



MINUTES

Climate Change Working Group Meeting

18 March 2024

**MINUTES OF THE KYOGLE COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD AT KMI HALL SUPPER ROOM, ROXY LANE, KYOGLE
ON MONDAY, 18 MARCH 2024 AT 9.45AM**

Meeting commenced: 9.50 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: John Redmayne, Dr Terry De Lacy (left meeting at 10.05am), Chris Hoare, Amanda Clark (left meeting at 10.15am), Peter Kelly, Judy Faulks, Madison Parker (meeting support).

Online: Cr Maggie May (Chair), Jason Hague.

1. Apologies

Cr Robert Cullen (alternative delegate), Dr Arthur Webb, Kieran Somerville, Robyn Lucienne.

No apologies received from Cr Tom Cooper, Cr John Burley.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The Working Group agreed to confirm the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 20 November 2023. **MOVED:** Cr Maggie May **SECONDED:** John Redmayne

3. Correspondence

3.1 Inwards - Nil

3.2 Outwards - Nil

4. 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

Amanda Clark reported that a Request for Tender (RFT) for a 'Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for Kyogle LGA' was released in November 2023. Council received 29 submissions by the deadline of 1 December 2023. A review of these submissions is underway and three submissions have been shortlisted. Arthur Webb has agreed to review the shortlisted submissions and provide input and his recommendation without prejudice to Council on them. The submissions are within the budget that was put forward to Council last year. Acting General Manager is currently identifying the budget area. A report will go to the April Council meeting summarising submissions and recommending the successful RFT.

The document produced by CCWG 'Climate Change Action Plan' will be provided as a background resource to the successful consultant (Action 9.1 26/9/22). It was also noted that content and actions coming out of the CCWG is useful background material that could be integrated into the Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan.

5. Review of the CCWG

Working Group advised that no further feedback from the CCWG was received on the 'Climate Change Working Group Annual Review 2021-23' (Action 9.1 20/11/23).

Discussion regarding issues raised by Terry De Lacy (refer email circulated to CCWG on 20/2/24) – Terry reiterated that a Working Group of Council does need to have a functioning Council to ensure that the CCWG is also able to function properly and to get the necessary support from other agencies and institutions. Cr May provided her view that she felt Council was functioning very well. At this point Terry De Lacy left the meeting.

Further discussion points:

- There is a need to get serious about climate change, to adopt a stronger position on climate change and that it should be thought of more in terms of a climate emergency, climate crisis or climate chaos rather than climate change. The level of urgency is greater. Climate change is happening faster than what we are taking action on. The actions we are taking are not keeping up with what is happening and the CCWG needs to get in front of this. Should it be adapting to or mitigating against climate change? Our recent good rain season is at the expense of rising sea temperatures around Australia's coast.
- It is expected that the Climate Change Adaptation and 10-year Action Plan for Kyogle LGA will be able to refocus Councils' and the CCWGs' efforts as it will identify risks and what we need to work towards, and will have discreet, practical on-ground actions that are focussed on our community. In developing the Strategy and Action Plan, the community will be involved in this process as well as the CCWG. This process will also refocus the level of urgency required.

6. Community Consultation in general – Robyn Lucienne

Item held over to next meeting as Robyn absent.

General comments:

- It is important that the community knows that the CCWG exists and that they feel part of the discussion around climate change (which currently they may not - although it was felt that those within the community that specifically are interested in the environment and climate change do know of the CCWG's existence).
- The CCWG/Council is currently using the Community Newsletter and Council website to disseminate information, but not in a coordinated way.

7. Carbon Project within Kyogle LGA – Kieran Somerville

The below summary was provided to the CCWG by Kieran Somerville on the outcomes of the meeting with Lisa Castleman at 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):

- Trials can fail if there is no strong ownership/responsibility for the project.
- Trials can be expensive and take a long time to achieve outcomes.
- Be very clear on what the aim of the trials are, what we want to achieve.
- Make sure the information we are seeking can't be found elsewhere (e.g. I contacted SCU to see if they had any results written up for their carbon projects yet. Answer was no as of 24/11/23 but hoping for sometime in 2024).

Next steps to be further discussed at June meeting.

8. Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) NSW – Robyn Lucienne

Is a grant program for NSW businesses that provides financial incentives to upgrade equipment and processes to improve energy efficiency. Incentives are available to install new equipment or modify a current system. Different equipment and processes are eligible (e.g. lighting, refrigeration, power systems, hot water, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, motors, fans and pumps, etc). Websites: <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/energy-savings-scheme-nsw/> or <https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/business-and-industry/programs-grants-and-schemes/business-equipment>

Electric vehicles (EVs) are currently not included in this scheme. Applications are currently open for EV charges which is also available for businesses – ‘Electric vehicle destination charging grants’ - <https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/business-and-industry/programs-grants-and-schemes/electric-vehicles/electric-vehicle-destination> The due date for applications has now been extended to 2/8/24.

Provide information on the ESS grant program for NSW businesses and the EV Charger grant to Kyogle and District Chamber of Commerce for distribution to businesses. Could also provide the same information in a newsletter article.

Action:

- (1) Provide information and website links to Kyogle and District Chamber of Commerce for the Energy Savings Scheme grant program for NSW businesses and the Electric Vehicle Destination Charging Grants for distribution to businesses.

9. Council Net Zero Accelerator Course 2024

This course is being offered to Councils by NSW Government during 2024 to provide guidance to councils on actioning net zero and operational emissions reductions. Jason Hague and Judy Faulks will complete this training.

Jason advised that the course is being offered in two forms: online and face-to-face (extended course) or on-line only (shorter course). Jason will complete the extended course and Judy will complete the shorter course. NSW Government is subsidising these courses. Net Zero training will help to build capacity within the Council to lead baseline data gathering by providing the knowledge of how to do this, create networks, and to highlight available resources so we don't have to reinvent the wheel. Through this training Council will get exposed to software platforms, industry experts, and support that is available.

Discussion regarding nuclear energy – no plans for this in Australia in current climate and technologies. A review found it to be impractical and costly.

10. Net Zero Community Emissions Strategy Template and Guide for NSW Councils

The Net Zero Community Emissions Strategy Template and Guide has been developed to help NSW local government practitioners, officers and managers to develop a net zero emissions strategy/action plan for their communities. The Template forms part of the Net Zero Community Emissions Guide for NSW Council's developed as part of the NSW Government's Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030. Website: <https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/government-and-local-organisations/guides-and-helpful-advice-local/net-zero-emissions-guide-nsw>

CCWG members to review this guide and template to see if this is something worth recommending action on. It was noted that any action would require resourcing. For further discussion at next meeting. Background information and a link to this guide and template to be sent to Kyogle Environment Group so they know it exists as they may wish to advocate for some elements of it.

Action:
(1) Provide information and website links to 'NetZero Community Emissions Strategy Template and Guide for NSW Councils' to Kyogle Environment Group for their information and possible advocacy

11. 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.

- 18/9/23 – Action 4.1 – Still in progress. Online platform tool will be used to benchmark Council emissions (from Net Zero Accelerator Course)
- 20/11/23 – Action 4.1 – Council still working with EVX to finalise the 2 sites for EV charges within Kyogle township.
- 20/11//23 – Action 9.1 – Close item.

12. 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.

13. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Carbon Project within Kyogle LGA – Next steps
- Status – Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for Kyogle LGA
- Net Zero Community Emissions Strategy and Guide for NSW Councils
- Review of the 3-bin waste system – Does the CCWG wish to be a part of review? Judy Faulks provided an update on actions still to be undertaken with the 3-bin waste service rollout (including FOGO grant activities) – schools education program, waste audits (Woodenbong, Kyogle), Lift the Lid audits (Woodenbong, Kyogle), community stalls, education regarding what bin for what and diverting recyclables. CCWG can provide comment on the review when done.

14. Close of Meeting: 11.45am

15. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 3 June 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 3 June 2024.

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MAGGIE MAY, CHAIRPERSON