

11.2 Sustainable Development

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11.2 Sustainable Development

11.2.1 SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – 15 AUGUST 2019

Attachment 1 – Unconfirmed Minutes of the Sustainable Economy Advisory
Committee held 15 August 2019

Sustainable Economy Advisory Committee

MINUTES

FOR THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, 15 AUGUST 2019
IN MAINBREAK,
WALLCLIFFE ROAD, MARGARET RIVER
COMMENCING AT 5:30PM

Notice of Meeting

The meeting of the Augusta Margaret River Sustainable Economy Advisory Committee will be held on 15 August 2019 in the Mainbreak, 41 Wallcliffe Road, Margaret River commencing at 5.30pm

This meeting is open to members of the public.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Claire Schiller, Governance Officer / Council Support.

Contact Number: 9780 5205

Email Address: cschiller@amrshire.wa.gov.au

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

To formulate for Council's consideration recommendations on policy, programs and projects to support the Augusta Margaret River community to transition to livelihoods and enterprises that are sustainable, climate-resilient, diverse and locally-owned in a circular economy, a regenerative and improving environment and a just community that upholds the rights of everyone.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE

1. To recognise the fundamental importance of a healthy natural environment as the most importance base for supporting sustainable economic activity in the Shire and to ensure that economic activities conducted in the Shire do not damage or denigrate the natural environment.
2. To provide a forum for key stakeholder representatives to participate in developing a sustainable economy and provide relevant advice to Council
3. To foster the creation of sustainable livelihoods and enterprises which reduce inequality and social disadvantage.
4. To foster the creation of sustainable livelihoods and enterprises which are climate resilient.
5. To foster the transition from the linear economy (take, make, dispose) to a regenerative circular economy (reduce, reuse, recycle).
6. To develop strategies for Aboriginal and Culturally and Linguistic Diverse communities to fully participate in sustainable economic activity.
7. To foster economic vibrancy in towns, villages and hamlets and assist local businesses to remain viable and successful.
8. To develop strategies to achieve the Shire's Vision 2036 and the key objectives of the Sustainable Economy Strategy.

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Minutes of the Sustainable Economy Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday 15 August 2019,
in Mainbreak, 41 Wallcliffe Road, Margaret River, commencing at 5.30pm

Sustainable Economy Advisory Committee Meeting

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Chair welcomed all in attendance and declared the meeting open at 5.37pm

The Chair gave an Acknowledgement of Country:

'I acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to elders past and present and emerging, whose lands we share.'

2. APPOINTMENTS

Nil

3. ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Margaret River Chamber of Commerce and Industry:	Mr Steve Castan, Deputy Chair
Cowaramup Retailers Association:	Ms Barbara Maidment
Lower South West Growers Group:	Ms Barbara Dunnet
Margaret River Regional Producers Association:	Ms Kat Lombardo
Nature Conservation Margaret River:	Dr John Cresswell
Representative of the Digital Economy:	Mr Tim Kerr
Margaret River Regional Environment Centre:	Ms Peta Goodwin
Transition Margaret River:	Ms Britta Sorensen
Just Home Margaret River:	Ms Geraldine Clarke

Councillor Representatives

Shire President, Cr Pam Townshend
Cr Pauline McLeod, Chair

Shire Staff

Sustainable Economy Officer (SEO):	Mr Saul Cresswell
Governance Officer / Council Support:	Ms Claire Schiller (minutes)

Observers

Curtis Hunter

3.1 Apologies

Acting Director Sustainable Development:	Mr Nick Logan
Margaret River Wine Association:	Ms Amanda Whiteland
Registered Accommodation Providers, MR Region:	Ms Debbie Noonan
Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association:	Ms Sharna Kearney
Augusta Chamber of Commerce and Industry:	Ms Andrea Lindsay
Creative Corner:	Mr Peter Griffyn
Margaret River Community Centre:	Ms Lyn Moorfoot / Ms Lydell Huntly
South West Development Commission:	Mr Jack Carlsen

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Nil

5. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

6.1 Sustainable Economy Advisory Committee Meeting held 16 May 2019

MOTION / SEAC DECISION

MOVED: Barbara Dunnet

SECONDED: John Cresswell

That the Committee confirms the minutes of the Sustainable Economy Advisory Committee held on 16 May 2019 to be a true and correct record of the meeting.

**CARRIED 11/0
SEAC2019/12**

7. REPORTS

7.1 INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND DELEGATION – MEMBERSHIP

LOCATION/ADDRESS	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
APPLICANT/LANDOWNER	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
FILE REFERENCE	ECD/109
REPORT AUTHOR	Claire Schiller, Governance Officer / Council Support
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Dale Putland, Director Sustainable Development

IN BRIEF

The Sustainable Economy Advisory Committee (SEAC) requested officers provide information regarding the SEAC's Instrument of Appointment and Delegation, in particular, membership.

BACKGROUND

- At the 8 April 2019 Sustainable Economy Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting, the SEAC recommended that Council appoint additional members to the Committee:

MOTION / SEAC DECISION SEAC2019/3

MOVER: LYN MOORFOOT SECONDER: KAT LOMBARDO

That the SEAC recommend to Council that the following groups and individual be appointed as members to the SEAC:

- Augusta Margaret River Clean Community Energy;*
- Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee;*
- Witchcliffe Eco Village; and*
- Barbara Maidment.*

*CARRIED 15/1
CR TOWNSHEND VOTED AGAINST*

- Council did not support SEAC's recommendation of appointing additional members at its 8 May 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting, and resolved that the SEAC consider rationalising membership numbers:

SUPPLEMENTARY MOTION / COUNCIL DECISION

CR EARL, CR TOWNSHEND OM2019/79

That Council request the SEAC to consider rationalising the numbers on the committee because the numbers appear unwieldy.

CARRIED 7/0

- In response to Council's decision of rationalising numbers, at the 16 May 2019 SEAC meeting, the SEAC resolved:

MOTION / SEAC DECISION

MOVED: STUART HICKS

SECONDED: BARBARA DUNNET

That the SEAC Terms of Reference, in particular membership, be assessed by Shire Officers with a report coming back to SEAC on 15 August 2019.

*CARRIED 14/0
SEAC2019/5*

DISCUSSION

Shire officers are currently reviewing all Council Committees and Governance Structures with a full report going to the 11 September 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting.

In regards to the SEAC, at this stage there are no proposed changes to the membership, which was determined by Council as follows:

The membership includes:

- a) One Councillor appointed by the Council plus the Shire President or two Councillors should the Shire President decline to participate;
- b) One representative of the South West Development Commission (SWDC);
- c) One representative of the Margaret River Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI);
- d) One representative of the Augusta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Augusta CCI);
- e) One representative of the Margaret River Wine Industry Association (MRWIA);
- f) One representative of the Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association (MRBTA);
- g) One representative of the Cowaramup Retailers Association (CRA);
- h) One representative of the Scott River Growers Group;
- i) One representative of the Margaret River Regional Producers Association (MRRPA);
- j) One representative of Nature Conservation Margaret River Region (NCOMR);
- k) One representative of Creative Corner Inc;
- l) One local representative representing the digital economy;
- m) One representative of Margaret River Regional Environment Centre;
- n) One representative each from two local social justice groups;
- o) One representative of Transition Margaret River; and
- p) One representative of the Registered Accommodation Providers Margaret River Region.

The review has highlighted that the SEAC could benefit from being conducted in a less formal manner to allow for greater opportunity for members to raise ideas and promote general discussion. As a result, a change in governance structure has been explored, namely re-establishing the SEAC as a Reference Group instead of a Committee under section 5.8 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (LG Act).

The main differences between a Committee established under *the LG Act* and a Reference Group established as a governance structure are as follows:

- A reference group does not vote on items and record consensus agreement on actions and any points of agreement/disagreement.
- Meeting notes are reported through relevant directorate reports where the executive ensures that any proposal is consistent with Shire's established strategic and operational plan; within the Shire's staffing and resources capacity; and any funding has been endorsed by Council resolution.
- While the code of conduct and conflict rules are roughly the same for a reference group as they are for a Committee, they are not legislatively imposed and are more of a guide to best practice. A breach is not a breach of the law and not a criminal offence.

Council will consider the Instrument of Appointment and Delegation for the SEAC and all other Committee's at its 11 September 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That SEAC supports the re-establishment of the Sustainable Economy Advisory Committee as a reference group.

RECOMMENDATION / SEAC DECISION

MOVED: BRITTA SORENSEN

SECONDED: STEVE CASTAN

That SEAC supports the re-establishment of the Sustainable Economy Advisory Committee as a reference group.

11/0
SEAC2019/13

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

8.1 Live Action List

Decision No.	Meeting Date	Action Item	Action Update	Status	Actioning Officer
4	16.05.19	That the 8 April 2019 SEAC minutes be updated to reflect Geraldine Clarke, Just Home Margaret River, was not an apology	Minutes corrected 17 May 2019.	Action complete	Governance Officer / Council Support
5	16.05.19	SEAC Decision: That the SEAC Terms of Reference, in particular membership, be assessed by Shire Officers with a report coming back to SEAC on 15 August 2019.	Report included in 15 August 2019 SEAC agenda.	For consideration at 15 August 2019 meeting.	Governance Officer / Council Support
8	16.05.19	SEAC Decision: That the SEAC meet for an informal workshop in June.	Informal workshop held	Action complete	Sustainable Economy Officer

9. UPCOMING EVENTS

The SEO advised the meeting of the following upcoming events:

October 2019

- 5 HEART opening
- 11-13 Strings Attached Festival
- 16-19 Cape to Cape Mountain Bike
- 18-19 Ag Show

November 2019

- 2-3 Augusta Adventure Fest
- 15-17 Gourmet Escape
- 29 Night Food Market

December 2019

- 1-8 Junior Surfing Titles
- 20 Night Food Market
- Tbc Carols in the Park – Augusta, Margaret River

January 2020

- Tbc WA Circus Festival

Ongoing / weekly

- Saturdays - Farmers Market

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

10.1 Just Home Margaret River - Proposed Motion to Increase Newstart

Further information from Just Home Margaret River.

Raise the Rate Campaign – provided by Just Home

“Raise the Rate” is a campaign being driven by the Australian Council of Social Services.

It is in effect asking that the Federal government immediately lift the rate of Newstart, Youth Allowance and other related payments by at least \$75 a week.

Current rates are as follows:

- Youth Allowance (Living Away from Home rate) is currently \$455 a fortnight.
- Newstart is \$555 a fortnight.
- Disability Pension for people over 20 is \$585 a fortnight.
- The aged pension is nearly twice the rate of Youth Allowance at \$843 a fortnight.

These rates have not increased in real terms in 25 years whilst the cost of living has sky-rocketed. According to the Reserve Bank of Australia's inflation index a basket of groceries costing one hundred dollars in 1994 cost one hundred and eighty four dollars in 2018, a rise of eighty two per cent. Current rates of Newstart, Youth Allowance and other related payments are not enough to cover the lived reality of rent and living costs in Augusta Margaret River or elsewhere in Australia.

The Raise the Rate campaign (<https://raisetherate.org.au/>) has broad support from business groups, social justice groups, the Country Women's Association, unions, local and territory governments and a number of federal parliamentarians. The Business Council of Australia has supported the increase in the rate of Newstart since 2011. A poll conducted by Essential Research in 2019 showed seventy percent of people agreed that the rate of Newstart should be increased.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), which represents every council in Australia, passed a motion to raise the Newstart Allowance at its National Conference on 19 June 2018:

"In light of the burden placed on local governments across Australia to respond to the needs and challenges of people living in poverty and homeless, the National General Assembly calls on Federal Government to raise the Newstart Allowance to the level of the Henderson Poverty Line to increase the wellbeing and life chances of many in our community".

We would ask that the Council put forward a motion stating that the rate of Newstart, Youth Allowance and Disability Pension should be increased, and that the Shire President write to the local federal member, Minister for Social Services, Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and other relevant Federal MPs showing our Council's support for an increase in the rate.

MOTION

That SEAC request that Council put forward a motion stating that the rate of Newstart, Youth Allowance and Disability Pension should be increased, and that the Shire President write to the local federal member, Minister for Social Services, Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and other relevant Federal MPs showing our Council's support for an increase in the rate.

MOTION / SEAC DECISION

MOVER: Geraldine Clarke

SECONDER: Kat Lombardo

That SEAC request that Council put forward a motion stating that the rate of Newstart, Youth Allowance and Disability Pension should be increased, and that the Shire President write to the local federal member, Minister for Social Services, Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and other relevant Federal MPs showing our Council's support for an increase in the rate.

**CARRIED 9/2
SEAC2019/14**

10.2 Business Survey 2019 Summary Report

Attachment 10.2 - Draft Business Survey Summary Report

The Sustainable Economy Officer gave an overview of the Draft Business Summary Report.

Nine business surveys were published online and in hardcopy from 6 June to 10 July 2019. The purpose of the surveys was to gauge the state of businesses in the Augusta Margaret River Shire, to better understand the challenges and opportunities of business operators in the region, and the key factors

relating to their ongoing viability and sustainability. In total there were 96 survey submissions, accounting for roughly 5% of businesses in the Shire. The findings of the survey reveal a great deal about the current economic climate and opportunities going forwards for supporting businesses in the Shire to be both viable and sustainable. These findings and opportunities will be discussed, and will help inform development of the Sustainable Economy Strategy.

*Barbara Maidment left Mainbreak at 6.27pm
Barbara Maidment re-entered Mainbreak at 6.29pm*

10.3 Regional Economic Development (RED) Grant

Attachment 10.3 – RED Grant Guidelines

The Regional Economic Development Grant is a State Government initiative, funding up to \$250,000 for “community driven projects that contribute to economic growth and development in regional Western Australia”. The current grant round closes on 13th September, and may be too soon for putting in an application, but there will be additional rounds following this one. After reflecting on the key findings from the Business Survey, it is hoped the Committee will present ideas on opportune projects that will meet the criteria of the grant, whilst driving sustainability outcomes and meeting the unique set of challenges for the local region.

Outcome

SEAC to consider ideas and actions for submission for Round 3.

10.4 Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas

Request for SEAC input - written submission addressing issues of relevance.

‘On 31 July 2019, the Senate established the Select Committee on Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas to inquire and report on new industries and employment opportunities that can be created in the regions. The committee invites you to provide a written submission addressing issues that may be of relevance to you. The submission should be lodged by **6 September 2019**. Late submissions will be considered if time permits. The committee is to report by 4 December 2019.’

Outcome

SEAC to provide input to the SEO via email.

11. MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED

Nil

12. NEXT MEETING

The next Sustainable Economy Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday 5 December 2019, 5.30pm.

13. CLOSURE

The Chair thanked all in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 7.18pm