

SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT ADVISORY GROUP

Thursday 4 July 2024
6.00pm - 8.00pm

Venue: Committee Room
City of Vincent
Administration and Civic Centre
244 Vincent Street Leederville

Attendees:

City of Vincent Councillors
(Chairperson) Cr Wallace (AW)

Community Representatives

Barbara Pedersen (BP)
Helen Griffiths (HG)
Ian Kininmonth (IK)

Chris Cutress (CC)
Kathryn Longden (KL)

City of Vincent Officers

Mitchell Hoad (MH) - A/Manager Strategic Planning and Specialist Planner
Ciara O'Dwyer (CO) - Specialist Sustainability Advisor
Tim Elliott (TE) - Coordinator Strategic Planning

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1. Welcome/Declaration of Opening

Councillor Wallace opened the meeting at 6:05pm and delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Apologies

- Peter Varris (PV) – A/CEO
- Cr La Fontaine (ALF)
- Emma McCallum (EM)

3. Confirmation of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2024 were received and confirmed as true and correct record.

4. Business

4.1 Updated Terms of Reference for the STAG, adopted 21 May 2024

MH confirmed STAG members have received the updated terms of reference. MH detailed the minor changes as adopted 21 May 2024. No STAG members had any further questions.

4.2 Presentation by CO on community consultation feedback and climate projections (10 minutes)

CO presented the outcomes of the STAG workshop on 14 March 2024 and the community consultation on themes and topics related to the EES. CO noted that there were similarities across the STAG results and community results, demonstrating action is desired on a few key topics. Those topics being:

- Urban Greening/ Tree Canopy Cover

- Water Capture and Reuse/ Clean Water
- Reducing Carbon Emissions/ Climate Action/ Climate Resilience
- Habitat Enhancement/ Biodiversity

CO presented climate projections for the Southwest of Western Australia from the WA Government’s Climate Projections summary. BP noted that with her professional experience, she felt the climate projections from the WA Government were particularly thin/ weak. BP noted that more specific data will help deliver stronger results, for example considering consecutive days with nights over 26°C. CO agreed and noted that the climate projections are potentially the minimum of what can be expected in the future.

CO noted the objective of the session is for the STAG to determine what actions they would like to see Vincent take as a local government. CO noted that the members of the STAG know how to be sustainable, so even the most ambitious ideas may make it into the strategy in some format. The objective of Exercise 1 is for the STAG members to think about the climate impacts on a local scale, and more specifically the City of Vincent’s operations.

4.3 Exercise 1- Brainstorming localised climate impacts (25 minutes)

Group 1 and 2 were each given 25 minutes to develop their localised climate impacts and the impacts on the City’s operations. Results are below.

Group 1: Kathryn (KL), Ian (IK) and Barbara (BP)

Climate Hazard	Specific impacts on Vincent	Operational Impact
Hotter and more frequent hot days and heat waves in summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electricity usage increase - Increased urban heat, keeps people indoors and reduces community activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure impacted by heat and then extreme rainfall (e.g. roads), economic impact. - Reliance on public pools and places for public that have A/C- financial impact. - Council provision of refuges from heat, bus stops with shade, drink fountains - Protection from heat for council workers ‘heat wave safety plan’
Higher sea levels and more frequent sea level extremes (tides and storms)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - River impacts- erosion? - Drainage for city backing up, saltwater intrusions. - Residential land loss, park land and infrastructure loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cost to redesign and replant foreshore
Increased evaporation rates, reduce soil moisture and run-off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nutrient flows and eutrophication - Increased stormwater runoff and flooding events - Reduction in soil biota resulting in loss of insects and ecosystem due to increased soil temp. - Disruptions to water cycle- reduced drinking water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased water uses and demand for landscaping. - Hardening of species and increased water time for plants in revegetation projects - Increased costs and manual labour for maintaining water bodies (due to run off) - Consideration of watering stations for wildlife- costs for maintenance
Lower rainfall in winter and spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased water usage in residential gardens and council open space areas 	
Drought duration and frequency to increase		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Redesign plant species with arid conditions. - Usage of soil amendments (e.g. Biochar)

Group 2: Helen (HG), Chris (CC) and Cr Wallace (AW)

Climate Hazard	Specific impacts on Vincent	Operational Impact
Warmer and more acidic oceans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change in evaporation extent- more humidity, more short duration but high intensity rainfall events. - Potential change with fauna (aquatic) and flora 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase costs- additional and improved drainage infrastructure required. - If something becomes a pest, need to monitor, and invest in management
Increased intensity of heavy rainfall events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impacts on drainage and road infrastructure - Impacts on community engagement-going out. - Harvesting of stormwater for parks etc. - Possible restriction on land available for development and use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased costs (as above) - Savings on water harvesting and use
Harsher fire weather conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In parks- impact on flora and may spread to surrounding residences etc. 	
Higher average temperatures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impacts on road maintenance (melting of asphalt) - Impacts on green spaces and public parks, school ovals etc. (results in decreased public and visual amenity) - Heat stress for public and staff- OSH issue. - Reduced involvement and participation in community events - Changes in pest populations- expect invasive plant diseases (e.g. Cane toads) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supplementary H2O and selective species planting - Reducing green space (e.g. ovals and small parks) - Potential shorter shifts for workers, possible increase in WFH - Cost of community facilities (or potential savings)
Less frost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimal impact in Vincent, possible impact on backyard fruit trees 	

4.4 Group discussion (10 minutes)

Group 1 and 2 read out their impacts as detailed in the above tables. General commentary and discussion about the impacts occurred. Brief discussion was had about consequences of electricity outages and sewer overflows. BP asked if CoV have mapped this, CO was unsure.

CO noted the idea of the exercise is to get the STAG thinking big picture and the STAG had done this well. CO noted the intent to get internal teams to complete the same exercise as part of the strategy development.

4.5 Break (20 minutes)

4.6 Exercise 2- Brainstorm localised solutions to climate impacts and sustainability actions (30 minutes)

CO explained the objective of Exercise 2 was to build on the work of Exercise 1 and identify actions that Vincent can take as a local government thinking ambitiously. BP asked about the context of the strategy (e.g. Environmental Strategy), CO noted that Vincent is still working through what the strategy will look like, but all the major climate change and environment topics are intended to be included.

Exercise 2 was to consider with no limitations on constraints on resources, what localised actions can be taken to be more sustainable and manage the effects of climate impacts? Results are below.

Group 1: Chris (CC), Ian (IK) and Barbara (BP)

Action	Operational	Community
Measured/ Incremental Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publicise emissions inventory. - Add climate change risks to Corp Ex register. - Develop plans for green infrastructure and corridors across public and private land. - Grey water harvesting and reuse for council facilities. - De-pave areas to reduce urban heat effects and plant rain gardens. - Install PV arrays and EV chargers in all council carparks. - Monitor impacts of climate change and report to State Government - Diversify types of plants to cope after extreme events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support biodiversity on private land and link with public parks. - Identify vulnerable people who will suffer most from flood, heat, and power outages- offer support. - Support community facilities retrofitting for greywater use (e.g. Beatty Park, Floreat Athena) and houses. - Develop and electrify Vincent strategy and workshop. - Support a community nursery and seed gathering/ banks
Ambitious/ Head Turning Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corp EX adopts a climate action plan. - Vincent adopts a city-wide plan to create carbon sinks (in parks, open space, wetlands) - Stormwater harvesting and infiltration to ground water. - Develop local microgrid and community batteries. - A pyrolysis plant to produce biochar and energy for processing green waste for city carbon sink. - Sustainable divestment of financial investments (fossil fuels) - Removal of gas appliances in council buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council provides maintenance support (e.g. Pruning) to landowners. - Support development of co-operatively owned batteries (esp. strata titled housing/ apartments) - Support community replacing gas appliances. - Advocate for sustainable community outcomes

Group 2: Helen (HG), Kathryn (KL) and Cr Wallace (AW)

Action	Operational	Community
Measured/ Incremental Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expansion of street tree watering program to prevent premature death of mature trees (monitoring of watering requirements, schedule of trees requiring watering) - Further acquisition of land to dedicate as POS in areas with low access. - Community batteries for rooftop solar - Minimisation of use of turf in POS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sheltered bus stops for all locations. - Promote development of community gardens and friends of groups - Seed mail outs for home planting
Ambitious/ Head Turning Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase costs OR planning incentives to encourage further retention of tree canopy on private land. - Rebates for reduction of waste collection frequency - Investigation of alternate road treatments (reduction of pavement width and conversion to green space, alternate 	

	pavement finishes that reduce heat impacts and improve water management) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On street charging for EVs - Variable rating scheme for tree canopy coverage 	
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4.7 Group discussion and wrap up (10 minutes)

Group 1 and 2 read out their suggestions as detailed in the above tables. General commentary and discussion about the ambitious actions occurred. Brief discussion was had about greywater harvesting/ legislative requirements and the challenge of competing spaces in the public realm. AW asked about whether there will be an advocacy section in the strategy, CO noted that there is an intention to have a governance section, which will establish key advocacy ideas and set up the structures for continued success in sustainability at Vincent.

CO spoke to next steps, with the focus being on completing the emissions inventories and continuing with strategy development.

ACTION:

5. Close/Next Meeting

The Chairperson (AW) closed the meeting at 8:05pm. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in October.

Signed

_____ (Chairperson)
Councillor

Dated this _____ day of _____ 20__