



Minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee

Tuesday 31 October 2023

6.00pm

Council Chambers

209 Comur Street, Yass

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Present

Cr Adrian Cameron (Chair), Peter Davidson, Caitlin Nelson (Teams), John Connelly (Teams), Ania Wardle, Saan Ecker, Luke McAlary (Teams)

Also Present

Julie Rogers (Director Planning & Environment), Shirree Garland (Corporate Executive Officer)

1. Apologies

Alison Elvin and Chris Berry

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

3. Confirmation of Minutes

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee held on 19 September 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

(Ecker/McAlary)

4. Staff Reports

4.1 2022/23 ANNUAL REPORT

SUMMARY

The Standard Committee Constitution & Instrument of Delegation provides for the preparation of an Annual Report.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the 2022/23 Annual Report be endorsed with suggested attached amendments.

(C Nelson/S Ecker)

ACTION: Luke McAlary to provide suggested amendments to Annual Report. Correction to the spelling of Ania Wardle's name to be made.

NOTE: Updated Annual Report incorporating Luke McAlary's amendments included as a attachment to these minutes.

4.2 DRAFT OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

SUMMARY

The Director Planning & Environment will provide a presentation on the preparation of the Open Space Strategy.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the update on the preparation of the Open Space Strategy be noted.

(McAlary/A Wardle)

C Nelson arrived at the meeting in person at 6.30pm.

4.3 ELECTRIC VEHICLE UPDATE

SUMMARY

To present an update on the take up of electric vehicles.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the update on electric vehicles be noted.

(Davidson/Nelson)

4.4 CLIMATE CHANGE SURVEYS

SUMMARY

To present the climate change surveys requested by the Committee.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the report on the climate change surveys be noted.

(Wardle/Ecker)

4.5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN THE DESIGN OF FOGO SERVICE - CURRENT STATUS AND ISSUES

SUMMARY

At its 19 September 2023 meeting the Committee recommended that Council conduct of a bin audit, consistent with the guidelines issues by the EPA, in order that necessary data be collected to assist in the design of a future FOGO collection service. In parallel with the bin audit, it was decided that the Committee would start engaging with the community on a future FOGO collection service, adapting materials from other local councils as appropriate. Also, as part of this engagement, the Committee would as a first step establish focus groups seeking participants from existing community, environment and business organisations in Yass Valley.

Since that meeting several steps have been taken to progress these matters and further work identified that needs to be followed through.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the actions taken to date in progressing with its engagement work and the additional work now required be noted.

(Ecker/Nelson)

5. Next Meeting

Tuesday 28 November 2023, at 6.00pm in Council Chambers.

The meeting closed at 7.07 p.m.



Sustainability Advisory Committee

Annual Report 2022/23

Terms of Reference

- To embed financial, environmental, social and cultural sustainability into Council’s operations through the continuous review of policies, projects and services offered by Council
- To take advice from all sectors of the community, and to research and propose new and innovative ways of bringing sustainability into all of Council’s policies and operations
- To make recommendations to Council on best-practice sustainability, consistent with the Community Strategic Plan

Members

Member	Appointed	Resigned
Cr A Cameron	26 May 2022	
J Connelly	26 May 2022	
P Davidson	26 May 2022	
A Wardle	26 May 2022	
A Elvin	26 May 2022	
N Elliott	26 May 2022	
L McAlary	26 May 2022	
C Nelson	26 May 2022	
S Ecker	26 May 2022	
A Tewes	26 May 2022	

Meetings Attended

Member	16 Jun 2022	19 Jul 2022	27 Sept 2022*	7 Nov 2022	31 Jan 2023	4 Apr 2023	20 Ap 2023	30 May 2023
Cr A Cameron	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Connelly	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x
Peter Davidson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
Ania Wardle	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
Alison Elvin	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x
Nicole Elliott	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x
Luke McAlary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Caitlin Nelson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Saan Ecker	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓
Alex Tewes	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	x

* Extraordinary meeting

Committee Project Status

Project/Project Officer	Key Stages	Due Date	Status
Sustainability Framework and Sustainability Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Assessment framework Review of draft policy Councillor Workshop Revised policy endorsed with priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jul 2022 Nov 2022 Jan 2023 Feb 2023 Apr 2023 May 2023 Aug 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Monitoring implementation of Policy Sustainability Assessment Framework to be updated annually
Electric Vehicles Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Involvement in CRJO Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 2022 Apr 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CRJO Project Endorsed Monitoring implementation of existing EV Policy and opportunities for enhancement
Consultation with other Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair to present objectives of Sustainability Committee and opportunities for collaboration 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement as appropriate
Community Lead Climate Change Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project brief considered Refocusing on use of existing communication/engagement channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan 2023 Sept 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Awaiting Council action to support/reinvigorate existing communication channels
Draft South East & Tablelands Regional Transport Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments provided for Council submission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed

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Project/Project Officer	Key Stages	Due Date	Status
Current and Future Policy and Strategic Plan Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Review schedule provided • List of policy/strategy items for discussion during remainder of 2023 identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nov 2022 • Apr 2023 • Sept 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Early engagement of Committee to occur consistent with adopted Policy
Draft Regional Waste & Sustainable Materials Strategy 2022-27 and Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apr 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed.
Environmental Upgrade Financing (EUF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal developed • Referred to Economic Development Committee for consideration • Advice received that YVC had already committed to EUF program in 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apr 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council decision to cease participation in EUF program.
Integrated Planning & Reporting documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-budget submission developed • Further comments supporting appointment of Waste Review and appointment of Manager 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan 2023 • May 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed.
Renewable Energy Hubs / Community Batteries (Research Activity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research paper developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper finalised. • Engagement with ANU, ACT Government and Regional NGO's to occur. • Community interest, eg. amongst Progress Associations, to be assessed, when and as appropriate.
Active Transport (Research Activity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yass Rail Trail Consultancy Report considered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended refocusing of efforts in attracting funding from tourism to social and community benefits eg. heritage and public health considerations.