

AGM and GM minutes 3 March 2022

Colton State Election Candidates Forum 7.15 – 8.15 pm

Matt Cowdrey (Liberal Party) (apology), Paul Alexandrides (ALP), Deb Cashel (The Greens)

Question for a councillor – does Charles Sturt Council have to repair damage to the beaches through this project (long-term) – eg taking away too much sand, loss of marine life etc? Who picks up the tab for this?

Paul Alexandrides: Council is responsible for damage to beaches, but we are not sure what maintenance might be required.

Kenzie van den Nieuwelaar: All the costs for the sandpipe etc will be passed on to the company/builders involved in the construction (regeneration).

Clarification (meeting participant): Once the contract is completed, council will be responsible.

Paul Alexandrides (ALP)

Elected member – local issues

MP – bigger issues

Biggest issue at the moment is the pipeline – consideration re damage to the dunes, local businesses.

It's about the community. He has already represented us as a councillor. Questions will be answered with honesty and integrity.

QUESTIONS

Is there opposition to the pipeline? Are all three parties supporting it?

No – the Labor Party is standing against it. We need a social impact and environmental study (EIS) once the contracts signed by the Liberal Party have been read. These are predicted to be issued to the construction companies in April.

We don't know what the plan is. The majority of Colton are not wanting it.

What is the Labor Party's attitude to dealing with those contracts and how would it institute the EIS?

The EIS will go through the standard principles. Labor does not want to sign that contract and fears what has already been signed. The Labor Party thinks there is a better way than the pipeline. We are not sure of what has been put forward at this stage. We want to go through community consultation. We want to protect the environment. Labor feels underinformed.

Treaty negotiations – will they start negotiations on this with First Nations peoples (as per Victoria)?

Yes, Labor wants to re-establish our Aboriginal Heritage Group. We are with them all the way.

What is your position on an automatic by-election if the candidate decides to go independent part way through the candidature? This is a problem where someone votes for the values of the party.

You vote for the person in your seat. I think there is an argument for your point of view that it destabilises the government.

The Liberal party have refused to conduct an EIS. Comments?

This is disingenuous by the premier and his party, it's not independent.

What is your attitude to driving on beaches?

It's environmentally dangerous. It's not a good idea.

Planning – council and state – developers are pushing the boundaries. What is the Labor Party's position on scrapping the Rau Plan?

We want to bring back developmental heritage. What makes Adelaide liveable? Canopy cover, pocket parks etc. We have a piece of legislation that makes it easy for developers to sign off on what they want. We have become a toothless tiger and the legislation needs revisiting. Community consultation needs to decide what our suburbs look like.

We're seeing terrible flood events, clearly relating to the burning of fossil fuels. What do you think about this?

The private sector is driving it quicker, but as a party we have the hydrogen plan to help drive renewable energy into our homes. We are committed to renewable energy. We are looking for a greener future.

Will the Labor Party be considering backzoning some areas to parklands? SO far there has been no statement, no policy.

I am not privy to caucus conversations at this stage.

Social and affordable housing – particularly a problem for older women?

I can't deliver information on it at this stage, until it's announced.

Deb Cashel (The Greens)

Good to see people interested in their community. She has been involved in various activities locally.

Save our beaches launched her activism. Her interest in the Greens started then. All policies need to fit under the Greens 4 pillars (Ecology, Democracy, Peace, Social Justice).

The Greens can affect policy. One person can make a difference. Balance of power in parliament is important.

Sand management is a big topic within Colton. Loss of seagrass, decimation of beaches etc are the issues.

Finally there is some action on Breakout Creek (wetlands).

Where is the affordable and social housing in Colton? Greens call for increased funding for the sector to build new homes, putting people above profit. We need more input into development in the area as per the Community Alliance SA.

QUESTIONS

Is there opposition to the pipeline?

Yes, there is opposition. A whole of coast EIS is needed.

Treaty negotiations – will they start negotiations on this with First Nations peoples (as per Victoria)?

The Greens are very committed to First Nations Peoples. The Greens have received a lot of questions about this. We have a First Nations Greens Group.

What is your position on an automatic by-election if the candidate decides to go independent part way through the candidature? This is a problem where someone votes for the values of the party.

It depends on whether it is in the Upper or Lower House.

What is your attitude to driving on beaches?

It's abhorrent and a risk to children.

Planning – council and state – developers are pushing the boundaries. What is The Green's position on scrapping the Rau Plan?

The Greens totally back the Community Alliance's platform.

Theo Ellenbroek: If you are interested in planning, urban infill, trees etc then the Community Alliance has a great summary of what they are encouraging on their website

<https://communityalliancesa.org.au/>

Iris Iwanicki (President, Community Alliance SA): Development legislation is currently a rubbery system and it needs to be clearer with big reforms. The Greens support it. The Labor Party hasn't responded – there is an intention but it's vague. The Labor Party needs to step up. There are many issues. Has this whole process about the pumping of the sand looked at potential sea rises? Planning should be looking at climate change! If we don't look at this, we will lose Adelaide as the most liveable city in the world.

*Malinauskas said he will ban **all** donations. How practical is that...? We have heard nothing from the Liberals.*

Political donations – The Greens don't accept donations from corporations. They check whether donations are ethical and they have said no. We won't be bought.

We're seeing terrible flood events, clearly relating to the burning of fossil fuels. What do you think about this?

The Labor Party has done pretty well on this in SA. Federally Adam Bandt has said that there will be new jobs in a cleaner energy system. Demand it!

Social and affordable housing – particularly a problem for older women?

Rob Simms has talked about it – 40,000 public homes. It has to be a central policy as it's happening across all suburbs. The website will have the details.

Iris Iwanicki (President, Community Alliance SA): The Greens have ticked off on Community Alliance's approach to this.

Matt Cowdrey (Liberal Party) (apology)

Submission read by Jim Douglas

He is happy to have worked with WACRA on many issues (eg the BAJU groundwater project).

I am passionate about the Coast Park and getting it finished. It has required significant consultation and administration.

Breakout Creek Stage 3 – I was able to secure funding for the final stage. I believe we have ended up with a design that benefits all interested parties.

Main Street upgrade – state government has provided some funding, and there will be canopy in place.

I have delivered on all promises made at the previous election.

Securing the future of our coastline: the Adelaide Living Beaches strategy is effective in some areas but has failed Henley. The sand recycling pipeline is the best option.

We are on the track from a whole of state perspective.

The ban on single use plastics is nation leading.

More people are returning to SA than leaving.

QUESTIONS (ON NOTICE)

Who is going to pay for the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club?

What is your attitude to driving on beaches?

Annual General Meeting

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies: Bert Brown, Rina Cohen, Alan Goldsmith, Erica Jolly, Rob Loiello, Sarah McGrath, Barry Stanton, John Stoiber, Angela Vaughan, Anne Wheaton

2. Acceptance of minutes

AGM minutes 2021

Moved: Geoff Short

Seconded: Becky Llewellyn

Carried

3. Treasurer's report

Richard Smith reporting

Report on the WACRA website: <http://wacra.org.au/news-events/meetings/>

Move that report be received subject to a satisfactory audit at the end of May.

Moved: Richard Smith

Seconded: Sandy Schultheis

Carried

4. Chairperson's report

Paul Laris (Acting Chairperson) reporting

As usual it has been a busy 12 months for WACRA. In the ordinary general meeting that will follow on the AGM there will be updates on a number of the key issues we have been engaged in, so I will try to be as brief as possible and hopefully prevent repetition. And I won't go over the successful fundraiser we had with the *First Cow* film night as this has been dealt with in the treasurer's report. There are however 6 areas of achievement I would like to touch on – and on big challenge for the future.

Firstly, **beach sand management**. I just want to highlight how much time and energy has gone into our engagement with this project via the community reference group and negotiations with the various stakeholders. Geoff, Jim and Bert have done much of the heavy lifting on this one. The state government via Minister Speirs and the CPB see the only solution to beach erosion being a mass replenishment at West Beach and a sand slurry pipeline. Suffice it to say that WACRA has maintained a consistent position calling for a proper whole of metro coastline EIS and the development of a management strategy considering all the options and based on evidence. That struggle continues. My daughter works in the area of public policy and she commented the other day that sadly, evidence based policy is so retro. However, we do believe that our voice is being heard. Geoff will tell you Shortly about where we are up to on the sand pipeline saga.

Coast Park path

This issue is conflated with the pipeline issue in some ways, as there are plans for the pipeline to run under the path in some sections. That means that two government departments and two councils are involved. Again, WACRA has been consistent in supporting the principles of an accessible coast path – actually along the coast. Again, we believe that we have taken a position based on the needs of the wider community and that has brought us up against some who have more localised interests. It appears that the government is inclined more to our position, but there is plenty more to play out as the plans for the various stages of the path are unveiled.

Antunes Drain

For 10 years WACRA has lobbied state governments and the Department of Environment and Water to stop the illegal extraction and dumping of ground water from the basement of the Baju/H2O building (Foodland Supermarket) on Seaview Road and on to Henley Beach just north of Henley Square. The red stain from iron in the water has been a familiar sight. But as of mid January it has finally been stopped. In early 2021 it appeared that the DEW, the Council, the body corporate for the building, DTI, the retail tenants and the developer (Richard Antunes trading as Bayspring Pty Ltd) had reached an agreement whereby the developer would conduct the capital works required to reinject the water into the water table. This is crucial as the continuing illegal lowering of the water table threatened to affect foundations of buildings and to encourage the ingress of salt water from the gulf. In the event, the developer reneged on the deal – and so late in 2021 the DEW started doing the works which are now successfully completed. DEW and the developer are currently awaiting the outcome of an ERD court hearing where the DEW is trying to charge all costs to the developer. So it took a long time, but we won in the end.

Climate emergency group

WACRA has shown our concern about the climate crisis in making this one of our key priority areas and Andrea and Julie will report on recent activities. Suffice to say that the CEG has been very active indeed. With Kate Denton's advocacy for a stronger council commitment to growing our tree canopy and Julie and the CEG team taking on the My Tree Project, we built new networks and alliances across the west.

Breakout Creek

We have been lobbying for the final stage of the Breakout Creek wetlands for about as long as we have been fighting to stop the Antunes drain. But again, at last we are starting to see a result with construction work having just commenced last Monday on the section from Tapleys Hill Road to the sea. While our absent state MP may claim the credit, this has only come about after years of WACRA lobbying and working closely first with the AMLRNRMB, with CS and WT councils, with local MPs and most recently with Green Adelaide. We can expect the works to be completed by the middle of next year and the results to get better and better with the years that follow.

Listen to the people

There seems to be a bit of a theme of longterm struggle for longterm results emerging here. The WACRA history book project really highlights this. WACRA is the latest embodiment of a continuous tradition of local community activism over a 50 year period. Starting in September 2018 Tina Koch interviewed nearly 30 people. Interviews were transcribed and turned into nearly 70 stories that were then checked with the people concerned. The stories cover issues as wide as life itself – public art, parking meters, dredging, shark fishing, library protection- its all there. We got a grant from the history trust to help in printing – as well as a very generous donation from a member. Huge thanks to Jim, to Anne, to Tina and to Andrea whose proofreading expertise has helped make this an excellent publication. BUT... you can't have one yet. You have to wait for the official launch at the Reedbeds Community Centre on 10 April.

Community Alliance, urban planning and the state election

Back in 2011 WACRA was one of a number of residents associations involved in founding the Community Alliance of SA. The aim was to give a political voice to communities in the planning and development process in this state. Currently there are 35 groups all very concerned at the way in which changes to the urban planning code are causing confusing, opaque and are resulting in smaller lot development, excessive street parking, loss of tree canopy loss of heritage buildings.

Leading up to the election CASA has called on all parties to guarantee better governance, no political donations from developers, heritage protection and a community engagement charter with teeth. WACRA has publicly endorsed the CASA demands. There is a link to the full election platform in the email reminder that went out for this meeting.

An opportunity for you...

In a moment, I will ask Jim to conduct the annual election of officers. Looking back over the last year WACRA's achievements are impressive. But it should be emphasised that this was only possible because of the commitment of you - our community members. There was work, but there was also the gladness and fulfilment of being part of an active group of community people who care. So if you would like to see a better local community, a better built environment, more engaged local government, vibrant community arts, a greener place to call home, then please, put your hand up. Become a member of the WACRA management committee (sometimes called 'executive'). We don't worry too much about the titles – we work on the principle of sharing the tasks and supporting each other -as much or a little as you want. As the Dalai Lama said the secret of life is to be happy and to be useful. WACRA offers you both!

Moved: Richard Smith

Seconded: Geoff Short

Carried

5. Election of officers

Jim Douglas (Returning Officer)

You must nominate or be nominated if you are a member of WACRA, and you need to be a member for at least two months, but it is possible to do this during the year.

Chairperson (vacant).

Vice Chairperson (vacant).

Richard Smith (Secretary/Treasurer) nominated by Richard Smith, seconded by Paul Acfield. Carried

Andrea Rankin (Assistant Secretary/Minutes) nominated by Kate Denton, seconded by Theo Ellenbroek. Carried

Membership Officer/Assistant Treasurer (vacant)

Appointments to the Committee:

Geoff Short nominated by Geoff Short, seconded by Sandy Schultheis. Carried

Julie Whitehead nominated by Paul Laris, seconded by Rae Marnham. Carried

Paul Laris nominated by Sandy Schultheis, seconded by Fernando Gonçalves. Carried

Bert Brown nominated by Paul Laris, seconded by Chrissy Schultz. Carried

Theo Ellenbroek nominated by Theo Ellenbroek, seconded by Richard Smith. Carried

Jim Douglas nominated by Paul Acfield, seconded by Geoff Short. Carried

Marty Cielens nominated by Becky Llewellyn, seconded by Pedro Schultz. Carried

People can be co-opted without holding a position on the committee. There are also some people who are 'go-tos' for information and support.

It's very rewarding to be on the Committee.

Don Lewis (Public Officer) nominated by Julie Whitehead, seconded by Paul Laris. Carried

Refer to the WACRA website for the list of officers: <http://wacra.org.au/about/who-we-are/>

Special thanks to Paul Acfield and Sandy Ball, and Anne Wheaton over the past years, who is willing to help out as a WACRA member. Anne Wheaton has offered her continuing assistance to send out the meeting notices, newsletter, membership and supporter list updates.

Meeting closed 8.49pm

General Meeting

Presentations by groups

Refer to the reports at the end of these meeting minutes for more details.

Acceptance of General Meeting minutes December 21

Moved: Paul Acfield

Seconded: Geoff Short

Carried

Coastal Management feedback

Geoff Short reporting

Mass fill has been reduced to 300,000 cubic metres.

The project was signed off 18 February.

WACRA will monitor the conditions put forward by the SCAP. They have to develop environmental and rehabilitation plans, and a dredging plan. We will be seeking transparency. We will be pursuing whether the Community Reference Group will continue. It is likely to be wound up but we will push for some other form of community consultation.

The SCAP Development Application approval included the unexpected statement that the Coast Protection Board (CPB) excuses itself from any liability for loss of life or property caused by coastal erosion, inundation or sea level rise. WACRA's submission to the ERD Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into the CPB noted WACRA's belief that the CPB has a duty of care, which probably explains the inclusion of this paragraph in the DA approval.

Questions:

What is the reality of this project being unpicked to allow an EIS to go ahead?

If the contracts are done, then it will be hard for a Labor Government to undo them.

There are provisions under the acts for a minister to cause an EIS to be undertaken for 'major' projects. Surely this is a major project and will qualify for an EIS?

Robyn Ravalico: The end section of the pipeline is not a fait accompli, there has been no public consultation as yet and it would have to become a separate development application or all in one single development application (ideally).

My Tree Project and presentations to Council

Julie Whitehead reporting

Deputation: 'WACRA: a budget canopy commitment' was presented 14 February by Kate Denton. She thanked council for their actions and went into how the budget needs to increase its canopy commitment. View her presentation

https://www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0031/1106599/cl22-02-14m.pdf

Comparison of Charles Sturt with City of Marion (thanks to John Stoiber).

CEG will reinforce the deputation by sending letters to councillors and the mayor. The next draft budget will be available through Your Say (CCS website) if you want to give input on this issue (or others).

My Tree Project: This commenced in 2021 and is continuing in 2022. Covid has caused interruptions so timelines have been juggled. Schools want all students to be involved in the art workshops. A launch will occur on a TBA date.

The My Tree Project banner will be placed at all events within the project. Other information resources will follow that can be permanent markers in schools.

Any other business

Community hub

Henley Town Hall and new building space. Your Say is open from today so if you have an interest, have a look and give feedback. There is a floorplan, elevations and an online survey. Consultation closes 3 April. Maker space, gallery, meeting rooms, library etc. Entrances will be off Seaview Road and North Street.

The Henley Community Centre will sell, as well as buildings across the road. It's a council asset. Other buildings are under consideration for sale. Car parking at the depot also under consideration.

Community Alliance SA

Election platform 2022 leaflet – 4 main reforms proposed.

Noise problem on Seaview Road

“Noise radar” in Paris will catch raucous cars and motorbikes’ – new appliance available

History book launch

3pm Sunday 10 April

Fulham Community Centre (formerly Reedbeds)

19 Fitch Road, Fulham

'Listen to the people: 50 years of community action'

All people who are on the mailing list and/or are WACRA members will get an invitation via email.

We also hope to get some media attention.

Event Sunday 6 March 6pm Henley Square

Robyn Ravalico – 'Celebrate our beaches and thank our volunteers'

People love their beaches – there is social impact from projects such as the pipeline. Amenities will be lost, there will be disruption.

The aim is to thank volunteers and the Kurna People, who haven't been acknowledged by the project.

Meeting closed 9.22pm

REPORTS

1. Coastal Replenishment Strategy

WACRA position 10/2/22

For the last two years, WACRA has taken a consistent position in relation to the State Government's Securing the Future of Our Coastline Strategy. We have indicated that we are supportive of a mass fill of sand at West Beach. We are not opposed to the proposed pipeline per se, conceding that a properly designed and constructed pipeline may be part of the best solution to the problem. Our key concerns, however, have been:

- The Government has purported to rely upon the Danish Hydraulics Institute's 2018 report to justify its strategy but has ignored DHI's statement that it did not consider in detail the economic, social and environmental consequences of its recommendations
- The Government has failed to action the recommendation of DHI (one of only three it made) that "Further analysis of the long-term mass nourishment and large scale backpassing options is undertaken to evaluate the full financial, social and environmental implications of these options to provide a long term, sustainable solution to the management of the West Beach sediment cell."
- The Government has refused to fully investigate the total range of potential options and technologies to protect and replenish the coastline
- The Government has refused to undertake an Environmental Impact Study (EIS)(or similar comprehensive assessment process) on the proposed strategies.

It is unclear whether these failures reflect the advice of the Department of Environment & Water (DEW) to the Government or whether the Government has rejected advice from DEW to undertake those actions. Neither explanation is acceptable.

There are numerous examples of the Government (or DEW) inventing and changing the strategy on the run, including:

- Initially stating that no sand would be taken from North of Largs jetty but subsequently proceeding to do so
- Initially stating that sand would not be removed from Grange Beach, then including the beach as a collection point for the pipeline and then, as a result of lobbying by residents, reversing that decision, via a press release by the Minister for the Environment confirming no sand will be taken from Grange Beach
- Initially having Bower Rd, Semaphore as the Northern-most point of the pipeline but recently indicating that it will investigate extending it to Largs Bay.

Some of these changes have even been made after the Development Application for the pipeline had been referred to the State Commission Assessment Panel – another failure of process. The timing and content of the SCAP recommendation is unknown but is keenly anticipated by residents up and down the coast.

If all options had been properly investigated at the outset and an EIS undertaken, it is likely that a more comprehensive solution would have been arrived at, the above and other reversals would have been avoided, and the community would have been more likely to be supportive.

The state of the metropolitan beaches has become a key issue in the upcoming State election. The ALP has recently released its environment policy on Adelaide's Coastline. It includes support for an Environmental Impact Assessment (including social and economic impact) and a scientific review of all options for sand management which will include full community input and transparency and analysis of climate change impact.

WACRA hopes that whichever party forms Government, it adopts the position WACRA has advocated for the last two years.

2. Climate Emergency Group

Deputation to Council (14 February)

Issue/focus: Tree Canopy in Charles Sturt – budget requirements

In January 2021, Kate Denton and Pedro Schultz presented to a council meeting re canopy and the budget. In June 2021, Julie Whitehead presented a deputation supporting Mark Hannan's GROWING GREEN: Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy 2021-2045

<https://www.yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/tree-canopy> that aims for a 25% increase in canopy to 2045.

Following on from and with the same focus as these previous deputations:

- Kate Denton to present Monday 14 February 2022 on 'WACRA: a budget canopy commitment' urging council's asset managers to re-purpose funds within their existing budgets to increase and sustain canopy

My Tree Project (to mid-year)

This project is sponsored by SA Water. Currently participating schools are St Michael's College (Senior and Primary), West Beach Primary and Kilkenny Primary. [over 150 children and teachers involved]

Planned events:

- Seed propagation workshops in participating schools (continuing on from workshops in 2021 and a forum across these schools)
- Nurturing of seeds that have been propagated, ready for planting
- Art workshops overseen by Lara Lamnek – children depict what a tree means to them in a form of their own choice (artwork, poetry, story, etc)
- Artworks launch, date and time at the Civic Centre to be determined. Additional exhibition venues are shopping centres, public libraries, SA Water foyer, schools
- Tree planting – associated with a significant date in June/July – mainly at schools
- Schools will exhibit posters and signage providing information about the project and plant species

Documentation of the project: film and photos

Future planning: We are hoping that more schools will get involved in a future project, that there will be further sponsorship and expanded leadership from the education sector.

Grange Railway Station Community Garden

Community consultation is sought until 5pm Friday 25 February on the proposal to create a community garden on the southern side of the Grange Railway Station. This is a project that many in the Grange community have wanted, as the land is begging for creativity, productivity and community input. Have your say on this great initiative at

<https://www.yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/proposed-grange-community-garden>

3. Community Alliance Election Platform 2022

Putting People back into the Planning and Development Process in SA

The Community Alliance SA Inc. (CASA) is an umbrella organisation of 35 resident action groups in SA. CASA was formed in 2011 following several very controversial Ministerial Development Plan Amendments (DPA's) that caused widespread community concern. We advocated for our member groups, including lobbying for reform of Government, Planning and Related Legislation, and for genuine community engagement.

The new SA Planning System promised clarity, certainty, and efficiency with the state planning system. It has Failed to Deliver.

What has resulted from the Planning Development and Infrastructure Act Regulations and Code is massive confusion over planning policies, less transparency, negative impacts from much smaller lot redevelopment, excessive car parking in streets, significant destruction of the tree canopy and greatly reduced protection for all three levels of heritage buildings.

CASA has sent their Election Platform to all candidates in this coming State Election seeking support for their Four Pillars for Reform.

1. Good Governance
2. No More Political Donations from Developers
3. Heritage Protection and Promotion
4. Community Engagement Charter

You can download the full document at: <http://communityalliancesa.org.au/>