

# Minutes



Sustainability Advisory Committee

Wednesday, 06 March 2024  
4:00- 5:30pm

<b>Location:</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Chair:</b>	Councillor Anna Greco
<b>Attendees:</b>	Andrew Assaee – Member Elisha Mangassarian– Member Eva Coulam – Member Gay Spies – Member Janet France – Member Peter Lisle – Sustainability Team Leader Bushra Salam – Governance Admin Officer
<b>Apologies:</b>	Rena Czaplinska-Archer – Member
<b>Guests</b>	Councillor Anna Greco Councillor John Moratelli Geoff Turner (Member of Public)

## Agenda items

Item	Topic / Discussion	Action
1	<b>Welcome:</b> The meeting was declared opened at 4:03 pm.	
	<b>Apologies:</b> Rena Czaplinska-Archer – Member	
	<b>Declarations of interest</b> There were no disclosures of interest submitted.	
	<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> Bushra Salam – Governance Administration Officer acknowledged country on behalf of Council.	

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## 2 **Committee Governance**

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### **Nominations for Chair of the meeting**

- Gay Spies nominated Councillor Anna Greco
- Janet France seconded the nomination
- No other nominations were received
- Councillor accepted the nomination
- All in favour

### **Appointment of Chair**

Pursuant to clauses 5.4 of the Committee's Terms of Reference, the Committee unanimously appointed Councillor Anna Greco, as the Chair for the meeting of the Committee.

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## 3 **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

Moved by Eva Coulam and seconded by Gay Spies, the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 31 January 2024 were unanimously accepted.

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## 4 **Business arising from previous minutes**

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

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## 5 **Strategic Activities**

### **5.1 Standing Item - Update on carbon targets for Council and Community**

Peter Lisle stated that there are no further updates since the last meeting and that a review of Council net zero emissions target by 2025-26 is under review internally.

### **5.2 Tree Canopy and related matters**

Janet France raised the issue of tree permit for residents who want to take out even exempt trees. This would let neighbors know that work been done has approval or at least the knowledge of the Council.

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Janet France also proposed:

- Exploring incentives to residents to keep significant trees e.g. Financial reward through rates
- 'Hero' program featuring residents who value and protect significant trees on private land (social/website/newsletter?)

Peter Lisle noted that Urban Tree Canopy project is supported by the Environment Unit. Next year they are changing the terminology and calling it Urban forest and focusing around the CBD and end of Spring Street.

Eva Coulam noted that the majority of tree canopy loss was on private property and in people's residential backyards and requested conversion of Nick Chapmans chart measuring canopy loss 2011 v 2021 - to show overall surface area for each type of location (to clarify how important residential canopy is to the overall LGA).

Peter Lisle noted various ongoing projects including:

- a tree tagging program to increase awareness of the benefits provided by trees.
- across LGA east/west greenway project.
- the wide range of resources deployed within Council to promote tree cover and educate residents. This includes resourcing for the Tree Team based at the Depot and additional funding providing the means to plant in hard to plant areas around the LGA.
- an ongoing tree mapping program that uses aerial scanning data and street view imagery to identify all locations around the LGA where additional planting can occur, He stated he would review North Willoughby and Brook St as suggested by the Committee.

The Committee requested that tree planting consider prioritizing

- growing wildlife islands/corridors around reserve adjacent locations as one of the key priorities for planting
- Greening along bike pathways to incentivize cycling as a sustainable mode of transport

He then showed the committee the location of the Council website that covered all tree related programs.

***Action:** Peter Lisle will provide an overview of the interconnected canopy related programs in the next meeting.*

### **5.3 Matters for discussion:**

**Navigation demonstration of Council website and access to meeting agenda and minutes:** Peter Lisle demonstrated navigation around committees and assessing meeting agendas and minutes on Council website.

#### **Possible contamination of Council mulch:**

Peter Lisle stated that the company identified as supplying contaminated mulch was not one that WCC uses and Council had not been contacted by the EPA conducting the investigation. As a precaution the Open Space Unit are conducting testing at ten sites with results known by mid-March.

#### **Report of the Artificial Turf Working Party Meeting:**

A meeting of the Artificial Turf working party meeting was held on 22/02/2024. Gay Spies was the Chair. Following was the outcome of the working party meeting.

#### **Outcome:**

1. The Working Party Agreed that the group will review the latest sustainability evidence for and against artificial turf.
2. Findings will be aligned to the Community strategic plan 2032.

#### **Questions/information requests for council**

- Copy of the Thomson Oval upgrade report explaining assessment process

- Any additional council assessment of the carbon emissions from manufacture, installation, upkeep and recycling process for artificial turf
- Current council practices to monitor or capture micro-plastic particles/shedding from artificial turf ovals (or Northbridge baths / Concourse open space?)
- Planned changes to practices re particle monitor/capture with the Thomson Oval upgrade
- Any heat measurement studies considered or conducted by WCC? Or opportunity to be incorporated into Nick Chapman's resilience heat study project.
- Is there an approved timeline for works at Thomson Oval?

The Committee requested feedback be provided in advance of the committee meeting in May, in order for working party to consider in their response and the Committee will share findings with questions and considerations for WCC Open Space team at the next Committee meeting.

Cr Greco shared the link to the Thompson Oval upgrade page and requested Working Party to review the link and see if that page answers the questions asked and if not, raise those questions in advance of the next meeting. The working party will present its report in the next meeting.

**Action:** *Peter Lisle will follow up with Open Space Team and Resilience Specialist before the next meeting.*

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## 6 Other Business

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- **Aquaponics in an urban setting**

Andrew Assaee shared the information on aquaculture whereby fish farming has good benefits for use in the LGA. Given elements of risk associated to children it was not something Council would install in public places but it could be considered for inclusion in pool conversion workshops.

- **Sea level rise sign indicators**

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Gay Spies suggested that past and future sea level indicator signs could be considered to raise awareness of the effects of climate change and identified a few locations around the Peter Lisle noted that he has shared this information and Tunks Park was a location under review.

- **Clean-up Australia Rubbish/education around cleaning up pollutants/rubbish**

Eva Coulam raised the issue of pollution in our waterways and highlighted the effects of business and industrial pollution. Peter Lisle showed the Committee the information on the Council website that outlines current practices and devices – gross pollutant traps and water saving urban design initiatives amongst others - that have reduced pollution reaching our waterways.

**Web site link reference:**

<https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Environmental-Health/Water>

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## 7 Next Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, 01 May 2024 (Last meeting of the Committee)

**Suggested Agenda Items:**

- Urban forest/tree canopy update including urban heat island effect study
- Information panel for sea rise
- Achievements of the Committee drafted for end of Council report

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## 8 Meeting Conclusion

The Meeting concluded at 5:45pm.

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