

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 24th February 2015 at 7:30 a.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Crs D Mutton, S Meziniec and P Richardson

COUNCIL OFFICERS: Daryl Sexton, Director - Operational Services
Aaron Izzard, Environmental Sustainability Officer
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.

The Director - Operational Services took the Chair for the following business:

1. **GOVERNANCE - Committees - Election of Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Presiding Member - Ref. AF11/858**

Goal: Governance
Strategic Objective: (i) Demonstrate innovative and responsible organisational governance

The Director - Operational Services reported:

- (a) Council, at its meeting of Tuesday, 27th January 2015 endorsed the continuation of the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee under their existing Terms of Reference;
- (b) Terms of Reference 5.3 states "The Sub-Committee will appoint a Presiding Member". It is suggested that the Sub-Committee appoint the Presiding Member using the same process recently adopted for its two (2) Standing Committees and as set out in the following parts;
- (c) the term of office for the position of Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Presiding Member be one (1) year commencing 24th February 2015;
- (d) the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee determines that the method of choosing a Presiding Member be by an election process undertaken by secret ballot;
- (e) the successful candidate will be the candidate with the highest number of votes;
- (f) where two or more candidates have an equal number of votes one of those candidates will be determined as successful from a drawing of lots by the Returning Officer;
- (g) the Director - Operational Services be appointed the Returning Officer for the election;
- (h) upon the completion of the election, the Returning Officer be authorised to declare the successful candidate elected to the position of the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Presiding Member;
- (i) upon declaration of the Returning Officer the candidate be appointed to the position of Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Presiding Member for the term of office determined by this resolution.

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Cr Meziniec moved it be recommended:

- (a) **The report be received;**
- (b) **the above process to appoint the Presiding Member for the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee be adopted.**

Cr Mutton seconded

Carried

2. GOVERNANCE - Committees - Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee - Call for Nominations - Ref. AF11/858

Goal: Governance
Strategic Objective: (i) Demonstrate innovative and responsible organisational governance

- (a) The Director - Operational Services called for nominations for the position of Presiding Member for the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee;
- (b) The following nominations were received:
 - 1. Cr Meziniec nominated Cr Richardson to be Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Presiding Member.

The Returning Officer declared Cr Richardson be elected to the position of Presiding Member for the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee.

Cr Richardson took the Chair for the following business:

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

Cr Meziniec seconded **Carried**

MINUTES: Cr Meziniec moved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday, 24th June 2014 be taken as read and confirmed.

Cr Mutton seconded **Carried**

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

3. GOVERNANCE - Scheduling of Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee Meetings - 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 deliver and performance

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) Previously the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee met on the last Tuesday of each month, commencing at 7:30 a.m., in the Operational Services Conference Room;

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- (b) the Committee is requested to consider the scheduling of meetings (i.e. would Members like to keep it the same, change it to one week before the Operational Services Committee meeting, or some other regular date and time).

Cr Mezinec moved it be recommended:

- (a) **The report be received;**
- (b) **The Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee to meet at 7:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.**

Cr Mutton seconded

Carried

4. 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 Presiding Member reported:

- (a) Council, at its meeting of Tuesday, 27th January 2015 resolved as follows:

"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 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 Terms of Reference will be reviewed by Council or the Operational Services Committee before the above date (copy of the existing Terms of Reference was attached to the agenda for Members information).

Cr Mutton moved it be recommended:

- (a) **The report be received;**
- (c) **the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee be reviewed by Council or the Operational Services Committee prior to 31st August 2015.**

Cr Mezinec seconded

Carried

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Organic Waste Modelling and Advice - Future Options - Ref. AF14/93

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

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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) Organic waste poses several risks including; causing environmental pollution at Caroline Landfill in the form of leachate and landfill gas, reducing the life of the landfill, potentially wasting funds, and wasting resources - organic material can be composted and reused, and potentially exposing Council to a future price on carbon via the landfill;
- (b) at the Council meeting held on 18th February 2014, Council resolved to commission Blue Environment for the provision of organic waste modelling and advice. The purpose of the project was to undertake expert modelling of future organic waste volumes going to Caroline Landfill, and provide advice as to how Council should manage its organic material into the future;
- (c) the results of the modelling and advice have been used to inform the report (attached to the agenda) on possible future options for managing Council's organic waste.

Cr Mutton moved it be recommended:

- (a) The report be received;**
- (b) starting in 2015, undertake an ongoing educational campaign to let residents know that they can put food scraps in their organics bin, and can also process it through on-site solutions like home compost or worm farms. A "bulk buy" arrangement for compost bins and worm farms should also be explored;**
- (c) also in 2015, conduct a survey of Mount Gambier residents on attitudes and practices in relation to how they manage organic waste;**
- (d) 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) review the results of the above roll out of kitchen caddies and bio-bags, with a view to establishing a universal organics system, in line with Scenario 5 of the Blue Environment modelling. A possible interim step could be giving kitchen caddies to the remaining organics subscribers in in the 2016/2017 financial year. If the roll out progresses, an Implementation Plan should be formulated.**

Cr Mezinec seconded

Carried

6. **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*

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- 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) 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;
- (b) 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;
- (c) in order to understand the volumes of this material, and where it is coming from, an audit will be undertaken at the landfill from 13th-24th April 2015. Some initial work has already taken place, to focus the audit on getting the desired information;
- (d) a contractor will be based at Caroline Landfill for the two (2) week period and assess every load of material being deposited. Each load will be 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 will also be made for each load (e.g. percentages of Municipal Solid Waste, Construction & Demolition etc.) - as recommended by the Blue Environment report;
- (e) the audit will ascertain not just which contractor has brought in each load, but also where the waste originates from;
- (f) this information will be used to work with contractors and their clients to reduce contamination at the landfill.

Cr Mezinec moved it be recommended:

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

Cr Mutton seconded

Carried

7. GOVERNANCE - Environmental Sustainability Program - Benefits, Achievements and Future Directions - Ref. AF12/377

- 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

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The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) In the report (attached to the agenda) the benefits, achievements and future directions of Council's Environmental Sustainability Program are highlighted. The program not only results in a net financial gain to Council, but also has many environmental and community benefits;
- (b) high priority projects for 2015 include:
 - ongoing waste management (including organics), and further development of the next steps from the 2014 Blue Environment report (attached to the agenda);
 - establishment of a Materials Recovery Facility (salvage yard) in Eucalypt Drive;
 - Caroline Landfill waste mapping - to complement the work being undertaken by SELGA at a regional level.
- (c) given the complexities of these projects they may extend beyond 2015;
- (d) smaller projects such as environmental events, community education etc. will continue to be undertaken.

Cr Mutton moved it be recommended:

- (a) The report be received;**
- (b) Council endorse the high priority environmental sustainability projects for 2015, as follows:**
 - 1. further development of the next steps from the 2014 Blue Environment report;**
 - 2. establishment of a Materials Recovery Facility in Eucalypt Drive;**
 - 3. Caroline Landfill waste mapping.**

Cr Meziniec seconded

Carried

8. 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) Council staff have assisted Zero Waste SA in organising a specialist seminar for the region on the topic of biogas. The Biogas Basics Seminar will be presented by Dr Jayant Keskar of CRC CARE. Dr Keskar is an expert in the field of biogas with more than 22 years' experience in biotechnology, anaerobic digestion and renewable energy;
- (b) many industries in the South East produce organic waste that they need to manage. It is possible these materials can be used to produce biogas that in turn can generate electricity or directly provide heating;

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- (c) the South East region has been identified as having up to 5 million tonnes of accessible biomass waste annually (non-forestry). Approximately 2.5 million tonnes could potentially be up-valued and turned from waste into energy or secondary products such as bio-fertiliser;
- (d) the seminar will be held on Friday 6th March 2015 from 9.00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the Dress Circle of the Main Corner Complex.

Cr Mezinec moved it be recommended:

- (a) **The report be received;**
- (b) **the Presiding Member of the Environmental Sustainability Committee and the Environmental Sustainability Officer attend the 6th March 2015 Biogas Basics seminar on behalf of Council.**

Cr Mutton seconded

Carried

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

Pursuant to Division 3 - Conflict of Interest, Sections 73 and 74 Part 4 of the Local Government Act 1999, Cr Mutton disclosed an interest in Item 9 (due to his grandson working for Quark Consulting).

Goal: Environment

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

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) Following on from the Renewable Energy Options Investigation conducted in 2014, and the successful installation of a solar system on the roof of the Library, Council has the opportunity to conduct an assessment of its other major facilities for their suitability for solar power;
- (b) the aims of this project are to reduce long term electricity costs for Council, reduce susceptibility to rising electricity prices, reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions, increase Council's support for and uptake of local renewable energy, and set an example to the local community;
- (c) reducing Council's greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing Council's support for and uptake of local renewable energy is in line with Council's commitment to the Natural Step Framework;
- (d) Council has received three quotes for the assessment of five major sites for their potential for solar power. The prices of the quotes are listed below:
 - Quark Consulting \$10,233
 - Intero Energy Systems \$15,000
 - Sunwiz \$2,500
- (e) the quote from Quark Consulting at \$10,233 is able to be funded from the 2014-2015 Environmental Sustainability budget. It is noted that the Sunwiz proposal is cheaper but did not include site visits or other elements such as costing structures, compliance analysis and onsite reporting. Also, Quark Consulting can provide project management services should any of the sites progress to the installation stage.

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The meeting determined as Cr Mutton had disclosed a Conflict of Interest in Item 9 that there would no longer be a quorum to continue discussion on the Item; therefore Item 9 was not considered and the matter is now referred to the Operational Services Committee.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Programme Management - Fruit and Nut Tree Expressions of Interest - 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 Presiding Member reported:

- (a) In 2013 and 2014 Council released an Expression of Interest (EOI) to plant fruit trees in Council reserves in conjunction with local residents. Fruit trees have been planted in reserves in Conroe Drive/North Terrace, Pettingill Lane and Dawn Court. Feedback from residents involved in the process has been positive. The majority of trees are doing well, with some already producing fruit;
- (b) given the success of the program so far it is recommended that Council continue the program. The City of Mount Gambier could again put out a competitive EOI to the community for fruit and nut tree plantings. Instead of defining the amount of plants, the EOI could set a limit of \$500 worth of edible plants. This EOI would encourage people in their neighbourhood to get together and agree to maintain the plants, and would apply only to plantings in a reserve (at least 10 metres away from utilities infrastructure and houses);
- (c) The intended outcomes of the project are:
 - promotion of local food production;
 - encourages community interaction and community ownership;
 - gauges community interest for edible plantings in public spaces;
 - contributes to local food security.

Cr Mezinec moved it be recommended:

- (a) **The report be received;**
- (b) **Council release a competitive Expression of Interest to the community for the planting of \$500 worth of edible plants in a Council reserve, at least 10 metres away from utilities infrastructure and houses, in line with the program as contained in this report.**

Cr Mutton seconded

Carried

11. 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.*

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The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) The City of Mount Gambier has participated in Earth Hour for the past four (4) years. Earth Hour 2015 will be held on Saturday, 28th March 2015 between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Earth Hour is an initiative that started in Sydney in 2007 in response to human influenced global warming;
- (b) this year, Earth Hour Australia will focus on celebrating and committing to protect our great Australian food and farmers. Australian farms are on the frontline of global warming: already experiencing rising temperatures and more extreme weather;
- (c) it is proposed that Council again participate in Earth Hour for 2015. In previous years Council turned off the external lights at Main Corner, City Hall, Vansittart Park, the Library, the Centenary Tower and the Lady Nelson Brig for one hour. In addition, the Library ran an Earth Hour theme for their story time sessions and made 'Earth Hour' candles during craft time. It is proposed to do the same this year.

Cr Mezinec moved it be recommended:

- (a) **The report be received;**
- (b) **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 March 2015.**

Cr Mutton seconded

Carried

12. COMMUNITY RELATIONS - Mount Gambier: Edible City - Ref. AF15/118

Goal: Learning
Strategic Objective: (i) Council support opportunities for the community to strengthen relationships with families, friends and extended networks to as to promote and extend the learning of life skills

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) One of the programs formerly run by the Opal program was "Plant Your Own Fresh Snack". This involved finding mentors to work with Housing Trust tenants in growing food in their backyards. Prior to Opal ceasing, \$5,000 was transferred to Council to continue the program in some form. It is recommended that Council partner with other organisations to expand this concept of growing food locally to a much broader section of the community;
- (b) it is proposed to run a series of workshops focused on the various aspects of home food production - from the basics through to more involved topics. The workshops could be held at a variety of locations in order to enable access from all sections of Mount Gambier. Visits to established gardens and local farms could also be organised through the program – so people can see what success looks like, and speak with the gardeners and farmers directly. More detail about the concept is contained in the report (attached to the agenda).

Cr Richardson moved it be recommended:

- (a) **The report be received;**
- (b) **Council endorse using the \$5,000 transferred from Opal to Council for the Mount Gambier: Edible City program. Any funds not spent in the 2014-2015 financial are to be carried over to the 2015-2016 financial year.**

Cr Mezinec seconded

Carried

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

The Environmental Sustainability Officer reported:

(a) Clean Up Australia Day

- At the Council meeting held on 15 April 2014 Council resolved:

“Council continue to support this national environmental conservation event in future years (in the same capacity as 2014)”.
- As such, Council staff are again coordinating participation in Clean Up Australia Day 2015. This coordination involves contacting schools, community groups, past participants and the general public and inviting them to take part in either the school clean up day (Friday, 27th February 2015) or general clean up day (Sunday, 1st March 2015).

(b) Park & Stride

- The program was launched in November 2014. Since that time and the writing of this report there have been 270 Facebook page likes, 132 Surveys completed, and thousands of Facebook ‘Post Reach’.
- In the week containing Australia Day (23rd January 2015 and 30th January 2015) a Park & Stride display was put up in the Library. Park & Stride show bags were given away as part of the display. During that week 7,040 people visited the Library and were exposed to the Park & Stride message. All 50 show bags were distributed to visitors, high demand meant they went very quickly.
- Thousands of people have also been reached through advertising in the Border Watch, 5SE and Star FM.
- Some initial findings from the Park & Stride survey so far include:
 - In terms of attitude - Only 12% of people said they park as close as they possibly can to each shop, preferably directly outside. So 88% of people do not.
 - In terms of behaviour – Only 9% of people who used a car for their most recent shopping trip parked directly outside of the shop they were visiting. So 91% of people did not.
 - 65% of people believe there is enough car parking in the centre of Mount Gambier.
 - 97% of people believe it is better for your health to park and walk for small shopping trips rather than drive from shop to shop.
 - 96% of people believe more pedestrians would improve the vibrancy and appeal of the city centre, as opposed to more cars.
 - 93% of people support the idea of a shared walking and cycling path being installed along the length of the unused rail line across Mount Gambier.
- Most people in Mount Gambier seem to think that most people drive from shop to shop, but in actual fact most people do not - the vast majority of people park and walk.

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(c) Bin Tagging

- 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. In Naracoorte recently bin tagging lead to a 55% reduction in recycling bin contamination, and a 65% reduction in waste bin contamination.
- Dependant on the results of this initial round of bin tagging, this program could be used over time to reduce contamination across the town. The initial round will include some city businesses, as well as residences in the vicinity. Staff are starting with this area in order to collect some data about businesses' bin use, but future rounds can be done in other areas across the town.

(d) Aquatic Centre Energy Audit

- 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.
- The audit is due to be completed in the first half of March 2015. It is anticipated that the auditors will make recommendations for improving the efficiency of the facility, leading to long term reductions in electricity costs.

(e) Environmental Sustainability Program 2015 - Project Progress

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

Cr Mezinec moved it be recommended:

(a) The report be received;

(b) items (a) to (e) as above be received and noted for information.

Cr Mutton seconded

Carried

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Nil

The meeting closed at 8:36 a.m.

24 February 2015
AF12/377
SM