



MINUTES

Climate Change Working Group Meeting

21 June 2021

**MINUTES OF THE KYOGLE COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD AT KMI HALL SUPPER ROOM, ROXY LANE, KYOGLE
ON MONDAY, 21 JUNE 2021 AT 9.45AM**

Meeting commenced: 9.50am

Acknowledgement of Country

Cr Maggie May (Chair) acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional lands of the Gullibul people of the Bundjalung Nation and acknowledged Elders past, present and emerging.

Present: Cr Maggie May (Chair), Cr Kylie Thomas Cr John Burley, Dr Kym Watling, Dr Genevieve Larsen, John Redmayne, Jan Menzies, Matt Sorenson, Maree Brennan, Suzie Coulston, Scott Antcliff, Judy Faulks.

Invited guests: Suzanne Acret (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment)

1. Apologies

Robert Drury (leave), Dr Arthur Webb, Karen Webb (resigned from CCWG), Graham Kennett, Tony Lickiss, Shane Noon.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The Working Group agreed to confirm the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 26 April 2021. **MOVED:** Cr John Burley **SECONDED:** Matt Sorenson

3. Follow-up of Actions from previous meetings

Action 6.2 Divestment (meeting 30/11/20)

Graham Kennett to (i) follow up response from CBA (ii) look at whether Council's investment policy needs to be amended, and (iii) report back at April meeting (carried over from this meeting).

Background document circulated prior to meeting including draft amended Investment Policy. Motion to go to Council that the draft amended Investment Policy be recommended to Council for their formal consideration and adoption. **MOVED:** Kym Watling **SECONDED:** Genevieve Larsen.

Action:

- (1) Motion from CCWG that the draft amended Investment Policy be recommended to Council for their formal consideration and adoption.

Action 4.1 Nomination of Proxy from Landcare (meeting 22/2/21)

For information: Jan Menzies has provided her resume to Council.

Jan Menzies was introduced to the CCWG. Jan advised that she is President of Roseberry Creek Landcare (who have their own Facebook page and a local newsletter) and is Secretary of BRRVLN. She notes that she is looking to support the President of BRRVLN (Rob Drury) by attending the CCWG meeting for debrief purposes when he returns.

Item 12 Filling position created by Roger Small's resignation (meeting 26/4/21)

For information: John Redmayne has provided his resume to Council.

John Redmayne provided an introduction to the Group including a statement on what he would like to get out of his involvement with the CCWG.

John farms grass-fed beef. His areas of interest include holistic farming, rotational grazing, soil health (carbon draw down) and he is involved with Landcare field days. What he wants to get out of the group: Developing a method to encourage former dairy farms with fixed number of cattle on fixed farm areas the financial encouragement to use rotational grazing practices (which probably goes beyond dairy farms). He has introduced biochar but was uncertain on the quantity for grass-fed beef. Suzie Coulston suggested he talk further with Stuart Larsson.

4. Presentation on the 'Richmond River Catchment Governance and Waterway Health' Project - Suzanne Acret (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment)

Suzanne Acret (DPIE) discussed two interlinked projects: Richmond River Catchment Governance and Waterway Health and the Stage 1 Scoping Study for the Coastal Management Program (CMP) for the Richmond River. Suzanne's presentation to be provided to the Working Group. Also refer to handout provided by Hydrosphere Consulting on the Stage 1 Scoping Study.

The need to make governance work better within the whole Richmond River catchment (including the upper catchment) was identified in 2012 as part of the Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Richmond River Estuary. Councils, including Kyogle Council, and groups in the upper Richmond River catchment are now included in the Stage 1 Scoping Study. A collaborative partnership was supported through the 2019 consultation process (preferred model). Two options identified: Either (i) A Richmond River Coordinator transitioning towards a collaborative partnership, or (ii) A Richmond River Coordinator transitioning toward a North Coast LLS led model.

The CMP Stage 1 Scoping Study is focused on collating existing information, engagement, identifying gaps in knowledge and scoping of technical studies to fill these gaps. It is due to finish February 2022. Rous County Council is directing this process. Stage 2 will start filling in gaps in knowledge through studies (funding 2:1 CMP). Stage 3 will identify and evaluate management options. In 2024 the Ecohealth study will be re-done.

Suzanne happy to take back ideas, barriers, opportunities, annoyances. CCWG members can provide these to: suzanne.acret@environment.nsw.gov.au

Discussion points:

- Suggested possible involvement of Kyogle farmers - incentive project with cattle farmers (through Joe Leven, Meat Co-operative).
- There are no tax deductions or financial incentive for riparian or internal fencing, only boundary fences.
- Involve agricultural suppliers to do any networking, promotional activities, educational activities.
- Qualifying for grants – can be difficult and they may not qualify if have off-farm income.
- Impact of Camphor laurel on the land as they are spreading widely.
- Explaining deoxygenation processes that can lead to fish kills needs to be better explained – not related to chemicals.
- Riparian buffer zone reduced to 5m in Forestry & may affect other land (IFOA) – decline in water quality (stems from NSW Native Vegetation Act). North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) looks at how it impacts on forestry operation.

5. Review of Kyogle Councils 'Review of Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation Initiatives, 2019' and 'North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation, 2019' reports to identify gaps and what we need to address with regard to adaptation – Arthur Webb

Hold over to next meeting.

6. Review of Council's future climate change adaptation plans (included in 'Review of Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation Initiatives, 2019') – Matt Sorenson

Refer presentation – Slides 1-13.

Aim of presentation is to bring CCWG up to date on where Council is at within the different areas of Council. Under the Terms of Reference, the CCWG "To monitor the implementation of The Climate Change Adaptation Risk Assessment report adopted in August 2019".

Re Adaptation Risk Assessment Review – was prepared for Kyogle Council for organisational purposes – assessing risks and for adaptation planning. Builds on previous 2010 assessment. Scenarios considered in relation to temperature, hot days, rainfall and fire weather shown in Slide 6. Matt to look into whether the modelling predictions, with which these scenarios were based on, were outdated. Adaptation planning initiatives where the impact levels rated High and Extreme risks (some Medium) were focussed on. Infrastructure and assets – biggest risk was in this area.

Adaptation Risk Assessment (Slides 9-13) –

Water – only applicable to where Council supplies water – i.e. towns and villages. In drought times this can become an issue. What is our strategy to deal with water supply to community outside of this area (is a risk that needs to be addressed)? Tank water (hotter water) may be impacted on by temperature rises – Does the water still remain potable? Is there a guide that could be produced to help understand this or regarding water testing, etc?

Community buildings – Shane Noon undertaking a review of community buildings and will provide a summary to CCWG at an upcoming meeting.

Lighting – to allow sports to be held at night when cooler.

Indoor sporting – to move events inside.

TBC11 (Slide 11) – Risk to agriculture identified as a medium risk in this document. Opportunities to work further on this as group has identified. Agriculture is a big emitter (i.e. 46% of all emissions from Kyogle LGA in 2018 Snapshot).

Flood studies – Kyogle and Tabulam completed. Bonalbo Flood Study drafted. Urbenville and Woodenbong flood studies underway. Flood studies will need updating as legislation and modelling changes (regarding rainfall, intensities) so will need to look at how we do this into the future, involving the CCWG.

The following will be circulated to CCWG for comment/feedback/review:

- Matts presentation
- Re-circulate current advocacy brief - 'Climate Change Adaption – Limiting Community Impacts' (Kyogle Council)
- Re-circulate 'Review of Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation Initiatives, 2019'
- Link to Kyogle Council LGA Demographic summary, including economic profile – <https://www.investkyogle.com.au/>

CCWG to further explore and review the above climate change adaptation documents, possibly as a workshop. Need to decide whether we need another document to address community risk.

Action:

- (1) CCWG to further explore and review Kyogle's climate change adaptation documents.

7. Review of Council's 'Sustainable Councils and Communities Action Plan, 2019' – Matt Sorenson

Refer presentation – Slides 15-35.

Council adopted the following targets in 2019 – 25% of Council's electricity demand is met through on-site solar energy generation by 2025; that 50% of Council's electricity demand is sourced from renewables by 2025; that 100% of Council's electricity demand is sourced from renewables by 2030.

Electricity demand is only one part of the picture regarding emissions. Where do we go from here? CCWG to help provide input on recommendations for future priorities from the Action Plan. Opportunities:

- Look at emissions from other sources (e.g. transport).
- Look at what we could do working with the community – e.g. At June Council meeting – motion made that Council investigate the cost of purchasing and installing electronic vehicle (EV) charging points in Kyogle towns and villages.
- Build on initiatives like Sustainable Councils who supply electricity kits to households.
- Diesel emissions – could look at off-setting these emissions until technology for changing from diesel vehicles is an option (Janus – EV).
- Solar PV installations (refer slide 23) – total savings of \$60,000/yr and total renewable energy – 321 MWh/yr (79 existing + 242 new) out of a total 1,209 MWh/yr or 26% of energy sourced from solar. Council currently on track to meet its 2025 targets in 2021/22 with 25% solar PV and 25% off grid power purchased being green power. Could now look at micro-hydro investigation for off-stream storage as this hasn't progressed.
- Hydrogen battery fuel cell for houses (refer Slide 35) "Power your life with Lavo" – provided as an example of a battery on the market. Batteries have potential for off-grid properties and Council properties.

Matt can circulate background information to those CCWG members who are interested and would like to work on particular projects that come out of this Action Plan (which will be re-circulated).

Action:

- (1) Matt Sorenson to circulate information to CCWG members who want to work on projects that come out of the Sustainable Councils and Communities Action Plan.

8. Review of Kyogle Council's CCWG Community Engagement Plan – Suzie Coulston / Matt Sorenson

Refer presentation – Slides 36-39.

After internal discussions, the Community Engagement Plan will be incorporated into the work of the Community Resilience Officer who is focussed on understanding community need and building community resilience. The Plan will be utilised during the development of the new 'Kyogle Council Community Strategic Plan', which will most likely cover issues of climate change, emissions, etc. CCWG is free to engage with the community on an initiative-by-initiative basis.

It was agreed that the CCWG have input into the Community Strategic Plan – it's development (workshops), community consultations and focussed topics.

Action:

- (1) CCWG to have input into the Community Strategic Plan – it's development (workshops), community consultations and focussed topics.

9. Overview of role of Community Resilience Officer – Scott Antcliff

Refer presentation which will be circulated.

Following the 2019/20 bushfire and 2021 flood events, Kyogle Council appointed a Community Resilience Officer to assist communities to plan for, prepare, respond and recover from future disasters. The goal is to develop Community Resilience Plans with communities to cover the seven major villages within the Kyogle LGA. Workshops are being held in each of these villages. Communication problems and power outages are some major issues raised to date.

Refer slide 3 for a national definition of "community resilience".

Project 1: Council led community grants (refer slides 10-12) - \$92,000 funding for community identified and led projects – 1-30th September applications open.

Project 2: Community Wellness Program (refer slides 12-13).

Project 3: Community Resilience Workshops Program (refer slides 14-15).

Community-led Resilience Team – people within each town/village can become part of this team.

Currently there is an on-line survey which closes on 1st September: Link to on-line survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KyogleLGAcommunityresilience>.

10. Audits for LED lighting and solar by The Green Guys Group for some businesses

Judy Faulks provided a summary and copy of a handout for businesses regarding these audits. In summary, The Green Guys Group are offering to businesses in the Kyogle LGA:

- (i) LED lighting audits and free quotes
- (ii) Solar designs, proposals and quotes – are free if minimum daily energy consumption is $\geq 100\text{kw/hr}$ per day
- (iii) Multi-site commercial business cases for LED lighting and solar

Kyogle Council will seek EOIs from businesses who wish to have a free LED lighting and/or a solar audit.

Make change to business handout to include a closing date for these EOIs (allow 6-8 weeks). Motion from group made to begin to hand out these pamphlets. Kym Watling offered to assist Council with distribution. MOVED: Matt Sorenson SECONDED: Kym Watling

Action:

- (1) Amend handout regarding lighting/solar audits to include a closing date for EOIs from businesses and distribute throughout Kyogle LGA.

11. Report on Beef Week Farm Tour and Rural Adaptation Seminar – Kym Watling / John Redmayne

Kym Watling provided the following summary of Beef Week Farm Tour.

The Beef Week Farm Tour visited a Hereford cattle farm and stud, a large holding with 1000 head on 4000 acres with a sustainable water source.

Though primarily a conventional operation, the farm employed a range of sustainability measures, including rotational grazing, mixed planting, and mechanical mulching to minimise tillage.

Natural fertilisers are used, including outputs from a worm farm and commercial quantities of chicken manure. Weeds are tolerated, tap roots valued, and herbicides avoided.

Genevieve Larsen will report on the Rural Adaptation Seminar at next meeting.

12. Action Plan – Status (attached). The actions were noted.

13. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Items carried over:

- Arthur Webb to present a review of Kyogle Councils 'Review of Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation Initiatives, 2019' and 'North Coast Enabling Regional Adaptation, 2019' reports to identify gaps and what we need to address with regard to adaptation
- Genevieve Larsen to report on the Rural Adaptation Seminar


14. Close of Meeting 1.15 pm

15. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 16 August 2021 at the newly agreed starting time of 9am (for morning tea) with the meeting to commence at 9.15am – 12.30pm in the KMI Hall Supper Room, Roxy Lane, Kyogle.

The meeting was subsequently rescheduled to Monday, 13 September 2021 (at the same time and venue).

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Climate Change Working Group Meeting held on 13 September 2021.



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MAGGIE MAY, CHAIRPERSON