

**Minutes of the Asset and Sustainability Committee
held on Tuesday, 2 November 2021 at 6.30 pm
Council Chamber, Council Administration Centre
245 Sturt Road, Sturt**

PRESENT

Councillor Matthew Shilling
Councillor Ian Crossland
Councillor Nathan Prior
Councillor Bruce Hull

In Attendance

General Manager City Services - Tony Lines
Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment - Mathew Allen
Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability - Ann Gibbons
Resilient South Regional Coordinator - Stefan Caddy-Retalic
Senior Environmental Planner - Rebecca Neumann
Utilities Optimisation Lead - Maren Butz
Manager Operations - Russell Troup
Governance Officer - Angela Porter

1 Open Meeting

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.30pm.

2 Kaurna Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Kaurna people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

3 Elected Member Declaration of Interest (if any)

The Chair asked if any member wished to disclose an interest in relation to any item being considered at the meeting. Nil interests were disclosed.

4 Confirmation of Minutes**4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Special Asset and Sustainability Committee Meeting held on 5 October 2021**

Report Reference ASC211102R4.1

The Committee discussed the following points:

- Councillor Hull thanked staff for their work to gather and collate the community statistics presented at the Asset and Sustainability Committee meeting held on 5 October 2021.
- Future reporting needs to include data provided on religions.

Moved Councillor Bruce Hull

Seconded Councillor Ian Crossland

That the minutes of the Special Asset and Sustainability Committee Meeting held on 5 October 2021 be taken as read and confirmed.

Carried Unanimously

The Chair sought and was granted leave of the meeting to discuss the item *Pedestrian Path - David Avenue to Sampson Reserve, Mitchell Park* (ASC211102R8.1) next on the agenda.

8 Reports for Noting

8.1 Pedestrian Path - David Avenue to Sampson Reserve, Mitchell Park

Report Reference ASC211102R8.1

The Committee discussed the following points:

- A letter has been sent from the Office of the Mayor to Minister Wingard regarding a possible alignment option on the western side of the Flinders train line connecting Sampson Avenue northwards to Bruce Avenue and is pending a formal response.
- Early indications indicate DIT would not support option 2 (to construct a footpath along the rail corridor).
- The Committee discussed an alternative option to propose to seek ownership of the oval through purchase from the school and lease the oval back to the school, leaving pedestrian access available for public use allowing connection to the train station.
- The Committee noted this is a rare opportunity to create some accessible open space, address the thoroughfare issue and build relationship with the school and Education Department.
- Considerations of this option include Council and the Education Department's responsibility to fund new fencing to prevent vandalism, and whether this creates a precedent for other schools in Marion.
- There is no shortage of open space in this area including Mitchell Park Sporting Complex, Sampson Road, Shipley Avenue Reserve, Quick Road.

Moved Councillor Bruce Hull

Seconded Councillor Nathan Prior

That the Asset and Sustainability Committee:

1. Notes the response from the Minister for Education on 28 September 2021 (Attachment 2).
2. Notes that the Mayor has written to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport regarding an alignment option on the western side of the railway line between Sampson Road and Bruce Avenue (Attachment 3).
3. Requests a report to Council that provides feedback on the updates presented at ASC211102.

Carried

5 Confidential Items - Nil

6 Reports for Discussion - Nil

7 Workshop / Presentation Items

7.1 Environmental Sustainability

Report Reference	ASC211102R7.1
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The Committee discussed the following points:

Kitchen Caddy Rollout

- 39,591 kitchen caddies have been distributed across the Council area.
- Calling cards have been left for properties that were unattended allowing residents to collect caddies from our Centres. Caddies will be delivered on a case-by-case basis for those with mobility issues, etc.
- Ongoing support for residents on the use of caddies will be continuing with reminders, education sessions and provision of complementary bags.
- It is recommended to change bags in the caddies every couple of days and layer with other organic matter such as lawn clippings to prevent smells. The Committee noted the new ventilated caddies are significantly better than closed caddies and questioned if ventilation should be installed on the lids of green kerbside bins.
- A waste audit will be conducted early in 2022 to determine if the program has had the desired outcomes.

Environmental Engagement

- Over 1,000 people have subscribed to the Green Thymes e-newsletter which promotes City of Marion green activities and events.
- Valuing Marion's Nature and Common Thread events have moved to online and hybrid events due to COVID-19.
- The City of Marion has partnered with Resilient South for delivery of some green events.
- Approximately 350-400 attended the Nature Festival: Explore Warripari Sturt River which included the launch of six public artworks and 11 educational workshops/activities.
- 18 submissions already received for the 2021 Gardening Showcase - there will be a random prize draw for each of the categories.
- 28 waste and recycling education sessions have been delivered during 2021 - numbers are down from previous years due to COVID-19.
- Currently exploring options to visit SRWRA / Southern Materials Recycling Facility (SMRF) - official launch on Monday 8 November.
- Green Adelaide Nature Education - facilitated 21 school support activities and seven community sessions in 2021.

- The Youth Environment Council of SA has five representatives from within the City of Marion, primarily year 9-10 students.
- The new Community Gardens agreements are in place for four active community gardens and the City of Marion are continuing to explore options for the Green Fingers group.
- Support has been provided for Community Gardeners including first aid training and a bus tour to see how other gardens are operated.
- Currently reviewing waste and recycling systems across City of Marion sites to reduce waste going to landfill. Audit reports are expected before Christmas and ongoing work will be carried out over the following six months to improve waste management. A \$13,800 GISA grant was received to support the project.
- Six new tree tags have been installed through Edwardstown and 10 along the Sturt River Linear Path with more to come across the City. Signs are biodegradable and affixed with wire if a tree guard is in place or jute twine if direct onto the tree.
- The Committee discussed the option of utilising QR codes on the tags and further opportunities to improve our green asset data through databases and tree identification.
- The Committee discussed opportunities for the City of Marion to provide further assistance to residents, such as an arborist, to identify, record, assess and maintain notable trees on private property that do not meet the criteria for the Tree Management Fund.

ACTION: Staff to provide an update on the Tree Management Fund program and uptake to Committee Members via email.

Carbon Neutral Plan

- The Carbon Neutral Plan was endorsed earlier this year - ESD guidelines have been considered and reviewed by ELT and are now in place.
- The City of Marion is now working with the Cities of Charles Sturt and Port Adelaide Enfield to further embed the plan into everything we do including training for staff, facility users and vendors. Procurement policies are also being reviewed.
- Since 2015-16 the City of Marion's carbon emissions have reduced by 42%, the majority of which is due to electricity, solar and led upgrades.
- LED street lighting upgrade project has made a significant impact - reduction of \$903K (from start of LED changeover in 2017/18) (64% average annual consumption reduction). The Committee agreed that the LED street lighting project has met expectations. The team is collaborating with the Smart Cities team to investigate further improvements.
- There has also been a reduction in water consumption and transport fuel.
- Natural gas use has increased; however, City Services was not in use in the base year, other buildings have remained static in use.
- The largest energy consuming site is the Administration Building. Upgrade of the air-conditioning system has already had an impact reducing consumption through winter.
- It is expected that there will be increased consumption at sites like Marion Outdoor Pool which have had significant upgrades

- Options for 100% renewable electricity are currently being reviewed for the electricity contract which expires end 2022. The tender process will start end 2021 with the new contract expected to be available by mid-2022. Early market indication suggests that 100% renewable electricity may be available at a similar price to our existing contract and the Committee agreed that cost effectiveness should not be a driver. The Committee noted that a large portion of power in South Australia (over 50%) is already green energy.
- 416kW rooftop solar installed across 11 sites (investment of \$410k). At least 995MWh of solar electricity has been generated since installation. Inverters have been replaced at some sites so data is not 100% accurate and figures could be higher. Better monitoring systems are being investigated for all sites and scope for more rooftop solar on existing community buildings will be investigated and presented to Council when opportunities arise.
- Feed in tariffs are now in place for all sites - 247MWh has been fed back into the grid, generating income of \$18,109. Average payback is 5.9 years.
- The Committee discussed opportunities for a trial of solar batteries at City of Marion sites. Installation of batteries at the Administration Building or City Services may make sense if we have Electric Vehicles, however upgrades to existing infrastructure would also be required.
- The City of Marion currently has 9 hybrid vehicles which accounts for all pool cars.
- Discussions have commenced to transition the fleet to electric vehicles. Considerations include upgrades to infrastructure and wait times for purchasing electric vehicles (6-18 months for small vehicles and approximately 5 years for heavy vehicles). The Committee discussed opportunities for electric vehicles to use power generated from City of Marion sites rather than feeding back to the grid.
- The Committee discussed opportunities for trial of a hydrogen powered waste vehicle and potential for a pilot study between Hydrogen Park SA and SRWRA with the vehicle being powered by energy generated at the SRWRA SMRF site.
- The City of Marion is currently transitioning small plant to battery and there will be a trial of electric reserve mowers in Q1 2022.
- An Electric Vehicle Fleet Pledge proposed by the Department for Energy and Mining that contains 5 statements that mirror the Carbon Neutral Plan will be considered by the Executive Leadership Team at its meeting on 4 November 2021.

ACTION: Further research will be conducted into electric vehicles and will be reported back to Members.

Resilient South Regional Climate Partnership

- Established in 2011 with the Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham, Onkaparinga and the SA Government.
- Key activities include community preparedness, greening, street trees and asset management.
- Flinders University has been engaged to externally review the Resilient South program. Findings indicate that we are leading across SA and Australia in most areas.

- A new Regional Climate Action Plan to govern next 5 years in climate change adaptation and mitigation is in development. The plan will guide investments and priorities and Elected Members across all four Councils will be engaged through the process.
- A new flagship project - Resilient Asset Management Project (RAMP) has been launched to fill the gap identified in the climate risk governance assessments. This will integrate climate risk into asset management planning. Current asset management planning does not currently take into consideration climate change and increased events that will degrade assets. The project will ensure we are managing assets as best we can.
- A pilot is commencing later this year and there is strong interest from the LGA to ensure we have something transferable to integrate into other Council's asset management planning.
- The Committee noted that the new development code has no regard for the environment and the City of Marion and partner councils have identified this as a risk. Council will continue to advocate where possible.

Coastal Climate Adaptation

- Council endorsed a coastal monitoring program which is nearing completion of the first year. Drone monitoring of risk and hotspot areas includes Hallett Cove Beach, Old Marino Boat Ramp and Marino Cliffs.
- The program is collecting storm and wave data, shoreline movement and changes in coastal landform including impacts to the base of the cliffs. The data will be summarised in an annual risk review with the first report due in the next few weeks.
- No changes have been identified from the changes to infrastructure at Port Stanvac.
- No new erosion has been identified. Significant investment has been made into the Coastal Walkway and reports will provide confidence that the investment will not be 'washed away'.

The Committee noted the Environment Report Card 2020-2021 and discussed visual ways to present data to allow Council to prioritise climate and carbon neutral projects. The Environment Team is currently investigating options for communicating the cost savings and carbon reduction achievements to our community including use of the website, new rates portal and flyers included with rates notices.

Moved Councillor Ian Crossland

Seconded Councillor Nathan Prior

That the Asset and Sustainability Committee:

1. Notes the report and presentation and feedback
2. Notes that the approved Carbon Neutral Plan will allow staff to sign the DEM Electric Vehicle Pledge.

Carried Unanimously

9 Business Arising

9.1 Business Arising Statement - Action Items**Report Reference** ASC211102R9.1

The Committee discussed the following points:

- Councillor Crossland, as the incoming Chair of the Asset and Sustainability Committee, requested an informal workshop with the new committee prior to the first meeting to discuss ideas and direction of meetings for 2022. It was noted that the meeting dates for 2022 have been endorsed by Council however the Chair can call a Special Meeting or workshop as required.
- The Committee agreed they would like to see more ideas brought forward from staff and expert independents in 2022.

Moved Councillor Nathan Prior**Seconded Councillor Bruce Hull**

That the Asset and Sustainability Committee:

1. Notes the business arising statement.

Carried Unanimously**10 Other Business**

The Chair thanked the Committee for their efforts this year and for the recommendations brought forward to Council.

11 Meeting Closure

The meeting was declared closed at 9.00pm.

CONFIRMED THIS 1ST DAY OF FEBRUARY 2022

CHAIRPERSON