

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel

MEETING MINUTES – 21 MARCH 2023

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel (SEAP)

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| Date & Time: | 21 March 2023 – 5:00pm |
| Location: | Council Chambers, 21 Saunders Street, Wynyard |
| Council Representatives: | Cr Celisa Edwards (Chair), Cr Andrea Courtney (Deputy Chair) |
| Members: | Brenton Hosking, Colin Hocking, Fiona Loughran, Hannah Sadler, Ian Ferris, Ian Newman, Peter Lawrence, Robin Krabbe, Sarah Smith, Wendy Bryant |
| Staff in Attendance: | Kassandra Steward, Daniel Summers, Bill Walker |
| Apologies: | Dana Hicks |

AGENDA:

1. Welcome
2. Confirmation of Minutes
3. Review of Actions List
4. Action Plan Development – Brainstorming Outcomes
5. WWC FOGO Kerbside Consideration
6. Stakeholder Meeting for Oldina Reserve
7. City of Power Partnership
8. Upcoming Meetings
9. General Business
10. Closure

ACTIONS TAKEN:

1. Form a sub-group looking at a weed reduction program including education and transfer of knowledge into Council a strategy. [F. Loughran, B. Walker & C. Hocking]
2. Provide details and/or a contact at Central Coast Council re: HEAT home energy tool and associated community outreach [P. Lawrence & K. Steward]
3. Seek further information on possible funding for waste education through the state government. [Cr. A. Courtney & D. Summers]
4. Adjust and reorganise the Action Plan produced as part of the January brainstorming session. Soft copy of native file to be provided. [C. Hocking, Cr C. Edwards, D. Summers & K. Steward]
5. Provide an outline of a food security proposal for the group to consider actions for. [R. Krabbe & H. Sadler]
6. Provide examples and case studies to assist progress for easily achievable Community adaptation and resilience projects. E.g., Camp Creek, Inglis River [B. Hosking & C. Hocking]
7. Send NRM link to SEAP group [H. Sadler]
8. Approach Spring Loaded organisers re: Eco Fest contacts. [D. Summers & Cr A. Courtney]
9. Review, research and make recommendations for a revised/new Tree Policy for the consideration of the group. [C. Hocking & I. Ferris]
10. Wildlife corridor concepts and management including threatened species (urban greening links/corridors) – Research and provide case studies for the group's consideration. [W. Bryant].
11. Share the FOGO feasibility study from 2020 with SEAP ahead of recommendations to April Council meeting. [D. Summers]
12. Provide information on the shared environmental officer discussion with Cradle Coast Authority [P. Lawrence]
13. Send a link to the City of Power Partnership site for member's review - [Cities Power Partnership: local councils leading the charge to net zero](#). [K. Steward]

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RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

1. SEAP recommends Council to amend its Sponsorship Signage Policy to exclude fossil fuels in recognition of their health and climate impacts as Council has already done in regard to gambling, alcohol and tobacco.
2. SEAP recommends Council to introduce an annual EcoFair event in conjunction with Spring Loaded to raise awareness in the community and promote sustainable living and a healthy relationship with the environment.
3. SEAP recommends Council to participate in the Cities Power Partnership which presents an opportunity to join dozens of other councils across the country leading the way to a zero emissions future by providing the necessary tools, resources, and connections to help accelerate their climate and energy goals.

1 WELCOME

- A quorum was established, and the meeting was officially opened at 17:11.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved by W. Bryant, Seconded by P. Lawrence

That the minutes of the SEAP meeting held on 31 January 2023, as circulated to Members, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Carried.

3 REVIEW OF ACTIONS LIST

Action Item 2 to formalise meeting frequency was confirmed complete and closed.

Minor discussion of Action Item 4 confirmed that F. Loughran and B Walker met on site to view the state of the (unofficial) weed proliferation, agapanthus, around Sisters Beach. It was thought that public education would need to be the first step in the process changing perception around weeds in the community.

A sub-group to look at weed reduction and education will be formed and bring recommendations back to the group and ultimately inform a strategy for Council's consideration.

Remaining actions confirmed.

Action 1: *Form a sub-group looking at a weed reduction program including education and transfer of knowledge into Council a strategy. [F. Loughran, B. Walker & C. Hocking]*

4 ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT – BRAINSTORMING OUTCOMES

A recap and review of the outcomes from the brainstorming session during the 31 January meeting occurred. Each of the objectives were reviewed and discussed to refine actions and define deliverables while prioritising actions to progress with in the short term versus long term goals. It was noted that some of the actions will be easier to progress in the short term or have already started moving ahead of the meeting.

Discussion moved onto individual objective actions which produced lively discussion on multiple topics over the next hour and a half. As part of Objective 1; energy efficiency conversation led to information on Central Coast Council's HEAT home energy tool which could be investigated further as a tool to assist with residential energy audits and education.

As discussion continued over actions under Objective 1, the group suggested that SEAP make a recommendation to Council regarding a possible change to Council policy on Fossil Fuels. The participants voted unanimously in favour for a recommendation to Council.

Additionally, discussion occurred in regard to communication, education, and fine tuning of climate leadership goals under the Paris Agreement to focus and apply at a local level.

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- Cr A. Courtney joined the meeting at 5:25pm.

The group moved on to discuss waste education and sustainable food and waste systems. It was suggested that a series of YouTube style clips could be produced as a means of closing a potential literacy gap in education materials. It was suggested that there may be funding available to assist with organic waste education through the state government through the state waste strategy, something that could be investigated further.

Discussion of green, food and garden waste lead to a temporary break in action plan review discussion to consider related agenda item 5 regarding FOGO.

Objective action item review resumed with Objective 2 for youth and community engagement where discussion quickly returned to education and change in attitude. The group rapidly identified that most actions are based in educating the community. It was suggested that the actions and activities be resorted to be more digestible with two members volunteering to review and adjust the table of objective actions.

- Cr. C. Edwards excused herself at 6:01pm

Further discussion of actions under Objective 2 included a request posed by one member that some clarification be socialised with the group about food security in terms of actionable activities for this group to progress with. It was suggested that the terms “food security” be adjusted to specify a focus on community garden opportunities as opposed to production.

The group moved on to community adaptation and resilience where conversation on the Sisters Beach erosion project led to two members volunteering to provide examples and case studies to assist in developing plans for easily achievable Community adaptation and resilience projects moving forward.

- F. Loughran excused herself at 6:15pm

Conversation continued the topic of weeds and weed education in the community. It was suggested that Cradle Coast National Resource Management (NRM) facilitates interactions across councils, utilities and private landowners and may have case studies referencing weeds that we could utilise. It was also noted that weeds may imminently fall under the purview of biosecurity, giving the issue of weeds further attention in the public eye.

The group progressed into actions under Objective 2.1 referencing community conversation actions being more likely to be “quick-wins” for educating the community by bridging a technological literacy gap for the community. Further conversation raised the notion of an educational fair, perhaps to occur on or around Environment Day. The discussion prompted the idea that EcoFest was coming up which explores and promotes sustainable living and a healthy relationship with the environment. Members discussed the potential to draw on the information and/or connections through EcoFest and perhaps approach Spring Loaded organisers to see if the idea could be incorporated into extra events given that the community are already familiar with the Spring-Loaded festival. The participants voted unanimously in favour for a recommendation to Council.

The Deputy-Chair posed a question to the group and called for a vote on whether to make the recommendation to Council to explore an annual EcoFair event to be held as part of the Spring-Loaded festival into the future. The participants voted unanimously in favour.

The meeting continued with discussion around actions under Objective 3 and 3.1 which include management of land, waterways, biodiversity, and tree management. The members tended to agree that the Tree Policy required a new approach as it is currently risk management based. Two members volunteered to review and provide a draft of what the Tree Policy should look like based on best practice. Similarly, another member volunteered to provide some research and make recommendations in consideration of wildlife corridor concepts and management including threatened species (urban greening links/corridors) and provide case studies for the group’s consideration.

Finally, Objective 4 regarding management of targets, goals and measurements of success was set aside as a longer-term measure of success.

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Action 2.: Provide details and/or a contact at Central Coast Council re: HEAT home energy tool and associated community outreach [P. Lawrence & K. Steward]

Action 3.: Seek further information on possible funding for waste education through the state government. [Cr. A. Courtney & D. Summers]

Action 4.: Adjust and reorganise the Action Plan produced as part of the January brainstorming session. Soft copy of native file to be provided. [C. Hocking, Cr C. Edwards, D. Summers & K. Steward]

Action 5.: Provide an outline of a food security proposal for the group to consider actions for. [R. Krabbe & H. Sadler]

Action 6.: Provide examples and case studies to assist progress for easily achievable Community adaptation and resilience projects. E.g., Camp Creek, Inglis River [B. Hosking & C. Hocking]

Action 7.: Send NRM link to SEAP group [H. Sadler]

Action 8.: Approach Spring Loaded organisers re: Eco Fest contacts. [D. Summers & Cr A. Courtney]

Action 9.: Review, research and make recommendations for a revised/new Tree Policy for the consideration of the group. [C. Hocking & I. Ferris]

Action 10.: Wildlife corridor concepts and management including threatened species (urban greening links/corridors) – Research and provide case studies for the group's consideration. [W. Bryant].

Recommendation 1.: SEAP recommends Council to amend its Sponsorship Signage Policy to exclude fossil fuels in recognition of their health and climate impacts as Council has already done in regard to gambling, alcohol and tobacco.

Recommendation 2.: SEAP recommends Council to introduce an annual EcoFair event in conjunction with Spring Loaded to raise awareness in the community and promote sustainable living and a healthy relationship with the environment.

5 WWC FOGO KERBSIDE CONSIDERATION

The SEAP were advised that options and recommendations regarding a kerbside FOGO service through the Cradle Coast Waste Management Group (CCWMG) will be tabled at the April Council meeting for consideration.

It was noted to the SEAP that should WWC join early, the FOGO refuse would go to Launceston until Dulverton's planned site upgrade is in place by mid-2025. It was thought that the wait time for the closer disposal site would give Council the lead-time to help with education and community buy-in based on the feasibility study conducted by Council in 2020.

Some discussion arose looking at possible cons surrounding FOGO, such as energy consumption in cleaning out bins and distance travelled to defer the waste to Launceston in the short term. Further mention of possible pest issues and methane production from decomposition in an anerobic vs aerobic environment and whether any biogases produced would be captured or let into the environment.

SEAP members suggested outlining and presenting both the pros and cons of FOGO to Council for their consideration in addition to the opportunity being provided through CCWMG.

Further discussion stretched into education and raising the subject of an environmental officer; or other Council officer with a background in environmental legislation, media, and education help to promote opportunities for a change in mindset in the community toward environmental sustainability.

It was noted that there had been some discussion some years back about a possible resource shared position across councils through the Cradle Coast Authority which could be re-examined. This position, in addition to the SEAP could assist in Council's next iteration of the waste management strategy which is currently in year 4 of the 5-year strategy. In addition, it was suggested that it may be an opportunity to have a coordinated environmental policy across councils.

Action 11.: Share the FOGO feasibility study from 2020 with SEAP ahead of recommendations to April Council meeting. [D. Summers]

Action 12.: Provide information on the shared environmental officer discussion with Cradle Coast Authority [P. Lawrence]

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6 STAKEHOLDER MEETING FOR OLDINA RESERVE

R. Krabbe advised the group on a meeting she attended with the Oldina Reserve Stakeholder group. suggested that the stakeholder group wished to see the reserve restored to community use and would support a proposal to Council for ideas such as the inclusion of a site/sites for 'natural burials' and for a restored walking track. It was also noted as a possible community project potentially with the high school as a learning opportunity.

7 CITY OF POWER PARTNERSHIP

R. Krabbe brought to the attention of the group the City of Power Partnership for consideration as a possible initiative that the SEAP could get behind and raise for Council's awareness. It was noted that the initiative would be project focused and that six Tasmanian councils had already signed up in addition to the dozens of others across the country. On review of the initiative during the meeting it was suggested that SEAP make the recommendation to Council to review and join in the program. The participants voted unanimously in favour for a recommendation to Council.

Action 13.: Send a link to the City of Power Partnership site for member's review [Cities Power Partnership: local councils leading the charge to net zero.](#) [K. Steward]

Recommendation 3.: SEAP recommends Council to participate in the Cities Power Partnership which presents an opportunity to join dozens of other councils across the country leading the way to a zero emissions future by providing the necessary tools, resources, and connections to help accelerate their climate and energy goals.

8 UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Next meeting on 16 May 2023 located at Council Chambers has been confirmed.

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

The Deputy-Chair noted the time and made a quick call for members to raise any other general business, the following discussions were noted:

- C. Hocking requested that the topic of Arboreta be added to the next meeting agenda for discussion. No further business was raised.

10 CLOSURE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 19:08.