

His Worship the Mayor  
Councillors  
City of Marion

## **Notice of Environment Committee**

Council Chamber, Council Administration Centre  
245 Sturt Road, Sturt

**Tuesday, 7 November 2023 at 8.00 pm**

The CEO hereby gives Notice pursuant to the provisions under Section 83 of the *Local Government Act 1999* that an Environment Committee will be held.

A copy of the Agenda for this meeting is attached in accordance with Section 83 of the Act.

Meetings of the Council are open to the public and interested members of this community are welcome to attend. Access to the Council Chamber is via the main entrance to the Administration Centre on Sturt Road, Sturt.



Tony Harrison  
Chief Executive Officer

<b>1</b>	<b>OPEN MEETING.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>KAURNA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>ELECTED MEMBER DECLARATION OF INTEREST (IF ANY) .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES .....</b>	<b>3</b>
	4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 5 September 2023	3
<b>5</b>	<b>BUSINESS ARISING .....</b>	<b>13</b>
	5.1 Business Arising Statement - Action Items .....	13
<b>6</b>	<b>CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS - NIL .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION .....</b>	<b>17</b>
	7.1 Environmental Initiatives .....	17
	7.2 Year in Review .....	28
<b>8</b>	<b>REPORTS FOR NOTING - NIL .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>WORKSHOP / PRESENTATION ITEMS .....</b>	<b>32</b>
	9.1 ShineHub VPP presentation .....	32
<b>10</b>	<b>OTHER BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>MEETING CLOSURE .....</b>	<b>59</b>

## 1 Open Meeting

## 2 Kurna Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Kurna people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

## 3 Elected Member Declaration of Interest (if any)

## 4 Confirmation of Minutes

### 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 5 September 2023

<b>Report Reference</b>	EC231107R4.1
<b>Originating Officer</b>	Business Support Officer – Governance and Council Support – Cassidy Mitchell
<b>Corporate Manager</b>	Manager Office of the Chief Executive – Kate McKenzie
<b>General Manager</b>	Chief Executive Officer – Tony Harrison

## RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 5 September 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. E C 230905 - Final Minutes [4.1.1 - 9 pages]



**Minutes of the Environment Committee  
held on Tuesday, 5 September 2023 at 8.00 pm  
Council Chamber, Council Administration Centre  
245 Sturt Road, Sturt**



**PRESENT**

Mayor Kris Hanna  
Councillor Jason Veliskou (Chair)  
Councillor Raelene Telfer  
Councillor Sarah Luscombe  
Councillor Joseph Masika

**In Attendance**

Chief Executive Officer - Tony Harrison  
Acting General Manager City Services - Angela Allison  
Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment – Mat Allen  
Chief Financial Officer - Ray Barnwell  
Executive Officer to the General Manager City Services - Colleen Madsen  
Councillor Ian Crossland  
Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability – Rebecca Neumann  
Waste Education Officer – Allison Byrne

**1 Open Meeting**

The Chair opened the meeting at 8.05pm

**2 Kaurna Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge the Kaurna people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

**3 Elected Member Declaration of Interest (if any)**

The Chair asked if any member wished to disclose an interest in relation to any item being considered at the meeting

The following interests were disclosed:

- Nil

**4 Confirmation of Minutes****4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 6 June 2023**

Report Reference                      EC230905R4.1



**Moved Councillor Telfer**

**Seconded Mayor Hanna**

That the minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 6 June 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

**Carried**

## **5 Business Arising**

### **5.1 Business Arising Statement - Action Items**

**Report Reference** EC230905R5.1

The Committee discussed and noted the business arising statement, meeting schedule and upcoming items.

## **6 Confidential Items - Nil**

## **7 Reports for Discussion**

### **7.1 Soft Plastic Recycling - Submission to Parliament SA**

**Report Reference** EC230905R7.1

The Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability, Rebecca Neumann introduced the Waste Education Officer, Allison Byrne who presented on the Soft Plastic Recycling Submission to Parliament SA for feedback from the Committee.

Discussion and feedback on the submission by the Committee included:

- Funding for Universities and Research Centres is important, and we should be encouraging the government to provide additional funding for research.
- **Section d) - the dot point relating to the 30% recycled plastic is important, move to the top of that section.**
- The Committee queried how can the government support business to put recycled products on their shelves?
- Staff clarified that packaging tax is an example of extended producer responsibility. That will also address the other matters of supermarkets putting packaging on the shelves in the first instance. It is a system for producers that come on board i.e., for the manufacturers of the packaging that supply the supermarkets that there is some tax or incentive imbedded in the manufacturing process so that they pay for the recycling content in their packaging, and the recycle content comes in the beginning of the packaging chain.
- Higher producer responsibility is a key issue to reduce soft plastic in the first instance.

The Chair acknowledged that Councillor Crossland has joined the meeting and invited him to participate in the discussion.



- The Committee commented on the fact that there is too much soft plastic in the shops to start with. They understand the need for marketing, but other pressures are needed to keep this under control.
- Due to the importance of section e) can that be moved as section a).?
- Noted that because there is no option for soft plastics for the community, we are going backwards in attitudes on at source waste separation. There may be a need to re-educate in the future.
- The Committee commented that soft plastics is a state government issue – the more non-recyclable plastics we get is a major problem. Whatever the government can do to reduce it, whether it be legislation that we can only use re-cyclable plastics, or a levy that would need to be used to make it financially sustainable for a business to build a plant and get rid of the recycle plastics sustainably.
- Discussion around SRWRA and the SMRF plant, that it cannot currently deal with soft plastic recycling. It is not that SRWRA is reluctant, they are interested in building a plant to recycle the soft plastic, however there are many considerations and potential risks to consider.
- The Committee acknowledged that the wording in the 3<sup>rd</sup> dot point under c) regarding SMRF reluctance had been provided by Chris Adams at SRWA, however **the Committee recommended changing the word ‘reluctant’ to ‘is unable to participate’.**
- Kerbside collection was discussed and commented that in 5 years’ time the methods of collections will have changed. The previous central collection points at supermarkets were good although they only captured around 2% of total volume. Reinforced the idea of liking “CDS” schemes. Needs to make it in the interest of the big recyclers to take the recyclable waste.
- The Committee discussed in section c), dot point three – to remove the words ‘a trial of kerbside collection. It was noted that the above is currently true, however it may not be true in the future. We need to be mindful of the sentiment we are suggesting for both now and into the future. **The Committee recommended changing it to ‘currently unable to.’**
- Supermarkets do have a bigger part to play, they do not need to wrap everything in plastic. They need to change their mindset.
- Alternatives to plastic need to be fit for purpose e.g., paper bags break with heavy items.
- The Committee commented that the point in section e) relating to poor quality plastic products is they should not be allowed to exist, and we should not be importing these products. This is an important point.
- Should there be a hierarchy of where soft plastics are needed i.e., due to the nature of the products, and using that to guide organisations/ businesses on what is allowed?
- Councillor Crossland advised he attended a waste conference a couple of years ago and heard about a type of plastic being used in Europe, which is starting to come to Australia which is difficult to recycle. Is not sure if staff are aware of this?
- **Additional feedback included that research has been done on bacteria that can eat plastic, and could this type of research be mentioned?**
- **Impact of microplastics in stormwater going out into the ocean and affecting the ecosystem. Could this be included in the submission?**



- Mixed plastics are a big issue and need to be regulated against.
- Better labelling is required to help build capacity and have informed consumer confidence in how to recycle.
- Staff commented that composite packaging is one of the big problem streams for stakeholders in waste management and the waste minimisation sector. One of the things that will help remove some of those issues is processes such as this that feeds through state and federal governments up to national targets. To meet those targets packaging will need to change.
- From a legislative standpoint, the federal government and those types of federal schemes will drive it as well as state government funding.

**Moved Councillor Luscombe**

**Seconded Councillor Masika**

That the Environment Committee:

1. Recommends that the draft submission to the Select Committee of the SA Legislative Council on "recycling of soft plastics and other recyclable material" (Attachment 1) is endorsed at the 12 September 2023 General Council Meeting subject to the inclusion of comments from the Environment Committee.

**Carried**

## 7.2 Coastal Monitoring Update

**Report Reference** EC230905R7.2

The Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability, Rebecca Neumann, provided the Committee with an update on Coastal Monitoring.

The update provided the following information:

- Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Response established in two different programs:
  - Adaptation Studies and Annual Monitoring Reports
- The coastline is not seeing immediate impacts to the sea level rise but is at risk.
- Council endorsed the monitoring program, including funding over a 5-year period.
- Another 18 months in this program left to complete.
- Details and information of Adaptation Study and Monitoring Reports are included in the cover report.
- The 2nd part of the report provides links to the previous reports. Includes the summary of information we have been collecting.
- Example of sea level rise modelling - Marino Cliffs was shown in a worst-case scenario and is in the adaptation study. This is the only location where inundation is likely to be an issue in the City of Marion. We are not looking at inundation as such but where we might be





seeing impacts at the base of the cliffs that could cause instability. Stormwater runoff may also have an impact.

- Monitoring program includes detailed studies of:
  - Changes in coastal terrain (erosion and accretion)
  - Storm impacts
  - Changes in wind and wave conditions
  - Stormwater impacts
  - Shoreline movement
- There are five CoastSnap monitoring points along the Marion coastline. A new QR code will enable the download of the images.
- The NSW government has mandated some CoastSnap areas along their coastline. We are seeing interest from other councils in this initiative.
- The Committee queried if there are any options for the photos not to be live until someone has reviewed them, to ensure nothing inappropriate has been taken. Staff commented that there have not been any issues.
- The coastal program is to understand risks to Council assets. Not seeing any that are immediately at risk, however there are some that may be in the future.
- Coastal walkway structures are not at risk.
- When the car park at Marino rocks café was put in the Coast Protection Board was not favourable of the car park going in and would not be liable for any remedial works that would be required. We have rated that car park as a high risk due to the impact of the sea. Currently looking to be very stable.
- Heron Way Reserve is in a high-risk area due to the erodible soft embankment and will need to be monitored. Field River mouth is also at high risk of damage from erosion.

Discussion from the Committee included:

- Recognising history is important, i.e., in 1996 we lost some homes on the Esplanade from cliff failure.
- Somewhere in our paperwork we should say that we would monitor the cliff and take reasonable measures to prevent erosion, but it is on the landowners who live on the Esplanade strips if there is a natural disaster with the cliffs that council will not take responsibility.
- In relation to private matters, CoM is trying to identify what risks are associated with houses located along the coastline. Stormwater management is a coastal climate change risk. There is nothing to say it will happen, however it needs to be continually monitored.
- Interface with the sea pool – how does that offer coastal protection? Staff commented that the whole area is at risk and the location of the sea pool is one of those areas. If we want to maintain the shoreline in that location, we will need to do some protective works and that may include rock remediation, a stone wall or increased vegetation management. The seaside pool could be part of those protective works. It will need to happen in stages.

Mayor Hanna left the meeting at 9.00pm



- The Committee queried if we identified what other parts need some work? If the option Council is looking at is not the only area at risk, we will have other expenses in the future. We do not want to create the false impression that what we do in that area will fix the whole problem.
- Staff advised that Option 3, which was included in the consultation includes an amount that identifies staged embankment protection.
- The Chair asked if all those options provided will fix all those issues or only option 3 fix all the issues in that area. Councillor Crossland mentioned that hopefully it is clear that the protection will only be for the location of the sea pool. The other two areas mentioned would be additional.
- Councillor Crossland also questioned if on the plan is there a benefit in having a split to the Field River mouth. South and North of Field River require different management options. North of the Field River we have dunes, the coastal walkway, and properties. It has different needs, with not much land left. Risk factors are different to those in the mouth.
- The Committee commented we need to look at future builds in the area. Do these areas become uninsurable in the future and how do we as a Council respond to that?
- Winds are coming from areas not expected and it will be interesting to see if we will need to build our walls in other places in the future.

**Moved Councillor Masika**

**Seconded Councillor Luscombe**

That the Environment Committee:

1. Notes the update on the coastal monitoring program and provides feedback / questions.

**Carried**

### 7.3 Environment Policy

**Report Reference** EC230905R7.3

The Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability, Rebecca Neumann presented the Committee with the draft City of Marion Environment Policy before a final draft is presented to General Council seeking endorsement.

The report was taken as read.

Discussion and feedback from the Committee included:

- **3. Objectives** - considerable discussion was had on the objectives and the use of the words 'circular economy' as this had more to do with government than council. A suggestion was to change the first dot point under that heading of 'Minimise waste.' Avoiding waste is not a



preferred term and had general support from the committee to use 'minimise' instead. Staff advised the use of "avoid" waste comes from waste management hierarchy, and the intention of the Objectives is how council will deliver services, which includes avoiding waste and maximising resource recovery and supporting circular recovery.

- Due to the conjecture on this point, the chair suggested staff could bring this back to Council with some suggestions. The Committee agreed. Should Members have any further suggestions of changes, please email them through to Ms Neumann
- **4. Policy Scope and Implementation** – there was significant discussion on this section of the policy. As this is paramount to the policy, could the scope and implementation appear more evident i.e., either number the points or spread them out. Make it clearer what the scope is and what the implementation is. **Also list the bullets so that it starts with more punchy outcomes (not legislation and policy).**
- The Committee also queried whether we could split the section on scope and implementation. Staff advised that this was part of the Corporate Policy Template and could not be changed.
- **Reference/definition to ecologically sustainable development has been removed from the original policy. Can that be included?**
- **3. Objectives** – last dot point 'Environmental education and engagement. **Following the word 'community' can we include in brackets residents, schools, and businesses?**

**Moved Councillor Masika, Seconded Councillor Luscombe**

That the meeting be extend 10 minutes to compete discussion on the draft Environment Policy

**Carried**

- It was noted that there is no mention of pollution in the policy and there needs to be more emphasis on reducing pollution in our water, air, and land.
- Are we able to have a basic layman's version of the policy? Suggestions include a video on the website, possibly produced by staff.
- In relation to pollution, the chair mentioned the City of Mitcham's partnership with ShineHub, which supports community renewable energy and lower cost solar panels and batteries. Mitcham staff have a roadshow on the project and asked if any of the Members had an interest in having that as part of a future meeting or look at a combination through the Resilient South Group. The Committee agreed to consider this.

**Moved Councillor Masika**

**Seconded Councillor Luscombe**

That the Environment Committee:

1. Provides feedback on the draft Environment Policy (Attachment 3)
2. Subject to the inclusion of feedback in this meeting, recommends that the draft Environment Policy is endorsed by General Council.

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EC230905 - Environment Committee - 5 September 2023



9

**Carried**

**8 Reports for Noting - Nil**

**9 Workshop / Presentation Items - Nil**

**10 Other Business**

**11 Meeting Closure**

The meeting shall conclude on or before 9.30pm unless there is a specific motion adopted at the meeting to continue beyond that time.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.31pm.

CONFIRMED THIS 7 DAY OF NOVEMBER 2023

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CHAIRPERSON

## 5 Business Arising

### 5.1 Business Arising Statement - Action Items

<b>Report Reference</b>	EC231107R5.1
<b>Originating Officer</b>	Executive Officer to the General Manager City Services – Colleen Madsen
<b>Corporate Manager</b>	N/A
<b>General Manager</b>	General Manager City Services – Ben Keen

### REPORT OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this report is to review the business arising from previous meetings of the Environment Committee meetings, the meeting schedule and upcoming items.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Environment Committee:**

1. **Notes the business arising statement, meeting schedule and upcoming items.**

### ATTACHMENTS

1. EC231107 - Business Arising as at 07 November 2023 [5.1.1 - 1 page]
2. EC231107 - Schedule of Upcoming Items 2023 [5.1.2 - 2 pages]

**CITY OF MARION  
BUSINESS ARISING ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**AS AT 05 SEPTEMBER 2023**



Meeting Date	Document	Item No.	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
06 June 2023	EC230606R7.1	7.1	Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029	List of biodiversity sites being considered for each Ward to be provided to the Committee.	J Lemon	Listing emailed to Committee Members on 22 June 2023.	Complete
06 June 2023	EC230606R7.1	7.1	Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029	Recommends the adoption of the plan (with associated feedback addressed) at the General Council meeting on 3 October 2023.	J Lemon	As there is no Council meeting scheduled for 3 October 2023, this Plan will be presented at the 24 October 2023 Council meeting. This has now been scheduled for the 28 November General Council Meeting.	

\* Completed items to be removed are shaded

## Environment Committee – 2022 Schedule of upcoming items

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 1 February	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Workshop Agenda for 2023	W				
Environmental Update	P			R Neumann	
Parliamentary Inquiry into the Urban Forest	W			R Neumann	

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 4 April	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Trees Asset Management and Greening Strategy	R			R Neumann / I Seccafien	
Waste and Recycling	R			R Neumann / A Byrne	
Education within the broader community	R			R Neumann / B Jaggard	

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 6 June	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029	R			J Lemon / R Neumann	
Resilient South	R			R Neumann	

## Environment Committee – 2022 Schedule of upcoming items

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 5 September	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Coastal Monitoring Update	R			R Neumann	
Soft Plastic Recycling – Submission to Parliament SA	R			A Byrne	
Environment Policy Review	R	Referred from FORUM2300704		R Neumann	

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 7 November	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
ShineHub VPP Presentation	P		YES	R Neumann	
Environmental Initiatives				R Neumann	
Year in Review				M Allen	

## Topics for consideration in 2024

- Smoke from wood fires. Suggested presenters Environment Protection Authority and Community Safety.
- Whole of life stewardship including life cycle assessment and disposal of lithium batteries.



## 6 Confidential Items - Nil

## 7 Reports for Discussion

### 7.1 Environmental Initiatives

<b>Report Reference</b>	EC231107R7.1
<b>Originating Officer</b>	Senior Environmental Planner – Rebecca Neumann
<b>Corporate Manager</b>	Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment - Mathew Allen
<b>General Manager</b>	General Manager City Services - Ben Keen

### REPORT OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Environment Committee with an update on current trends, opportunities, and initiatives in environmental sustainability and how the City of Marion is responding (Attachment 1) to help inform future priorities areas for discussion.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A summary of current environmental sustainability trends, opportunities and council responses has been provided in Attachment 1. This table has been collated to reflect the current environmental sustainability focus areas for local government and provide the Environment Committee with a snapshot of how the City of Marion is responding. Items suggested for further discussion in 2024 have been highlighted in yellow in Attachment 1.

These include:

- Climate risk reporting
- Climate awareness training for Council Members
- Final Resilient South Regional Climate Action Plan
- Carbon inventory and reporting (including embodied carbon and carbon offsets)
- Community Renewables
- Urban heat and tree canopy mapping
- Biodiversity plan and biodiversity protection
- Coastal Adaptation Planning – Field River Dunes
- Weekly organics waste collection.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Environment Committee:**

1. **Notes the Environmental Trends, Opportunities, and Initiatives Report (Attachment 1) and discusses areas future interest and potential discussion by the Environment Committee in 2024.**

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 Environmental Sustainability Trends Opportunities Init [7.1.1 - 10 pages]

## Attachment 1. Environmental Sustainability Trends, Opportunities and Initiatives.

Items highlighted in yellow are areas that are expected to include further discussion with council members in 2024.

Environmental Theme	External Influences and Observations	City of Marion Response / Action
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</b> (IPCC) finalised the second part of the <a href="#">Sixth Assessment Report, Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability</a> in February 2022. The report states that “Climate change impacts and risks are becoming increasingly complex and more difficult to manage.” In March 2023 the <a href="#">AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023</a> was released further reinforcing directions from previous reports including that “Climate impacts on people and ecosystems are more widespread and severe than expected, and future risks will escalate rapidly with every fraction of a degree of warming”.</li> <li>The <b>Federal Labor Government</b> has set an <b>emissions reduction target</b> of 43% on 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050.</li> <li><b>Community interest:</b> Increasing interest and expectations from the community regarding how the Council will respond to climate change impacts and what support and assistance will be provided to the community.</li> <li><b>Climate Risk Disclosure.</b> Following the release of the <a href="#">Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)</a> by the Financial Stability Board, financial institutions there has been a movement towards mandatory public reporting on all climate-related risks. This has led to a rapid response in climate risk reporting across global supply chains.</li> <li><b>Decarbonising.</b> Reducing carbon emissions has become a major supply chain focus for large corporations associated with their responsibility to disclose climate risk (this is a climate change transition risk – see TCFD above).</li> <li><b>Hydrogen Economy:</b> The SA Government has a strong focus on the hydrogen economy and is investing heavily to accelerate new hydrogen projects, shipping infrastructure and modelling tools for investors and developers. Focus areas include green hydrogen made with renewable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Carbon Neutral Plan:</b> target to be carbon neutral for Council operations by 2030. An update on <b>progress towards carbon neutral by 2030</b> goal was provided in the 1st Quarter KPI report.</li> <li><b>Climate Risk:</b> Council has committed in City of Marion 4-Year Business Plan to develop a climate risk register. This will start with a climate change governance assessment and then involve analysis of climate risk across all council services and functions.</li> <li><b>Regional Climate Partnerships</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During 2023 a new <b>Resilient South Regional Climate Action Plan</b> has been drafted following engagement with key stakeholders. Community consultation on the draft plan will occur during November and a <b>final draft will be presented to Council in early 2024</b>. The updated plan was funded with a \$99,000 Preparing Australian Communities grant from the Commonwealth Government.</li> <li><b>Resilient Asset Management Project (RAMP):</b> This work is industry-leading and, in addition to attracting funding from the LGA Research and Development Scheme (\$99,000) and National Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (\$250,000), has attracted strong interest from other Councils and the South Australian Government who wish to participate in or observe the project as it progresses. (a more detailed update is included in the ‘Asset Management’ item on this agenda).</li> <li>A reviewed and updated <b>Resilient South Climate Change Sector Agreement</b> has been endorsed by council (GC230613R11.2). This agreement will come into effect at a cosigning event and launch of the Regional Climate Action Plan planned for early 2024.</li> <li>The <b>Resilient South website</b> (<a href="http://www.resilientsouth.com">www.resilientsouth.com</a>) provides public access to Resilient South plans and resources.</li> <li>Continued funding to 30 June 2024 for a <b>Resilient South Regional Coordinator</b> (hosted at City of Marion) has been provided by Green Adelaide.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Environmental Theme	External Influences and Observations	City of Marion Response / Action
	<p>electricity and recycled water; Hydrogen Hub being established at Tonsley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Parliament of South Australia</b> has declared a <b>Climate Emergency</b> (May 2022).</li> <li>• <b>LGA SA Climate and Biodiversity Emergency:</b> At its Ordinary General Meeting, held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023, the LGA declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency. This supports the previous Policy Statement amendments in supporting the State Government's declaration of a climate emergency and its ambition to achieve a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030, and net zero emissions by 2050. The LGA will work with Councils and other stakeholders to determine what this means for the sector broadly and how the LGA can best support and assist in getting all councils climate ready. Currently 16 councils in South Australia have recognised / declared climate emergencies <a href="http://www.climateemergencyaustralia.org.au">www.climateemergencyaustralia.org.au</a></li> <li>• <b>Climate Risk Training for LG:</b> Funded via the LGA Research &amp; Development Scheme and Resilient East, this project will develop a suite of training materials regarding climate risk management and governance, aimed at Council Members, executives, and Council Audit and Risk Committees. The project includes a technical working group with BRM Advisory onboard to assist in the development and trialling of these Climate Risk Training Materials for Councils. Expected release early 2024.</li> <li>• <b>Climate Systems Hub (NESP)</b> The Climate Systems Hub has been established under the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program (NESP), and will run until 2026-27. The Hub will provide research to advance the understanding of Australia's climate, its extremes and associated drivers, and be used to directly inform climate adaptation solutions for Australia.</li> <li>• <b>Industry Climate Change Conference April 2023 (resources)</b> South Australia's inaugural Industry Climate Change Conference was held on Thursday 20 – Friday 21 April 2023. Materials are available from the <a href="#">Events and Videos webpage</a> including:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Carbon inventory and reporting.</b> A review and validation of the council's carbon inventory was started in September 2023. This includes further investigation of reporting on emissions against the Climate Active standard and recommendations around reporting of other sources of carbon that are not currently reported (e.g. "scope 3 emissions" which includes embodied carbon).</li> <li>• <b>Embodied Carbon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Current focus on building understanding of council's carbon footprint from embodied carbon (contained within construction materials used in assets and infrastructure).</li> <li>○ Opportunities to reduce the embodied carbon from future projects will be sought through more informed design and procurement decisions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Carbon Offsets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ City of Marion is partnering with other metropolitan councils on investigation led by Adelaide City Council on methods and opportunities for recording carbon offsets in local government.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Industry Climate Change Conference (April 2023) + National Climate Change Adaptation Conference (July 2023).</b> Staff attended parts of both conferences and have access to materials.</li> </ul>

Environmental Theme	External Influences and Observations	City of Marion Response / Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">South Australia's Industry Climate Change Conference Summary</a> – a document summarising the key themes from the conference.</li> <li>○ <a href="#">Resources Kit</a> – a list of resources to help business and industry to manage climate risks and reduce emissions and build climate resilience.</li> <li>○ <a href="#">Session Recordings</a> – for sessions held in the main halls</li> <li>○ Summary Videos –for <a href="#">Day 1</a> and <a href="#">Day 2</a> of the conference.</li> <li>● <a href="#">National Climate Change Adaptation Conference</a> (July 2023) included a strong focus on disaster planning and avoidance and disclose of climate and carbon risks. The audience included a high proportion of delegates from the corporate sector and had a strong focus drivers from global finance and insurance industries. Urban heat was identified as the most deadly climate risk for southern Australia.</li> <li>● <a href="#">Cities Power Partnership</a> – over 180 councils Australia wide have joined this network which involves pledging to take 5 actions from a list of potential actions on renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport and working together. Participating councils gain access to a wide range of resources and tools to help build capacity to respond to climate change. It is also an avenue for councils to raise awareness of the climate work they are doing.</li> </ul>	
Urban planning and economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (GARP) Discussion Paper.</b> Consultation is now open on the <a href="#">Greater Adelaide Regional Plan Discussion Paper</a>. This discussion paper asked two broad questions; Where should we grow? And, how should we grow?</li> <li>● <b>Investigation into Climate Ready Housing policy.</b> Funded via the LGA Research &amp; Development Scheme, in 2024 the LGA will be undertaking an investigative study into improved climate ready development and sustainability policy and tools for potential amendments to the Planning and Design Code. The goal of the project will be to increase the delivery of new dwellings in South Australia that are affordable to operate, are comfortable in extreme temperatures, and improve health outcomes for occupants (<i>aka sustainable homes</i>), by:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>GARP</b> City of Marion response being coordinated by Development Services with input from environmental sustainability and the regional climate partnerships.</li> <li>● <b>Sustainable Homes Expert Webinar series.</b> The Regional Climate Partnerships (<a href="#">Resilient East</a>, <a href="#">AdaptWest</a>, <a href="#">Resilient South</a>, and <a href="#">Resilient Hills and Coasts</a>) are bringing South Australians a series of <b>FREE</b> webinars covering a range of sustainability and climate ready homes topics. The webinars are presented by energy experts from <a href="#">Renew</a>, who have provided independent information on household sustainability for over 40 years. To view recordings of all the past events in the series, head to the <a href="#">Climate Change Resource Hub</a>, or visit any of the RCP websites.</li> </ul>

Environmental Theme	External Influences and Observations	City of Marion Response / Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informing a Code amendment, backed by solid policy evidence and cost benefit analysis, and</li> <li>Providing any further recommendations for legislative, policy or practice change.</li> <li><b>Banning Gas in New Houses (Vic)</b> Victoria will ban gas connections to all new homes and government buildings from next year.</li> <li><b>"Electrify Everything" / "Go Electric"</b>. There is increasing interest in support residents and businesses to transition to electricity as the single power source. A number of campaigns and support programs have been initiated in this space. Some councils are offering rebates to support the transition (<a href="#">Adelaide City Council Rebates and Incentives</a>).</li> <li><b>Community Renewables and Virtual Power Plants</b>. This <a href="#">City of Mitcham Community Renewables Program</a> assists City of Mitcham residents and businesses to purchase solar and batteries systems and participate in a virtual power plant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Edwardstown Community Battery</b>. The Government of South Australia in partnership with SA Power Networks and the City of Marion have secured \$500,000 grant funding from the Australian Government's Community Batteries for Households program to establish a community battery in Edwardstown.</li> <li><b>Southern Business Mentoring Program</b>. Marion residents and businesses are able to access a sustainability mentor through this program. The sustainability mentor has a particular focus on circular economy.</li> </ul>
Electric Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>EV (Electric Vehicle) Demand and Availability</b>: There is strong demand for EVs (Electric Vehicles) in Australia and long waiting lists. Although supply has been constrained, sales more than doubled in 2021, to almost two percent of total new vehicle volume. Further increases are expected in 2022, as more electric cars arrive in Australia. (EVs available now/soon in Australia - <a href="https://www.aeva.asn.au/files/603/">https://www.aeva.asn.au/files/603/</a>)</li> <li><b>SA Govt EV Fleet Pledge Program</b> is a commitment by businesses to undertake and transform their fleets to zero emission electric vehicles (CoM has joined).</li> <li><b>Infrastructure investments</b> will be required to support the transition to EVs.</li> <li><b>Increasing fuel prices</b> will impact on Council budgets in the short term.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fleet Transition Plan</b>: The Fleet Transition Plan has been endorsed and Council will no longer purchase ICE or Hybrid vehicles for our passenger fleet. As vehicles reach their end of life, they will be replaced with EVs. Our replacement policy is 5 years, or 50,000kms, which means that by June 2027 we will have replaced all 41 vehicles with EV's. Our full EV transition is expected to save 50 tonnes of carbon emissions a year. The next steps in the transition are to install charging infrastructure, identify appropriate EV makes/models, and upgrade our electricity supply at City Services.</li> </ul>
Urban Greening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Urban infill</b>. Residential infill developments continue to increase. There is a risk that loss of canopy cover in residential areas might outweigh the increase in canopy from council planting.</li> <li><b>Increased community awareness</b>. Ongoing community concern around the loss of urban green spaces and loss of large trees continues with articles regularly appearing around community concern in the media.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Council awareness and engagement</b>. A "Green City Update" was provided to the Assets and Sustainability Committee in April 2022. The update included a detailed report and presentations from staff and a Green Adelaide representative on trends and responses around urban greening (ASC220405R8.1).</li> <li><b>Urban heat and tree canopy mapping</b>. The City of Marion is contributing to the State Government's collection and analysis of improved spatial data for</li> </ul>

Environmental Theme	External Influences and Observations	City of Marion Response / Action
	<p>Advocacy groups such as the Conservation Council of South Australia are running campaigns to raise awareness and call for action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Data on urban greening.</b> There are new technologies and mapping of tree canopy and green cover being used throughout the world to document trends in urban green cover in urban areas. Collection techniques vary in local accuracy. The State Government has coordinated a high-resolution data capture of Adelaide for urban heat, tree canopy and landscape permeability.</li> <li>• <b>Increased pressures in public green space.</b> With losses in private urban green spaces occurring with urban infill, there is increased pressure for increasing benefits of public green space in streetscape and reserves through additional tree planting and water sensitive urban design (WSUD). This increased effort increases the resourcing required from councils to invest in redevelopment and ongoing maintenance. Complexities with managing verge spaces are increasing – particularly in making allowances for utilities.</li> <li>• <b>State Government – Adelaide Urban Greening Strategy.</b> Current trends in urban infill suggest that the state government’s target of a 20% increase in green cover by 2045 will be difficult to meet. Green Adelaide is leading the state government in the development of the Urban Greening Strategy for Adelaide that aims to increase tree canopy and reduce hard surfaces.</li> <li>• <b>Increased community interest in verge gardening.</b> Environmental Sustainability staff attended a Greening our nature strip forum in October 2023 which showcased the work of Adelaide and Perth councils, community members and state agencies such as RailCare in greening verges.</li> <li>• <b>Urban Heat and El Nino.</b> <a href="#">An El Nino has been declared by the Bureau of Meteorology</a> this summer with expect high intensity heat waves and low rainfall. Extreme heat events are known to have negative impacts on community health, council services and the health of our landscapes (council open spaces and wildlife). Councils and Department for Health are planning responses e.g. <a href="#">Healthy in the Heat</a>.</li> </ul>	<p>urban heat and greening (GC210727M14.3). Local results for City of Marion will be available in late 2022. Council staff are actively engaging with Green Adelaide on the new data and the proposed Urban Greening Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increased Tree Planting.</b> The council is aiming to plant 30,000 trees by 2028 with a focus on Edwardstown, Clovelly Park, Mitchell Park and Oaklands Park. In 2023 4,611 trees were planted.</li> <li>• <b>Tree Asset Management Plan.</b> The City of Marion Tree Management Framework is currently being reviewed. The updated document will be developed following the council’s Asset Management Framework and will formally recognise trees as a council asset – including the description of a valuation methodology.</li> <li>• <b>Trees and utility providers.</b> SA Power Networks has identified approximately 600 immature street trees in the City of Marion that may not be compliant with the provisions of the <i>Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021</i>. Similar non-compliant plantings have also been identified in neighbouring councils. Marion is working with our Resilient South partners to develop a negotiating position to retain as many trees as possible.</li> <li>• Opportunities for residents to help green and cool the urban environment include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Urban Tree Warriors:</b> volunteers helping new plantings establish and develop into trees that will benefit their whole street as well as the wider community. There are currently 42 Urban Tree Warriors</li> <li>○ <b>Adopt-a-Tree Program:</b> free watering bucket and detailed tree care instructions for residents to help protect old and new plants across the city.</li> <li>○ <b>Local Conservation Groups:</b> there are eight active Friends groups across Marion and six Bushcare groups volunteering time to protect and restore native vegetation.</li> <li>○ <b>Regulated Tree Maintenance Fund:</b> financial assistance for property owners to take action that helps maintain regulated/significant trees on their property. An update was on the 2021/22 trial was provided to Council in May (GC220510R11.3).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Verge Incentive Fund:</b> The Verge Incentive Fund assists residents with the costs of improving the landscaping on council-owned road verges outside their properties (GC220308R11.1). A promotional campaign to residents in biodiversity corridors encouraged residents to plant their verges with native species. A verge gardening with natives workshop was held in March 2023 for twenty City of Marion residents to encourage native verge gardening.</li> </ul>
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No species loss goals.</b> Strategies and plans to halt the loss of biodiversity exist at the local and global levels (including UN Sustainable Development Goals). Australia continues to have one of the highest extinction rates in the world.</li> <li>• <b>Native vegetation clearance.</b> Clearance and poor management of remnant native vegetation continues in metropolitan Adelaide (including sites in City of Marion not managed by council) without the involvement of the Native Vegetation Council.</li> <li>• <b>Adelaide National Park City.</b> Adelaide was declared as the world's second South Australia 'National Park City' in November 2021 following a bid led by Green Adelaide (state government). <a href="http://www.adelaidenationalparkcity.org">www.adelaidenationalparkcity.org</a></li> <li>• <b>Threatened species protection in urban areas.</b> Species at risk of extinction are being translocated to actively managed urban areas for improved protection and public awareness (led by the state government). There is a program aiming to introduce platypus in the Torrens River.</li> <li>• <b>Weed control.</b> Declared weeds continue to spread throughout unmanaged open spaces reducing biodiversity and increasing fire risk.</li> <li>• <b>Fire risk.</b> Increased urban heat and reduced rainfall (climate change trends for Adelaide) can increase the bushfire risk.</li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity Protection</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>City of Marion Biodiversity Plan.</b> The council's biodiversity plan is currently under review to ensure that it can meet community expectations and environmental needs beyond 2023/2024.</li> <li>• <b>Fuel (fire) management program.</b> The council manages ongoing fuel reduction, firebreaks and block clearing in high-risk areas. Control of wood weeds in gullies has been a priority for the council in 2021.</li> <li>• <b>Threatened Species.</b> Sites in the City of Marion are being used to re-establish threatened and/or locally extinct species e.g., the Chequered Copper Butterfly. Collaborations between Green Adelaide, City of Marion and Trees for Life continue to work to protect threatened species at sites such as the Hallett Headland Bush for Life volunteer site.</li> </ul>
Water Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increasing water run-off.</b> Ongoing urban infill and loss of landscape permeability, coupled with climatic trends towards increased high-intensity rainfall trends results in increased peak volumes of stormwater and may result in more frequent localised flooding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stormwater Planning.</b> Four stormwater planning catchments cover the City of Marion each requiring a dedicated Stormwater Management Plan (SMP). Plans have been finalized and approved by the Stormwater Management Authority and regional councils for the <b>Coastal (Holdfast – Marion) SMP</b></li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stormwater quality.</b> Loss of permeability in the landscape (due to urban infill) is continuing to result in increased stormwater runoff and increased pollutant loads to the Gulf (<a href="#">Adelaide Coastal Waters Studies</a>). Urban infill needs to be delivered with consideration of “water sensitive urban design” (WSUD) to increase permeability and improve water quality.</li> <li>• <b>Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD).</b> Industry understanding of cost-benefit along with the selection, design, construction, and maintenance of WSUD has improved significantly over the past five years in South Australia, particular with the support of <a href="#">Water Sensitive SA</a>. Standard designs and industry-led manuals now exist and widespread application of WSUD is becoming standard – particularly in streetscapes and civic spaces.</li> <li>• <b>Watercourse management</b> is a priority for council where natural watercourses cut through council reserves particularly in the southern areas of City of Marion. Erosion control, management of gross pollutants and woody weed control are ongoing priorities.</li> </ul>	<p>(coastal catchment east of the Sturt River channel and north of Seacombe Road) and <b>Hallett Cove Creeks Catchments SMP</b> (north of Field River). A <b>Sturt River (Mitcham-Marion) SMP</b> is currently being developed for catchments east of the Sturt River channel pending the outcomes of a major <a href="#">State Government flood hazard mapping</a> study being undertaken for proposed amendments to the Planning and Design Code. A <b>Field River SMP</b> also requires consideration to be development with City of Onkaparinga.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)</b> projects are implemented across the City - opportunities have been discussed recently at the Assets and Sustainability Committee (ASC220705R7.1). Opportunities for WSUD are identified in each of the Stormwater Management Plans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The <b>City of Marion Water Treatment and Resources Asset Management Plan</b> has been endorsed with ongoing maintenance and replacement budgeted.</li> <li>○ A <b>WSUD Maintenance Guidelines</b> developed collaboratively with Water Sensitive SA guides ongoing maintenance requirements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Major capital works have been completed at <b>Glade Crescent Wetland</b> and <b>Lucretia Way Wetland</b>. Minor works for ongoing erosion and woody weed control continue on an annual basis throughout the coastal drainage lines and creeks in the southern part of the City.</li> <li>• The <b>City of Marion Water Business</b> (recycled water network) continues to operate and expand. The existing Oaklands Reticulation Network is being expanded with funding from the Federal Government.</li> </ul>
Coastal Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coastal erosion.</b> Coastal erosion is actively occurring in many areas along the South Australian coastline. Increased coastal erosion due to climate change is expected for South Australia. Councils have conservatively estimated capital works and operating expenses required to manage the coast will cost more than \$200 million+ over the next 10 years. This dramatically outweighs the available state government funding support.</li> <li>• <b>Coastal monitoring and hazard assessment.</b> Due to the dynamic and localised nature of coastal change, careful monitoring of coastal hazards and ongoing assessments of risks are needed to determine the best timing for decisions around coastal climate change adaptation. Limited coastal hazard mapping is available for South Australia.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>City of Marion Coastal Climate Change Study.</b> This report identifies coastal planning context and baseline conditions along the Marion coastline. An updated report was completed in 2022 to provide further consistency with other councils.</li> <li>• <b>City of Marion Coastal Monitoring Program.</b> Council is delivering an annual coastal monitoring program with grant support from the Department for Environment and Water. Results from the 2022 program have indicated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No visible evidence of slides, slumps, or collapses on the coastal cliffs</li> <li>○ Minor erosion on embankments and at cliff bases in high-risk areas (no need for remedial action).</li> <li>○ Movement of beach rock up the beach at Hallett Cove beach</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Environmental Theme	External Influences and Observations	City of Marion Response / Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Planning.</b> The LGA (Local Government Association) has developed a Local Government Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Guideline to assist councils in this process. Legislation is in place for all east coast states to mandate the development of coastal climate change adaptation plans for local government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ongoing erosion of the dune south of Field River mouth.</li> <li>• <b>Coast Snap.</b> City of Marion is the first council in South Australia to join the international CoastSnap initiative. We have five stations located in Hallett Cove and Marino where people can take photographs and contribute to the collection of coastal monitoring data. The coastal monitoring data is regularly reviewed to evaluate the usage and effectiveness of this citizen science initiative. This data will be used to In October 2023 a collaborative funding bid was developed across metropolitan Adelaide councils and interested regional councils to funding a state-wide South Australian CoastSnap network based on experiences of the City of Marion network.</li> <li>• <b>Regional planning.</b> The City of Marion is a member of the Metropolitan Seaside Councils Committee (MSCC). Collaboration with other coastal councils, the state government and other industry representatives (e.g., Universities) occurs through this network. To meet the growing demand for regional support in coastal responses, a major review of the MSCC has been undertaken and a new delivery model has been developed. This model will be brought to Council for further consideration in 2022.</li> <li>• <b>Field River Dunes Management Plan.</b> Council will develop a plan to manage the coastline and progressive erosion of the dune at the mouth of the Field River. Due to the presence of a registered cultural site and the occasional presence of Hooded Plovers (a nationally protected bird species), there is a need to plan our response to the changing environment. The data from our coastal monitoring program along Hallett Cove beach will be used to provide clear options and costs for how council could respond.</li> </ul>
Waste and Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Southern Materials Recovery Facility (SMRF)</b> opened in July 2021 to process materials collected in the yellow kerbside bins across Marion, Holdfast Bay, and Onkaparinga Council areas.</li> <li>• <b>Single-use plastics bans</b> have been introduced in South Australia. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In March 2021 single-use plastic straws, cutlery and stirrers were prohibited from being sold, supplied, and distributed in SA.</li> <li>○ In March 2022, expanded polystyrene cups, bowls, plates, and clamshell containers were prohibited from sale, supply, or distribution in South Australia.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Food Waste Recycling Program:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kitchen caddy distribution completed to 39,902 households in 2021.</li> <li>○ Replacement rolls of bags for kitchen caddies available now for home delivery or collection from council offices, libraries, and neighbourhood centres.</li> <li>○ Compostable bags are now also available in the fruit and veg sections of some supermarkets.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The feasibility to deliver a <b>weekly organics bin collection</b> is being investigated to improve diversion of food waste from landfill.</li> </ul>

Environmental Theme	External Influences and Observations	City of Marion Response / Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In September 2023, single-use plastic bowls, plates, pizza savers and plastic-stemmed cotton buds were prohibited from being sold, supplied, and distributed in SA.</li> <li>○ <b>Oxo-degradable plastic</b> products are also prohibited from production, manufacture, supply, and sale in the state.</li> <li>● <b>Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) reform</b> the City of Marion has proposed that the CDS is expanded to include wine bottles. At the April 2021 Environment Ministers Meeting, national Environment Ministers agreed that the harmonisation of jurisdictional CDSs through the alignment of containers (size and products), refund amount, and a single-entry portal for container approvals <b>by the end of 2025</b>, will ensure consistent outward facing CDS strategies across all states and territories. The SA government will continue to work at the national level on these three areas of national harmonisation.</li> <li>● <b>New resources available for innovative kerbside waste services (May 2023)</b>. The LGA in partnership with Green Industries SA and EPA SA have released <a href="#">the SA Better Practice Guide: Sustainable Kerbside Services</a>. This resource has been developed to support information sharing across the local government sector on recent changes councils have made to kerbside services that have resulted in environmental benefits, and over time will result in positive financial returns.</li> <li>● <b>Weekly organics collections</b>. Several councils in SA are investigating and trialling weekly organics collections and fortnightly general waste collections. This aims to increase diversion of organic waste into green bins (<b>FOGO – food organics green organics</b>) and reduce organic waste in the general waste stream.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Soft plastics</b>: Council has advocated to a select committee of SA Legislative Council on a number of challenges and opportunities to address the management of soft plastics (GC230904R11.14).</li> <li>● <b>Community Education</b>: Engagement of residents, schools, kindergartens, businesses and community organisations through education, awareness campaigns and capacity-building programs that foster sustainable behaviour change and encourage our community to make responsible decisions about consuming and disposing of waste.</li> <li>● <b>Compostable dog poo bags</b> are now used in dispensers across the council area and the two dog parks have dedicated green bins for commercial composting of dog waste.</li> <li>● <b>Council events</b>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proactively working with organisers and <b>caterers</b> for Council-run events to ensure single-use plastics are not being used.</li> <li>○ Continue the use of <b>volunteer bin buddies</b> at major Council-run events to assist in guiding attendees in the appropriate use of event recycling systems.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Valuing Marion's Waste</b>: New indoor 3-bin systems have been installed at all council-run facilities to improve and standardise resource recovery from council operations.</li> </ul>
Environmental Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Nature connection</b>. Increasing community interest in nature connection, including nature play, nature bathing (Shinrin Yuku), medically prescribed time in nature.</li> <li>● <b>Health and nature</b>. Links between health and engagement with nature are becoming increasingly well recognised. Formalised programs exist where GPs can professionally prescribe time in nature.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Valuing Marion's Nature</b> is an annual program of environmental events, activities and resources. <a href="#">Environment   City of Marion</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Green Thymes</a> is a regular council newsletter that brings the latest information about local events, projects, workshops, grants and articles that have a sustainability or environmental flavour.</li> <li>● <b>Community Gardens</b>:</li> </ul>

Environmental Theme	External Influences and Observations	City of Marion Response / Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We continue to support the five community gardens at Glandore, Oaklands Park, Marino, Morphettville and Trott Park.</li> <li>○ The Cove Community Garden Group is in the process of preparing a community garden application.</li> <li>○ The Community Gardens Policy and Guidelines were recently updated.</li> </ul>
Regional Planning & Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Regional Environmental Planning</b> continues to be a major opportunity to deliver strategic environmental projects efficiently across council borders and reduces duplication by individual councils. South Australian councils demonstrate excellent capacity to establish these partnerships including hosting of regional officers and provision of regional services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Regional Climate Partnerships</li> <li>○ Regional Waste Subsidiaries</li> <li>○ Stormwater Catchment Planning</li> <li>○ Coastal Adaptation Planning</li> <li>○ Regional Environmental Education Programs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Resilient South</b> is a regional climate partnership between the Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham and Onkaparinga and the South Australian State Government. Key priorities being delivered through this partnership are listed in the 'Climate Change' theme above.</li> <li>● <b>Southern Region Waste Resource Authority (SRWRA)</b> is a regional subsidiary of the Cities of Marion, Onkaparinga and Holdfast Bay located at Seaford.</li> <li>● <b>Adelaide Coastal Councils Network (ACCN)</b> is a regional network of councils supporting each other in coastal management.</li> <li>● <b>Stormwater planning</b> with adjoining Council including City of Mitcham and City of Holdfast Bay. More detail is included in the 'Water Management' theme above.</li> <li>● <b>Green Adelaide Education</b> City of Marion hosts a part-time Green Adelaide Education Officer who provides nature education services to schools and the community across southern Adelaide.</li> </ul>
Environmental Planning and Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>SA State of the Environment Report</b> is currently being updated with the final report expected to be released by the Environment Protection Agency in 2023. This report sets key environmental indicators and condition monitoring across South Australia.</li> <li>● <b>United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b> are being used as a framework to influence local reporting of global development priorities with <i>Goal 11 Sustainable Cities</i> being an area recognised as a key opportunity for influence by local government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Environment Policy</b> has been reviewed and is presented to council seeking endorsement (24 October 2023).</li> <li>● <b>Environment Report Card:</b> to be developed at the beginning of each calendar year to provide a public-facing update on key environmental initiatives being delivered by Council. Editions to date include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">2020 Report Card</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">2021 Report Card</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">2022 Report Card</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 7.2 Year in Review

<b>Report Reference</b>	EC231107R7.2
<b>Originating Officer</b>	Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment – Mathew Allen
<b>Corporate Manager</b>	- N/A
<b>General Manager</b>	General Manager City Services - Ben Keen

## REPORT OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an opportunity to workshop the year in review, in particular what worked and what did not.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report serves as an opportunity for the Committee to engage in feedback on its effectiveness to preserve, protect, and enhance our environment. The Environment Committee has played an important role in progressing environmental sustainability initiatives and strategies.

During 2023, the Environment Committee considered 12 reports, each focusing on diverse environmental aspects and priorities. These reports and discussions encompassed a wide range of environmental topics.

The Presiding Member will facilitate a workshop with the Committee to identify what worked well, what did not and identify future priorities for the Committee.

## RECOMMENDATION

**That the Environment Committee:**

- Notes the Year in Review feedback.**

## DISCUSSION

This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to allow feedback on the Committee's effectiveness in our ongoing efforts to preserve, protect and enhance our environment.

The Environment Committee has made significant contributions to environmental sustainability initiatives and strategies, that have enabled Council to become a more sustainable organisation and build community resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The Environment Committee considered 12 reports during 2023 and considered the following agenda items:

### Environment Committee

DATE	REPORT	SUMMARY
07/02/2023	Environmental update	Verbal update provided
07/02/2023	Parliamentary inquiry into the Urban Forest	Provided the Environment Committee with an update on current activities and priorities around trees and urban green spaces and sought feedback for inclusion into a response to an inquiry by the South Australian Parliament's Environment Resources and Development Committee titled "Inquiry into the Urban Forest" The

DATE	REPORT	SUMMARY
		Environment, Resources and Development Committee (ERDC) has begun an “Inquiry into the Urban Forest” (the inquiry), with a focus on tree species selection and other measures to preserve and improve the tree canopy in metropolitan Adelaide and a focus on trees for urban infill developments.
04/04/2023	Waste and recycling	The report provides a summary of current waste and recycling services provided by the City of Marion and sought feedback on priorities for 2023. Feedback is also sought on a proposed timeframe and high-level project plan for the roll-out of a weekly organics collection. It is recommended that the list of current services is discussed along with the list of priorities identified by the Environment Committee at EC230407 to help shape waste and recycling services and future reports to the Environment Committee and council during 2023. It is recommended that the Environment Committee receives the presentation from Shani Wood (City of Holdfast Bay) and discusses the proposed stages and timeframes for a City of Marion weekly organics collection service.
04/04/2023	Trees and Urban greening	Feedback was sought from the Environment Committee on the current directions and priorities around trees and urban greening. A summary of current trees and greening priorities for 2023 was provided. It is recommended that the list of current services is discussed along with the list of priorities identified. by the Environment Committee at EC230207. Proposed scope and timeframes for the development of the Marion Greening Strategy has been presented. It is recommended that the committee discuss this proposal. The City of Marion Tree Management Framework is currently being reviewed and redeveloped into a Trees Asset Management Plan to support alignment with Council’s Asset Management Strategy. A survey is open to the community to gauge key community priorities that will inform the Marion Greening Strategy and Trees Asset Management Plan.
04/04/2023	Environmental Engagement	Environment Committee with an update on current environmental engagement initiatives and themes and to seek feedback on priorities for 2023. Council currently provides a range of environmental engagement initiatives. This item is an opportunity for the Environment Committee to ask questions to key staff and raise ideas for priorities during 2023. At the 7 February 2023 Environment Committee meeting, Council Members identified a range of environmental priorities for consideration by the Environment Committee. The following priorities from this list were identified as having a link to the environmental engagement theme of this current Report, Council Operations, Influencing Behaviours within our council area, themes broader than the Council Area.
06/06/2023	Resilient South	The Resilient South regional climate partnership is

DATE	REPORT	SUMMARY
	Update	coordinated by the Resilient South Regional Coordinator, Dr Stefan Caddy-Retalic, who is hosted at the City of Marion but works across all four partner councils. This position is entirely funded by Green Adelaide through the Landscape Levy 47 EC230606 - Environment Committee Meeting - 6 June 2023 (formerly NRM Levy). The Regional Coordinator is supported by and reports to a Management Committee comprised of representatives from the four councils and the state government. The main tasks for Resilient South over the last six months have been: renewal of the Resilient South Sector agreement, Development of new regional climate action plan, community education and capacity building, embedding climate risk into Council frameworks, Urban Forest Management, Regional Coordination.
05/09/2023	Soft plastics recycling – submission to SA Parliament	A Select Committee of the Legislative Council has been established to inquire into and report on the recycling of soft plastics and other recyclable material in South Australia. Council has identified investigating options for recycling soft plastics as a priority in the City of Marion Business Plan 2023-2027. A draft submission to the inquiry has therefore been prepared highlighting Council's concerns and priorities in dealing with soft plastics (Attachment 2). An extension to this deadline has been granted to the City of Marion until Thursday, 14 September to accommodate Council consideration of the draft submission for endorsement at the General Council Meeting on Tuesday, 12 September 2023.
05/09/2023	Coastal Monitoring	In 2019, Council endorsed the development and delivery of an annual coastal monitoring program over five years to assist in collecting better data on the timing and nature of coastal change and inform future decisions on coastal adaptation. Since this time, baseline studies and a monitoring approach have been developed and two annual monitoring reports have been completed with the third due at the end of 2023. A final annual monitoring report will be produced in 2024 along with an evaluation of the program and recommendations for future funding. No major coastal hazards or erosion events have occurred during the monitoring period, however gradual changes in coastal conditions are regularly observed and ongoing monitoring is likely to be required. Funding and technical support from the State Government (Coast Protection Board) has been received for all stages of the project completed so far. This report provides an update on the coastal program and outlines priorities for the remaining two years of funding.
05/09/2023	Environmental Policy	The current City of Marion Environmental Policy was endorsed by Council in November 2019 (SGC191125R04). At the 4 July 2023 Forum (FORUM230704R1.3), Council Members were given a list of Public and Legislative Policies due for review during 2023, including the Environmental Policy. The reviewed Environment Policy presented at the forum included changes to the wording of

DATE	REPORT	SUMMARY
		Council's environmental objectives and other changes aimed to improve clarity and consistency with other council policies. At the Forum, Council Members identified areas for the policy to be strengthened and referred the review to the Environment Committee for further discussion before a final draft is presented to General Council. An updated draft Environment Policy has been developed and further feedback is sought from the Committee to draft a final draft Environmental Policy.
07/11/23	Environment Report Card	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Environment Report Card 2023 data and seek feedback on reported outcomes.
07/11/23	Environmental Initiatives	This report outlines current environmental trends, opportunities and initiatives and the City of Marion's response.
07/11/23	ShineHub VPP	The purpose of this report is to provide the Environment Committee with further information on the City of Mitcham's "Mitcham Community Renewables" program.

The Presiding Member will conduct a workshop to assess the Committee's effectiveness, identify areas that require improvement, and determine the Committee's future priorities. This process aims to strengthen the Committee's impact on environmental sustainability and community well-being.

## ATTACHMENTS

Nil



## 8 Reports for Noting - Nil

## 9 Workshop / Presentation Items

### 9.1 ShineHub VPP presentation

<b>Report Reference</b>	EC231107R9.1
<b>Originating Officer</b>	Senior Environmental Planner – Rebecca Neumann
<b>Corporate Manager</b>	Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment - Mathew Allen
<b>General Manager</b>	General Manager City Services - Ben Keen

### REPORT OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Environment Committee with further information on the City of Mitcham's "Mitcham Community Renewables" program.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Mitcham has been offering a program to support residents and businesses to increase their uptake of renewable energy and to facilitate the development of a virtual power plant that can assist with providing low-cost energy to the community.

Details of the program are made available through the City of Mitcham website:  
[www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/our-environment/Community-Renewables-Program](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/our-environment/Community-Renewables-Program)

The program is based on a partnership with the commercial solar technology provider [ShineHub](#) and consists of:

- Bulk purchasing options for solar and battery systems.
- Development of a Virtual Power Plan (VPP).

City of Mitcham Group Manager Matthew Romaine will present on the program, to summarise the purpose of the program, community benefits and opportunities for other councils in rolling out a similar program.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Environment Committee:**

1. **Receives a presentation from City of Mitcham Group Manager Matthew Romaine on the Mitcham Community Renewables Program.**

### SPEAKERS

Matthew Romaine, Group Manager City of Mitcham.

### ATTACHMENTS

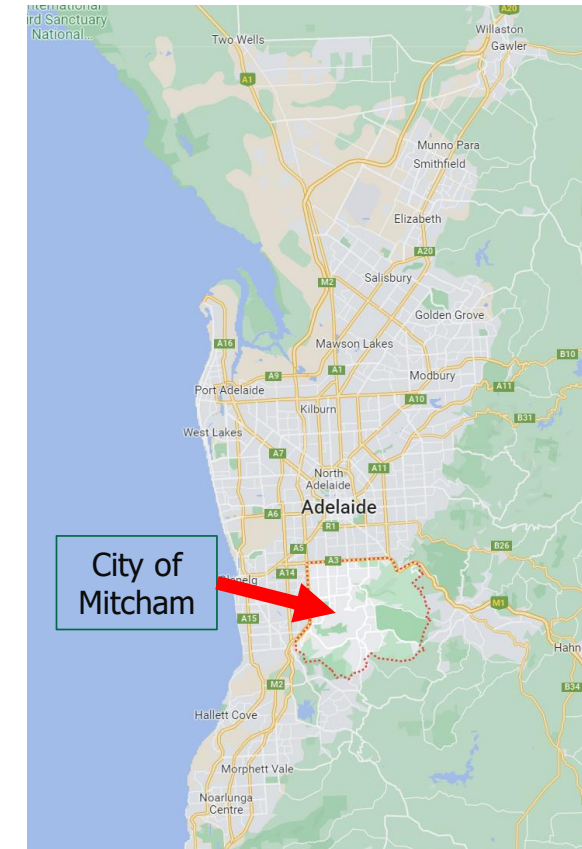
1. Attachment 1 Mitcham Community Renewables Presentation [9.1.1 - 26 pages]



# City of Mitcham Community Renewables Program

# Get Your Bearings

- 75 square km in area
- Hills and plains
- 10 minute drive to the CBD to the north
- 30,000 rateable properties
- Population of approximately 70,000
- Metropolitan Adelaide is 1,367,000
- Relatively affluent and educated community



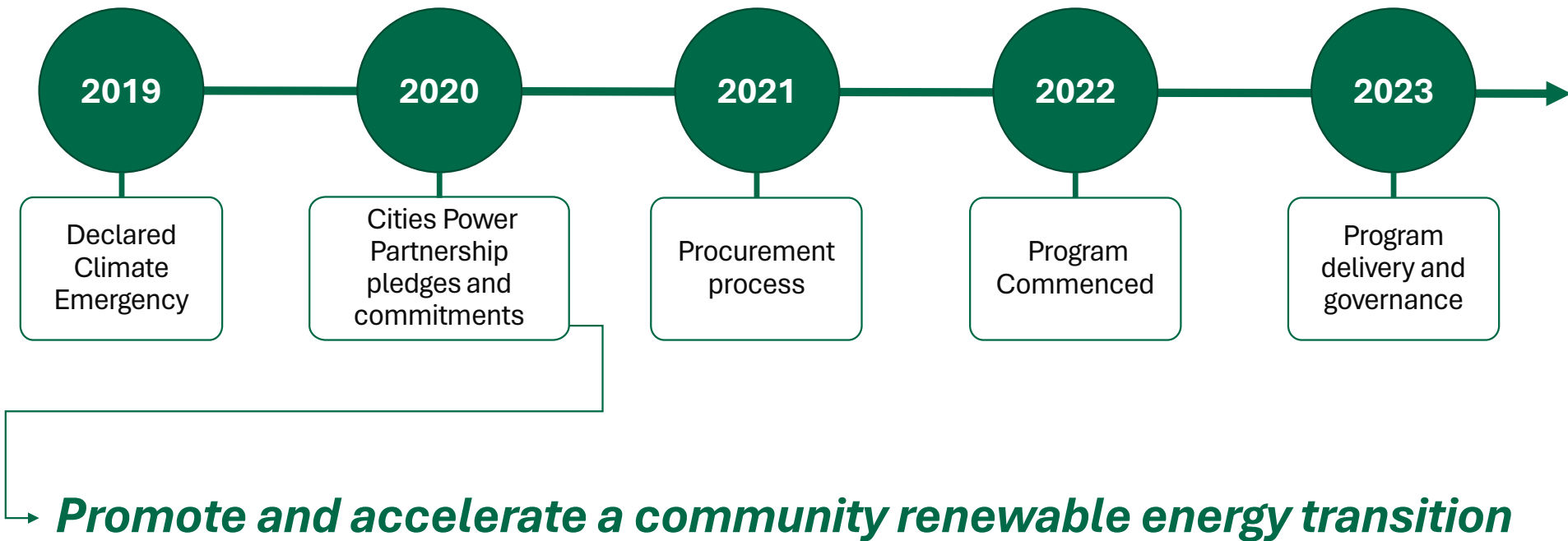
# Why

1. Climate emergency
2. Cost of living
3. Support for local businesses
4. Council savings and revenue

# How



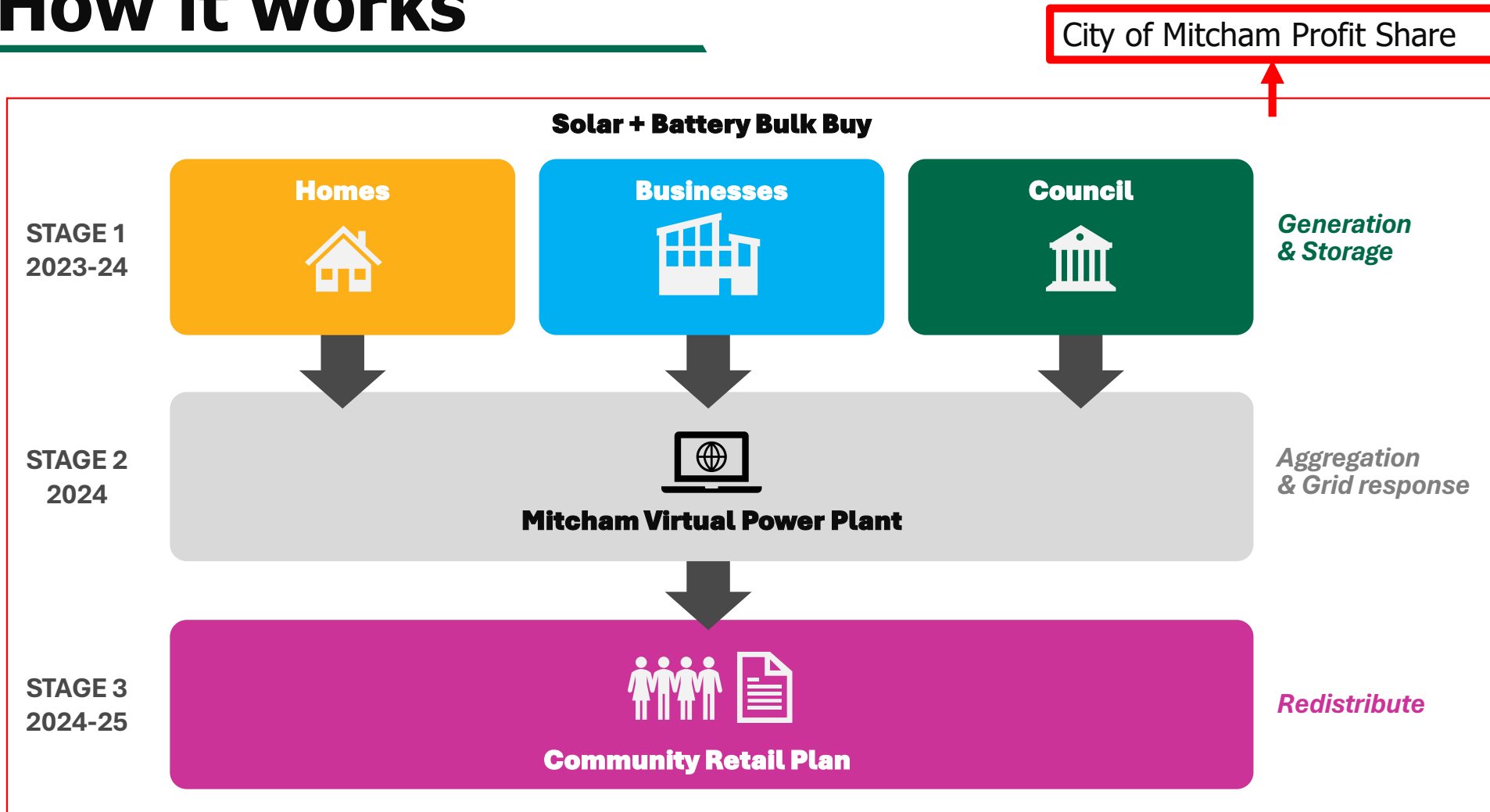
# Timeline



# What Did We Do?

1. We ran a tender in the open market, asking proponents to explain how they would help us:
  - Achieve a Carbon Emissions Reduction
  - Lower the Cost of Living
  - Build community energy resilience
2. Asked SA Power Networks to endorse our approach
3. Asked SA Chief Entrepreneur to promote our tender

# How it works



# Tender Outcomes



205 DOWNLOADS



15 SUBMISSIONS



# Due Dilligence: \$87k Once-Off

- Energy expert assessment of tender responses
- Independent financial and organisational capability audit
- Legal advice on Council's role: 'White-labelling'
- Legal advice on procurement adequacy
- Fair trade, anti-competition and principles of competitive neutrality
- Independent evaluation of the profit share offer
- Mutual Liability Scheme indemnity advice
- Prudential Review

# And the Winner is...



## **The Key is all 3:**

- Sell solar panels & batteries
- Run Virtual Power Plants
- Energy retail licence holder

# What They Wanted From a Local Council



They didn't want  
our money



They wanted our  
brand recognition



They wanted our  
community  
outreach



They wanted our  
trust

# Council's Role: White-labelling

- Due diligence that no average citizen could afford to do
- Promoting ShineHub's existing products ('white-labelling') through Council channels
- ShineHub trading on Council's name
- At no cost to Council



# Stage 1: Roll Out

- 2 x solar panel and battery community bulk-buys
- Shinehub do everything and give you content to re-post
- Co-hosted community information meetings
- 1 on 1 resident/ShineHub engineer at Council's Civic Centre

# Local Power



# Cost

1. Cash up front, or
2. No up-front cost:

- Monthly subscription to the power (10 or 5 years)
- ShineHub own and maintain the system
- After 10 years, citizen can buy the system for \$1
- The monthly subscription fee is the same or less than their old quarterly bill



# Residential Results (so far)

2 Separate Bulk Buys	
Total Registrations	3819
Solar Only	10
Solar & Battery	543
Battery Only	236
Total Systems	789

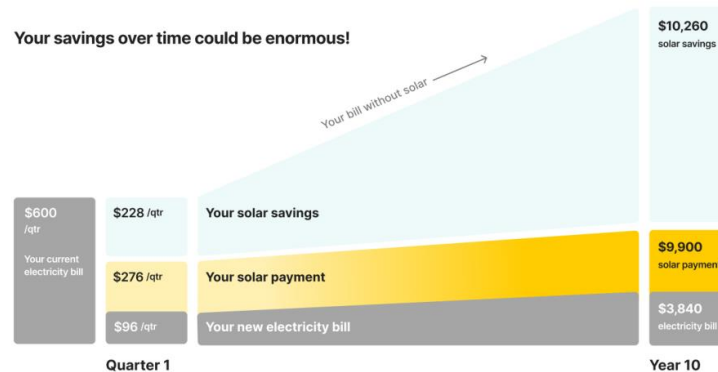
# The Average Household

## Your estimated solar savings^:

Check out how much you'll save in the next 10 years!

	⚡ Energy costs on the grid	☀️ Energy costs with ShineHub	💰 Your solar savings
<b>Quarterly totals:</b>	\$600 / quarter	<b>\$372 / quarter</b> \$276 Solar payment \$96 New electricity bill	<b>\$228 / quarter</b>
<b>10 year totals:</b>	\$24,000 / 10 years	<b>\$13,740 / 10 years</b>	<b>\$10,260 / 10 years</b>

Your savings over time could be enormous!



- Before - \$600 per quarter
- After - \$372 per quarter (including repayments)
- Works in SA right now

# Commercial Bulk-Buy

- Enabled by Council batteries
- Big users to start with, 17 in design so far
- Multimillion dollar systems
- They're all saying the same thing about net zero and batteries

# Stages 2 and 3: VPP and Retail Plan

- Council resolution to proceed
- VPP and Retail Plan in the next 3-6 months
- Retail Plan phased with small renter target audience first

# Emission Savings

Annually the program will save

**3193** tCo2e

(residential + commercial)

*At its current size*

= 2.66% of the 120,000 tCo2e City of Mitcham  
municipal electricity emissions.

# Financial Savings

For residents since the program started is savings on electricity bills:

**\$1,779,625**

based on an average cost of electricity,  
residential– 32.5c/kWh.

# Other results

- Other Councils across Australia have resolutions to replicate
- Intellectual Property royalty payments to the City of Mitcham *from ShineHub*
- **REPS** payment - \$500
- We won two awards!

# The Portal for Other Councils

<https://shinehub.com.au/council-solar-programs/>

## From 15 to 2: \$87k Once-Off

- Energy expert assessment of tender responses
- Independent financial and organisational capability audit
- Legal review of contract approach and risk exposure
- Procurement adequacy
- Fair trade, anti-competition and principles of competitive neutrality
- Independent market evaluation of the [ShineHub](#) offer
- Mutual Liability Scheme indemnity advice
- Prudential Review

 CITY OF MITCHAM

 CITY OF MITCHAM



# Lessons Learned

- Mayor is important
- There's lots of reasons to do it and ways of designing it
- Tiger team helps
- The supply chain is over-stocked, but not for long
- ShineHub can scale up faster than LG



**10 Other Business****11 Meeting Closure**

The meeting shall conclude on or before 9.30pm unless there is a specific motion adopted at the meeting to continue beyond that time.