

# Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee

## Minutes



**Date:** Wednesday 18 July 2018

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Venue:** Candlebark Meeting Rooms, Nillumbik Council Office, Civic Drive Greensborough

**Chair:** Cr Grant Brooker

**Minute taker:** Joseph Emmanuel

### 1. Present

Present: Cr Grant Brooker, Lisa Pittle, Joseph Emmanuel, Alan Thatcher, John Huff, David Turner, Tom Fisher, Areej Hahsmi-Weyman

Apologies: Cr Jane Ashton, Kate Tancredi, Narelle Campbell, Stephen Hadley

### 2. Recognition of Wurundjeri

Nillumbik Shire Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the traditional custodians of the land now known as the Shire of Nillumbik and values the significance of the Wurundjeri people's history as essential to the unique character of the Shire

### 3. Conflict of interest

Standing conflict of interest in relation to status of documents made available to ESAC members. The documents are public unless they are marked 'not public information'.

### 4. Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18 April 2018 were confirmed by John Huff and seconded by Alan Thatcher.

### 5. Follow up on action items

An update on a number of ESAC action items (see attached) was provided including:

- Green Wedge Management Plan Community Panel process and spreadsheet with existing GWMP actions
- Map of the Shire zones A3 format
- Small vacant lot review
- Update on Biodiversity Strategy actions

### 6. Green Wedge Management Plan discussion

*Environmental Significance Overlay*

Discussion on the current status of the ESO. The existing GWMP recommended a review of the ESO which was the subject of amendment C101. The existing ESO applies following the abandonment of Planning Scheme Amendment C101 in 2016.

A potential outcome of the GWMP review process may be a recommendation to review the ESO.

#### *Community Panel Process*

Discussion on the Community Panel process, how it was actually going to work, how information is conveyed to the Panel by speakers, what access observers have to the Panel process.

#### *CERAPs*

Discussion on including reference to the Community Environment Recovery Action Plans in the Background Document for the Community Panel

**ACTION:** Lisa Pittle to circulate document reporting progress of high and medium priority actions from the GWMP.

## **7. Feedback on ESAC priorities (40 min)**

### **a. Energy/Climate Change**

David provided a presentation on the various types of community and council energy related projects in Australia. See attachment 1.

Powerpoint presentation sent separately 5/9/2018.

The presentation highlighted different categories of projects with a increasing level of involvement by councils. Eg, Positive Charge is a program of the Moreland Energy Foundation.

What is the relationship between action and results, eg what is the baseline measure for uptake of residential solar in Nillumbik, this can be tracked as a measure of impact of education or subsidy initiatives.

Key questions in relation to council investment:

- What do you want to achieve?
- Who benefits from the project?

**ACTION** David to review the existing CCAP and categorise existing actions.

### **b. Biodiversity**

The list of actions in the Nillumbik Biodiversity Strategy was circulated with update comments for 2018 provided. Discussion and feedback to be provided at the next ESAC meeting.

### **c. Green Wedge Management Plan**

Discussed as part of agenda item 6.

The actions arising from the ESAC GWMP Sub Committee 3 June 2018 (attachment to the ESAC 18 July 2018 meeting agenda) were reviewed and the outstanding actions are:

- Provision of one observer seat for ESAC members at the GWMP Community Panel
- Explanation of the process of report to council and minority reports from the Panel
- Alan flagged the Small Vacant Lot issue in relation to the work of the Community Panel

**d. Sustainable Water Management**

Information on sports grounds and use of non potable water for irrigation to be provided.

**8. Opportunity to share information about community environment and sustainability initiatives**

Short discussion on Melbourne Water proposed land sales in Christmas Hills – MW consultation process closed. Nillumbik provided a submission which includes community feedback.

**9. Other business**

*Waste Management*

Discussion on the review of the level of service for kerbside waste collection with 100% ESAC support for retaining the current service capacity and frequency.

*Environment Functional Lead*

Council currently recruiting for this position which would become the main contact for ESAC

**10. Next meeting 5 September 2018 at 7pm. .**

## ACTION PLAN – ESAC

Category	Date Received	Description	Responsible	Date Completed
Water	18/7/2018	Provide a list of sportsfields and where non potable water is used for irrigation	LP	
Biodiversity	07/02/18	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Joseph Emmanuel to circulate priority actions to relevant Council officers seeking a response.</p> <p><b>OUTCOME:</b> Request for a response has been sent and not received to date.</p> <p><b>Follow up action (18/04/18):</b> Joseph Emmanuel followup on request for a response to these priority actions (from the minutes of the 7 February 2018 meeting) from Council Officers.</p> <p><b>Follow up action</b> Biodiversity Strategy actions with updates provided at the ESAC meeting 18 July 2018 provides a response on the status of the ESO and implementation of EN1.3.</p> <p><b>Follow up action</b> The review of the Municipal Strategic Statement will occur as part of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme Review</p>	JE/LP	
Waste Management	18/4/2018	Organise a visit to the SKM Recycling plant at Coolaroo or Laverton	LP	
GWMP	07/2/18	<p><b>ACTION(07/02/18):</b> Joseph Emmanuel to seek a response to recommendation 1 (from the minutes of the 7 February 2018 meeting) from Council Officers.</p> <p><b>OUTCOME:</b> Request for a response has been sent and not received to date.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Joseph Emmanuel followup on request for a response to recommendation 1 (from the minutes of the 7 February 2018 meeting) from Council Officers.</p>	JE	

Category	Date Received	Description	Responsible	Date Completed
Energy and Climate	18/04/18	<p><b>ACTION:</b> the subcommittee to undertake a literature review on projects in Australia and Europe on energy and climate change and how these can be best applied in the Nillumbik Shire.</p> <p><b>Follow up</b> David provided a presentation at the July 2018 meeting</p>	Sub-Committee	
Energy and Climate	06/12/17	<p><b>ACTION:</b> David to forward Ian a list of questions with respect to the Climate Change Action Plan for further investigation.</p>	DT	
Energy and Climate	06/12/17	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Consideration for a member of Clean Energy Nillumbik presenting to the committee or alternatively a member of ESAC attending the upcoming Clean Energy Nillumbik meeting.</p> <p><b>Follow up action</b> Ian Culbard to contact Clean Energy Nillumbik</p>	Sub-Committee	
Sustainable Water Management	18/04/18	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Joseph Emmanuel to circulate priority actions from the Integrated Water Management Strategy to relevant Council officers seeking a response.</p>	JE	
Sustainable Water Management	18/04/18	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Areej Hashmi-Weyman determine the top five priority actions relating to sustainable water management and circulate as an email to the committee members and</p>	AHW	

## COMPLETED ACTIONS – ESAC

Category	Date Received	Description	Responsible	Date Completed
GWMP	07/2/18	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Joseph Emmanuel to circulate a spreadsheet of the high and medium priority actions from the current Greenwedge Management Plan to the committee for evaluation. The sub-committee will undertake the evaluation and report the feedback at the next committee meeting.</p> <p><b>Follow up</b> Spreadsheet circulated 27 August 2018</p>	JE and Sub-Committee	27/8/18
Conflict of Interest	07/02/18	<p><b>ACTION :</b> Joseph Emmanuel to seek advice from Council’s governance department on the status of this potential conflict and how information and materials are to be handled moving forward.</p> <p><b>OUTCOME:</b> Moving forward all materials provided to committee members will be watermarked with the relevant sensitivity status (i.e. normal or confidential). This is intended to provide committee members with confidence as to how the materials can be used and if the information can be distributed to the community.</p>	JE	01/03/18
GWMP	07/02/18	<p><b>ACTION:</b> The GWMP subcommittee are to develop questions / concerns to be provided to Council Officers for consideration as part of the project kick-off meeting with MosaicLab on 16 February.</p> <p><b>OUTCOME:</b> This list of questions was developed and brought to the meeting on 28/03/18 with MosaicLab.</p>	Sub-Committee	28/03/18
GWMP	18/04/18	<p><b>ACTION:</b> The Committee are to determined which two member are to represent ESAC at the Stakeholder Forum. Joseph Emmanuel to report back who the members are.</p> <p><b>OUTCOME:</b> It was unanimously agreed that Alan Thatcher and John Huff would</p>	Sub Committee and JE	18/04/18

Category	Date Received	Description	Responsible	Date Completed
		represent the committee.		
Energy and Climate	07/02/18	<p><b>ACTION(07/02/18):</b> the subcommittee to undertake a literature review on projects around the world relating to energy and climate change.</p> <p><b>OUTCOME:</b> David delivered his literature review on 18 April 2018.</p>	DT	18/04/18

# Australian local government engagement in renewable energy







# Councils use a variety of typology structures concerning renewables

Customers

Education and  
information providers

Facilitators

Innovators and  
participants

Catalysts and  
supporters

Networkers and  
advocates

Customers



Councils purchase of green energy and undertaking energy efficiency measures in order to lead by example.

Banyule Council invested \$4.7 million to replace about 8,000 inefficient 80 watt mercury vapour streetlights with T5 fluorescents. The change brought a 67% reduction in the amount of electricity needed to provide similar illumination to the old lights. This was coupled with the purchasing of \$30,000 of GreenPower for streetlights each year – about 10% of Council's streetlight electricity budget.

<https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/Council/Environment-and-Sustainability/Climate-Change-Action/Street-lights-and-Greenpower>

## Education and information providers



Councils demonstrate good practice as role models by installing small scale solar PV systems and also educate the community by offering information about renewable energy systems.

Seventeen Victorian councils are partnering with Positive Charge, a program of the Moreland Energy Foundation, that provides trustworthy, low cost and up-to-date renewable energy advice, services and products to households, businesses, schools and community groups.

<https://www.positivecharge.com.au/>

## Facilitators



Councils facilitate renewable energy action of the community by co coordinating bulk buy purchases. This usually includes initiatives that endorse and broker relationships to local, trusted reliable solar suppliers that further encourages renewable energy uptake in the local area.

Murrindindi Shire Council partnered with Yarra Energy Foundation to deliver a community solar program. The Dindi Bulk Buy Program offered Shire residents and businesses access to discounted solar products and systems.

<http://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/News-Media/Council-supports-program-for-residents-to-go-solar-with-peace-of-mind>

## Innovators and participants



Councils actively drive and promote renewable energy engagement through innovative programs. In particular, low income households have been targeted via financial incentives.

Over 2000 households accessed Darebin Council's Solar Saver program to install low-cost solar panels. Participants take an interest-free loan from the council to cover the cost of solar panels and installation, with repayments folded into household rates.

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/north/darebin-lowincome-earners-can-get-cheaper-solar-panels/news-story/5a5c760245b0cb88c73f151b9ffdb2fb>

## Catalysts and supporters



Councils catalyse initiatives by offering administrative support, council rooftop space or land as host sites and provide funding to conduct feasibility studies.

Wodonga residents can benefit from a local community-developer solar farm under a proposal being developed by Wodonga council. One of the models is a reasonably large solar farm built by a private developer, with the community able to either invest in it or gain some additional benefit. They can choose to purchase a number of panels to offset their energy use at home or receive a return.

<https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/5027346/business-case-for-large-scale-wodonga-solar-farm-to-be-released/>

## Networkers and advocates



Councils collaborate and network with different stakeholders including other councils to strengthen their capacities and advocate for institutional changes or new policy schemes. Support for energy market reforms to better accommodate bottom up renewable energy initiatives directly address some of the major barriers that currently exist for renewable deployment.

Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) have partnered with the Indigo Council to deliver Australia's first commercially operating community mini grid in the North East Victoria. The creation of an electricity trading platform allows members to trade electricity with one another and allow the mini grid to function as a unified energy system: able to generate, store and distribute renewable electricity.

<http://bze.org.au/podcast-technology20171205simon-corbell-victorian-renewable-energy-advocate/>