

Minutes



Sustainability Advisory Committee

Wednesday, 01 May 2024
4:00- 5:30pm

Location:	Coachwood (Meeting Room), Level 6, 31 Victor St Chatswood
Chair:	Mayor Tanya Taylor
Attendees:	Eva Coulam – Member Janet France – Member Elisha Mangassarian– Member (via teams) Gay Spies – Member Peter Lisle – Sustainability Team Leader Bushra Salam – Governance
Apologies:	Andrew Assaee – Member Rena Czaplinska-Archer – Member
Guests:	Mayor Tanya Taylor Councillor Anna Greco Councillor John Moratelli
Attachments:	Nil

Agenda items

Item	Topic / Discussion	Action
1	Welcome: Meeting was declared open at 4:28pm when the quorum was reached.	
	Apologies: Andrew Assaee; Rena Czaplinska-Archer	
	Declarations of interest There were no disclosures of interest submitted.	
	Acknowledgement of Country Governance Administration Officer acknowledged country on behalf of Council.	

2 Committee Governance

Mayor Taylor presided the meeting as the Chairperson.

3 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Moved by Eva Coulam and seconded by Gay Spies, the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 06 March 2024 were unanimously adopted.

4 Business arising from previous minutes

1. Possible contamination of Council mulch

Peter Lisle – Sustainability Team Leader, noted that Council has done testing of eleven different sites/locations across LGA and none of them were found contaminated. Elisha Mangassarian suggested putting the results on the website for community to be aware.

Peter to double check the website and if not there put forward the results.

2. Report of the Artificial Turf Working Party Meeting

A meeting of the Artificial Turf Working Party meeting was held on 22 February 2024. The responses to the questions raised by the working party were provided to the Committee prior to this meeting via email by the Council officers.

In relation to the report of the Artificial Turf Working Party, distributed to members of the committee by email prior to the meeting, it was agreed that:

1. Citations would be added, and the report circulated to the community members of the committee for comment within seven days of circulation;
 2. The working party would finalise the report taking into account any comments received and email the report to Peter Lisle for circulation to officers for their comments;
 3. Peter Lisle would collate the officers' comments and send them to community members and councilors who regularly attend the committee meetings so as to enable the committee to finalise the
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report no later than the time of the next committee meeting for submission to council.

Future Action: Will be further discussed in the next meeting.

5 Strategic Activities

5.1 Standing Item - Update on carbon targets for Council and Community

Peter Lisle updated the Committee that Council is still revising these targets internally and reviewing them. The current target of Council's corporate target of net zero emissions by 2025 is very unlikely to be achieved. A proposal to extend the date to 2032 has been submitted.

5.2 Matters for discussion:

Urban forest/tree canopy update including urban heat island effect study:

Peter Lisle stated that Council had engaged the University of Western Sydney to perform the study with temperature logging data collection which has been collected from 115 locations around the LGA between the summer months of November 2023 to Mar 2024. This data will act as a benchmark for future reviews. The final report is due by mid-2024.

Tree planting has been prioritized in the forthcoming years mainly in urban/CBD/industrial areas. Council is finalizing a mapping exercise to identify priority areas with a target of 40% tree canopy cover. Presently it sits at 36%.

Peter Lisle stated that new position of Tree Compliance Officer has been created to sit in the Safe City Unit – Compliance team. This role will enforce the regulations surrounding tree issues. Recruitment for this role is currently being undertaken.

The Committee asked whether the public display of "Tree Vegetation Permit Applications (TVPA)" has been adopted. Peter Lisle stated he would check. The committee noted that TVPA must be displayed for trees meeting any of Council's 3-dimension criteria (unless on the permit

exempt list). The committee recommended that a permit should also be displayed for trees meeting these criteria that ARE on the permit exemption list. This could be a self-service online process that doesn't increase burden on Council or incur a fee. Potential benefits include: -

- Avoid neighbour conflict
- Minimise complaints to council and associated investigation
- An opportunity to monitor WCC total canopy trend against the 40% goal. There are many large species on the list that would be making a significant contribution to canopy.

Post meeting note:

Review of the Council website states

It is a Council requirement that all approved "Tree Vegetation Permit Applications (TVPA)" to prune or remove vegetation must be displayed on the front boundary of the property 72 hours prior to and during the course of the works being undertaken.

<https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Residents/Trees/Pruning-and-removing-trees>

Future Action: Will be further discussed in the next meeting.

Information panel for sea rise:

Peter Lisle noted that the concern for such projected sea level rise indicators is that they don't adequately show the effects of inundation and flooding following extreme weather events. Therefore, small incremental increases in sea level and the timelines associated with large changes may infer that urgent measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change is not a priority.

Future Action: Peter Lisle will seek the views of other officers and report back.

6 Other Business

- **Update on ongoing signage investigation**

Janet France enquired if there are any further updates of prosecutions/investigations regarding the Castle Cove issue and if

signage is still up there. Mayor Taylor noted that investigations are going on with tree vandalism signage in two locations. Janet France further enquired if there is any timeline on when will these banners will stay on. Mayor noted that our policy is 90 days but they will remain until the investigation is finalised.

- **Halloween Sustainability**

Eva Coulam raised the waste impacts of Halloween and suggested educating Willoughby residents about the impacts of the decorations they choose to use at Halloween.

Moved by Eva Coulam and Seconded by Gay Spies, the Committee recommended the following. Adopted unanimously.

Motion:

“That Council should encourage Willoughby residents to ‘Think green at Halloween’ through an education campaign highlighting the impacts of Halloween decorations on our environment and wildlife, so that people make more sustainable choices. Education could take the form of posters, online and social messaging, engagement with school communities, or activities for families at community events, specifically the Fauna Fair or Chatswood Spring Fair”.

Key actions to promote include -

- Avoid using fake web products that can be fatal to insects and birds.
- Avoid hanging decorations in trees or shrubs or using non-biodegradable materials or cotton wool in gardens. These can be hazardous when birds ingest, take into nests or get entangled.
- Get crafty with common materials around the home over disposable options that add to landfill.
- Get creative with your existing wardrobe, avoiding flimsy synthetic costumes that shed micro plastics and add plastics to landfill when discarded.
- Borrow, share, rent or keep and reuse to minimise waste.

- Consider recycling options when decorations reach end of life.
- Compost your pumpkin lanterns.

- **Spanish Moss**

Gay Spies raised the issue of Spanish Moss/Old Man Beard and suggested educating the community about the negative environmental impacts of its use.

Future Action: Will be further discussed in the next meeting.

- **Compost Revolution People**

Gay Spies raised concern about Council hosting a webinar on 8 May 2024 on composting conducted by Compost Revolution. Councillor John Moratelli noted that they are a commercial outlet that sell compost bins and questioned the impartiality of their hosting. Peter Lisle stated that all suppliers who host or assist Council providing workshops are advised not to solely promote their own products this.

Future Action: Peter Lisle will confirm the protocols for companies hosting and the matter further discussed in the next meeting.

- **Local Plant Guide for Sandstone Soils Update**

Gay Spies asked if Council still used the '*Local Plant Guide for Sandstone Soils*' guide that was originally produced by WEPA in 2015 and was handed out to all DA applicants.

Future Action: Peter Lisle will check if it was still used/required.

7 **Next Meeting**

Date: Wednesday 10 July 2024 (4-5:30pm)

Apology: Councillor John Moratelli

Suggested Agenda Items:

- Report of the Artificial Turf Working Party Meeting;
- Spanish Moss/Old Man Beard;
- Update on the Policy about Local Plant Guide for sandstone soils;

- Regenerative agriculture (soil management) as a means for sequestering carbon;
- Aquaponics as an example of regenerative agriculture (carbon capture via algae); the mechanics of the ACCU / voluntary carbon offset market (relevant for small to large businesses looking to offset emissions);
- Others matters raised by the Committee members.

8 Meeting Conclusion

The Meeting concluded at 5:40pm.
