Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

MINUTES

FOR THE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, 15 MARCH 2018
IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS / MAINBREAK,
WALLCLIFFE ROAD, MARGARET RIVER
COMMENCING AT 5.30PM
DISCLAIMER

The Council of the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River hereby advises that before taking any action on an application or a decision of the Council, any applicant or member of the public should wait for written advice from the Council.

GARY EVERSHED
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE
To promote sustainable environmental practices within the Shire of Augusta Margaret River and across the community and to provide a forum for community representatives, Councillors and Shire officers to focus on sustainability issues.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE
a) To advise Shire officers and Council how to increase community engagement with sustainable environmental practice.

b) To advise the Shire officers and Council on sustainable environmental issues including:

- Climate Change;
- Transport and air quality;
- Biodiversity;
- The built environment;
- Community information and engagement to increase sustainable practice;
- Land and waterway degradation;
- Water quality and conservation;
- Waste management; and
- Power generation and conservation.

c) To identify strategies which increase real and sustainable behaviour change in residents, businesses and other members of the community (including tourists) to improve sustainability outcomes.

d) To recommend to the Council policy, advice and appropriate courses of action which promote sustainability that is:
   1) Environmentally responsible;
   2) Socially and culturally sound; and
   3) Economically viable.
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Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

1.0  Declaration of Opening

2.0  Appointments

3.0  Attendance

Committee Members
Mr Julian Kruger (President)
Ms Karen Majer (Deputy President)
Mr Ken Collins
Mr Peter Little
Ms Katie Biggs
Mr John Lawson

Council Representatives
Cr Naomi Godden

Shire Staff
Sustainable Planning Officer – Mr Jared Drummond
Director Sustainable Development – Mr Dale Putland

Apologies
Mr Nick Dornan
Cr Peter Lane
Cr Pauline McLeod
Ms Lyn Serventy

4.0  Public Questions
Nil

5.0  Disclosures of Interest
Nil

6.0  Confirmation of Minutes

6.1  Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting 21 December 2017

MOTION / SAC DECISION

MOVED: K. MAJER  SECONDED: K. COLLINS  SAC2018/1
That the minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held 21 December 2017 be confirmed as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.

CARRIED 7/0

7.0  REPORTS

7.1  Energy

7.2  Biodiversity

7.2.1  Thinning techniques for improving native vegetation (John Lawson)
Margaret River is almost surrounded by eucalypt forest, mostly Jarrah/Marri based. This forest was heavily logged nearly a century ago. When most of the original canopy was removed in a single event, the increased light intensity on the forest floor brought on an abnormal germination of seedlings, and abnormal coppicing from stumps. Marri, by far a more profuse seed producer than Jarrah, and much faster growing, became the dominant tree species. Within decades the logged forest had become a closed community of saplings, which has made no noticeable growth in the past 40 years.

This degraded forest, with its increased density and lower canopy, combined with the effects of a drying climate, have made it far more fire-prone than the pre-logged forest, and very difficult for firefighters to access. This situation has put the town of Margaret River and its surrounds under serious bushfire threat. In fact, professional foresters, highly experienced with bushfires, regard the area between the Capes as the most fire-prone in the State, worse than either the Perth Hills or Denmark.

For these reasons, foresters are promoting strategic thinning of the present degraded stands, to restore the composition and density to match the pre-logged virgin forest. This would reduce the fire-risk, make the forest more accessible to firefighters, and as demonstration areas have proved, allows the remaining trees to grow, rather than remain stagnant - true restoration. It also gives those trees a better capacity to cope with climate change.

I submit that, in the cause of forest sustainability, fire risk reduction and aesthetic appeal, our Shire could co-operate in the establishment of a small forest restoration demonstration area in our town precincts. This would be in an area vested in the Shire, in public view, and selected by experienced professional foresters.

I believe that with Shire approval and support of a co-operative demonstration, finance could be applied for from the Commonwealth’s Mechanical Fuel Reduction Fund.

**Action:** Set up a meeting between John Lawson, Jared Drummond and the Shire’s Community Emergency Services Manager (Chris Lloyd) to discuss this concept.

7.3 Water

7.4 Waste

7.4.1 Update on Waste Feasibility Study

Information sheet circulated for information purposes.

7.5 Transport

7.6 Planning/Development

7.6.1 Update on Main Street Development

Council adopted the Margaret River Main Street Final Schematic Design and the Main Street Urban Design Principles as the guiding documents for executing streetscape and infrastructure improvements to the Margaret River Main Street. The SAC adopted the following motions, to be considered at the detailed design phase.

**MOTION / SAC DECISION**

MOVED: K. BIGGS SECONDED: P. LITTLE SAC2018/2

SAC recommends to council that the curation associated with the main street redevelopment, including but not limited to the street furniture, artwork, tree species and renewable energy applications, utilise local materials, designers, artisans and craftspeople, and reflect an authentic local identity and character.

CARRIED 7/0
MOTION / SAC DECISION
MOVED: K. MAJER SECONDED: K. BIGGS SAC2018/3
SAC recommends to council that the main street redevelopment consider in the current
design the potential for future expansion to incorporate inclusion of a main street
precinct extending to the South Regional TAFE campus in the south, Carters Road
intersection in the north and the Charles West Ave bus port to the west, to ensure better
integration, improved connectivity and an enhanced welcome amenity.
CARRIED 7/0

7.6.2 Review of the Local Planning Strategy and Local Planning Scheme No.1

The Shire has commenced a review of its Local Planning Strategy and Local Planning
Scheme No. 1 (LPS1). The review is necessary to meet the statutory requirements of the
Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015.

The Scheme and Strategy are the primary statutory and strategic planning documents
guiding the subdivision and development within the Shire. This review will be the most
significant planning project undertaken in the Shire since the preparation and adoption
of LPS1 in 2010.

Oversight of the project will be undertaken by Council’s Planning Committee of which
all Councillors are members. SAC are invited to partner with the Planning Committee
and Shire staff to ensure that the new Scheme and Strategy are inclusive of best
practice environmental and sustainability parameters. There will be multiple
opportunities for SAC members to provide input into the process and staff will keep SAC
members updated as the project progresses.

Action: SAC expressed interest to become part of the scheme amendment process,
and to meet with Matt Cuthbert in the near future.

8.0 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes
Summary of Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes from 21 December 2017 (determined

RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION
CR MCLEOD, CR GODDEN OM2018/59
That Council:
1. Receives the unconfirmed minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee held on 21
   December 2017; and
2. Notes the SAC’s request to the Local Energy Action Plan, Climate Change Response Plan
   and State of the Environment report establish baseline data and measures for monitoring
   progress, subject to consideration of financial implications and available staff resources.
CARRIED 5/0

9.0 General Business

10.0 Next Meeting
The next meeting is scheduled for 21 June 2018.

11.0 Closure
Chair closed the meeting at 7.34pm