



Sustainability Advisory Committee

Tuesday 28 November 2023

6.00pm

Council Chambers

209 Comur Street, Yass

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Committee will be held in Council Chambers, 209 Comur Street, Yass, on Tuesday 28 November 2023, commencing at **6.00pm**

AGENDA

Page No.

Acknowledgement of Country

Yass Valley Council recognises the Ngunnawal people, the Traditional Custodians of the land, water, and sky. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and future emerging leaders. We extend our respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live in the Yass Valley Local Government Area.

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interests

3. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of Sustainability Advisory Committee held on 31 October 2023

4. Staff Reports

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5. Reports

6. Next Meeting

Committee Members: Cr A Cameron, J Connelly, P Davidson, S Ecker, N Elliott, A Elvin, L McAlary, C Nelson, A Tewes, A Wardle



Minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee

Tuesday 31 October 2023

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209 Comur Street, Yass

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Minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee held on 31 October 2023

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 | |

Minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee held on 31 October 2023

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 |

Minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee held on 31 October 2023

| 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. |

4.1 POLICY REVIEW SCHEDULE

SUMMARY

To present an update on the Committee' policy review schedule.

RECOMMENDATION

That the policy review schedule be noted.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY & LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1993*

REPORT

At its meeting in Sept 2023 the Committee requested to be briefed by Council staff on:

- Housing Strategy (noting work done in this regard to date by the Economic Development Committee)
- Development Control Plan
- Draft Open Space Strategy
- Procurement Policy

Housing Strategy

The Housing Strategy was the subject of a presentation to the Economic Development Committee in February 2023. This Committee established a working party to review the Draft Housing Issues Paper. There is no record of a working party meeting being held.

The Minister for Planning & Public Spaces has written to all NSW Councils on the need to increase the supply and diversity of housing. Through the National Housing Accord, Councils and the State Government are committed to working together to look at all the opportunities to increase housing supply. The target is for an additional 377,000 homes by 2029.

The Minister is seeking Councils to review their local policy settings and approaches to the interests of increasing housing supply. A summary of the actions aimed at increasing housing supply are as follows:

Yass

- Two key residential subdivisions are underway in Yass i.e. Yarrah (457 lots) and Hamilton Rise (180 lots).
- Council owned land in Dutton Street, Yass has been identified for community housing (once the land title issues have been addressed).
- There is considerable older State housing stock in Yass that could be redeveloped for more medium density housing.

Murrumbateman

- An area of approximately 350ha has been identified in North Murrumbateman for urban residential growth (approximately 2,700 lots) and Council is seeking funding assistance through Round 2 of the Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund.
- Council has commenced a master planning and planning proposal project for this area.

- The limiting factor for this development is water supply. Council has suggested a 'satisfactory arrangements for servicing' for any rezoning.
- Council has identified water from the ACT as its preferred option. Cross border water supply is currently subject to negotiations between NSW DPE (Water), ACT Environment, Planning & Sustainable Development Directorate, Yass Valley Council and Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council.

Parkwood

- Parkwood is a land locked area of NSW bordered by the Murrumbidgee River and Ginninderra Creek making the area only accessible from the ACT.
- The Master Planning for the area provides for 3,000 houses and 13,000 people providing satisfactory arrangements for servicing are in place. Construction of the first houses are programmed for 2029.
- There is a cross border steering committee overseeing the negotiations for servicing.
- Funding under the Round 2 of the Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund is being sought for a joint project with Regional NSW, Office of the Cross Border Commissioner and Council to examine servicing arrangements (especially those of the State agencies).

Exempt and Complying Development

- Council endorsed the adaption of the *Bathurst Regional Local Environmental Plan 2014* as a model for Exempt and Complying Development to assist with streamlining the approvals process for new houses and house additions.
- Several Councils in the Canberra Region Joint Organisation have been working with DPE and this approach as an alternative to the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt & Complying Development Codes) 2008*. A workshop was held between DPE and CRJO Councils in March 2023 but has not progressed any further.
- The issue has now been referred to the CRJO Planners Network to develop a regional approach for each Councils' LEPs but will require support from DPE to implement.

Development Control Plan

A comprehensive Development Control Plan has been drafted and is currently being road tested by planning staff. The plan is scheduled to be presented to the December 2023 for Council to endorse public exhibition.

Draft Open Space Strategy

An update on the Draft Open Space Strategy was provided by the Director Planning & Environment at the October 2023 Committee meeting. The Project Committee was scheduled to meet on 7 November 2023 but no quorum was reached. An out of session discussion with the Murrumbateman representative on the Project Committee was organised. The next meeting of the Project Committee is scheduled for 29 November 2023.

Procurement Policy

Council already has an adopted Procurement & Disposal Policy 2021 ([refer https://www.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/council-policies/ca-cp-04-procurement-and-disposal.pdf](https://www.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/council-policies/ca-cp-04-procurement-and-disposal.pdf)). This policy provides direction to staff involved in procurement and covers both the statutory tendering requirements and procurement not involved in tendering. It is not due for review until after the 2024 Council Elections.

ATTACHMENTS: Nil