

AGENDA

Environment and Planning Committee

Monday, 09 December 2024

7:00 PM

Dragon Room

**Georges River Civic Centre,
Hurstville**



OATH OF OFFICE OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

All Georges River Councillors are reminded of their Oath of Office or Affirmation of Office made at the time of their swearing into the role of Councillor.

All Councillors are to undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Georges River Council area and are to act faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgement.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

All Georges River Councillors are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflict of interest (perceived or otherwise) in a matter being considered by Council or at any meeting of Council.

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**ORDER OF BUSINESS****OPENING****ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Council acknowledges the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of all lands, waters and sky in the Georges River area. I pay my respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who live, work and meet on these lands.

APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE**REQUEST TO JOIN VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK****NOTICE OF WEBCASTING****DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST****PUBLIC FORUM****CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

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CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Item: ENV045-24 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2024

Author: Executive Services Officer

Directorate: Office of the General Manager

Matter Type: Previous Minutes

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2024, be confirmed.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#)1 Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2024



MINUTES

Environment and Planning Committee

Monday, 11 November 2024

7:00 PM

Dragon Room
Georges River Civic Centre,
Hurstville

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

PRESENT

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councillor Peter Mahoney (Chairperson), Mayor, Councillor Elise Borg, Councillor Matthew Allison Councillor Tom Arthur, Councillor Christina Jamieson, and Councillor Kathryn Landsberry.

COUNCIL STAFF

General Manager – David Tuxford, Director Environment and Planning – Joseph Hill, Manager Strategic Planning - Catherine McMahon, Manager Development & Building – Carine Elias, Coordinator Parking & Rangers – Haemish Bongers, Senior Strategic Planner – Harkirat Singh, Strategic Planner – Michelle Fawcett, Manager, Office of the General Manager – Vicki McKinley, Executive Services Officer - Jennifer Anderson, Personal Assistant to the Manager, Environment Health & Regulatory Services – Lynne Denham (Minutes) and Team Leader Technical Services - Mark Tadros.

OPENING

The Chairperson, Councillor Mahoney, opened the meeting at 7.00 pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson, Councillor Mahoney acknowledged the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of all lands, waters and sky in the Georges River area. He paid his respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who live, work and meet on these lands.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

They went with songs to the battle, they were young, Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow; they were staunch to the end against odds uncounted. They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.

Lest We Forget.

A minutes silence was observed.

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies or requests for leave of absence.

REQUEST TO ATTEND VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK

There were no requests to attend via Audio Visual Link.

NOTICE OF WEBCASTING

The Chairperson, Councillor Mahoney advised staff and the public that the meeting is being recorded for minute-taking purposes and is also webcast live on Council's website, in

accordance with section 5 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice. This recording will be made available on Council's Website.

CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

Council's Code of Meeting Practice prohibits the electronic recording of meetings without the express permission of Council.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest made.

PUBLIC FORUM

Name	Report No.	Report Title
Mick Frawley	ENV043-24	Fines Amendment (Parking Fines) Bill 2024
Leo MacRae	ENV043-24	Fines Amendment (Parking Fines) Bill 2024
Adrian Polhill	ENV039-24	Management of Feral and Infant Companion Animals Policy (2024) – Outcome of Public Exhibition
Liane Madden (written submission – MOGM read out)	ENV043-24	Fines Amendment (Parking Fines) Bill 2024

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

ENV038-24 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2024
(Report by Executive Services Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Jamieson

That the Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2024, be confirmed.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Mahoney, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Allison, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Landsberry

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENV039-24 Management of Feral and Infant Companion Animals Policy (2024) - Outcome of Public Exhibition
(Report by Manager Environment Health & Regulatory Services)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison

That Council adopt the Management of Feral and Infant Companion Animals Policy (2024) as attached to this report.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Mahoney, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Allison, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Landsberry

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

ENV040-24 Keeping of Animals Policy (2024) - Outcome of Public Exhibition
(Report by Manager Environment Health & Regulatory Services)

RECOMMENDATION: Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Arthur

That Council adopt the Keeping of Animals Policy (2024) as attached to this report.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Mahoney, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Allison, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Landsberry

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

ENV041-24 Endorsement of study areas and objectives for Kogarah Strategic Centre and Riverwood Local Centre Master Plans
(Report by Senior Strategic Planner)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison

That Council endorse the proposed study areas (shown in **Figures 2 and 4**) and objectives for the Kogarah Strategic Centre and Riverwood Local Centre master plans as contained within the body of this Report.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Mahoney, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Allison, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Landsberry

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

ENV042-24 Adoption Generic Plans of Management - Amendment 1
(Report by Strategic Planner)

RECOMMENDATION: Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Allison

- (a) That Council adopt the exhibited Generic Plans of Management for Sportsgrounds, Parks, Natural Areas and General Community Use (Amendment 1) in accordance with section 40 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and section 3.23(6) of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.
- (b) That Council authorise the Director of Environment and Planning to make minor editorial modifications in the finalisation of Amendment 1 to the Generic Plans of Management for Sportsgrounds, Parks, Natural Areas and General Community Use.
- (c) That the adopted Amendment 1 to the Generic Plans of Management for Sportsgrounds, Parks, Natural Areas and General Community Use be forwarded to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – NSW Crown Lands for information.

- (d) That Amendment 1 to the Generic Plans of Management for Sportsgrounds, Parks, Natural Areas and General Community Use be placed on Council's website following adoption by Council

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Mahoney, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Allison, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Landsberry

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

ENV043-24 Fines Amendment (Parking Fines) Bill 2024 (Report by Manager Environment Health & Regulatory Services)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Landsberry, Mayor, Councillor Borg

That Council make a submission to the Minister for Finance the Honourable Courtney Houssos detailing the primary concerns regarding the *Fines Amendment (Parking Fines) Bill 2024*.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Mahoney, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Allison, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Landsberry

Against the Motion: Councillor Arthur

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was five (5) votes FOR and one (1) vote AGAINST. The Motion was CARRIED.

ENV044-24 Council Related Development Applications Policy (Report by Manager Development and Building)

RECOMMENDATION: Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Allison

- (a) That the Environment and Planning Committee endorse the draft Council Related Development Application Policy to be placed on public exhibition for a period of not less than 42 days to allow the community to comment on the draft Policy.
- (b) That a further report be presented to Council after the community consultation period has concluded advising Council of the outcome of the comments received before seeking Council to adopt the draft Policy.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Mahoney, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Allison, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Landsberry

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

CONCLUSION

The Meeting was closed at 8.16pm.

Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item: ENV046-24 Annual Update - Progress towards Net Zero Carbon Emissions Target

Author: Manager Environment Health & Regulatory Services

Directorate: Environment and Planning

Matter Type: Committee Reports

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council note the progress made in financial year FY23/24 toward meeting the target of net zero carbon emissions in Council's operations by 2025.
- (b) That Council's determination of the use of national and/or international carbon offsets be deferred until December 2025 after:
 - i. Council has undertaken an independent assessment of its emissions scope by July 2025 and sought confirmation of the emissions data used to date in Council's energy and emissions reporting; and
 - ii. A market assessment has been completed to compare the costs of purchasing internal or national offsets and presented to council in a further report, expected prior to December 2025.
- (c) That Council supports the expedition of the Fleet Transition Plan with the goal to reduce fleet related emissions as an organisational priority.
- (d) That Council note the increase of gas usage in Council's operations and supports FY25/26 budget bids to investigate the transition of gas assets to electric to reduce emissions.
- (e) That Council note budget bids will be submitted in February 2025 for the 25/26 operational budget using available market pricing closer to the time of submission for the purchase of carbon offsets by December 2025 and for operational projects that may be identified to further reduce fleet and gas related emissions as outlined within this Report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides the financial year (FY) 2023/24 annual update on the progress of Council toward achieving its net zero emissions target by 2025, with annual performance summarised as follows:
 - Council produced approximately 2,811 tonnes Co2-e.
 - Overall, Georges River Council's annual carbon emissions have increased by approximately 1% since last FY and reduced 78% between the baseline financial year 2016/17 and the current financial year 2023/24.
 - Council's largest source of emissions remained fleet (35%), followed by gas (24%), refrigerants (22%), staff commute (15%), waste (4%), and corporate travel (0.01%).
2. Council's emission reduction activities in FY 2023/24 included the following key projects and initiatives:
 - Replace streetlights with LED's to reduce emissions and operational costs.

- Purchasing of 14 hybrid vehicles to replace passenger fleet vehicles which will enter circulation in FY 24/25.
 - Achieving its target of procuring 100% renewable energy for use in powering Council's operations by the year 2025, three years early in 2021/22 by entering into a 100% renewable energy supply contract commencing on 1 July 2022. For the first full FY since the contract commenced, emissions from electricity use are now zero (0%).
3. In FY 24/25 it is expected Council's largest source of emissions will be produced by Council's fleet, followed by gas.
 4. Unavoidable carbon emissions require off-setting to achieve the net zero emissions target. Carbon offset decisions will be deferred until December 2025, to enable verification of the data used to date for reporting, which is due to be completed by June 2025.
 5. In-line with the Council resolution on 26 October 2020, an annual report will be provided to Council each year to report on the progress towards achieving these goals. The next update report will be provided by December 2025.

BACKGROUND

6. At its meeting of 26 October 2024, Council resolved that:
 - (a) *Council endorse its commitment of achieving net zero emissions by July 2025 through a combination of implementing mitigation initiatives and purchasing carbon offsets.*
 - (b) *That an annual report be provided to Council to present relevant industry initiatives and provide an update of Councils progress towards achieving the net zero emissions by 2025 target.*
 - (c) *That Council's determination of the use of national and/or international carbon offsets be confirmed by September 2024.*
7. In addressing part (b) of the 26 October 2020 resolution, this report provides the financial year (FY) 2023/24 annual update on progress toward achieving Council's net zero emissions target by 2025.
8. Georges River Council's baseline emissions were calculated in FY 2016/17 at 12,851 tonnes Co2-e. As previously reported to Council in October 2020, this figure represents the baseline for which all future emissions will be measured against.
9. At its 27 November 2023 Meeting, Council resolved that:
 - (e) *That the decision regarding the purchase of carbon offsets be deferred until June 2025 after:*
 - (i) *Council has considered the annual energy update report for the 2023/24 financial year, which is due to Council by December 2024,*
 - (ii) *Council has undertaken an independent assessment of its emissions scope and sought confirmation of the emissions data from 23/24 and/or 24/25 as funded through a budget bid; and*
 - (iii) *A market assessment has been completed to compare the costs of purchasing internal or national offsets has been undertaken and presented to Council in a further report, expected by April 2025.*
10. In addressing part (e) of the 27 November 2023 resolution, the determination of Council's use of national and/or international carbon offsets will be deferred until after June 2025. This extension allows Council time to undertake an independent quality assurance review of Council's emissions reporting to confirm the scope of emissions prior to the net zero

carbon emissions from Council’s operations 2025 target. As outlined in this report, the independent review is due to be completed by June 2025.

11. In 2021 Council participated in the ‘Program for Energy and Environmental Risk Solutions’ (PEERS 3), a regional tender process led by the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) for the supply of electricity to small and large market sites.
12. Zen Energy commenced supply of 100% renewable energy from 1 July 2022 within operational budget allocation. The renewable energy is supplied by three NSW solar farms - Moree, Nevertire and Hillston Sun Farm - all located within NSW and delivered within the existing operational electricity budget.
13. With the procurement of 100% renewable energy three years early in FY 2022/23, Council’s operations will have little to no emissions associated with electricity in future years. Due to the unforeseen time to enable migration of energy assets and facilities onto the new 9-year contract, there were some residual emissions associated with electricity consumed by Council in 2022/23. This FY is the first year that electricity emissions are zero (0%).
14. To limit the growth of emissions associated with gas, gas is no longer installed in new Council built, owned and/or managed assets or facilities, unless no suitable alternative can be found as identified through a Business Case (detailing investigations of all energy sources considered prior to recommending gas and outlining the environmental impacts), as per Council’s resolution (ENV045-23) dated 27 November 2023.

Report

15. At the time of compiling this report, Council’s emissions for FY 2023/24 were approximately 2,811 tonnes Co2-e. This represents an overall reduction of 78% from the baseline year.
16. Figure 1 below demonstrates Council’s source of emissions is as follows: fleet (35%), followed by gas (24%), refrigerants (22%), staff commute (15%), waste (4%), and corporate travel (0.01%).
17. The largest source of emissions in FY 2024/25 is expected to be produced by the fleet, followed by gas.

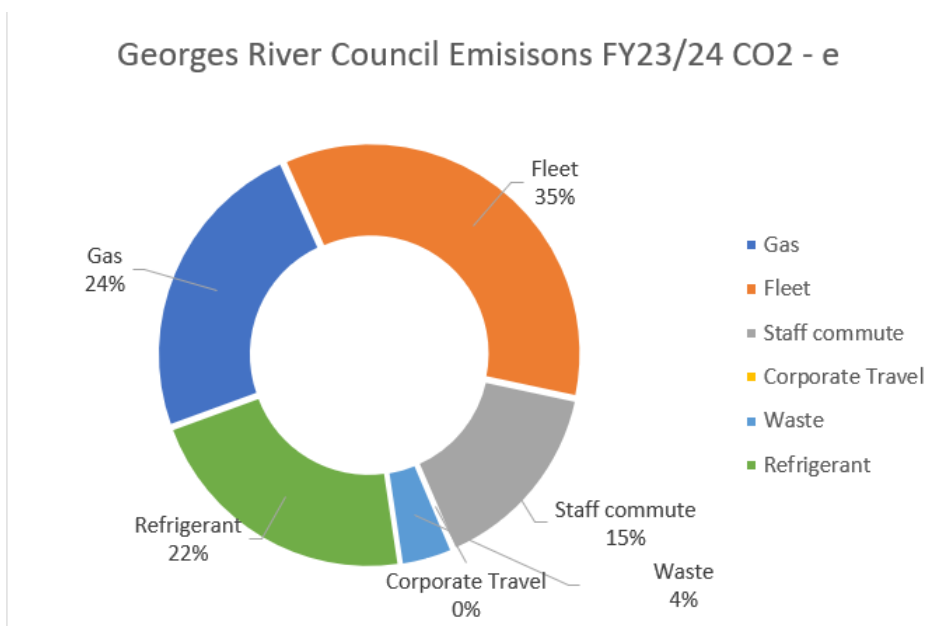


Figure 1 – Georges River Council’s FY 2022/23 corporate emissions profile by emissions category

Emission Reduction Actions: Fleet

18. Council's fleet, including equipment, diesel, petrol and hybrid vehicles represents the largest segment of Council's emissions profile, accounting for 35% of emissions. Emissions associated with fleet have reduced by 20% since the baseline FY 2016/17.
19. In order to reduce future carbon offset requirements, a transition of the passenger fleet to hybrid and electric vehicles has been in progress since 2019.
20. Currently, only hybrid vehicles are purchased at leaseback vehicle changeover. Currently, 33.7% of the passenger fleet are hybrid vehicles and Council has 2 branded 100% electric pool vehicles.
21. The financial savings made by hybrid and electric vehicles, due to reduced fuel consumption, have been approved for transfer into a Sustainable Passenger Fleet Reserve. Funds in the Reserve will contribute to the purchase of additional electric vehicles once the transition plan has been finalised by Council's Executive Team.
22. Council is to note that the program to transition to a sustainable fleet has been delayed due to the difficulty in resourcing hybrid vehicles. Recently, 14 hybrid vehicles have been purchased and are expected to be in circulation within the passenger fleet in FY 24/25. Similarly, the long-term vacancy of the Team Leader Fleet Operations has slowed progress of the fleets transition plan.
23. To reduce fleet as the largest emissions source, it is recommended that Council consider the expedition of the Fleet Transition Plan with the goal to reduce fleet related emissions as an organisational priority.

Emission Reduction Actions: Gas

24. Gas consumption represents 24% of Council's emissions profile. In FY 2023/24 Council consumed 10,364,354 MJ of gas, which is an increase of 6% on baseline emissions.
25. Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre consumed 8,215,101 MJ of gas, being the largest gas user in Council assets.
26. The greatest increase of annual gas usage from FY 2022/23 to FY2023/24 across Council assets can be attributed to Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre (+341,384 MJ), former Kogarah Civic Centre (+245,061 MJ) and Penshurst Park Sports Hub(+240,135MJ). The increase in consumption is due to an increase in patronage at Hurstville Leisure Centre and former Kogarah Civic Centre and the opening of the major development Penshurst Park Sports Hub. Funding via the Net Zero Emissions Fund may be used to fund feasibility assessments in the 2024/25 financial year, to investigate the transition of gas assets to electric as a method to reduce these emissions.
27. It is recommended that Council note the increase of gas usage in Council's operations, and support FY25/26 budget bids to investigate the transition of gas assets to electric to reduce emissions.

Emission Reduction Actions: Refrigerant

28. Refrigerants are a compound in gas or liquid state that, in conjunction with compressors and evaporators, provide the cooling function of refrigerators and air conditioners.
29. Refrigerants account for 22% of Council's emissions. A specific set of refrigerant types are included in Council's emission profile should they reach a particular volume and require replacement during the financial year.
30. Refrigerant emissions will reduce through sustainable procurement processes, by considering impact when purchasing new or replacement assets. Replacing current in-use refrigerants with those lower in Global Warming Potential will be prioritised where possible. When no alternative is available, refrigerant emissions will require offset.

Emission Reduction Actions: Electricity

31. Council's operational electricity consumption totalled 8,087,529 kWh in FY 2023/24. Due to the transition of the Council's energy contract to 100% renewable energy sources, all Council electricity emissions total 0t Co2-e or 0% of Council's total operational footprint. This figure includes the emissions associated with street lighting.
32. In FY 2023/24, emissions associated with Council's electricity purchase reduced by 100% compared to the baseline year.

Street Light Replacement Program

33. Council joined the accelerated LED street light replacement program in 2019 with SSROC and Ausgrid for both residential and main roads. The program aimed to replace 40% of residential road streetlights with LED's for reduced energy consumption. SSROC assisted Council by reviewing lighting selection for main roads, using a GIS-based methodology to improve uniformity of lighting type, service and confirm regulatory compliance.
34. Ausgrid commenced the residential road portion of this phase of LED upgrades in July 2022. Deployments of LED's with smart controls on main roads commenced in Q1 of the 2023/24 financial year, with practical completion in June 2024. The outstanding 51 luminaires are subject to minor maintenance tasks, with resolution expected by June 2025.
35. Program completion is anticipated to reduce Council's streetlight energy consumption by 43.8%, compared to FY20/21 and these successes are expected to be reported in next year's Annual Update Report.

Utilise the Revolving Energy Fund and Net Zero Emissions Fund

36. The Revolving Energy Fund (REF) and Net Zero Emissions Reserve (NZER) are internal funding sources governed by the Environmental Resilience Funding Guidelines. The NZER was created in 2022 for the exclusive purpose of supporting projects achieving net zero emissions and net zero emissions projects. The REF was created to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, successfully operating for over four years with projects returning cost savings, largely through reduced energy consumption, for continual reinvestment into future projects.
37. The three currently funded REF projects are outlined in Table 1 along with the savings from each project to be reinvested into the REF in FY 2023/24.

Table 1: Revolving Energy Fund (REF) projects and savings in FY 2023/24

REF Project	Savings Reinvested into the REF in FY 2023/24
Kogarah library solar panels	\$12,504
Ken Rosewall Tennis court LED lighting upgrade	\$17,041
Oatley Park (new building) solar panels	\$6,852

38. In FY 2023/24 no new projects were funded through the REF and NZER. This has allowed the funds to accrue to \$141,466 and \$101,586 respectively as of 30 June 2024. This represents a balance sufficient to implement further energy efficiency and emissions reductions projects such as a feasibility study to support the transition from gas to electric heat pumps in large gas usage assets.

Solar panels on Council buildings

39. To date, solar panels have been installed on 15 Council owned buildings, including:
1. Jack High Childcare Centre
 2. Penshurst Long Day Care
 3. Narani Childcare Centre in Carss Park
 4. Oatley West Early Learning Centre

5. Ocean Street Kindergarten
 6. South Hurstville Kindergarten
 7. Oatley Park Oval Sporting Amenities Building
 8. Clive James Library in Kogarah
 9. Norm O'Neil Cricket Centre
 10. South Hurstville Library
 11. Kogarah Civic Centre
 12. Carlton Depot
 13. Penshurst Park Youth Centre
 14. Oatley Community Hall (installed in 2022/23, capacity of 13.28kW)
 15. Hurstville Oval, Booth Saunder Pavilion (installed in 2022/23, capacity of 15.17kW).
40. Council has a total installed capacity of 306.8kW which produces approximately 300,300kWh annually.
41. Staff continue to progress the 'Solar Installation Plan' (Plan) (Table 2), first presented 8 November 2021 (ENV054-21), which acts as a priority list. Of the viable projects awaiting progression (Table 2), \$750,000 was approved in the capital works budget which has been phased in 2025/26 and 2026/27 to enable progression of the solar installation plan.

Updated Solar Installation Plan						
	Site	Solar Size kW	Costs ex. GST	Approx. pay back	Approx ongoing savings per year	FY23/24 Updates
2	Kingsgrove Community Centre	50	\$62,029.00	4.5 years	\$13,784	Budget Bid 24/25 deferred
4	Norm O'Neil Cricket Centre Note: Proposed project increases size of an existing system	15	\$24,472.00	4.8 years	\$5,098	DCP Budget Bid 24/25 deferred
7	Hurstville Aquatic Centre	375	\$1,000,000	5.36 years	\$186,567	DCP Budget Bid 24/25 Deferred

42. To increase energy efficiency and reduce reliance on purchased electricity, it is recommended that Council note the Updated Solar Installation Plan (Table 2) and confirm its support for the Updated Solar Installation Plan to be funded by future budget bids.

Emission Reduction Actions: Staff Commute

43. Staff commute forms 15% of Council's emission profile. Staff commute data indicates approximately 55% of staff drive personal vehicles on their commute to work. The remaining staff drive a Council vehicle (approximately 11%), take public transport (approximately 16%), walk (approximately 3%), cycle (approximately 0%), ride a motorcycle (approximately 0.2%), selected 'other', or didn't indicate (approximately 15%).
44. The largest proportion of staff (approximately 22%) travel between 6-10 km to work, followed by those who travel more than 20 km to work (approximately 19%).
45. Council's People and Culture team offer internal initiatives encouraging staff to change their behaviour and reduce emissions associated with their commute. Initiatives include promoting public transport through sustainable transport allowances; trialling a four-day working week; and offering the option to work from home under Councils Flex-Fit Policy. Under the Flex-Fit Policy, eligible staff may work from home up to 2 days a week which has the potential to reduce each participating staff members commute emissions by up to 40% when compared with the baseline 2016/17 data.

46. Overall, 46% of full-time staff have approved working from home arrangements under the Policy. On average, full time staff members are working from home 2.8 days a fortnight, which provides benefit to Council's emissions profile through avoided emissions from staff commutes.

Emission Reduction Actions: Waste

47. The emissions from waste produced by staff at Council's workplaces accounts for approximately 4% of Council's emissions profile. Data quality associated with corporate waste continues to improve. SSROC will manage a corporate waste audit on Council's behalf which is expected to be completed by December 2024. As a result of improved data quality, a rise in emissions associated with waste may be expected prior to Council's 2025 net zero target, and any such change in emissions will be reported in the next annual energy and emissions update report, once data is available.

Emission Reduction Actions: Corporate Travel

48. Corporate travel accounts for less than 1% of Council's emissions profile. It is anticipated a portion of corporate travel emissions will reduce in line with the transition to an electric fleet as previously outlined in this report.

Net Zero Actions

Council Carbon Offsets and Accreditation

49. Council's Net Zero 2025 target refers to the balance between the amount of Scope 1 (direct emissions from Council-owned sources such as vehicles and facilities), 2 (indirect emissions from purchased energy) and 3 (other indirect emissions from activities not directly controlled by Council such as supplier emissions and employee commuting) emissions emitted into the atmosphere and the amount removed or offset.
50. Achieving net zero emissions means that for all the greenhouse gas emissions including Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous oxide (N₂O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs), Sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆), Nitrogen trifluoride (N₃) produced by Council's operations, an equivalent amount of CO₂ is either absorbed through natural processes (such as reforestation) or offset through carbon credits.
51. Council will need to purchase carbon offsets to negate any unavoidable emissions which have not been eliminated by December 2025 as Council does not have access to public land of the required area to facilitate reforestation within the LGA. At its meeting on 26 October 2020 Council resolved to determine the use of national and/or international carbon offsets by September 2024, however, as previously reported to Council in these annual energy update reports, independent verification is required prior to the purchase of offsets, and budget for this activity was only obtained for the 24/25 FY.
52. The carbon market has evolved, and it continues to fluctuate from year to year, and as such, Council has sought to engage an external consultant to conduct a complete emissions assessment and deliver guidance to achieve Climate Active certification. The assessment is expected to be completed by June 2025, with recommendations presented to Council prior to December 2025.
53. Climate Active certification is an Australian Federal Government program, utilising independent third-party verification to ensure the integrity of the carbon neutral claim, and reduce reputational risk to Council. Council's current FY 2023/24 emissions totalling 2,811 tonnes CO₂-e does not comprehensively cover the required emissions calculated to achieve net zero or Climate Active Certification. Requiring external expertise to quantify, the Carbon Assessment will include currently unreported emissions categories within our

emissions boundary such as ICT Services, Cleaning and chemicals and Postage, courier and freight. At this stage, an estimated emissions figure cannot be provided and will be subject to independent review.

Current state of the Carbon Credit Market

54. The Carbon Credit market is heavily fluctuating due to its immaturity and reliance on continually increasing legislative requirements and community expectations stoking demand. Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU's) are issued by the Australian government for projects that sequester carbon and reduce emissions.
55. The Australian Clean Energy Regulators Q1 2024 Carbon Market Report indicated the average ACCU spot price per carbon credit to be AUD\$33.75, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: ACCU Reported Spot price in AUD

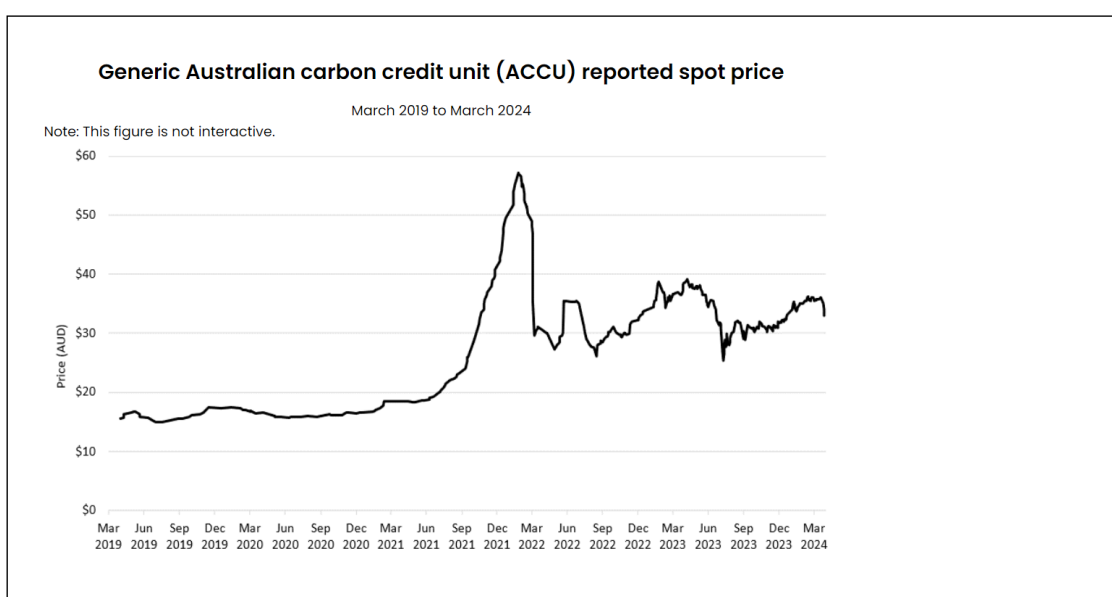


Figure 2 Clean Energy Regulator reported volume weighted average of the generic ACCU spot price from Q1 2019 to 2024

56. Other carbon credits can be distributed using domestic and international standards such as Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and Gold Standard (GS), though these standards carry a higher risk due to varying quality of verification and monitoring.
57. The Global Ecosystem Marketplace Insights 2023 Report showed the average spot price per carbon credit for VCS and GDS to be USD\$9.06 and USD\$6.25 respectively.
58. Based on these indicative costs, Council's calculated emissions, and at the time of compiling this report, the cost to offset 2,811 emissions could approximately range between \$26,352 and USD\$38,201 (international offsets) and \$94,871.25 (national offsets) exclusive of any management, administration or currency conversion fees.
59. It is recommended that Council's determination of the use of national and/or international carbon offsets be deferred until a further report detailing offsets costs be provided to Council for consideration prior to December 2025 upon receiving the Carbon Emissions Assessment and Climate Active recommendations and completed independent review of emissions, expected by June 2025.

Conclusion

60. In the financial year 2023/24 Council produced approximately 2,811 tonnes Co₂-e. Overall, Georges River Council's annual carbon emissions have increased by approximately 1% since last FY and reduced 78% between the baseline financial year 2016/17 and the current financial year.

61. Council has made significant progress to achieving its target of 100% renewable energy for Council operations, with the purchasing of 100% renewable electricity. This renewable energy purchasing has resulted in the Council's emissions reduction of 5,914 tonnes CO₂-e, resulting in zero electricity emissions for FY 2023/24.
62. The balances available within the Net Zero Emissions Reserve and Revolving Energy Fund represents a sufficient amount to implement further solar installations and a feasibility study to support the transition from gas to electric heat pumps in large gas usage assets.
63. Unavoidable carbon emissions require off-setting to achieve the net zero emissions target. Carbon offset decisions will be deferred until 2025, as Council undertakes an external Carbon Emissions Assessment and Climate Active accreditation. The Carbon Emissions Assessment and Climate Active recommendations are expected to be reported to Council prior to December 2025.
64. In-line with the Council resolution on 26 October 2020, an annual report will be provided to Council each year to report on the progress towards achieving these goals. The next update report will be provided in late 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

65. The activities already completed to date and as outlined within this report have been funded through a combination of internal funding sources including, in-kind contributions, operational and capital budgets, the Revolving Energy Fund, Net Zero Emissions Reserve, Sustainable Passenger Fleet Reserve, in addition to successful budget bids and grant funding applications.
66. The 2025 determination of the use of national and/or international carbon offsets will require undetermined financial resources relative to the results of the Carbon Emissions Assessment and carbon market forces.
67. Budget bids will be submitted in 2024/25 financial year seeking funds for expenditure in the 25/26 financial year to undertake:
 - feasibility assessments for the replacement of gas infrastructure in high gas usage assets.
 - installation of solar on Council assets in alignment with the Updated Solar Installation Plan.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

68. Climate Change represents a significant risk to Council's operations and assets.
69. Council, in understanding this risk has committed to being a net zero organisation by 2025. The activities outlined within this report are undertaken with the purpose of achieving that target and mitigating risk.
70. The risk of incorrectly reporting emissions and potentially publicly claiming net zero emissions without meeting the minimum requirements has been avoided by Council's support of a budget bid of \$50,000 allowing Council to engage the services of an emissions consultant to confirm the scope of emissions, based on best practice emissions reporting. As outlined within this report, the independent review is expected to be completed by June 2025.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

71. Community engagement not required.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/319346

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: ENV047-24 T24/005 Residential Electronic (eWaste) Drop-Off Events
Author: Team Leader Procurement and Contracts Governance
Directorate: Business and Corporate Services
Matter Type: Committee Reports

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That in accordance with Section 178(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Council accepts the Tender that is recommended for T24/010 Residential Electronic (e-waste) Drop-Off Events, as outlined in the confidential attachments.
- (b) That the General Manager be authorised to execute the Contract with the successful Contractor on behalf of Council.
- (c) That Council inform the unsuccessful Tenderers of the resolution.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the results of the procurement process completed in accordance with Part 3, Division 1, Section 55 of the Local Government Act 1993 for T24/005 Residential Electronic (eWaste) Drop-Off Events.
2. This report provides the background information for Council to enter into a contract with the entity recommended as the Principal Contractor. The report details the Request for Tender process undertaken with the confidential matters outlined in the confidential attachments.

BACKGROUND

3. Council holds a quarterly electronic waste (E-waste) event for residents to utilise for the disposal of their waste at regular intervals. Such waste items include: all items covered under the National Television and Computer Scheme, computer peripherals (e.g., USBs) home entertainment products (e.g., game consoles, radios, stereos, cameras, DVD players, set top boxes), small electrical appliances (e.g., irons, vacuums, kettles, heaters, power tools. Other items proposed for future disposal comprise of hard plastics, solar panels and expanded polystyrene.
4. Council will require E-waste events to be held every three (3) to six (6) months from February 2025 until the end of 2030 as part of this program. The initial event will take place on a date in February 2025 that is agreed to by both the successful contractor and Council, with subsequent dates being determined following this event. The initial events will be held at the Mortdale depot, with a possibility of also utilising the site at Carlton later in 2025.
5. At its meeting on 26 August 2024, Council resolved (ENV033-24):
 - (a) That Council acknowledge the increasing demand for community recycling events and the pressure that it is placing on the Carlton Depot.
 - (b) That Council rescind the decision to alternate community recycling events between Carlton and Mortdale Depots.
 - (c) That Council delegate to the General Manager to determine the most suitable location to host community recycling events based on their expected demand.

6. There is a requirement to re-Tender for these services as Councils current contract has expired and is currently running on a month-by-month arrangement until further notice, to undertake the events at Councils' depots at Mortdale and Carlton.
7. It was determined that a Tender process would be undertaken to engage a suitably experienced and qualified contractor to coordinate these drop off events for an initial period of three (3) years with the option to extend for a further one (1) year, plus one (1) year at Councils sole discretion.
8. Delivery of this project is as per Councils Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2024-2025, and in accordance with Councils Strategic Plan, 2.1.2 Ensure waste is managed as a resource with minimal impacts from its disposal.
9. Accordingly, an Evaluation Panel was established to develop and finalise the Request For Tender (RFT) documents and Evaluation Plan. The selection criteria determined by the Evaluation Panel was as follows:
 - Company structure, experience, sub-contracting and key staff
 - Event Program
 - Event Methodology
 - Value for money
 - Quality Assurance
 - WHS
 - Environmental Practices.
10. The RFT was advertised via the VendorPanel e-Tendering platform on Tuesday 8 October 2024 and closed on Tuesday 29 October 2024 at 2.00pm. There were three (3) submissions received with no late submissions. Submissions were received from the following organisations:
 - ACE Recycling Group
 - Sircel Recycling
 - JM International Trading Group Pty Ltd t/as SPC E Cycle.
11. The Evaluation Panel commenced evaluation of all Tender submissions and the Panel's recommendation is outlined in the confidential attachments.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. Within budget allocation. Details are contained within Attachment 1.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

13. Operational risk/s have been identified and are managed through contractor performance management, event traffic management plans and adherence to WHS requirements.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

14. Community notification and advertising for the event will be conducted by Council to notify the community of the time, date and location of upcoming events and accepted items for recycling prior to e-waste events.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/319934

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 Confidential Attachment A - T24 10 Residential Electronic (E-Waste) Drop-Off Events (Confidential)
- Attachment 2 Confidential Attachment B – T24 10 Residential Electronic (E-Waste) Drop-Off Events (Confidential)

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (CLOSED MEETING)

Council's Code of Meeting Practice allows members of the public present to indicate whether they wish to make representations to the meeting, before it is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting dealing with any or all of the matters listed should or should not be considered in closed session.

RECOMMENDATION

That in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, the following matters be considered in closed Meeting at which the press and public are excluded.

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 11(2) of the Act, the reports and correspondence relating to these matters be withheld from the press and public.