

MINUTES

Sustainability Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON

MEETING DATE



THURSDAY 29 MARCH 2007

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City of
Joondalup

CITY OF JOONDALUP

MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN CONFERENCE ROOM 2, JOONDALUP CIVIC CENTRE, BOAS AVENUE, JOONDALUP ON THURSDAY 29 MARCH 2007.

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members:

Cr Michele John	Presiding Person	
Cr Sue Hart		
Cr Steve Magyar		
Cr Russ Fishwick		<i>absent 1946 to 1948 hrs</i>
Mr John Willett	Community Rep	
Mr Brett Dorney	West Coast TAFE	
Mr Dennis Godley	Community Rep	<i>to 1933 hrs</i>
Ms Wendy Herbert	Community Rep	

Officers

Mr Ian Cowie	Director, Governance & Strategy
Ms Rhonda Hardy	Manager, Strategic Development
Mrs Catherine Thompson	Senior Project Officer
Mrs Jill Hewison	Administrative Secretary

In Attendance

Cr Jon Strachan, Fremantle City Council

DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Person declared the meeting open at 1810 hrs.

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr Will Carstairs
Ms Melanie Barter
Ms Ute Goeft

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2007

MOVED Cr Magyar **SECONDED** Cr Fishwick that the minutes of the meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Committee held on Thursday 8 February 2007 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

The Motion was Put and**CARRIED (8/0)**

In favour of the motion: Crs John, Hart, Magyar, Fishwick, Mr John Willett, Mr Brett Dorney, Mr Dennis Godley, Ms Wendy Herbert

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

The Presiding Person gave an update on ICLEI initiatives which the City is participating in. In terms of the Cities for Climate Protection Program, the City has completed Stage 5 and is now commencing Cities for Climate Protection Plus. The Presiding Person noted that twenty two Cities, including the City of Joondalup, are participating in ICLEI's international biodiversity project. The first stage of this project has involved the City preparing a detailed report on its biodiversity which has been sent to ICLEI coordinators in South Africa. Finally, a report will be presented to the April Council meeting in regard to the City joining ICLEI's water campaign to reduce water consumption.

The Presiding Person praised the City's efforts on the native flora however expressed a view that there needed to be a greater focus on fauna.

The Presiding Person introduced Cr Jon Strachan, City of Fremantle, and gave a brief overview of his background.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

IDENTIFICATION OF MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY SIT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

Presentation by Cr Jon Strachan, on the City of Fremantle's adoption of the Kyoto protocol

Cr Strachan gave a powerpoint presentation on Kyoto (an international agreement on Global Warming) to the Committee (attachment 1 refers). The presentation covered global warming, the ozone layer and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

At the conclusion of the presentation a number of questions were raised.

The Presiding Person thanked Cr Strachan for his presentation.

REPORTS

ITEM 1 **SETTING MEETING DATES - [00906]**

WARD: All

RESPONSIBLE Mr Ian Cowie
DIRECTOR: Governance and Strategy

PURPOSE/ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) with options on the meeting cycle for the Committee.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 8 February 2007 the Committee requested the following for future consideration:

Report relating to the setting of meeting dates of the Sustainability Advisory Committee, providing options on whether meetings should be set on an 8-week cycle or held on an as-needs basis at the discretion of the presiding person.

DETAILS

Current Schedule of Meeting Dates for the SAC

The following are the current dates that were set at the meeting on 19 October 2006. These dates for meetings of the SAC for 2006/07 were scheduled at approximately four – six week intervals, excluding the month of January and the Easter period.

- 24 May 2007
- 14 June 2007
- 12 July 2007

Suggested Schedule of Meeting Dates for the SAC

The following dates are a suggestion to replace the above dates should the Committee agree to set an 8-week cycle for future meetings:

- 24 May 2007
- 19 July 2007
- 13 September 2007

Should the Committee decide on future meeting dates being held at the discretion of the presiding person, a number of factors will need to be taken into account.

- How agenda items will be set
- Coordination of the notice of meetings
- Availability and flexibility of Committee members to attend ad-hoc meeting dates

Link to Strategic Plan:

Not Applicable.

Legislation – Statutory Provisions:

Not Applicable.

Risk Management Considerations:

Not Applicable

Financial/Budget Implications:

Not Applicable

Policy Implications:

Not Applicable.

Regional Significance:

Not Applicable.

Sustainability Implications:

Not Applicable.

COMMENT

Not Applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

None

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple majority

MOVED Cr Hart **SECONDED** Cr Fishwick that the Sustainability Advisory Committee **APPROVES** an eight weekly meeting cycle with the meeting dates for 2007 to be as follows:

- 24 May 2007
- 19 July 2007
- 13 September 2007

The Motion was Put and**CARRIED (7/1)**

In favour of the Motion: Crs John, Hart, Fishwick, Mr John Willett, Mr Brett Dorney, Mr Dennis Godley, Ms Wendy Herbert **Against the Motion:** Cr Magyar

ITEM 2 A CLEANER ENERGY FUTURE FOR WA

WARD: All

RESPONSIBLE Mr Ian Cowie
DIRECTOR: Governance and Strategy

PURPOSE/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) with an overview of the 'A Cleaner Energy Future for WA' report. This provides advice to the Western Australian Government on practical and economically feasible ways to manage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

BACKGROUND

On 30 May 2005, the Western Australian Environment and Science Minister Judy Edwards announced a high-level taskforce to help Western Australia 'make a substantial leap forward in its approach to managing greenhouse gas emissions'. A Greenhouse and Energy Taskforce was established and chaired by Dr Roy Green AO, FTSE.

On 5 February 2007, the Premier of WA released the Taskforce's report.

DETAILS

The report of the Greenhouse and Energy Taskforce makes 14 recommendations (see attachment 1 to this report) on practical and economically feasible ways to manage greenhouse gas emissions from the stationary energy sector which will be incorporated into the State's forthcoming Climate Action Plan. A complete copy of the report is available online at <http://www.dec.wa.gov.au>.

While the report is positive and outlines a way forward for Western Australia through climate change uncertainty, there is some disregard for the work already undertaken by Local Governments in WA. The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) believes that this calls for comment and invites Local Government to read and consider the report and to provide feedback to WALGA.

Link to Strategic Plan:

Objective 2.1 - To plan and manage our natural resources to ensure environmental sustainability.

Legislation – Statutory Provisions:

Not applicable.

Risk Management Considerations:

Not applicable.

Financial/Budget Implications:

Not applicable.

Policy Implications:

This topic is generally linked to the City's Sustainability Policies.

Regional Significance:

Not applicable.

Sustainability Implications:

The effective and efficient management of greenhouse gas emissions is a key sustainability issue for Council.

Consultation:

Not applicable.

COMMENT

A key issue for the City of Joondalup is reducing its level of greenhouse emissions. The City is taking many actions to reduce its production of greenhouse gas emissions through participation in the ICLEI - Cities for Climate Protection Program (CCP).

The purpose of this program is to reduce corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions through a planned approach that is measured and quantified. The City has been participating in the ICLEI CCP program since 1999 and achieved milestone 5 of the program in 2006, which means the City was able to reduce its emissions in excess of the target that was set.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Executive Summary of 'A Cleaner Energy Future' report.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Sustainability Advisory Committee:

1. NOTES the recommendations made by the Greenhouse and Energy Taskforce in the 'A Cleaner Energy Future' report to the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Energy.

2. Provides COMMENT to Council on the report's recommendations in relation to the work already undertaken by the City of Joondalup in the greenhouse gas emission area and REQUESTS Council to provide these comments to WALGA.

Mr Dennis Godley left the Room the time being 1933 hrs.

Cr Fishwick left the Room at 1946 hrs and returned at 1948 hrs.

MOVED Cr Magyar SECONDED Cr Fishwick that the Sustainability Advisory Committee:

- 1 **NOTES the recommendations made by the Greenhouse and Energy Taskforce in the 'A Clearer Energy Future' report to the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Energy;**
- 2 **ADVISES Council that it should provide WALGA with the following comments associated with the Report following WALGA's request for feedback:**
 - (a) **Congratulate the State Government on taking the first step towards addressing the greenhouse issue through the Report entitled 'A Cleaner Energy Future for WA';**
 - (b) **Express concern at the lack of regulatory direction in the Report;**
 - (c) **Express a desire for the State Government to provide greater financial support to local government in its initiatives in the area of cleaner energy which have been significant;**
 - (d) **Encourage WALGA to promote local governments' achievements in the area of cleaner energy through an educational campaign to show the community how well local government as a sector is doing in this area;**
 - (e) **Express a desire for a greater focus on the production and utilisation of biofuels in the Report;**
 - (f) **Express disappointment that the Report does not provide a greater focus on solar power. Such a focus could include the idea of subsidies or support for the approach taken by Japan to promote solar power;**
- 3 **SUGGESTS to Council that item (d) of this response, in particular, be raised at the next meeting of the North Zone of WALGA.**

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (7/0)

In favour of the Motion: Crs John, Hart, Magyar, Fishwick, Mr John Willett, Mr Brett Dorney, Ms Wendy Herbert

MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**NOTICE OF MOTION – CR S MAGYAR – PEAK OIL**

In accordance with Clause 26 of Standing Orders Local Law 2005, Cr S Magyar has given notice of his intention to move the following motion at the Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting to be held on 29 March 2007:

“That the Sustainability Advisory Committee advises Council that:

1. peak oil is a major issue that affects all aspects of lifestyle, operations and sustainability of the City of Joondalup and its residents;
2. Council has a responsibility to address the strategic planning implications of peak oil;
3. the first step in strategically dealing with peak oil is for Council to adopt the “Oil Depletion Protocol”;
4. Council adopts the “City of Joondalup Oil Depletion Protocol”:

“The City of Joondalup acknowledges that:

History has recorded an increasing pace of change, such that the demand for energy has grown rapidly in parallel with the world population over the past two hundred years since the Industrial Revolution;

Energy supply required by the population has come mainly from coal and petroleum, such resources having been formed but rarely in the geological past and being inevitably subject to depletion;

Oil provides ninety percent of transport fuel, is essential to trade, and plays a critical role in the agriculture needed to feed the expanding population;

Oil is unevenly distributed on the Planet for well-understood geological reasons, with much being concentrated in five countries bordering the Persian Gulf;

All the major reproductive provinces of the World have been identified with the help of advanced technology and growing geological knowledge, it being now evident that discovery reached a peak in the 1960s, despite technological progress and a diligent search;

The past peak of discovery inevitably leads to a corresponding peak in production during the first decade of the 21st Century, assuming no radical decline in demand;

The onset of the decline of this critical resource affects all aspects of modern life, such having grave political and geopolitical implications;

It is expedient to plan an orderly transition to the new World environment of reduced energy supply, making early provisions to avoid the waste of

energy, stimulate the entry of substitute energies, and extend the life of the remaining oil;

It is desirable to meet the challenges so arising in a co-operative and equitable manner, such to address related climate change concerns, economic and financial stability, and the threats of conflicts for access to critical resources.

The City of Joondalup supports:

Calling a convention of nations to consider the issue with a view to agreeing an Accord with the following objectives:

- to avoid profiteering from shortage, such that oil prices may remain in reasonable relationship with production cost;
- to allow poor countries to afford their imports;
- to avoid destabilising financial flows arising from excessive oil prices;
- to encourage consumers to avoid waste;
- to stimulate the development of alternative energies.

The Accord shall have the following outline provisions:

- The world and every nation shall aim to reduce oil consumption by at least the world depletion rate.
- No country shall produce oil at above its present depletion rate.
- No country shall import at above the world depletion rate.
- The depletion rate is defined as annual production as a percent of what is left (reserves plus yet-to-find).
- The preceding provisions refer to regular conventional oil – which category excludes heavy oils with cut-off of 17.5 API, deepwater oil with a cut-off of 500 meters, polar oil, gas liquids from gas fields, tar sands, oil shale, oil from coal, biofuels such as ethanol, etc.

Detailed provisions shall cover the definition of the several categories of oil, exemptions and qualifications, and the scientific procedures for the estimation of Depletion Rate.

The signatory countries shall co-operate in providing information on their reserves, allowing full technical audit, such that the Depletion Rate may be accurately determined.

The signatory countries shall have the right to appeal their assessed Depletion Rate in the event of changed circumstances.

The City of Joondalup shall:

1. examine all its operations to find ways to reduce the City's oil consumption by 3% per year;
2. examine its District Planning Scheme to find ways to enable the residents of the City to reduce their oil consumption by 3% per year;
3. include in its Annual Report progress on achieving the 3% reduction in its operations and the 3% reduction of its residents;

4. work with other local governments and the other levels of government to assist achieving a world wide reduction of 3% per year.

REASONS FOR MOTION:

Cr Magyar submitted the following comments in support of his motion:

“The problem of peak oil is a risk management problem well explained in the report “Peaking Of World Oil Production: Impacts, Mitigation, & Risk Management”, February 2005. Although the report was produced for the United States Government, the problems are very similar for both Australia and the United States. Therefore, the executive summary (as per Attachment 1 to this report) explains why peak oil is a major issue to be addressed by the City of Joondalup and every local government globally.”

Officer’s Comment

This Notice of Motion raises a range of issues and each is addressed in turn.

1. It requests SAC to advise Council that peak oil is a major issue.

Response:

This has already been done. At its meeting of 8 February 2007, SAC resolved to “advise Council that the issue of peak oil has major implications for the lifestyle of the residents of the City of Joondalup”. It also agreed to advise Council that “peak oil has major implications for the sustainability of the City”. These resolutions will be presented to Council on 27 March 2007.

2. It requests SAC to advise Council that Council has a responsibility to address the strategic planning implications of peak oil.

Response:

This has already been done. At its meeting of 8 February 2007, SAC resolved to “advise Council that addressing peak oil should be a major consideration in strategic planning for the City of Joondalup”. This resolution will be presented to Council on 27 March 2007.

3. It requests SAC to advise Council that Council should adopt the “Oil Depletion Protocol”.

Response:

At its meeting of 8 February 2007, SAC resolved to seek Council support to examine the potential for the City to adopt the “Oil Depletion Protocol”. It was proposed that, once Council receives and accepts the minutes of the SAC meeting of 8 February 2007, a report on the “Oil Depletion Protocol” would be prepared.

This Notice of Motion runs counter to the position accepted by SAC which involves the preparation of a report on the Protocol.

4. It requests SAC to advise the Council to adopt the “Oil Depletion Protocol” now and presents the wording of the Protocol to be adopted.

Response:

Here it is noted that the Protocol wording covers many issues and a commentary is provided on the relevant paragraphs below.

- Paragraphs 1-4 appear reasonable and can be supported.
- Paragraph 5 indicates that all the major productive provinces for oil in the world have been identified. While this may be true, this has not been confirmed. Consequently, it is debatable whether the City should acknowledge this statement. In this regard, consideration should be given to Recommendation 1 of the Senate Standing Committee Report which recognises the need to act in relation to oil depletion but supports further investigation of supply potential.
- Paragraph 6 indicates a peak in production during the first decade of the 21st Century. This comment is not supported by the quotations which are given in the ‘Reasons for Motion’ section. For instance, the Hirsch et al report notes that “when world oil peaking will occur is not known with certainty”. The Senate Standing Committee note that the International Energy Agency have estimated that “a peak of conventional oil production (may occur) between 2013 and 2037 depending on assumptions”. Further, the Portland Study notes that “predictions for the year oil production will peak range from present day until 2040”. Consequently, it would appear inappropriate for the City to acknowledge that a peak in oil production will occur in the first decade of the 21st Century.
- Paragraph 7 appears reasonable and can be supported.
- Paragraph 8 talks about planning an orderly transition to reduced energy supply. Here, comment is made about avoiding the waste of energy. This concept would appear reasonable whether peak oil has been reached or not. Equally, stimulating the entry of substitute energies is currently being debated and is occurring nationally. The Senate Standing Committee Report also recognises the need to explore alternative energy sources through recommendations 3, 4 and 5. The City of Joondalup has also commenced a range of initiatives to achieve energy savings.
- Paragraph 9 mentions the desirability of meeting the challenges of peak oil in a co-operative and equitable manner. While this appears desirable from an Australian perspective, this may not be the view of all members within the global community.
- The accord itself raises some interesting philosophical issues. For instance, the accord seeks to avoid profiteering from oil shortage. While this may be desirable from an Australian perspective as an oil importer, it is not necessarily desirable from an oil producer’s perspective. Indeed, just about every society in the world operates under an economic system which supports market operations and therefore profiteering.

The accord also focuses on allowing poor countries to afford their imports of oil. There is a vast array of problems facing poor countries. Oil might be critical to western societies; it is not as critical in many third world countries where alternative modes of transportation necessarily exists. Should Council be concerned with the situation facing poor countries, there are potentially other and more appropriate ways of supporting such nations.

The stability of financial flows depends on a range of things. Again, stabilising flows supports the status quo and those that are wealthy under the current system. In effect, such outcomes support Australia.

The accord's aspiration that a nation should aim to reduce oil consumption by at least the world depletion rate is noble from an Australian or developed world perspective. However, developing countries need to consume more oil under current technological limitations to support their development. The depletion rate is also likely to be highly controversial as it relates to reserves plus oil "yet to be found" which will be subjective, no matter what auditing regimes are put in place.

The protocol's accord presented in the Notice of Motion indicates that signatory countries will have the right to appeal their assessed depletion rate. Appeal processes are not explained however.

The Notice of Motion also raises four points specifically directed to the City of Joondalup. Before addressing these, it is considered desirable to evaluate the recommendations of the Senate Standing Committee and the Portland report which are provided in the Reasons for Motion.

Senate Standing Committee

Recommendation 1 – That relevant bodies within Australia reassess estimates of future oil supply and report to the Commonwealth on the probabilities and risks involved.

Response:

This recommendation is considered worthy of support. This issue is most directly relevant to the Commonwealth Government and it is important that it has the best information available.

Recommendation 6 – This recommendation supports further investigation into trends in the fuel efficiency of light vehicles and passenger cars. It indicates the potential for a mandatory code in this area.

Response:

Here, a crucial question is whether supply is leading demand for specific types of vehicles or whether demand is leading supply. Whatever the case, while there are increasing sales of small vehicles, there are also, in WA at least, increasing sales of larger vehicles and SUVs. A mandatory code for fuel efficiency is one way of increasing efficiency, although it constrains choice within the limits set.

Recommendation 8 – This recommendation relates to TravelSmart projects.

Response:

The City is now participating in the TravelSmart program in conjunction with the State Government. The maintenance of such programs is considered valuable.

Portland Report

The Portland Report begins by stating that “every day, businesses, government agencies and households around the world plan and make decision based on the assumption that oil and natural gas will remain plentiful and affordable”. This quotation can be questioned in Western Australia. Actions at Commonwealth, State and local government levels all indicate a growing awareness about the negative effects of burning oil and coal and potential supply constraints in the future.

The Portland Report provides 11 recommendations and the comments within the Reasons for Motion note that “the Portland document is a good example of what the City of Joondalup should be doing”.

Each recommendation is therefore considered in turn to assess its relevance for Australia and Joondalup.

1. *Reduce oil and natural gas consumption by 50 percent over the next 25 years:*

This target will only be achieved with the involvement of the Commonwealth and State Government.

2. *Educate citizens about peak oil and foster community and community-based solutions:*

Educating citizens in this regard is principally a Commonwealth and State Government role.

3. *Engage business, government and community leaders to initiate planning and policy change:*

The City of Joondalup is undertaking such change. It has a Sustainability Policy, has a Sustainability Advisory Committee, has a Greenhouse Action Plan and is developing a new Strategic Plan and an Environmental Plan, to name but a few. Through its planning initiatives, the City has achieved significant savings in energy use.

4. *Support land use patterns that reduce transportation needs, promote walkability and provide easy access to services and transportation options:*

The State Government’s “Network City” initiative is designed to achieve this outcome. The review of DPS2 can consider these initiatives if Council so wishes.

5. *Design infrastructure to promote transportation options, facilitate efficient movement of freight and prevent stranded investments:*

This recommendation appears to relate to major transportation options and freight movement. Such movements generally do not occur along local roads which are the responsibility of local government. Consequently, it is seen as principally a State Government responsibility but also a Commonwealth responsibility.

6. *Encourage energy-efficient and renewable transportation choices:*

This is occurring, as the City:

- reduces the size of its fleet;
- reduces the cylinder capacity of its fleet;
- introduces hybrid vehicles into its fleet;
- operates the CAT transportation system for the CBD area;
- supports cycling and alternative travel arrangements through its TravelSmart initiative and its bike plan.

7. *Expand building energy-efficiency programs and incentives:*

This is principally occurring at the Commonwealth and State level. For instance, the Australian Building Codes Board has introduced environmental considerations into the Building Code of Australia; the building industry has developed a Green Smart rating system and the State Government is looking to develop the BASIXs system to require energy efficient building.

8. *Preserve farmland and expand local food production and processing:*

This does not relate to the City of Joondalup.

9. *Identify and promote sustainable business opportunities:*

The City is supporting the Eco Business initiative to achieve this outcome as well as encouraging Eco Tourism.

10. *Redesign the safety net and protect vulnerable and marginalised populations:*

This is principally a State and Commonwealth Government responsibility.

11. *Prepare emergency plans for sudden and severe shortages:*

This is principally a State and Commonwealth Government responsibility although the City has specific Emergency Management Plans for a variety of situations.

Each of the four points within the Notice of Motion which are addressed to the City are now considered below.

- 1. *The City should examine all its operations to find ways to reduce the City's oil consumption by 3% per year.***

Response:

The City's Greenhouse Action Plan considers oil consumption in part and seeks to reduce consumption. This Plan is currently being updated. The Council also adopted the Green Motoring Guide which is a national manual to assist organisations improve fleet management from a 'green' perspective.

There would be resource implications associated with identifying new ways to reduce oil consumption and maintaining an accurate measure of the consumption savings achieved.

- 2. *The City examine its District Planning Scheme to find ways to enable residents to reduce their oil consumption by 3% per year.***

Response:

While the Planning Scheme clearly controls and influences behaviour, it is considered almost impossible to measure specific consumption reductions which arise. However, the City's Greenhouse Action Plan, the Green Transport Plan and TravelSmart Household all contain measurable targets.

- 3. *The City report on its achievements in relation to the 3% reductions in its Annual Report.***

Response:

Progress is and will, in future, be reported against plans which contain measurable actions.

- 4. *That the City work with other local governments and other governments to achieve a worldwide reduction of 3% per year.***

Response:

The City continues to work with other local governments where possible. Whether this will directly achieve a worldwide reduction of 3% in consumption per year is debatable.

It should be noted that the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI) has been established by local governments to 'lead the charge' on worldwide initiatives. The City actively participates in a range of ICLEI programs. It would appear inappropriate and ineffective for the City of Joondalup to take on the role for which ICLEI was formed.

MOVED Cr John SECONDED Cr Hart that the Notice of Motion be DEFERRED until the Sustainability Advisory Committee is in receipt of the Oil Depletion Report from the Officers.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (6/1)

In favour of the Motion: Crs John, Hart, Fishwick, Mr John Willett, Mr Brett Dorney, Mrs Wendy Herbert **Against the Motion:** Cr Magyar

The Presiding Person thanked Cr Magyar for all his efforts on this item.

REQUESTS FOR REPORTS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Reports were requested on:

- Oil Depletion Protocol
- Potential to enhance bike paths and bike trails with a view to a presentation by the TravelSmart officer

The Presiding Person tabled a Media statement from the Premier's office regarding a "Funding Boost for climate change" and requested that this be attached to the Minutes (refer Attachment 2)

CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Presiding Person declared the Meeting closed at 2007 hrs; the following committee members being present at that time:

Cr Michele John
Cr Sue Hart
Cr Steve Magyar
Cr Russ Fishwick
Mr John Willett
Mr Brett Dorney
Ms Wendy Herbert

Climate change, Kyoto & Governance. The Fremantle experience.



- The road to here.
- The awakening.
- The role of Local Government.
- Kyoto.
- The Fremantle Motion.
- Our children's future.
- Questions.



The road to here.

- A decade ago the popular media started reporting on Ozone depletion & the Greenhouse effect.
- While they are linked as causes of 'radiative forcing' they are 2 separate phenomenon.
- Many people confused the two & their causes.
- Most found the concepts hard to grasp and felt the reports were the work of radical Green groups.
- The reports were in fact based on scientific research that had been peer reviewed and published.

Ozone Depletion



- The Ozone Layer is a thin section of atmosphere that works as the world's sun-block.
- It was being depleted by a group of chemicals used as refrigerant gases & propellants for aerosols.
- A global effort has seen Arcton 22, Freon 22 & their chlorofluorocarbon cousins all but eradicated.
- The Ozone depletion has been halted which averted a global catastrophe.
- We need the same global effort to address Global Warming.



Global Warming



- Of Equal significance to Ozone Depletion is Global Warming.
- This is caused by another layer in the atmosphere acting as the Earth's blanket becoming too efficient.
- The effect is greatest at the poles. Average Arctic temperature increases are almost twice the global average in last century.
- The gasses mainly responsible are Methane & CO₂. We have to reduce emissions of these as a matter of urgency.
- Again the research is conclusive peer reviewed published work.



The awakening.

- Without doubt, “An Inconvenient Truth” has been the catalyst for the social turn around on Global Warming.
- Before the film the believers and sceptics shared the debate equally.
- 8 months later a sceptic is seen as a member of the flat earth society.
- It seems every media has to report at least one global warming story each day.
- A new Political coalition contested the NSW State election, CCC fielded 21 candidates in the upper house.



The role of Local Government.

- Local Government has three distinct roles to play.
- 1. We must reduce our own Greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2. We need to use our role as legislators to create change in society.
- 3. We need to assert our leadership role to create change in society.

How Fremantle Council reduces Greenhouse gas emissions.



- Switched to Alinta power
- Continue commitment to:
 - CCP.
 - 'Zero waste' to landfill through;
 - Regional Council (RRRC).
 - 'Wipe Out Waste' (WOW).
- 'Living Smart'.
- Sustainable Procurement Policy, including Bio-fuels.
- Funding Local CAT bus service.
- Adopted Kyoto.



Fremantle Council 'the legislator'..

- Has developed a 'Sustainability Index' for development.
- Is investigating Parking concessions for 'Energy efficient' vehicles.
- Supports Community Greenhouse Project.
- Has a commitment to 'Sustainability' in the Strategic Plan.
- Supports WALGA to lobby State and Federal Government.
- Adopted Kyoto 25 Oct 2006 .

Council 'the leader' can..

Encourage business Commitment to Kyoto with a Public Register.

Promote a save energy, save the planet & save money mindset.

Promote installation of Solar panels.

Assist the community through initiatives such as

- 'Living Smart'
- Development of a 'Sustainable House'
- Joining 'Make the switch'

Adopt Kyoto

Encourage other Councils to Adopt Kyoto





What other Council's are doing.

- The Mayor of Waverley (NSW) proposed a 'Mayors for Climate Protection' Agreement.
- King Island (Tas) moved to Adopt Kyoto and requested a report on how they can become Carbon Neutral.
- Leichhardt (NSW) has installed tide markers.
- Bendigo is working with the Business Council on sustainable energy.
- Many Councils have created positions for Sustainability Officers and formed committees on Climate Change.
- There are lots of 'notices of motion' to Adopt Kyoto.



Why is Kyoto so important?

- Kyoto is the ONLY international agreement on Global Warming. Adoption would get Australia to the table.
- While it may not be the perfect solution, rejecting Kyoto would be like a drowning person rejecting a life raft on the grounds that a better one may come along...
- By Adopting Kyoto Council tells the Federal Government you want them to act.
- By Adopting Kyoto Council tells it's community it is serious about Global Warming.
- By Adopting Kyoto Council stands up to be counted.



Why must Councils Support Kyoto?

- USA & Australia are the most significant industrialised western nations to refuse to sign Kyoto.
- In the absence of Federal government leadership other levels of Australian government need to act.
- The USA City of Seattle lead the way in the US in committing to Kyoto. 200+ Councils followed their lead, resulting in a powerful lobby group making real changes.
- "...and we're seeing at a local government level, recognition that there's a problem that demands our urgent attention" *Prof. Ian Lowe*
- Councils have a responsibility to act.

Kyoto Protocol



- "The Kyoto Protocol is an agreement made under the U.N. convention on climate change (UNFCCC). Countries that ratify this protocol commit to reduce their emissions of CO² & 5 other greenhouse gasses (*reduction of 5.2% of 1990 levels by 2012*) or engage in emissions trading if they maintain or increase emissions of these gasses. The Kyoto protocol now covers more than 160 countries globally (*not Australia or USA*) & over 55% of greenhouse gas emissions." *Wikipedia*
- The 1997 Kyoto agreement was again ratified in Johannesburg in 2004.



Motion to Fremantle Council

- The motion was stimulated by community debate.
- I took my draft report to the Director of Corporate services.
- Initially I wanted to take a comprehensive motion to Council. Following advice from our officers it became:
 - Firstly, a commitment to Adopt Kyoto.
 - Secondly, a request for reports to be brought to Council outlining how Kyoto targets will be achieved followed by progress reports.
- I presented a PowerPoint to EM's at an informal meeting so they could be better informed about the item.
- Motion passed 10 - 1 on 25th October 2006



How Fremantle Council 'the organisation' will reduce emissions.

- Central to the motion is our Commitment to reduce emissions
- Our Environmental Officer will:-
 - Determine emission levels for 1990.
 - Calculate maximum emissions for 2012 under Kyoto.
 - Establish current emission levels.
 - Implement strategies to fulfil commitment to Kyoto.
- Fremantle is well positioned due to:-
 - Membership of 'Cities for climate protection' (CCP)
 - Wipe out waste (WOW)
 - Commitment and professionalism of our Environmental Officer.

Need more convincing?



- "Global warming and climate change can no longer be put off and ignored as a fad of some wild scientists". *Nick Ford-Kelcey Marsh insurance*
- "there will be no polar bears by 2020" and "A 1^o increase in temp. will wipe out 80% of the barrier reef". *Tim Flannery Author The Weather makers*
- "11 of the last 12 years rank among the 12 warmest for global surface temp. since records began in 1850" *IPCC report Feb '07*
- "Climate change could shrink the world economy by 20%" . *Nicholas Stern*
- "Terrorism is not the greatest threat to Western society, Global Warming is". *Al Gore*

Impact of 3 metre sea rise on Fremantle CBD.





The future.



- Look forward to and support an updated Kyoto Agreement that reflects the new evidence.
- See the opportunities. As coastal dwellers we have a big incentive to act, and an abundance of renewable energy sources.
- Aspire to become Carbon Neutral by 2010
- Use WALGA to lobby other layers of government to act.
- When making decisions base them on the impact on future generations not ours.

If we fail to act.



- Extreme weather events will impact on our infrastructure.
 - Beaches.
 - Drains.
 - Roads.
- Environmental refugees will be a global phenomenon.
- The very sustainability of our communities will be under threat.
- Severe water shortages.
- Future generations will live in a very different world, brought on by our excesses.

The end???

Questions???



ATTACHMENT

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Government of Western Australia
Media Statement



Alan Carpenter MLA

Premier; Minister for Federal-State Relations; Trade;
Innovation; Science; Public Sector Management

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Statement Released: 29-Mar-2007

Portfolio: Premier

Funding boost for climate change

29/03/07

The State Government has committed an extra \$8.6million over the next five years to research climate change and its link to extreme weather events across Western Australia.

Premier Alan Carpenter announced the funding boost prior to attending Australia's first National Climate Change Summit, convened by Federal Labor Leader Kevin Rudd, to be held in Canberra on Saturday.

Mr Carpenter said the funding was part of the State Government's Greenhouse and State Water strategies.

The funding would also be used to identify WA regions most affected by climate change and to provide relevant information so the State could better adapt to the impacts of climate change.

"We recently experienced first-hand the devastating impacts of extreme storms like Cyclone George and with climate change, we have to improve our planning for these events," the Premier said.

"The new funding will extend our knowledge of current and future climate patterns around the State to help us do just that.

"We will effectively be able to look into the future and map temperature and rainfall patterns to improve our knowledge of storms and extreme weather events such as cyclones, floods, droughts and heatwaves.

"The funding will also provide greater knowledge and understanding about significant future changes in climate to ensure effective planning for water supply, agriculture, nature conservation and fire management.

"This information will help community, industry and local governments to better understand the potential risks and opportunities of climate change and improve their decision-making capacity as a result."

Mr Carpenter said the State Government would allocate \$4million to support stage three of the Indian Ocean Climate Initiative (IOCI), a climate research partnership between the State Government, CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology.

Stage three expands earlier strategic research on the South-West and will include new research on the North-West and the development of future regional

climate scenarios.

A further \$4.625million has been committed to identify regions and sectors in WA most vulnerable to climate change impacts and to develop adaptation programs.

The Premier said the IOCI's climate research had already played a major role in Government decision-making.

"It was IOCI research that revealed a 15 per cent decline in winter rainfall in the State's South-West over the past 30 years," he said.

"This research recognised that lower rainfall could be an ongoing feature of the South-West and was a key factor in our decision to build the Perth desalination plant, which now supplies 17 per cent of Perth's drinking water."

The State Government has a range of initiatives designed to address climate change.

These include:

- developing and committing to the introduction of a National Emissions Trading Scheme by 2010;
- investing in renewable energy through our commitment to purchasing 20 per cent of Government's energy requirements from renewable sources by 2010, cutting greenhouse gas emissions by about 90,000 tonnes per year;
- reducing the need for cars by almost doubling the size of the Perth rail network - through building the new southern rail line, taking 25,000 cars off our roads;
- spending more than \$72million on cycling facilities and delivering more than 360km of cycling networks across the State;
- funding for wind farms in Bremer Bay, Coral Bay, Denham, Esperance, Exmouth, Hopetoun, Kalbarri and Rottnest Island;
- setting a six per cent renewable energy target for the South-West Interconnected System;
- procuring the \$400million NewGen Kwinana Power Station, which provides power using gas technology and will produce half as many greenhouse gas emissions as an equivalent coal fuelled station;
- replacing the diesel bus fleet with gas powered buses, introducing 451 compressed natural gas buses by 2011; and
- implementing strict native vegetation clearing controls.

Further information about IOCI is available online at <http://www.ioci.org.au/>.

Premier's office - 9222 9475

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