Integrated Carbon Financial Services to review the Direct Action Plan in order to provide guidance to local government on how it may relate to councils. For more information and a copy of the document refer to LGA circular 43.7 <http://www.lga.sa.gov.au/page.aspx?c=65893>;

(b) Central to the Direct Action Plan is the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF). The ERF is a reverse auction process where the Federal Government pay the lowest price they can for carbon emissions abatement. The government pay per Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU). One ACCU is equivalent to 1 tonne of CO2 emissions. The average price paid per ACCU in the first round of auctions was \$13.95. The minimum volume of ACCUs that

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a seller needs to offer is 2,000 ACCUs per year – that's 2,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per year. At the above price that would equate to \$27,900 per year.

- (c) Under the ERF numerous audit reports and other paperwork would be required over the life of a project, which may include engaging an independent carbon auditor. This could cost anywhere from \$2k to \$40k with each potential project and it should seriously be considered whether the potential funding is worth that effort and cost or not.
- (d) Activities that Council may undertake that could possibly be eligible under the ERF include:
- Source separating organic waste – e.g. a universal organics bin with kitchen caddies.
  - Energy efficiency upgrades of Council facilities.
  - Putting a biofilter on Caroline Landfill.
  - Changing street lighting to LEDs. Street lights are by far Council's biggest electricity consumer. In 2013-2014 they used 1,276,152 kWh. The Main Corner was Council's next biggest consumer at 317,953 kWh. GHG emissions from street lights in 2013-2014 would have been approximately 778 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e. (Street lights are not owned by Council)
- (e) The City of Mount Gambier's total emissions in 2013-2014 was 8,135 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e – 6,818 tonnes of that was from the landfill.

Given this relatively small volume of GHG emissions, it is highly unlikely that any project, or combination of projects, Council would undertake would reach the minimum of 2,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per year.

- (f) The LGA, LCLGA or some other organisation, could play a role in aggregating smaller projects across councils – in order to get economies of scale, meet the minimum requirements, as well as look after all the reporting and auditing requirements. If there was an opportunity to aggregate projects with other councils then the City of Mount Gambier could possibly contribute projects towards that, and then be able to get access to this funding.

**Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:**

- (a) **The report be received;**
- (b) **Council write to the LGA thanking them for commission the review of the Federal Government's Direct Action Plan, and request that they consider playing a role in aggregating projects across Councils for consideration under the Emissions Reduction Fund.**

**Cr Mezinec seconded**

**Carried**

**2. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Expression of Interest - Salvage Yard - 3 Eucalypt Drive, Mount Gambier - 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) A formal Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) process has been conducted seeking business models and interest in the operation of a salvage yard at Council's Eucalypt Drive site;

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- (b) the REOI was advertised in The Border Watch, Council website and SA Tender website;
- (c) one (1) formal submission was received by the closing date of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015;
- (d) the one (1) submission did not present a 'business model' nor provide any supporting commentary / detail on the proposed salvage business, and accordingly did not meet the REOI minimum requirements;
- (e) notwithstanding the outcome of the formal REOI process, several other prospective proponents are still expressing a level of interest in pursuing a future opportunity for the operation of a salvage yard at the site;
- (f) having tested the market in a formal sense, it is proposed that the formal REOI process be abandoned, and that future activity toward securing a salvage yard operator be targeted negotiations with specific waste industry participants or organisations with suitable resourcing and experience that would support the operation of a salvage yard.

**Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:**

- (a) The report be received and contents noted;**
- (b) the formal Request for Expression of Interest process be abandoned, and the single respondent be notified accordingly;**
- (c) the Chief Executive Officer be authorized to negotiate with targeted waste industry participants and other organisations with resourcing and experience considered suitable for the operation of a salvage yard in conjunction with the Eucalypt Drive Waste Transfer Station;**
- (d) a further report be presented to Council to consider any salvage yard or similar business proposal arising from the negotiations authorized in resolution (c).**

**Cr Mezinec seconded**

**Carried**

**3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Solar Photovoltaic Systems Maintenance - Library Solar Update - Ref. AF15/319**

*Goal: Environment*

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

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) The solar power system on the roof of the Library was switched on in May 2015. Since that time the system has produced 25,574 kWh of electricity (at the time of writing this report). This is equivalent to powering an average sized home for over 4 years;
- (b) at times the system is producing all of the Library's electricity, as indicated in the graph below;



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(c) the reduction on last year's electricity use by month is below:

- October 36.5% reduction
- September 25.5% reduction
- August 17.9% reduction
- July 15.4% reduction
- June 11.3% reduction

As expected, the percentage is increasing as the weather becomes sunnier.

**Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:**

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

**Cr Mezinec seconded**

**Carried**

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

The 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 Mezinec moved it be recommended:**

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

**(b) item (a) as above be received and noted for information.**

**Cr Von Stanke seconded**

**Carried**

**MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Nil**

The meeting closed at 7:51 a.m.

CONFIRMED THIS

DAY OF

2015.

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PRESIDING MEMBER