



Minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee

Thursday 20 April 2023

6.00pm

Council Chambers

209 Comur Street, Yass

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Present

Cr Adrian Cameron (Chair), Alex Tewes, Luke McAlary, Peter Davidson, Alison Elvin, Caitlin Nelson, Nicole Elliott (6.19pm - via Teams)

Also Present

Chris Berry – Chief Executive Officer (via Teams), and Shirree Garland – Corporate Planning & Executive Support Officer

Meeting opened at 6.05pm

Acknowledgement of Country

1. Apologies

Ana Wardle

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

3. Confirmation of Minutes

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee held 31 January 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

Tewes/Elvin

Action: *Minutes to be circulated to all members for review following meeting, prior to being presented to Council.*

4. Reports

4.1 DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY & SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

SUMMARY

In light of the Council decision in February 2023 to simply note the recommendations from the Committee on the draft Sustainability Policy and Sustainability Assessment Policy, this report suggests a way forward to revise the draft Sustainability Policy and for the Committee use the Sustainability Assessment Framework as a means of setting its priorities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the revised Sustainability Policy and the Sustainability Assessment Framework, circulated to members offline, be endorsed and both documents be presented to Council for endorsement.

McAlary/Nelson

4.2 PROGRAM OF CURRENT AND FUTURE POLICY AND STRATEGIC REVIEWS

SUMMARY

To present an update on a program of current and future policy and strategic reviews.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the report on the development of a program of current and future policy and strategic reviews be noted.

Elliott/Davidson

4.3 REGIONAL WASTE & SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS STRATEGY 2022-2027 AND REGIONAL WASTE & SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS STRATEGY 2022-2027 ACTION PLAN

SUMMARY

Council has referred the *Regional Waste & Sustainable Materials Strategy 2022-27* and *Action Plan* developed through the Canberra Region Joint Organisation to the Committee for comment.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the comments of the Committee members be provided to Council and the Regional Waste & Sustainable Materials Strategy 2022-27 and Action Plan for recommended for Council endorsement.

McAlary/Nelson

4.4 FOGO THRESHOLD QUESTIONS PAPER

SUMMARY

The Sustainability Advisory has identified it can assist Council in the transition to a FOGO collection in a number of areas. Firstly, the scope and design of a scheme appropriate to Yass Valley. Further it may be able to assist in developing applications for grant funding and, finally, in engaging the community once Council has settled upon a preferred approach. As a first step in this task the Committee has developed a draft paper which, amongst other things, sets out relevant threshold questions for resolution.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That:

- 1. The threshold questions paper be further refined by Council staff.*
- 2. A joint workshop involving Committee members, relevant staff and Councillors be held to work through threshold questions.*
- 3. Subject to the outcome of that workshop, a strategy be developed for broader engagement with the general public and relevant community stakeholders on threshold issues.*

Nelson/Davidson

4.5 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING FEASIBILITY STUDY

SUMMARY

To inform the Committee of an EV Feasibility Study being offered to Council in the Canberra Region Joint Organisation. The study will enable Councils to identify suitable charging and obtain a better understanding of key cost and technical parameters of the technology.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That:

- 1. The report of the Electric Vehicle Charging Feasibility Study be noted and Council's involvement in the project be endorsed*
- 2. Progress reports on the study be presented to future meetings of the Committee.*

Tewes/Elvin

4.6 ENVIRONMENTAL UPGRADE FINANCING

SUMMARY

Environmental Upgrade Financing is an innovative financing mechanism made under NSW Legislation which allows building owners to repay a loan for upgrades through a Local Council charge on land. The feasibility of Council actively supporting such a financing mechanism is considered worth further investigation, both in terms of its environmental benefit and economic development potential.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. The opinion of the Economic Development Advisory Committee be sought as to the possible level of demand for environmental upgrade financing in Yass Valley.*
- 2. Subject to that advice, Council consider further actions to investigate the feasibility of operating an Environmental Upgrade Finance Program in the Yass Valley including an assessment of its legal implications and any financial risks.*

McAlary/Elliott

4.7 TOWN POWER 2GW REGIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

SUMMARY

A proposal for new solar PV and battery storage projects has been received and the company is seeking to identify any Council interest.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the proposed new solar PV and battery project known as "Tower Power" be noted.

McAlary/Elliott

Action: *A Working Group be formed to investigate options for options for renewable energy and battery storage*

5. Confidential Matters

Nil

6. Next Meeting

Thursday 18 May 2023, at 6.00pm in Council Chambers 209 Comur Street, Yass

The meeting closed at 7.05 p.m.