



MINUTES

Climate Change Working Group Meeting

25 July 2022

**MINUTES OF THE KYOGLE COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD AT KYOGLE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KYOGLE
ON MONDAY, 25 JULY 2022 AT 9.45AM**

Meeting commenced: 9.48am

Acknowledgement of Country

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

Present: Cr Maggie May (Chair), Dr Terry De Lacy, Kieran Somerville, John Redmayne, Robyn Lucienne, Graham Kennett, Matt Sorenson, Maree Brennan, Scott Antcliff, Judy Faulks.

1. Apologies

Cr John Burley, Cr Tom Cooper, Cr Robert Cullen (alternate delegate), Dr Arthur Webb, Christopher Hoare, Suzie Coulston.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The Working Group agreed to confirm the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 30 May 2022. **MOVED:** Terry De Lacy **SECONDED:** Maree Brennan

3. Correspondence

3.1 Inwards

3.1.1 Resignation – Rob Drury, Community Representative

At the end of a 2-year term, Rob Drury has resigned from the Working Group. No community representative replacement will be sought because an additional member has previously been appointed to the Working Group. There are currently six community representatives on the CCWG.

Discussion: Having a community representative from environment/Landcare sector on the Working Group recognised as being important. Until EOIs are called for again, there is the option to invite speakers, including BRRVLN/Landcare, to the CCWG meetings to speak on particular topics. Could also consider amending the TOR to make an inclusion for Landcare/environmental groups.

3.1.2 Planning advice on gas connections

The advice received from Manager Development and Regulatory Services, Kyogle Council, on whether it is feasible/possible to amend the planning scheme to disallow gas connections for all new houses or new houses in/adjacent to urban areas where they have grid-connected power available was noted. In their response, Council informed CCWG that advice has been sought on the policy proposal of regulating gas connections to new development as a mechanism to reduce gas emissions and associated impacts on climate change from the Northern Region of the Department of Planning and Environment. DPE advised that to the best of their knowledge, this a not a policy proposal that they have been asked to consider. Further to this and in regards to this particular issue, Council's Development Control Plan requires new development to demonstrate how it will achieve specific objectives designed to ensure impacts on the environment are minimised and water and energy efficiency is maximised. Discussion: Climate Change Working Group could play a role of advocacy on the issue of moving away from gas.

3.2 Outwards

3.2.1 Delegates Report from CCWG (Cr Maggie May) to June Council meeting

November 2021 minutes provided to Council. Three motions put to Council were carried.

That Council:

1. Seek proposals for a report on current and projected climate change impacts relevant to the Kyogle LGA from a qualified body using the most up to date data and IPCC modelling.
2. Seek proposals for the development of a climate change adaptation risk assessment and action plan to strengthen community resilience to the projected impacts of climate change.
3. Investigate the cost of a feasibility study for a microgrid in the Kyogle LGA.

Work yet to commence on seeking proposals and investigating the cost of the feasibility study and is currently with Council staff to enact. Tight funding timeframes need to be taken into consideration.

3.2.2 Lighting and Solar Audits Information Sheet

Judy Faulks reported that the Information Sheet regarding the availability of Lighting and Solar Audits have been promoted to businesses - Community Newsletter article, social media, via Kyogle Chamber of Commerce, manual distribution in Kyogle township area. Have received several responses from interested businesses to date. Based on the number of responses received, may need to extend the deadline if enough interest is not received for the lighting audit (as ideally need between 10-20) or liaise with The Green Guys Group to ascertain whether they can deal with less numbers.

4. Overview of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report “Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability” – Dr Arthur Webb

Link to full report, Summary report for Policymakers (copy provided) and current factsheets (copies of Australasia, Biodiversity, Human settlements provided) are available at link:

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-ii/#:~:text=The%20IPCC%20has%20finalized%20the,55th%20Session%20of%20the%20IPCC>

Item carried over to next meeting as Dr Arthur Webb not in attendance.

5. Summary of collaborative project with Richmond Valley Council (RVC) “Agricultural Resilience Project in Kyogle LGA” – Scott Antcliff

Funding sought for this project under the Disaster Risk Reduction Grant Fund.

Scott Antcliff reported that RVC was keen to get involved with Kyogle Council in the Agribusiness Resilience Project and were going to take the lead on this project. Due to competing demands and workload, RVC has put the project on hold. Kyogle Council individual funding application was unsuccessful. RVC and Kyogle Council will target future funding opportunities for this project. The project was a climate change initiative and included cultural burning, cultural land management, carbon sequestration, rotational cropping/grazing, multi-species pasture cropping on private lands which make up majority of lands within Kyogle LGA. A collaborative steering committee would be set up to administer any funds received. Approximately \$2.4M in funding was requested for this particular project and included identified funds for grants for on-ground works and an officer to administer the project. Background work in compiling this project can be used in the future for other projects where funding sought.

Discussion: Some aspects of the Agricultural Resilient Project would align with CCWG (agriculture focus group) suggested project and motion to Council (refer Item 12 for further discussion).

6. Update on Council renewable source energy profile – Matt Sorenson

Matt Sorenson provided a summary of Council's electricity profile (historic and projected) which was presented as a graph (refer attached). Milestones:

In 2014/15 – Energy audit and efficiency measures implemented.

Between 2014/15 and 2018/19 – 65kW solar installed across LGA.

In 2019 – commenced some new energy contracts nominating: 25% Green Grid Energy for small sites and 9% Green Grid Energy for streetlights.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22 – 290kW solar installed over this 2 year period from funding received for Bonalbo Treatment Plant.

2020/21 - % total consumption is: Streetlights 21%, Large sites 25% and small sites 54%.

In 2021/22 – started new energy contracts: 100% Green Grid Energy nominated for small sites.

Present day – have approximately 40% onsite solar and 50% green energy.

Between 2022/23 – LED streetlighting rollout planned for later this year which will provide 30-40% efficiency. Approximately 70% green energy by July 2023.

2023/24 – Proposed new contract – 100% Green Grid Energy for all sites and streetlights.

Costs shown on graph are operational costs.

Kyogle Council will reach the target of 100% renewable energy by 2024.

Discussion: What needs to happen for the rest of the LGA (community) is more roof top solar. Working Group thought it is important to provide the community with this update on Council renewable source energy profile (historic and projected) via Community Newsletter and social media (i.e. Kyogle Council Facebook). Information will be provided to Council when minutes are tabled.

Action:

- (1) An update on Council renewable source energy profile to be provided to community via Community Newsletter and social media by Matt Sorenson.

7. Update on Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Charging Stations – Matt Sorenson

Matt Sorenson provided an update on Electric Vehicles (EVs) and charging stations as a timeline:

Nov 2017: Byron & Tweed Shire Councils released the 'Power Up Northern Rivers Electric Vehicle Strategy'. Link: <https://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/documents/environment/climate-amp-sustainability/power-up-northern-rivers-electric-vehicle-strategy.pdf>

June 2021 – NSW Government released Electric Vehicle Strategy. Link: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/climate-change/net-zero-plan/electric-vehicle-strategy>

June 2021 – Kyogle Council made a notice of motion regarding EV chargers.

August 2021 – LGP released an EOI for EV and EV Charger Tender. Kyogle Council submitted an EOI.

September 2021 - NSW Government released EV funding (notification of how much they wanted to fund not actual grants).

November 2021 – Report provided to Kyogle Council on EV chargers. In this report, the need for fast chargers in strategic locations was identified. Costing - \$45-\$65K per site. How to address “range anxiety” noted as important.

February 2022 - LGP released an EV Tender. Kyogle Council submitted an EOI for ‘hosting’ stations – which included nominating sites identified as being suitable for charging stations across the LGA – including in Kyogle, Wiangaree, Bonalbo and Tabulam. Private enterprises may come on board to build these sites on private land, whilst some may be on crown land.

May 2022 - NSW Government released ‘Destination Charging’ grants which was a funding program more aimed at regional NSW. The grant doesn’t fund fast charging stations (only a \$7M round so it was thought that they may be testing the waters). Maximum charger that can be funded through this grant is 22kW which requires 4 hour minimum charging.

July 2022 - LGP EV Tender closes. The tender documents that have been released are for EV charging stations and not for EVs.

Sept 2022 - NSW Government ‘Destination Charging’ grants close. There are different types of EV chargers – free charging to user pays.

Discussion: Probably not ready for an EV feasibility study because there are limited opportunities for Kyogle Council fleet at the moment. Opportunities currently exist for light fleet EVs but these are cost prohibitive. Charging stations are required before EVs can be purchased. Include as an agenda item for next meeting – Matt Sorenson to provide CCWG with information on the grant application submitted under ‘Destination Charging’.

8. Geothermal energy discussion – Kieran Somerville (10 mins)

Kieran Somerville wanted to raise awareness regarding a public notice that has been made by a geothermal company who have applied for an exploration licence in Kyogle LGA. Geothermal energy unproven in Australia – may or may not involve “fracking”, but depends on geology. Risks associated with this technology need to be identified. May work against emission targets being set but depends on process used. It was noted that the company involved will be discussing their application further with Council at a Councillor Workshop.

9. Local Government Climate Emergency Toolkit

(Website: <https://www.lgcet.com/>)

Review of Toolkit to identify potential actions that could be implemented or adapted for implementation.

Following discussion, it was agreed to put a recommendation to Council to develop a Kyogle local government Climate Change Action Plan using the Local Government Climate Emergency Toolkit as a blueprint. Would be a facilitated process. The Plan would identify actions that could be implanted as well as actions to aspire to. Estimated cost: \$30,000.

Motion to be put to Council. **MOVED:** Maggie May **SECONDED:** Robyn Lucienne

Action:

- (1) Recommendation to be put to Council to develop a Kyogle local government Climate Change Action Plan using the Local Government Climate Emergency Toolkit as a blueprint.

10. Draft Bellingen Shire Community Climate Action Plan

A copy of the Plan provided for review and further discussion.

Item carried over to next meeting.

11. Matters referred to the CCWG by Council – Graham Kennett

At its meeting on 11 April 2022, Council resolved to endorse the following recommendations:

- That Council refers the recently released Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) “Renewable Energy Blueprint for the Northern Rivers” report to the CCWG, requesting they make appropriate and practical recommendations to Council around the opportunities the report presents for the Kyogle LGA – Refer 11.1
- Refers the IPCC report of February 2022 to the Climate Change Working Group, requesting they make appropriate and practical recommendations to Council around how the Kyogle LGA can reduce its carbon footprint in line with the recommendations contained within that report – Refer 11.2

11.1 Renewable Energy Blueprint for the Northern Rivers

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) “Renewable Energy Blueprint for the Northern Rivers” (24 January 2022) final report and “The Future of Renewable Energy in the Northern Rivers” draft provided to Working Group. A further background paper that was provided to NRJO, and noted by Graham Kennett, will be distributed to the Working Group. NRJO resolved at its February 2022 meeting: That the Board agree the prospectus now be publicly distributed and the information contained there-in form the basis of NRJO’s ongoing policy on renewable energy.

CCWG to make appropriate and practical recommendations to Council around the opportunities the report presents for the Kyogle LGA.

NSW Government (DPIE) produced a similar report titled “Northern NSW Renewable Energy Blueprint for Local Governments” (23 July 2019) – copy provided to Working Group for reference.

[Link to report: <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Northern-NSW-Renewable-Energy-Blueprint-for-Local-Governments-2019.pdf>]

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Energy focus group would review the documents, summarise what is relevant for Council and report back to the next meeting.

Action:

- (1) Energy focus group to review the renewable energy blueprint documents, summarise what is relevant for Council and report back to CCWG in September.

11.2 IPCC Report – “Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability”

Overview of IPCC Report by Dr Arthur Webb (Item 4) carried over to next meeting.

Link to report: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-ii/#:~:text=The%20IPCC%20has%20finalized%20the,55th%20Session%20of%20the%20IPCC>

CCWG to make appropriate and practical recommendations to Council around how the Kyogle LGA can reduce its carbon footprint in line with the recommendations contained within that report.

The proposals being sought (refer Item 3.2.1) will enable Council and the CCWG to look at the current and projected climate change impacts relevant to the Kyogle LGA, using up-to-date IPCC

modelling and recommendations. Based on identification of climate change impacts, a climate change adaptation risk assessment and action plan to strengthen community resilience to the projected impact of climate change will be developed. The outcome of these proposals will also provide direction on whether Council needs to review its' 2019 report and associated initiatives - 'Review of Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation Initiatives'. Current State of the Environment reporting also links to this.

The outcome of the proposals being sought will provide recommendations to Council around how the Kyogle LGA can reduce its carbon footprint in line with the recommendations contained in IPCC 2022 report.

12. Motion to Council from Agriculture Focus Group – Dr Terry De Lacy

Dr Terry De Lacy provided context for the motion (also refer to hand out):

The major industry in Kyogle LGA is cattle (beef or dairy). The major direct and indirect risk to this industry is from climate change. The impacts on climate change from the cattle industry include greenhouse gas emissions in the form of methane. The latest IPCC report focussed for the first time on methane as a potent greenhouse gas and the need to reduce its emissions. The global and Australian agricultural industries, particularly livestock, are developing and implementing various approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as supporting carbon farming to supply alternative farm income. These two approaches would appear to have high relevance to Kyogle LGA – soil carbon sequestration and additives to reduce cattle methane emissions. Little on either has been done in the North Coast area. The aim of this motion is to establish a project collaborating with partners (e.g. LLS, research institutes like SCU, and ethical private organisations) to establish, develop and promote trials (e.g. soil sequestration), field days, workshops, media (information and education component), etc to assist local cattle producers in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. One aim would be to move to carbon neutral beef and milk production and/or receive income from selling scientifically confirmed carbon credits. A suggested motion has been drafted on this topic that could go to Council and with Council endorsement the Agriculture focus group could further this by investigating possible partners and funding opportunities. Suggested motion:

“Council supports an information and education project to assist local farmers in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. This would involve collaborating with government agencies (e.g. North Coast Local Land Services), research centres (e.g. Southern Cross University), and ethical private organisations (e.g. Carbon trading bodies; Agricultural carbon farming consultancies). This collaboration would establish, develop and promote trials, field days, workshops, media etc to assist local producers in reducing their GHG emissions by, for example, increasing carbon soil sequestration and or reducing methane emissions from their livestock. One aim would be to move to carbon neutral beef and milk production and or receive income from selling scientifically confirmed carbon credits.”

Discussion: This project is very similar to the project outlined by Scott Antcliff (refer Item 5) but this project has a focus on not only soil carbon sequestration but on additives to reduce cattle methane emissions. The Agriculture Resilience project (Item 5) sought \$1.5M in grant funding for a pilot project – e.g. workshops, landholder grants). This particular project is aimed at investigating techniques that could be developed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with the cattle industry and is location specific (*i.e.* focus is on what would work within Kyogle LGA). The trials would be specific to this area. Others working in this area include: Casino Meat Co-op, Norco, SCU.

Following discussion, it was agreed that there was support for the concept. Alignment between this project and the Agricultural Resilience project (Item 5) needs to take place to identify components of both projects that may align and to further develop manageable actions jointly. A business case needs to be built. The Agriculture focus group to work with Council (Scott Antcliff) to refine the

projects, identify components that align, identify manageable actions, identify potential partnerships and develop the project/s into a business case where funding can be sought.

Action:

- (1) Agriculture focus group to work with Scott Antcliff to refine and align the Agriculture projects and bring back outcome of this to the CCWG in September.

13. Action Plan – Status (copy provided)

Full listing of actions since Working Group commenced – available on Google Drive.
Outstanding and In Progress actions – shown in Action Plan provided.

26 Apr 2021 Action 4.1 completed. Use of biochar in Canada for use in bitumen and cement has been investigated and is still at research stage.

30 May 2022 Combine actions 5.1.4 and 5.2.1 and further develop (as per minutes). Action will be reported on at September meeting.

30 May 2022 Action 7.1 - Could leave Climate Change Resource Guide as a standing agenda item and complete the action as items have been forwarded to Robyn Lucienne for inclusion in the Guide. Revisit quarterly to seek updates to the Guide.

14. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Overview of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report “Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability” – Dr Arthur Webb
- EV charging stations - Information on the grant application under ‘Destination Charging’ – Matt Sorenson
- Draft Bellingen Shire Community Climate Action Plan - for review and further discussion.
- Review of the renewable energy blueprint documents - Energy focus group
- Aligned agricultural project/s – Agriculture focus group and Scott Antcliff

15. Close of Meeting 12.41pm

16. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 26 September 2022 at 9.30am (for morning tea) with the meeting to commence at 9.45am-12.30pm in the KMI Hall Supper Room, Roxy Lane, Kyogle (if available, otherwise Kyogle Council Chambers, Stratheden Street, Kyogle).

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Climate Change Working Group Meeting held on 26 September 2022.


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MAGGIE MAY, CHAIRPERSON