

MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABLE FUTURES COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 29 November 2017
Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4:00pm

The following members were present:

Clr Kaye Gartner - Chairperson
Clr Patricia White – left 6.15pm
Clr Levett
Clr Kitchener – left 6.17pm
Mr Russ Pigg - General Manager
Mr David Brawn
Mr Oisin Sweeney
Mr Robert Hayward
Mr Peter McVay
Ms Lorraine Larri

Others present:

Craig Milburn – Director Finance Corporate and Community Services – left 6.15pm
Phil Costello – Director Planning Environment and Development
Carmel Krogh – Director Shoalhaven Water
Jessica Rippon – Communications Executive Manager
Michael Smith – Environmental Planning and Assessment Team Leader
Richard Birdsey – OEH
Glen Conway – Wollongong GHD
Stuart Clark - GHD
Daniel Jones – Repower Shoalhaven

The meeting was opened by an Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians by the Chairperson.

Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was received from Clr Cheyne.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Minutes of the Sustainable Futures Committee held on Thursday 12 October 2017 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Note: Carmel Krogh – Director Shoalhaven Water provided a verbal update on the project and resource. Council has engaged a part time resource (3 days per week) who was made redundant from TAFE. They will be commencing in January 2018. The project of looking at accounts has been put on hold until the resource commences.

Declarations of Interest

Nil

PRESENTATIONS

SF17.28 Renewable Energies - Glen Conway Principal Engineer - Wollongong GHD

HPERM Ref:
D17/230208

Glen Conway has recently joined the Wollongong team (GHD) as a Principal Engineer in the field of renewable energies. Glen has experience in technology assessment, planning and delivering utility scale renewable energy technologies including solar PV, wind and biomass/biogas and also technologies that enable renewable technology such as energy storage. Glen is a technical advisor to the Federal Government (ARENA) and has advised on battery energy storage, hydrogen, solar PV, bioenergy and biofuels. Of particular interest is work that Glen has recently performed on integrating battery energy storage into on-grid and off-grid applications. Whilst battery technology costs are falling, the applications of batteries and solar PV can offer industrial customers and government agencies improved power quality and reliability as well as potential to optimise utilisation of renewable resources e.g. solar PV. Locally Glen is also assisting a high school assess the potential to install solar PV to reduce long term energy costs. Glen would be happy to discuss opportunities for the council relating to its own requirements or opportunities in the broader Shoalhaven community.

SF17.20 Daniel Jones - Repower Shoalhaven

HPERM Ref:
D17/248868

Note: Clr Findley arrived, the time being 4.35pm.

Mr Daniel Jones from Repower Shoalhaven provided a presentation on Pump to Pump Hydro to the Sustainable Futures Committee.

SF17.34 OEH Briefing - Sustainability Advantage Program

HPERM Ref:
D17/394336

A presentation by Richard Birdsey from OEH on Sustainability Advantage Program, a program that can assist at a number of levels, in particular:

- *Developing a council wide action plan to implement the CPP including setting goals, targets and deliverables*
- *Engaging staff and stakeholders to support and implement the plan (behaviour and mindset change)*
- *Identifying opportunities to integrate sustainable and low carbon transport alternatives into existing transport networks*
- *Networking council staff with people in other councils who are implementing similar programs*

(e.g. we are working with Parkes Council to help build a water treatment plant to ISCAR standards).

Mr Richard Birdsey provided examples of work he had done with other Councils such as climate change adaptations.

The membership structure is one level and one standard fee of \$4,000.

It was advised that the bronze, silver, gold and platinum levels are part of the recognition program. Shoalhaven City Council was a member a long time ago and this will be investigated as to how long ago and whether we are still considered a member.

The advice that Mr Richard Birdsey provided was to implement into what we already do and within the framework to get it in to daily plans.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That

1. The Sustainable Futures Committee receive report for information.
2. A working group be formed, consisting of Bob Hayward, Peter McVay, Cllr Gartner, Cllr White, Craig Milburn, to discuss if Sustainability Advantage Program is something the Sustainable Futures Committee want to be part of going forward
3. The working group meet with Richard Birdsey by the end of January 2018 to discuss

CARRIED

REPORTS

SF17.29 Terms of Reference Clarification - Purpose

HPERM Ref:
D17/356866

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Sustainable Futures Committee receive the report – Terms of Reference Clarification - Purpose for information.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Sustainable Futures Committee receive the report – Terms of Reference Clarification - Purpose for information.

CARRIED

SF17.26 Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

HPERM Ref:
D17/325038

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Sustainable Futures Committee discuss the invitation to join the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Sustainable Futures Committee receive the report - Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy for information and reconsider joining in 12months time.

CARRIED

SF17.30 Nature-based solutions - urban ecology - options for Implementation

HPERM Ref: D17/383454

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Committee

1. Undertake a selected audit of the urban tree canopy to help Council understand the economic and other values trees provide to the communities of the Shoalhaven; and
2. Invite Sutherland Shire Council to present their award winning model for bringing back an indigenous tree canopy with a view to implementing such a model in the Shoalhaven; and
3. Establish an internal working group with representatives from Environmental Services, Recreation Community & Culture, City Design Unit and Strategic Planning to investigate options for amendments to the DCP to incorporate the practical retention of remnant vegetation generally and specifically in urban release areas.

Note: The Committee thanked Kelie Clarke and Michael Smith on getting the report together in the time frame.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Committee

1. Invite Sutherland Shire Council to present their award winning model for bringing back an indigenous tree canopy with a view to implementing such a model in the Shoalhaven; and
2. Undertake a selected audit of the urban tree canopy to help Council understand the economic and other values trees provide to the communities of the Shoalhaven; and
3. Establish an internal working group with representatives from Environmental Services, Recreation Community & Culture, City Design Unit and Strategic Planning to investigate options for amendments to the DCP to incorporate the practical retention of remnant vegetation generally and specifically in urban release areas and report and liaise with the Committee.

CARRIED

SF17.31 Draft Shoalhaven City Council Sustainable Futures Committee Strategy Outcomes Hierarchy

HPERM Ref: D17/387303

Recommendation

That

1. The Sustainable Futures Committee accept the Draft Outcomes Hierarchy as a way of describing its strategy and use it as a point of reference for discussions within Shoalhaven City Council and externally with the broader Shoalhaven Community.
2. The Sustainable Futures Committee continue to update the draft as a result of engagement with the community or significant policy changes by federal or state governments impacting on the future of sustainable business practices.
3. A budget be considered and allocated by council with sufficient resources to support strategies that link with the achievement of agreed short-term and intermediate outcomes. Funding should be considered on a business case with offsets from unsustainable activities of council factored into the decision.

Note: The Sustainable Futures Committee thanked Lorraine Larri for her work on the report and presentation.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That

1. The Sustainable Futures Committee accept the Draft Outcomes Hierarchy as a way of describing its strategy and use it as a point of reference for discussions within Shoalhaven City Council and externally with the broader Shoalhaven Community.
2. The Sustainable Futures Committee continue to update the draft as a result of engagement with the community or significant policy changes by federal or state governments impacting on the future of sustainable business practices.
3. That the working party (Bob Hayward, Peter McVay, Clr Gartner, Clr White, Craig Milburn) evaluate the distribution of the budget, in line with the outcomes of the hierarchy and update the Sustainable Futures Committee at the next meeting.

CARRIED

SF17.32 Proposed Street Tree Policy Amendments**HPERM Ref:
D17/388411**

The interest was triggered by the discussions around nature based solutions.

It was advised that Council has repeatedly cut trees down on nature strips without consultation and also planted trees on nature strips without consultation.

The Committee discussed that the current Policy does not contemplate adding new trees to the canopy or within the Shoalhaven for new subdivisions.

The Committee suggested reviewing the Sutherland Shires Canopy Strategy.

It could partially assist by becoming a requirement as part of developments such as new subdivisions that the developer be required by Council to plant a street tree.

Clr White advised in Camden Shire the Council do not plant street trees until approximately 80% of the entire development is built due to developers needing to access the nature strip to pour the concrete.

It was suggested that Council could investigate what other Councils have learnt.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Sustainability Futures Committee approves the proposed amendments to the Tree Management Policy – Public Land (POL14/58) and Council be provided a report for consideration, and adoption of the proposed amendments.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Sustainable Futures Committee make a submission to Council in relation to the document on exhibition currently - Streetscape Design Towns and Villages Policy, which closes 12 January 2018.

CARRIED

SF17.33 Climate Change - Impacts on Human Health**HPERM Ref:
D17/388518**

The attachment outlines the diverse ways that climate change is effecting communities' health.

This report aims to add a moral level into decision making and not just black and white budget decisions.

Recommendation

That Shoalhaven City Council

1. Accepts as the basis for urgent action on climate change the Doctors for the Environment Australia fact sheet detailing the diverse human health and wellbeing impacts from climate change
2. Notes that action on climate change is necessary to address equity concerns that climate change will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable sectors of the community including the old, young and Aboriginal people and
3. Undertakes to communicate the health impacts of climate change to the community as a matter of urgency

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Sustainable Futures Committee:

1. Note the information provided by the attachment
2. Staff submit a report to Council containing the following recommendation from the Sustainable Futures Committee:
Council undertakes to communicate the health impacts of climate change to the community through the planned communication strategy.
3. Invite one of the Health Doctors to brief Councillors directly prior to the Council Ordinary Meeting that the report is being submitted to on the impacts of climate change on human health.

Note: That this not be actioned until someone is available to brief the Council.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

SF17.17 ENOVA - Renewable Energy Retailer

HPERM Ref:
D17/254057

Note: Cllr White & Craig Milburn left the meeting, the time being 6.15pm.

Note: Cllr Kitchener left the meeting, the time being 6.17pm

Sustainable Futures Committee at its meeting on 17 August 2017 resolved that the matter be deferred to the meeting to be held on 12 October 2017. At the meeting on 12 October 2017 it was resolved that the matter be deferred to the meeting to be held on Wednesday 29 November 2017.

This item has been requested for discussion by Mr Oisin Sweeney. ENOVA is a company based in the northern rivers that offers a model in advance of this discussion.
<https://enovaenergy.com.au/about-us/>

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the information and attachment be received for information.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 6.17pm.

Cllr Kaye Gartner
CHAIRPERSON