

SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT ADVISORY GROUP

Thursday 28 November 2024
6.00pm - 8.00pm

Venue: Committee Room
City of Vincent
Administration and Civic Centre
244 Vincent Street Leederville

Attendees:

City of Vincent Councillors

(Chairperson) Cr La Fontaine (ALF)
Cr Wallace (AW)

Community Representatives

Barbara Pedersen (BP)
Helen Griffiths (HG)
Ian Kininmonth (IK)

Chris Cutress (CC)
Kathryn Longden (KL)

City of Vincent Officers

Mitchell Hoad (MH) - A/Manager Strategic Planning and Specialist Planner
Tim Elliott (TE) - Coordinator Strategic Planning
Sarah Hill (SH) – Manager Parks

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1. Welcome/Declaration of Opening

Councillor La Fontaine opened the meeting at 6:05pm and delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Apologies

- Peter Varris (PV) – Director Infrastructure and Environment
- Emma McCallum (EM)
- Kathryn Longden (KL)
- Chris Cutress (CC)

3. Confirmation of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2024 were confirmed.

4. Business

4.1 MH Update on City Progress since last STAG Meeting (5 minutes)

Administration discussed the operationalisation of sustainability throughout Vincent, focusing on assigning responsibilities within individual business units to achieve the net zero goal. Also discussed the need for a climate action plan to capture themes like sustainable procurement, finance, and renewable energy.

IK & BP commended the staff for the work to continue the strategy and endeavours to operationalise sustainability. Commenting on the importance to see the concepts across the different teams.

4.2 Presentation by TE and group discussion on the City's draft Sustainability Framework (20 minutes)

TE presented the Sustainable Vincent Framework and recognised the acknowledgement of country by Cr La Fontaine and the importance of Aboriginal Culture in both the framework and the Strategy as the original custodians deeply respect country and we need to learn from this.

Outlining that the City is elevating the Sustainable Vincent Framework to sit alongside the Strategic Community Plan as one of the higher order documents to ensure it is embedded with everything that the City does & that there are clear Key Performance Indicators associated with this. Explaining that the Enhanced Environment Strategy will be informing Strategy dealing with Water, Waste, Urban Greening and Trees. The Climate Transition Action Plan is planned to be completed following endorsement of the Framework and Strategy in the next financial year 25/26.

Discussed Priority Areas of the Sustainable Vincent Framework:

- Climate Action (Mitigation and Adaptation) – **Our actions towards Net Zero & adaption Strategies to help us prepare for and respond to local climate impacts.**
- Resilient and Low Carbon Infrastructure - **prioritises energy and water efficiency measures and electrification in our operational buildings**
- Healthy and Thriving City - **prioritises positive health outcomes, empowers local businesses to be more sustainable, promoting liveable urban areas**
- Good Governance and Responsible Investment - **compliance with legislation, emissions monitoring and sustainable, fossil fuel free investments.**
- Resource Conservation - **working towards a circular economy**
- Regenerative, Green and Biodiverse - **restore and enhance our local ecosystems and environment.**

BP Local Government Act talk about the risk profile, flagging that the City's risk register needs to connect to the Framework. Because climate, natural and Emergency Management need to hook through the risk register back to the actions and vice versa.

IK Urban Heat Island effect needs to be brought forward to be discussed as we are in the inner-City urban area.

BP Eastern states examples (adapt NSW) of adaption in planning terms of increasing tree canopy. Western Sydney social impacts of a highly populated area and lack of electricity in the area. PSHB impacting tree canopy and tree loss.

4.3 Presentation by TE and group discussion on the City's draft Enhanced Environment Strategy (20 minutes)

Approach

Explained the difference between the three documents: The Enhanced Environment Strategy (EES), The Sustainability Framework and the Future Climate Action Plan. The EES we are dealing with Water Conservation and Management, Urban Greening and Biodiversity and Resource Recovery/Waste.

The Sustainability framework sets all the responsibilities, and then the climate action plan. That's what will really set our net zero pathway. Even though we've already got emissions reporting, that's really what informs detailed actions for the pathway.

In the enhanced environment strategy you would've seen our targets. The Community targets were Tree Canopy to be increased by 12% by 2050 on private land and Resources Conservation the total waste to landfill reduced by 85% by 2030.

We need to really understand what that breakup is between private and public tree canopy: CSIRO previously provided that data and information and that is something that the state government does update.

BP asked if DPLH were going to provide updated data?

MH noted that the last data that we had was 2020 and we're supposed to update every two years. We are missing 2022.

Interestingly WALGA have separately started a project to do some of their own canopy mapping for local governments.

Cr Fontaine asked with the data, so it was 10% and we're increasing it to 12%.

From that 2017 baseline, so that is a 2% increase from the 2017. So with infill, what is the trend predicted to be in 2050 like, do we have any idea like, is the trend trending down from 2017 to 2023? What are we predicting if we don't intervene? Or do we have any idea?

TE - the estimate would be that it is trending downwards. Other local governments, the city of Stirling have been doing it for the last 10 years and there's indication that they have increased on public land and it's declining on private land.

The best example that I've seen that as part of the WALGA Urban Forest Working group so that's. We really need that information on to break the public and private land apart.

Councillor Wallace had sent through some information on products that was out there and so we've investigated that one and some others.

IK noted that it would be really useful if we take a graph to demonstrate that this is the trend and this is the ultimate conclusion. If we don't do something, and even if we did something, how long is it going to shift the modelling of that.

BP commented that even if we do something we have got the changing conditions with the increased evapotranspiration increased number of days over 35 degrees and nights over 26 degrees. Those conditions are also affecting the native vegetation. There are some other measures and I'm kind of thinking this is part of a journey and this is why the Council needs to have permanent long term commitment to sustainability officers. Keeping track of it is not a one person or a one team.

IK said he had raised previously the components about de-paving and measuring tree canopy increase, but if we're not measuring what is the baseline. Are there increases in paving as well. So if we are increasing tree canopy, which is, primarily about mitigating urban heat island effects, but we aren't mitigating the thing that causes the urban heat island effect. This is adding to the heat island and stormwater runoff.

BP there are some tools coming that will enable us to actually measure and graph what is the increasing hard surfaces or hopefully the increasing areas with traffic cones being accompanied by greening that gives us a better signature of heat.

TE - This reinforces the need for the Sustainable Vincent Framework

The adoption of native verges annually, some of the feedback we have received is the native plants are important, and there are the other species that might produce greater canopy or have a better chance of surviving in certain locations.

Reducing Water Waste would be as a community target, probably around that education piece to reduce use similar to what the Water Corporation does.

BP – a good measure to put in would be the water spend by council on irrigating turfed areas.

TE - maybe it is around having more soil areas rather than lots of lawn that needs a lot of water or amending the soil so that the water demand is reduced.

Resource Conservation - the total waste to landfill reduced by 85% by 2030. That is that state government target. We are ahead of other local governments in that space and a lot of work around education has been done in that space.

IK - I think the other thing that's going to come out in time is to do with greenhouse gas emissions associated with compost.

TE - the city operation targets are tree canopy increase 35% coverage by 2050 on public land. Shot hole borer has presented challenges.

SH advised that we had a lot of tree deaths last summer. There's been a lot of communications with other LG'S on this matter because in the City of Vincent, a majority of our tree deaths were the Queensland box trees. One of the things to consider is that they are end of life because they were all planted around the same era. Obviously the end of life was exacerbated by the heat wave.

SH Street tree policy changes, are going to put us in a really good position to, I guess, to face future changes of not just climate change, but also polyphagous.

SH Previously, our street tree policy stated that we needed to adhere to the streetscape theme. So for instance, if it was jacaranda's, it was jacaranda's. If it was plain trees, it was plain trees. Going forward, we're aiming for streetscape diversity so that when things like polyphagous or the possibility of Myrtle rust come into our area, if we have a diverse streetscape, we can tackle those.

SH Also important to note that there's targets in our policy for a 75% target of Native Australian native plantings, with a preference for West Australian. West Australian was chosen over endemic to the area because the advice now is endemic to the area might not be the best choice because our climate is changing, so we need to be looking at planting Geraldton endemic species to accommodate the changing climate. We are trying to make progress in this space. It is obviously quite complex.

TE - Length of greenways we don't have a definition or how much that we want to target that by because we have a lot of difficulty with main roads and their safety. This impacts on essentially closing down roads to care for them. And so extending those greenways is something that needs more investigation and advocacy as well. A bit more work needs to be done there.

Reducing potable water consumption across the city's operations by 10%. We do have groundwater allocations as well and we are trying to manage those a lot better. We are still working with our teams so that all our assets are achieving that five star wells rating.

Then with our resource conservation, reducing waste in our operations by 15% by 2030 and looking to have that 100% of the city properties that we occupy using the containers deposit scheme.

Cr Fontaine - Do we have any compatible data on the groundwater use?

SH – Yes, we do but it fluctuates year to year. So essentially we have an allocation that we're not supposed to exceed. Last year, we did exceed it by I think about 10%.

SH - When we knew we were going to exceed it, we flagged it with DEWA and had a meeting with them but they don't appear to be enforcing this. We're in the process and have been for a couple of years now, of making all the possible steps we can to reduce the amount of groundwater usage we have through the eco zoning program, which has been going for about 12 years now.

SH - That's been really good and in conjunction with that, we're doing a lot of irrigation renewals by 2028, when the 10% reduction comes into place we will have upgraded all of the irrigation systems at our active sports grounds, which are obviously our biggest users, and when we do that, when we renew a system, we're really conscious of the active area and the passive or verge areas. So we separate them off in different stations so that we can cut or completely reduce the water. That's proven somewhat problematic because we have verge issues on some of our sports grounds where we completely cut it off but on a positive note, we are looking at options designed for groundwater storage cells within these verge areas and permeable paving so that we're not just improving the verge parking on our sports reserves, but also infiltrating extra water and resolving some drainage issues in areas.

SH We are currently working on designs for Menzies Park which was renewed a couple of years ago, so hopefully that will be implemented in the next couple of years. We will be looking at other reserves with the same issue. Obviously, Britannia Reserves a big one, Kyilla where we have to keep the verge area clear for parking. Sporting event focussed so we can't echo zone the verge, but if we do permeable paving and water storage cells underground, we're going to have a really good environmental outcome.

IK - with resource conservation we're talking about a circular economy approach looking at compost as an example where a certain amount goes out and a little bit comes back. We should be trying to maximize the amount that come comes back. We should have some targets. With the FOGO bin we sort of expected that

it was going to come back as compost and it does come back as compost and it gets dumped at Britannia and it's gone in two days by the local landscapers or word of mouth. It would be good to measure the reuse.

Cr Fontaine - when is the baseline audit going to be completed?

TE - that's a great question, I will have to work with our waste team to understand that. I will update this for the next meeting.

4.4 Presentation by TE and group discussion on the City's Emissions Inventory (15 minutes)

TE – Emissions Inventory

We engaged Deloitte to prepare the emissions inventory. As part of that work, we went to the executive team to decide on the emissions boundary for that work.

BP - will come back to you on this with some comments. It would back be useful to have a pie graph at this point that says this is where our major emissions are coming from - transport, electricity, waste and buildings.

TE - we set the emissions boundary and we have done that work so we've got all those facts around where we're at and where we're trending towards. So that really will inform that climate action plan that will go on to next financial year.

MH noted that that's the important step to give us something to move forward with. So if we're trying to measure 2030 or 2040 or 2050, whatever the end game is, we have a holistic picture now. And part of the framework in the Climate Action Plan will be an annual update of the Emissions Inventory so that we can track year to year.

4.5 General update from TE on Sustainability initiatives (5 minutes)

TE gave an update on the bulk buying energy. CoV is working with Bayswater and Stirling to understand how this might work. It seems we're a bit behind the Eastern States and they have third party providers that manage it for them over there.

IK – Diagram Concept for Community Circularity Precinct and Community Biochar Hub

The overall concept is around developing a hub where we can try different things out and then based on that scale up. We trialled the FOGO compost in the biochar and now with the tree planting that's being implemented, certainly with compost and microbes going into the soil.

Historically, we had the Community compost station there and that was popular. That provided the incentive for the Council to move to Fogo. There are future opportunities in terms of grey water reuse and stormwater harvesting. This is just a concept and I will be advocating for an ideas type sort of process where stakeholders could come together and bring their ideas and formulate projects.

4.6 Meeting scheduled for 2025

MH proposed a tentative meeting schedule for 2025, with meetings in February, May, July, and around the Council election period. The plan would be to review the sustainability framework, strategy, and climate action plan during these meetings.

5. Close/Next Meeting

The Chairperson (ALF) closed the meeting at 7:47pm. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in February.

Signed

Councillor

(Chairperson)

Dated this _____ day of _____ 20__