



WBAC Climate Change Action Plan Implementation Reference Group Meeting

Date: Wednesday 31st July 2024

Location: Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes administration office, Council Chambers

Meeting open: 9.20am

1. Welcome

a) Acknowledgement of Country

Cr Tony Dean acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and paid respect to Elders past, present and emerging

b) Attendance:

Voting:

Cr Tony Dean, SON
Cr Vicki Hansen, SON
Cr Alexis Davy, SODB
Cr Tracy Lansdell, SOBG
Cr Mike Christensen, SOGB
Cr Phil Kaltenrieder, SOBB
Alexa Tunmer, SOGB
Ann Bentley, SOM

Non-Voting:

Matthew Tartaglia, WBAC
Kristi Davis, WBAC
Cr Julia Boyle, SOBG

Apologies for absence

Cr Donnelle Buegge, SOM
Cr Wendy Eiby, SOM
Claire Palmer, SODB
Cr Anita Lindaman, SODB

Discussion

- Attendees introduced themselves, sharing their roles with their respective local governments and the WBAC.
- Matthew Tartaglia was introduced as the new Climate Project Officer for the WBAC.
- Cr Tony Dean shared that the Shire of Nannup approved the hiring of a sustainability officer in their meeting last night.
 - Looking at biosecurity as part of Nannup's Sustainability officer role.

- Working group asked for a summary from Cr Tony Dean on his role on the Biosecurity Council.
 - The West Australian Biosecurity Council, established under the BAM Act, is an independent advisory committee that reports to the Minister for Agriculture and directly to Parliament.
 - The Council's primary role is to provide advice on biosecurity issues, although it lacks the power to direct actions.
 - The Council operates with its own budget and meets several times a year, including regional meetings.
 - Recent discussions have centred on reviewing the BAM Act, funding challenges, and potential changes to the biosecurity framework in Western Australia.
 - Despite its critical role, the Council faces potential downsizing or restructuring due to limited public awareness and financial constraints. Cr Dean will provide a power point presentation to Matt to circulate to working group.

2. Declarations of interest

None declared

3. Confirm minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

a) Minutes of last meeting 14th June 2024

Amendments:

- Items 5, Shire of Bridgetown -Greenbushes part of application, not Donnybrook.
- Item 11, resourcing discussions were in regards the CCAPIRG project officer.

Minutes of meeting on 14.6.2024 are confirmed as true and correct.

Moved: Cr Vicki Hansen
Seconded: Cr Tracy Lansdell

b) Matters arising

None declared

4. CCAPIRG project and group name

a) Consideration of project name

The group voted to name the climate project "Climate Alliance" under the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils, and it will be referred to as the WBAC Climate Alliance.

Action: Climate Alliance Project Officer update all documents that refer to the CCAPIRG

All in favour. Carried.

b) Consideration of working group name

The group voted to name the working group for the WBAC Climate Alliance project the "Climate Alliance Reference Group".

Action: Climate Alliance Project Officer update all documents that refer to the CCAPIRG

All in favour. Carried.

5. Short-term Projects List and Opportunities

a) Review the progress of ongoing short-term projects

The reference group reviewed the previously identified short-term priorities for the climate project, discussing their relevance, alignment with current priorities, and the project's future direction.

Code	Action	Discussion / Comments	Action / Notes
Adaption Actions			
A1	Develop and implement a subregional waste strategy, including an assessment for localised industry hubs for priority recycled materials and green waste (GO/FOGO) and the development of a business case for value adding waste streams.	Investigate Waste Authority and/or SWDC funding for a feasibility study, including options for an expanded BHRC. - A potential regional waste facility is being discussed. - Verge Environmental and the proposed Material Recovery Facility at the Diamond Mill will help implement some of these developments.	Notes from WBAC Executive Officer: - WBAC is working with regional bodies to investigate solutions for waste management. - Verge report should be complete by January 2025
A8	Develop and implement a stakeholder engagement process to obtain input from the wider community on climate change adaptation planning.	Consistency of approach across Shires, interpretation of the science, themes and messaging. - Develop a unified stakeholder engagement process to gather community input for climate change adaptation planning. Include consistent questions in surveys across all shires to ensure strategic and comprehensive feedback. - WBAC newsletter will offer a snapshot of current activities, facilitating engagement with the group - Ann SOM suggested aligning the tourism engagement strategy with the broader community engagement efforts, particularly in the context of the growth plan discussion with CEOs. - Requested that the WBAC provide questions for shire community surveys that inform their strategic community plan reviews	Climate Alliance Project Officer to develop an engagement process for Climate Change Action Plan Climate Alliance Project Officer work with shires to develop climate specific questions for community surveys.

A10	Work with Water Corporation and DWER to evaluate technology options for potable water security for Windy Harbour, Northcliffe and other 'at risk' communities.	Discussed the concept of developing a Warren Blackwood Sustainable Water Strategy to ensure continuity of potable water supply for the Warren Blackwood. - Consider plan development for 2025-2026 budget, expanding its scope to address broader water issues in the region. - Water Corporation has no plans, or capacity, to change its water carting procedures. - It is believed Talison are facing a water shortage. - There is the potential to construct a desalination plant and pipe water over, or to tap into, the Yarragadee aquifer. - Uncertainty around Water Corporations resolution of water problems, with discussions ongoing with the government but limited communication with local shires. - Importance of lobbying and communicating water issues to politicians, especially during meetings with ministers. - Mention of a past motion in 2023 with WBAC to obtain a briefing from the Water Corporation on water supply projections, with unclear follow-up results.	Notes from WBAC Executive Officer: In April 2024, the Water Corporation presented to the WBAC on Regional Water Source planning for the Warren Blackwood scheme. They submitted an updated Source Development Plan to DWER in January 2024, exploring future water source options and provided information to WBAC members on water sourcing from Yarragadee recharge, the South Perth Basin, and Manjimup groundwater prospects. WBAC has requested but not yet received the following from the Department of Water: - Current individual licence allocations (MG per allocation, hectares, etc.) from Scott River. - A detailed breakdown of priority allocations, distributions, and usage by industry, along with clarification on the process for obtaining an allocation. Recommendation to WBAC to amend A10 to include "Develop a Warren Blackwood Sustainable Water Strategy to ensure continuity of potable water supply for the Warren Blackwood region" Recommendation to WBAC to develop a Warren Blackwood Sustainable Water Strategy Request WBAC continue lobbying with ministers to ensure water issues are highlighted
-------------------	---	--	--

A11	Shires to review eligibility criteria for community grants to include community climate change measures.	Ensues consistency of approach and messaging to the community - Existing community grants already cover a wide range of activities, including those related to climate change, if they align with community priorities. - Some groups already receive grants for climate-related activities without needing specific clauses in the criteria. - Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes current eligibility criteria already encompass environmental, social, and economic sustainability, making additional changes potentially unnecessary. - Explore ideas of Shires creating a separate eligible community grant for Sustainability and Climate Change	Shires evaluate the feasibility of creating a separate grant category specifically for climate change-related community projects.
Mitigation Actions			
M2	Continue to partner with DFES, DBCA and FPC on Bushfire mitigation.	Discussion regarding firefighting issues within pine plantations: - Firefighting has fallen onto the responsibility of volunteers when FPC and DBCA have not turned up. - Concerns raised about who is responsible for firefighting on FPC land, particularly if volunteer firefighters or FPC staff will handle fires. This includes unresolved issues about staffing and equipment. - Noted that 50% of arable land in certain Shires is now under plantations, leading to increased fire risks and responsibilities. - Concerns over the expectation that volunteers will be the frontline defence in plantation fires, without adequate training or equipment.	Notes from WBAC Executive Officer: This action is from the Warren Blackwood Sub-Regional Growth Plan. Recommendation to WBAC to reword action to include 'Member Shires' at beginning Climate Alliance Project Officer to clarify with WBAC Executive Officer if Jane Kelsbie had updated WBAC on discussions with Ministers around this issue

		- WBAC brought this up with Jane Kelsbie at a previous board meeting and Jane was going to discuss issue with Ministers. - Boyup Brook has declined to be involved in volunteer firefighting because of a lack of training.	
M3	Ensure Shire bushfire management planning and actions considers future regional climate change impacts.	Original completion was 2024 but have found hard to do as there is not a lot of modelling that shows what is going to happen with climate change so makes it very hard to plan.	<i>All members to continue researching reliable climate change models that can provide insights into future regional impacts.</i>
M4	Procure a WBAC wide energy audit of local government facilities, to enable targeting of high emission / high cost operations.	- Investigate external funding (e.g. Regional Climate Alliance Initiative funding) - Investigate procurement through WALGA preferred supplier arrangement - Donnybrook-Greenbushes has used BGB's energy audit template and has allocated \$15,000 in the 2025 budget - Vehicle emissions are also important to track - Discussion on a Level Two energy audit by SOBG, which provided detailed insights into current energy use for the top five buildings and made recommendations for solar PV battery systems. Expected savings and carbon emission reductions were noted as achievable. - If audit is completed it puts Shires in a strong position for any future funding opportunities that arise. - SODB have used SOBG scope to put forward \$15k in their budget toward completing. - SON will be looking as this as a priority when new sustainability officer role starts. - Noted all Shires did this on a spreadsheet with Mark Batty	<i>Alexa SOGB, to send Climate Alliance Project Officer details of the Level 2 energy audits that BGB have used. Project officer to circulate to all group members.</i> <i>Climate Alliance Project Officer to support shires to complete energy audits.</i> <i>Recommendation to WBAC to add 'vehicles' into the audit.</i> <i>Climate Alliance Project Officer find spreadsheet completed by Shires with Mark.</i>

M5	Undertake a regional kerbside waste minimisation strategy, including community education. Consider using the WALGA Bin-tagging program.	- Investigate funding through Waste Authority (Waste Sorted grant) and/or Keep Australia Beautiful grant. - Project Officer to investigate funding opportunities through the Waste Authority's Waste Sorted grants and the Keep Australia Beautiful grants. - Funding is essential for supporting initiatives - focusing on joint grants could enhance our chances of securing the necessary funds.	<i>Climate Alliance Project Officer to investigate 'Waste Authority's Waste Sorted' and 'Keep Australia Beautiful' grants and circulate information to all group members.</i>
M6	Ensure all Shire community events are Waterwise events.	- Apply for grant funding from the Waste Authority (Waste Sorted grant). - All SON events are Waterwise events and are excellent in the area - SOM updated the waste section of their website and added with links to Waste Sorted. - SOM has updated the event information on their website to include the most current waste management details for event organisers, with links to Waste Sorted resources.	<i>Climate Alliance Project Officer work with shires to see how they can promote event holders to be more waterwise.</i> <i>Climate Alliance Project Officer to investigate grant funding from the Waste Authority (Waste Sorted grant).</i>
M8	Undertake a subregional wide assessment of urban stormwater harvesting/WSUD/ hydro zoning and other water efficiency opportunities to reduce potable use and improve overall water security. Join the Water Corporation Waterwise Councils Program.	Discussion from group: M8 action was noted as being M7 in error. Error has been brought forward before. M7 action is not a short-term priority. M8 is the priority. M8 discussed under agenda point 8.	<i>Climate Alliance Project Officer check all documents are accurately recorded moving forward. M7 is not a short-term priority action, while M8 is considered a short-term priority.</i>
Leadership and Advocacy Actions			
L2	Review the WBAC Subregional Growth Plan 2019 in light of the release of the State Climate Policy	- WBAC Subregional growth plan was updated in 2023. - WA government hasn't updated State Climate Policy since 2020.	Notes from WBAC Executive Officer: This action was completed during the WBAC Sub-Regional Growth Plan review in 2023.

	(2020) and amend actions accordingly.		Climate Alliance Project Officer remove action from short-term priorities list and record as completed.
L6	Advocate to the State Government and relevant agencies to continue to improve emergency warning systems and alerts.	Telstra/Western Power/DFES/BoM/SWALGA Ongoing • Bridgetown installed new battery on their Telstra communication towers, in the event power is lost during an emergency it will last 6 hours. • Balingup Resilience Community received a grant from NAB to turn Recreation centre into a social centre for use in emergency. They've received a generator and trailer for use during emergencies. • Boyup Brook to have evacuation centre at the football change rooms. Planning costing \$230,000 • Donnybrook implementing new SMS system advising of harvest vehicle movement bans • Amendment to include "Emergency warning systems and alerts" • That is an ongoing priority with WBAC and strategy plans.	WBAC to continue to advocate to the State Government and relevant agencies for the ongoing enhancement and alerts.
Communication Actions			
C1	Develop a subregional Climate Change Communication and Engagement Plan. Consider using the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) methodologies	• Utilise and harmonise information, case studies and toolboxes through WALGA and Cities Power Partnership. • Donnybrook is already active in Cities Power Partnership • SAC's to discuss Cities Power Partnership • WALGA Toolbox is live	Climate Alliance Project Officer to investigate the development of a Sub-Regional Climate Change Communication and Engagement Plan.
C2	Undertake stakeholder engagement to inform the wider community on climate change adaptation and mitigation action	• Utilise and harmonise community input into Strategic Community Plans and other documents, as appropriate.	Strategies to be identifies in engagement process for Climate Change Action Plan, as per actions for A8.

C3	Support and promote environmental education and awareness in the subregion	• Keep up to date on Environmental Strategies, as required. • Investigate grant funding opportunities for initiatives.	Notes from WBAC Executive Officer: This action is from the Warren Blackwood Sub-Regional Growth Plan. <i>Strategies to be identifies in engagement process for Climate Change Action Plan, as per actions for A8.</i>
C4	Consider joining the Climate Council Cities Power Partnership to enable access to contemporary Local Government climate change resources, projects and information.	• Cities Power draft motions were sent to LG's - Project Officer to follow up	<i>Climate Alliance Project Officer follow up joining Climate Council Cities Power Partnership.</i>
C5	Consider signing the WALGA Climate Change Declaration, already signed by 49 Local Governments representing 81% of the State population.	• Look at declaration and draw out information we can implement. • Potential to be used for lobbying for government funding	Notes from WBAC Executive Officer: This action was completed by WBAC on 06.02.2024. <i>Climate Alliance Project Officer remove action from short-term priorities list and record as completed.</i> <i>Project Officer to read declaration and draw out information we can implement.</i>
C6	Engage with other Local Governments within the South West region to share learnings and progress regional actions.	• Reinvalidate the Environmental Officers network across the SW WALGA zone. • RDA meetings have been attended by Alexa SOBG and Ann SOM. WBAC has been invited to attend, going forward WBAC Climate Alliance Project Officer will attend.	<i>Climate Alliance Project Officer to attend RDA Net zone meetings and other regional meetings as needed.</i>
C7	Engage with WALGA and other organisations to remain	• Elected members and relevant staff participate in the WALGA Climate collaborators network.	

	informed, and to contribute to, discussions on climate change management at the Local Government level.		
--	---	--	--

Actions:
Climate Alliance Project Officer to review the entire action plan and identify the status of each action for every shire.
Climate Alliance Project Officer draft a revised list of short - term projects for next Climate Alliance Reference Group meeting.

6. Talison Application

a) Update on funding

After several emails with the Talison team, WBAC Executive Officer Katie McDonnell discovered that Talison had mistakenly believed the WBAC was a governing body rather than a voluntary council group. Talison staff are now contacting their sustainability director to request a meeting on our behalf.

Action: WBAC Executive officer is following up

b) Scope of Talison's sustainability-lead investments across different LGAs.

The Climate Alliance Project Officer requested each Shire to provide details on any sustainability-focused funding they have received from local Talison investments:

- SOBG: Community groups received funding for energy upgrades, with a focus on smaller groups like the Blackwood Environment Society.
- SODB: \$3 million allocated for sports complex upgrades, expected to be completed by year-end.
- SOM: Ongoing application for additional sports funding; limited sustainability focus.
- SOBB: Playground project underway; limited sustainability focus.
- SON: Secured \$45-50k for solar panels at the recreation centre and town hall.

7. Commonwealth Community Energy Upgrades Fund / RDA WA

a) Application(s) for January 2025 round of funding

- SOBG did a combined grant with Shire of Augusta- Margaret River and Shire of Harvey. Had issue with online application system. SOBG looking to apply again when opens in January 2025. It is a 50% co-funded grant. SOBG looking at upgrades to their heat pump.
- Alexa Shire of SOBG mentioned if any other Shires are looking to apply, they would need to have energy audits done prior to January 2025.
- SOM intended to apply previously but didn't have the necessary audit data to proceed with the application.

Action: Climate Alliance Project Officer will add an agenda item for the next meeting to allow Shires to provide updates on their applications and the status of their energy audits

8. Becoming Waterwise Councils

a) Confirm which councils are part of Waterwise Councils program

- Water Corporation Waterwise Councils Program.
- Discussion focused on the potential benefits of becoming a Waterwise council.
- The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes has been a waterwise council for about four years.
- The Shire of Manjimup Aqua centre is Waterwise.
- The Waterwise program is a voluntary initiative for local governments aimed at reducing water use in both corporate and community settings.
- The program involves signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), implementing a water audit program, and fulfilling approximately 12 specific actions to monitor and manage water usage.
- Benefits of the program include reduced water bills, access to improvement funding, and water-wise training.

Actions:

***Climate Alliance Project Officer will investigate further and advise the group on how to proceed, assisting each Shire individually.
Alexa will locate the motion related to the Waterwise application for Climate Alliance Project Officer to circulate to all shires.
Climate Alliance Project Officer to re-circulate previous created templates and a draft motion.***

9. Donnybrook Towns Team presented at WBAC meeting

- WBAC board meeting has a speaker from the Town Teams who presented about how the program empowers community groups to take action on local projects, such as training individuals within groups to lead efforts like Donnybrook's mural on a toilet block.
- While the program doesn't provide funding, it offers guidance and practical tips.
- The initiative is active in several towns and could be a useful resource for local sustainability-focused groups.
- It was suggested that community groups interested in sustainability might benefit from exploring Town Teams to support their projects.
- A website is available for more information.

10. General Business

None declared

11. Date and location of next meetings

- a) Friday 11th October 2024, Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes
- b) Friday 13th December 2024, Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes

Meeting Closed: 11.32am.