



City of Nedlands

# ***Minutes***

## ***Sustainable Nedlands Committee Meeting***

***8 June 2015***

### **ATTENTION**

**These minutes are subject to confirmation.**

Prior to acting on any resolution of the Council contained in these minutes, a check should be made of the Ordinary Council Meeting next following this meeting to ensure that there has not been a correction made to any resolution.

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wait for written advice from the Council Prior to taking action on any matter that they may have before the Committee.

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**1. Public Question Time**

Nil questions received.

**2. Public Address Session (only for items listed on the agenda)**

Nil.

**3. Disclosures of Financial Interest**

There were no disclosures of financial interest.

**4. Disclosures of Interests Affecting Impartiality**

There were no disclosures affecting impartiality.

**5. Declarations by Members That They Have Not Given Due Consideration to Papers**

None.

**6. Confirmation of Minutes**

**6.1 Sustainable Nedlands Committee Meeting – 13 April 2015**

Moved: Councillor R Binks  
Seconded: Ms G Stubber

**The Minutes of the Sustainable Nedlands Committee held on 13 April 2015 are to be confirmed.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9/-**

**7. Outstanding Action List**

There was discussion regarding the Outstanding Action List. The Item regarding the Household Energy Use to be updated in recognition of progress being made with approvals. The list was updated as necessary.

## **8. Items for Discussion**

### **8.1 My Great Idea**

The period for submitting competition entries has now closed. The City received a total of 8 entries.

It was agreed that Mr R Griffiths would coordinate a sub-committee to determine the criteria for assessment and assess the entries. The sub-committee was agreed to comprise of three members, being Mr R Griffiths, Ms B Channon and Mr M Yap.

The entries will be distributed to all Committee members by the Manager Health and Compliance at the end of the meeting.

Ms B Tyson joined the meeting at 6.12 pm.

### **8.2 The Cost of Rooftop Solar Systems**

Cr R Binks provided a newspaper article from the Australian Newspaper dated 24 May 2015 for discussion. Please see Attachment 1.

Councillor R Binks spoke to the article.

Ms G Stubber rebutted the article with the following considerations:

- Information, cost figures and data presented in article are not up to date;
- Not forward thinking;
- Article gave another point of view; and
- Article was taken apart by ANV and CSIRO with responding arguments.

Mr R Griffiths provided additional considerations as follows:

- Article was missing context; and
- Article did not refer to power station construction and refurbishment costs.

Councillor N Shaw confirmed that he and His Worship the Mayor, R M Hipkins attended a related UDIA Sustainability Forum event on Friday 5 June called 'Disruptive Trends – Changing the face of urban development', and provided information about the Alkimos project, with additional considerations to the article as follows:

- Article is eastern states centric;
- Advised there is recognition of solar from Synergy and Government;
- Expressed the need for the group to develop a strategy to introduce the Community to the benefits of the sun utilising modern technologies; and
- Expressed the need to introduce Councillors to this technology by encouraging them to visit a site where it is being utilised.

Mr G Davies discussed the ability of providers to recoup infrastructure costs from reduced power bills.

### **8.3 Transition Towns**

Ms G Stubber provided an update regarding a forthcoming presentation to the Committee.

Peter Lansdale will be a guest speaker at the Committee's informal meeting to be held on 6 July 2015, for 30 minutes from 6.00 pm. The theme is to develop and encourage sustainable practices and ideas within the Community.

This meeting is 'open' to wider audience, and has been advertised on the Community Garden Facebook page and through Earth Carers.

Ms G Stubber to communicate requirements to Administration for the presentation and room setup.

### **8.4 Mayo Community Garden Update**

Ms G Stubber provided the Committee with an update on the Mayo Community Garden.

A workshop is planned for 21 June 2015 at 2.00 pm for a duration of 2 hours, where the subject 'Soil Nutrients' and covers the use of Bokashi equipment.

Members of the Mayo Community Garden are working with the Fellowship of Australian Writers WA to produce plans for the veranda, with the concept to include an improved 'look' for garden entry.

A local kindergarten have approached the Garden and requested the use of the garden each Wednesday.

Future workshops are planned to cover effective pruning of fruit trees.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next informal meeting of this Committee is scheduled for Monday 6 July commencing at 6.00 pm.

The next meeting of this Committee is scheduled for Monday 3 August 2015 commencing at 6.00 pm.

## **Declaration of Closure**

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 6.55 pm.

Andrew Melville  
Manager Health and Compliance

## SNC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Date of Meeting	Item Discussed	Action	Assigned To	Comments/Completed
10 March 2014	Potential Recycled Water Project	Members to collate ideas regarding promotion of project within community	All members	<b>Project deferred. No action at this time.</b>
10 March 2014	Demonstration Energy-Efficient House	Members to bring ideas for possible energy efficient house project	All members	
5 May 2014	Greenwaste Bins	Discuss with full Council the provision of greenwaste bin services to churches	Mayor & Councillor Shaw	
7 July 2014	Heat Island Effect	Ask Gail Stubber to email to SNC members any relevant information gathered at the Heat Island Effect workshop that she attended	Councillor Shaw	<b>Complete</b>
7 July 2014	Innovation Award	\$2000 sponsorship for Innovation Award and additional \$2000 sponsorship of the Waterwise Garden award in 2015	Gordon Davies	
1 September 2014	"Towards More Sustainable Street Lighting" practise note	1. Prepare a letter to the Honourable Dr Mike Nahan, Minister for Energy, to provide support for the Recommendations for State Governments contained within the "Towards More Sustainable Street Lighting" document, and request a response.	Not assigned	<b>BC to question NS at the informal meeting</b>  <b>BS requested letter be followed up</b>



### SNC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

		2. Prepare a letter to Mr Paul Italiano, Chief Executive officer of Western Power, to provide support for the Recommendations for Utilities contained within the "Towards More Sustainable Street Lighting" document, and request a response.		
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## SNC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

1 September 2014	Promotion of Sustainability at City Events	Discuss with administration an initiative to encourage sustainability at the City's public events	Mayor	
1 September 2014	Youth (secondary school student) member	Provide an update to the SNC regarding the recruitment of a youth member	Administration	<b>Completed; Presented to SNC 1 November meeting</b>
3 November 2014	Household energy usage	Develop a methodology for a concept of providing personal energy use to residents	Susie Wang	<b>Susie Wang now has ethics approval from UWA. Next stage is to finalise the proposal.</b>

# Cost of rooftop solar systems outweigh benefits by \$9bnm

- THE AUSTRALIAN
- MAY 24, 2015 8:06PM

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## Sid Maher



National Affairs Editor

Canberra

<https://plus.google.com/113238264937713210151>



A report by the Grattan Institute think tank says the costs of solar power systems far outweigh the benefits.  
Picture: Thinkstock *Source:* Supplied

**The costs of programs to encourage the installation of rooftop solar systems have outweighed the benefits by \$9 billion and will result in a \$14bn subsidy being paid by consumers who do not have panels to those who do.**

A report by the Grattan Institute think tank calls for sweeping reforms to electricity pricing, the rollout of smart meters and changes to electricity forecasting.

It says various solar feed-in tariff schemes, under which households with solar panels are rewarded for providing power into the grid, and the current structure of electricity pricing mean “governments have created a policy mess that should never be repeated”.

Under current pricing regimes, consumers pay a charge for the power they use regardless of whether it is at a peak usage period or a time when demand is low. People with solar panels pay less because they use less grid power. But because electricity networks have to be built to cope with peak periods — and solar panels output tends to decline in the later afternoon during the peak — consumers without panels are subsidising those with panels.

The report by Grattan energy program director Tony Wood and energy fellow David Blowers says while solar rooftop programs have cut emissions it has been expensive — the equivalent of a carbon price of \$170 a tonne. “Emissions could have been reduced in a cheaper and fairer way,” Mr Wood says.

By comparison, the Gillard government’s carbon price was \$24.15 a tonne when it was repealed and the Abbott government paid an average price of \$13.95 a tonne for carbon abatement at its first emissions reduction auction last month.

The Grattan report says planned changes to electricity pricing will make the installation of new solar panels in most capital cities no longer profitable.

The electricity regulator has issued a rule requiring cost-reflective pricing for electricity by 2017. This would make those with solar panels pay more to use the network

If electricity pricing was changed to an average fixed charge of 20 per cent of the bill, a demand charge of 40 per cent and time-of-use pricing of 40 per cent, the report says that installing a new 3 kilowatt photovoltaic (PV) system would be economically beneficial only in Adelaide at current solar PV prices.

The report says it would be close to break even in Perth but the price of a system would need to fall by nearly \$500 in Brisbane, over \$1000 in Sydney and by nearly \$2000 in Melbourne. If predictions of a 25 per cent fall in the cost of solar panels were correct, then only Melbourne would not be viable by 2017.

The report challenges predictions of a so-called “death spiral” for electricity distribution networks, calculating that it will be more cost effective for consumers to stay on the grid for backup power even with solar rooftop panels and battery storage.

It says “a large scale rollout of battery storage is unlikely to occur without the technology being financially viable for most households”.

At current prices, it could cost \$34,000 for a typical Sydney household to install a 7 kilowatt solar PV system with 35KW hours of battery storage. But this would generate only 95 per cent of its electricity needs, leaving the equivalent of 18 days a year without power. This would either have to be supplemented by staying on the grid or by buying a diesel generator.

With 1.4m households having solar PV panels on their rooftops, Australia has the highest proportion of households with solar rooftop panels of any country in the world.

But the way electricity is priced, based on simple consumption rather than whether it is at peak or off-peak times, means that consumers who do not have air conditioners or solar panels subsidise those who do, Mr Woods says.

“Households pay their network charge based on their average power use over a given time period. Since solar households consume less electricity overall, they pay less than other households to use the network,” he says.

“But they place a similar amount of strain on the distribution network as those without solar PV, since peak use of the residential network usually occurs in the early evening when there is little or no solar output...”

Cross-subsidies from people without solar amount to \$14bn, he said.