

Sustainable Futures Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 01 February, 2018
Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4:00pm

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Agenda

1. **Apologies**
2. **Confirmation of Minutes**
 - Sustainable Futures Committee - 22 January 2018 1
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Reports**
 - SF18.3 Outstanding Action Table - Update 3
 - SF18.4 Sourcing Construction Materials Made From Recycled Plastics 12
 - SF18.5 Education for Locals & Tourists 14
5. **General Business**
 - SF18.6 Anthropogenic Climate Disruption Update Discussion of 2017 Climate Data - Clr Gartner

Membership

Clr Gartner – Chairperson
Clr White – Alternate Chairperson
Mayor
All Councillors
General Manager (or nominee) – non-voting
David Brawn
Oisin Sweeney
Robert Hayward
Peter McVay
Lorraine Larri

Quorum – Six (6) voting members

Purpose

The Sustainable Futures Committee will make recommendations to Council with respect to the following:

- Setting emission targets for the Shoalhaven.
- Focusing on energy, including energy efficiency, energy security and renewable energy generation as well as other climate change issues
- Creating and building community capacity for environmentally sustainable living and business.
- Addressing, adapting and building resilience to climate change.
- Appropriate ways to protect, connect and integrate ecological values within our urban and regional context.
- Supporting and promote Waste reduction and resource recovery.
- Building organisational and community capacity to meet the challenges of climate change.
- Engage with and learn from our community business and industry leaders on innovative solutions.
- Establish and/or support renewable energy generation projects in the community.
- Ensure the currency of related strategy, policy and other key Council documents related to the purpose of the Committee.

Delegation

To expend funds allocated to the Sustainable Futures Committee by Council within the approved budget.

MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABLE FUTURES COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Monday, 22 January 2018
Location: E-Meeting
Time:

The following members responded:

Clr Kaye Gartner - Chairperson
Clr Patricia White
Clr John Levett
Mr David Brawn
Mr Oisin Sweeney
Mr Robert Hayward
Mr Peter McVay
Ms Lorraine Larri

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Nil

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Minutes of the Sustainable Futures Committee held on Wednesday 29 November 2017 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Nil

REPORTS

SF18.1 Committee Budget

**HPERM Ref:
D17/425034**

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Committee

1. Allocate \$4,000 from its budget to join the NSW OEH Sustainability Advantage Program; and
2. Allocate up to \$40,000 from its budget for staff resources to implement the Program; and
3. Allocate \$6,000 from its budget to undertake a selected audit of the urban tree canopy; and
4. Should there be any remaining funds from the budget this be directed to the development of a communications plan.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Committee

1. Allocate \$4,000 from its budget to join the NSW OEH Sustainability Advantage Program; and
2. Allocate up to \$40,000 from its budget for staff resources to implement the Program; and
3. Allocate \$6,000 from its budget to undertake a selected audit of the urban tree canopy; and
4. Should there be any remaining funds from the budget this be directed to the development of a communications plan.

CARRIED

Note: Cllr Levett did not vote on this item.

SF18.2 Partnership with Griffith University**HPERM Ref:**
D18/12190**Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)**

That

1. Council partner in a research project with Griffith University funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery grant titled “managing environmental change through planning for transformative pathways”; and
2. Interested Committee members participate in the project by attending workshops facilitated by Griffith University.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That

1. Council partner in a research project with Griffith University funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery grant titled “managing environmental change through planning for transformative pathways”; and
2. Interested Committee members participate in the project by attending workshops facilitated by Griffith University.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the e-meeting concluded.

Cllr Kaye Gartner
CHAIRPERSON

SF18.3 Outstanding Action Table - Update

HPERM Ref: D18/9735

Group: Finance Corporate & Community Services Group
Section: Human Resources, Governance & Customer Service

Attachments: 1. Ongoing Outstanding Actions List [↓](#)

Purpose / Summary

To advise the Sustainable Futures Committee of all resolutions/actions and provide an update.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Outstanding Action Table be received for information.

Options

1. As recommended

Implications: Nil

2. An alternative recommendation relevant to the content of the Table.

Implications: unknown

Background

It was requested by the Chair that a table be created and reported to each meeting on the outstanding actions/resolutions and updates be provided.

| Action/Resolution | Date | Person and Group Responsible | Comments | Finalised |
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| Streetlight LED Project – That 1. The report on the business case for converting existing streetlights to LED lights be received for information 2. Council applies for grants for LED streetlight conversion 3. Council write to the State Government and ask, are there any contractual agreements to upgrade to LED? And if not, why not? | 19/7/17 | Tom Dimec – Assets and Works | Note from Staff: All avenues for this subject have been exhausted. There are no grants available for this and Endeavour Energy has a process in place that is replacing all street lights with LED over five years. | Note from Staff: Yes this is as far as Asset Management was able to go and the action was finalised on 2/11/2017. |
| Energy Management Internal Audit Report – That the Sustainable Futures Committee 1. Receive and note the contents of the report. 2. Provide any further directions to Council on energy management. 3. The General Manager seek to employ a dedicated resource and that funding come from the savings that the resource would produce | 19/7/17 | Carmel Krogh – Shoalhaven Water | | |
| Cities Power Partnership – That Council | 17/8/17 and resolved unchanged | Kelie Clarke – Planning, Environment | 1. & 2. Shoalhaven City Council along with Kiama, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley have all joined the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership but who we are partnered with is unclear. Seeking | |

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decide to partner with other South East Coast Councils through this program i.e. Kiama, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley 2. Call a meeting of Mayors and General Managers of these Councils, to take place by mid-November, to formalise this partnership. 3. Staff establish formal liaisons with partner Councils for information exchange and joint project funding and management. 4. To adopt the Cities Power Partnership Pledges.* | at August Ordinary | and Development | <p>clarification from CPP. CPP not discussed at last Mayors & GMs meeting.</p> <p>3. Staff have met with Bega and Kiama relevant staff and in contact our 3 coastal neighbouring councils re exchanging information. No formal agreements between staff but all happy to share information and knowledge freely.</p> <p>4. Environmental Planner and Sustainability Officer following up with Group Directors re Pledges for each group.</p> <p>Corporate & Community Group – Director on leave in lead up to report due date.</p> <p>Asset & Works Group – Review of PAMP yet to occur due to staff shortages.</p> <p>PE&D Group – Energy efficiency benchmarks discuss at last developers forum where it was noted that the increased requirements of BASIX already set a high “benchmark” and creating problems for developers. Council’s DCP includes objectives related to ESD with specific objectives in section 5.13 (residential allotment layout) with criteria and acceptable solutions in P87 requiring solar access and north orientation for living areas.</p> <p>Shoalwater – Callala Treatment Plant solar project in planning stage and progressing.</p> | |
| <p>Council Budget 2018/19 – Action: The program of Council’s budget preparation for 2018/19 to be distributed to members for their information</p> | 17/8/17 | Michael Pennisi – Finance Corporate and Community Services | Draft budget program distributed to Sustainable Futures Committee by Group Director in early November 2017. | Yes |
| <p>Renewable Energy Management – Progress –</p> | 12/10/17 Resolved unchanged | Carmel Krogh – | | |

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| That Council support the preparation of documents for Expressions of Interest for land-based and floating solar projects with different funding models. | at October Ordinary | Shoalhaven Water | | |
| Helping Nature Help People – That Council investigate the development and implementation of a Policy to facilitate nature-based solutions to strengthen the wellbeing and resilience of Shoalhaven residents and their environments, starting with the urban canopy as a nature based solution | 12/10/17 Resolved unchanged at October Ordinary | Kelie Clarke – Planning, Environment and Development | Ties in with Nature Based Solutions resolution (see below) with an audit putting a dollar value on the ecosystem and public health benefits to provide a background for development of the policy. | |
| Weird Winter – 1. The Committee receives the Climate Council Report on Australia's 2017 Winter Weather. 2. Use the graphics from climate councils website as a contribution to the your neighbourhood newsletter. | 12/10/17 | Jessica Rippon – General Managers Group | | |
| Education for Locals and Tourists – That: 1. The Committee commence a community education program for locals and tourists this summer. 2. Committee invite Communications staff to a round table discussion of themes for 2017 summer season. 3. This roundtable discuss how committee members can contribute content to the summer communications program. | 12/10/17 | Jessica Rippon – General Managers Group | | |
| OEH Briefing - Sustainability Advantage Program – | 29/11/17 | Sharon Neradil – | Working Group met with Richard Birdseye (OEH) December 2017. Meeting attended by Bob | Yes |

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| <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Sustainable Futures Committee receive report for information. 2. A working group be formed, consisting of Bob Hayward, Peter McVay, Clr Gartner, Clr 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 | | <p>Finance, Corporate and Community Services</p> | <p>Hayward, Peter McVay, Clr Gartner, Clr White, Craig Milburn</p> | |
| <p>Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy –</p> <p>That the Sustainable Futures Committee receive the report - Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy for information and reconsider joining in 12months time.</p> | 29/11/17 | <p>Kelie Clarke – Planning, Environment and Development</p> | | |
| <p>Nature-based solutions - urban ecology - options for Implementation –</p> <p>That the Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | 29/11/17 | <p>Michael Smith and Gordon Clark – Planning, Environment and Development</p> | <p>1.Sutherland Shire Council advised (10.1.18) they could not send the relevant officer (Canopy Co-ordinator) to present to the committee but have invited Shoalhaven City Council relevant staff to Sutherland to meet with the Canopy Co-ordinator who will run through the model, take staff on a tour of sites and community nursery and provide information to Shoalhaven City Council for a presentation to the Sustainable Futures Committee. Staff to meet with Sutherland's Canopy Co-ordinator on Thursday 8 February 2018.</p> | |

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| <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> | | | <p>2. No staff available or experienced in auditing trees to give a dollar value for trees. Environmental Services has obtained a quote from an institution with prior experience in auditing trees. The quote contains two options; one audit based on a desktop assessment using aerial photos (\$5K-\$10K taking 2-3 wks) and the other a field based assessment (\$30K - \$40K taking 12-15wks) to provide an economic (and environmental and social) benefit value for trees in a selected area.</p> <p>3. Working group meeting on 21 February 2018 – postponed from earlier date due to key staff unavailability / holidays.</p> | |
| <p>Draft Shoalhaven City Council Sustainable Futures Committee Strategy Outcomes Hierarchy –</p> <p>That</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> | 29/11/17 | <p>Kelie Clarke – Planning, Environment and Development</p> <p>and Craig Milburn – Finance Corporate and Community Services (part 3 only)</p> | | |

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| <p>state governments impacting on the future of sustainable business practices.</p> <p>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.</p> | | | | |
| <p>Proposed Street Tree Policy Amendments –</p> <p>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.</p> | 29/11/17 | Kelie Clarke – Planning, Environment and Development | Not actioned. DCP draft Chapter 18 “Streetscape design for town and village centres” reviewed by Environmental Planner with Strategic Planner. If the intent of the submission was to increase the plantings / species composition then the Streetscape Technical Manual is the appropriate document for review. Clarification required | |
| <p>Climate Change - Impacts on Human Health –</p> <p>That the Sustainable Futures Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Note the information provided by the attachment Staff submit a report to Council containing the following recommendation from the Sustainable Futures Committee: <p><i>Council undertakes to communicate the health impacts of climate change to the community through the planned communication strategy.</i></p> | 29/11/17 | Kelie Clarke – Planning, Environment and Development | | |

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| 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. | | | | |
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| Pledges | Group | Comments |
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| Work Together and Influence Pledge: <i>Implement an education and behaviour change program to influence and build resilience and adaptive capacity of council officers, local residents and businesses within the municipality to drive the shift to renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport</i> | General Managers Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions have been held with the Sustainable Futures Committee regarding the GM pledge. This has included a workshop around communication options for the delivery of this pledge and other projects of the Committee. At this time budget has not been allocated to the pledge however existing resources and budget with the Executive Strategy Section will be used to deliver various communications regarding renewable energy and sustainability A draft communication plan has been developed. This plan will be finalised in discussion with the Committee in the next month. The plan will be implemented over the coming months through the use of Councils existing communication tools such as Facebook and e-news. Discussions have also been held with the RFS to develop collaborative communications regarding bushfire risk and extreme weather conditions. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual marketing strategies are also being developed for Council's Waste, Compliance and Environmental units. It is expected that these plans will also deliver increased communications with our community, about a range of environmental initiatives and sustainable practices. |
| Work Together and Influence Pledge: <i>Set city-level renewable energy targets, emissions reduction targets and sustainable energy policies to provide a common goal and shared expectation for residents and businesses.</i> | Corporate and Community | Comment - Director Finance Corporate and Community (23/01/2018) The Committee have decided to participate in the NSW OEH Sustainability Advantage program. As I understand it this program will assist in Council developing the base line data that will be needed for a discussion around what levels reductions etc need to be set. |
| Transport Pledge: <i>Encourage sustainable transport use (e.g. ride share / electric vehicles, public transport, walking and cycling) through Council transport planning and design – in the form of a PAMP review.</i> | Assets and Works | |
| Energy Efficiency Pledge: <i>Investigate/recommend minimum energy efficiency benchmarks for all planning applications in consultation with the local developers forum</i> | Planning, Environment and Development | |
| Renewable Energy Pledge: <i>Install renewable energy pilot plant on water/sewer assets where viable</i> | Shoalhaven Water | |

SF18.4 Sourcing Construction Materials Made From Recycled Plastics

HPERM Ref: D18/19185

Submitted by: Clr Gartner

Recommendation

That a report be provided with regard to the proposal for Council to use fully recycled plastics in their outdoor infrastructure for such things as stairs, walkways, lookout platforms, benches, tables and bollards etc.

Details

The following information was received via email to Clr Gartner:

"Hi Kaye & sustainable futures committee

I read in the Council's 'Frontline News' bulletin that council has built a new boardwalk at Conjola using Fibre Reinforced Polymer (FRP) and that they plan to continue using this product to replace other infrastructure needs, such as stairs to the beach. See the paragraphs below. I have done a bit of internet research and found that although a good product and long-lasting, there are disposal concerns for its end of life. See paragraph below from Wikipedia. More than that though, I believe that council needs to look into using recycled plastics, to create an end use for recycled plastic.

I would like to see council using fully recycled plastics in their outdoor infrastructure for such things as stairs, walkways, lookout platforms, benches, tables, bollards etc. People are now recycling more of their plastic, but to keep it out of landfill, there needs to be an end use product for the plastic. Council infrastructure is an ideal end use. Not only will it help to keep plastic out of landfill, but it also is fully recyclable again at the end of its life. Like FRP, recycled plastic products also have a long life span and it is hard-wearing. I know some National Parks use it for board walks. I haven't looked into it, but I suspect that other councils may already be using it.

In browsing the web, I found an Australian company whose business is recycled plastic. Please have a look at their webpage <http://www.replas.com.au/> . They claim that Recycled plastic furniture is highly durable, resistant to moisture, termites and designed to last for more than forty years.

I ask you to all look into this and to present to council an environmentally superior product.

Disposal and recycling concerns of fibre reinforced polymer (from Wikipedia)

As a subset of plastic FR plastics are liable to a number of the issues and concerns in [plastic waste](#) disposal and recycling. Plastics pose a particular challenge in recycling because they are derived from polymers and monomers that often cannot be separated and returned to their virgin states, for this reason not all plastics can be recycled for re-use, in fact some estimates claim only 20% to 30% of plastics can be recycled at all. Fibre-reinforced plastics and their matrices share these disposal and environmental concerns. Investigation of safe disposal methods has led to two main variations involving the application of intense heat: in one binding agents are burned off - in the process recapturing some of the sunk material cost in the form of heat - and incombustible elements captured by filtration; in the other the incombustible material is burned in a cement kiln, the fibres becoming an integral part of the

resulting cast material.^[23] In addition to concerns regarding safe disposal the fact that the fibres themselves are difficult to remove from the matrix and preserve for re-use means FRP's amplify these challenges. FRP's are inherently difficult to separate into base materials, that is into fibre and matrix, and the matrix is difficult to separate into usable plastics, polymers, and monomers. These are all concerns for environmentally-informed design today. Plastics do often offer savings in energy and economic savings in comparison to other materials. In addition, with the advent of new more environmentally friendly matrices such as [bioplastics](#) and [UV-degradable plastics](#), FRP will gain environmental sensitivity.^[1]

From Council's "Frontline News" bulletin

The \$700,000 Lake Conjola boardwalk is open for public use. Council's project delivery team and AgTrans Services have completed the project on time and under budget. The structure is 400m long and 1.8m wide and is mostly constructed with a composite material called **FRP - fibre reinforced polymer**.

As with the Lake Conjola boardwalk, many of Council's beach accesses, with timber components, are reaching 'end of life' and will soon need replacing.

The June 2016 ECL brought about a very sudden end of life for all the timber stairs at Currarong Beach. Council has replaced two of these accesses with a product called FRP (fibre reinforced polymer). Whilst FRP is more expensive than timber, it has a life expectancy of up to three times that of timber and requires less maintenance.

FRP is now the material of choice and, as steps and stairs are replaced at our beaches, you will see it become more common.

Thank you
Lani Imhof"

SF18.5 Education for Locals & Tourists

HPERM Ref: D18/24371

Submitted by: Cllr Gartner

Recommendation

That

1. This Committee consider a delegation to the Sustainable Living Festival (<http://slf.org.au/events/>) being held in Melbourne from 1-28 February
2. This Committee engage with Economic Development committee, Tourism Committee, Aboriginal Advisory Committee, Berry Small Farms, Shoalhaven Slow Food, Shoalhaven Transition, Zero Carbon Shoalhaven, Shoalhaven Business Chamber, local farmers, schools and community gardens and community groups to hold a similar event in the Shoalhaven in 2019.
3. The role of the Sustainability Project Officer include planning for greater synergies between and support for schools, TAFE, local organisations and SCC i.e. including towards a Shoalhaven Sustainable Living Festival and integration of Sustainability Education initiatives (e.g. Sustainable Schools Program, Eco-Schools, Kreative Koalas, The Archibull Prize).

Details

This recommendation addresses the Statement and Purpose of the Sustainable Futures Committee, particularly

- Create and build community capacity for environmentally sustainable living and business

The festival in Melbourne is one month long, engages a wide range of community and features speakers like Dr John Hewson, David Holmgren, Paul Hawken and more. The Festival's signature event will be staged in Festival Square, Melbourne, between February 9-11, where the speakers, growers market and major exhibitions will be onsite.

This Festival has a long, evolving history. It attracts over 100,000 people with an emerging urban, arts and cultural focus. The Shoalhaven is well placed to have such a festival with the stated purpose to advance the community capacity for environmentally sustainable living and business.