



**Minutes of the Infrastructure Committee
held on Tuesday, 7 November 2023 at 6.30 pm
Council Chamber, Council Administration Centre
245 Sturt Road, Sturt**

PRESENT

Mayor Kris Hanna
Councillor Ian Crossland (Chair)
Councillor Matt Taylor
Councillor Jana Mates

In Attendance

General Manager City Services - Ben Keen
Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment – Mat Allen
Executive Officer to General Manager City Services - Colleen Madsen
Manager Operations – Brian Green
Councillor Sarah Luscombe
Councillor Joseph Masika
Councillor Luke Naismith
Unit Manager Civil Services - Doug Eatts
Project Manager – Taskin Muktasid

1 Open Meeting

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.35pm and invited Councillors Luscombe, Masika, and Naismith to join the meeting.

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 Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 5 September 2023**

Report Reference IC231107R4.1

Moved Councillor Mates

Seconded Mayor Hanna

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

Carried Unanimously

The Chair sought and was granted leave of the meeting to vary the order of the agenda and consider item 8.1 Drainage – Change in Methodology as the first item on the agenda before item 7.1 Civil Service Review, and Item 7.2 South Australia’s 20-Year Infrastructure Strategy – Feedback to be moved to the last item on the agenda before Item 10 Any Other Business.

5 Business Arising

5.1 Business Arising Statement - Action Items

Report Reference	
IC231107R5.1	

Moved Mayor Hanna

Seconded Councillor Taylor

That the Infrastructure Committee:

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

Carried Unanimously

6 Confidential Items - Nil

8 Reports for Noting

8.1 Drainage - Change in Methodology

Report Reference	
IC231107R8.1	

Unit Manager Civil Services, Doug Eats and Project Manager Taskin Muktasid provided the Committee with a presentation on the changes in the approach to Drainage Construction in 2023-24.

Discussion from the committee and staff included:

- Materials are readily available.
- It is cheaper to crush materials onsite at the southern depot than to buy in. Material is stockpiled prior to crushing.
- Piping – what we are using is the best available, the pipes are more environmentally sustainable. FRC pipe is lighter and reduces transport costs. It has been confirmed there is no difference in the lifespan between the FRC pipe and a concrete reinforced pipe. The pipe is sourced from a SA company (Bianco) but is manufactured in Queensland.
- Sand is sourced from SRWRA.
- This methodology has been introduced by other councils. City of Marion has used this method previously on a project in 2020.
- The chair suggested this would be a good media opportunity.

Moved Mayor Hanna**Seconded Councillor Taylor**

That the Infrastructure Committee:

1. Notes the change in Stormwater Drainage delivery methodology and the sustainable benefits for the City of Marion.

Carried Unanimously

7 Reports for Discussion**7.1 Civil Service Review**

Report Reference IC231107R7.1

Manager Operations, Brian Green, presented the Committee with an update on the progress, status, and future focus areas of the Civil Services Business Unit Review.

Discussion by the Committee and staff included:

- Gender and cultural diversity within the team and what is being done proactively in this space. When going to the market we have proactively approached agencies and asked if they have any females and/or indigenous people on their books and encouraged them to apply. The employment process is merit-based and other programs are also being run (gap year, indigenous etc.). Operations currently has a CALD trainee and has requested P&C to try and source another one.
- Retention strategies to encourage gender diversity to remain with council starts with the leaders. Will be running a Civil leadership workshop this year outlining the importance of the customer, and the importance of having a safe and diverse team and to provide mentoring opportunities for female staff.
- The committee questioned gender diversity numbers and how do we compare to other councils? Mr Green met with the City of Mitcham last week to discuss this topic. Civil recently had six females commence, however only two remain, looking to offer one a traineeship. Reasons they did not stay were discussed. 15% female 15% indigenous.
- Cultural diversity encompasses all races.
- The outdoor force has gone from 45 to 30 (not quite full strength yet). We have not reduced the staff number, i.e., we have re-deployed the return-to-work staff to open spaces where they can become more productive and engaged.
- Introduced cross functional training to create a flexible workforce.
- Multi skilling has been introduced to enable one team to complete a job. Time in motion studies identified underutilised fleet.
- Hoping to introduce further multi-skilling and train civil staff in arboriculture and some open space staff in civil work. This would provide further flexibility and assist with seasonal workloads.

- Net Star can track vehicles. Currently monitoring time spent on jobs and rotating work group supervisors.
- Commercial fleet - servicing and maintenance in-house. Internally it is difficult to attract mechanics. Reviewing the workshop on how to get the most value in for dollar. Great to have an emergency response in-house.
- Smoothing out budgeting and delivery of services is a focus.

Moved Mayor Hanna

Seconded Councillor Mates

That the Infrastructure Committee notes:

1. Progress and status of the CSBU Review.
2. Key change management activities that are continuing to be implemented including appointment of leadership positions and vacant team member roles, rotational Work Group Leaders, Skills Gap Training, Visual Management, Operational Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and Commercial Fleet Change-over.
3. Focus Areas for continued improvement.

Carried Unanimously

9 Workshop / Presentation Items

9.1 Year in Review

Report Reference IC231128R9.1

The Manger Engineering Assets & Environment, Mathew Allen offered the Committee an opportunity to provide feedback on its effectiveness in enhancing our infrastructure and public services.

General discussion and feedback by the committee included:

- It is difficult to find a balance with reports being either too thorough or if they could be simplified.
- Staff could go to the chair of the committee and sound out what the committee is after i.e., the scope. Reports such as tonight's Civil Review Report are a good example of what to look for.
- Reports could be more condensed and concise. If they want more information, it can be asked for.
- There have been some excellent reports and Mat Allen has a good team.
- Extremely informative and useful. New Council Members consolidate what they need to know, and the technical information is an additional bonus.
- The Chair highlighted questions in advance of the meetings so staff can be prepared to give verbal answers on the night. This has proved to be very useful.
- Would like to see a 1 or 1 ½ page executive summary to give all the details. Really enjoyed the footpath report.

- If you take too much out of the report, then you would need to come back.
- Would like to provide feedback to the staff that they are open and easy to deal with.
- If looking to make more condensed reports, it would be great to have questions prior to the meeting so that staff can bring information to the meetings should anything be missing.
- Important for staff to engage early in the process.

Moved Councillor Taylor

Seconded Councillor Mates

That the Infrastructure Committee:

1. Notes the Year in Review and the committee provided positive feedback.

Carried Unanimously

7.2 South Australia's 20 Year Infrastructure Strategy - Feedback

Report Reference IC231107R7.2

The Manager Engineering Assets and Environment, Mathew Allen presented the report on South Australia's 20-year Infrastructure Strategy – the questions are very broad and not all relate to Local Government. Not all councils are putting in a submission due to how broad the questions are. We are calling on subject experts to assist with the answers.

The Committee discussion included:

- Would be helpful if state government could take on some of our principles when we work out matrices i.e., irrigation of our reserves, for all areas of infrastructure that local government look after such as how many community centres should we have in South Australia (metropolitan Adelaide, regional etc.) – football ovals/ recreation facilities / theatres / libraries etc. so that there is a reference point and council would have a guideline. There could then be an expectation of funding/co-funding where there are gaps.
- Do not try to answer everything – use whatever is at hand.
- Good if before giving planning approval for another 10,000 homes that they have a full masterplan and acknowledgment that community facilities / recreation facilities etc. will be needed. Should the committee have any further suggestions/ideas to email them through to Mathew Allen, who will once collated email to all Council Members for comment prior to submission.

Moved Councillor Mates

Seconded Councillor Taylor

That the Infrastructure Committee:

1. Provides feedback on the South Australian 20 Year Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper.

2. Supports staff to submit the Infrastructure Committee feedback to Infrastructure SA.
3. Request that staff provide a draft response to all Council Members prior to submission.

Carried Unanimously

10 Other Business

No other business.

11 Meeting Closure

The meeting shall conclude on or before 8.00pm unless there is a specific motion adopted at the meeting to continue beyond that time.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.01pm.

CONFIRMED THIS 28 DAY OF NOVEMBER 2023

CHAIRPERSON