



## **Minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee**

**Tuesday 27 September 2022**

6.00pm

Council Chambers

209 Comur Street, Yass

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**Present**

Cr Adrian Cameron (Chair), John Connelly (via Teams, left 6.05pm) Peter Davidson, Ana Wardle, Alison Elvin, Nicole Elliott, Luke McAlary (via Teams), Caitlin Nelson, Saan Ecker (via Teams, arrived 6.20pm)

**Also Present**

Chris Berry (General Manager), James Dugdell (Director Infrastructure & Assets)

**1. Apologies**

Nil

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Nil

**3. Confirmation of Minutes**

**COMMITTEE DECISION**

*That the minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee held on 19 July 2022 be taken as read and confirmed.*

*Elvin/Nelson*

**4. Staff Reports**

**4.1 ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

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**SUMMARY**

Providing an update to the previous report provided to the Committee on 19 July 2022 in relation to the state of the electric vehicle market and NSW Government initiatives.

**COMMITTEE DECISION**

*That the update report on electric vehicles be noted.*

*Wardale/Elliot*

**5. Discussion Item**

Reports from members on their element of interest:

Element	Member	Comments
Economic	Nicole Elliot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Positive economic outlook for Yass Valley compared to Regional NSW</li><li>• First Nations people (3% population) not doing well</li><li>• 56% of workforce travel to ACT daily</li></ul>
Social	Saan Eckers and Alison Elvin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Notes attached</li><li>• First Nations health and wellbeing remain below State averages</li><li>• Housing issues</li><li>• Insufficient health and wellbeing support</li><li>• Lack of transport</li><li>• Need for volunteer renewals</li><li>• Sustainability education</li><li>• Reduce, Reuse and Recycle – need to improve community involvement</li></ul>
Environmental 1	Ana Wardale and Peter Davidson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arboretum (Crown Land above Yass Dam)</li><li>• Wetlands (next to Council Depot)</li><li>• Crown Lands impacted by Aboriginal claims</li></ul>
Cultural	John Connelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No report</li><li>• Most Crown Lands are impacted by Aboriginal Land Claims which can restrict changes in use</li><li>• Long delays with processing claims</li></ul>
Financial	Luke McAlary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No report. Will be forwarded later</li></ul>
Environment 2	Caitlin Nelson and Adrian Cameron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Notes attached</li><li>• CRJO Regional Waste Strategy (due Dec 2022)</li><li>• FOGO (45% of domestic waste food and green waste)</li><li>• No Council composting facility</li><li>• Volumes of waste insufficient to make viable</li><li>• EPA changed what can be accepted as Food Organics (effectively now Garden Organics only)</li></ul>
Governance (Social/Cultural)	Alex Tewes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No report</li></ul>

**Action:** All members to consider report information to enable discussion at the next meeting on the priorities for the Committee

## **6. Next Meeting**

Monday 7 November, at 6.00pm in Council Chambers, 209 Comur Street, Yass

The meeting closed at 7:26pm

**Possible focus for present and future social sustainability issues facing Yass LGA**

September 2022

Considerable data regarding population health profiles has been collected from numerous agencies, including the ABS, then collated and continually updated, by the research group 'Coordinaire' in their report "Population Health Data" covering all the 12 LGA's in the SE NSW PHN (Primary Health Network).

The data has been presented in 72 tables, under the broad headings of Geography, Demography, Social Determinants of Health, Epidemiology, Primary Care and related Insights. The Yass LGA emerges with significantly less socio-economic disadvantage

However, current areas of significant need in Yass LGA that emerge from this wealth of data, and are consistent with findings in the UC Wellbeing Survey and Draft YVC Housing Issues Paper 2021 include

- **First Nations People – Closing the Gap** -their Health and Wellbeing remains below state averages on every parameter including Housing availability and affordability
- **Housing Issues –**
  - large older houses with a single older occupant
  - lack of affordable housing and rental
  - lack of ageing-in- place housing
  - lack of crisis accommodation
  - lack of short-term rentals
- **Health and Wellbeing**
  - Insufficient support for lonely elderly; mental health all ages; young parents
- **Transport-**
  - Lack of adequate, affordable public transport available throughout Yass LGA
  - Lack of safe Bicycle paths and Bicycle storage areas; poor pedestrian walkways
  - No widespread and organised car-pooling – how to improve this?
  - Prohibitive costs of electric cars at present – how to increase use / ownership?
- **Volunteer / NGO organisations**
  - Need renewal with younger cohort, more community involvement
  - Designated housing for such organisations in the YLGA area
- **Sustainability Education** – Queanbeyan Palerang LGA have a designed a well-advertised Sustainability Policy that regularly advises their community of available rebates and incentives, together with a quarterly newsletter 'All Things Sustainability'. They have produced a Community Climate Action Plan 2020-2030, with 79 actions recommended to mitigate and adapt to climate change, under the following headings – Energy, Transport; Waste; Water; Adaptation; Education; Natural and Urban Environment.
- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** – how to improve community involvement in this?

Chris Berry

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**From:** James Dugdell  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 September 2022 9:52 AM  
**To:** Cr Adrian Cameron  
**Cc:** Chris Berry; Tony Stevens  
**Subject:** RE: Waste Questions and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Hi Cr Cameron,

Answers below in blue.

1 Has Council given thought to implementing a FOGO program for the Yass Valley?

Yes

2 What are the barriers to implementation for a FOGO program (including costs if known)?

A collection round is about \$80-90 per household per year for a fortnightly collection without costs for disposal which are unknown. As you have been previously briefed, we are working with the CRJO for a regional waste strategy as we are too small for a facility on our own. Recent changes by the EPA are likely to impact FOGO processing. It is unknown what impact this will have on the ability of Councils to process FOGO.

3 Have any surveys been undertaken to gauge desire for a FOGO program in the region?

Not that we are aware of.

4 Do you have a list of FOGO processing facilities nearby? Is there scope for Yass to use these if a FOGO program was implemented?

Goulburn, Wagga Wagga, Cooma, South Coast

5 What are other nearby Councils doing in the FOGO space? Could we draw on their expertise and resources?

We are working with the CRJO on a regional waste strategy which will include FOGO or GO.

6 Does the Council have data on the Yass Valley's greenhouse gas emissions and what the major contributors are to these emissions (e.g. agriculture, transport, natural gas, etc)?

No. I was unable to find this on the EPA Website, but they may have data.

7 Has the Council/Yass Valley signed up to any emission reductions targets/schemes? And how are we reporting against these targets?

No.

8 What is the Council doing in the circular economy space? Are there any plans in place to support YVC move to a circular economy?

Following legislative recycling and waste management requirements.

9 What recycling facilities/technology do we have in the Yass Valley and are there any gaps which mean things that could be recycled are sent to landfill instead?

The only facility we have in Yass is Martins Fertiliser who take some green waste. The rest is sent to centres in other locations. The major issue is the lack of separation of waste at source by commercial waste companies and residents as we do not have the ability to sort waste at the Transfer station if it is incorrectly placed in bins or the waste pit.

10 Why was the Yass Revolve closed? Are there any plans to reopen a facility where households could drop their high-quality bulky waste for reuse?

The commercial realities are that Yass does not collect sufficient quantity of quality product to make the Revolve Shed viable. It would cost approx. \$100k per year to run the facility with only very limited recovery.

11 What proportion of Yass' waste is sent to landfill? Is there a plan to reduce waste to landfill in the Yass Valley? Are you able to share details?

Approx. 45% of waste is sent to landfill. Currently work with CRJO on regional waste strategy which will include education of residents. Working with commercial contractors for source separation.

Regards,

James

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