



**Minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee
held on Tuesday, 9 July 2024 at 6.30 pm
Council Chamber, Council Administration Centre
245 Sturt Road, Sturt**

PRESENT

Councillor Sarah Luscombe (Chair)
Councillor Jason Veliskou
Councillor Nathan Prior
Councillor Raelene Telfer

Councillor Luke Naismith
Councillor Jayne Hoffmann
Councillor Matt Taylor
Councillor Renuka Lama (6:37pm)

In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer - Tony Harrison
Acting General Manager City Services - Brian Green
Executive Officer to the General Manager City Services - Colleen Madsen
Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability – Rebecca Neumann
Water Resources Coordinator – Glynn Ricketts
Acting Manager Operations - Renee Pitcher
Manager City Property - Mark Hubbard
Flinders University Principal Sustainability Strategist – William Van Ausdal

1 Open Meeting

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.33pm.

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

6:37pm Councillor Lama entered the meeting.

4 Confirmation of Minutes**4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2024**

Report Reference IEC24709R4.1

Moved Councillor Telfer

Seconded Councillor Hoffman

That the minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 6 June 2024 be taken as read and confirmed.

carried unanimously

5 Business Arising

5.1 Business Arising Statement - Action Items

Report Reference	IEC240709R5.1
-------------------------	---------------

Moved Councillor Hoffman

Seconded Councillor Taylor

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

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

carried unanimously

6 Confidential Items – Nil

7 Reports for Discussion

7.1 Flinders University Sustainability Strategy

Report Reference	IEC240709R7.1
-------------------------	---------------

The Chair welcomed the Flinders University Principal Sustainability Strategist, William Van Ausdal to present on Flinders University's 2030 Sustainability Strategy.

The presentation covered Flinders University's journey from their initial Sustainability Plan in 2018 to their current 2030 Sustainability Strategy in 2024, highlighting their achievements along the way. Flinders University is currently ranked 42nd globally for environmental sustainability among over 1,500 universities.

The Sustainability Strategy is based on 3 basic principles; 1. Contributing to a sustainable society, 2. Taking climate action, 3. Whole-of-Flinders approach.

Discussion with the Committee included:

- Collaboration between the City of Marion (CoM) and Flinders could include advocating for public policies such as active public transport, renewable energy, community batteries and improving wetlands ecosystems. Flinders would be happy to participate in joint submissions.
- Flinders has a good relationship with CoM through the Oaklands education centre and the Industry Advisory Board.
- Flinders most impactful role lies in teaching.
- Opportunities for council include a grant application for micro-credentials focussing on upskilling councils in sustainability. If successful, that may allow us to co-develop what this means for council staff.

- The number 1 opportunity for CoM sustainability would be to focus on active transport. It brings communities together and has cost, safety and health benefits.
- Social equality and sustainability were discussed. This is covered under the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Flinders have policies to encourage low-income students.
- Flinders spend approximately 3 weeks per year collecting data on measuring carbon, with the assistance of consultants. May be possible to obtain a carbon footprint for between \$20k - \$40k. This would not include the modelling on how to reduce emissions.
- Community emissions are difficult to quantify.
- Formal requests for partnership opportunities can be made through the Vice Chancellor.
- Flinders is developing design guidelines to ensure every new building incorporates principles of water reuse and efficiency, including smart landscaping and a masterplan addressing this for a 50-year horizon.
- There is a methodology to greenhouse protocol. A lot of Scope 3 emissions are based on expenditure data. Once that data is downloaded it will assist on where to prioritise and focus attention.

Moved Councillor Naismith

Seconded Councillor Taylor

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

1. Notes the presentation from Flinders University Principal Sustainability Strategist William Van Ausdal on the Flinders University 2030 Sustainability Strategy.

carried unanimously

7.2 262 Sturt Road Precinct - Landscaping

Report Reference IEC240709R7.2

The Chair welcomed the Manager City Property and Acting Manager Operations to present the Committee with options on how to landscape the 262 Sturt Road sporting precinct and surrounding parks, utilising a portion of funding allocated towards the Marion Sports and Community Club car park budget from the City of Marion Building Asset Strategy.

A high-level handout was provided to the Committee on some options of greening the site with the proposed funding.

Discussion with the Committee included:

- The Committee requested clarification on the purpose of this report. Staff explained that the report outlines potential landscaping options for the site with the proposed funding.
- Growing trees in large carparks – strata cells to maximise growth in hard landscaping treatments draws moisture down to the roots. Another option is rain gardens and swales and WSUD can be combined.
- The committee questioned the difference in the carbon offset for the new landscaping treatments versus the 2 trees that are being removed.

- Administration advised that it would take approximately 20 years to replace the carbon offset by the removal of the 2 trees.
- The carbon offset will be quantified when the report is presented to Council.
- Expectations of the community for the carbon offset and stakeholder management was discussed.
- Administration advised that Council has recently adopted the Tree Asset Management Plan and a significant amount of consultation was undertaken with the community on greening, street trees, and biodiversity. There is a large focus on greening the City of Marion and the benefits and community expectations are known.
- The Community Engagement team should assess community expectations regarding the removal of the 2 trees and ensure communication on how council will offset the value of the trees beyond their BAU.
- The Committee decided that it would be more prudent to wait until there is a precinct plan before presenting any recommendations to Council.
- Community consultation should focus on the entire precinct plan rather than a stage-by-stage approach.

Moved Councillor Naismith

Seconded Councillor Hoffman

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

1. Recommends that relevant Council divisions ensure that improving landscaping and biodiversity outcomes is embedded as an objective to achieve where possible for projects at the 262 Sturt Road Sports Precinct.
2. Notes consideration of a number of options, including allocation of \$78,200 were discussed.

carried unanimously

7.3 Marion Water Business Update

Report Reference IEC240709R7.3

The Chair welcomed the Water Resources Coordinator to provide an update of the Marion Water's recent \$5.6M expansion and to discuss a potential grant opportunity to help fund capital costs for expanding the water distribution network to Majors Road soccer pitches.

The presentation included:

- The 4-year strategic plan.
- A potential grant opportunity from the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) with a funding agreement under the Resilient River Water Infrastructure Program.

Discussion with the Committee included:

- Discussion on our energy consumption occurring at night and the necessary infrastructure size to generate and store that power at night. Staff advised that the new pumps require half

the energy of the old ones installed in 2012. As we replace those pumps, they become more energy efficient.

QoN – What is the energy budget for the Water Business and can the energy usage be totally offset using a battery and renewable source.

- The Water Business has focused on the use of treated stormwater fit for irrigation. If we are approving new sub-divisions, it is critical to explore using additionally treated water for those facilities. While ongoing Investment in infrastructure is necessary, it will benefit what we are doing in the future.
- With the increase in community demand for irrigation of sites, staff advised that we first look to using native groundwater as this is the most cost efficient and environmentally sustainable option. The second option is based on cost and is Marion Water. Lastly, we use potable water, with grants assisting with this. These are normally small areas away from our pipes. If pocket parks are in close proximity, they could be connected efficiently; otherwise, SA Water, which is more expensive, would need to be used.
- Demand for toilets not yet there.
- Extending the network up the hills opens other opportunities.
- Savings of approximately \$50k per quarter can be made by using Marion Water in lieu of SA Water at Majors Road. (graph showed saving over 2 years)
- Majors Road soccer could be serviced by another small extension that would include a small booster pump. Staff are in discussions with DEW for a federally funded grant. An application would need to be submitted pending a Council resolution.
- The Grant would significantly fund a 1.8 km network extension from the Marion Golf Course to the new soccer pitches on Majors Road. A new booster pump will also be required. Current cost of pipeline is estimated at circa \$440k.
- To make the grant bid attractive to the funding agencies, the City of Marion will be a party to a tripartite funding arrangement with the City of Onkaparinga and the Eastern Regional Authority.
- Each party will have a separate funding agreement and will only be responsible for its own displacement of potable water with treated stormwater supply for the sites in each respective council area.
- Current demand at that facility (soccer) is 3 pitches; volume is 25 megalitres per year. Grant is per megalitre. If we apply for 3 pitches, the grant would be for \$320k, if we can justify 4 pitches the grant would go up to \$390k.
- Consideration of the long-term benefits of expanding the network into a larger infrastructure, establishing a foundation for future of branching off and extending our above-ground watering of open spaces.
- Cove Soccer made an application of up to \$500k funding to increase from 3 to 4 soccer pitches (and has been received). Council also has a resolution to support up to \$500k.
- The committee and staff discussed future possibilities of expanding further south.

Moved Councillor Taylor**Seconded Councillor Prior**

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

1. Receives a presentation from the Water Resource Coordinator on Marion Water and the potential grant opportunity to expand the Business Unit.
2. Supports staff to present a report to General Council in August 2024 regarding the grant opportunity for Marion Water.

carried unanimously

8 Reports for Noting - Nil**9 Workshop / Presentation Items - Nil****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 8.25pm.

CONFIRMED THIS 6 DAY OF AUGUST 2024

CHAIRPERSON