



CITY OF VINCENT

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

12 June 2017 AT 6.00PM

Venue: City of Vincent – Function Room

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Attendees:

City of Vincent Councillors:
Cr Loden (*Chair*), Cr Gontaszewski

Community Representatives:
Chiara Pacifici, Chris Cutress, Isaac Lorca, Lisa Edwards

City of Vincent Officers:
Director Development Services, Sustainability Officers, Project Officer Parks and Environment

1. Welcome/Declaration of Opening

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.02pm.

2. Apologies

Community Representatives David White, Halinka Lamparski, Kimberley Dupuy, Sally Madden and Stephen Danti; City of Vincent Chief Executive Officer Len Kosova and Director Technical Services

3. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from meeting on 1 May 2017 were confirmed by all voting members in attendance.

4. Encouraging community solar

The EAG received a report summarising the findings of an Administration review into local community uptake of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.

Key findings:

- 13.5 per cent of dwellings in the City of Vincent local government area have installed solar PV;
- Decreasing solar prices mean that cost is no longer a significant barrier to uptake;
- The three main barriers to uptake were identified as:
 1. High rates of strata ownership (strata by-laws restrict retro-fitting);
 2. High rates of rental tenancies (limited incentive for owners to install); and
 3. Limited roof space, poor orientation and overshadowing.

Recommendations:

The EAG noted that Administration will undertake the following actions and present them to the EAG for comment:

1. Prepare information sheets to help strata bodies, individual property owners and tenants overcome barriers associated with strata by-laws and split incentives (update to be presented back to next EAG meeting);
2. Policy provisions to address issues with roof space, orientation and overshadowing will be considered as part of a future amendment to Policy 7.1.1 - Built Form (pending WA Planning Commission response to the Policy's current sustainable design provisions); and
3. Further investigations into ways to encourage community uptake of renewable energy will be undertaken as part of the Sustainable Environment Strategy review process during 2017/18 and 2018/19.

5. Hyde Park Lakes Turtle Study

The EAG received a report summarising the findings of a recent study completed by the University of Western Australia (UWA) on the population of oblong turtles in Hyde Park. The key finding was a population consisting entirely of older individuals (no juveniles or young adults detected) despite females carrying fertilised eggs.

UWA has proposed a 3.5 year PhD study to investigate the causes of recruitment failure and requested a co-contribution from the City to fund this.

Recommendations:

The EAG recommended that the study be supported, with the stipulation that:

1. The City set out clear project outcomes and reporting requirements in its agreement with the University;
2. Results of the initial literature review be shared with the City prior to commencement of field work;
3. Field work results be shared with the City via regular progress reports during the study period; and
4. The community be informed/involved in the project (e.g. through relevant signage on site and via reporting of sightings of juveniles or sighting of turtles on private property).

6. Other Business

6.1 Tree Selection Tool

EAG sought and received an update on the status of the City's project to develop a tree selection tool to inform the choice of trees for streetscapes and for new developments.

Recommendations:

The EAG recommended that:

1. EAG members be notified in advance of the planned community consultation workshop to allow them to inform key community stakeholders.

6.2 Verge Policy

EAG sought and received an overview of the current status of the City's Verge Policy (Policy No.2.2.4).

The EAG recommended that Administration:

1. Consider including a review of the Verge Policy in the City's Corporate Business Plan.

8. Previous Agenda Items – status update

| Item | Current Status | Timing |
|--|--|---|
| Canvas Bag trial (bag exchange at a local supermarket) | EAG updated. Insufficient Admin resources to do this work. Transition Town Vincent awarded an Environmental Grant to run this as a community initiative. | Completed |
| Lawler Street Sump makeover to public open space | To be considered by Council as part of the City's draft Budget 2017/18. | To be presented to Council on 17 July 2017 |
| Sustainable Environment Strategy development | In progress – community consultation occurring as part of the Strategic Community Plan consultation. | Mid to late 2017 |
| Waste trial | Ready to start – awaiting final sign-off. Expected trial length 4-6 months, pending approval of project plan. | Start date and timing to be confirmed |
| Composting Hub (near mulch pile at Britannia Reserve) | To be considered by Council as part of the City's draft Budget 2017/18. | To be presented to Council on 17 July 2017 |
| Tree Selection Tool | Consultant selection process completed. | Consultant to be appointed June 2017 |
| Floating Reed Bed Filtration System - Trial | Agreement on the terms of a trial to be negotiated between the City and the proponent. | Timing to be confirmed once an agreement is reached |
| Encouraging Community Solar | Desktop review completed. Online resource page to be created on the City's website. | Update to be provided at next EAG meeting |
| Hyde Park Lakes Turtle Study | To be considered by Council as part of the City's draft Budget 2017/18. | To be presented to Council on 17 July 2017 |
| Verge Policy Review | Inclusion in Corporate Business Plan to be considered. | Update to be provided at next EAG meeting |

9. Next meeting

Next meeting 7 August 2017

10. Close

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.20pm

These Minutes were confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting of the Environmental Advisory Group held on 12 June 2017.

Signed: Chairperson

Dated: This day of 2017