

PRESENT

Members:

Councillor Rob Turner (Deputy Chair)
Director Development and Environment (Melissa Watkins)
Group Manager Regulatory and Environmental Services (Debbie Archer)
Sustainability Officer (Gavin Hughes)
PMHC Staff Sustainability Action Group Chairperson (Sandra Wallace)
Harry Creamer (Community Representative - Port Macquarie)
Stephen Healy (Community Representative - Wauchope)
Rachel Sheppard (Community Representative - Lake Cathie)
John Handford (Community Representative - Camden Haven)
Stephen Lockhart (Development Industry)
Nigel Swift (Development Industry)
Stuart Watson (Sustainability Industry)
Nicky Julian (Sustainability Industry)
Angela Frimberger (Sustainability Industry)

Other Attendees:

Councillor Lisa Intemann

The meeting opened at 3.30pm.

01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered by Councillor Rob Turner as Chair.

02 APOLOGIES

CONSENSUS:

That apologies received from Councillor Peter Alley (Chair), Group Manager Strategy (Duncan Coulton) and Jim Hutcheon (Community Representative - Rural Areas) be accepted.

03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONSENSUS:

That the Minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Sub-Committee Meeting held on 9 June 2021 be confirmed.

04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil.

06 CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE ACTION PLAN

Discussion included:

1. How we could collaborate with other Councils.
PMHC does this as active members of the Local Government NSW's Climate Action Professional Officers Group (CAPOG), Cities Power Partnership (CPP) and Sustainability Advantage.
2. The Sub Committee requested more detail and updates on the proposed actions.
It was agreed that these will be further developed with the group members and after adoption, updates will be provided.

CONSENSUS:

That the Sustainability Advisory Sub Committee:

1. Note the information provided in the report; and
2. That Council is proceeding with the development of a Climate Change Response Action Plan utilising the Climate Change Response Framework and the Proposed Plan Development Process documents as guidance.

07 DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Discussions included:

1. There was good public engagement with 23 survey responses and 2 submissions received which can be considered strong during the current COVID lockdown conditions and compared with other key documents on public exhibition;
2. That all public feedback was supportive of the policies with many suggesting ways to strengthen them further;
3. That we did not believe there would need to be any material change to policies;
4. That PMHC has a recently established Aboriginal Advisory Group to connect with to include for perspectives and progress into the future;
5. Some public feedback noted concerns regarding how the policies will be implemented and measured but it is felt this can be satisfied with good governance and quadruple bottom line reporting;
6. Noted the feedback regarding development however the use of the term “sustainable development” should remain as it links to other official documents and the Local Government Act but it can be defined for clarity;
7. That new subdivisions and developments be constructed more sustainably, for example orientation for passive solar design. The Sub Committee agreed consumer education could assist as well as existing local Development Control Plan and BASIX requirements;
8. The final draft policy should come to the Sub Committee before going to Council for Council to know it has the Sub-Committee endorsement.

CONSENSUS:

That the Sustainability Advisory Sub-Committee:

1. Note the key themes identified in survey responses received on the draft Sustainability Policy and draft Climate Change Response Policy; and
2. Support that each of the themes be incorporated into the policies.

08 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY USE AND FUTURE PLANNING

Discussions included:

1. The current power agreements for PMHC end with 3 providers through Local Government Procurement in Dec 2022 and that this is why we are doing the analysis for future energy demand now to assess the best Power Purchase Agreement to commence Jan 2023;
2. The financial benefits of buying renewables from where production is cheapest (in Western NSW) are acknowledged however it is great to see that Presync are considering local options for mid-scale local renewables and community batteries. The biggest barriers are negative power prices during the day that are export limiting local PV systems making community batteries a favoured solution by industry experts. As it is in scope of works, Presync can consider the local community group Energy Forever’s proposal for a community battery with mid-

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- scale PV system (for locals without access to solar power for their homes that desire it);
3. Presync can review the adopted Long Term Energy Strategy to understand what has already been suggested and completed by Council to date;
 4. Council to further consider the 25hr option by Presync in the scope of works to develop the Net Zero Pathway after this initial work is completed.
 5. A presentation of the Presync findings will be presented to this group at a later date.

CONSENSUS:

That the Sustainability Advisory Sub-Committee note that Council has accepted a scope of works from Presync P/L to develop an Integrated Energy Strategy for more sustainable energy use and future planning.

09 PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS COUNCIL STAFF SUSTAINABILITY ACTION GROUP

CONSENSUS:

1. That the Sustainability Advisory Sub Committee note that Council has now established a Staff Sustainability Action Group.
2. That the Staff Sustainability Action Group Chair attend these meetings to provide for 2-way communication
3. That both groups meet at a later date when COVID restrictions allow.

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

10.01 GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

The Chair invited members to email group organisers with any future general business items for next meeting.

The meeting closed at 5:00pm.