

Date: Wednesday 7 February 2018

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Manna Gum Meeting Rooms, Nillumbik Council Office, Civic Drive Greensborough

Chair: Cr Grant Brooker

Minute taker: Joseph Emmanuel

1. Present

Present: Cr Grant Brooker, Lisa Pittle, Ian Culbard, Narelle Campbell, Alan Thatcher, John Huf, David Turner, Tom Fisher, Stephen Hadley, Areej Hahsmi-Weyman

Apologies: Cr Jane Ashton, Kate Tancredi

2. Conflict of interest

The following potential conflict of interests was noted:

- Committee members having access to (potentially) confidential information and the conflict that presents with respect to the relevant community groups they have membership or contact with.

ACTION: Joseph Emmanuel to seek advice from Council's governance department on the status of this potential conflict and how information and materials are to be handled moving forward.

3. Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6 December 2017 were confirmed by John Huff and second by Alan Thatcher.

4. Green Wedge Management Plan discussion – Concerns / Opportunities etc.

The following papers were tabled:

- The email sent from Joseph Emmanuel on 6 February 2018 to the committee members providing an update of the GWMP
- The email attachment sent from Narelle Campbell titled *NCESAC GWMP Sub Committee Paper*

MosaicLab have been appointed as the consultant to facilitate the community engagement process.

Broader community engagement is anticipated to commence in March and April, and the community panel anticipated to start around July and conclude in September.

Following the engagement the recommendations formed by the panel are scheduled to go to Council in October.

Council Officers have a project kick-off meeting with MosaicLab on 16 February and will have more detail confirmed at this meeting.

Engagement

The following observations were made:

- The community is concerned with the lack of communication on the project. Why has there been no broad communication to the community?
- People are waiting for information.
- Clarify where the opportunities are for community to input into the project and specifically is the report (of recommendations) made by the panel going straight to Council or back out for consultation?
- It is critical that Council gets this right to address anxiety and distrust within the community.

Uncertainty surrounding the engagement process endures and the following recommendations were made for Council's consideration;

- That Council Officers consider creating a dedicated page on the Council website (or other forms of communication) on the GWMP to provide information on the consultation process.
- A broader community announcement on the project is made.

Joseph Emmanuel advised that the following is proposed to keep ESAC informed:

- A member of the project team for the GWMP and a MosaicLab consultant intend to brief ESAC at the next committee meeting.
- Council Officers to provide a regular paper updating ESAC on progress and next steps on the GWMP review.

Further Information

The paper tabled by Narelle provided recommendations as follows:

1. ESAC receives verbal and written briefings from Council Officers on the areas of the Nillumbik GWMP;
 - a. Agriculture
 - b. Biodiversity
 - c. Bushfire Management
 - d. Economic Sustainability
 - e. Eco Tourism
 - f. Landscape
 - g. Social sustainability
 - h. Townships
2. ESAC encourages community input to and engagement with the plan from the broader community
3. ESAC considers future opportunities to provide advice to Council

ACTION: The GWMP subcommittee are to develop questions / concerns to be provided to Council Officers for consideration as part of the project kick-off meeting with MosaicLab on 16 February.

ACTION: Joseph Emmanuel to seek a response to recommendation 1 (as above) from Council Officers.

5. **10 minute break**

6. **Feedback on ESAC priorities (40 min)**

a. **Energy/Climate Change** - David Turner and Tom Fisher

Tom tabled two documents, as distributed by email on 7 February. The document titles are *Classrooms powered by renewable energy to be trialled in NSW schools* and *Repowering Lambeth Schools*.

David discussed a literature review that he will be undertaking on;

- Examples of relevant projects around the world on energy and climate change
- Industry trends
- How communities around the world are introducing sustainable initiatives / projects with the help of councils.

An overview was provided on various projects being under by Council in the energy space. These include:

- Community bank stadium solar power generation, battery and electric charging station – currently out for tender. Link to tender page provided.
<http://syd1-0061dsb.server-web.com/eTendering/ViewTender.aspx?tenderId=UEGeVHdNXsTDbYqrg0PBww%3d%3d>
- Business Energy Efficiency Grant – recruited a project officer to engage with 30 businesses to provide tools and skills to encourage energy efficient practises.
- Climate Change Innovation Grant – Council placed a bid for \$150k to undertake a feasibility study. Around 200 applications have been made and early indications are that only 20 will receive funding.

ACTION (06/12/17): David to forward Ian a list of questions with respect to the Climate Change Action Plan for further investigation.

ACTION (06/12/17): Consideration for a member of Clean Energy Nillumbik presenting to the committee or alternatively a member of ESAC attending the upcoming Clean Energy Nillumbik meeting.

ACTION: the subcommittee to undertake a literature review on projects around the world relating to energy and climate change.

b. **Biodiversity** – Stephen Hadley and Alan Thatcher

Alan Thatcher tabled one document, distributed to Committee members titled *Nillumbik Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee Biodiversity Discussion Paper*. The document was circulated by email on 6 February.

The paper identified three priority actions as listed below:

- Review the Environmental Significance Overlay and its schedules to ensure that protection of significant sites is up to date and to investigate the provision of an ESO buffer zone. (SP). This was the subject of the proposed planning scheme C101 that was abandoned by the Council in 2016.
- Need to revisit the findings of EN1.3 and discuss them with the community as part of the review process for the Green Wedge Management Plan.
- Need to address the adequacy of the Municipal Strategic Statement in addressing planning policy needed to support the future protection of biodiversity values in the Nillumbik Shire.

ACTION: Joseph Emmanuel to circulate priority actions to relevant Council officers seeking a response.

- c. **Green Wedge Management Plan** – Alan Thatcher, Narelle Campbell, Tom Fisher, John Huf

As discussed as part of agenda item 4.

It was further suggested that a dedicated webpage providing updates on the GWMP review would be of great benefit.

- d. **Sustainable Water Management** - Areej Hahsmi-Weyman and Kate Tancredi

No presentation was made with respect to this item

7. **Setting the agenda for future ESAC meetings (15 mins)**

8. **Opportunity to share information about community environment and sustainability initiatives**

9. **Other business**

Waste Management

The committee discussed the recent Visy recycling issue. Committee members to consider a trip to SKM sorting facility.

Sustainable Animal Industry

Alan raised a concern regarding potential impacts of changes in the sustainable animal industry on the green wedge areas.

The industry is advocating for a legislative change to allow 'as a right' for pig farming to be allowed in the green wedge zone.

This causes a risk of native flora and fauna degradation.

Green Power

Cr Brooker highlighted the opportunity for Council to consider more appropriate ways to utilise the \$180k per annum allocation for purchasing green energy as a carbon offset.

Council will be considering options that provide the Nillumbik community with a more direct and tangible benefit.

10. **Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 7 March 2018 at 7pm. TBC.**