



MINUTES

Climate Change Working Group Meeting

26 April 2021

**MINUTES OF THE KYOGLE COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD AT KMI HALL SUPPER ROOM, ROXY LANE, KYOGLE
ON MONDAY, 26 APRIL 2021 AT 9.45AM**

Meeting commenced: 9.45am

Acknowledgement of Country

Cr John Burley (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 John Burley (Chair), Dr Kym Watling, Dr Genevieve Larsen, Tony Lickiss, Shane Noon, Matt Sorenson, Suzie Coulston, Scott Antcliff, Judy Faulks.

Invited guests: Stuart Larsson (Mara Seeds), Kerry Ochtman (Harley & Co Agricentre).
Apology - Matthew Painter (Norco)

1. Apologies

Cr Maggie May, Cr Kylie Thomas, Jan Menzies, Dr Arthur Webb, Karen Webb, Graham Kennett, Maree Brennan, Robert Drury (leave), Roger Small (resigned).

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The Working Group agreed to confirm the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 22 February 2021. **MOVED:** Matt Sorenson **SECONDED:** Kym Watling

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.

Item carried over to next meeting.

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

Rob Drury has nominated Jan Menzies to be his temporary replacement on the Working Group (appointed as a proxy). Jan is the secretary of Border Ranges – Richmond Valley Landcare Network (BRRVLN).

Request that Jan Menzies provide (i) an introduction at the next meeting including a statement on what she would like to get out of her involvement with the Working Group, and (ii) a copy of her resume (to Judy F).

4. Presentation on Biochar by Stuart Larsson of Mara Seeds / Soft Agriculture

Background information provided (Kym Watling):

- Future Directions International – 'Doug Pow: Practical Regenerative Agriculture'

Stuart Larsson of Mara Seeds / Soft Agriculture provided a background on biochar. The presentation, handouts and summary notes will be distributed to the Working Group. Stuart Larsson agreed to (i) keep the Working Group informed of any upcoming field days, and (ii) provide the names of local farmers that are using biochar that could be approached to be involved in any planned workshops/field days on biochar. Stuart was thanked for his very informative presentation.

Current classification of green waste as 'waste' by EPA is a barrier to Council sending vegetative matter directly to companies like Stuart's and, in so doing, bypassing the waste facility (and the levy).

Action:

- (1) Matt Sorenson to investigate the use of biochar in Canada for use in bitumen and cement (to help prevent cracking) and report back.

5. Presentation on current barriers (i.e. regulatory, viability) to establishing Peer to Peer Energy Sharing, Microgrids and Virtual Power Plants - Genevieve Larsen

A background paper on 'Local Energy Sharing Disincentives' provided by Genevieve Larsen previously distributed (with agenda 22/2/21). Presentation, that includes notes, will be distributed.

Current aim: to establish local energy sharing between council buildings (and possibly other buildings subject to capacity) to maximise the benefits of power generated by the PV systems already installed. Financial and regulatory disincentives to expand PV systems outlined. Options available to Council at this stage are to connect clusters of buildings in a way that there is only 1 meter back to the grid, keeping the PV system <100kW. Expense of installation costs to connect buildings noted. There may be more options to Council when the price of batteries comes down. If solar uptake increases, there will be a need to look at the capacity of the network to cope (e.g. when sunlight fluctuates).

Action:

- (1) Genevieve Larsen to examine solar hydrogen battery storage and report back.

6. Project Drawdown - Quiz (Kym Watling)

Quiz <https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2019/04/specials/climate-change-solutions-quiz/index.html>

Kym provided a demonstration of the Project Drawdown Quiz (refer presentation). It was seen as a useful tool to understanding what is required to reduce emissions (solutions). Opportunity to link the quiz to a community activity, share on e.g. Council website, facebook, newsletter, etc.

7. Kyogle Council CGWG Community Engagement Plan – V4 – April 2021 (Suzie Coulston)

Some language within the Plan has been modified (e.g. How to describe people who aren't comfortable with climate change – "resistant to change"). Words can be further worked out as the survey is developed. The community engagement process/staging is aimed to work in with and provide input to the Kyogle Council Community Strategic Plan. Frequency of these meetings (as noted in the Plan) – approximately 8 weeks between meetings. Scott Antcliff introduced as the newly appointed Community Resilience Officer. Scott will be a useful resource for the CCWG. Everyone to get any final comments back on this Plan to Suzie over the next week.

8. 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)

Item carried over to the next meeting.

9. Allocation of Funding for CCWG for projects (Roger Small – resigned)

This item was to explore the process for allocating resources for the CCWG and whether the group needed its own small budget for projects. Process – if CCWG looking for funds for a specific project then they are to make a recommendation to Council. There are resources within Council to move projects forward. CCWG to come up with good proposals and costings to take to Council to request funding.

10. Waste Management**(i) Kyogle Council waste data (Action 10.1 Waste collection in townships 22/2/21) (Graham Kennett)**

Item carried over and to be part of a more general presentation on waste management by Council.

(ii) REDcycle soft plastics (Kym Watling)

Refer slides 16 & 17 in presentation.

REDcycle bins are currently provided at Coles and Woolworths to recycle soft plastics (household not commercial). There is a need for the community to know that this option is available, as, in addition to the recycling benefit, it will reduce the waste coming to Council and landfill. REDcycle can't accept bulk collections from any organisations other than their current partners at present, but are currently in negotiations with other regional agencies. It may be possible in the meantime for community members to organise a neighbourly pick-up system for friends without transport until a local collection point can be established.

Comments:

- There is also a need to address the source of the soft plastic problem – packaging. The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation is working against the community and the problem. There is a need to lobby big supermarkets to pull plastic packaging from the food chain (which will feed down to their suppliers).

(iii) Precious Plastics Northern Rivers (Kym Watling)

Refer slides 18-22 in presentation.

Precious Plastic Northern Rivers – received some grant funding, looking to set up in the region as a community-access plastic recycling centre. Could look at what model would work here. Possible products for here – plant pots, cattle tags.

(iv) Event Waste Management Recycling Demonstration (Kym Watling)

Refer slides 23-25 in presentation.

Kyogle local events - The Kyogle Bazaar market (held monthly on a Saturday).

Other event organisers have set up Recycling Demonstration Stations / Waste Stations – to ensure recycling takes place and waste is dealt with appropriately.

Is there an opportunity for Council to supply bins and undertake education on recycling at the Bazaar market – combining dealing with waste at events and public education on recycling?

Response: Kyogle Council can hire out bins to groups. There is a trailer at the Kyogle Waste Facility that has red and yellow-lidded bins that groups can organise to use (trailer either delivered by Council or group can pick up a few bins if that is all that is required). The event organisers could put additional temporary labels on the bins. The onus is on the event organisers to manage. An 'Events Management Plan' exists between organisers and Council which discusses waste management but perhaps Council could push recycling harder as part of this Plan and with event organisers.

Comments, queries and possible follow-up tasks:

- Regarding consistent Council wheelie-bin waste collection systems & National Plastics Plan 2021 (refer slides 11-15) – What support is available to Council to go to a 3-bin system?

- Education of the public by Council is required on the current split bin system, recycling, other waste management initiatives.

- Does Council need a Waste Strategy?

- Waste wise events program run by NE Waste - Council (Suzie C/Judy F) to follow-up.

- Invite NE Waste to a future meeting to bust a few myths on waste, discuss programs/initiatives.

- NRJO GM meeting discussions/collaboration re waste – what priorities are being discussed?

Actions:

- (1) Council to provide CCWG with an overview of waste management, including waste data/audits (Item 10.1), opportunities, education/awareness, etc at a future meeting.
- (2) Council to follow-up on the waste wise events program by NE Waste and invite NE Waste to a future meeting to discuss waste management, programs and initiatives, etc.

11. Project Drawdown – Possible Projects (Kym Watling)**(i) Alternative Refrigerants**

Refer slides 27-36 from presentation re CO₂ Refrigerant. Refer slide 36 re possible options of what Kyogle Council could do now.

Comments:

- Degassing cost at Waste Facility not well understand – perhaps an educational campaign is needed on why we do it. Council could look at current rules at the Waste Facility and costs for degassing (can Council bear any of these costs?). Does Council require a certificate from the person who degassed the e.g. fridge which needs to be produced at the time of disposal? Address this item as part of waste management.

(ii) Green concrete

Refer slides 37-45 from presentation.

8% of the world's CO₂ emissions comes from concrete. Possible options for Council – research and collaboration, trials of green road base.

Comments:

- Council currently using some green concrete products e.g. precast bridges that are classed as green concrete (carbon neutral). Wagners is the only company making green concrete world-wide in a commercial sense. Product doesn't travel well and is highly fragile during transit. It is \$5/cubic metre more in price than normal concrete.

- Products that Council uses comes down to what is specified and what Council is prepared to pay. Could look at what Tweed are doing with regard to green concrete.

- Council needs to better 'sell' things that it is doing e.g. using green concrete.

12. Filling position created by Roger Small's resignation:

John Redmayne invited into this vacant position - nominated by Kym Watling, seconded by Genevieve Larsen. John has a sustainable agriculture background and will provide (i) an introduction at the next meeting including a statement on what he would like to get out of his involvement with the CCWG, and (ii) a copy of his resume (to Judy F).

Action:

- (1) Recommendation to Council, that Council appoints John Redmayne to fill the vacant position on the Climate Change Working Group.

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

In addition to the Action Plan - create an 'Ideas Register'.

14. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Carried over items**15. Close of Meeting 12.50 pm**

16. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 21 June 2021 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.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Climate Change Working Group Meeting held on 21 June 2021.



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JOHN BURLEY, CHAIRPERSON