



**Minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
held on Tuesday, 13 February 2024 at 6.30 pm  
Council Chamber, Council Administration Centre  
245 Sturt Road, Sturt**

## PRESENT

Councillor Joseph Masika  
Councillor Nathan Prior  
Councillor Raelene Telfer  
Councillor Luke Naismith  
Councillor Jason Veliskou  
Councillor Sarah Luscombe (Chair)

Councillor Jayne Hoffmann  
Councillor Matt Taylor  
Councillor Renuka Lama (from 6.38pm)  
Councillor Jana Mates  
Councillor Ian Crossland

## In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer - Tony Harrison  
General Manager City Services - Ben Keen  
Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment - Mathew Allen  
Executive Officer to the General Manager City Services - Colleen Madsen  
Manager Operations – Brian Green  
Coordinator Arboriculture – Ian Seccafien  
Chief Finance Officer – Ray Barnwell  
Manager Strategic Procurement - Jamie Dunnicliff

### 1 Open Meeting

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.31pm.

### 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)

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 - Nil

### 5 Business Arising - Nil

### 6 Confidential Items - Nil

### 7 Reports for Discussion

#### 7.1 Digitised Tree Asset Management Plan

Report Reference

IEC240213R7.1

Coordinator Arboriculture Ian Seccafien provided an overview and demonstration of the City of Marion Digitised Tree Asset Management Plan. This is a work in progress and although an internal document, the intention over the long term is to have it front facing for public viewing.

6.38pm Councillor Lama entered the meeting

The Committee discussed the following key points:

- Depreciation and accounting standards relating to the tree AMP.
- Trademarking the plan is not something that has been considered, staff will investigate if this is possible.
- Tree Valuations.
- Minimal administration time is required for the maintenance of systems due to integration.
- Critical tree assets are defined as Regulated/Significant trees on council land.
- improvements to consider for public facing document - i.e., dropdown so that residents could view the information relating to the trees outside their property.
- Data collections on private properties
- Damage to trees by services such as Cleanaway and street sweepers.
- Tree incident in the city last week and council's ongoing tree assessment, tree inspections, risk assessment and audit system.
- Handling pest trees included in the register is linked to the Biodiversity Plan.
- Over-mature and senescent trees have a tailored management plan.
- Regulated Tree Maintenance fund page on My Marion will only accept 3 attachments. Site to be reviewed.
- Management of significant trees on private land and developments.
- Condition of trees. The Marion Tree Interactive provides stats on species name, number of these species across the city, age, canopy width and height. Residents who are concerned about the trees condition can lodge a request via My Marion or by contacting our customer service team.
- Cautious about public perception if high-risk trees are publicised once the system is public facing.
- Species information and communication plans.
- Once the plan is endorsed and the final updates/improvements have been made to the Digitised version of the plan a media campaign will be discussed with our Comms team.

### **Question taken on notice**

Does the City of Marion have any Heritage Registered trees?

**Moved Councillor Taylor**

**Seconded Councillor Lama**

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

1. Notes the development of the Digital Tree Asset Management Plan 2024-34.
2. Supports its use publicly to inform our community on our approach to tree management once the Tree Asset Management Plan is finalised and endorsed.

**Carried Unanimously**

## 7.2 Community Renewables Program

Report Reference IEC240213R7.2

The chair welcomed the General Manager City Services, Ben Keen, Manager Strategic Procurement, Jamie Dunncliff and Manager Engineering, Assets and Environmental Sustainability Mat Allen to discuss the Community Renewables Program.

Mr Keen provided a presentation on an outline for the implementation for the City of Marion to advance its commitment to renewable energy and sustainability, building on the successes and due diligence of our neighbouring council, the City of Mitcham.

Points covered in the presentation included:

- Achieving a carbon emissions reduction, lower the cost of living and build community energy resilience.
- We have a carbon neutral plan which is predominantly inward looking.
- Next step is to provide a community retail plan.
- How the system operates including how to sign up to the program and the various options for payment.
- EV charging trial between the City of Mitcham and SA Power Networks.

The Committee discussed the following key points:

- Costs and savings.
- Feed-in tariffs for solar systems and the potential market impact.
- Community engagement and resident feedback.
- Difference between residents using an existing solar system v entering this program.
- Limited number of companies can sell to the grid.
- Procurement options and considerations.
- Scalability of the model and associated risks.
- Due diligence is done by the scheme that the average consumer would not be able to do.
- Requirement to obtain independent advice, establish what we want, other suppliers operating in the market.
- Ongoing fees and royalties. City of Mitcham receives a royalty for their IP and has made their IP available to other councils.
- Operational aspect: the community retail plan's aggregation and ability to harvest solar to make the pool of resources and corporate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA).
- Program resources and governance.
- Existing solar on council buildings, should this equation alter the payment it gives opportunities and benefits to council in the long-term.

- Accessibility to the wider community and affordability.
- Risk and lessons learned from City of Mitcham. With approximately 800 residents on the system that they have only had 19 complaints, mainly around when first installed to do with power and poor wiring. Complaints handled within 24 hours.
- The City of Mitcham will be holding information sessions for their residents, and although fully subscribed has offered City of Marion Members the opportunity to attend. Mr Keen will send Member details of those sessions.

8.10pm Councillor Maika left the meeting

8.17pm Councillor Masika re-entered the meeting

### **Moved Councillor Veliskou**

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

1. Recommends a report be presented to General Council in March 2024 for:
  - a. Endorsement to collaborate with the City of Mitcham and use their Community Renewables framework to implement a similar Community Renewables bulk buy, VPP program and Power Purchase Agreement.
  - b. Consideration of an additional resource of 1FTE for 6 months for the delivery of the program, at a cost of \$63,000.
2. Notes a further report will be presented to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee in July 2024 with an update on SA Power Networks Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station trial and the joint EV charging stations request for proposal tender between City of Marion and City of Port Adelaide Enfield.

### **Amendment**

Moved Councillor Crossland

Seconded Councillor Hoffman

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee

1. Recommends a report be presented to General Council in April 24 which provides a detailed business case to allow for consideration of implementing a community renewable bulk buy, VPP program and Power Purchase Agreement.

**The Amendment to become the Motion was Carried  
The Amended motion was Carried Unanimously**

### **8 Reports for Noting - Nil**

### **9 Workshop / Presentation Items**

## 9.1 Workshop Agenda for 2024

Report Reference EC240213R9.1

- 8.30pm Councillor Lama left the meeting
- 8.30pm Councillor Masika left the meeting
- 8.30pm Councillor Telfer left the meeting and did not return

The chair welcomed the Manager Engineering, Assets and Environmental Sustainability, Mat Allen to run the workshop with the Committee to help advise the schedule of agenda items for future meetings in 2024.

- 8.45pm Councillor Lama re-entered the meeting
- 8.45pm Councillor Masika re-entered the meeting

Mr Allen provided the committee with a list of possible topics for their consideration and provided an overview of what they would cover.

Utilising the dot system, members were asked to vote for the topics they considered most valuable to be discussed at this committee throughout the year.

Topics will be collated and those with the highest ratings will be discussed with the chair following tonight's meeting and be put forward to the draft schedule of upcoming items.

## 10 Other Business - Nil

## 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 9:08pm.

CONFIRMED THIS 9TH DAY OF APRIL 2024

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CHAIRPERSON