Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

MINUTES

FOR THE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2017
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 Council officers to focus on sustainability issues.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE
a) 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.

b) To advise the Shire of Augusta Margaret River 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
   - Power generation and energy conservation.

c) To advise Council officers and Council how to increase community engagement with sustainable environmental practice.

d) 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.
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Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

1.0 Declaration of Opening

The Chair welcomed all in attendance and declared the meeting open at 5.30pm

2.0 Appointments

3.0 Attendance

Committee Members
Ms Karen Majer, Presiding Member  
Mr Julian Kruger  
Dr Don Bradshaw  
Mr Ken Collins  
Ms Lyn Serventy  
Ms Laura Bailey

Councillor Representatives
Cr Peter Lane : North Ward  
Cr Felicity Haynes : Town Ward

Shire Staff
Sustainable Planning Officer / Minutes : Mr Jared Drummond  
Director Sustainable Development : Mr Dale Putland  
Waste Education Officer : Ms Jackie Dixon  
Senior Landcare Officer : Mr John McKinney  
Strategic Project Officer : Mr Matt Cuthbert

3.1 Apologies
Cr Pam Townshend : Town Ward  
Mr Nick Dornan  
Mr John Lawson  
Mr Tom Dowling  
Ms Naomi Godden

Members of the Public
Nil

4.0 Public Questions
Nil

5.0 Disclosures of Interest

5.1 Item 7.6.1 – Impartiality Interest - Ms Laura Bailey

Ms Laura Bailey verbally disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 7.6.1 in that she is a member of Transition Margaret River.

5.2 Item 7.6.1 – Impartiality Interest - Ms Karen Majer

Ms Karen Majer, Presiding Member, verbally disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 7.6.1 in that she is a member of Transition Margaret River of whom submitted a grant application.
5.3 Item 7.6.1 – Impartiality Interest – Dr Don Bradshaw

Dr Don Bradshaw verbally disclosed an impartiality interest Item 7.6.1 in that he is a member of the Environmental Research Group Augusta of whom submitted a grant application.

6.0 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting 15 June 2017

MOTION / SAC DECISION

MOVED: D. BRADSHAW SECONDED: J. KRUGER SAC2017/5
That the minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held 15 June 2017 be confirmed as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.

CARRIED 8/0

7.0 REPORTS

7.1 Energy

7.1.1 Update on the AMR Clean Community Energy project – (Lyn Serventy)

7.2 Biodiversity

7.3 Water

7.4 Waste

7.4.1 Tidy Towns and Container Deposit Scheme – (Jackie Dixon)

Tidy Towns
Augusta was named a finalist in the General Appearance category, while Margaret River was shortlisted in the Litter prevention and waste management, Environmental sustainability and Environmental education sections.

Container Deposit Scheme Attachment 1
Submissions open on the Western Australia Container Deposit Scheme Discussion Paper

7.5 Transport

7.6 Planning/Development

7.6.1 Environmental Management Fund – assessment of projects (Jared Drummond and John McKinney) Attachment 2

The EMF is a funding stream endorsed by Council and is intended to fund projects which achieve local environmental and sustainability outcomes. In the 2017-18 Financial Year approximately $100,000 is available via an external grant program. A further $130,000 is available for Shire related projects, which includes $30,000 carry over from 2016/17 for a vegetation condition assessment.

Projects that meet the EMF themes are available for funding. The themes are:

a) biodiversity protection – includes projects such as revegetation, strategic weed control;

b) waterway health – includes projects such as river or creek foreshore revegetation, projects to improve water quality;
c) coastal management and protection - includes projects such as strategic erosion and access control, revegetation, and weed control; and
d) environmental education and capacity building of the community, development of information materials and training.

The Shire received 12 grant applications seeking funding through the EMF. A further seven Shire projects are also proposed to be funded through the EMF. The SAC discussed each of these projects and supported the following motion.

**MOTION / SAC DECISION**

**MOVED: F. HAYNES SECONDED: J. KRUGER SAC2017/6**

1. Recommend that Council fund the following Shire initiated projects through the Environmental Management Fund in 2017/18:
   a) Vegetation Condition Assessment ($30,000)
   b) Landscape Scale Rehabilitation ($25,000)
   c) Woody weeds removal and workshops ($14,000)
   d) Rain Garden maintenance ($15,000)
   e) Sediment control ($15,000)
   f) Local provenance seed collection ($5,000)
   g) Reserve management implementation ($30,000)

2. Recommend that Council fund the following grant applications through the Environmental Management Fund in 2017/18:
   a) Surfers Point environmental projects ($3,680)
   b) Cowaramup Creek rehabilitation ($2,575)
   c) Melaleuca Beach rehabilitation ($1,200)
   d) Southpoint rehabilitation ($4,200)
   e) Community renewable energy and energy efficiency education ($5,100)
   f) Black cockatoo conservation project ($5,000)
   g) Friends of Reserves ($10,000)
   h) Our Patch ($17,648)
   i) Western Ringtail Possum Protection ($21,348)
   j) Turner Brook creekline rehabilitation ($10,000)
   k) Donovan Street environmental research book ($14,150)

**CARRIED 8/0**

Ms Karen Majer and Ms Laura Bailey both left the room prior to item 2 e) above being discussed.

Dr Don Bradshaw left the room prior to item 2 k) above being discussed.

The SAC discussed the need to establish a Friends of Wardandi Track group to assist with on-going Shire revegetation and weed control efforts. The following motion was passed by SAC.

**MOTION / SAC DECISION**

**MOVED: L. SERVENTY SECONDED: K. COLLINS SAC2017/7**

Recommend that Council forms a Friends of Wardandi Track group.

**CARRIED 8/0**

7.6.2 **Sustainability Policy and Sustainability Reference Paper Attachment 3**

Minutes of the 15 December 2016 SAC meeting, recorded the following:

- Themes for SAC will be reviewed through the upcoming Community Strategic Plan development process.
- That SAC assists Council to develop and implement a ‘holistic policy framework’ for sustainability encompassing environmental, social, economic and cultural sustainability in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the first instance through input to the Community Strategic Plan.
Subsequently, Council’s *Overarching Sustainability Strategy* was referred to SAC for review. Actions taken to address these issues have been:

i. SAC was represented by the Chair Karen Majer at all six meetings of the Community Reference Group providing input to the Shire on developing the *Community Strategic Plan*, now referred to as the *Your Vision 2036 Community Strategic Directions*.

ii. SAC received a briefing on 7 June from Dr Dale Putland on SAC’s role, especially in relation to how the Shire’s Policies and Strategies guide Shire initiatives.

iii. At the 7 June Workshop and a special SAC meeting on 13 July, SAC members:
   a) prioritised the current most important sustainability issues facing the Augusta Margaret River Shire and current SAC priorities;
   b) developed detailed recommendations as input to reviewing the Shire’s *Overarching Sustainability Policy*.

iv. Shire staff revised the current *Overarching Sustainability Policy* on the basis of the SAC meeting outcomes to develop a *draft Sustainability Policy*. The purpose of the Policy is to provide succinct Council commitment to sustainability (as per WALGA policy guidelines), while the *Your Vision 2036 Community Strategic Directions* will provide overarching guidance for Council Policies and Strategies.

v. The comprehensive outputs of the June and July SAC workshop and meetings were used to compile a *Sustainability Policy Reference Paper* (holistic sustainability policy framework) to provide a detailed Addendum to the *Sustainability Policy* and assist the SAC in future deliberations on projects and priorities.

**MOTION / SAC DECISION**

**MOVED: D. BRADSHAW SECONDED: K. COLLINS** SAC2017/8

1. Recommend that Council adopt the Overarching Sustainability Policy.
2. Recommend that Council adopt the Overarching Sustainability Policy Reference Paper to assist scheduled reviews of other Council Policies and strategies.

**CARRIED 8/0**

7.6.3 Environment Sustainability Strategy (Matt Cuthbert)

At its June meeting, the SAC noted results of the consultation process related to the Issues Paper (a precursor to the Environmental Elements of Sustainability Strategy) and a summary of the content of the draft strategy, prior to it being advertised. The draft Strategy was subject to a period of public consultation, which ended on 15 September 2017.

A total of 5 submissions were received offering support and suggested changes which would improve the document. The lack of submissions may be explained in part to the extensive pre consultation undertaken during the preparation of the document.

The Strategy will in due course be presented to council for final approval. It is open for the SAC to recommend to council that the strategy be adopted, noting that the changes necessitated by the submissions have not yet been made. Whether or not SAC resolve to support the strategy, it is nonetheless provided for noting.

**MOTION / SAC DECISION**

**MOVED: L. SERVENTY SECONDED: P. LANE** SAC2017/9

Recommend that Council endorse the Environmental Sustainability Strategy

**CARRIED 8/0**

7.6.4 SAC Terms of Reference (Dale Putland/Jared Drummond) Attachment 4

7.6.5 Update on the Shire’s Community Strategic Plan (Stacey Hutt)

7.6.6 Genuine Progress Indicator –social factors (Don Bradshaw) Attachment 5
The Shire’s approach to the problem of sustainability to date has not addressed social issues. To date, the focus has been on nuts-and-bolts issues such as energy, waste, water and biodiversity. I think we have made a good start but in the future, it would be beneficial if we could also look at the social impact of changes in population size, housing affordability etc., rather than simply looking at GDP per capita as a measure of wellbeing. A recent article from The Conversation promoting a stable, rather than an increasing population for Australia is attached and this provides statistics on what is called a Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) and it shows that, in Australia, this has declined since the 1970s, despite an increase in GDP/capita.

**MOTION / SAC DECISION**

MOVED: D. BRADSHAW SECONDED: F. HAYNES SAC2017/10

Recommend that Council investigate the possibility of collecting relevant data towards the creation of a Genuine Progress Indicator for residents of the Shire.

CARRIED 8/0

8.0 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes
Summary of Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes from 15 June 2017.

**RECOMMENDATION – PART 1 / COUNCIL DECISION**

CR TOWNSHEND, CR HAYNES OM2017/200

1. Receives the minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee held on 15 June 2017;
2. Requests the CEO to write to the WA Government requesting it to protect all state native forests from logging as well as consider financial investment by the WA Government towards development of the Forests for Life Plan;

CARRIED 6/0

**AMENDED RECOMMENDATION – PART 2 / COUNCIL DECISION**

CR TOWNSHEND, CR HAYNES OM2017/201

3. Recommends that investigation of an arboretum is referred back to SAC for further consideration.

CARRIED 6/0

**REASON**
To allow SAC further consideration of an investigation into an arboretum.

Follow on Council’s request to investigate development of an arboretum.

9.0 General Business

John Lawson: Requested by email for Shire endorsement of thinning previously logged forest as a means of achieving restoration, and the complete abandonment of the loss-making and damaging commercial logging of native forest, all this to be part of our new forest policies.

Action: The SAC agreed to further investigate setting up of an arboretum in the Shire.

FH – Foreshadow the need for Council to reduce use of glyphosate in the Shire.

10.0 Next Meeting
Chair closed the meeting at 7.34pm

11.0 Closure