



WBAC Climate Alliance Reference Group Meeting

Date: Friday 15th November 2024

Location: Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes administration office, Council Chambers

Meeting opened: 9.27 am

1. Welcome

a) **Acknowledgement to Country**

Cr Donelle Buegge acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and paid respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Attendance

Voting:

Cr Donelle Buegge SOM(Chair)

Cr Vicki Hansen SON

Cr Tim Sly SON

Cr Alexis Davy SODB

Officer Alexa Tunmer SOBG

Non-voting:

Matthew Tartaglia

Apologies:

Cr Philippe Kaltenrieder

Cr Wendy Eiby

Cr Mike Christensen

Cr Tracy Lansdell

Officer Ann Bentley

2. **Declarations of interest – Nil**

3. Confirm minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

- Minutes of last meeting 30th August 2024

Minutes of CARG meeting on 30th August 2024 are confirmed as true and correct.

Moved: Cr Vicki Hansen

Seconded: Cr Alexis Davy

Carried 4/0

- Matters arising

Introduction from new member Cr Tim Sly from SON

4. **Electing New Chair**

- **Motion 1:**

- The committee formally elects Cr Alexis Davy as Chair

Moved: Cr Donelle Buegge

Seconded: Cr Vicki Hansen

Carried 4/0

- **Motion 2:**

- The committee confirms Cr Vicki Hanson to continue as Deputy Chair.

Moved: Cr Alexis Davis

Seconded: Cr Donelle Buegge

Carried: 4/0

5. **Updates on Waterwise Councils MoUs**

- Project Officer is available to act as primary contact for Waterwise Councils
- Shires to determine the secondary point of contact. (e.g., Parks and Gardens or Maintenance teams).
- Leak detectors available from Water Corporation for water-saving initiatives.
- Lina Peche to meet with Shire representatives on Tuesday, 19th November to discuss program details.

- Green Scheming co-funding up to \$10,000 available; a verge policy is required to secure funding.
 - Lina Peche to provide a recommended verge policy template.

Action: Project Officer to gather information on individual Shires' water management teams and provide recommended verge policy template to CARG.

Action: Project Officer to share the SOM council report supporting motion to become Waterwise Council with the group after it is reviewed by Council on **December 12th**.

Action: Project Officer to share Waterwise Council information with Cr Hansen and Cr Sly.

6. Cities Power Partnership

- The Cities Power Partnership (CPP) program is no longer active, likely due to funding issues.
- Tools and resources from the CPP program are still accessible to those who were previously members.
- SODB access to CPP tools might be leveraged by other councils if permissions are granted.
- Joining CPP was part of the short-term action plan, but this is no longer an option.
- Discussion is ongoing about whether to look for alternative organisations to join or to focus more on direct actions.
- No changes to the action plan will be proposed until it's confirmed if SODB CPP tools and resources can be shared

Action: Project Officer to follow up with CPP to confirm if other councils can use the tools and resources signed up by SODB.

7. Behaviour change workshop-25th of November

- Dr David Meiklejohn who has been working with metro councils to develop their climate change action plans. PhD with a focus on behaviour change and climate action in local government.
- Help councils develop effective behaviour change projects that address climate change.
- Participants are encouraged to bring a specific project or issue to workshop and then apply a behaviour change framework to shape that idea.

- Potential topics for discussed were recycling education and behaviour change around waste management.
- Persistent misunderstandings about recycling rules, such as contamination.
- Cultural and habitual challenges where individuals believe they are recycling correctly but are inadvertently causing issues.
- Specific problems with agricultural waste, including bulk bags, bale wraps, and single-use plastics.
- The need for strategies that blend education with engineered solutions.

Action: Project Officer and SOBG's Environmental Officer to discuss a project or problem to bring to the workshop.

8. Charge-up Grants

- Opened on October 8th, 2024, and closes on June 30th, 2025.
- SOBG is close to finalising its application setting up a DC fast charger at the old visitor centre.
- Cr Sly is currently finalising the process of installing an AC charger in front of a Whole Foods store in SON
- Limited existing chargers (e.g Donnybrook has one, but Balingup lacks any chargers).
- It was recommended that Councillors become familiar with how approval for charging stations interact with heritage and planning regulations
- Shift from traditional fuelling to charging while engaging in other activities (e.g., shopping, dining).
- Opportunities for businesses to create incentives for EV users to linger and spend time locally

9. Energy Efficiency Pilot Program

- The program is a state government initiative aimed at improving energy literacy among individuals.
- The program involves the availability of energy kits through libraries, which include:
 - a) Thermal cameras
 - b) Power monitors
 - c) Water flow measuring equipment

- Residents borrow an energy kit for one week, use it at home to identify energy or water inefficiencies (e.g., energy leaks or water wastage), and then return it to the library.
- Each Shire may receive one kit to pilot the program. The duration of the pilot is 12–18 months.
- There is potential for sharing kits between Shires, depending on the level of interest.
- Aligns with the Climate Action Plan and supports community engagement and education.

Motion:

The WBAC supports the Project Officer in submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Energy Efficiency Pilot Program, requesting one kit per Shire.

Moved by: Cr Buegge

Seconded by: Officer Tunmer

10. Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Grants

- SRC grants up to \$10,000 designed to support a broad range of grassroots, community-led initiatives.
- Available to populations under 15,000 people
- Four funding rounds per year (quarterly cycles)
- Larger grants up to \$25,000 are available twice a year for similar types of projects.
- Encouraged for local community groups or organisations to pursue, as this funding supports capacity-building initiatives across rural communities

Actions: Project Officer to distribute the grant information with CARG members

Shire Updates:

Shire Nannup

- SON is in the process of hiring a part-time Sustainability Officer
- Solar power and a battery system have been installed at the waste facility, enabling compacting, EFTPOS, and air conditioning.
- E-Waste Push: Increased focus on raising awareness and facilitating electronic waste recycling.

- Repair of DC Charger: The DC electric vehicle charger has been repaired, further supporting sustainable transport options.
- The establishment of the mountain bike park has reduced car usage in town.
- Growth in bike usage and carpooling, supported by bike trails, stands, and infrastructure.
- Integrated Bike Planning: Bicycle infrastructure is becoming a core component of urban planning.

Shire of Manjimup

- Cr. Buegge attended the Innovation Industries Futures Forum, highlighting hydrogen production and the need for improved Indigenous collaboration in planning
- Cr Buegge attended the Forest Products and Bushfire Management. Preventative measures like undergrowth clearing and new bushfire equipment for the Southwest were discussed, along with concerns about volunteer shortages and water use efficiency.
- Social media campaigns promote proper recycling practices.
- Issues with flushable wipes clogging dump points are being addressed, with potential solutions like retrofitted filters under review.
- SOM secured funding for a Doppler radar to improve weather and wind monitoring for farming and fire management.

Shire of Bridgetown

- Tenders for the heat pump and solar batteries, for the recreation centre have closed
- Officer Tunmer is creating a community survey to identify key sustainability priorities and ideal solutions.
- Cleanaway will attend the Bridgetown Agricultural Show to share resources with the community, focusing on recycling initiatives and explaining the recycling process and destinations.
- Developing a social media plan focusing on improved recycling habits, and reducing holiday waste this Christmas

Shire of Donnybrook

- Efforts to establish SAC have stalled due to key community members withdrawing their involvement temporarily. The initiative is on hold until the new year.

- Meeting scheduled with operations staff to discuss the energy audit; share gathered information and plan next steps.
- Plans are in place to hold a workshop with councillors to discuss Waterwise Councils implementation, targeting approval at the March meeting

General Business

- a) Meeting Calander for New Year
 - Project Officer to create and circulate a calendar for 2025 meetings (including WBAC schedule) and key dates/topics.
- b) **Terms of Reference Amendment:**
 - Proposal for WBAC to consider amending the Terms of Reference to:
 - A designated officer may serve as a proxy with voting rights when a Councillor is unable to attend.
 - A selected community member may serve as a voting member on the committee in place of one of the two elected Councillors, provided at least one elected Councillor remains as a voting member.

Motion:

That the WBAC considers amending the Terms of Reference to:

1. A designated officer may vote as a proxy when a Councillor is unable to attend.
2. A selected community member may serve as a voting member on the committee, replacing one of the two elected Councillors, provided that at least one elected Councillor remains as a voting member.

Moved: Cr Hansen

Second: Cr Buegge

Date of next meeting: Next meeting 14th February 2025

Close meeting: 11.05am