



**Minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
held on Tuesday, 11 June 2024 at 6.30 pm  
Council Chamber, Council Administration Centre  
245 Sturt Road, Sturt**

**PRESENT**

His Worship the Mayor Kris Hanna  
Councillor Sarah Luscombe (Chair)  
Councillor Nathan Prior  
Councillor Raelene Telfer (from 7:01 pm)  
Councillor Luke Naismith  
Councillor Jason Veliskou

Councillor Jayne Hoffmann  
Councillor Renuka Lama (from 6:40 pm)  
Councillor Jana Mates  
Councillor Amar Singh  
Councillor Ian Crossland

**In Attendance**

Chief Executive Officer - Tony Harrison  
General Manager City Services - Ben Keen  
General Manager Corporate Services - Angela Allison  
A/Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment – Carl Lundborg  
Executive Officer to the General Manager City Services - Colleen Madsen  
Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability – Rebecca Neumann  
Senior Environmental Planner – Anna Haygreen  
Environmental Engagement Officer – Jess Mitchell  
Environment Project Officer - Clarissa Baker

**1 Open Meeting**

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.31pm.

**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.

The following interests were disclosed:

- Nil interests were disclosed.

## 4 Confirmation of Minutes

### 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 9 April 2024

Report Reference IEC240611R4.1

**Moved Councillor Hoffman**

**Seconded Councillor Mates**

That the minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 9 April 2024 be taken as read and confirmed.

**Carried Unanimously**

## 5 Business Arising

### 5.1 Business Arising Statement - Action Items

Report Reference IEC240611R5.1

It was noted that the FOGO report, initially set for 9 July, requires further review by the ELT before being presented to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee. It is now scheduled for the 6 August meeting, with the Marion Water Update moved to July.

The mayor suggested that following his discussions with staff, a streetscape matrix report could be scheduled for either the September or October meeting.

The chair confirmed with the committee if the above changes were acceptable.

**Moved Mayor Hanna**

**Seconded Councillor Naismith**

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

1. Notes the business arising statement, meeting schedule and upcoming items with the above changes.

**Carried Unanimously**

## 6 Confidential Items

## 7 Reports for Discussion

### 7.1 City of Marion Environmental Sustainability Plan

Report Reference IEC240611R7.1

The Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability introduced the item and presented to the Committee the proposed scope and approach to develop an Environmental Sustainability Plan 2025-2030, seeking feedback from the Committee.

The team has reviewed the current strategic plan and has clear directions around environmental sustainability from this plan, including vision and short-term goals. In the absence of an Environment Plan, all guidance has been taken from the Strategic Plan.

Staff sought to identify areas where the Committee believed additional focus was needed on the following topics:

- Biodiversity, trees, and greening
- Water
- Climate resilience and emissions reduction
- Waste management
- Sustainable living and engagement
- Governance and reporting

6:40 pm Councillor Lama entered the meeting.

Staff guided the Committee through a Mentimeter exercise to facilitate the discussion. The results are included as attachment 1 to these minutes.

During the presentation information from staff included:

- The Environmental Sustainability Plan will bridge the gap between the Strategic Plan and Operational Plans and sit below the Strategic Plan.
- Timeframe is 12 months.
- Initial community consultation is not planned due to the substantial feedback already received from consultations on the Strategic Plan and other Operational Plans
- Feedback will also be gathered from expert leaders i.e. Universities etc.
- Draft Plan to be presented at a subsequent Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting prior to General Council.

7.01 pm Councillor Telfer entered the meeting.

Discussion by the Committee included:

- Understanding the costs of these projects.
- Clarification on WSUD.
- The word pollution needs to be included in the heading Climate resilience and emissions reduction i.e. Climate resilience, pollution, and emissions reduction.
- Clarification on sustainable transport.
- Under Waste Management, the committee noted that SRWRA was omitted from the listings and needs to be included.
- Food waste diversion is taking the organic content out of buried landfill to a more recyclable option. The committee noted that SRWRA also manages separation of organic material from the general waste stream for use as landfill capping.

7:14 pm Cr Singh left the meeting.

- The committee queried whether Council has a policy on Circular Economy. Staff advised this is mentioned as a concept in our waste policy to promote development of supply chains and a local economy that avoids waste. City of Marion does not have a policy on Product Stewardship however we have advocated for producer responsibility.

7.17 Cr Singh re-entered the meeting.

- Staff clarified that food waste diversion encourages residents to recycle food waste instead of using the red bin. They suggested increasing resident knowledge and promoting composting through rebates.
- The committee discussed whether there is potential for 3 councils to invest in soft plastic recycling, acknowledging it would be a large and expensive project.
- The committee requested information on whether council should focus on food waste diversion or leave it to SRWRA. Management advised that it depends on the proposal, which would be reviewed based on the business case, which for weekly organics will come to an IEC meeting later this year for more detailed discussion.
- In relation to a committee query on budgets, management advised that there is a team of 8 in Environmental Sustainability, however this does not encompass the entire budget. The Plan spans across multiple teams and projects including the Tree AMP, Biodiversity Plan, Project Management, and supply chain. Providing an accurate budget figure is challenging as it overlaps with other areas. The Plan will help to identify everything and help determine what we should be doing and where to increase or decrease investment.

### **Action**

The Committee would like to see figures on how much we spend on each environmental sustainability area included in the Draft Environmental Sustainability Plan that comes back to IEC later in 2024.

### **Question On notice – Cr Prior**

The committee would like an estimate of the costs versus the returns on the solar cells installed around the council, which have been in place for approximately 8-9 years and have a payback period of 5 ½ years.

7:39 Cr Crossland left the meeting.

The committee noted that as Council is in the process of reviewing our strategic documents the front part of the Plan will need to be modified accordingly.

**Moved Mayor Hanna**

**Seconded Councillor Hoffman**

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

1. Provides feedback in the meeting on the key focus areas for the City of Marion Environmental Sustainability Plan 2025-2030.

**Carried Unanimously**

7:41 Cr Crossland re-entered the meeting.

## 7.2 Carbon Inventory and Reporting

**Report Reference** IEC240611R7.2

The Senior Environmental Planner presented to the Committee an update on the endorsed City of Marion Carbon Neutral Plan implementation and emerging trends in climate reporting that may impact the plan.

An independent validation of council's carbon inventory has been completed and an implementation update was provided in the agenda.

7:46 pm Cr Lama left the meeting.

The Plan was endorsed in 2021 with a target of the City of Marion's operations becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

7:49 pm Cr Lama re-entered the meeting.

Discussion and questions from the Committee and staff included:

- Waste landfill data – over time we have acquired more accurate data through recent waste audits, leading to revised figures. While it appears waste and landfill rates have increased, this is due to improved data accuracy.

### Question on Notice

Can the Committee have the data on how much our solar panels have reduced our emissions?

- The committee queried if it is feasible to switch from gas to electricity where practical. Staff advised that according to our Environmental Sustainability Design (ESD) Guidelines document, once current gas appliances reach end of life, we will not replace them with gas but with electric alternatives.
- Staff advised we pay around \$200K annually for certified green power. There is an opportunity for savings by investing in renewable energy through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Staff have reviewed the current electricity contracts, and we are contractually obligated to pay for it at our main sites (roughly 80% of electricity). A further update will be presented to Council Members in relation to the power purchase agreement and costs of Green Power.
- Green Power Certification – we can buy and sell a green power mix. Other councils have adopted various approaches, including blends and power purchase agreements with wind

farms, depending on the scenario. If we buy green energy, we need to determine whether the cost included both the green energy and certification.

- Noted that we have fully utilised the solar capacity on all our significant buildings. At the last assessment, it was not cost efficient to put solar on council's smaller buildings. Council has applied for 50% grant funding for solar car parks at the Marion Outdoor Pool and City of Marion Administration Building as well as upgrades of sports lighting towers to LED.

### **Question on Notice**

Can the Committee have in writing further information on the concept of council purchasing "Certified Green Power" and "Climate Active" / "Carbon Neutral" Certification.

The Committee and staff discussed emissions reporting in detail, including:

- Staff reported a higher emission figure, noting a 35% reduction in the new calculation method, compared to a 20% reduction previously.
- What other councils are doing, particularly Scope 3 emissions.
- Staff reported the only carbon neutral certified council in South Australia is City of Adelaide and they currently offset their scope 3 emissions.
- Concerns were raised about public perception if emissions appear to increase due to the inclusion of Scope 3 emissions.
- Staff suggested considering separate reporting for Scope 3 emissions while maintaining the original boundary/corporate KPI for carbon neutrality.
- The Committee noted the challenge of reporting success when measurement methods change, recommending the current reporting method be maintained with the consultant report used internally.
- The Committee discussed advocating for a sector-wide approach to Scope 3 emissions reporting.
- Staff advised that the LGA's Accelerate Net Zero project aims to develop sector-wide Scope 3 reporting and provide climate-related training for councils.
- A committee suggestion was to continue current reporting methods (excluding Scope 3), noting the importance of realistic goals, with a footnote explaining the exclusion of Scope 3.
- Discussion on competing priorities, such as developing community and sporting centres which have embodied Scope 3 emissions. Staff advised of the importance of including Scope 3 to understand the full carbon footprint, with a focus on supply chain management and the potential need for additional project costs.
- Staff emphasised the difficulty of delayed mandatory reporting and the need for early adaptation to prepare effectively.
- There was a general consensus by the Committee to continue current emissions reporting methods while keeping Scope 3 emissions separate for future consideration.
- Feasibility of Solar Farms was discussed. Staff mentioned that a Power Purchase Agreement could potentially lead to the development of large solar farms.
- The Committee noted that an internal audit on procurement revealed an opportunity to prioritise greener companies, which was overlooked.

- Discussed the issue of offsets, noting that Cleanaway pays for carbon credits. Suggest re-thinking our approach to offsets and identifying a policy to ensure their suitability and integrity when the Carbon Neutral Plan is brought back to Council.
- The Committee queried the governance regarding carbon inventory and reporting within existing resources, and queried the use of a consultant as being a council-endorsed plan should it be done by staff.
- Staff advised that the spend on the consultant was \$12K over 2 years and was within the teams' budget. For organisations of our scale, to comply with the Climate Active Framework requires independent verification.

**Action**

The committee suggested revising the Carbon Neutral Plan and bring it back to Council in the next 12 months for review.

8:39 pm Councillor Telfer left the meeting.

- Discussion on whether council can be both the seller and the consumer of community renewable energy. Staff advised that we would be detached contractually from ShineHub as they have the contract with the consumer.

**Moved Mayor Hanna**

**Seconded Councillor Lama**

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

1. Notes the update on the carbon inventory and implementation of the Carbon Neutral Plan and provides feedback.

**Carried Unanimously**

### 7.3 Environment Communications and Engagement

**Report Reference** IEC240611R7.3

The Environmental Engagement Officer provided the Committee with a presentation (Attachment 1) summarising current engagement and communication activities and sought feedback to help shape future programs. Further information on activities including relevant links is in the presentation attachment.

9:16 pm Mayor Hanna left the meeting.

Discussion from the Committee included:

- The importance on seeing the impact Marion Living Smarties has on the city and engaging with them on how they have impacted the community i.e. closing the loop including advising their impact on policy.

**Question on Notice**



The Committee would like some data on the sustainability rebate programs delivered by other councils.

- Looking at what other councils are doing in this space with successful initiatives i.e. low-income grant for insulation. We should assess these programs to identify specific needs for our community.
- The Committee noted that many of the multicultural communities are unaware of the various programs offered by the City of Marion. They suggested focusing on expanding our reach to our multicultural communities.
- The Committee recommended creating simplified information about carbon emissions for the community, removing the technical jargon to make it easier to understand.

9:22 pm Councillor Crossland left the meeting.

**Moved Councillor Lama**

**Seconded Councillor Hoffman**

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

1. Notes the presentation on environmental engagement and communication initiatives (Attachment 1) and provides feedback in the meeting.

**Carried Unanimously**

## **8 Reports for Noting**

## **9 Workshop / Presentation Items**

## **10 Other Business**

## **11 Meeting Closure**

The meeting shall conclude on or before 9.30pm unless there is a specific motion adopted at the meeting to continue beyond that time.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.24pm.

CONFIRMED THIS 6 DAY OF AUGUST 2024

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CHAIRPERSON