

Shire of Denmark
Minutes



**SHIRE OF DENMARK
SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK
ON TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2022

Contents

DISCLAIMER	2
1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS	3
2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	3
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	3
4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING	3
5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	3
6. PRESENTATIONS	3
7. OFFICER REPORTS	4
7.1 SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS SUBSCRIPTIONS.....	4
7.2 ENERGY CONSUMPTION DATA	4
7.3 PRIORITISATION OF SUSTAINABLE ACTION PLAN PROJECT	4
7.4 TREATED WASTE WATER PROJECT UPDATE	5
7.5 POWER PROJECT UPDATE.....	6
7.6 KERBSIDE FOGO COLLECTION PROJECT UPDATE	8
7.7 TASK LIST	9
8 GENERAL BUSINESS	9
9 NEXT MEETING.....	10
10 CLOSURE OF MEETING	10

Council Committee Meeting

01 November 2022

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

2.01pm – The Presiding person declared the meeting open.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**MEMBERS:**

Cr Jan Lewis (Presiding Person)
 Cr Kingsley Gibson, Deputy Shire President
 Cr Clare Campbell
 Cr Donald Clarke – *arrived 2.05pm*

STAFF:

David King, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
 Damian Schwarzbach, Manager Sustainable Projects

APOLOGIES:

Nil

ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Nil

ABSENT:

Nil

VISITORS:

Mark McHenry – Murdoch University Biochar Project

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The mover of any motion to confirm previous Minutes needs to have been at the meeting.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION & OFFICER RECOMMENDATION	ITEM 5
MOVED: CR CAMPBELL	SECONDED: CR GIBSON
That the minutes of the Sustainable Projects Committee Meeting held on the 02 August 2022, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	
CARRIED	

6. PRESENTATIONS**Biochar Project**

Mark McHenry provided the Committee with an update on the project progress.

Murdoch University have completed their initial investigations and provided the following information:

- Calculations indicate 800 tonnes of green waste could be converted in to approximately 350 tonnes of biochar.
- Current selling price per tonne of Biochar around \$2,000.
- Benefits of biochar include; assist Shire of Denmark work towards being carbon neutral; saving on transport costs to Albany; potential to be an environmental solution to plastic packaging used to wrap sileage.
- Ballpark Capital expenditure for set up \$300,000.

Next stage to engage the technical provider and investigate the practicality and potential commercial viability. Tentative due date of February 2023.

7. OFFICER REPORTS

7.1 SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS SUBSCRIPTIONS

File Ref:	COMM.SPC/REM.33
Applicant / Proponent:	N/A
Subject Land / Locality:	N/A
Disclosure of Officer Interest:	Nil
Date:	27 October 2022
Author:	Damian Schwarzbach, Manager Sustainable Projects
Authorising Officer:	David King, Deputy CEO
Attachments:	7.1 Sustainable subscriptions

The Manager of Sustainable Projects lead a discussion on the sustainable based subscriptions the Shire subscribes to.

The Committee discussed the report and suggested to Officers' that they were comfortable with NOT pursuing Waterwise accreditation. The reason being, the Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan partnered with the Azzility reporting platform addresses the monitoring required to ensure the Shire is working towards minimising water usage.

Outcome

Officers to provide a report on reporting requirements and time required to maintain at the next Committee meeting.

7.2 ENERGY CONSUMPTION DATA

File Ref:	COMM.SPC/REM.33
Applicant / Proponent:	N/A
Subject Land / Locality:	N/A
Disclosure of Officer Interest:	Nil
Date:	27 October 2022
Author:	Damian Schwarzbach, Manager Sustainable Projects
Authorising Officer:	David King, Deputy CEO
Attachments:	7.2 Energy Consumption Data

The Manager of Sustainable Projects lead a discussion on the energy consumption data.

The Committee discussed the Azzility reporting platform and the amount paid to subscribe.

Cr. Gibson presented a real time monitoring tool, Solar Analytics. The Committee indicated that this could be of interest to the Shire in the future.

7.3 PRIORITISATION OF SUSTAINABLE ACTION PLAN PROJECT

File Ref:	COMM.SPC/REM.33
Applicant / Proponent:	N/A
Subject Land / Locality:	N/A
Disclosure of Officer Interest:	Nil
Date:	27 October 2022
Author:	Damian Schwarzbach, Manager Sustainable Projects
Authorising Officer:	David King, Deputy CEO
Attachments:	7.3a Sustainable Projects Committee Prioritisation List 7.3b Sustainable Homes Brochure

Members reviewed and discussed the Sustainable Action Plan.

Cr Clarke suggested inviting David Stockdale to present to the Committee in the future about reducing building waste and the methods he utilises.

7.4 TREATED WASTE WATER PROJECT UPDATE

File Ref:	PROJ.ENG.31.20/21
Applicant / Proponent:	N/A
Subject Land / Locality:	Mclean Park
Disclosure of Officer Interest:	Nil
Date:	26 th October 2022
Author:	Laura Delbene, Sustainable Projects Officer
Authorising Officer:	David King, Deputy CEO
Attachments:	Nil

Summary:

The Shire of Denmark has entered into a recycled water supply agreement with Water Corporation. The agreement is for 15 years, supplying 140kL per day to irrigate the oval at Mclean Park. There is no recycled water supply charge to the Shire.

The Shire works for the project include works at Mclean Oval to be able to accept the treated wastewater and a pipeline connecting to the boundary of the wastewater treatment plant.

Water Corporation works includes necessary water treatments plant works and a pump station to provide pressure for delivery of the wastewater.

The Shire has installed a second 200kL tank and upgraded the irrigation system as part of the project. The project scope requires the Shire to establish a pipeline from Zimmerman Street to the tank at Mclean Park; this is in the draft budget for 2022/23.

The project aligns with the Shire's Sustainability Action Plan and delivers a positive outcome for our environment. Currently, all wastewater discharges to a creek that enters the Wilson Inlet adjacent to the Ricketts Reserve.

Update:

The Shire has received notification from Water Corporation that their tendered prices for their works have exceeded their current budget allocation. This is due to the industry and economic conditions that have developed over the last two years and raise concerns for the Shire regarding Water Corporation approving the additional cost to complete their part of the project.

We have awarded the pipeline contract to Denmark Plumbing for the supply and installation. Shire Officers will place the contract on hold until further advice from the Water Corporation on scheduling their works.

A Recycled Water Quality Management Plan is required from the Department of Health. This includes irrigation timing (between 12 midnight and 4am), ensuring irrigation heads direct the water away from buildings, the monitoring program to be completed by Shire staff and annual reporting requirements. The Shire has applied for approval of a recycled water scheme with the Department of Health and is awaiting confirmation.

The Water Corporation have recently confirmed that the works on their end will go ahead after gaining approval for a revised budget. Due to delays resulting from the re-budgeting process and the unavailability of suitable contractors, they are not in a position to have the works completed prior to this summer and have only just awarded the contract for commencement with a tentative start date of 11th April 2023, planning to be finished by 25th May 2023. Water Corporation are conscious of the influx of tourists around the Easter/school holiday break and

will endeavour to carry out all works impacting the public or any shutdowns outside of the holiday periods as much as possible.

The Department of Health (DoH) application has been followed up with confirmation from Water Corporation that they have provided DoH notifications of proposed works which should result in an 'in-principle' agreement for the proposed scheme. It has been confirmed that progression of the application is subject to the provision of detailed design and validation and verification reports from Water Corporation and there is nothing further required from the Shire at this stage.

Denmark Plumbing who were initially awarded the contract for the Shire's section of pipeline (which had been placed on hold) have now been advised to go ahead following the assurance from Water Corporation. Denmark Plumbing anticipate a start date of 21st November 2022, subject to delivery of pipeline materials currently being manufactured. Affected residents will be notified of any planned interruptions.

Risk:

Risk	Risk Rating (Prior to Treatment or Control)	Risk Action Plan (Controls or Treatment proposed)	Risk Rating (Post Treatment or Control)
Financial: Due to the project delivery timeframe extension, the pipeline's supply and installation cost may increase.	Moderate (5-9)	Accept Risk	Moderate (5-9)
Reputational: Water Corporation project costs are not approved, so the project doesn't progress.	Low (1-4)	Accept Risk	Low (1-4)

Next Steps:

Advise affected stakeholders of the anticipated start date and any perceived interruptions.

Continue to work with Water Corporation to progress the DoH application as required.

7.5 POWER PROJECT UPDATE

File Ref:

Applicant / Proponent:	N/A
Subject Land / Locality:	Various
Disclosure of Officer Interest:	Nil
Date:	26 th October 2022
Author:	Laura Delbene, Sustainable Projects Officer
Authorising Officer:	David King, Deputy CEO
Attachments:	Nil

Summary:

The Shire of Denmark wishes to consume electrical energy with net-zero emissions. This can be achieved by installing additional behind-the-meter photovoltaic (PV) generation sufficient to achieve an annual net-zero energy balance and/or contract from external renewable generation.

The project's first stage is to reduce the organisations dependence on external generation by installing PV. A typical approach to PV installation is to match daytime use. However, this approach would limit the project's success in missing the opportunity of existing roof space and requiring reliance on external generation for a significant load requirement outside of effective PV generation times.

It is proposed to maximise the Shire's PV opportunity by managing the energy balancing of timing mismatches between self-generation and loads with local energy storage.

Future stages would look to incorporate non-contestable supplies by including enough behind-the-meter PV to be eligible to enter the Wholesale Energy Market (WEM).

The final stage would be to purchase any shortfall via external renewable generation.

Update:

The Shire has engaged Power Research and Development to develop the project scope. The project's first stage is to focus on grid connection points where the behind-the-meter power usage will exceed 50MWh. This is because these connection points become contestable and not tied into a Synergy contract supply agreement.

Three (3) Zones have been identified that should meet these criteria where the behind-the-meter works are considered feasible. These are:

Administration Zone – Total 64MWh

Administration Building
CEO House

McLean Park Zone – Total 76MWh

Recreation Centre
McLean Oval

Town Zone – Total 35MWh + EV charging

Berridge Park
Thornton Park
Kwoorabup Park
War Memorial
Morgan Richards Community Centre Area
EV fast charger

Preliminary drawings have been developed for the necessary behind the meter works. The Shire has now requested more detailed concept designs and some indicative costs; which once received, will inform a business case to understand the project in more depth including return on investment.

Once a business case is complete, officers will seek further guidance from the Sustainable Projects Committee on which zones to progress as a priority.

Risk:

Risk	Risk Rating (Prior to Treatment or Control)	Risk Action Plan (Controls or Treatment proposed)	Risk Rating (Post Treatment or Control)
Financial: The project is provisioned on the assumption of a return on investment from energy cost savings. With the current economic environment, there is a risk that the timeframes for a return on investment are extended or not met.	High (10-16)	Manage by obtaining construction quotes to inform the business case prior to awarding a contract	Moderate (5-9)
Financial: The project is provisioned on the assumption of a return on investment from energy cost savings. Changes in the energy market could affect the return on investment.	Low (1-4)	Accept Risk	Low (1-4)

Next Steps:

Obtain the indicative budget and concept designs to develop a business case in order to determine the return on investment for the three (3) zones.

Outcome

Once Concept and indicative budget received, invite Colin Stonehouse to present to the Committee on the recommendations.

7.6 KERBSIDE FOGO COLLECTION PROJECT UPDATE

File Ref:	
Applicant / Proponent:	N/A
Subject Land / Locality:	Various
Disclosure of Officer Interest:	Nil
Date:	26 th October 2022
Author:	Laura Delbene, Sustainable Projects Officer
Authorising Officer:	David King, Deputy CEO
Attachments:	7.6a FOGO Case Studies

Summary:

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 (WARR) Strategy outlines high-level overarching targets and strategies for the State under three key objectives: Avoid, Recover and Protect. Specific targets have also been set under each objective, separated into targets for the community, government, and the waste industry, as shown in the table below. The targets are set for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and commercial and industrial waste (C&I) for 2025 and 2030.

The Shire does not currently fall under a major regional centre category. However, the Shires sustainability strategy aims for zero waste to landfill by 2030. This is a higher benchmark than the WARR Strategy Targets for major regional centres.

Kerbside Food Organics Green Organics (FOGO) investigations – 50% of the Shires kerbside Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) is considered to be compostable. Therefore, this must be diverted from landfill to work towards the WARR Strategy and Shires Sustainability Strategy goals.

Council resolved to initiate a FOGO kerbside collection in 2023/24.

The rollout of a FOGO kerbside collection has several key steps. These are:

1. Securing a contract to accept FOGO material
2. Bin stock provision
3. Operational adjustments to facilitate collection or collection contract
4. Education

It is proposed that once (1) is assured and costs for (1-3) are understood, a business case should be presented to the Committee.

Update:

The facility identified for FOGO waste disposal has reached its licence capacity limits and without the operator obtaining DWER approval to increase the capacity limits, the Shire has no means to dispose of FOGO waste. As a result of this, at the last meeting, the committee recommended looking in to options around private operators to process the organic waste.

Up until this point significant investment in officer time and/or cash had been on hold until the status of expansion from the local processor including their associated timeframes was understood.

Officers have recently received notice that the facility has been experiencing increasing contamination rates and the advice to them from DWER is that they will not support an expansion to the license until it can be demonstrated that a compost product to Australian Standard can be produced. The facility has confirmed with the Shire that they will be concentrating on reducing contamination rates and ensuring they can create a suitable compost product before any expansion occurs. There is no timeframe on this.

Through investigating alternative processing receipt points some emerging issues with FOGO in general were highlighted. The additional case study (Attachment A) talks to this in more detail, but in summary, emergent issues include:

- Facilities are becoming unable to cope with the volumes of waste collected and are outgrowing premises sooner than expected with no identified expansion options;
- Contamination is slowing down the processing and significantly hinders production of a quality compost product;
- Part composted waste is piling up with no ability to process the volumes and no market for partially composted waste;
- There is no guaranteed end user for the finished compost product;
- Success is heavily reliant on continual education campaigns and engagement measures to keep participants involved in the program and to ensure contamination rates don't escalate.

In light of the above and the background and rationale provided in the case study, officers are seeking support to review the Shire of Denmark Waste Action Plan. This approach does not seek to replace the implementation of FOGO but investigate alternative community education initiatives. It is hoped that it will prove beneficial to be working towards educating and empowering the community to reduce and process organic waste at the source now, rather than waiting for a processing solution. When FOGO is implemented in the Shire, this may then ameliorate some issues currently faced by existing FOGO facilities, by reducing the reliance on FOGO to dispose of all organic waste and an understanding of the consequences that contamination has on the end compost product.

Risk:

Risk	Risk Rating (Prior to Treatment or Control)	Risk Action Plan (Controls or Treatment proposed)	Risk Rating (Post Treatment or Control)
Reputational: That FOGO is delayed due to lack of receipt facility	Moderate (8)	Accept Risk	Moderate (8)

Next Steps:

Review the Shire of Denmark's Waste Action Plan in light of recent developments.

Outcome

The Committee supported Officers to review the Shire of Denmark's Waste Action Plan and present a draft at the next Committee meeting for consideration.

7.7 TASK LIST

Shire Officers presented the Task List and provided updates on;

- a. Zero Waste Boomerang Alliance Project – partnership with Shire of Denmark and Plastic Reduction Denmark to “Get rid of the disposable coffee cup”.
- b. Recycling Bins in the CBD trial.

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 ARENA FUTURE FUELS PROGRAM

Officers provided an update on WALGA's Expression of Interest on behalf of the Local Government sector with this program.

The State Government is in the process of developing the criteria for the “Workplace EV Charging Grant Program”. The fund has \$5 million allocated to support Local Government EV uptake and is anticipated to open in January 2023. The program will provide 50% of the purchase cost of charging infrastructure and a proportion of installation costs.

8.2 REGIONAL CLIMATE ALLIANCE

Officers provided an update on the:

- Sustainable Built Design Audit – Recreation Centre, Depot & Shire Administration.
- WALGA Round 2 Grant Application

8.3 EV CHARGER

Officers provided an update on the proposed EV charging station. This included;

- Western Power quote
- Civil works issues – drainage challenges
- Request to Western Power to consider relocating the uni-pillar to the CRC carpark – cost implications.

The Committee supported pursuing the CRC carpark option.

Outcome

Officers to investigate best location and costs to install a 11KW AC charger in Denmark town this financial year.

9 NEXT MEETING

It is recommended that the next meeting of the Sustainable Projects Committee be held on a date to be confirmed (potentially December 2022) at the Shire of Denmark Council Chambers commencing at a time TBD.

9 CLOSURE OF MEETING

4.26pm – There being no further business to discuss, the Presiding Person closed the meeting.

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the _____

Signed: _____

(Presiding Person at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed.)