



City of Nedlands

Agenda

Sustainable Nedlands Committee Meeting

8 June 2015

Dear Committee Member

The next meeting of the Sustainable Nedlands Committee will be held on Monday, 8 June 2015 in the Council Chambers, located at 71 Stirling Highway, Nedlands commencing at 6.00 pm.

Andrew Melville
Manager Health and Compliance
3 June 2015

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City of Nedlands

Notice of a meeting of the Sustainable Nedlands Committee to be held in the Council Chambers, 71 Stirling Highway, Nedlands on Monday, 8 June 2015 at 6.00 pm.

Sustainable Nedlands Committee Agenda

Declaration of Opening

The Presiding Member will declare the meeting open at 6.00 pm and will draw attention to the disclaimer below.

Present and Apologies and Leave of Absence (Previously Approved)

Councillors His Worship the Mayor, R M Hipkins
Councillor N Shaw (Presiding Member)
Councillor R Binks

Committee Members

Ms B Channon
Ms B Tyson
Mr R Griffiths
Ms G Stubber
Ms S Wang
Mr M Yap

Staff Mr A Melville Manager Health & Compliance
Ms P Fisher Policy and Projects Officer

Leave of Absence None
(Previously Approved)

Apologies Mr G Davies

Disclaimer

Members of the public who attend Committee Meetings should not act immediately on anything they hear at the meetings, without first seeking clarification of Council's position. For example, by reference to the confirmed Minutes of a Committee Meeting. Members of the public are also advised to wait for written advice from the Council Prior to taking action on any matter that they may have before the Committee.

1. Public Question Time

A member of the public wishing to ask a question should register that interest by notification in writing to the Chief Executive Officer in advance, setting out the text or substance of the question.

The order in which the Chief Executive Officer receives registrations of interest shall determine the order of questions unless the Presiding Member determines otherwise. Questions must relate to a matter contained within the agenda of that meeting.

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

Addresses by members of the public who have completed Public Address Session Forms will be invited to be made at this point.

3. Disclosures of Financial Interest

The Presiding Member to remind Councillors, Committee Members and Staff of the requirements of Section 5.65 of the Local Government Act to disclose any interest during the meeting when the matter is discussed.

A declaration under this section requires that the nature of the interest must be disclosed. Consequently a member who has made a declaration must not preside, participate in, or be present during any discussion or decision making procedure relating to the matter the subject of the declaration.

However, other members may allow participation of the declarant if the member further discloses the extent of the interest. Any such declarant who wishes to participate in the meeting on the matter, shall leave the meeting, after making their declaration and request to participate, while other members consider and decide upon whether the interest is trivial or insignificant or is common to a significant number of electors or ratepayers.

4. Disclosures of Interests Affecting Impartiality

The Presiding Member to remind Councillors, Committee Members and Staff of the requirements of Council's Code of Conduct in accordance with Section 5.103 of the Local Government Act.

Committee members and staff are required, in addition to declaring any financial interests to declare any interest that may affect their impartiality in considering a matter. This declaration does not restrict any right to participate in or be present during the decision-making procedure.

The following pro forma declaration is provided to assist in making the disclosure.

“With regard to the matter in item x..... I disclose that I have an association with the applicant (or person seeking a decision). As a consequence, there may be a perception that my impartiality on the matter may be affected. I declare that I will consider this matter on its merits and vote accordingly.”

The member or employee is encouraged to disclose the nature of the association.

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

Members who have not read the business papers to make declarations at this point.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Sustainable Nedlands Committee Meeting – 13 April 2015

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

7. Outstanding Action List

Please find attached the Committee’s Outstanding Action List.

8. Items for Discussion

NOTE: Regulation 11(da) of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 requires written reasons for each decision made at the meeting that is significantly different from the relevant written recommendation of a committee or an employee as defined in section 5.70 (but not a decision to only note the matter or to return the recommendation for further consideration).

8.1 My Great Idea

The period for submitting competition entries has now closed. The City has received 8 entries for the consideration of the Sustainable Nedlands Committee. The entries will be provided by Manager Health and Compliance for the Committees consideration at their forthcoming informal Committee meeting.

8.2 The Cost of Rooftop Solar Systems

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

8.3 Transition Towns

Ms G Stubber would like to discuss the forthcoming presentation with the Committee.

8.4 Mayo Community Garden Update

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

9. Date of Next Meeting

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 will declare the meeting closed.

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	Project deferred. No action at this time.
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	Complete
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	BC to question NS at the informal meeting



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	Completed; Presented to SNC 1 November meeting
3 November 2014	Household energy usage	Develop a methodology for a concept of providing personal energy use to residents	Susie Wang	

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.