



WBAC Climate Alliance Reference Group Meeting

Date: Friday 30th May 2025

Location: Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes administration office, Council Chambers

Meeting opened: 9.17 am

Attendance

Voting:

Cr Alexis Davy SODB (Chair)
Cr Vicki Hansen SON (Deputy Chair)
Cr Wendy Eiby SOM
Cr Lisa Glover SODB

Cr Mike Christensen SOBG
Cr PhilLippe Kaltenrieder SOBB
Cr Tim Sly SON
Officer Alexa Tunmer SOBG
Cr Donelle Buegge SOM

Non-voting:

Matthew Tartaglia (Project Officer)
Officer Clint Conor SON
Officer Ann Bentley SOM
Officer Rosco Marshall SODB

Apologies:

Cr Tracy Lansdell SOBG
Officer Nicki Jones SOBB

1) Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

Cr Alexis Davy acknowledged Kaneang, Pibelmen and Wadandi peoples as the traditional custodians of the land. The group acknowledged National Reconciliation Week and noted events available for participation locally.

2) Declarations of interest – Nil

3) Confirm minutes of previous meeting

Approved by consensus.

4) Matters arising

- Due to WBAC Futures Forum, there are no matters arising from WBAC
- Action plan reviewed, see updates below, further discussion required regarding policy positions on carbon offset and biodiversity offset planting

5) Update on Action Items - Attached Below

Action: Project Officer requested to circulate the updated and approved Term of Reference

6) Warren Blackwood Regional Water Supply Scheme Presentation by Mel Bromly (Senior Planner Assets-SWR and GSR), Luke Middleton (Acting Lead Community Engagement -Regional) and Clive Hampton (Principal Hydrogeologist) from Water Corp.

- Information sessions to be held 6th and 7th of June in Nannup. Opportunities for broader community consultation communicated to Shire Presidents.
- Works to be completed:
 - Standby Bore – Thomas Road, Nannup. Drilling Sept/Oct 2025, equipped 2028. Flushing requires decent streamflow may take 1-2 years.
 - Groundwater Treatment Plant – Nannup
 - Design is progressing
 - Native trees planted to reduce impacts on visual amenity
 - Construction planned for 2027
 - Plan to bypass Millstream and Manjimup Dams from 2028
- Current issues
 - Significant decreases in surface flows
 - High quality water is being taken from Yarragadee to top up dams
 - Yarragadee water has high iron and manganese causing turbidity and treatment/quality issues
 - Increasing population and demand beyond modelling, including demand from industry that is currently not being met
- Options Discussed:

- (preferred) Increase abstraction from Yarragadee from 1.6 to 1.9 GL initially, 2.2 GL once DWER allocation has been reviewed (needed when Manjimup and Millstream are bypassed) and potentially up to 3GL full public allocation into the future. If allocation is reduced, desal may be necessary. Includes second bore at current location for existing licence.
- Water treatment plants at Manjimup and Millstream
- Manjimup shallow bore field
- New Yarragadee bore 20km away
- Pemberton extension shelved until DWER confirm allocation – timing uncertain.
- Water supply for Quinns and Northcliffe- Carting still the only option

Action: Chair to contact DWER regarding timing, transparency and scope for surface and ground water allocation reviews in the region. Request presentation on this plus how ecosystem health is being monitored beyond level and flow data. Suggested contact Kath Lynch

Action: Project Officer to request Water Corp presentation and circulate to group.

7) Community and Engagement Plan

- High level feedback provided by all present
- Ensure alignment with Action plan actions – C1, C2, C3, C6, C7, L14, multiple Ls related to advocacy with state and federal agencies and the Climate Change Declaration
- Request for stakeholder mapping
- Concerns around resourcing (time, personnel, budget)
- Too broad and the need to be more specific with smaller achievable steps in action plan that includes responsible parties and timelines
- Need to establish credibility/identity by demonstrating collaborative projects before stepping into leadership space
- Communicate wins on existing platforms
- CARG group to focus on larger issues, SACs to focus on grass roots
- Better planning for next budget cycle

Action: Any further updates to the draft communication and engagement plan to be provided by Friday 6th of June. Revised version will be circulated for out of session approval prior to meeting.

8) Project Ideas and Proposals

Sustainable Schools Challenge

- Annual initiative for primary schools in the Warren Blackwood region
- Encourages practical, creative action on sustainability
- Aims to strengthen collaboration and amplify local impact
- Aligns with multiple Actions in Action plan- A8, C2 & C3
- Various grants available
 - FRR- Small and Vital
 - LotteryWest Grassroots Community-Led Grants
 - Waste Sorted Grants
 - Stephanie Alexander Garden project
- To Include homeschool children
- Concern over how to fit this in with school curriculum and time constraints on teachers
- Existing programs through Waste Sorted, Junior Landcare and Stephanie Alexander kitchen gardens programs
- Potential for Nannup District Highschool and homeschool group as a case study and we can clarify resourcing requirements and costs for building into project proposal for 2026/27 funding
- Potential to expand to Shire youth groups to run a similar program. These groups would be eligible for Shire community grant funding
- Education outreach through schools could be a potential pillar of groups leadership/community engagement moving forward

Action: Use learnings from Nannup sustainable schools project to refine project proposal for 26/27 FY

- Firewise Demonstration Garden Concept
 - Proposal is for a permanent garden at a Volunteer Bushfire Brigade site in Warren Blackwood to be delivered in partnership with The Forever Project
 - \$10,000 in-kind support (design, labour, workshop)
 - Aligns with multiple Action- A8, M2, M3 & L7

- Potential grants available:
 - FRRR Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC): Prepare & Recover Stream
 - DFES Disaster Resilience and Recovery Funding
 - Potential for a Talison Grant
- SOM is already doing one through Landcare
- Yornup Bushfire museum also looking at funding
- Opportunity to collaborate through these existing projects rather than invest in standalone project

Potential Project

- Need to make progress on larger scale collaborative project – suggested item A1 Development and Implementation of a subregional waste strategy as endorsed by WBAC Board as a priority project
- Project will need to be scoped to draw on existing regional strategy, work done by individual shires to date and work currently in progress by Verge (noting that some elements of project have been removed following feasibility study)

Action: Establish Subregional waste strategy working group – initial nominees are Alexa Tunmer, Ann Bentley and Clint Coner have nominated, SODB and SOBB to nominate attendees. Once nominees are received meeting frequency, location etc to be established.

9) Shire Action Plans

- Action Plan tracking spreadsheet to be updated prior to each meeting. Spreadsheet will be used as primary mechanism for providing updates on progress to WBAC Board

[Link to Climate Change Action Plan Tracking](#)

10) Shire Updates

- SOBB
 - No update available (Philippe departed 11.30 am)
- SON
 - Upgrades E-waste mgmt
 - School collaboration on sustainability initiatives
 - Fencing on waste facility has begun

- Proposed change to community grant guidelines- To incorporate climate adaptation initiatives to community grants using inclusive language
- SOM
 - CEO signed Waterwise Councils MoU- Action plan
 - All committees under review including SAC committee
 - Verge policy to be reviewed at next SAC meeting and once approved it will then be sent through to Council
 - Waste strategy motion passed at recent OCM
- SODB
 - Energy Audit completed on two priority sites with actions to be funded by grant from local member
 - Home energy audit kits in libraries- further promotion required
 - Bike rescue initiative continuing this year
 - Community grants policy updated to include reference to action item A11
 - Scoping role for sustainability and assets officer
- SOBG
 - Waste focus – need to determine whether they’ll construct another landfill cell or move to an external facility.
 - Waste sorted grant activities continuing – second repair café, converting rubbish bins to worm farms very popular, a number of additional recycling workshops and school incursions coming up

Action: SOM to share good practice of Shire of Capel natural asset mgmt. planning process

General Business

- Ideas around topic for next meeting;
 - Belinda O’Brien (CCWA) to present at next meeting on renewal energy advocacy
 - Monitoring and reporting our progress – proposed KPIs
 - Position on Biodiversity Offset Planting- Research examples

Date of next meeting: 25th July 2025

Close meeting: 11.56 am

Action tracking

Item:	Action:	Progress:
Waterwise Councils	Project Officer to share the SOM council report supporting motion to become Waterwise Council with the group after it is reviewed by Council in March	Done-May 2025
Waterwise Councils	Project Officer to follow up with Lina Peché to determine timing for a session where CARG members can discuss their Waterwise action plans and reporting. Workshop to help in July	To Do.
Position on Biodiversity Offset Planting	Project Officer to ensure that CARG members are invited to any sessions held by DCCEEW at WBAC level. Group to determine whether we need to develop a joint policy	In Progress
Carbon Offset Project	Project officer to seek additional information on the likely requirements, timelines and thresholds for mandatory carbon or climate related financial risk disclosure reporting	In Progress & Ongoing
Grant Opportunities	Project Officer to align funding opportunities with the action plan in future grant applications to ensure strategic relevance and effective resource allocation	In Progress & Ongoing
Grant Opportunities	CARG to consider large grant opportunity for 2026, allowing sufficient time to scope projects, ensure alignment with action plans, and obtain necessary approvals	In Progress & Ongoing
Renewable Energy Position	Project Officer to liaise with Belinda O'Brien (CCWA) about attending a	In Progress

	future CARG meeting to discuss regional advocacy work. This item will be revisited once the WALGA position paper is released in May. Belinda to present at July meeting	
Communication and Engagement Plan	All CARG members to review the draft Communication and Engagement Plan and provide feedback and endorsement at the next scheduled meeting.	In Progress
Project Proposal	Project Officer to enquire if Verge can present at WBAC Futures Forum or future CARG meeting	Done-June 2025
Project Proposal	Schedule a collaborative verge policy workshop for early in the new financial year. CARG members have advised benchmark from other shires when developing their own	Cancelled
Action Plan Spreadsheet	Project Officer to update the Action Plan spreadsheet to include all current action items and ensure the document is accessible and editable by all group members.	Done May 2025
Shire Updates	Cr Tim Sly to send Project Officer details of Ag Waste initiative.	To Do
ToR Update	Project Officer requested to circulate the updated and approved Term of Reference	Done-June 2025
DWER Engagement	Chair to contact DWER regarding timing, transparency and scope for surface and ground water allocation reviews in the region. Request presentation on this plus how ecosystem health is being monitored beyond level and flow data. Suggested contact Kath Lynch	To Do

Water Corp	Project Officer to request Water Corp presentation and circulate to group.	In Progress
Community and Engagement Plan	Any further updates to the draft communication and engagement plan to be provided by Friday 6th of June. Revised version will be circulated for out of session approval prior to meeting.	To Do
Sustainable Schools Challenge	Use learnings from Nannup sustainable schools project to refine project proposal for 26/27 FY	To Do
Subregional waste strategy working group	Establish Subregional waste strategy working group – initial nominees are Alexa Tunmer, Ann Bentley and Clint Conner have nominated, SODB and SOBB to nominate attendees. Once nominees are received meeting frequency, location etc to be established.	To Do
Natural Asset Mgmt	SOM to share good practice of Shire of Capel natural asset mgmt. planning process	Done-June 2025