



MINUTES

Climate Change Working Group Meeting

20 November 2023

**MINUTES OF THE KYOGLE COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD AT KMI HALL SUPPER ROOM, ROXY LANE, KYOGLE
ON MONDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 9.45AM**

Meeting commenced: 9.59 am

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), Kieran Somerville, John Redmayne, Amanda Clark, Maree Brennan, Peter Kelly, Judy Faulks.

Online: Jason Hague.

Guests: Phil Ridler (NetZero Program Officer, NRJO)

1. Apologies

Dr Terry De Lacy, Robyn Lucienne, Dr Arthur Webb, Chris Hoare, Cr Tom Cooper, Cr Robert Cullen (alternate delegate), Cr John Burley, Graham Kennett.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The Working Group agreed to confirm the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 18 September 2023. **MOVED:** John Redmayne **SECONDED:** Maree Brennan

3. Correspondence

3.1 Inwards - Nil

3.2 Outwards - Nil

4. Update on Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers – Phil Ridler, NetZero Program Officer, NRJO Report by EVX 'EV Charging Site Candidates Survey Report – Kyogle Council' tabled.

EV chargers will be required for Council fleet, community and visitors (destination chargers). There are 2 types of chargers – slower “destination” chargers (like the 4 EV chargers installed under Destination Charger Scheme grant across Kyogle LGA) and fast “En Route” charges. EVX Polechargers are being offered under a trial program between Essential Energy and EVX, with EVX responsible for assessing sites and installing the EV chargers onto suitable electricity poles under a distribution agreement with Essential Energy. The cost for using these chargers is 50c per kWh. Council is required to make available, mark and sign 2 parking spaces next to the identified pole. As part of the trial, EVX have identified 2 suitable kerbside sites within Kyogle – 61 and 157 Summerland Way, Kyogle (further details provided in report). The site identified at 61 Summerland Way may need to be moved to the opposite side of the road. 157 Summerland Way appears to be in a desirable location.

EVX report on EV charging site selection to be referred to Council executive team to confirm installation arrangement and final location of the 2 trial sites. Phil Ridler to facilitate the discussion between EVX and Council executive team and will provide EVX contact details to Council staff.

The Working Group endorses the EVX polecharger initiative for Kyogle township, subject to consultation with Council executive team on their placement.

Action:

- (1) Report by EVX 'EV Charging Site Candidates Survey Report – Kyogle Council' to be referred to Council executive team and further discussion to occur between EVX and Council to confirm installation arrangements and site selection.

5. Essential Energy Introduction Initiative – Jason Hague

Jason advised the Working Group that Essential Energy have initiated discussions with Council staff on future planning for infrastructure and renewable energy projects. The first introductory meeting involved a planning liaison specialist and a network planner from Essential Energy. The aim of the meeting was to create communication pathways for future liaison with Kyogle Council on infrastructure and renewable energy projects to assist early forward planning as they wish to be less reactive and more proactive with their planning. Regular meetings will be scheduled.

As part of the meeting, some of the themes from the Microgrid prefeasibility study were raised with Essential Energy e.g. Woodenbong/Urbenville loop that needs to be closed, connection issues for some residents at Bonalbo. Edge of grid, vulnerability of grid, options to boost electricity grid, identifying where the network is lacking and where future development will be occurring are issues that can be identified through these communications with Essential Energy. It was noted that a microgrid is disconnected from the grid as opposed to adding to the grid through local generation to boost electricity grid.

6. Kyogle Local Growth Management Strategy (Resilience/ Adaptation/ Land Use) – Jason Hague

Council, along with NSW Govt, have appointed a consultant - Meridian Urban – to collaboratively prepare a Local Growth Management Strategy (LGMS) for Kyogle in 2024. An objective of the strategy will be to increase resilience – including resilience through land use planning, infrastructure resilience, energy resilience. It will build on the objectives of the Kyogle Community Strategic Plan. The LGMS will identify where growth is to be accommodated across the LGA and the infrastructure that is required to support that growth, identifying gaps in infrastructure. It is proactive planning for future growth (i.e. how do we manage growth and how do we use our land to manage growth?). The main growth areas identified are Kyogle, Wiangaree and Tabulam. As part of the LGMS, other suitable areas that may accommodate growth may be identified. The LGMS isn't just about housing but will look at opportunities for e.g. agriculture, ecotourism, industry. The strategy will also identify drivers and barriers.

7. Energy and Communication Resilience for Evacuation Centres – Peter Kelly

Council has 6 community-managed evacuation centres. Communities are trained in how to manage these centres until they can hand it over to relevant authorities. This model is being looked at to be possibly taken up by other regions. This approach is particularly important when communities get cut off during natural disasters. Wanting to improve community resilience. Blackouts, drop out of mobile towers, etc are impacting on communication. Woodenbong and Bonalbo community halls have been identified as locations requiring additional solar PV and the installation of batteries (as they currently have generators). Council will be undertaking these upgrades (solar PV and batteries) for Woodenbong and Bonalbo community halls with flood grant funding. The only way to address the communication/connectivity issues is to have satellite internet access. Are also investigating information screens for outside and inside these halls. The screens can be turned into disaster dashboards during natural disasters. Can use this system to connect through to others via

satellite internet. When the mobile network is down, they will have the satellite internet for communication. These systems can also be used for events and community meetings as well as during natural disaster events. Will be exploring further grant opportunities to complete the project by endeavouring to upgrade all of the other evacuation centres.

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 – Judy Faulks / Amanda Clark

An extract regarding the project scope was provided with the Agenda.

Council staff have prepared and released a scope of works (request for tender) for a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for Kyogle LGA with input from members of the CCWG (Arthur Webb and Terry De Lacy). Submissions are due by 1 December 2023. A 10-year Action Plan and a longer timeframe (e.g. to 2100) for adaptation measures has been requested. Consultants will come back with a process, costing and timeline for the work. The results of the request for tender for this body of work are to be presented to Council for their consideration. Lismore City Council are well underway with a similar project and Kyogle Council will liaise with them further in the coming months.

9. Update on the review of the CCWG – Amanda Clark

'Climate Change Working Group Annual Review 2021-23' report was received and noted. The report will be circulated to all members of the Working Group.

Under the CCWG Terms of Reference (TOR), the CCWG's ongoing role is to be reviewed annually. This is the first review to take place since the group was established in 2020. The report summarises the results of a survey that was distributed to all current and past members of the CCWG in May 2023 (48% response rate). The survey was designed to gather feedback about the CCWG operations and effectiveness in delivering the TOR for the group. Survey questions were centred on the tenure and composition of the CCWG, TOR, responsibilities of Council and meetings. Recommendations have not been provided in the tabled report.

In general, there was a strong feeling amongst current and past CCWG members who responded to the survey that the current TOR, governance and support arrangements for the CCWG require changes to ensure its ongoing effectiveness. It was also recognised that there is considerable overlap between the current scope of the group, and the broader work being done across community resilience planning, disaster recovery and preparedness, and the climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies being developed at a state and regional level. This comes on the back of the adoption of Council's Community Resilience Plan, the NSW Govt setting of the Net Zero emissions target by 2050, and Council exploring the possibility of preparing a community-wide adaptation risk assessment and action plan in the near future. Should Council resolve to proceed with the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for Kyogle LGA, there will be the need for considerable community engagement and consultation as part of the process of developing the action plan, and the CCWG is expected to play a significant role. This will also allow for discussions around what the ongoing engagement process might be, including the nature and operation of the CCWG itself. The survey feedback, where the CCWG fits in with the other plans and strategies, and the work to be done on the community-wide adaptation action plan (including the associated consultation and CCWG's role in this) will all assist with determining the role of the CCWG going forward. Will await the outcome of the tender process before looking at any changes to the CCWG. The frequency of meetings will be changed to quarterly in response to the feedback.

Action:

- (1) Any further feedback on the 'Climate Change Working Group Annual Review 2021-23' report to be provided to Amanda Clark.

10. 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.

It was agreed that the CCWG meeting minutes ('Active Minutes') – should go to Council meetings more frequently, even before being confirmed (as long as they have been circulated to the group for comment/amendment).

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.

12. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Update to be provided by Kieran Somerville on the outcomes of the proposed meeting with LLS North Coast regarding the feasibility of setting up a carbon project (involving trials) within the Kyogle LGA and the consideration of two project areas – one within upper Richmond River catchment and upper Clarence River catchments (1/5/23 Action 6.3)

13. Close of Meeting: 12.30 pm**14. Next Meeting**

Quarterly meetings proposed for 2024. Proposed meeting dates for 2024:

Monday, 18 March 2024

Monday, 3 June 2024

Monday, 2 September 2024

Monday, 18 November 2024

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 18 March 2024 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 18 March 2024.



MAGGIE MAY, CHAIRPERSON