



CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

9:30 am Thursday 27 October 2022 Grafton CVC Council Chambers

2 prince Street Grafton

Present : Cr Greg Clancy (Chair), Judith McNeill, Leonie Blain, Helen Granleese, Stephen Fletcher, Robert Mylchreest, Nicholas Reeve, Clare Purvis, Phillip Hocking, Janet Cavanagh, Richard Roper (CVC Staff), Ken Wilson (CVC Staff), Scott Lenton (CVC Staff), Ben Ellis (CVC Staff)

Apologies : Lynette Eggins, Geoff Little, Ian Gaillard, Adam Cameron (Director CVC), Suzanne Lynch (CVC Staff)

Item	Discussion	Responsible person & deadline
1. Welcome and Apologies	Cr Greg Clancy as Chair welcomed the committee members and gave an acknowledgement to Country. Apologies were also noted.	
2. Adoption of previous minutes from 2 nd September 2022	Motion: Moved by Leoni Blain “to accept minutes” Motion Seconded: Phil Hocking Resolved: Carried	
3. Business Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Sustainably Awards • CVC Rushforth Road Depot Solar & Battery project 	<p>Ken W gave an update from Suzanne. Nominations are now closed. 10 nominations received which is down on last year. Ken W gave overview of the applications. Several dates for the presentation were discussed with the 2nd December 2022 considered most favourable.</p> <p>It was noted that daytime events are difficult for some businesses to attend – this will be considered when selecting a time.</p> <p>Ken W gave update. Project now completed. Additional solar 110 kW + 200kWh battery system + standby generator so depot can be self sufficient and fully functional even when the grid is down. Also 4 EV multi use, 3 phase vehicle charging stations.</p>	Suzanne and the sub committee to assess applications and progress Sustainability Awards Ceremony for 2 nd December



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste to Energy update 	<p>Janet C - What is CVC's position on waste to energy? This should be a Councillor decision. RVC say this is a collaboration with other local Council's. Potential pollution in the lower clarence as well as additional truck movements. There are also issues of waste to energy potentially undermining the circular economy.</p> <p>Cr Clancy asked Ken to give an update. Ken advised that Richmond Valley Council recently invited a wide-ranging expression of interest for industry to provide waste processing/disposal solutions for the North Coast which may include waste to energy. The expressions of interest have closed and are being assessed by RVC. CVC and other North Coast Councils have not been briefed on the submissions. Although CVC supported the calling of the E of I, and contributed \$10,000, Council has not committed to any further action. CVC is fortunate that we have landfill capacity (approx. 50 years) so it is not a pressing issue. Lismore City Council have advised through their Waste Strategy that they do not support waste to energy.</p> <p>Motion: Moved by Janet Cavanagh,</p> <p><i>The community climate change advisory committee expresses its strong concerns regarding the sustainability of waste to energy incineration as proposed by the NSW Government and Richmond Valley Council (RVC) for Casino. Such a facility will become a significant source of green house gas emissions and toxic pollutants as well as decreasing the quality of the Clarence Valleys environment through truck movements transporting wastes to the facility and through plumes of air pollution resulting from its operation. RVC has consistently stated that Clarence Valley Council (CVC) is a partner council in the proposal. The committee condemns this project and requests CVC be transparent with the Clarence community regarding its involvement in the project to date and its future intentions. If CVC is not involved, the Committee requests that CVC joins the committee in condemning the project.</i></p> <p>Motion Seconded: Stephen Fletcher</p> <p>Resolved: Carried unanimously</p>	<p>RVC at its November 15 meeting resolved to pause active investigation into EfW facility for the Richmond Valley while the Parks EfW proposal proceeds & monitor progress, community reaction and outcomes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVC Solar farm at the Grafton Regional Landfill 	<p>CI Clancy advised that he had been contacted by a local resident about the proposed solar farm – Ken W advised that a final feasibility report on the proposed solar farm and landfill gas to electricity plant had been received and the CVC Executive are considering how to progress the proposal. There will be a detailed report prepared for Council in the near future.</p>	



<p>4. Active Transport Strategy</p>	<p>Janet C asked about the status of the CVC active transport strategy - Janet gave an overview of some safety issues in the area.</p> <p>Ken W advised CVC has engaged consultants to develop a new Active Transport Strategy to replace the 2015 PAMP. CVC has allocated \$500K pa to increase pedestrian & cycle safety.</p>	
<p>5. Draft EPA Climate Change Policy and Action Plan</p>	<p>Janet C- advised both documents are on exhibition on the EPA's web site with the closing date being the 3rd November. Important move as this shows how EPA will regulate carbon emissions in NSW. Seeking to reduce emissions in areas that EPA licence but not agriculture. The EPA is also working with other agencies including DPI Ag and Dept of Planning. Members are encouraged to have a look at the documents and put in a submission.</p>	
<p>6. DA's and Carbon off setting</p>	<p>Robert Mylcrest- Time has come for all DA's to look further into environmental costs including carbon offsets, such as tree planting, blue carbon or \$\$ contributions to offset greenhouse gas impacts especially with large scale filling and land clearing. Most likely this should be coming from the State Government and be directed down to Local Government. Robert would like to start the conversation.</p> <p>General discussion about how this could be accounted but noted airlines are currently doing carbon offsetting on tickets for small additional fee so it is possible. Discussion included environmental levies and developer contributions.</p> <p>The committee was very supportive of the idea. Ken W suggested the topic should be recorded on the committee's action list and be included in future meeting agenda.</p>	
<p>7. Dark Skies Project</p>	<p>Stephen Fletcher asked who the consultants were that had been advising on the Dark Skies Project? Ken W advised he was unsure of the consultant but would find out.</p> <p>Stephen advised that he had undertaken a site visit to Shannon Creek Dam and does not believe the site is a suitable dark skies park as it is surrounded by tall trees and the escarpment blocks the view of the sky. There is also no camping, a high chance of mist and fog off the dam water, the site closes early and there is not a lot of room. Star Parks get 100's of people showing up. Copmanhurst may be a better location.</p> <p>Ken advised that he had not received a recent briefing on the project, so he was unaware what stage the project was up too.</p> <p>Motion: Moved by Stephen Fletcher</p>	<p>Consultant – Steensen Varming P/L</p> <p>Ken will forward issues to CVC project proponents.</p>



	<p><i>CVC review the location of the proposed dark skies park from Shannon Creek dam, due to the view of the sky being obscured by tall trees and the escarpment, no camping permitted at the site, mist and fog off water, site closes early and there is not lot of room.</i></p> <p>Motion Seconded: Leoni Blain</p> <p>Resolved: Carried unanimously</p>	
<p>8. Vegetation Waste from Development Sites</p>	<p>Janet presented this issue on behalf of Ian Gaillard. When the residential development at Iluka, Birrigan Estate, was cleared the chipped wood waste was sent to Broadwater Sugar mill co-generation plant. DA's in other LGA's specify that cleared vegetation must be reused onsite. Suggest that the carbon should be better managed and tracked.</p> <p>Motion: Moved by Janet Cavanagh</p> <p><i>The committee request Council to include, as part of its conditions of development consent, a requirement that cleared trees and shrubs should be salvaged for reuse onsite, either in log form, or as woodchip mulch for erosion control and/ or site rehabilitation.</i></p> <p>Motion Seconded: Helen Granleese</p> <p>Resolved: Carried unanimously</p>	<p>Ken W to refer to CVC Planning and Development section for review of existing conditions relating to wood waste from development sites.</p>
<p>9. General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Format Meeting Minutes 	<p>Janet C – Raised the matter of the template for the committee's minutes taking up too many pages. Ken advised that the minutes were in the CVC approved format however the CVC Governance section has agreed that the CC committee can make amendments to the minutes template. Leoni asked can the minutes be available earlier. Ken advised he will try but he has many competing priorities. Cl Clancy asked what happens with motions? How are these reported? Ken advised that the minutes and motions are reported to Council. Depending on the matter a separate report will be presented to</p>	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of Grafton Cathedral lighting (paid for by CVC) • CI Clancy Outline of Local Government Conference • Meeting times • Outdoor Lighting DCP • Update on Councils Coastal Vulnerability Mapping 	<p>Council, however if the matter is operational it will be referred to the staff responsible for the matter.</p> <p>Stephen F asked what it was costing to light the Grafton cathedral? Ken indicated that lighting the Grafton Cathedral used approx. 900kWh per month which is around \$600/quarter. Council currently fund this cost</p> <p>Motion: Moved by Stephen Fletcher</p> <p><i>In view of climate change and the cost to the community, Council should no longer pay for the lighting of the Grafton Cathedral.</i></p> <p>Motion Seconded: Robert Milecrest</p> <p>Resolved: Carried unanimously</p> <p>CI Clancy gave an overview of the Local Government Conference - Climate change was at the forefront. CVC put up 3 motions about compliance with unauthorised work in road reserves and increased fines. Other motions at conference dealt with the cessation of native forest logging. Also issues with rodenticides affecting native animals.</p> <p>It was discussed if the CC committee should consider changing meeting times to make the committee more accessible to younger people. Should it be in the early afternoon or evening? General discussion on the pros and cons. There was no consensus on changing times.</p> <p>Stephen F asked what the status of the DCP was. Ken advised this was with the CVC Planning Department who have this on their priority agenda.</p> <p>Janet asked if the committee could have an update on Councils Coastal Vulnerability Mapping</p>	<p>Ken to review lighting arrangements</p> <p>Ken to ask Peter Wilson or Greg Mashiah to provide the committee with an update</p>
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• Second Hand Saturday	Ken provided details of the upcoming Second Hand Saturday event run by North East waste. There were also details of the Reuse and Repair program.	
10. Action List	Action list to be updated	
11. Date and venue of next meeting	Friday 27 January 2023 at the Environmental Learning Facility	
12. Close	Meeting closed at 12.35pm	