

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2018, IN THE ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL, ANDY MCNEIL ROOM

- 1. PRESENT**
- Mayor Damien Ryan
 - Councillor Auricht (Chair)
 - Councillor Marli Banks
 - Councillor Eli Melky
 - Ms Judith Lovell - Community Member
 - Mr. Robbie Henderson – Community Member
 - Mr. Peter Somerville – Manager, Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
 - Mr. Rod Cramer – Rural Area Association
 - Mr. Alex Read – ALEC
 - Mr. Ken Johnson – Landcare (*proxy for Sunil Dhanji*)

- IN ATTENDANCE**
- Mr. Rex Mooney – ASTC Chief Executive Officer
 - Mr. Scott Allen – ASTC Director Technical Services
 - Ms Hayley Michener – ASTC Environment Officer
 - Mr. Reinier Laan – ASTC Manager Waste Management Facility
 - Mrs Joanne Craven – ASTC Executive Assistant (Minutes)

- PUBLIC PRESENT**
- Mr. Bob Durham – Observer

- 2. APOLOGIES**
- Ms Sarah Fairhead – NTG Environment and Natural Resource
 - Mr David Koch – Community Member
 - Ms Caragh Heenan – Land For Wildlife
 - Mr. Sunil Dhanji – Landcare
 - Mr. Rod Cramer – Rural Area Association

The meeting opened at 12.36pm

3. UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR – Recommendation from Council

The Chief Executive Officer advised that all recommendation from the previous minutes have been endorsed by Council and that Councils Strategic Plan is currently on display for feedback.

The Director advised that the Climate Action Plan was tabled at the Council Forum and Elected Members would like more information before bring it back to this Committee.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 4 DECEMBER 2017

Moved: Councillor Melky **Seconded:** Councillor Banks **CARRIED**

4.1 Business Arising

Minutes to reflect that Sunil Dhanji entered the meeting at 12.16pm so was present not an apology.

5. LAND

5.1 Bush Fire Management

- Bushfires NT has established seven permanent monitoring sites measuring fuel curing and fuel load around Alice Springs used to help to determine bushfire risk. In January 2018, curing of fine fuels were at 87% with an average fuel load of 1.7 tonne. The curing rates will be re-assessed on a 6 weekly basis or after significant rainfall events. The fuel load is still patchy in most areas and with the low rainfall predicted over the next 2 months fire risk will be minimal.
- Bushfires NT continues to work with landowners to develop mitigation plans and numerous strategic fuel reduction burns have been planned within the Fire Protection Zone (50km Radius of Alice Springs). This will occur over the next couple of months, if weather permits.
- The Fire Danger Period for Central Australia was declared in December. Bushfires NT is liaising closely with the Bureau of Meteorology to assess future fire weather events and is regularly re-assessing regional fire risk to determine when it will finish. Currently, it is predicted that the Fire Danger Period will end in March.
- The region has seen wildfire activity occurring through November 2017 to February 2018 with the most significant fires been the Bond Springs and West MacDonnell Ranges.
- Bushfires NT continues to work with NT Police on illegal fires.
- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, including Bushfires NT, is working with the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics (Crown Lands), ASTC and NTFRS to reduce fuel loads within the Todd River.
- Judith enquired if it would be possible to ask for more information on the full region around Alice Springs. The Director advised that could be possible.
- Issues within the community what is Council's responsibility. Information on Council's boundary would be a useful resource.
- The community do not know who to contact and whose authority different areas come under.

Action

Director Technical Services to contact Sarah Fairhead from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, to provide further information on bush fire management for the full Alice Springs region.

5.2 Community Gardens

No update provided

5.3 Feral cats

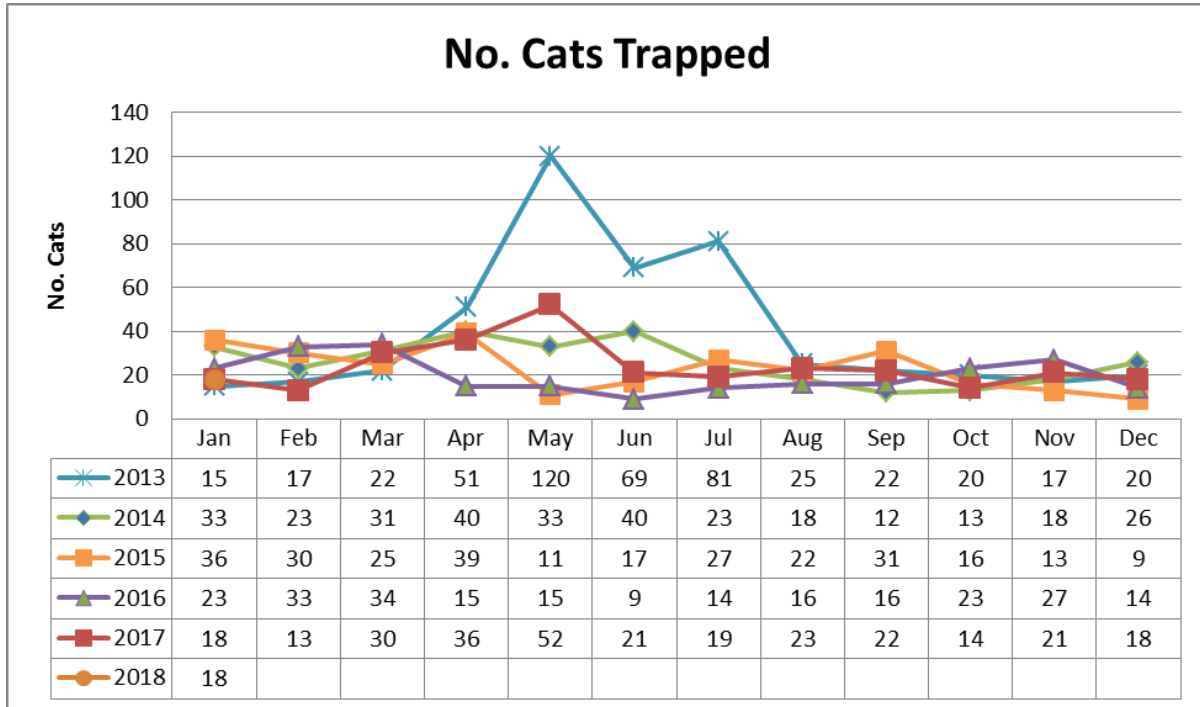


Figure 1: Number cats trapped, provided theASTC Ranger Unit.

6. **TRANSPORT**

6.1 **Super Tuesday Bike Count**

Super Tuesday Commuter Bike Count is an annual survey of cycling held on the first Tuesday in September each year. The Alice Springs Super Tuesday count was held on 5th September 2017 in partnership with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, with the results being released in January 2018. 12 sites were surveyed across Alice Springs. 641 trips were counted during the two-hour survey. Overall, cycling trips increased 0.5% from 2016 and the ratio of female (35%) to male (61%) riders were higher than both the NT and the national average. The site with the highest increase (61%) was the corner of Larapinta drive and Lovegrove drive and the site with the largest decrease was the corner of Grevillea drive and Spearwood road. Across the Northern Territory cycling trips were down by 2%.

The full report is available online via www.bicyclenetwork.com.au

7. **ENERGY**

7.1 **Solar**

Variable Speed Drives: Variable speed drives were installed on every pool pump at the Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre on 18th January 2018. These will reduce the facility's electricity needs by 279,225kWh each year and save 185 tonnes of CO₂e emissions.

Energy use and solar from Council facilities: Graphs showing the energy use and solar produced at five main Council facilities are provided below. Note: Emissions savings based on reducing reliance on grid-supplied energy at an emissions factor of 0.67kg/CO₂-e/kWh (National-greenhouse-accounts-factors-august-2017).

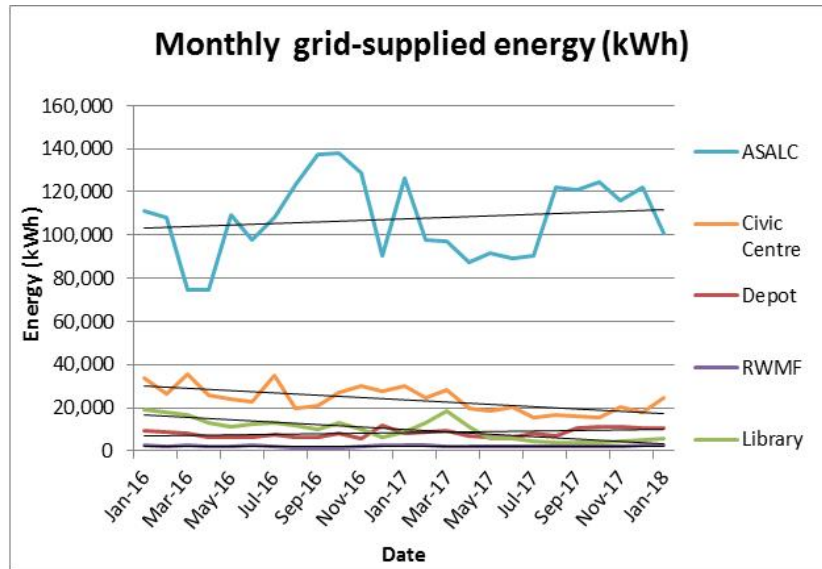


Figure 2: Monthly grid-supplied energy (kWh) for five individual Council facilities.
 Note: Major drops in energy use at ASALC due to indoor pool closure.

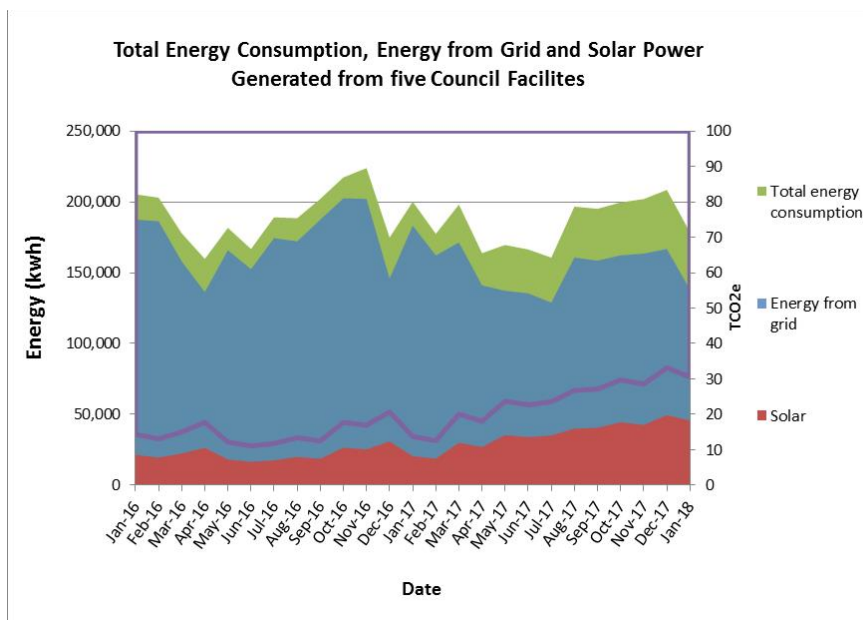


Figure 3: Total energy, grid supplied energy, and solar energy produced for five individual Council facilities. The graph also shows Greenhouse Gas emissions avoided through the use of solar power.

- Discussion ensued regarding drops within the graphs provided.
- Robbie suggested Repower have an open invitation to attend and provide an update to this Committee.
- Discussion ensued

Recommendation

That Council Officers approach Repower and offer an open invitation to present updates to this Committee.

Moved: Robbie Henderson

Seconded: Councillor Banks

CARRIED

8. WATER**8.1 Alice Springs Water Allocation Plan**

- The Water Committee has not met since the last meeting.
- Peter Cook's full report is available. Robbie to send to Hayley for distribution around the Committee.
- Discussion ensued regarding the Rocky Hill area and aquifer system.

9. WASTE & RECYCLING**9.1 Regional Waste Management Facility (Operational) - Alice Springs Town Council**

Total Waste: Total waste MINUS clean fill collected at the Regional Waste Management Facility (RWMF) for the July 2017 to February 2018 period was 21,398.33 tonnes (Table 1). The total waste collected over the same period for 2017 was 22,228.71 tonnes.

Total Recycled: Total recycled material for July 2016 to February 2017 period was 5,327.28 tonnes compared to 1,374.93 tonnes for the 2017/2018 financial period (Table 1).

Percentage Recycled: Total percentage of materials recycled between July (2016) and February (2017) was 23.97% (Table 1). The percentage recycled material over the same period in 2017/2018 financial period is 6.43% (Table 1). The recycled total for 2017 was higher than 2018, due to crushed concrete being used in large road projects by Council (e.g. Ilparpa Road, Alice Springs).

Table 1: Breakdown of items and recycled material through the weighbridge displayed as yearly accumulated data for the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 financial periods.

	July 2016- February 2017		July 2017- February 2018	
	Tonnes IN	Tonnes OUT	Tonnes IN	Tonnes OUT
Animal Carcass	4.06		6.94	
Asbestos	62.23		446.57	
Building Material		39.81		85.41
Cardboard & Paper	248.83	5.86	199.96	
Chemicals				
Clean Fill	8,420.63		7,767.47	
Concrete	1,853.24	4,131.91	1,457.26	610.00
Container Deposit				
Council Supported	0.16		67.14	
Demolition Materials	3,968.00		3,580.83	
Domestic Bins	4,810.38		4,725.72	
Drop off Zone* (Shop)		80.76		97.14
Electronic waste	32.88	22.52	34.10	22.76
Glass **	78.59	66.14	58.75	10.64
Green Waste	1,972.97	339.88	1,662.86	274.80
Household Goods		32.63		33.01
Liquid Waste	744.27		776.96	
Mattresses	40.11	32.40	38.22	
Metals ***	438.20	188.07	495.14	
Mixed Waste ****	7,587.34		7,397.98	
Timber & Pallets	384.38	386.60	441.89	241.17
Tyres	3.07	0.70	8.01	
Total	30,649.34	5,327.28	29,165.80	1,374.93
Total minus clean fill	22,228.71		21,398.33	
Percentage recycled		23.97%		6.43%

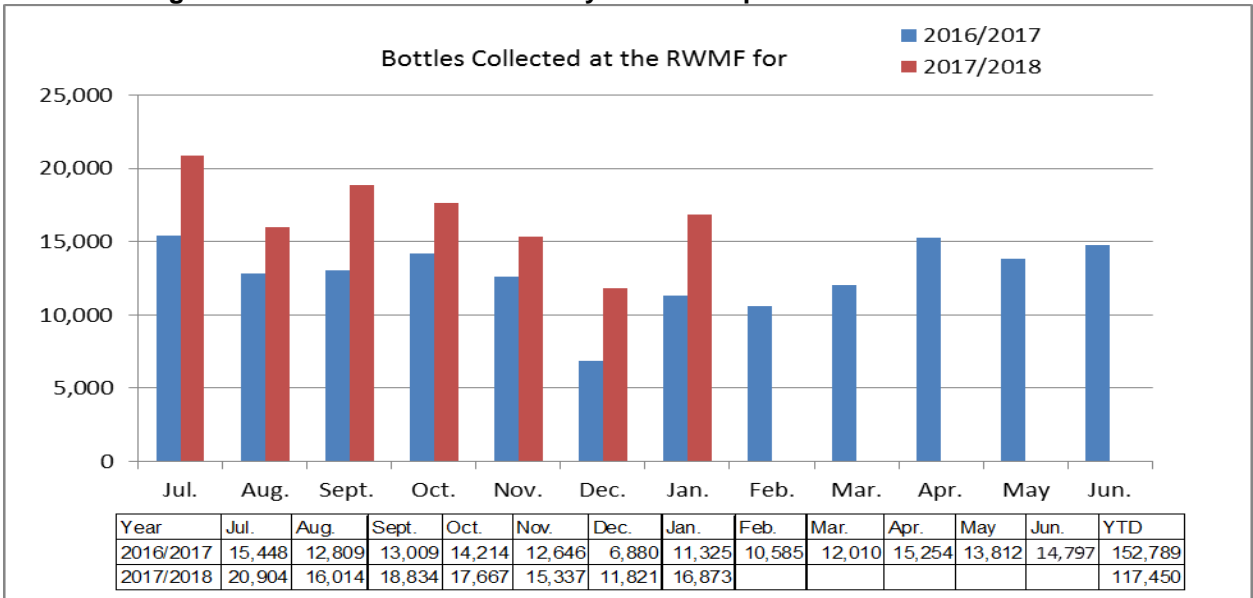
Key:

- * Drop off Zone – Goods dropped off by the Public at the Rediscovery Shop
- ** Glass categories
- *** Metal categories - include other categories (e.g. whitegoods etc.)
- **** Mixed Waste - includes other categories (e.g. confidential burial; food surrender; transfer station, general waste; street clean

Cash-for-Containers

The total number of bottles collected between July 2017 and January 2018 at the Regional Waste Management Facility was 117,450 (Figure 3).

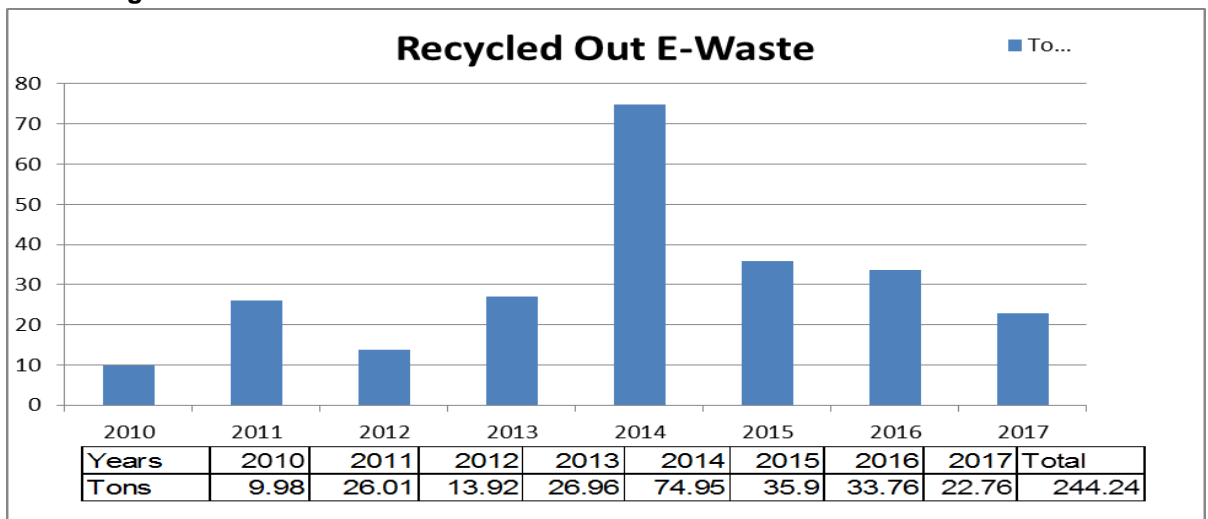
Figure 1: Breakdown of the monthly wine and spirit bottles collected at the RWMF



E-waste

Free disposal of computers and televisions is available to the public on the first Saturday of each month through the National Television and Computer Stewardship Program. The next e-waste free drop off day will be on Saturday the 3rd March 2018.

Figure 2: Annual breakdown of the e-waste data at the RWMF



9.2 Recycling Initiatives

Soft plastics recycling

Council has written to major supermarkets to request that they consider supplying soft plastics recycling in their supermarkets.

10. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**10.1 Climate Action Plan Draft**

As per Agenda Item 3.1 - The Director advised that the Climate Action Plan was tabled at the Council Forum and Elected Members would like more information before bring it back to this Committee.

Alex enquired about the Cites Power Partnership Plan Pledges.

The Director Technical Services advised that Council is waiting for its partner which is Darwin City Council so that pledges can be worked on together.

11. Roadmap to a desertSMART Town

No update from the Committee.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

13. OTHER BUSINESS**13.1 Divestment**

Divestment refers to banking and investments with financial services that do not invest in fossil fuels. Over 32 Councils across Australia have divested so far. Further information can be found on the following website: <https://gofossilfree.org.au/>

Robbie Henderson put forward a recommendation that Council investigates divesting and what financial risks would be involved. The Chief Executive Officer advised that Council has strict financial policies and at the moment there is a tender just closed for Councils banking services which is currently being assessed and tenderer were asked to advise on their environmental impacts.

Discussion ensued regarding which Councils have divested and how they manage financial risks.

13.2 Sustainability Master Plan

Judith circulated an email regarding the Palm Circuit area, congestion with tourism within the area and planning for services seem to stop at the Gap. Judith also enquired if there is any coordination plan between the different organisations as it is hard to know whose responsibility it is and who to contact. The lack of signage, services and road conditions is not good especially in such a tourist area; it is tired looking and not particularly safe. Discussion ensued regarding the South Edge Estate construction, causeway, channels installed and future management of the area. The Chief Executive Officer advised that a public consultation was conducted a few years ago with the residents south of the Gap and a further public consultation could be arranged.

Mayor Ryan left the meeting at 2.16pm

Recommendation

That the Alice Springs Town Council conduct public consultation to review access, safety, signage and aesthetics of Palm Circuit

Moved: Judith Lovell

Seconded: Councillor Banks

CARRIED

NEXT MEETING: Monday 3 April 2018 from 4.30pm in the Andy McNeill Room

Meeting closed at 2.32pm