Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

MINUTES

FOR THE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2016
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
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Definition and Priorities

Wide-ranging discussions by members of the Committee since its inception in August 2007 have helped to focus on what is meant by ‘sustainability’. The Brundtland Commission coined in 1983 what was to become the most often-quoted definition of sustainable development as development that "meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy (November 2003), for example is: “Meeting the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity.”

Other definitions focus on development that does not adversely affect the environment, e.g. "Sustainable development is a socio-ecological process characterized by the fulfilment of human needs while maintaining the quality of the natural environment indefinitely."

Defining what is meant by the ‘quality of the natural environment’ is fraught with difficulty, however, and many would argue that development and protection of the environment are incompatible and that the one has been achieved at the expense of the other.

We have all become conscious of the extent to which Western civilisation is dependent on the utilisation of fossil fuels for its ongoing activity and the Committee has focused on this in developing a new definition of ‘sustainability’ that emphasises the nexus between finite resources and development.

The Committee has also agreed on a set of priorities through which it hopes to work in providing advice on a wide range of issues to Council.

It is the Committee’s intention to focus its work and research on a given priority until it has forwarded recommendations to Council, then move on to consider the next priority. This procedure would be set aside, however, in the event that Council requested timely advice on any other issue.

List of Priorities

1. **Energy** – Minimise consumption of polluting and non-renewable energy sources and promote the use of renewable energy sources
2. **Water harvesting and recycling** – Improve water use efficiency
3. **Building design** - To develop and implement local building design guidelines that promote environmentally-sustainable design including materials selection, energy minimisation and water consumption and recycling
4. **Urban form and subdivision** – To develop and implement subdivision and urban design guidelines to achieve towns, neighbourhoods, individual developments and buildings that create vibrant, healthy, happy, adaptable and sustainable communities
5. **Biodiversity** – Protect and maintain the rich biodiversity of the Shire through the development of appropriate management strategies
6. **Information strategies** – Educate and encourage behavioural changes in residents and visitors
7. **Waste** - Reduce waste sent to landfill and promote more efficient use of resources

AMR Sustainability Advisory Committee
May 2008
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENDA LISTING</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>PAGE NO.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Disclaimer</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Explanation of Abbreviations</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Order of Business (Table of Contents)</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>DECLARATION OF OPENING</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Round table introductions</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>APPOINTMENTS</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>ATTENDANCE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Apologies</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting 17 December 2015</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>REPORTS</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2.1</td>
<td>Update on Western Ringtail Possum project</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2.2</td>
<td>Shire use of Glyphosate</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2.3</td>
<td>Climate change and wildlife in Southwest WA</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>Water</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3.1</td>
<td>Proposed water catchment/storage research</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>Waste</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>Planning/Development</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.6.1</td>
<td>Climate adaptation workshop</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.6.2</td>
<td>Update on Environment and Sustainability Strategy - Issues Paper</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.6.3</td>
<td>Discussion on Environmental Management Fund 2016/17</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>GENERAL BUSINESS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>NEXT MEETING</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>CLOSURE</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 March 2016 in Mainbreak Meeting Room, Wallcliffe Road, Margaret River commencing at 5.30pm.

1.0 Declaration of Opening

The Chair, Karen Majer, welcomed all in attendance and declared the meeting open at 5.31pm

1.1 Round table introductions - discuss interests/experience to assist with SAC projects, as follows:

Dr Don Bradshaw – retired zoologist, interest/expertise in western ringtail possum protection, interest in biodiversity protection.

Mr John Lawson – background as an agricultural science advisor, journalist. Interests in forests and water.

Mr Julian Kruger – Expertise in ecology, geoscience and statistics, environmental monitoring and evaluation, and new technologies, including remote sensing.

Ms Karen Majer – Special interest in sustainability, environmental management and climate change. Key representative of Transition Margaret River.

Ms Naomi Godden – currently studying her PhD in Community Work at the Gender, Leadership and Social Sustainability Research, interested in social justice issues, part of Save Forest Groups.

Mr Tom Dowling – architect with 15 years’ experience, with a focus and interest in solar passive design.

Mr Bill Castleden – passionate in forest protection, climate change, renewable energy and climate change. Set up Doctors for Environment Australia.

Ms Lyn Serventy – Dedicated environmentalist in all aspects. Outlined the role of the SAC as an advisory committee to Council.

Mr Ken Collins – passionate conservationist, interest in western ringtail possum protection and feral animal control. Part of the Shire’s environmental stewardship and grants programs.

Mr Nick Dornan – Ex Shire President responsible for implementing environmental policies, passionate environmentalist.

Cr Felicity Haynes – philosopher and passionate environmentalist.

Cr Pam Townshend – Interest/expertise in conservation and ecology for many years.

Cr Peter Lane - Expertise in water, forest and climate change.

Mr Nick Logan – responsible for delivering a wide range of environmental and sustainability related projects.

Mr Matt Cuthbert – key role as a Shire officer is to bring key projects to SAC for feedback.

Mr Jared Drummond - key role is to liaise between Council and SAC on environmental/sustainability projects.

Mr John McKinney – passionate environmentalist, enjoy the natural lifestyle of the region, seeks to protect key environmental assets
SAC – the committee thanked Lyn Serventy for her contribution as long standing President of the SAC.

2.0 Appointments
Nil

3.0 Attendance

Committee Members
Dr Don Bradshaw
Mr John Lawson
Mr Julian Kruger
Ms Karen Majer, Presiding Member
Ms Naomi Godden
Mr Tom Dowling
Mr Bill Castleden
Ms Lyn Serventy
Mr Ken Collins
Mr Nick Dornan

Councillor Representatives
Cr Felicity Haynes : Town Ward
Cr Pam Townshend, Deputy Presiding Member : Town Ward
Cr Peter Lane : North Ward

Shire Staff
Acting Director Sustainable Development : Mr Nick Logan
Acting Manager Planning and Development : Mr Matt Cuthbert
Sustainability Planning Officer : Mr Jared Drummond
Coordinator Environment/Landcare Services : Mr John McKinney

3.1 Apologies
Ms Laura Bailey

4.0 Public Questions
Nil

5.0 Disclosures of Interest
Nil

6.0 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting 17 December 2015

MOTION / SAC DECISION
MOVED: PETER LANE SECONDED: JOHN LAWSON SAC2016/1
That the minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held 17 December 2015 be confirmed as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.

CARRIED 9/0

7.0 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes
Summary of Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes from 17 December 2015 (motions adopted by Council 9 March 2016).

That Council:
1. In accordance with s5.8 of the Local Government Act 1995, appoints the following representatives as members of the Augusta Margaret River Sustainability Advisory Committee for a period of two years, expiring with the 2017 local government elections:
   i. Bill Castleden
ii. Lyn Serventy
iii. Ken Collins

2. Receives the minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee held on 17 December 2015.

3. Holds another ‘business energy efficiency seminar’ in 2016/17 in collaboration with the Margaret River Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Margaret River Wine Industry Association.

4. Endorses the actions proposed in the Western Ringtail Possum Protection Project (Attachment 2).

5. Writes to the Cape to Cape Catchment Group confirming partnership in the Western Ringtail Possum Protection Project as a basis for expanding on the project through external grant opportunities.

6. Notes the SAC’s show of support towards the Shire for its partnership role in the Climate Adaptation workshop.

7. Notes the SAC’s show of support towards the Shire for its partnership role in the ‘Planning and sustainability: Participatory project on community values and sense of place’.

8. Invites members of the Youth Advisory Council and other community organisations to attend SAC meetings where specific projects would benefit from external expertise.

9. Wherever possible, use local produce and avoid single use wrappers and containers during catering, and investigate whether this can also be introduced at the Margaret River Recreation Centre.

**KM – request update on plastic-free actions**

**JD - Jared will provide update at next meeting following response from WALGA on state-wide plastic free campaign.**

### 8.0 REPORTS

#### 8.1 Energy

#### 8.2 Biodiversity

**8.2.1 Update on Western Ringtail Possum Protection – (Don Bradshaw/Jared Drummond)**

A meeting was held with Shire officers, SAC (Don Bradshaw), Cape to Cape Catchments Group, Shire of Busselton, Geocatch, Geographe Catchment Council, Southwest Catchments Council. Council has allocated $10,000 towards Shire wide initiatives including signage, production of brochures, establishing a data base and so forth. Government grants will be sought to establish a more broad scale protection project in collaboration with the above groups. The minutes from the previous WRP meeting are attached.

**SAC – Congratulate Dr Don Bradshaw and Jared Drummond for their work on this initiative thus far.**

**MC – Interactive website available to allow community to contribute towards this project**

**KC – need to consider western ringtail possum fire protection and feral animal control.**

**8.2.2 Shire use of Glyphosate – (Lyn Serventy)**

Glyphosate (commonly known by the brand name Roundup) has been the preferred herbicide for use by local government including AMR because it has been considered safe and controls a broad spectrum of weeds. However recent reports indicate risks with its use. In WA a petition by Pesticide Action Group WA (PAGWA) is calling on local governments to stop using glyphosate and instead use other products that better protect human health and the environment. PAGWA aims to promote well-being by educating and lobbying for evidence-based precautionary decision-making and the enactment of strong laws to restrict the availability, sale and use of pesticides.

PAGWA points out that the community can be exposed to pesticides through spray drift and the announcement that glyphosate ‘probably causes cancer’ has led countries and cities around the world to ban or restrict its use. A number of councils in WA are considering reducing or eliminating the use of glyphosate. The Eastern
Metropolitan Regional Council is trialling an alternative weed spraying technique using steam. (See attachment for full report – Shire use of glyphosate)

**Suggested Recommendation**

In view of recent reports on the risks of glyphosate to human health, agriculture and the environment that the SAC recommends Council request the CEO to prepare a Report on the reduction and eventual elimination of glyphosate use by the shire based on risk assessment and investigation of appropriate alternative weed management.

**JD** – Shire uses a variety of weed control methods, including use of glyphosate. Any alternative weed control needs to be cost effective and effective.

**PL** – Needs to be a greater focus on protecting waterways from impacts resulting from chemical run-off from weed control.

**JM** – Shire’s herbicide and weed services tender is due for review in June 2016.

**MOTION / SAC DECISION**

**MOVED:** LYN SERVENTY  **SECONDED:** PAM TOWNSHEND SAC2016/2

In view of recent reports on the risks of glyphosate and formulations of glyphosate to human health, agriculture and the environment, that the SAC recommends Council request the CEO to prepare a report on the reduction and eventual elimination of glyphosate by the shire based on risk assessment and investigation of appropriate alternative weed management, including:

- Reviewing the Shire’s herbicide and weed services tender in June 2016.

CARRIED 9/0

**8.2.3 Climate change and wildlife in Southwest WA**  – (Don Bradshaw/Peter Lane)

At the recent Paris Climate Change Conference (December 2015), 196 nations agreed to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by signing up to 187 ‘plans’. Global temperatures have already risen, however, by 1°C and most scientists agree that this resolution will require stringent adherence if temperatures are not to rise by 2°C by the end of the century.

The southwest corner of Western Australia is highly significant in the world’s biota. It harbours an extremely rich flora and fauna that is already currently threatened by habitat degradation and loss, one of 34 such ‘hotspots’ in the world. As part of this southwest corner, the Shire is faced with a serious challenge in being pro-active in maintaining this high level of biodiversity as climate changes.

For the Shire to develop and implement policies that can in some way mitigate the impact of these changes on the biota, there are a number of options. Improvements in fire and water management and protection of habitat would appear to be the most effective in attempting to offset the impact of climate change on wildlife. There have been calls for more targeted research on the impact of climate change on wildlife, but this will not necessarily provide answers and solutions to the immediate practical problem of what can be done to protect wildlife. Protection of and enhancement of habitat known to contain endangered species is a more proactive and effective response to the likely impact of climate change and needs to be embraced by the Shire.

The Shire has already introduced an innovative Conservation Incentive Scheme, whereby landowners are encouraged to preserve segments of native vegetation on their land, either through covenanting, or by concessions made to potential developers. Initiatives such as this need to be expanded as part of an effort to both secure and increase the proportion of native vegetation and intact natural ecosystems in the Shire. (See attachment for full report - Climate change and wildlife in Southwest WA)

**Suggested Recommendations**

That the Shire:
1. Targets habitat protection, management and creation as its primary goal in mitigating the effects of climate change on wildlife;
2. Initiates an audit of remnant bushland within the Shire, both private and reserved, and identify other areas that could be further protected;
3. Encourages the planting of native gardens in the Shire and review the current policy of use of herbicides on road verges;
4. Controls the spread of weeds from adjacent farmlands onto road verges and reserves;
5. Audits the current status of Shire ‘Flora Roads’;
6. Co-operates with the Department of Water to reduce nutrient runoff from dairies on the Scott River Plain into the Scott and Blackwood Rivers;
7. Co-operates with Department of Water to establish baseline parameters of waterways (with some urgency, the Hardy Inlet) and GDE’s so that changes due to climate change and remedial work can be monitored;
8. Encourages the prudent application of prescribed burning in protecting habitats of threatened and endangered species and ensure that threats to wildlife are assessed whenever applied;
9. Establishes contact with the Nannup and Busselton Shires in an effort to develop interlocking protocols for the protection of contiguous areas of natural bushland; and
10. Co-operates with Gondwana Link and other bodies working to increase the area of land under protection and establish linkages between currently fragmented ecosystems in the southwest.

JK – What does the Shire do for biodiversity offsetting? Need to consider some initiatives out of session.

ND – Concerned about some offsetting methods where it doesn’t replace previous environmental values.

MOTION / SAC DECISION

MOVED: DON BRADSHAW SECONDED: PETER LANE SAC2016/3

Requests that Council endorse the following actions:

1. Targets habitat protection, management and creation as its primary goal in mitigating the effects of climate change on wildlife;
2. Initiates an audit of remnant bushland within the Shire, both private and reserved, and identify other areas that could be further protected;
3. Encourages the planting of native gardens in the Shire and review the current policy of use of herbicides on road verges;
4. Controls the spread of weeds from adjacent farmlands onto road verges and reserves;
5. Audits the current status of Shire ‘Flora Roads’;
6. Co-operates with the Department of Water to reduce nutrient runoff from dairies on the Scott River Plain into the Scott and Blackwood Rivers;
7. Co-operates with Department of Water to establish baseline parameters of waterways (with some urgency, the Hardy Inlet) and GDE’s so that changes due to climate change and remedial work can be monitored;
8. Encourages the prudent application of prescribed burning in protecting habitats of threatened and endangered species and ensure that threats to wildlife are assessed whenever applied;
9. Establishes contact with the Nannup and Busselton Shires in an effort to develop interlocking protocols for the protection of contiguous areas of natural bushland; and
10. Co-operates with Gondwana Link and other bodies working to increase the area of land under protection and establish linkages between currently fragmented ecosystems in the southwest.

CARRIED 9/0

8.3 Water

8.3.1 Proposed water catchment/storage research – (John Lawson/Peter Lane)
Since the harnessing of the Yarragadee aquifer, the Margaret River water supply is assured, probably for the next decade. The bore has surplus capacity, and the Water Corp has not had to rely on the winter river flow to supplement the Ten Mile Brook dam supply. But our rapid population growth is bringing increases in demand and our South West annual rainfall continues to decrease, as of course does recharge of the aquifer. This, and the burgeoning demand for water from cities and other towns is sure to increase the pressure for increasing supplies from the Yarragadee – which I believe would be a much cheaper option than bringing forward the 6Gl/yr desalination plant DoW/WC plan longer term, to be located in Augusta. This should justify further research into the potential viability, and specifically recharge of this major aquifer. But the prospects of large-scale rainfall catchment and storage are surely worth investigating as well.

The Shire has responded positively to the Committee’s recommendation for catchment and storage, as in 8.3.1 of the Dec 17 minutes, along with the prospects of waste water reuse. But in the event of depletion of underground supplies in the long-term surely we should be looking at the catchment and storage principle on a large-scale. Again, the Shire will look into storage and reuse for new subdivisions in its next Corporate Plan.

Suggested recommendation
That a short term grant is sought for an appropriately qualified engineering student to research recent and past broad-scale applications of water catchment and storage, undertaken jointly with Curtin University.

MOTION / SAC DECISION
MOVED: JOHN LAWSON SECONDED: NICK DORNAN SAC2016/4
That the SAC supports the Shire’s Draft Corporate Plan 2016-2020 water storage initiative and recommends a wide range of sub-surface water storage options and compulsory potable water investigations and rainwater tanks for new housing developments.  
CARRIED 9/0

8.4 Waste

8.5 Transport

8.6 Planning/Development

8.6.1 Climate Adaptation Workshop – (Karen Majer/Jared Drummond)

The Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute (CUSP) have proposed to develop a four-way partnership (between CUSP, Transition Margaret River, Cape to Cape Catchments Group and the Shire) to undertake a one-day participatory mapping workshop to engage the community on the subject of Climate Adaptation.

Objectives:
1. Build on and add value to work done to date in the Shire’s consultant study ‘Coastal Hazard Risk Management Adaptation Plan’;
2. Provide community input into shaping future directions for Shire’s Climate Change Adaptation Plan and enhance legitimacy and support for Council decisions;
3. Generate community discussion and understanding as a step in achieving Transition Margaret River’s (TMR) objective of creating a more resilient community in the face of climate change;
4. Provide input to assist the Cape to Cape Catchments Group (CCG) to achieve the goals of its CCG Strategic Directions 2015-2018: protecting and enhancing the natural environment of the Margaret River region, especially relating to reducing climate change threats to biodiversity;

It is expected the workshop will take place late April. The SAC will be invited to contribute to the process.
8.6.2 Update on Environment and Sustainability Strategy - Issues Paper (Matt Cuthbert)

KM – Set up an out of session meeting to assist in developing the report and clarify ideas.
MC – Put the Issues Paper out for discussion and set up meeting. Send out an Expression of Interest on who wants to attend.

8.6.3 Environmental Management Fund 2016/17 – (John McKinney)
The Shire’s Environmental Management Fund 2016/17 Budget. Input will be sought from SAC on environmental projects to utilise funding

JM – highlighted need to undertake vegetation quality mapping as outlined in Don’s report;
- rain basin another good area where further works are required.
PL – suggested monitoring of waterways, including Hardy Inlet, impact on the cut, monitoring water quality.
JM – some water quality monitoring already being done by DoW, need to produce report on this information.
ND – Support genuine environmental study of the cut and water monitoring of the Blackwood River and Hardy Inlet.
PL – Request that Shire officers contact DoW on report on Blackwood/Hardy Inlet water quality.

9.0 General Business

10.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16 June 2016 in the Mainbreak meeting room, 41 Walcliffe Road, Margaret River.

11.0 Closure

The Chair thanked all in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 7.40pm