



MINUTES

Climate Change Working Group Meeting

18 September 2023

**MINUTES OF THE KYOGLE COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD AT KMI HALL SUPPER ROOM, ROXY LANE, KYOGLE
ON MONDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 9.45AM**

Meeting commenced: 9.46 am

Acknowledgement of Country

Mr Graham Kennett (Chair) acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional lands of the Bundjalung people and acknowledged Elders past, present and emerging.

Present: Graham Kennett (Chair), Dr Terry De Lacy, John Redmayne, Robyn Lucienne, Maree Brennan, Peter Kelly, Judy Faulks.

Online: Jason Hague.

Guest Presenters: Phil Ridler (NetZero Program Officer, NRJO)

1. Apologies

Cr Maggie May, Cr John Burley, Cr Tom Cooper, Cr Robert Cullen (alternate delegate), Kieran Somerville, Dr Arthur Webb, Chris Hoare.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The Working Group agreed to confirm the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 1 May 2023. **MOVED:** Robyn Lucienne **SECONDED:** Terry De Lacy

3. Correspondence

3.1 Inwards - Nil

3.2 Outwards

3.2.1 Community Newsletter Article by Kieran Somerville – Carbon Regional Forum (May/June 2023 edition) – copy provided.

3.2.2 Delegate's Report from CCWG to July 2023 Council meeting (copy provided) – CCWG March and May 2023 minutes were provided with the Delegate's report to the Council meeting. The two motions put to Council were carried:

1. That Council receive and note the report on the CCWG Meetings held 6 March 2023 and 1 May 2023; and
2. The CCWG recommends an assessment of alternative fuel, hybrid and EV vehicles be conducted to provide advice to Council on the opportunities and barriers for Council to begin the transition to purchase EV and hybrid driven fleet and plant.

The requested assessment will be undertaken in the coming months and reported to Council and the CCWG. An initial EV evaluation has been undertaken - for further discussion under Item 6.

4. Presentation by Phil Ridler, NetZero Program Officer, Northern Rivers Joint Organisation - Introduction to his role, projects, net zero and the pathway to achieve it (1 hour)

Presentation by Phil Ridler - 'Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA)' – will be included as an attachment to the Minutes.

Slide 3 – Scope – Opportunities – Microgrid – ARENA (Aust Renewable Energy Agency) currently has funding available – ‘Regional Microgrids Program’. Link: <https://arena.gov.au/funding/rmp/>
Closing date: 19/12/25.

Slide 5 – NSW emissions by sector in 2017 – electricity generation, transport and agriculture three largest sector emitters.

Slide 6 – Typical emissions reduction strategies – Firstly there is a need to establish a baseline for CO₂; then look at operational efficiency (eg utilities - use of power, water/pumps, lighting, etc) and what can be done to improve efficiency. Scope 3 includes suppliers (are they taking measures to be carbon neutral/net zero?). Last strategy is to look at offsets (but these needs to be purchased).

Slide 8 – Scopes:

Scope 1 emissions – direct emissions – fuel (stationary), fleet, refrigerants, wastewater, landfill.

Scope 2 emissions – indirect emissions – electricity (can either generate energy or purchase renewable electricity).

Scope 3 emissions – business travel, employee commute, business waste generated, purchased goods & services, fuel & energy related activities, transportation & distribution, capital goods, etc.

Slide 10 – Emissions Inventory Reporting (example used is from Byron Shire Council): closed landfill (50%), asphalt (10%), fleet - diesel (7%) and petrol (2%), wastewater (7%), employee commute (6%) biggest emitters. Electricity not included due to supply being 100% renewable. Waste – burning methane (flaring) does overall reduce units of carbon (rather than leaving it to emit as methane).

Snapshot time-series of emissions for Kyogle LGA for each sector available at the following link (snapshot will be provided with Minutes for 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22):

<https://snapshotclimate.com.au/locality/municipality/australia/new-south-wales/kyogle/2019/fy>

Mapping Australian Photovoltaic installations (link: <https://pv-map.apvi.org.au/historical#9/-28.6520/152.8253>) - for Kyogle LGA – estimated dwellings: 4492. Installations: 2307 (approx. 47.5% of dwellings have a PV system).

Phil Ridler would like to complete a regional summary of emissions.

Q: What is the next thing that Council can do after electricity supply is from 100% renewables and is it something Council can do or is it to provide support for the community to do? Where should the investment be?

Slide 11 & 12 – Regenerative agriculture – 5 principles and opportunities for obtaining carbon credits. Soil capture (carbon sequestration and some other activities) or planting trees.

Comment: pilot projects for carbon sequestration – difficult to get support at regional/state level – due to small farm sizes.

Slide 13 – Environmental plantings – Andrew Cameron, Agricultural Extension Officer, Byron Shire Council - is willing to provide support on Regenerative Agriculture.

Further information provided: Southern Cross University (SCU) offer a Regenerative Agriculture Mentoring Program (RAMP). SCU is now taking applications for their third program, aiming to start the next RAMP in early November and finish in June 2024, with a break from mid-December to February. Applications for RAMP close 20 October 2023. Application form available at this link: https://bit.ly/ramp_application

RAMP is a heavily subsidised program (i.e. \$330 for participants) and is a six-month program with weekly commitments. It is education-based with group mentoring, and participants are placed with industry leaders as their mentors, plus they get access to webinars from expert guest speakers, panel discussions, and on-farm visits (where possible).

For more information about the program: <https://farmingtogether.com.au/our-work/ramp/>

For case studies on previous participants: <https://farmingtogether.com.au/case-studies/>

Slide 15 – Regional EV charge station opportunities report – 3 schemes identified:

- (i) Destination charger scheme (NSW Govt) - funded \$28,800 for 4 EV chargers across the Kyogle LGA. Council was required to fund installation which was costly. Round 2 will soon be open and it may cover an increased amount for installation. The chargers are 3-22 kW (AC) requiring 4-16 hours charge time.
- (ii) Fast charger scheme (NSW Govt) – currently not eligible as on major highway routes.
- (iii) Essential Energy – Trial with EVX. Essential Energy will put EV chargers in if Council can mark and sign the parking space. EVX have a distribution agreement with Essential Energy and EVX will install the charger.

Slide 19 – Reasons for EV Charge Point introduction – overseas – user pays – fast charging stations. Reasons: equity in charging as not everyone has off-street charging. Councils don't necessarily have to fund the charges. Some companies may look to put in chargers.

Action:

- (1) Phil Ridler to work with Kyogle Council to benchmark Council's carbon footprint for each emission source and scope (making use of an on-line tool for this purpose).

5. EV Chargers update – Jason Hague / Phil Ridler

The 4 destination EV charging chargers should be live within the next 4-5 weeks. These are located at Kyogle Museum, Bonalbo Norman Johnston Park, Tabulam Sports Ground and Woodenbong Recreation Reserve.

Essential Energy/EVX – Two more EV charges planned for Kyogle township and they may also want to look at hubs in more remote areas/villages over time.

6. Procurement – EV Evaluation for Kyogle Council

In response to the resolution made by Council at July 2023 meeting (refer Item 3.2.2) an assessment has commenced by Council Staff - refer 'Initial EV evaluation for Kyogle Council' summary provided.

Council is working on a transition to electrical small plant, equipment and small vehicle and the summary provides: an update on the current situation; opportunities and barriers for small plant, ride-on lawn mowers, small vehicle fleet, large vehicle fleet, wheeled crane and earthmoving equipment.

Phil Ridler advised he is looking at EV transition plans and can assist Kyogle Council with this.

7. Microgrid solutions for Kyogle LGA

'Kyogle Council – Microgrid Prefeasibility Assessment – Final Report' (May 2023) by 100% Renewables provided. This report concludes the consultancy work by 100% Renewables. The CCWG has had the opportunity to provide input into this prefeasibility assessment. This final report will be presented to an upcoming Council Meeting requesting direction for next steps.

There are possibly three areas that Kyogle Council could work within: (i) Advocacy level (e.g. supporting community groups like Jubullum community who have expressed an interest in a Microgrid and who may make use of the current funding available from ARENA), (ii) recommended work with Essential Energy to look at network issues/outages (to ensure there is community resilience) and (iii) community solar (not necessarily a microgrid).

8. Council's resolution to seek proposals on current and projected climate change impacts on Kyogle LGA and develop a climate change adaptation risk assessment and action plan to strengthen community resilience

Update: The NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change has advised that the 'Local Government Climate Change Toolkit' is still not available.

Council staff to prepare a scope of works and obtain proposals and quotes as can no longer wait for this Toolkit. The cost needs to be determined for Council to make an informed decision.

A draft scope of works (request for tender) to be shared with members of the CCWG (i.e. Terry De Lacy and Arthur Webb) for comment/input into. Links within Resource Guide may assist with preparation of the scope (e.g. Adapt NSW, modules).

Action:

- (1) Scope of works (request for tender) to be completed by Council staff with input from members of the CCWG.

9. Floodplain Risk Management Update – Graham Kennett

'Floodplain Risk Management Update' provided to Working Group.

Current status and background information (including website links) on Floodplain Risk Management in Kyogle LGA provided by Graham Kennett for Kyogle township, Tabulam, Bonalbo, Woodenbong and Mallanganee (refer summary).

At a regional level – information (including website links) provided for Northern Rivers Resiliency Initiative and Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation – Resilient Homes Fund.

10. Action Plan – Status (copy provided)

Full listing of actions since Working Group commenced – available on Google Drive.

11. Climate Change Resource Guide

Working Group members to continue to forward any additional documents for inclusion in the Climate Change Resource Guide. Quarterly updates will be carried out. Robyn has provided an updated guide (September 2023) which will update the copy on the website.

12. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Update to be provided on the review of the CCWG.

13. Close of Meeting: 12.40 pm

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 20 November 2023 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 20 November 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Kennett', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

GRAHAM KENNETT, CHAIRPERSON