



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

9 JULY 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, 9 July 2024**.

David Waddell
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Executive Support on 6393 8391.

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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 7 JUNE 2024

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/1006

AUTHOR: Eli Todman, Sustainability Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee held on 7 June 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

Item 3.3, the ‘Final Report’, is provided by Community Committee members as overview of performance on how Community Committees could be improved. The item identifies opportunities for Council to consider during the induction and operation phases of future committees that form under the next Council.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee at its meeting held on 7 June 2024.**
- 2 That Council determine recommendations 3.3 from the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee meeting of 7 June 2024.**
 - 3.3.1. Request Council review the operation of the current community committees in the context of the Final Report, with the aim of identifying any enhancements to the community process under the next Council.***
- 3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee from its meeting held on 7 June 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 7 June 2024 Minutes
- 2 ESCC 7 June 2024 Agenda, D24/63029 [↓](#)

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

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

ON 7 JUNE 2024

COMMENCING AT 8:03 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 Granton Smith, Ms Bev Williams, Mr Reg Kidd (*Audiovisual Link*), Mr Malcolm Stacey, Ms Shahreen Alford, Ms Jennifer Lacey, Mr Cyril Smith, Director Development Services, Water Treatment Manager (*Audiovisual Link*), Manager Waste Services and Technical Support

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

RECOMMENDATION

Mr S Nugent/Ms B Williams

That the apologies be accepted from Mr Andrew Kennedy for the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee meeting on 7 June 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

RECOMMENDATION

Mr P West/Mr S Nugent

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee held on 5 April 2024 (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 5 April 2024.

Ms A Lockwood entered the meeting with the time being 8.08am

Mr G Smith entered the meeting with the time being 8.13am

Mr R Kidd entered the meeting via audiovisual link with the time being 8.27am

3 GENERAL REPORTS

3.1 CHAIR REPORT

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/798

The Chair provided a verbal report on matters of relevance to the ESCC. The final meeting date for the Committee will be 19 July 2024, to allow Council procedures to take place with upcoming Local Government Elections.

Highlighted recommendations to 7 May Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee meeting were updated upon further review by staff. The updated recommendation included *that a follow-up report be prepared by staff to ESCC and Council on the adequacy of Council's current approach to biodiversity conservation reflecting the concerns raised by ESCC along with the other items listed in the committee's recommendation (including the implications of the 2020 biodiversity mapping and its associated report's recommendations for our LEP and DCP controls).*

Ms S Alford asked what the data gaps were with the 2020 biodiversity mapping.

Question taken on notice by Director Development Services.

RECOMMENDATION

Mr C Smith/Mr N King

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

3.2 PRIORITY PROJECT TEAMS - UPDATE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/799

Climate Action Policy

- Climate Change Management Plan review to take place with Council's Sustainability Officer.
- LGNSW Community Emissions webinar to be circulated to members once available.
- Recommendation to go to Council that the operational Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) be adopted. The ERP was included in the ESCC papers from 3 November 2023. ESCC members encouraged to attend Council meeting on 9 July and support adoption of the ERP.

Sustainable Urban Design

- Opportunity to provide feedback on Redmond Place Strategic Policy and Vision Statement – link sent to Priority Project Team members.
- Greenstar Community under development for Redmond Place, with ambitions for a 6-star rating.
- Urban Forest Strategy currently with Council's design team. Will be placed on 28 days public exhibition once available.

Mr R Alford highlighted the power issues impacting subdivisions to the south of Orange.

Mr R Kidd asked if Council had considered rent to buy options in the Redmond Place development. Suggested Council could pursue a rent to buy policy at the state level.

The Director Development Services explained this model was explored and there are restrictions which limit progressing further. Reiterated affordable housing would make up a minimum of 20% of housing supply in the development.

Water Management

- As per item 3.4.

Biodiversity

- Initial stages of developing a city-wide biodiversity strategic plan or conservation strategy, with an integrated approach and focus on data efficiencies. Currently working on a table of contents for the strategy.
- Intend to consult the Biodiversity Conservation Trust and Local Land Services for advice on developing the strategy.
- The strategy is expected to consider biodiversity threats such as weeds and feral animals.
- Acknowledged the assistance and support from Council's Strategic Planner, Chris Brown.
- Local Land Services have several events planned for biodiversity month in September. Group will meet to confirm involvement.

Mr S Nugent suggested the one-page project overview should be updated and look to include achievements and unfinished business once finalised.

RECOMMENDATION

Mr S Nugent/Ms A Lockwood

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

3.3 ESCC FINAL REPORT 2022-24

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/623

Mr M Stacey spoke to the report. Highlighted importance of induction process for Community Committees in general and for ESCC.

Mr S Nugent reiterated subgroups were to meet prior to the next meeting to populate attachment 3.

RECOMMENDATION**Mr M Stacey/Ms B Williams**

That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee:

1. Acknowledge the contents of the Final Report.
2. Action Attachment 3 as a priority for inclusion in the next committee meeting.
3. Request Council review the operation of the current community committees in the context of the Final Report, with the aim of identifying any enhancements to the community process under the next Council.

Ms B Williams left the meeting with the time being 8.58am

3.4 ORANGE RAW WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM ANNUAL REVIEW 2022-2023

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/677

Ms Shah Alford requested more information on the flow of Summer Hill Creek.

Manager Water Treatment highlighted monitoring already occurring for Summer Hill Creek, information will be circulated to the Committee.

Mr C Smith commended the Manager Water Treatment for the report. Commented on potential issues with the treated effluent arrangement in place with Cadia.

Mr N King recommended the Water Priority Project Team investigate treated effluent supply to Cadia.

RECOMMENDATION**Ms S Alford/Mr C Smith**

That the report by the Manager Water Treatment on Orange Raw Water Supply System Annual Review 2022-2023 be acknowledged.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9:16AM.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

7 JUNE 2024

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David Waddell
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Eli Todman on 6393 8208.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

7 JUNE 2024

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.

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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**7 JUNE 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

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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.

3 GENERAL REPORTS

3.1 EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/996

AUTHOR: Eli Todman, Sustainability Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's adoption of the Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) and the proposed emissions reduction targets. The ERP provides a pathway to reducing the operational greenhouse gas emissions for Orange City Council in order to meet the NSW Government's target of net-zero by 2050. The ERP was reported to the ESCC meeting held on 3 November 2023, with additional time given for feedback from ESCC members. Feedback has been considered and included in the updated draft ERP and this document is reported for Council's consideration.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "8.2. Ensure best practice use of renewable energy options for Council and community projects".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no current estimated value. The Emissions Reduction Plan identifies projects to support budget bids and grant applications.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That the Council adopt the Emissions Reduction Plan.**
- 2 That the Council endorse the Emissions Reduction Targets identified within the Emissions Reduction Plan.**
- 3 That Council publish its emission reduction targets.**

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 April 2021, Council adopted its Climate Change Strategic Policy (ST148) along with an operational Climate Change Management Plan. A key pillar of the plan is an overarching Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) for Council activities which provides the pathway towards net zero and contributes to the NSW Government's emission reduction targets.

Council, via the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO), received \$25,000 from the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (previously the Office of Energy and Climate Change) to assist with the development of the ERP.

3.1 Emissions Reduction Plan

Through previous work with the CNSWJO in the development of similar plans for Bathurst Regional Council and Cabonne Council, a company called “100% Renewables” was engaged to prepare the plan in consultation with key Council stakeholders.

The draft ERP (attachment 1) establishes baseline emissions for FY2020, covering all scope 1 and scope 2 emissions arising from Council activities. Scope 1 emissions are directly generated at Council facilities, such as the burning of natural gas, the production of waste, or driving Council vehicles. Scope 2 emissions are caused indirectly by consuming electricity. These emissions are generated outside of Council, but Council is indirectly responsible for them.

Council’s greenhouse gas emissions in FY2020 were 49,558 t CO₂-e. Over 61% of emissions are due to landfill operations, and 27% are from electricity used to operate Council facilities and streetlighting. Emissions for the last four financial years, including the baseline year, are shown in Table 1.

Council entered the 100% Renewable Power Purchase Agreement with Iberdrola on 1 January 2023 for large energy consuming sites, which resulted in significant emission reductions for both electricity and streetlighting. The significant emission reductions can be seen in Table 1 below.

Landfill emissions were calculated using National Greenhouse Account (NGA) factors based on aggregated waste deposited for the municipality. It is important to realise the NGA factors represent standard emission rates for landfill waste that has minimal recycling and diversion. For many years, Council has been a leader in recycling and diverting organic waste and other materials for its waste streams. Unfortunately, the NGA assumptions do not capture the actual emission reductions achieved by Orange’s diversion efforts. To accurately demonstrate its success, Orange needs to conduct actual emission studies of our landfill operations.

To this end, Council is currently in the process of installing gas biofilters on each of the capped landfill cells at the Euchareena Road Resource Recovery Centre. This will enable accurate emissions data to be captured. It is expected data from this system will be available for review from October 2025, at which point landfill emissions will be updated accordingly. Mitigation methods can then be modelled and implemented as required.

Table 1: Orange City Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 & 2)

Emissions Source	FY20 t CO ₂ -e	FY21 t CO ₂ -e	FY22 t CO ₂ -e	FY23 t CO ₂ -e
Landfill waste (net emissions)	31,849	30,354	31,310	33,189
Electricity (Council assets)	11,425	10,938	8,930	2,653
Fleet fuel - Diesel	1,146	1,019	818	1,284
Wastewater	3,545	4,454	5,217	4,772
Streetlighting	1,982	1,434	1,301	557
Natural gas	808	862	719	508
Green waste	303	300	431	263
Fleet fuel - Petrol	85	81	68	107

3.1 Emissions Reduction Plan

LPG	5	5	0	0
Total emissions	49,558 t CO₂-e	49,447 t CO₂-e	48,795 t CO₂-e	43,332 t CO₂-e

The ERP proposes emissions reduction targets, which are underpinned by recommended actions to enable the targets to be met within the indicated timeframes. Specifically, the proposed targets are:

Net Zero by 2050

- In the first instance, it is recommended that Council commit to aligning with the NSW State Government target of net zero emissions by 2050 or earlier, where cost-effective and feasible abatement measures allow.

Maintain zero-emission electricity until 2030

- Maintain procurement of 100% of Council's electricity from renewable sources until 2030 through the implementation of renewable energy projects and power purchase agreements.

Emissions Reduction in Waste Management and Landfill

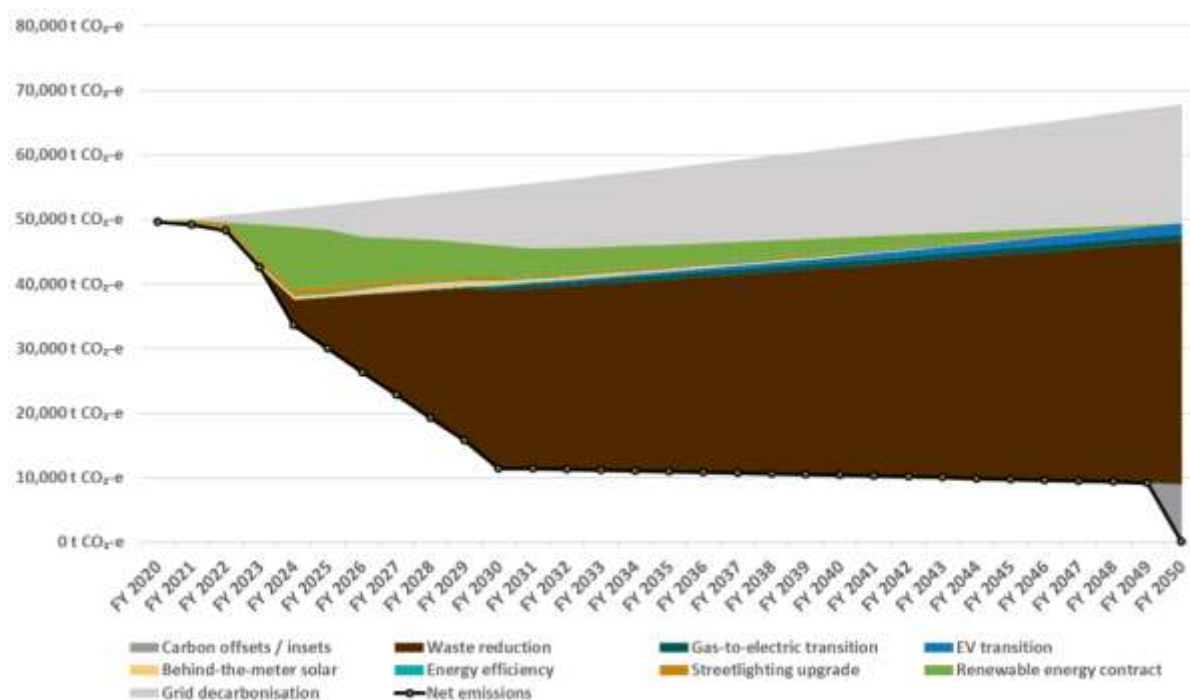
- In-principle commitment to emissions cuts aligned with the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041. This is dependent on regional collaboration and government support to achieve the WSMS emissions reduction targets, recognising the significant challenges facing regional councils in reducing emissions from landfills.

Fossil Fuel Transition

- Commit to transitioning away from fossil fuels and towards clean energy sources as part of the 2050 Net Zero target. This includes adopting renewable energy technologies and minimising reliance on fossil fuels across Council operations, facilities, and infrastructure.

Recommended actions and assumptions in the plan have been modelled and are reflected in Figure 1 to show an emissions road map for Council.

Figure 1: Orange City Council's Emissions Reduction Pathway



3.1 Emissions Reduction Plan

It should be noted that this space is very dynamic and targets at a State or Federal level may change very quickly; for example, the NSW Government's 70% interim emissions reduction target was originally 35% by 2030. Factors that may make the case for changing targets can be legislative, technology-driven (e.g. rapid acceleration in clean hydrogen, falling battery storage and EV costs), funding (e.g. to rapidly transition the waste sector to low emissions and circular economy outcomes), and political (e.g. IPCC changing guidance and international consensus to act, imposition of trade tariffs for high-carbon countries).

Other reasons to review targets may include future decisions to include scope 3 emissions, in upstream energy distribution and in goods and services purchased by Council, and the potential need to evaluate new abatement approaches such as carbon sequestration to achieve Council's targets.

It is therefore recommended that Council review its emissions reduction targets periodically, for example, in line with each Delivery Program Cycle.

Adopting the ERP and the associated targets will further support the success of the Climate Change Management Plan, which has already enabled reductions in Council's emissions profile and operational costs. Table 2 demonstrates some of the major achievements since the adoption of the Climate Change Management Plan in 2021.

Table 2: Climate Change Management Plan major achievements

Project	Estimated Cost Savings (annual)	Energy Reduction (annual)	Emissions Reduction (annual)
100% renewable electricity supply	\$1,524,000	-	10,938 t CO ₂ -e
740kW of solar on council assets	\$177,000	983 MWh	953 t CO ₂ -e
LED streetlighting upgrades	\$410,000	1,309 MWh	1,434 t CO ₂ -e
Wade Park energy upgrades	\$10,000	42 MWh	51 t CO ₂ -e
Total	\$2,121,000	2,334 MWh	12,376 t CO₂-e

The ERP was acknowledged by the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee on 3 November 2023, with positive feedback.

In accordance with s160 Local Government Act 1993, the ERP is not required to go on public exhibition as it is an operational document.

Whilst being an operational document, the implementation of the emissions targets identified within this plan is mandated by both NSW Government Policy and legislation; and is also required by the Actions within Council's Climate Change Management Plan and the Key Performance Indicators in Council's Community Strategic Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 DRAFT Orange City Council Emissions Reduction Plan, D24/63084 [↓](#)

