



## General Meeting 1 September 2022

### Minutes

#### First Nations acknowledgement

#### Guest speaker

Ms Zoe Smith, Environmental Management Officer City of Charles Sturt, will speak on the 'Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Project': <https://www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au/council/news-and-media/latest-news/2022/help-us-reduce-greenhouse-gas-emissions-in-our-city>

#### Questions from the floor:

**Q:** Is CSS going to cooperate with Mitcham Council re solar (Community Renewable Energy Program) <https://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/our-environment/community-renewable-energy-program?>

**A:** Yes. We want to see what other councils are doing. If we have these ideas and we know the community will respond well, there is an opportunity for council to look into it. Let's think big.

**Q:** Is this a state initiative as well as a local government initiative?

**A:** This is very much something we as a community will look at and link in with across the state. But we are doing this differently to most councils. This plan is going to be written by the community. It's about what this community needs.

**Q:** We seem to have some Norfolk Pines planted in Henley Square and don't think they're good shade trees.

**A:** This is more about trees for this plan.

**Q:** Are these targets gross or net?

**A:** There is an opportunity to look at current trees and predictions re local tree contribution to helping sequestration. The Growing Green strategy (<https://www.yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/tree-canopy>) will play a part in this. The Nillumbik Shire Council have a net zero community plan but CCS won't have this.

**Q:** Now that we've moved to a state-based planning system can we influence that system and have plans at the local level?

**A:** There are always opportunities to advocate. This action plan will have an advocacy component – not just council on behalf of community but community advocating on behalf of themselves (residents, businesses etc). It's a powerful tool for influence. Sometimes it makes a difference if there are enough voices. We are not the only council doing this. It's building change (eg 7 star rated homes in 2023). We need to put opportunities into the plan and connect community members.

**Q:** Are there guidelines/rules from council about what people grow, plant (eg artificial lawn)?

**A:** Yes, council can't require people to do everything. This comes back to working as a community. Norms come into place. People will see what is happening and change through understanding and learning. Part of this project will be about learning – conversations in the street etc. This is a scale – people who don't care are the minority. Then there's people who don't know, and people who are

going above and beyond. We need to support middle stage people. There will hopefully be a component of education.

**Q:** Can there be dos and don'ts for what you plant when new blocks are built?

**A:** It's not just a don't sometimes, it's about education. People need to better understand about building a sustainable home – there are groups out there who are doing this to encourage better choices. How can we get the community to take up this information?

**Q:** Re behaviour change, there are three levels of government. Sometimes the bucket is passed from top to bottom. Is this initiative passing the bucket to the community? As a community we don't have much power. The idea of this plan seems a bit 'lame'. I can't see how you can engage for big issue action via the community.

**A:** Council is also part of the community and is doing a lot already. Municipal plans (interstate) involve a whole range of groups in the community (fire, police, business, Red Cross etc). This plan is the same – we all have roles to play but collectively it comes together as a whole plan. There are co-benefits. We do not expect the community to do all the work.

**Q:** How do we know that council's budgetary priorities will accept this plan? Major construction seems to be put ahead of greening. How many good ideas actually come to fruition?

**A:** Again, the idea is that it is not all council's responsibility. This is looking at community's roles as well as council's role.

**Q:** This is a comment. We saw someone put veggie scraps in the bin, but there's no indication as to what happens to that green waste. What is being done to make sure it doesn't produce methane? The council would be better off making sure that what they say is happening is actually happening.

**A:** My understanding is that Jefferies takes CCS's organic waste and turns it into a product we can buy.

**Q:** But is there a net effect of this waste ...? On this side of the city it is very dry, there doesn't seem to be an emphasis by council to have green leafy areas.

**A:** The Growing Green strategy has a target of 25% by 2045. Maybe council needs to provide more information about what is actually happening.

**Q:** You have a Transport Plan. Unley Voices for Climate Action ran a transport workshop recently. How is this plan tied in with the Transport Plan, or isn't it?

**A:** The transport staff (Transport Plan) from council will come in to support this plan. A Neighbourhood Plan will build on this as well. There is an opportunity for plans like this one to support other plans such as the Transport Plan.

Paul Laris thanked Zoe Smith for her presentation.

**Action:** Zoe Smith will make us aware of the workshops as they come up.

## General Meeting

**Apologies:** Trevor Cox, Jim Douglas, Marg Easson, Mayor Angela Evans, Erica Jolly, Marion Kilsby, Tina Koch, Lara Lamnek, Chrissie Schultz, John Stoiber, Anne Wheaton

**Attendees:** Paul Acfield, Serge Ambrose, Sandy Ball, Bert Brown, Marty Cielens, Rina Cohen, Bernadette Cranwell, Bruce Foster, Alan Goldsmith, Fernando Gonçalves, Shelley Harington, Paul Laris, Becky Llewelyn, Rae Marnham, Chris Newby (guest), Mark Pierson, Andrea Rankin, Pedro Schultz, Geoff Short, Richard Smith, Kenzie van den Nieuwelaar, Glen Wescombe, Julie Whitehead, Geoff Wood

### Acceptance of GM minutes 2 June

Moved Paul Laris  
Seconded Andrea Rankin  
Carried

### Financial Report and acceptance

See website for Treasurer's report: <http://wacra.org.au/news-events/meetings/>

#### *Richard Smith reporting*

Membership is to the end of June each year. Richard Smith can join you at the end of this session.  
Financial Statement – presented. Closing balance \$4748.03.

Moved Richard Smith  
Seconded Alan Goldsmith  
Carried

### Coastal management

*See also the report at the end of the minutes.*

#### *Geoff Short reporting*

Update – we have written all the letters in the report and we are awaiting responses.

Keynote issue – the Adelaide Beach Management Review conducted by the department. We were told that it would commence in July/August. Some things have to happen before that can proceed.

The responsible minister is now the Attorney General Kyam Maher.

This is a staged and long-term process. But **Chris Newby** (Project Manager, Adelaide Beach Management Review, DEW) is here to take questions.

**Q:** Where is progress at re the mentioned stages – scientists, advisory panel – and scope of brief to be given to these scientists? WACRA has had input into the scope for the scientists and has provided a list of issues.

**A:** There is a lot that goes into a review such as this. Community engagement is a component and WACRA was strong on this. We are seeking an independent engagement expert so we can get fresh ideas re how to engage with the coastal community and key stakeholders. That result will be fed into the review process. At the moment there are a lot of ideas worthy of exploration during the review. A feasibility analysis may make some of these unlikely. We are going to a shortlist of advisory firms with the expertise. The preferred firm will have a number of different experts within it. We don't want a single consultant but a team.

**Q:** The shortlist – are they local?

**A:** Local, interstate and international. Who are the best and who are independent? We want to make sure the proposed solution and other outputs are analysed through this process. There may be a few

options and explanations of acknowledged but non-recommended phases. It has taken longer than we anticipated. Kyam Maher (Attorney General) had a lot of questions after being taken on a coastal tour.

**Q:** It will be very important for all options to be explored and an explanation of decisions made. The community felt that it was not part of the process and received a packaged solution. Transparency will be critical for the community.

**Newby:** The independent advisory panel – there is a framework, various types of people appointed/looking to appoint for that panel. It's not large. There is an environmental/social science representation balance. It's a matter of getting the mix right when you work with the community. How best to disseminate that information to everyone so that people feel they are listened to? The panel will report to the attorney general. In the meantime, there will need to be an interim project separate to the review to keep maintenance of the beaches going. Some decisions are in process, haven't been made or announced. Elements of this will shift over time. Conversations are important as this happens.

**Q:** What is the timing – 12 months... ?

**A:** It's still anticipated to be mid-2023. It's a challenge to say when it's going to wrap up with a recommendation/s. It's a challenging one to timeline without the experts saying what their approach is. We have set targets but these haven't been confirmed. But we have an interim management plan.

**Q:** Who is on the coastal management panel, and what are they advocating? Where is the accountability?

**A (Geoff Short):** That was within WACRA. There are groups within WACRA and these groups come up with ideas and put them to the full committee and they are endorsed/changed. That's the internal process and we are open to being given further ideas from members. We try to be as transparent as we can via meetings and the newsletter/website. You can engage with us at any point.

### **Linear Park – Have your say**

Reiteration – we put in a submission to Planning SA but due to the change of government the process has been resuscitated. We resubmitted our original proposal. View our submissions (under 'Coastal Linear Park') clarifying our support for the proposed linear park:

<http://wacra.org.au/coastal-management/>

### **Economic Development Strategy – WACRA submission to Council**

*See also the report at the end of the minutes.*

*Becky Llewellyn reporting*

WACRA put in a submission re this via Becky Llewellyn.

Economic Development Strategy to 2026: the final report is on Your Say

<https://www.yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/eco-dev-strategy-2022-226>. There are 10,000 more people in our area than there were 5 years ago. More Indigenous people, and other stats.

We suggested:

- Heat issues – can council buildings be cooling refuges?
- Coast degradation – we need evidence-based planning and advice
- Low tree cover
- Waste and solar – new initiatives would be good
- Public transport – we need to increase how many people take it
- What happens for flooding of low-lying areas?
- New pandemics – what do we do?
- Concerns about big housing developments and current road infrastructure

- SA Planning and Design Code – needs attention urgently
- Nuclear-powered submarines – we do not support this at all, near our council (Osborne). WACRA has a policy against nuclear power

We proposed an Indigenous focus which is not currently receiving attention. Median age is 24 – they are in need of economic support.

WACRA urges council to lobby for a western university campus for the region.

**Action:** Andrea Rankin to send WACRA’s nuclear power policy to Anne/Jim for disseminating to members and supporters (via facebook/WACRA generic email)

## **My Tree Exhibition**

*See also the report at the end of the minutes.*

*Julie Whitehead reporting*

Pilot year for MTP (2021-22). More information: <http://wacra.org.au/my-tree-project/>

Lots of students at the two schools – West Beach and Kilkenny Primary Schools – were involved (approx 90% of students from West Beach and approx 160 students from Kilkenny participated).

We are thinking to make it a biennial event for interested schools. We are seeking funding and will make 2022-23 a research year, looking at alternative management (other than WACRA).

Networking options are possible in the future – for example, the Children’s Artspace (Festival Centre).

All ideas are on the table for the future.

It was a brave experiment and this was a proof of concept.

We are applying for a Dept for Environment and Water Climate Leaders Award (to be announced in November): <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/climate-change/premiers-climate-change-council/2022-sa-climate-leaders-awards>

## **General business**

Kenzie van den Nieuwelaar: Council nominations have opened and will close next Tuesday 6 September. Kenzie is reapplying for Henley Ward.

Forms go out Friday 14 October and Thursday 20 October. You have until **10 November** to vote for ward councillors. More information: <https://www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au/council/role-of-council/elections>

*Meeting closed 9.01 pm*

## REPORTS

### Coastal Management Group

- Requested meeting with Deputy Premier & Minister for Environment Susan Close by letter of 1 April 2022. Letter was acknowledged but no substantive reply.
- Premier responded to our letter of 1 April on 7 May but did not address our request re IAP2, which we reiterated by letter of 5 July (cc'd Close, Hart & Newby) in context of appointment of scientific advisers and Industry Advisory Panel. No further response from Premier.
- Acknowledgment but no substantive reply from Koutsantonis to our letter of 13 May requesting a meeting.
- There have been no reportable developments from Government, DEW or Council.
- The Coastal Management Group met on 17 August and resolved to:
  - Write to Premier, Minister Close, A-G Maher, Cate Hart (DEW)
    - Noting lack of responses
    - Reiterating requests for meetings
    - Reiterating request for implementation of IAP2 principles, especially re appointment of scientific advisers and Industry Advisory Panel
    - Providing a WACRA Coastal Management Issues List for consideration by scientists and IAP
    - Requesting input to selection of scientists and IAP members
  - Write to Federal Member Mark Butler apprising him of the issues, urgency and apparent lack of progress and seeking Federal Government support
  - Approach Craig Wilkins (Chief Executive) Conservation SA for a meeting to reinforce common ground between them and WACRA
  - Approach Paul Sutton and Bruce Williams (CCS) to progress Council's positions on the sand management review, urgent beach repairs and coastal pathway
  - Contact Robert Simms (Greens member of Legislative Council and member of the Environment & Resources Committee of Parliament that inquired into Coast Protection Board) to ascertain the process for implementation of Committee's 11 recommendations on the CPB. Write to relevant Minister(s) to promote adoption of the recommendations

Keep a watching brief on Adelaide Coastal Communities Alliance which apparently is moving towards its own Face Book page and website.

# WACRA ISSUES LIST FOR DEW BEACH MANAGEMENT REVIEW

## Undo past errors

- De-construct West Beach boat harbour
- Properly manage stormwater run-off
- Reduce high nutrient outflows (eg phosphate fertiliser from golf courses, Torrens stormwater)

## Modulating wave action

- Re-establish seagrass beds
- Ripple mat technology
- Hybrid reefs

## Retaining sand at beaches

- Temporary geotextile bag groynes
- Off-shore breakwaters

## Sand sources

- Port Stanvac not available due to pollution, limited volumes, difficulty of access, risk of turbidity
- Quarry sands
- Grange, Semaphore, Largs beaches
- Section Bank (Noting that all of Section Bank is underwater at high tide and much is always underwater – ie offshore sand – and that dredging could be done without threat to ‘Bird Island’ AKA the Revetment.)
- Off-shore sand

## Sand movement modes

- Sand Motor as per Dutch report – <https://dezandmotor.nl/app/uploads/2022/01/Sand-Motor-in-perspective-Monitoring-and-Evaluation-report.pdf>
- Trucking
- Dredging
- Beach collection and unloading by front-loading ship
- Pipeline
  - Alignment issues – is construction at toe of dune feasible?
  - Environmental issues – flora & fauna damage and re-establishment
  - Operational life – 20/25 years? Build a paired pipe to double life? What happens at end of life?
  - Microplastics pollution

## Climate change

- Sea level and temperature rise, increased severity and intensity of storms must be anticipated and accommodated by the preferred solution.

## Budget/economic/psycho-social issues

- The beaches are a huge part of SA economy and lifestyle. The cost of the best solution should be set in this context, including the value of a crucial social and psychological public health asset.

The short, medium and long-term effects on commerce along the coast of ‘do-nothing’ and each proposed solution must be taken into account.

## **WACRA response to Council's Economic Development Strategy 2022-2026**

Our Council likes plans. That's good because others, even the Adelaide City Council, are shy of them. Recently YourSay consultation gave a chance to input on the Economic Development Strategy 2022-2026 which follows on from their 18-month Covid strategy, now finished.

They also like growth. Here at WACRA there is a lively debate about growth and non-growth but putting that aside, we responded to the Council's strategy in good faith.

WACRA put in an eleven-page document responding to this plan. The Council has now finalised its consultation and published its final plan on the YourSay website.

I will let you know what WACRA suggested, although it seems very few if any of our concerns have been addressed. There seems to be a problem with what looks like genuine desire to hear from the community but consultants and staff decide to go the way they want, with no modification to their plans.

### **Data on our Council**

New ABS Data from 2021 survey – Charles Sturt has 10,000 more people than five years ago.

1,620 people identified as Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander.

Our Council's median weekly income for a family was slightly higher than the SA average.

Retail, accommodation and food services, the arts and recreation all lost 5% of jobs.

### **Council Vision – Environment Outcomes**

Charles Sturt brands itself as a liveable, business-friendly city with a diverse, advanced economy. Council also supports knowledge and innovation and is a leader in terms of planning for environmental outcomes.

We argue that social well-being and environmental sustainability should underpin a green growth economy but there are several potential economic risks. We can all see how quickly climate change is seriously changing scenarios in many countries. Why do we think we would be immune?

### **Environmental Risks**

Heat – we call on Council to dedicate cooling refuges in all the public libraries

Coast degradation – we support evidence based, expert advise planning

Low tree cover – we want Council to be bolder and revisit tree canopy targets as a priority

Waste and solar – we support ongoing work and trialling new initiatives in this sector

Transport – only 10% of Charles Sturt residents take public transport to work – we support new bike paths, bikeways, DDA accessible bus infrastructure, EV stations and marketing the accessibility of buses plus personal responsibility for reducing CO2 emissions.

And nothing in this plan which goes till 2026 addresses what ifs, such as anticipated flooding in low-lying housing areas if Gulf St Vincent and Port River levels rise. Nor is there any pre-planning about new pandemics.

### **Urban Development**

We support integrating social and environmental goals in new housing developments – Bowden, West and The Square, Woodville West. There are others in the pipeline which are giving the Council a potential new rate revenue to make a lot of progress.

We hold concerns about the big housing developments approved for the corner of Valetta and Findon Roads, Kidman Park. The current road infrastructure will be stretched.

Support CASA's call for a review of the SA Planning and Design Code

### **Defence and Advanced Manufacturing**

In 2017, WACRA sought to make a presentation to Council on a Nuclear Free Policy but this was declined, as such decisions sit with State and federal government.

WACRA wishes to reiterate our grave concerns about this building nuclear submarines and do not support the establishment or extension of any nuclear industry near our Council. Building nuclear submarines at Osborne, makes our local area a strategic target of interest to world powers, many of whom are developing long range missiles that put our city at risk of being hit.

### **Indigenous Focus**

Lot of window dressing – Welcome to Country acknowledgements but little else of substance. Council's Community Plan 2020-2027, the top community outcome is: *In our City, no one gets left behind.*

ABS census shows less stable accommodation, less income, more costs, less relationship support is set in the context of 400 more Charles Sturt Council residents identifying as Aboriginal in this Census from the last one for our Council. There are more people, more disadvantage, and no acknowledgement of this reality in the planning. The indigenous residents are very vulnerable to being left behind economically.

The median age of our indigenous population in the 2021 Census is 24. It is a young cohort in need of targeted economic opportunities. This is a perfect time to form a Council Indigenous Task Force to examine what could be done in the economic sphere to provide opportunities for work, for new businesses, for integration with existing opportunities within the Council.

### **Knowledge**

Given that the State Government is examining a merger of universities, WACRA urges the Council to lobby and bid for a Western campus of such a body and investigate old industrial sites that could be repurposed. There is a need to bring higher education into our Council to keep value-adding with knowledge-based residents.

## Climate Matters Group (CMG)

### WACRA's goals

CMG's mission: Increase awareness of and take action with the community towards mitigating the effects of climate change

### Actions taken/developments since last report

#### My Tree Project (MTP)

- Pilot year completed. Some planting sessions continue at Kilkenny and West Beach Primary Schools
- Following feedback from principals, public space is being sought from CCS for Kilkenny students, continue at WBPS and seek 1 or 2 new primary schools for MTP
- Feedback forms are with students, families and staff
- MTP film is to be finalised (Marty)
- Budget on track, still \$ in WACRA account plus donation
- MTP to have a stand at the Environment and Green Showcase (incorporating Our Verges Alive), part of the Nature Festival on Saturday 8 October in the Woodville Town Hall, in liaison with Janet Willoughby

#### Climate Leaders Award

- The MTP team is applying for a SA Climate Leaders award, due 2 Sept and decided in Nov: <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/climate-change/premiers-climate-change-council/2022-sa-climate-leaders-awards>

#### WACRA website

- CMG and MTP references on website have been updated by Andrea Rankin: <http://wacra.org.au/climate-matters/> and <http://wacra.org.au/my-tree-project/>

### People in WACRA responsible

Julie Whitehead, Andrea Rankin, Kate Denton, Lara Lamnek, Steve Fuller, Deidre Knight, Marg Easson

Support by Marty Cielens and Richard Smith

*'This exhibition is absolutely beautiful! The children have been so creative and it is lovely to see their appreciation of trees and all the wonderful creatures that live in them. This is such a fantastic contribution to our environment for this generation and generations to come. Top marks to all those who inspired the children's ideas.'* Anne Wharton, Malvern

*'What an absolute joy! Children did a good deal of foraging to create their works. Congratulations to both schools. Creativity and awareness can so easily miss out in today's e-world.'*

*'Thank you for arranging this project. I have been an avid bush carer / land carer and general nature nurturer all my life so I welcome this initiative.'* Pat Wundersitz, Highgate