



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

5 MARCH 2024

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that an **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE** on **Tuesday, 5 March 2024**.

David Waddell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Administration on 6393 8106.

AGENDA

1 INTRODUCTION.....3

1.1 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests
and less than significant non-pecuniary interests.....3

2 COMMITTEE MINUTES.....5

2.1 Minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee 16
February 2024.....5

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) regulate the way in which Councillors and designated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public role.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons given for declaring such interest.

As members are aware, the provisions of the Local Government Act restrict any member who has declared a pecuniary interest in any matter from participating in the discussion or voting on that matter, and requires that member to vacate the Chamber.

Council's Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code of Conduct also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee Members now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee at this meeting.

2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

2.1 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 16 FEBRUARY 2024

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/209

AUTHOR: Eli Todman, Sustainability Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee held on 16 February 2024 are provided to the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee for adoption.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “9.2. Develop and promote initiatives to reduce water, energy and waste in consultation with the community”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee at its meeting held on 16 February 2024.**
- 2 That the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee from its meeting held on 16 February 2024 be adopted.**

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 ESCC 16 February 2024 Minutes
- 2 ESCC 16 February 2024 Agenda, D24/16173 [↓](#)

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCILLORS WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 16 FEBRUARY 2024

COMMENCING AT 8:02 AM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Cr M McDonell, Mr Peter West (*Audiovisual Link*), Mr Robert Alford, Mr Nick King, Mr Stephen Nugent, Mr Ronald Finch, Mr Reg Kidd (*Audiovisual Link*), Mr Malcolm Stacey, Ms Amanda Lockwood (*Audiovisual Link*), Ms Jennifer Lacey, Mr Cyril Smith, Director Development Services, Water Treatment Manager, Water and Sewerage Strategic Manager

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

RESOLVED

Mr S Nugent/Cr M McDonell

That the apologies be accepted from Ms Bev Williams, Mr Andrew Kennedy, Mr Granton Smith and Ms Shah Alford for the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee meeting on 16 February 2024.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

Nil.

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED

Mr S Nugent/Mr M Stacey

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee held on 3 November 2023 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee meeting held on 3 November 2023.

3 GENERAL REPORTS

3.1 CHAIR REPORT

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/60

RECOMMENDATION**Cr M McDonell/Mr R Finch**

That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the verbal report provided by the Chair.

3.2 PRIORITY PROJECT GROUPS - UPDATE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/57

The four Priority Project Teams spent time in breakout sessions identifying key objectives for the remaining term of the Committee.

Climate Action Policy

- Community education will be a primary focus, with recently formed community group 'Electrify2800' playing a role in this initiative
- Support Council to explore options in becoming an electricity retailer
- Review the NSW Net Zero Community Emissions Guide and identify programs that can be implemented
- Conduct a review of the Climate Change Management Plan with Council's Sustainability Officer

Sustainable Urban Design

- Continue to support Redmond Place Landcom project, which will be utilised as a practical example of sustainable urban design
- Provide input into the update of several key interim policies and strategies
- Redmond Place urban design planning proposal will be shared with Committee members when available
- Urban Forest Strategy draft under review with Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee. ESCC to provide input at a later date

Water Management

- Support water sensitive urban design in Redmond Place development
- Review Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan and Annual Raw Water Supply Report
- Focus on water in new subdivision code with emphasis on water sensitive cities, including blue and green infrastructure
- Explore feasibility of a site visit to Purified Recycled Water Treatment plant in Quakers Hill, Sydney

Biodiversity

- Further enhance biodiversity assessments
- Improve biodiversity threat mapping
- Input into Urban Forest Strategy when available
- Meet with Council Strategic Planner to further develop LEP mapping and provide a gap analysis e.g. include native grass in mapping
- Support Biodiversity Month (September) and community groups

Mr P West asked whether the enhancement of the DCP will provide stricter standards which will need to be addressed when completing biodiversity assessment during development application process.

Director Development Services explained there would be an interim biodiversity policy outlining items that must be considered in application and how these must be assessed.

RECOMMENDATION

Mr S Nugent/Mr N King

That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the verbal reports provided by the Priority Project Teams.

3.3 ADAPT NSW FORUM

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/59

RECOMMENDATION**Cr M McDonell/Mr C Smith**

That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledges the report provided by Council's Sustainability Officer on the AdaptNSW Forum.

3.4 COMMUNITY ENERGY UPGRADES FUND

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/58

RECOMMENDATION**Mr S Nugent/Mr M Stacey**

That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledges the verbal report provided by Council's Sustainability Officer.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9:37AM.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

16 FEBRUARY 2024

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that an **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCILLORS WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE** on **Friday, 16 February 2024** commencing at **8:00 AM**.

David Waddell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Eli Todman on 6393 8208.

AGENDA

EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of an emergency, the building may be evacuated. You will be required to vacate the building. The Committee Clerk will now identify the emergency muster point.

Under no circumstances is anyone permitted to re-enter the building until the all clear has been given and the area deemed safe by authorised personnel.

In the event of an evacuation, a member of Council staff will assist any member of the public with a disability to vacate the building.

1	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	Apologies and Leave of Absence	3
1.2	Acknowledgement of Country.....	3
1.3	Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests.....	3
2	PREVIOUS MINUTES	4
2.1	Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee held on 03 November 2023	5
3	GENERAL REPORTS	9
3.1	Chair Report.....	9
3.2	Priority Project Groups - update	11
3.3	Adapt NSW Forum	21
3.4	Community Energy Upgrades Fund.....	27

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**16 FEBRUARY 2024**

1 INTRODUCTION**MEMBERS**

Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Cr M McDonell, Dr Vikas Mittal, Mr Peter West, Mr Robert Alford, Mr Nick King, Mr Anthony Doyle, Mr Andrew Kennedy, Mr Stephen Nugent, Mr Granton Smith, Mr Ronald Finch, Ms Bev Williams, Mr George Bate, Mr Reg Kidd, Mr Malcolm Stacey, Ms Shahreen Alford, Ms Jennifer Wickham, Ms Amanda Lockwood, Ms Jennifer Lacey, Mr Cyril Smith, Director Development Services, Manager Building and Environment, Water Treatment Manager, Manager City Presentation, Manager Waste Services and Technical Support, Water and Sewerage Strategic Manager

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the people of the Wiradjuri Nation. I pay my respects to Elders past and present, and extend those respects to Aboriginal Peoples of Orange and surrounds, and Aboriginal people here with us today.

1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) regulate the way in which Councillors and designated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public role.

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee Members now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee at this meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

16 FEBRUARY 2024

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee held on 3 November 2023 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate records of the proceedings of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee meeting held on 3 November 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee held on 3 November 2023

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN COUNCILLORS WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE
ON 3 NOVEMBER 2023
COMMENCING AT 8:02 AM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Mr Peter West, Mr Andrew Kennedy, Mr Stephen Nugent, Ms Bev Williams, Mr Reg Kidd (*Audiovisual Link*), Mr Malcolm Stacey, Ms Amanda Lockwood (*Audiovisual Link*), Ms Jennifer Lacey, Mr Cyril Smith, Director Development Services, Manager Building and Environment, Water Treatment Manager, Water and Sewerage Strategic Manager

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

RESOLVED	Mr A Kennedy/Mr S Nugent
That the apologies be accepted from Cr M McDonell, Mr Nick King, Mr Ronald Finch, Ms Shahreen Alford and Mr Robert Alford for the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee meeting on 3 November 2023.	

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

Nil.

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED	Mr S Nugent/Mr A Kennedy
That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee held on 15 September 2023 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee meeting held on 15 September 2023.	

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 3 NOVEMBER 2023**3 GENERAL REPORTS****3.1 CHAIR REPORT**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/1844

The Chair provided a verbal report on items of interest from recent Council meetings. The ESCC minutes were adopted from 5 May and 16 September meetings. This included the adoption of the ESCC charter, with revised quorum.

Noted Cr Evans supportive of motion for other Community Committees, such as the Economic Development Community Committee, to consider environmental issues.

A report from attendance at the Cities Power Partnership Summit was included in the 3 October Council meeting papers. Covers general themes and specific areas of focus.

During the 17 October Council meeting Cr Mallard moved a motion to develop a heatwave action and communication plan – resolved to use Councils social media to provide information to the community on what they can do during extreme heat.

Sustainable Living Week was underway with a diverse range of events occurring. Commended Rotary for their efforts in organising activities.

Mr A Kennedy asked who decides what items goes to each Community Committee.

The Director Development Services explained members must first identify particular item. It is then recommended to refer to objectives of each Community Committee and determine the most appropriate approach.

RECOMMENDATION**Mr S Nugent/Ms B Williams**

1. That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the verbal report provided by the Chair.
2. That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee Clerk communicate with other Community Committee Clerks to advise of recommendations from previous meetings.

3.2 EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/1445

The Sustainability Officer provided a brief overview of the Emissions Reduction Plan. Highlighted the advised targets for Council to consider and recommended pathways to achieve these. Indicated several action items identified in the Plan were already underway.

RECOMMENDATION**Mr P West/Ms B Williams**

1. That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the report provided by the Sustainability Officer on the Emissions Reduction Plan.
2. That Councils Communication and Engagement Team consider options for electronic messaging in public spaces to disseminate sustainability initiatives and other community information.

Mr R Kidd joined the meeting with the time being 8.37am

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 3 NOVEMBER 2023**3.3 BIODIVERSITY MAPPING**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/1843

The Strategic Planner provided a verbal update on the new DCP and how it approaches sustainability – with particular consideration to biodiversity and riparian land zones. Spoke to the process involved in including the Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Dataset by The Environmental Factor into Council's GIS. The next step will be confirming how this dataset could be considered in the LEP.

Mr R Kidd suggested the expansion of mapping datasets to include issues that threaten biodiversity, such as weeds and feral pests.

Mr C Smith noted the importance of sediment control for subdivisions.

Members are encouraged to use the NSW Governments species sighting website, BioNet Atlas, to record local biodiversity.

Mr P West suggested the Biodiversity subgroup should meet as a priority and further progress issues and limitations, as highlighted during the verbal report. Requested Council's Strategic Planner attend to ensure all concerns addressed and determine where assistance is required.

RECOMMENDATION**Mr P West/Mr M Stacey**

1. That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the verbal report provided by the Strategic Planner on the DCP and biodiversity mapping.
2. That the NSW Government species sighting platform, BioNet Atlas, be circulated to all members.

3.4 WATER SUPPLY - UPDATE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/1889

The Manager of Water and Sewer provided a verbal update and presentation on Orange's water supply:

- Highlighted water security was the critical driver for decision making
- Diversification of water supply infrastructure will play a vital role; this includes stormwater harvesting projects such as the proposed East Orange Harvesting Program
- Introduction of new sources of water supply has further ensured water security
- Water conservation and efficiency, including restrictions, community education and water leakage programs, have assisted in reducing water loss
- There are several strategies in place to enable water security into the future, including:
 - Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy
 - Sub-regional Town Water Strategy
 - Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy

Mr A Kennedy requested presentation to be made available members of the ESCC.

Mr C Smith highlighted rainwater tanks should be considered further in future programs.

The Manager for Water Treatment indicated that rainwater tanks would be included in the scope for the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy, as done in previous years.

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 3 NOVEMBER 2023**RECOMMENDATION**
Williams**Mr M Stacey/Ms B**

1. That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the verbal report provided by Council's Manager of Water and Sewer on Orange's water supply.
2. That the PowerPoint presentation be made available to members of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee.

Mr S Nugent and Mr P West left the meeting with the time being 9.37am

3.5 PRIORITY PROJECT GROUPS - UPDATE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/1845

The Chair provided a verbal update on Climate Action Policy Priority Project Group:

- Will utilise Cities Power Partnership resources
- Electrify 2800 is progressing with memberships now open

In the absence of Sustainable Urban Design Priority Project group convenor, it was understood that the key focus would be supporting the new DCP where required.

Mr C Smith noted the Water Priority Project group focus areas are as per item 3.4.

Mr A Kennedy provided a verbal update on the Biodiversity Priority Project Group activities:

- September was Biodiversity Month, recommendations for participation in 2024 from NSW LLS will be reviewed in November/December
- Plan to meet with Council's Strategic Planner to further discuss DCP and Biodiversity Mapping
- End of November is the Great Southern Bioblitz – Group to discuss involvement
- Members have been contacting local groups to help promote their activities e.g. Summerhill Creek Landcare Group

Mr A Kennedy suggested that the Priority Project Group updates should be the first item on the agenda at the next meeting.

RECOMMENDATION**Mr M Stacey/Mr A Kennedy**

That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the verbal reports provided by the Priority Project Groups.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.53AM.

3 GENERAL REPORTS

3.1 CHAIR REPORT

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/60
AUTHOR: Eli Todman, Sustainability Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Chair will provide a verbal report with feedback on Council’s adoption of Committee recommendations and share any other information relevant to the ESCC.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “9.2. Develop and promote initiatives to reduce water, energy and waste in consultation with the community”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the verbal report provided by the Chair.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**16 FEBRUARY 2024**

3.2 PRIORITY PROJECT GROUPS - UPDATE

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/57

AUTHOR: Eli Todman, Sustainability Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an opportunity for the Priority Project groups to provide a verbal update on current focus areas.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “9.1. Identify and deliver essential water, waste and sewer infrastructure to service the community into the future”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the verbal reports provided by the Priority Project groups.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

ATTACHMENTS

1 ESCC Priority Projects Worksheets - February 2024, D24/8532

PRIORITY PROJECTS (DRAFT)	1. Climate Action Policy
PROJECT SCOPE	Monitor and update
ESCC PROJECT TEAM	<i>Cr Mallard, Cr McDonnell, Robert Alford, Stephen Nugent, Bev Williams, Malcom Stacey, Granton Smith, Cyril Smith</i>
RELEVANT ACTIVITY INCLUDING PARTNERS	<i>Staff Contact: Sustainability Officer (Eli Todman), Manager Building and Environment (Melissa Maccallum)</i>
OCC "Operations"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Complete Rooftop Solar InstallationsProvide input into implementation of battery energy storage systems
OCC Community Strategic Plan and Key Council Policy Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none">"Community Engagement Strategy"Climate Action Policy and Management Plan (Implementation)
Other OCC Community Committees esp. "Trees, Parks & Waterways"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Urban Forest Strategy (Trees Parks and Waterways Community Committee)
Community Education & Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Electrify2800 initiative to support the transition for households from gas to electricity
Energy (Refer to Legacy Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Renewable energy initiativesOCC's 5 pledges to City Power Partnership
Central Tablelands Local Lands Service	
Others:	
PROJECT FOCUS (aka Wshop) 1. MUST DO 2. NICE TO HAVE 3. BENCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Electrify2800

PRIORITY PROJECTS (DRAFT)	2. Sustainable Urban Design
PROJECT SCOPE	Input and review – Including New Development Control Plan
ESCC PROJECT TEAM	<i>Cr McDonnell; Jen Wickham; Bev Williams; Shah Alford; Cyril Smith; Jen Lacey; Malcolm Stacey; Granton Smith</i>
RELEVANT ACTIVITY INCLUDING PARTNERS	<i>Staff Contact: Director Development Services (Mark Hodges)</i> (some examples provided below to start conversation)
OCC "Operations"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2022/23 Development Control Plan Review<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Workshops for ESCC
OCC Community Strategic Plan and Key Council Policy Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Sustainable Growth and respectful planning"
Other OCC Community Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban Forest Strategy (Trees Parks and Waterways Community Committee)
Community Education & Engagement	
Energy (Refer to Legacy Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community power system/planning?
Central Tablelands Local Lands Service	
Others:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Affordable housing• General building design• Heat island planning<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Deep landscaping
PROJECT FOCUS (aka Wishop) 1. MUST DO 2. NICE TO HAVE 3. BENCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban Forest Strategy• 'Fortis Designs' – free resilient building designs.• Federal Government's 'Your Home'

PRIORITY PROJECTS (DRAFT)	3. Water Management
PROJECT SCOPE	See Legacy Report
ESCC PROJECT TEAM	Cyril Smith; Reg Kidd; Ron Finch
	Staff Contact: Water and Sewer Manager (Wayne Beatty); Town Planner (Anu Vishwakarma); Water Treatment Manager (Jon Francis)
RELEVANT ACTIVITY INCLUDING PARTNERS OCC "Operations"	(some examples provided below to start conversation) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESCC Update by Water & Sewer Manager
OCC Community Strategic Plan and Key Council Policy Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan – Update new guideline released by DPE Water December 2022• Flood Plain Policy – Jason Theakstone (engineering service)• BASIX (State legislation)• Local Housing Strategy• Infrastructure Servicing Plans – Water and sewer, Shirelee water supply, North water supply and sewer• Urban Forest Strategy (Trees Parks and Waterways Community Committee)
Other OCC Community Committees esp. "Trees, Parks & Waterways"	
Community Education & Engagement	
Energy (Refer to Legacy Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solar power – at water treatment plant Icely Rd• Energy/water nexus<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Water loss:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Regional water loss management project2. Regional leakage reduction program – (DPE water funded)
Central Tablelands Local Lands Service	
Others:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utilise available tools to investigate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Landcom affordable housing precinct to be a pilot for WSUD◦ Links to Urban Design Group• Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan• Subregional town water supply strategy - Orange City Council, Cabonne Council + Central Tableland Water• Water literacy and education – Aurecon Survey community attitude to alternative water supply• Recycled water use (drinking) – Purified Recycled Water (PRW) Must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WSUD link
PROJECT FOCUS (aka Wishop) 1. MUST DO 2. NICE TO HAVE 3. BENCH	

PRIORITY PROJECTS (DRAFT)	4. Biodiversity
PROJECT SCOPE	See Legacy Report
ESCC PROJECT TEAM	Peter West; Shah Alford; Reg Kidd; Nick King; Jen Lacey; Andrew Kennedy; Stephen Nugent; Malcolm Stacey
RELEVANT ACTIVITY INCLUDING PARTNERS OCC "Operations"	Staff Contact: Manager City Presentation (Nigel Hobden); Town Planner (Craig Mortell) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Biodiversity MappingDevelopment Control Plan
OCC Community Strategic Plan and Key Council Policy Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Local Environmental Management Plan – Update to include Biodiversity Mapping
Other OCC Community Committees esp. "Trees, Parks & Waterways"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Urban Forest Strategy (Trees Parks and Waterways Community Committee)
Community Education & Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Urban Landcare Group
Energy (Refer to Legacy Report)	
Central Tablelands Local Lands Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Urban Landcare Group?FundingLLS "Connecting Woodlands Project"
Others:	
PROJECT FOCUS (aka Wishop) 1. MUST DO 2. NICE TO HAVE 3. BENCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Link to PTWC and Urban Forest PolicyInput into DCP reviewBiodiversity mapping into LEPCommunity education and engagement<ul style="list-style-type: none">Citizen science<ul style="list-style-type: none">Template for citizens to get involved.Promotion of Practical; Summer Hill Creek Care Group; embellishment of creek at back of James Sheahan (Nelson Park)

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

16 FEBRUARY 2024

3.3 ADAPT NSW FORUM

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/59

AUTHOR: Eli Todman, Sustainability Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The NSW Government held the AdaptNSW Forum in Sydney over two days in December 2023. The Forum provided the opportunity to learn and connect with industry leaders in adaptation through presentations, workshops, and networking events.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “9.2. Develop and promote initiatives to reduce water, energy and waste in consultation with the community”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledges the report provided by Council’s Sustainability Officer on the AdaptNSW Forum.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In December 2023, the NSW Government held the AdaptNSW Forum in Sydney. The Forum explored new narratives, transforming systems, scientific and cultural knowledge, and risk management within adaptation. Highlights from the two days are provided in the below report.

The Northern Rivers: adaptation after a disaster

This session focused on how the Northern Rivers is adapting since the floods that hit the region in early 2022. The panel featured Dan Etheridge (Living Lab Northern Rivers), Jamie Simmonds (Reconstruction Authority) and Jean Renouf (Plan C), who each shared their unique experiences in recovery efforts and transformative adaptation.

Key takeaways:

- The Living Lab Northern Rivers created a space in the community where everyone could connect and interact. This was critical in enabling fresh knowledge in response

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**16 FEBRUARY 2024****3.3 Adapt NSW Forum**

to the outdated previous systems in place and breaking down any barriers of communication.

- Dan quoted a resident who said, “the day in 1985 when the sirens first went off in South Lismore was the beginning of the end”. This centralised government system destroyed a community-based approach and put the reliance on technology and state-based decisions.
- Plan C is a resident led initiative aiming to create a more resilient and regenerative community during disaster events.
- One of the major outcomes of the inquiry into the recent floods and fires was the recognition that emergency services do not have the ability to protect and save every individual. This led to Plan C creating Community Carers and Responders (CCRs), which empowers the local community with the necessary skills to provide assistance in disaster events. To become a CCR individuals are required to complete 5 days of free training and complete one community resilience project.

The new frontier of climate adaptation and impacts science

Focusing on the importance of adaptation research in shaping strategies and navigating uncertainty. The session explored how ocean modelling, natural hazards and ecological impacts can be used to drive decisions.

Key takeaways:

- There are different “flavours” of El Nino and La Nina events impacted by sea surface temperatures and influenced significantly by the El Nino Southern Oscillation, Indian Ocean Dipole and Southern Annular Mode.
- Considering all of these factors, along with multi-year data, a more accurate understanding of variability of these events can be recognised.
- Pathway to achieving adaptation for a community includes identifying intervention options, choosing actions to implement and deciding where and when to undertake intervention.
- “The only thing certain is uncertainty”.

What does community led resilience planning really look like?

Communities hold the risk of climate change and are expected to act, so they should be involved in the decisions. Demonstrated the importance of business and government stakeholders actively engaging with the community to ensure values align.

Key takeaways:

- There are multiple levels of engagement, including wide engagement, deep engagement and deepest engagement. Several factors might influence more extensive engagement but there are mitigations and reassurances to address these issues, as demonstrated in the tables below.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

16 FEBRUARY 2024

3.3 Adapt NSW Forum

	Deepest engagement	Deep engagement	Wide engagement
	<i>E.g. Citizens Assembly, Citizens Jury</i>	<i>E.g. Deliberative or Community Panel</i>	<i>E.g. Survey, Drop-in session, Workshop</i>
Representation	Randomly selected from large pool; Stratified to match demographics	Not selected from wide pool; Not fully stratified	Self-selecting
Time (scales with remit)	Sufficient time to critically review info, deliberate and prepare shared, refined recommendations	Sufficient time to review info, deliberate briefly and prepare considered but individualised recommendations	Sufficient time to debate/ discuss each individual's reactive position
Information	Significant brief; Variety of sources; Opportunities to request more info	Less significant brief; Limited sources; Minimal opportunity to request more	Limited to no brief – relies on reactions
Influence	Executive commitment upfront to implement advice to the maximum extent possible	Less senior commitment upfront and/or commitment is only to reflect advice in alternatives developed	No senior commitment upfront and/or commitment is only to 'consult'
Output	Report written by participants; Shared recommendations	Report written by facilitator; Individual positions	Report written by facilitator; Generalised summary of reactive positions

The above was prepared by Iosage Consulting with reference to:

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), (2021), *Innovative Citizen Participation: How Democratic Institutions Catching the Deliberative Wave - Highlights*
- GoodDemocracy Foundation, (2023), *A Guide to involving People*

Concern	Reassurances + Mitigations
Sharing everything we know may scare or anger communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You need to share the risk and proposed measures eventually – better to test these in a constructive process where communities' response can influence your decision-making and wider communications
It will set communities' expectations too high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will set scope, level of influence and non-negotiables You iteratively reality-test participants' recommendations through the process
Recommendations will contradict technical insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are briefed on technical info and their recommendations are tested against them Participants will provide complementary insights (e.g. into their vision, experiences, strengths/vulnerabilities, risk tolerance and priorities)
It's too expensive and reliant on consultants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deep engagement can be scaled to meet most budgets and timelines Costs can be saved (e.g. recruiting from existing databases, reduced workshop hours, online delivery, non-monetary compensation) Deep engagement experts can build capacity for long-term gains
Resources are better spent maximising the number of people engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to resource both wide and deep engagement to achieve resilience outcomes You can maximise the reach of deep engagement by promoting the process and gathering wide inputs into deep deliberations

Compounding impacts of climate change on farming

Combined climate events are having profound impacts on farming in Australia. This session demonstrated the changes occurring in NSW and methods to improve resilience in the face of a changing climate.

Key takeaways:

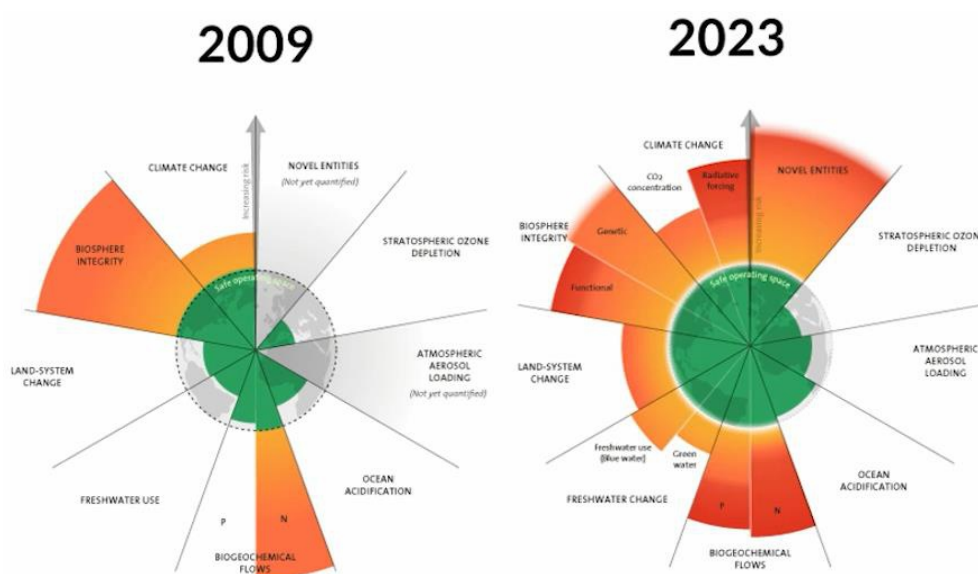
- Droughts have been intensifying and getting longer.
- Large amount of short-term variability within the climate, having major consequences on farmers (particularly food and fibre).
- Department of Primary Industries conducted climate vulnerability assessment for a range of commodities. Temperate fruits (grapes) are likely to be most impacted due to decreased chill and heat impacts close to harvest. Industries may need to consider alternative varieties that require less chill and more heat resistant.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

16 FEBRUARY 2024

3.3 Adapt NSW Forum

- Between 2016 and 2022 there were 27 natural hazard and disaster events on the NSW North Coast.
- 9 in 10 landholders experienced both business and personal impacts. Recovery was compromised by successive events.
- Stockholm Resilience Centre indicates 6 out of 9 planetary boundaries have now been crossed, as per figures below.



3 boundaries crossed

6 boundaries crossed

- Several principles critical in building socio-ecological resilience, including maintaining diversity and managing connectivity.

Climate change and marine ecosystems: threats, opportunities and solutions

Delved into the critical intersections of climate change and marine ecosystems and the complex impacts on coastal communities and biodiversity. The session discussed how research and management strategies are transforming threats to opportunities, better enabling management of ecosystems, and supporting community adaptation.

Key takeaways:

- Floodplain productivity is rapidly declining, not because of high tides coming over levees but low tides aren't allowing their property to drain anymore.
- Blue carbon allows land to adapt to pressures, whilst farmers can remain onsite and generate income.
- Issues with infrastructure in areas prone to flooding and sea-level rise will either be solved by reactive risk-based market (insurance companies) or pro-active and incentivised nature-based market.

Urban Heat: Are we prepared for what the future holds?

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

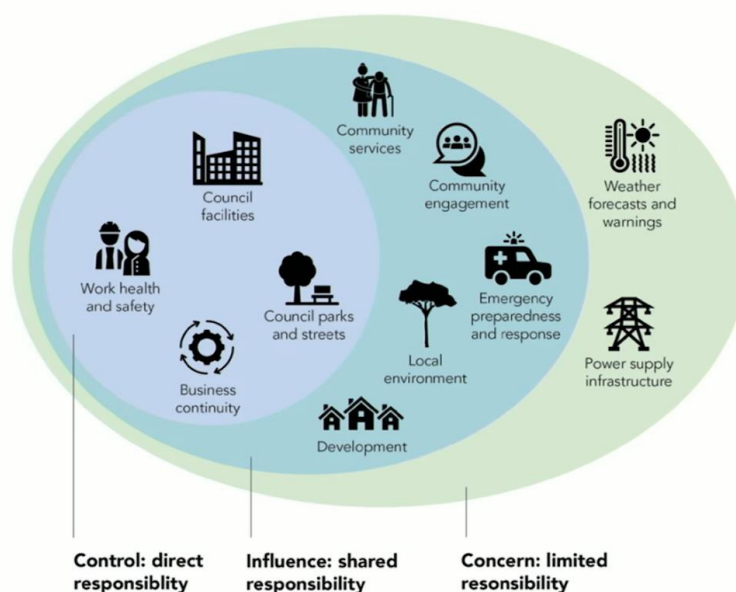
16 FEBRUARY 2024

3.3 Adapt NSW Forum

Urban heat islands continue to present as a major issue for both metropolitan and regional centres. As the climate changes, the issue is being intensified by increasing populations and hard, sealed surfaces along with a lack of vegetation or 'green infrastructure'.

Key takeaways:

- Lake Macquarie City Council provided an overview on their Urban Heat Strategy and Urban Greening Strategy, with two interconnected themes of improving/maintaining liveability and reducing heat through the increase in green cover.
- Heat is a multi-faceted issue including climate, urban heat islands and heatwaves, each requiring different solutions and fit-for-purpose measures
- To successfully manage heat risks there needs to be effective governance, data, policy and people.
- Bushfires and floods have coordinated arrangements in place to measure, mitigate or manage impacts – this is not the case for heatwaves.
- Local Government plays an important role in heat risk management, as outlined in the figure below.



*The role of local government in heat risk management.
Ref: Wollongong City Council Urban Heat Strategy*

Summaries and recordings of each of the presentations and workshops can be found on the AdaptNSW Forum 2023 website.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

16 FEBRUARY 2024

3.4 COMMUNITY ENERGY UPGRADES FUND

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/58
AUTHOR: Eli Todman, Sustainability Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Australian Government currently has a grant opportunity open aimed at reducing greenhouse gases and improving the efficiency of Local Government owned community facilities. The Sustainability Officer will provide a verbal report on how Orange City Council plans to utilise the funding.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “9.2. Develop and promote initiatives to reduce water, energy and waste in consultation with the community”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledges the verbal report provided by Council’s Sustainability Officer.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Community Energy Upgrades Fund will deliver \$100 million over 2 funding rounds and will run over 3 years beginning in 2024-25. The program will contribute to Australia meeting its emission reduction targets of 43% by 2030, net zero emissions by 2050, and support 82% renewable electricity generation by 2030.