

Sustainable Futures Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 09 August, 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

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3. Declarations of Interest

4. Reports

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5. General Business

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: Thursday, 7 June 2018
Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4:02pm

The following members were present:

Clr Kaye Gartner - Chairperson
Clr Patricia White
Clr John Levett
Clr Mark Kitchener
David Brawn
Robert Hayward
Peter McVay
Lorraine Larri

Also present:

Phil Costello – Director, Planning Environment & Development
Stephen Dunshea – Director, Finance Corporate & Community
Paul Keech – Director, Assets & Works
Gordon Clark – Manager, Strategic Planning
Jessica Rippon - Executive Manager, Communications
Kelie Clarke – Manager, Environmental Services
Avalynne Willey - Waste Services
Fiona Schreurs - Resource Recovery Project Coordinator
David Hojem – Manager, Waste Services
Michael Smith - Team Leader, Environmental Planning & Assessment

The Chairperson acknowledged the Aboriginal land on which the meeting was taking place.

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Oisin Sweeney, Clr Nina Cheyne, Mayor Amanda Findley, and Carmel Krogh, Director Shoalhaven Water.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (Clr White / Robert Hayward)

That the Minutes of the Sustainable Futures Committee held on Tuesday 01 May 2018 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

During discussion of item SF18.21 - Solar Garden Formalise Usage of Old North Nowra Waste Depot, it was advised that Bob Hayward, David Brawn and Peter McVay sit on a subcommittee of Repower Shoalhaven - less than significant non pecuniary interest - will remain in the meeting and will vote.

PRESENTATIONS

SF18.18 Sue Westaway - Little Eagle - EcoVillage Initiative Red Head Villages Association (RHVA)	HPERM Ref: D18/95515
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This item will be postponed until the meeting on 9 August 2018.

Sue Westaway, Little Eagle, has requested to address the Sustainable Futures Committee to address the report previously submitted by Lorraine Larri, Thursday 1 February 2018 - SF18.7 - EcoVillage Initiative Red Head Villages Association (RHVA).

SF18.19 Expo 2019	HPERM Ref: D18/173171
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Avalynne Wilby, Assets and Works Waste Services, explained that she had noted the Sustainable Futures Committee was considering holding a Sustainable Living festival, similar to that in Melbourne in February. She gave advance notice of the Waste and Environment Expo being planned for 2019, in part to avoid any clashes with events the Sustainable Futures Committee may be organising. She circulated copies of last year's Expo brochure.

The 2019 event has the theme 'Reimagining Waste', and is about repurposing and rethinking waste, rather than recycling, which had been the focus of the 2017 event. The Expo will be held on 5 June, World Environment Day. Planning is starting a year ahead as it is such a large undertaking. Avalynne suggested the Committee may want to think about holding its own event in 2020.

Clr Gartner agreed it could be a good idea to alternate the events. The Sustainable Futures Committee's first working party meeting will be in August, and Avalynne will be invited to give an update then.

Action: Avalynne Wilby and/or Fiona Schreurs to be invited to 9 August workshop.

REPORTS

It was agreed to bring forward items SF18.22, Progress Report from the Energy Management Coordinator, and SF18.23, Implementation of NatureMapr in the Shoalhaven.

SF18.22 Progress Update from the Energy Management Coordinator - Darren O'Connell	HPERM Ref: D18/171487
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Darren O'Connell reported that the Solar Power Purchase Agreements with Rooftop Solar are high on his list of priorities. Shoalhaven will be one of the first councils to pilot Solar PPAs. The shortlist of five potential sites has been narrowed to two – Shoalhaven Regional Gallery and Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre. These two assets are on different energy tariffs. The intention is to test the market to see how much the difference will be. These sites have the most daytime power usage,

which results in the least export to grid. The Request for Quotation process is to follow. Council is liaising with Local Government Procurement and the OEH.

Staff were recently offered training in energy efficiency, starting with Shoalwater staff. There are opportunities for them to reduce energy consumption, for example by load shifting. Staff are already using good practice in energy efficiency. Holiday Haven Tourist Parks will be given training next.

Cities Power Partnership: Darren O'Connell is coordinating the South East NSW Buddy Group, which encompasses Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla, Bega, Kiama and Wingecarribee Councils. The group has met by teleconference and will be meeting again in a month. The annual CPP Summit will be held in Kiama in October 2018.

The Sustainability Advantage Programme has continued. Recruitment of the Sustainability Officer is in process. Council has commenced a level strategic review with Sonja Duncan Environmental, who is conducting a desktop assessment of what Council's sustainability policies, plans and commitments are, and identifying contacts in Council to interview.

Electric Vehicles: A working group has been brought together by Gordon Clark (Manager, Strategic Planning) to develop guidelines on siting.

Future progress updates will be titled 'Energy Matters'. Darren confirmed his will be in post until the end of 2018.

Bob Hayward asked whether the energy efficiency training is looking at fuel use. Darren clarified it is primarily addressing electricity use.

Regarding Solar PPAs and battery storage, Darren explained that battery storage has been included as alternative option for quotation. The current project is a pilot to see if Solar PPAs prove economic. The Entertainment Centre lends itself to battery storage because of the venue's after-dark usage.

Clr Levett asked for clarification on EV charging, and how provision will keep up with the anticipated increase in electric vehicles. Will existing service stations adapt? Darren clarified that most charging is expected to be done at home overnight. Tesla has its own network of charging stations, with one within every 400km. Gordon Clark noted the experience in the EU and UK, where most charging facilities are provided by councils, and not by service stations.

An update was requested on the Berry EV charging station. There had been some negative feedback from members of the community on the original proposed site. The Bowling Club is now being looked at. Gordon Clark has discussed this with Amelia Starr of NRMA; the Bowling Club site is not ideal, as it lies on a flood plain and there is a potential insurance issue. The community had been reassured that Council is still very interested in establishing a charging station in Berry. Gordon is suggesting proposing three or four hypothetical locations to see which the community favour, to test their preferences.

The Committee discussed its residual budget for 2017/18. Kelie Clarke (Manager, Environmental Services) explained that, because the Sustainability Officer has not yet been recruited, the \$37k allocated to the resource is unspent, but she is not certain that it is available. This would need to be checked with Finance. Stephen Dunshea (Director, Finance Corporate & Community) clarified that all such requests are to be rolled over to next year's budget – any balances will be noted but Council has to decide if it can guarantee the funds. It is also necessary to check with Carmel Krogh whether there will be an additional \$50k for next year.

Kelie suggested that, if the \$37k for this financial year is confirmed as available, the Committee can discuss what would be appropriate to spend it on. Stephen added that if the Committee wants to decide how to spend the funds as a commitment, that will be noted as part of the report to Council as to what funds should be brought forward. This would help put a strong argument, although the allocation cannot be guaranteed.

Possible projects for expenditure include NatureMapr implementation, although this requires \$20k plus \$10k per annum; and the Tree Study could be extended.

A second recommendation for Darren O'Connell to address green revolving funds in the update,

discussed under item SF18.23 below, was added.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the update be received for information.

RESOLVED (Clr Gartner / Peter McVay)

That

1. The update be received for information.
2. Darren O'Connell add information on green revolving funds to the project update, to bring to the next meeting of the Sustainable Futures Committee.

CARRIED

SF18.23 Implementation of NatureMapr in the Shoalhaven

**HPERM Ref:
D18/164117**

Bob Hayward referred to the impressive community engagement shown in the presentations at the last meeting. NatureMapr is up and running, and a number of Council staff have been investigating, moderators are being trained, and so on. It will be a useful tool for Council in terms of planning issues, biosecurity, and weed management. He noted the Committee had resolved to seek part funding for its implementation with Tourism. He considers however the funding should come from the Sustainable Futures Committee and not be contingent on a contribution from Tourism. Council should make a contribution, given that it stands to benefit from the project, and he asked where the money can be found.

Peter McVay agreed implementation will give Council the opportunity to be more strategic in weed management, leading to potential savings. It will also be a demonstration of Council and the community working together. Bob Hayward added it would be an education tool for local schools.

Clr Gartner raised the recent meeting with Stephen Dunshea which had addressed the Committee budget, discussing ringfencing for environmental projects and green revolving funds. Stephen confirmed this potentially can be achieved, but clarified whether and how savings would be channelled back into green projects is a decision of Council. The Committee could put a request to Council. Darren O'Connell added that capital is also necessary to achieve savings in a revolving fund.

Lorraine Larri agreed that the NatureMapr implementation should rest with the Sustainable Futures Committee and not go to Tourism. Tourism is a secondary educative process.

Clr Gartner recommended that all Committee members write to Russ Pigg, General Manager, to request funding for the implementation of NatureMapr.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Sustainable Futures Committee, independent of any undertaking from the Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Group, consider the funding required - \$20,000 initial set up and \$10,000 annual maintenance – from future Sustainable Futures budgets to ensure the full implementation of the NatureMapr scheme in the Shoalhaven.

RESOLVED (Robert Hayward / Lorraine Larri)

That any funds remaining unallocated in the 2017/18 Sustainable Futures Budget along with any additional funds required from the 2018/19 budget (to a maximum of \$20,000) be allocated for implementation of the NatureMapr scheme in the Shoalhaven.

CARRIED

SF18.20 Outstanding Action Table - Update

**HPERM Ref:
D18/180254**

Pledges:

General Manager's Group: Jessica Rippon (Executive Manager, Communications) agreed to circulate the communications material about sustainable futures to the Committee before its release.

She described the Get Involved platform on the website, and offered to set up a section for this Committee. This could host all the Committee's videos and presentations to date. Filming of presentations is also possible, as are live feeds and Facebook posts with short videos.

Assets & Works: Michael Smith (Environmental Planning & Assessment) reported the Electric Vehicles working group is preparing the draft policy, where charging stations should be located, etc. Ride Sharing – also progressing.

Corporate & Community: Deferred to give time for the new Director, Stephen Dunshea, to familiarise himself with the initiatives.

Planning, Environment & Development: Energy efficiency had been addressed earlier.

Kelie Clarke advised that Council's Building Design Awards may be reintroduced for sustainable architecture. Colin Wood and Kelie are looking at revamping the awards, possibly in March next year. This will help to generate interest in the area.

The Committee expressed its appreciation of the ongoing passive solar work.

Action: Jessica Rippon to circulate communications materials to Sustainable Futures Committee members for feedback.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Outstanding Action Table be received for information.

RESOLVED (Robert Hayward / Peter McVay)

That the Outstanding Action Table be received for information.

CARRIED

**SF18.21 Solar Garden Formalise Usage of Old North Nowra
Waste Depot**

**HPERM Ref:
D18/180646**

Bob Hayward advised that he, David Brawn and Peter McVay sit on a subcommittee of Repower Shoalhaven relating to this scheme. This is a less than significant non pecuniary interest, and they will remain in the meeting and will vote.

Paul Keech (Director, Assets & Works) confirmed staff are recommending that Council make this the preferred site. Clr White noted that the last time this site was brought to Council for a project, the EPA had said that because it was a waste facility there will have been leakage that Council needs to do more work on. She asked whether this had been done. Paul Keech believes it has been done to the EPA's satisfaction, but they have not yet released the site. There is no more that Council can do to remediate the site, only monitor it. In time he expects the controls will be relaxed and Council can use the site for other purposes. This is a complicating factor. The site does meet a lot of the criteria otherwise. If Council does not agree with it as the preferred site staff need to know soon so they can seek others. He suggested it takes two to three years for methane to dissipate, but that this is not certain.

Peter McVay explained that Newcastle are engaged in a similar project, and will be able to feed back their experiences.

Repower are overall looking for \$4.5M investment on a not for profit basis, and all savings and power will remain in the community. Its primary objective is to supply power to those unable to install their own solar – tenants including commercial, social housing, and strata for example.

Recommendation

That Council advise Repower Shoalhaven (as a fellow partner of the Social Access Solar Garden Scheme) that Council supports the location of a Solar Access Farm on the Old Tip Site at North Nowra (Crown Land) and will work with Repower Shoalhaven to gain necessary approvals to use the site for this purpose as the preferred use for this site.

RECOMMENDATION (Robert Hayward / David Brawn)

That Council advise Repower Shoalhaven (as a fellow partner of the Social Access Solar Garden Scheme) that Council supports the location of a Solar Access Farm on the Old Tip Site at North Nowra (Crown Land) and will work with Repower Shoalhaven to gain necessary approvals to use the site for this purpose as the preferred use for this site.

General Business

Managing Environmental Change Through Planning for Transformative Pathways Workshop

The first of this series of workshops had taken place the previous Friday, 1 June 2018. The separate community day had been attended by members from the Bay & Basin Forum and Sussex Inlet. It is anticipated that some of the community members who participated on Friday will attend the community workshops instead as they are scheduled on a non-working day, so future Council-based workshops may be smaller.

The draft statement that had started to emerged is very visionary, and different from previous strategies.

It was noted that the format of the workshop may not work for all participants. There had nonetheless been a good level of contributions.

Clr Gartner thanked all for attending the meeting, and reminded the members to write a letter about the Committee budget.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5.16pm.

Clr Kaye Gartner
CHAIRPERSON

SF18.24 Atlas of Life in the Coastal Wilderness

HPERM Ref: D18/231645

Group: Finance Corporate & Community Services Group
Section: Tourism

Purpose / Summary

To update members of the Sustainable Future Committee on the recommendation from the Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Group.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Sustainable Futures Committee note the following recommendation adopted by the Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Committee on 25 June 2018 regarding the 'Atlas of Life':

1. The Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Group receive the report for information and decline the need for a presentation – recommending that Shoalhaven Tourism does not support co-funding the implementation and ongoing costs.
2. Acknowledging that the program seems like a great idea for environmental engagement, however, the application does not directly drive out of season visitation and add to our regions ability to support year-round employment, as is the main goal of Shoalhaven Tourism promotion.

Options

1. Receive the report for information.

Background

Clr Kaye Gartner approached Tourism Manager Coralie Bell regarding the Atlas of Life, and in addition representation has been made to the Sustainable Futures Committee.

Cost has been quoted as \$20,000 to join and then \$10,000 per year to maintain.

A report was submitted to the Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Group (STAG) on 25 June 2018 which resulted in the recommendation as stated in this report.

SF18.24

SF18.25 Reduction of Plastic Waste at Shoalhaven City Council businesses and Administration

HPERM Ref: D18/263960

Group: Finance Corporate & Community Services Group

Purpose / Summary

To advise the Committee of the steps being taken within Council's facilities and businesses to reduce use of single-use plastics.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Committee receive the steps being taken within Council's facilities and businesses to reduce use of single-use plastics the report for information.

Options

1. The Committee receive the report for information

Implications: The Committee will have up to date information on current practice in Council facilities.

Background

Council advises that:

1. All Aquatics Facilities and the Nowra Library Café only use Bio cups and containers. Plastic straws are not available at these venues.
2. Holiday Haven Caravan Parks have a policy of no single use plastic straws and water bottles. However, there are a few properties still with stock of plastics but expect these to be phased out prior to summer. Water fountains will be installed where appropriate and the properties will provide Holiday Haven branded drink bottles for a gold coin.
3. The Entertainment Centre has implemented the following:
 - a. The single-use cups, which appear to be plastic, are in fact plant-based.
 - b. The Encore Café counter now also has reusable cups for people who access our complimentary water.
 - c. Its single-use knives & forks are bamboo.
 - d. Its food boxes for external catering have what appears to be a plastic window, but is in fact a plant-based window.
4. Within the Administration Building, there are still single use plastic cups in stock, and these are being used for meetings etc. when required. When the current supply is exhausted, it is Council's intention to re-stock with alternative cups.

Further opportunities will continue to be explored and implemented where appropriate.

SF18.26 Sustainable Energy Policy

HPERM Ref: D18/253867

Group: Shoalhaven Water Group
Section: Water Asset Planning & Development

Attachments: 1. Sustainable Energy Policy [↓](#)

Purpose / Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek input from the Sustainable Futures Committee (SFC) on Shoalhaven Council's draft Sustainable Energy Policy.

Recommendation

That the Sustainable Futures Committee review the draft Sustainable Energy Policy (attached) and provide input and feedback on the development of the final policy.

Options

1. The Sustainable Futures Committee review the draft Sustainable Energy Policy and submit feedback.

Implications: If comments could be received by 31 August from the SFC, these could be incorporated into the final draft version of the Policy. The final draft Policy can then be tabled at the next SFC meeting for endorsement and then submission to a full Council meeting.

2. The Committee could accept the draft policy without change and recommend to Council that it be placed on public exhibition prior to adoption.

Background

Energy, including electricity and gas, is an essential resource for the operation of Shoalhaven City Council's assets and services. However, Council does not currently have a policy that addresses its future corporate and community energy needs. The draft Sustainable Energy Policy (Attachment 1) seeks to demonstrate an overarching commitment of Council towards future energy efficiency, generation of renewable energy and a subsequent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across the Shoalhaven LGA. If approved, the Sustainable Energy Policy will be the precursor to the preparation of a more detailed Sustainable Energy Strategy, which will contain science-based targets and objectives to guide Council's operations for improved energy efficiency and renewable energy production. These sustainable energy policies and strategies will combine to place Shoalhaven Council and the local community in a prominent position to mitigate harmful greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change.

Community Engagement

This policy has not been subject to community consultation in any formal manner. It is suggested that the draft policy be placed on exhibition for input further to any final adoption.

Policy Implications

The Sustainable Energy Policy would become a public policy of Shoalhaven Council.

Financial Implications

Nil, although the Sustainable Energy Policy will help drive future investment in renewable energy generation for Council's assets.



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Email: council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

For more information contact the Shoalhaven Water Group

Shoalhaven City Council - Sustainable Energy Policy

Policy Number: POL18/44 • **Adopted:** [Click here to enter date] • **Minute Number:** [Click here to enter Minute number] • **File:** 56964E • **Produced By:** Shoalhaven Water Group • **Review Date:**

1. PURPOSE

To provide a commitment to continuously improve energy efficiency, generate renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the operation of Shoalhaven City Council's assets and across the wider Shoalhaven community.

2. STATEMENT

Shoalhaven Council is committed to providing sustainable assets and facilities to service the growing needs of the Shoalhaven region. The operation of these facilities can consume large amounts of energy at a high cost and also generate harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Shoalhaven Council will actively work towards reducing fossil-fuelled energy consumption for assets under its control to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with the aim to minimise climate change impacts. Where opportunities are economically feasible, Shoalhaven Council will invest in renewable energy generation projects to ensure clean energy for the future. This extends to Council encouraging the Shoalhaven community's transition away from fossil fuels to more renewable energy generation for households, businesses and industry.

3. PROVISIONS

3.1. Vision

Shoalhaven Council's vision under this Policy is to operate its energy consuming assets in a sustainable manner with minimal effect on the natural environment. This will then serve as a model of best practice for the local community to reduce energy bills, minimise greenhouse gas emissions and increase uptake of renewable energy.

3.2. Objectives

To achieve this Vision, and in partnership with stakeholders and the community, Shoalhaven Council will:

- Continually improve its management practices to strive towards improved energy efficiency.
- Prepare and implement a Sustainable Energy Strategy before 1 July 2019 to identify targets and prioritise energy efficiency initiatives, sustainable transport and renewable energy generation.
- Seek opportunities to source electricity supply from renewable energy sources and thereby reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Shoalhaven City Council – Sustainable Energy Policy

- Measure, monitor, benchmark and report on energy consumption to identify issues and inform the Sustainable Energy Strategy.
- Secure affordable and sustainable energy for the reliable operation of all Shoalhaven Council assets.
- Promote and encourage the community to increase the uptake of rooftop solar photovoltaics (i.e. solar panel) and battery storage across the Shoalhaven LGA.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

Shoalhaven City Council will support this Policy by:

- Implementing appropriate operational and management procedures that facilitate this Policy.
- Maintaining a commitment to improve operational energy efficiency, increase renewable energy generation and reduce corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions.
- Facilitating community uptake of renewable energy and electric vehicles.

5. REVIEW

The Sustainable Energy Policy and associated Sustainable Energy Strategy will be reviewed on a periodic basis and particularly where new guidelines and/or management information dictates.

6. APPLICATION OF ESD PRINCIPLES

This Policy will play a key role in the application of environmental sustainability principles as it aims to reduce reliance on fossil-fuelled grid power, increase renewable energy generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Specifically, this Policy supports the following ESD principles:

- The precautionary principle – where there is the threat of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.
- Intergenerational equity – the current generation should make sure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment continues for the benefit of future generations.
- Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity – conserving the diversity of flora and fauna and the health and sustainability of ecosystems.

SF18.27 Energy Matters

HPERM Ref: D18/254587

Group: Shoalhaven Water Group
Section: Water Asset Planning & Development

Attachments: 1. Energy Matters Executive One Page Summaries (under separate cover)

Purpose / Summary

One-Page 'Energy Matters' fact sheet summaries have been created, one for each energy management initiative, to provide an 'executive summary' style reporting mechanism for the energy management team.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Committee adopt the Energy Matters one-page fact sheets.

Options

1. Energy Matters one-page fact sheets be adopted.

Implications: This will set the template for future meetings.

2. The Committee could request a different format to receive this information.

Implications: Changes would be required after input from the Committee.

Background

One-Page 'Energy Matters' fact sheet summaries (attached) have been created, one for each energy management initiative, to provide an 'executive summary' style reporting mechanism for the energy management team. This gives both the energy management staff and any would-be recipients of the information a concise means of sharing information. The Energy Matters sheets will be updated prior to each meeting of the Sustainable Futures Committee where applicable.

SF18.28 Revolving Energy Fund

HPERM Ref: D18/255098

Group: Shoalhaven Water Group
Section: Water Asset Planning & Development

Attachments: 1. Revolving Energy Fund [↓](#)

Purpose / Summary

In response to a Resolution (HPERM Ref. 56964E D18/171487) received from the Sustainable Futures Committee (SFC) held on 7/6/2018, Darren O'Connell was asked to bring to the next meeting some information on the setup of a Green Revolving Fund at Council.

Recommendation

That the Committee

1. Note the Revolving Energy Fund scheme (REFund) discussion paper.
2. Request that a detailed report be produced for the next Committee meeting outlining the scheme after consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Options

1. Note the Revolving Energy Fund scheme (REFund) discussion paper and request that a detailed report be produced.

Implications: The Committee would have information on which to base its deliberations.

2. The Committee decide on an alternative course of action.

Implications: Staff will need to prepare another report in line with the alternative course of action adopted by the Committee.

Background

Green Revolving Funds have been used by organisations for decades as a means of generating ongoing funds for environmental projects. They work on the basis that a funded project will result in ongoing cost savings and these savings are then invested back into the revolving fund to pay for future projects. There are a number of ways the revolving fund can be managed and financed to ensure that suitable projects are selected and savings are reinvested back into the fund.

Although the term Green Revolving Fund was referenced as a starting point for this project, in reality the majority of environmental/sustainability projects supported by them are typically energy savings projects. This is because energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions typically result in shorter payback periods than other 'green' projects such as new compost bins, water efficiency measures, etc. Therefore, this project has taken on the title of 'Revolving Energy Fund' or REFund. It will support future energy savings projects across Shoalhaven City Council's assets. An outline of the REFund scheme has been prepared (Attachment 1) for review by the SFC.

Community Engagement

Internal policy so no external community consultation needed. Some consultation with SCC Finance staff has already occurred.

Policy Implications

If approved, the REFund scheme would be captured as an internal Council policy. The Policy would then act as a guideline for the evaluation of submitted projects, financial arrangements for funds, project administration, etc.

Financial Implications

At this early stage, approval is only currently being sought to commence the REFund scheme rather than seed fund it.

Revolving Energy Fund

REFund

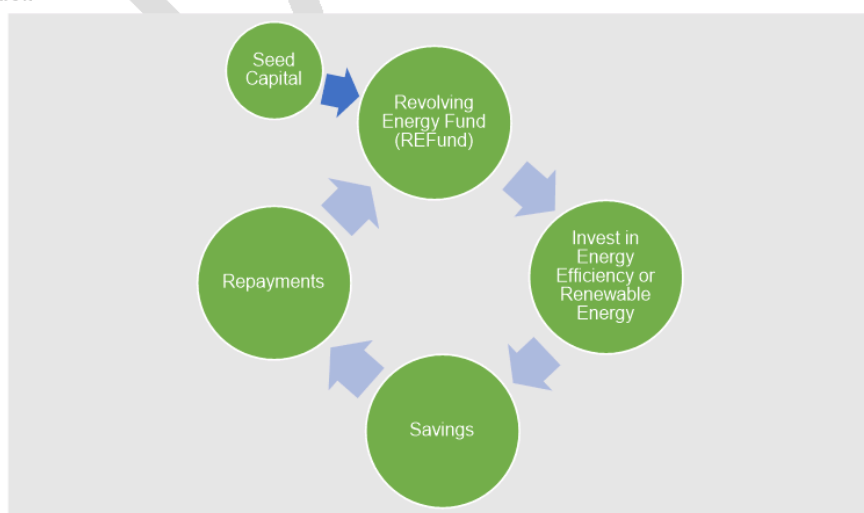
What is it?

A Revolving Energy Fund (REFund) is an internal fund that provides financing to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other energy management projects that generate cost savings. These savings are tracked and used to replenish the fund for the next round of investments, thus establishing a sustainable funding cycle whilst cutting operating costs and reducing the environmental impact of an organisation.

How does it work?

To commence the initiative, a REFund is typically 'seeded' by funds from a large energy savings project. So to kick start the process, this may require an initial investment of \$100,000 towards an energy savings initiative project (e.g. solar PV installations on Council buildings/assets), to ensure that there are sufficient cost savings made from it to deposit into the REFund. A range of existing or proposed energy savings projects could contribute towards the commencement of the REFund scheme, rather than a separate allocation of funds.

When an energy savings initiative is proposed, an application to fund the project from the REFund is made to the fund manager (e.g. Manager Environmental Services). If approved, the fund pays for the project and the annual financial savings that are achieved through energy reductions are calculated, and then journalled back into the fund from the energy budget (e.g. electricity budget) for the particular asset. Repayments to the REFund could begin the financial year after the funds were disbursed and drawn say quarterly, or done at the end of the financial year. The money continues into the fund until the project costs are fully paid back to the fund, after which the budget of the asset then realises and keeps the ongoing savings. In this way the system works like a 'no interest loan', with the annual expected energy savings acting as the loan repayments. See figure below for conceptual model.



Basic eligibility guidelines and criteria would be developed and include such things as projects must be consistent with Council's policies, reduce Council's energy use or install renewable energy, and have a payback period of seven years or less (be NPV positive = be a savings to Council). Expected community and environmental benefits could also be sought as part of the project application process.

Where has it worked before?

Wingecarribee Shire Council have had a "Revolving Energy Fund" since 2012 and it is working well according to Therese Smart, Environment & Health Systems Coordinator. Back in 2012, Wingecarribee Council used WaSIP funding as seed funding to get it started and then sought additional funds from their Finance Committee. To date, the fund has enabled 185 kW of installed solar panels on five Council assets, as well as LED lighting upgrades to libraries and the Civic Centre. They have a formal procedure and project agreement process which is essential to get buy-in through the finance branch. They also provide a report to their finance committee at the end of each financial year to notify them of funds to be transferred back into the REF.

Penrith City Council established a Sustainability Revolving Fund in 2003 as a complementary source of funding to support initiatives that foster the sustainable use of resources and adoption of best practices. Penrith Council prepared formal Guidelines to provide a framework for the administration of the Fund, its purpose and how it is to be managed. Project applications are required to address eligibility criteria such as consistency with Council strategic plans, as well as supply details of potential savings and payback periods, project plans and relevant management approvals.

A similar \$12 million 'Green Revolving Fund' has operated at Harvard University since the 1990s and has been a successful self-replenishing tool for encouraging Harvard's schools to invest in projects that generate cost savings and reduce their environmental impacts. The University of Western Sydney also launched the Sustainable University Rolling Fund (SURF) in 2010 and this has enabled \$345,000 of funding for 42 projects with an 8.25% estimated return on investment.

Who has been consulted about this idea?

The resolution to investigate the viability of a Revolving Energy Fund was raised at Shoalhaven Council's Sustainable Futures Committee meeting of 7 June 2018. At that time, there was some discussion with Stephen Dunshea – Director Finance, Corporate & Community, who expected that a REFund could probably be accommodated within Council's existing financial systems. Additional meetings between Stephen, Carmel Krogh and Darren O'Connell have also taken place and further consultation with Council's Chief Financial Officer and Manager – Environmental Services would also be conducted to formalise the process.

What are the financial implications?

A number of Council sections have energy efficiency opportunity projects submitted every year for a budget allocation, sometimes without success. A REFund opens up another possible funding stream for these energy savings projects that will result in quantifiable returns.

Council's Finance Team will be consulted for input into the technical details of the scheme such as who pays the project invoice and which account they will use; which account will be making repayments over the course of the loan; how often repayments would occur; will repayments increase with CPI; how flows of money will appear on the various departmental budgets and balance sheets etc.

Approval and Commencement

This Discussion Paper is submitted for consideration and endorsement by the Sustainable Futures Committee. If approved, details of how the REFund scheme will be managed will be finalised with Council's Finance team and Manager - Environmental Services.

Prepared by Darren O'Connell – Energy Management Coordinator, Shoalhaven Council, 25/7/2018

HPERM Reference: 56964E D18/171487 (resolution from Sustainable Futures Committee)
HPERM Reference: 56964E D18/252484 (this document)

DRAFT

SF18.28 - Attachment 1

SF18.29 Cities Power Partnerships (CPP) Summit: 18-19 October 2018, Kiama

HPERM Ref: D18/255720

Submitted by: Lorraine Larri

Attachments: 1. Cities Power Partnership Summit 2018 [↓](#)

Recommendation

That

1. The Sustainable Futures Committee ensure that Council is well represented at the Cities Power Partnerships Summit in Kiama, 18-19 October 2018.
2. Council approve funding for two Community Representatives of the Committee to participate.

Details

The CPP Summit is being held on 18-19 October 2018 in Kiama. The theme is “Accelerating Local Action” with themes including: local action in focus; carbon certification and risk management; new energy markets and procurement models; sustainable transport and the role of electric vehicles; and low carbon project financing options.

As this Committee is responsible for co-ordinating the CPP pledges I would like to ensure that we have good representation at the Summit.

Is anyone from this Committee, either Council staff or Councillors already registered for the Summit already? If not can we identify suitable representatives? I also propose that Council fund at least two of the five Community Representatives to attend the two days. This is a perfect opportunity to recognise and enhance the expertise of SFC Community representatives. It also affords SCC an opportunity to showcase how we are including the community in sustainability strategic planning.

Staff Comment: As at 27 July 2018, two (2) Councillors, being Mayor Findley and Cllr Gartner, have registered to attend this conference.

SF18.29



WHAT IS THE PARTNERSHIP?

POWER PARTNERS

KNOWLEDGE HUB

POWER ANALYTICS TOOL

MEDIA & EVENTS HUB

CPP SUMMIT

CONTACT



ABOUT THE SUMMIT

The Cities Power Partnership Summit, will inspire, connect, engage & deliver practical information to assist councils implement carbon emissions reduction projects that contribute to the action pledges across the four areas of Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Transport & Working Together for Influence.

Our summit theme for 2018 '**Accelerating local action**' underlines the crucial role of local leadership and the fact that visible, concrete action on climate change is supported by ratepayers and residents around the country. We know that transforming the way cities use and generate energy alone has the potential to deliver 70% of the total emissions reductions needed to stay on track for the 2 degrees limit set under the Paris agreement.

Tim Flannery invites you to the Cities Power Partnership Summit



Curated by the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership team with input from an advisory panel of leading experts from around Australia, the program will feature Australian and international keynote speakers, panel discussions, case studies, media training workshops run by the Climate Media Centre and lots of lively debate.

Summit Registration IS NOW OPEN [REGISTER HERE](#)

KEY TOPICS

- Setting and delivering on carbon reduction targets – best practice case studies from CPP member councils
- The power of council and community partnerships to deliver renewable energy projects
- Councils becoming medium scale renewable energy project developers
- Low carbon project financing options & cost / benefit analyses
- Electric vehicle fleet & fast charging infrastructure rollouts
- What are the climate risks and potential liabilities that councils face?
- International case studies and learnings for Australian councils

See [PROGRAM OUTLINE](#)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Mayors and councillors
- Environment and sustainability teams
- Energy and asset managers
- Communications teams
- Business & community engagement teams
- Community energy groups

In addition to our CPP member audience we also welcome

- Prospective councils looking to join in 2018-19
- Policy practitioners in state and federal governments
- Low carbon products & service suppliers



Download the summit overview & [Save the date card](#)

GALA AWARDS DINNER – THURSDAY OCTOBER 18



CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP

AWARDS 2018

The summit will also include the inaugural Cities Power Partner awards ceremony, which will showcase excellence in renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport and community advocacy at the practitioner level, as well as individual champion awards. The awards ceremony will be held as part of the summit gala dinner on Thursday October 18, 2018.

Entries are now open and will close on Monday July 30, 2018.

Award categories

Achievement Awards

- Renewable Energy Achievement Award
- Energy Efficiency Achievement Award
- Sustainable Transport Achievement Award
- Community Engagement Award

Knowledge Sharing Award (Best Buddies Award)

CPP Ambassador Award (Individual)

For further information on how to enter, selection criteria, eligibility & the judging panel, visit the [CPP Awards web page](#)

Summit Awards Sponsor



SUMMIT REGISTRATION

Summit Registration IS NOW OPEN. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Registration fees (incl GST)

Full registration – includes 2 day conference, networking drinks & gala awards dinner.

Early bird rates expires 30 June, 2018

- CPP Member Council delegate – \$750 (\$675 Early Bird)
- Corporate & Non CPP member council – \$1,000 (\$900 Early Bird)
- Community, not for profit – \$500 (\$450 Early Bird)
- Gala awards dinner – \$195 (included in full registration)

Group discounts -Register a group of three or more from the same organisation and receive a 20% discount per ticket.

Day registrations also available.



DAY 1 WORKSHOP: CLIMATE MEDIA SPOKESPERSON TRAINING

Run by the Climate Media Centre, this afternoon session for Mayors, elected representatives / delegated media spokespeople will assist in messaging for media opportunities including:

- Policy or strategy launches
- Responding to climate disruption (eg extreme weather events)
- Climate solutions & new initiatives

Numbers are strictly limited so submit your request early to avoid disappointment.

FREE for registered Summit delegates. The session will run concurrently to the plenary Summit program on site.

Prospective delegates will be asked to complete a pre-training survey outlining your previous experience to help with the session planning. Preference will be given to less experienced media performers or under-resourced councils.

The Climate Media Centre is a not-for-profit PR agency and spokesperson bureau for climate change. It has provided tailored training to hundreds of climate change communicators across Australia and generates more than 6,000 media items a year.

Download the [workshop flyer](#) & RSVP to info@cppsummit.org.au

THE VENUE

The Pavilion Kiama is located within the Illawarra's South Coast. Perched on the headland overlooking the famous Kiama Lighthouse, Norfolk Pines and Surf Beach, the stunning coastal location makes it a unique conference venue. The Pavilion Kiama is a 1.5 hour drive south of Sydney or accessible via direct train from Sydney airport.

The regional location provides delegates with the opportunity to network and learn without distractions back at the office. The summit dates Thursday – Friday also offers an opportunity for delegates to extend their stay to visit the beautiful NSW South Coast.



CPP SUMMIT A NCOS CARBON NEUTRAL EVENT



We are pleased to announce our commitment that the 2018 Summit will be an officially certified carbon neutral event under the National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS), the only government recognised carbon neutral standard in Australia.

The *National Carbon Offset Standard for Events* provides best-practice guidance on how to measure, reduce, offset and report emissions that occur as a result of an event's activities. The CPP Summit will be only the second event certified under this scheme.

The CPP team is proud to be working with supporting partner [Pangolin Associates](#) and Kiama Council's Pavilion venue team for the carbon emissions measurement & management, carbon offsetting and reporting to achieve the NCOS certification.

To achieve a carbon neutral summit we need a little bit of help from our attendees and partners to accurately understand the Summit's carbon footprint, including emissions from travel to and from the Summit. We can only offset what we know about. As a result, you will see a few more requests than usual for information on our registration site. Please take the time to complete as accurately as possible.

Carbon Neutral Supporting Partner



EXHIBITION & SPONSORSHIP

The Power Partner Summit provides a unique opportunity to engage with Over 100 local government authorities who have committed to climate action pledges as part of the program, and are either actively implementing carbon emissions reduction projects now or are committed to in the near future.

Whether you're looking to showcase a new product, debate a big idea, connect with decision makers or to simply demonstrate your commitment to Australia's climate challenge, we have a range of sponsorship and exhibition packages to meet your objectives, whatever your budget.

The Conference includes an exclusive industry exhibition which will be capped at 10 stalls in addition to stalls included in sponsorship packages.

Download the [CPP Summit sponsorship & exhibition prospectus](#)

Host Sponsor



Join the conversation

 @CPP_AU | #CPPSummit2018 | www.cppsummit.org.au



The Climate Council is an independent non-profit organisation funded by donations by the public. Our mission is to provide authoritative, expert advice to the Australian public on climate change.
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WHAT IS THE PARTNERSHIP?

POWER PARTNERS

NEWS & EVENTS HUB

NOMINATE YOUR COMMUNITY

PRIVACY POLICY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SF18.30 Report of "Narratives of Climate Change" Symposium

HPERM Ref: D18/255801

Submitted by: Lorraine Larri

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That as part of the Community Engagement strategy the Committee investigate inviting Dr Simon Kerr to perform "Music for a Warming World" in the Shoalhaven.

Details

On 5 and 6 July I was in Newcastle at the "Narratives of Climate Change Symposium". This was an interdisciplinary and cross-institutional collaboration between the University of Newcastle, the Griffith Climate Change Response Program and the School of Law and Justice, Southern Cross University. I was there to present my PhD research in social movement learning and also to be part of the conversations around effectively communicating climate change.

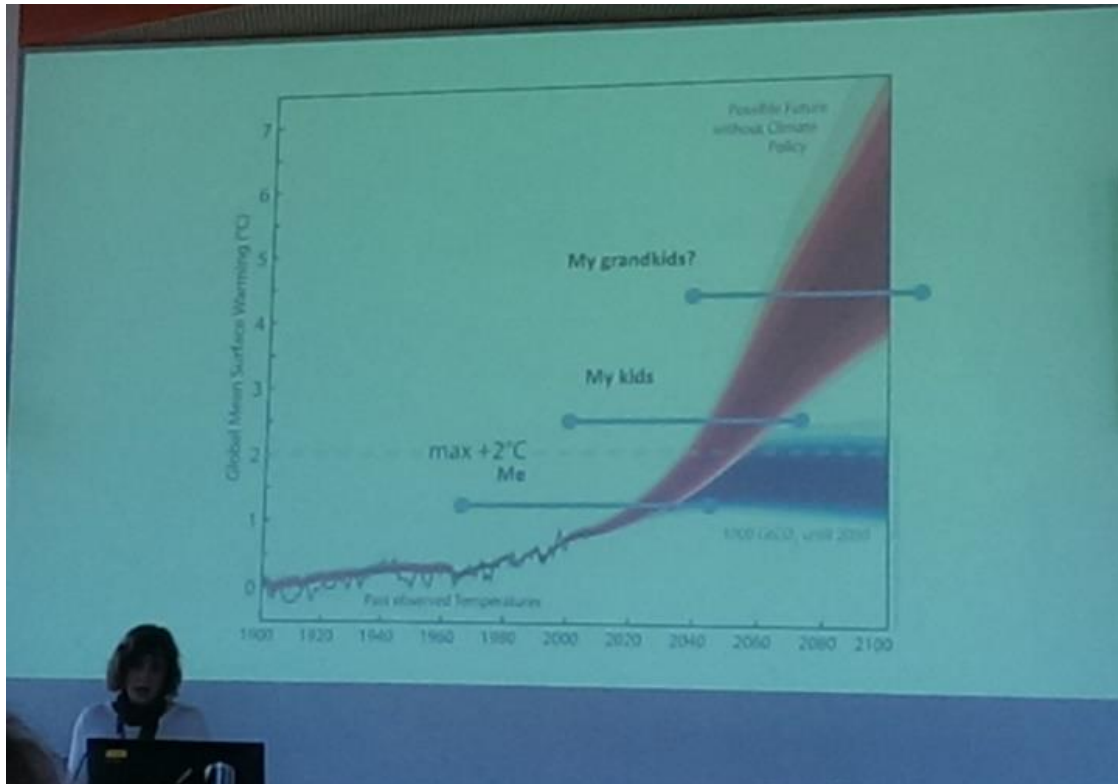
The purpose of this ground-breaking Symposium was to draw together academics, artists, and activists to share our understandings about how we tell the stories of climate justice, climate science, activism, and creative storytelling.

I can honestly say this was one of the most insightful and engaging academic forums I have ever been to. The inclusion of such a broad range of speakers from such different perspectives all contributing their understanding of climate change narratives was really the key for me. In our Sustainable Futures Committee I have talked about engaging our community in meaningful learning experiences that address the challenges we face with knowledge, action, and hope. This was an exemplary event in that regard.

The Symposium was structured with four Plenary Panels followed by themed parallel sessions. There were 59 presentations in 18 parallel sessions. In addition, five artists presented paintings, sculptures, and visual and sound installations during the Symposium. "Walking the Solar System", which is a group event, was performed. As were films and excerpts from a musical event called, "Music for a Warming World" - Creating emotional connection; using live music and visuals to connect people to dangerous climate change ... and to hope in the Anthropocene. I was particularly inspired by "Music for a Warming World" which is available for performance by contacting Dr Simon Kerr; see www.musicforawarmingworld.org. I would like to recommend SFC investigate inviting Dr Kerr to perform in the Shoalhaven at some of our venues e.g. the Entertainment Centre, and the Milton Theatre.

Professor Nathan Beindhoff and Professor Lesley Hughes who have been part of the IPCC writing teams talked about their approaches to public speaking explaining climate science. A significant realisation was to show statistics in ways that make them relevant to people's lives. One way of doing this, shown below by Prof Hughes, is to map one's age, children's and grandchildren's ages on graphs such as "Global Mean Surface Warming" if we continue without mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, i.e. "business as usual".

SF18.30



SF18.30

The final Plenary Panel featured the writers Sally Abbott (prize winning novel – *Closing Down*) and Shelley Birse (screenwriter, *The Code*). They talked about the challenges of including climate change themes in well-crafted creative ways.

I think the best way to give you a sense of what “narratives of climate change” meant for this event is to read the words of Dr Nicole Rogers, Founder of the Narratives of Climate Change Symposiums, (Southern Cross University):

How can we reconcile the long-term visionary planning needed for climate change mitigation and adaptation with short-term political goals and economic preoccupations? Scientific modelling, scientific projections and even doomsday pronouncements from the scientific community have failed to overcome political and social inertia in relation to climate change targets. It is clear that we, the small minority of the world’s population which has the capacity and responsibility to act effectively at this critical juncture, remain trapped in a seductive narrative of endless growth and capital accumulation which obfuscates the true consequences of our failure to act. We are, in fact, unreliable narrators, wilfully blind to our own contribution to the looming climate change dystopian nightmare.

Our desire to protect our children and to provide for their future is a biological imperative. In the context of climate change, this is a fundamental failing, underpinning our addiction to capitalism, economic gain and the illusion of financial security. Yet the primeval urge to ensure our children’s survival is also, arguably, the impetus for wide-sweeping change in this context. Transformative change is possible when we truly understand the ramifications of runaway climate change for our children and their children. This requires us to become responsible rather than unreliable narrators. Narratives of climate change which outline the dire consequences of our failure to act and the alarming dimensions of a world transformed by runaway climate change, narratives of urgency, caution and responsibility, must displace the narrative of endless growth.

This symposium constitutes an interdisciplinary collaboration between activists, scientists, lawyers, writers and a host of others, all inspired by the possibility that the

gap between scientific knowledge and effective political, legal and social action on climate change can be bridged by different narrative framings. Such narrative framings find expression in artistic creations, works of fiction and other writings, activist and other performances, innovative judicial reasoning and visionary planning, to name but a few possibilities. Narrative, with its capacity to ignite the public imagination, is one of the most powerful mechanisms to bring about transformative change. We hope that the symposium inspires ongoing collaborations and the continued creation and dissemination of disturbing, shocking and disruptive narratives of climate change.

Below is the program outline. For more detailed information see

<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/about-uon/governance-and-leadership/faculties-and-schools/faculty-of-business-and-law/conferences/narratives-of-climate-change-symposium>

Council Staff Comment: *Should the recommendation be adopted, Council staff will investigate the costs and logistics associated with this and report back to a future meeting of this Committee.*

SF18.30

SYMPOSIUM DAY 1 PROGRAM

Time	Programme Item
8:15 - 8:30	Registration Ground Floor NeW Space
8:30 - 9:00	Welcome to County Aunty Sandra Griffin, Awabakal Elder, Elder in residence, UON Welcome to the Symposium Dr. Elena Aydos Symposium Opening Dr. Nicole Rogers Room X-101 NeW Space
9:00 - 10:30	Plenary Session 1 Climate Justice Panel Dr Matthew Rimmer (Chair) Sue Higginson Dr. Amy Maguire Dr. Jason von Meding Room X-101 NeW Space
10:30 - 11:00	Morning Tea Level 1 NeW Space Artist: Liss Finney
11:00 - 12:30	Parallel Sessions I Session 1 Room X-201 Mitigation, Litigation and the Future of Climate Change Governance Session 2 Room X-202 Towards equitable environmental policy: cost, ethics and politics Session 3 Room X-204 Legal, governance and creative responses to climate migration Session 4 Room X-207 Climate, activism and finance Session 5 Room X-101 Comparing coal narratives in India, Germany and Australia: variations in the coal-industrial complex
12:30-13:30	Lunch Ground Floor NeW Space Artists: Paula Payne & Liss Finney
13:30 - 15:00	Plenary Session 2 Sponsored by the University of Newcastle School of Humanities and Social Science Activist Panel Professor Cristiane Derani (Chair) Tim DeChristopher Aidan Ricketts Dr. Anne Poelina Room X-101 NeW Space
15:00 - 15:30	Afternoon Tea Level 2 NeW Space Artists: Marzena Wasikowska, Annique Goldenberg & Dr. Leah Barclay
15:30 - 17:00	Parallel Sessions II Session 6 Room X-201 The power of community: "soft infrastructure" challenging climate change Session 7 Room X-202 Cross-cultural Narratives and Storytelling Session 8 Room X-204 Older women take the lead: Experiences, stories and activism Session 9 Room X-207 Towards Enlightened Self-Interest: the role of International Governance
17:30 - 19:15	Social Event and Short-Film Exhibition Tower Cinemas 183/185 King St, Newcastle NSW 2300

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SYMPOSIUM DAY 2 PROGRAM

Time	Programme Item
8:45 – 9:00	Acknowledgement of Country Welcome to Day 2 Associate Professor Sarah Wright <i>Room X-101 NeW Space</i>
9:00 – 10:30	Plenary Session 3 Bringing the Climate Science Story to Life Sponsored by NSW Department of Industry Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer John Reid (Chair) Prof. Nathan Bindoff Prof. Lesley Hughes Dr. Esther Achieng Onyango <i>Room X-101 NeW Space</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Morning Tea <i>Level 1 NeW Space Artist: Liss Finney</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Parallel Sessions III Session 10 Room X-201 Approaches, ideologies and agendas that shape community responses to climate change Session 11 Room X-202 Rethinking methodologies of climate change research Session 12 Room X-204 Making sense of climate change loss and destruction Session 13 Room X-207 Communities, energy and climate Session 14 Room X-101 Eco Apocalypse or Sustainable Future: The Art of Framing & Storytelling
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch <i>Ground Floor NeW Space Artists: Paula Payne & Liss Finney</i>
13:00 – 13:30	Walking the Solar System John Reid <i>Room X-101 Level 1 NeW Space</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Plenary Session 4 Storytelling Professor Christopher Wright (Chair) Sally Abbott Shelley Birse Dr. Jason de Santolo <i>Room X-101 NeW Space</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Afternoon Tea <i>Level 2 NeW Space Artists: Marzena Wasikowska, Annique Goldenberg & Leah Barclay</i>
15:30 – 17:00	Parallel Sessions IV Session 15 Room X-201 Grappling with climate change through music, theatre and film Session 16 Room X-202 Consciousness and sensitivity in climate change storytelling Session 17 Room X-204 Rethinking Storytelling in the age of Climate Change Session 18 Room X-101 Stories of Art and Landscapes: Coping with Trauma and Anxiety
17:00 – 18:00	Final Plenary Session Professor Brendan Mackey <i>Room X-101 NeW Space</i>