



Minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee

Tuesday 6 February 2024

6.00pm

Council Chambers

209 Comur Street, Yass

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Present

Cr Adrian Cameron (Chair), Alex Tewes, Luke McAlary, Peter Davidson, Caitlin Nelson, Alison Elvin, John Connelly (via Teams) 6.13pm

Also Present

Chris Berry and Shirree Garland (YVC)

1. Apologies

Saan Ecker, Ania Wardle

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

3. Confirmation of Minutes

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2023 and the Meeting Notes of 28 November 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

(Tewes/Nelson)

4. Member Reports

4.1 DRAFT OPEN SPACE STRATEGY - POSSIBLE SUBMISSION

SUMMARY

The draft *Open Space Strategy* was placed on public exhibition on 29 January 2024. The draft Strategy sets out the rationale and recommendations for planning and provision of public open space to meet the needs of the Yass Valley community in its towns, villages and rural areas to 2036.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the Committee review the contents of the draft Open Space Strategy and circulate comments out of session in order that a possible submission may be drafted for future consideration.

(Davidson/Elvin)

4.2 FOGO COLLECTION SERVICE - OUTSTANDING DATA REQUEST

SUMMARY

At its September 2023 meeting the Sustainability Advisory Committee recommended that Council conduct a bin audit, consistent with the guidelines issued by the EPA, in order to collect the necessary data to assist in the design of a future Food Organic/Garden Organic (FOGO) collection service.

It was also decided that the Committee should start engaging with the community on a future GOGO collection service, adapting materials from other local councils as appropriate.

It also further identified the need for Council staff to provide a definitive set of accurate and current data to the Committee, given the inconsistencies, contradictions and errors within the data publicly reported by Council to date. In the absence of such a dataset the Committee cannot provide appropriate advice.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That it is recommended that Council expedite the conduct of a bin audit and the compilation of an accurate and current dataset. This would enable the Committee to provide meaningful advice on the design of a future FOGO collection service consistent with its responsibilities under the Sustainability Policy.

(McAlary/Nelson)

Note: The Chief Executive Officer advised that the Canberra Region Joint Organisation was currently in the process of procurement for a regional bin audit to be undertaken.

4.3 CRAGO MILL - SUSTAINABILITY IN DESIGN ISSUES

SUMMARY

In June 2021, the Climate Change and Natural Disaster (CCND) Risk Assessment recommended several actions relating to the proposed new Administrative Building and Library, including that the design of the Crago Mill Precinct should incorporate a community heat refuge, operate with separate or stand-alone power supply, and follow best practice energy efficiency design principles.

As part of the negotiation of the contract with the preferred tenderer for the Crago Mill Precinct a series of changes to the design have been agreed, however, these have not been publicly communicated.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That Council communicate to the Yass Valley community:

- ***Whether the redesigned Crago Mill Precinct is fully responding to the recommendations made in the Climate Change and Natural Disaster Risk Assessment; and***
- ***How the adopted changes to the design – including amendments to lighting, ceilings, landscaping, roof and subfloor specifications – may or may not impact on the environmental standards of the buildings and the project's overall environmental sustainability.***

(McAlery /Tewes)

5. Reports

5.1 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN SURVEY

COMMITTEE DECISION

As part of the community engagement a survey for Yass Valley residents is being undertaken to ensure the *Towards 2042 Community Strategic Plan* is an accurate representation of our future.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee complete the survey and encourage their peers and fellow residents to do the same, prior to 15 March 2024.

(Davidson/Nelson)

5.1 GREEN WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECENT ASBESTOS INCIDENT UPDATE

SUMMARY

To provide an update on green waste management and the recent asbestos incident at the Yass Transfer Station.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the report on the green waste management and recent asbestos incident be noted.

(Elvin/Tewes)

5.2 ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND CHARGERS UPDATE

SUMMARY

To present an update on electric vehicles in the Council fleet and provision of new charging stations.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the updated report on electric vehicles and chargers be noted.

(Tewes/Davidson)

6. Next Meeting

Monday 4 March 2024, at 6.00pm in the Council Chambers – Draft Open Space Strategy Submission
Tuesday 7 May 2024, at 6.00pm in the Council Chambers.

The meeting closed at 7.07p.m.