

**MINUTES OF TOWN OF GAWLER
CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, TOWN OF GAWLER ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, 43
HIGH STREET, GAWLER EAST
ON WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2020 AT 6:30PM**

PRESENT: Cr Paul Koch, Cr Nathan Shanks, Cr Cody Davies, Ms Kathryn Warhurst, Mr Jack Gill, Mr Tom Brdanovic, Darren Cox

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Timothy Kelly, Mr Jack Darzanos, Meagan Jarmyn

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Brian Sambell

1 STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge this land that we meet on today is the traditional lands for the Kaurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Kaurna people as the custodians of the greater Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today.

2 ATTENDANCE RECORD

- 2.1 Roll Call
- 2.2 Apologies
 - Kathryn Warhurst
- 2.3 Motions to Grant Leave of Absence
- 2.4 Leave of Absence
- 2.5 Non-attendance

6:38pm Cr Shanks entered the chamber

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2020:10:CEAP011

Moved: Mr J Gill

Seconded: Cr C Davies

That the minutes of the Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group Meeting held on 16 September 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Actions	Who	By When	Status
1 Incorporate the Resources and Greenhouse Gas Summary for 2019-20 into the next progress report to Council	T Kelly J Darzanos	07-10-2020	Complete.
2 The Working Group provide comments and feedback (via Tim Kelly) on the Climate Emergency Response ideas to integrate into the Essex Master Plan. The Draft document to be circulated to the Working Group, so all ideas can be incorporated	All members T Kelly	25-09-2020	Complete Thanks to everyone who contributed. Response was received well.
3 Keep the CEAP informed of progress towards the installation of heat pumps as part of the Gawler Aquatic Centre Upgrade.	T Kelly	14-10-2020	See Agenda Item
4 Contact the YAC Chair of the schedule to seek a time slot on the Agenda	T Kelly	22-09-2020	Scheduled. Received confirmation from YAC
5 Report back to the CEAP Working Group on outcomes of interviews	J Gill	14-10-2020	Questionnaire has been formed. Natajsha has distributed to members. Interviews will happen down the line
6 Prepare a workshop outline to maximise the value of the planned October Climate Change and Business Development Workshop.	T Kelly	14-10-2020	Complete.
7 Keep the Working Group informed of progress towards agreed comparisons that would enable electric vehicle transition actions in the CEAP and an informed budget bid to commence EV trials or a transition program.	J Darzanos T Kelly	14-10-2020	Ongoing
8 Arrange a doodle poll to explore the schedules for earlier CEAP Working Group meetings each month in order for minutes to be included in Council Papers.	T Kelly	22-09-2020	Complete. Members to participate. Cr Shanks suggested do a vote tonight and include results

6:45pm D. Cox entered Chambers

5.1 WORKSHOP - CLIMATE CHANGE AND BUSINESS

Defining Climate Change Risks

Business risks may be caused by direct impacts of extreme weather, and changing weather patterns, or indirect impacts as regulation and markets change. The Working Group noted three key areas of risk:

- I. **Costs** - Improvements and products not being affordable poor energy and resource efficiency
- II. **Disproportionate risks.** Construction industry, outdoor workers farming tourism, and small businesses may be hit harder
- III. **Safety issues and down time** caused by heat waves, fires, storms or other extreme or prolonged events

The following specific risks were identified:

- Retail sector is vulnerable to changes in cost structure
- Costs – electricity costs increasing
- Building Upgrade Finance Scheme
- Find common barriers for local businesses which impact on climate change
- High energy businesses – i.e. schools – trinity, Xavier,
- Paxton St Industrial Zone – businesses which operate out of that area
- Retail and service sector
- Construction – extreme weather has an impact. Policies need to align with work safe. Sites have to be shut down. Policies surrounding noise and dust which come with extreme weather events.
- Waste – commercial industry. Need an environmental waste management plan.
- Impact of events i.e. bushfires – costs of employees fighting fires – loss of income, loss of tourism.
- Dividing businesses into size – method of operating – town of majority small businesses
- Pollution
- Facebook page re council meetings – CEAP not mentioned.

Where are emissions coming from?

- Transport emissions higher
- Greenhouse gas emissions – electricity 81,000t in 2017 and transport went from 67k to 94kt
- Need to look how to increase active walking
- Waste emissions still high 23kt in 2017
- Waste 6%, transport 55%, gas 11%, electricity 28% in 2017
- SA Water have provided data taking into account real data which is better than what ABS use

The recent Community Emission Snapshot assessments were described as showing that for Gawler, the bulk of carbon emissions come from fossil fuel burning to power transport (55%), for electricity (28%), domestic and industrial gas use (11%) and with waste also contributing to emissions (6%).

One recent simplified message to reduce emissions was recently made by entrepreneur Mike Cannon Brooks described as to “Electrify Everything”¹ that “If we talk about the best

¹ “If we talk about the best plan for the economy, it has to be over the next 20 years we have to *electrify everything* and generate all electricity largely with *renewables*”, M Cannon-brooks, Q&A 7 September 2020.

plan for the economy, it has to be over the next 20 years we have to *electrify everything* and generate all electricity largely with *renewables*,"

What barriers exist that limit increased business action on climate change?

- Cost of implementing new technology
- Fair pricing for renewable energy and lower emission technology options
- Affordability of compliance with changing regulations
- Growth undertaken in a way that is increasing emissions (such as growing transport needs)

What activities will remove those barriers including actions for our local government jurisdiction?

- Improved knowledge that empowers customers
- Electricity: 1) Collective renewable Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), 2) small virtual power plants, 3) larger scale micro-grids (longer term)
- Improving community knowledge
- Improved communication through case studies, success stories on testimonials on options that work
- Regulation that empowers rather than stifling take-up
- Incentives

One very appealing idea was to recognise the skills and knowledge of local businesses and individuals that are already leaders in climate solutions as Climate Champions, and seek to collaborate where possible to maximise the reach of the CEAP and Council.

This concept could also be extended to collaborate with schools as climate Champions through the Climate Clever Program.

Another suggestion to recognise the work of our trade workers in Gawler who are providing practical solutions in many fields, through a 'Tradies section' of the CEAP or in its ongoing implementation

How might GBDG and Council discuss regional collaboration opportunities?

The working group was informed of the role of Climate Change Sector Agreements which can aid in knowledge sharing and collaboration at a regional level with State Government participation. The Working Group supported Staff to continue investigating opportunities for collaboration with the Barossa, Gawler Light and Adelaide Plains Regional Development Association

In particular, the Working Group supported the concept of Gawler being a Climate Clever and Smart City, which complements the regional climate change response for climate adaptation and action in the Barossa wine region, plains agricultural region and coastal region.

WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

- Investigate potential Climate Champions
 - From businesses
 - Through the Schools of Gawler (through the Climate Clever Partnerships)
 - Through community groups
- Investigate the potential for a Business solutions or 'Tradies' page that links from the CEAP to assist gawler customers and businesses in tackling climate change action
- Continue to explore regional collaboration through the Marossa, Gawler, Light and Adelaide Plains Regional Development Authority.

At 7:58 pm, Mr Darren Cox left the meeting.

5.2 CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

5.2.1 CEAP AND 4 PAGE SUMMARY PROGRESS FOR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

- Tim Kelly advised that work was continuing to incorporate the feedback provided by Edge Environment.
 - This has included preparation and adding detail to conceptualise a four page summary which will quickly communicate the positive future vision we are seeking, why tackling the climate emergency is vital for our communities, economy and environment, plus the key actions.
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RECOMMENDATION

The CEAP Working Group review and refine the CEAP main document and four page summary document between October 26 and November 15.

5.2.2 PLANNING THE FACILITATED WORKSHOP WITH ELECTED MEMBERS, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CEAP WORKING GROUP

- The October CEAP Progress Report to Council is recommending that there be a combined facilitated workshop of Elected Members the Executive Team and the CEAP Working Group to consider the draft CEAP in November. It is intended that as much effort as possible is focussed towards refining the draft Plan and four page summary.
 - The working group acknowledged the need for a clear presentation including to cover the vision, why this is important plus clear actions that community can embrace, what council is going to do, and the council's role in engagement and advocacy. Facilitated with Edge Consulting
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RECOMMENDATION

Subject to Council supporting the recommendation for a combined facilitated workshop on the Draft CEAP, staff schedule this forum at a suitable location in November

5.2.3 PROGRESS REPORT TO ELECTED MEMBERS

- The Progress Report to elected members covers the work undertaken to develop the plan since April 2020, including the mid development review by Edge Environment and the work being undertaken to assess the feasibility and cost/savings estimates of options.
 - The Working Group was advised that the progress report includes:
 - (a) a resources, energy consumption summary
 - (b) a 2019-20 GHG report of council operations
 - (c) an updated Snapshot profile of community emissions for 2018
 - Kathryn Warhurst has agreed to present the Report to Council and answer questions of elected members
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5.3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Working Group noted the need to elevate the community awareness and participation in the Climate Emergency Response work that the Council is undertaking. It was noted that to this point, the focus has been on preparing a draft before community consultation and engagement took place. The impact of COVID 19 restrictions also resulted in planned community forums not being undertaken until after a consultation draft is prepared.

Ideas on increasing Community Awareness included:

- Cr Shanks believes we are at a stage where we can share simple teasers to get the communities interest increased. There are some easy positive messages which will help with the interest. Simple videos – 2-3 mins in length.
- Social media, bunyip, facebook and the CEAP website could be used to reach out to the community.
- Single statistics – quick snap things such as one page single issue items and headlines which will include URL's for further information can be shared easily
- Climate Champions:
 - (a) Engage with community groups to share information ie sporting groups where people are already gathered – reach out to groups
 - (b) Contact Gawler schools assess the interest in the Climate Clever Schools Program, connecting also to the Climate Emergency work of Council.
- Practical demonstrations would be a great idea ie sustainability day, EV demonstration, Garden demonstration

There was interest in creating a Climate Emergency Solutions day for Gawler where community could tour households and businesses that are demonstrating or are providers of technology and solutions that reduce emissions

Tim Kelly noted the ideas and suggested that this be brought together into a community engagement plan that would be discussed at the planned November Workshop and accompany the draft Climate Emergency Action Plan

RECOMMENDATION

Staff prepare a community engagement plan in advance of the November Workshop, to accompany the draft CEAP and its four page summary.

5.4 CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

- **Correspondence Out**

Letter to Bryce Norton re Essex Park Master Plan

The CEAP Working Group noted this correspondence.

- **Correspondence In**

- Finn Peacock (Solar Quotes – Solar and Battery Videos Follow Up)

The Working group noted the request to promote links to a series of solar information videos that can assist consumers. <https://www.solarquotes.com.au/councils/>. The working group does not have the authority to promote business material on Gawler websites and also notes that Gawler is seeking to promote local business as the highest priority. However, promoting solar business and solutions is an area that will be addressed in the CEAP.

- Community Power Network Update

The working Group noted the correspondence and update report.

- Invitation Climate Risk and Governance Workshop

Jack Darzanos advised that this invitation has been forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer, Workshop. This is a strategic workshop, aimed at CEO's and Executive Managers to understand the full scope climate risk, management of climate risk and governance as it relates to climate risk.

The Working Group agreed that it was critical for the Executive level participation at this workshop, and it provides an opportunity to gain an insight of the benefits of this program of work should there be a climate Risk and Governance Program budget bid.

- Climate Clever Schools Program – Updated Offer

The Working group supported staff to engage with local Gawler Schools to determine interest in participating in the Climate Clever Schools Program and forming a level of partnership/collaboration with Council.

- Climate Emergency Australia – Advocacy Working Group Minutes

The Working Group noted participation of Gawler Staff in the CEA Advocacy Working Group first meeting

- Climate Emergency Australia – Letter to the Australian Government

The working Group noted the CEA Letter to the Prime Minister, and agreed that this correspondence be attached to the minutes

In closing, Cr Sambell commended the working group for its work and suggested that it would be wonderful to invite guest speakers at the start of the meeting to attract greater community participation.

5 CLOSE

The Meeting closed at 8:37.

6 NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

To be confirmed

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group Meeting held on .

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CHAIRPERSON

Actions	Who	By When
WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS		
1. Investigate potential Climate Champions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ From businesses ○ Through the Scools of Gawler (through the Climate Clever Partnerships ○ Through community groups 	T Kelly J Darzanos	12 November-2020
2. Investigate the potential for a Business solutions or 'Tradies' page that links from the CEAP to assist Gawler customers and businesses in tackling climate change action	15 November	15-11-2020
3. Continue to explore regional collaboration through the Barossa, Gawler, Light and Adelaide Plains Regional Development Authority.	30 December	30-12-2020
GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS		
4. Subject to Council supporting the recommendation for a combined facilitated workshop on the Draft CEAP, staff schedule this forum at a suitable location in November	T Kelly	27-10-2020
5. Review and refine the CEAP main document and four page summary document between October 26 and November 15.	All members	15-11-2020
6. Staff prepare a community engagement plan in advance of the November Workshop, to accompany the draft CEAP and its four page summary.	T Kelly J Darzanos	12-11-2020

MEETING OF THE TOWN OF GAWLER CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN WORKING GROUP

14 October 2020 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

COMMUNIQUE

The Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) Working Group held their October meeting in the Council Chambers at the Gawler Civic Centre. The discussion focussed on Business and climate change risks. The Group also reviewed progress towards completing the CEAP and the need to be ramping up engagement with community even before the draft plan is released for public consultation.

The You Tube video of the proceedings is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com.user/TownofGawler>

This communiqué is not a complete or exhaustive account, and seeks to highlight key issues, outcomes and the nature of the meeting

Business and Climate Change Impacts

A key part of the meeting was a targeted workshop on Business and Climate Change Risks towards identifying Council's role and actions for the CEAP.

We were pleased that Cr Brian Sambell was able to attend and actively contributed to the discussions as a member of the Gawler Business Development Group (GBDG), and it was noted that Cr Paul Koch is also a member of the GBDG, as well as being a CEAP Member.

The workshop addressed the following business and climate change issues.

Defining climate change risks

Business risks may be caused by direct impacts of extreme weather, and changing weather patterns, or indirect impacts as regulation and markets change. The Working Group noted:

- **Costs**, improvements and products not being affordable poor energy and resource efficiency
- **Disproportionate risks**. Construction industry, outdoor workers, farming, tourism, and small businesses may be hit harder
- **Safety issues and down time** caused by heat waves, fires, storms or other extreme or prolonged events
- **Retail** vulnerable to changes in cost structures regulation and market change

Where are emissions coming from?

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One recent simplified message to reduce emissions was recently made by entrepreneur Mike Cannon Brooks described was to "Electrify Everything"¹ that *"If we talk about the best plan for the economy, it has to be over the next 20 years we have to electrify everything and generate all electricity largely with renewables"*

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In particular, the Working Group supported the concept of Gawler being a Climate Clever and Smart City, which complements the regional climate change response for climate adaptation and action in the Barossa wine region, plains agricultural region and coastal region.

Other Business

In addition to the workshop, the CEAP Working Group also acknowledged the need to increase its engagement with the community on its work. It was agreed that Staff prepare a community engagement Plan that would be provided to council with the draft CEAP in readiness for the community consultation stage. As part of this, it was suggested that guest speakers be invited to CEAP meetings to encourage greater community attendance.

The Working group noted that Climate Emergency Australia of which the Town of Gawler is a part) has prepared a letter to the Prime Minister calling for the "Federal Government to seize the moment, to work with local governments as part of the national recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic to build jobs and resilience that buffer our communities from the potentially devastating effects of climate change". A copy of this letter is attached to the minutes.

15 October 2020

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of Climate Emergency Australia, a network of 96 Australian local governments who have organised around the current climate emergency¹. Together, we represent more than 9.9 million Australians and are advocating for a rapid shift to a more resilient, zero-carbon society.

We call upon the Federal Government to seize the moment, to work with local governments as part of the national recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic to build jobs and resilience that buffer our communities from the potentially devastating effects of climate change.

This is not an issue that can be postponed. Globally, we are currently tracking at the ‘worse case’ emissions and temperature rise scenario (RCP 8.5)², resulting in the most dangerous impacts of climate change. Local governments face these impacts directly, as has been shown by the recent experiences of councils such as Bega Valley and East Gippsland in last summer’s bushfires or Central Coast and this winter’s storm surges threatening properties.

Without greater support, Australian local governments will be unable to effectively respond in the future to increasingly dangerous bushfires, prolonged droughts and potentially catastrophic coastal events. Without timely investment the reinstatement of essential infrastructure is likely to increasingly fall on higher levels of government as local governments find themselves unable to cope with the repeated impost on their capital budgets.

We need to acknowledge the necessary action required to create a world that is livable for generations to come. Responding to this emergency requires a rapid transition to zero emissions as well as the drawdown of excess greenhouse gases. Business as usual and incremental improvements will not be enough. While Australians are world leaders in the uptake of renewable energy in the form of rooftop solar, individual actions alone will not be enough to combat the worst effects of the climate emergency.

Local governments have been doing everything they can within their power to build on the growing momentum for positive climate policy, and the Climate Emergency Australia network calls on the Federal Government to do the same. This would allow local governments to expand on existing

¹ CEDAMIA (2020) Climate Emergency Declarations

² IPCC (2018) Summary for Policymakers

projects and deliver new projects that would increase local economic activity and job creation while moving toward a zero emissions society.

We recognize that recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic offers a unique opportunity to re-set climate policy. In this spirit, Climate Emergency Australia is recommending the following Federal Government actions:

1. Increased support for renewable energy and storage, including establishing a national emissions reduction target to reach zero-emissions at a pace commensurate with the latest science, including specific investment in solar and battery installations on council and community buildings.
2. Funding support to address the impacts of climate risks for both councils and their communities (particularly the most vulnerable) including coastal inundation, flooding, drought resilience, bushfire, biodiversity loss and governance processes.
3. Investment in active and sustainable transport, including walking paths and cycle lanes delivered through local government, and support for increased electric vehicle uptake.
4. Increased greening of our cities and towns, including substantial new tree planting to draw down carbon emissions and reduce urban heat island impacts.
5. Enhanced energy efficiency measures throughout the commercial and residential sectors, with the assistance of local government programs, to create jobs, reduce energy costs and create more comfortable homes and workplaces, ensuring nobody is left behind.
6. Integrating circular economy principles – fostering local government action to close the loop on resource use, such as enhancing organic waste collection and processing and converting landfill gas to energy to create jobs and cut carbon emissions.

In setting forward these proposals, we align with a growing and diverse chorus of voices calling for such a recovery, including the Australian Industry Group, the Business Council of Australia, the National Farmers Federation, the Climate Council, Beyond Zero Emissions, the Australian Council of Social Services, the Australian Council of Trade Unions, Doctors for the Environment and the Australian Sustainable Finance Initiative³⁴.

Australia will continue to suffer the consequences of the climate emergency without action. The recovery from this pandemic provides the perfect opportunity for joint action. It must not be missed.

Yours sincerely,

David Meiklejohn
Climate Emergency Australia Coordinator

³ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/aug/31/australian-industry-group-urges-coalition-to-spend-at-least-33bn-on-renewable-energy-over-coming-decade>

⁴ <https://millionjobs.org.au>
<https://www.dea.org.au/joint-letter-to-pm-morrison-australias-doctors-call-for-a-post-covid-19-healthyrecovery/>