

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance Inc

Board meeting – MINUTES

Tuesday 18 August, 6-7pm



Present: Amanda Herral, Avril Lockton, Christine Aus, Gabrielle Clappison, Jean McGarry, Mark Howells, Nico Marcar, Robyn Charlton, Samantha Doove

Apologies: Steve Dewar

Welcome from Chair, and acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Awabakal people, the Traditional Owners of the land we are meeting on, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Council Active Transport Strategy – Let's Move

Nico is a community representative on Council's Active Transport Advisory Group who are working to develop the draft Cycling and Footpath Strategy - Let's Move Lake Mac. The Advisory Group are keen to engage with key stakeholders, including Sustainable Neighbourhoods in advance of putting out the draft strategy to the wider public for feedback. Some background:

- Demand for new infrastructure like pathways is much larger than supply.
- Purpose of the ATAG is to involve community members and collect community input into the development of Strategy. Draft Strategy is now nearing completion.
- Currently looking for further stakeholder engagement prior to draft being released for wider public consultation.
- Strategy currently includes for example:
 - GIS based route maps linking urban and local centres. Outline of proposed routes including new infrastructure or connecting smaller neighbourhoods with existing infrastructure
 - Smart ways of doing things eg using materials for pathway
 - Activating local centres
 - Criteria to prioritise works
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- Aiming to make it a living document that can be altered and responsive to community suggestions and opportunities for funding for example.

SN network is identified as a key stakeholder. Seeking ideas about how best to engage with a cross section of the SN network. (Presumably online):

- Eg short presentation from ATAG / Council staff and zoom meeting and ideas to contribute.
- Limited numbers – maybe a couple of people per group.
- Frame expectations with the agenda / sent out beforehand
- Some key questions: How to be fair and equitable in the strategy, esp in terms of prioritising projects. What ideas are missing from the Strategy? How to make the Strategy readable and with realistic / useful outcomes?

General agreement and enthusiasm to engage with the Strategy development. Nico and Rachelle to work with Tom/ATAG to confirm engagement format.

2. Hunter Region Sustainable Development Goals Task Force

The Hunter Region SDG Task Force is a group of motivated businesses, not-for-profits and government bodies who are focused on collaborating to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Hunter Region.

<https://huntersdgtaskforce.org/join-the-network>

Nico circulated his further research about what making their Pledge (see link above) would mean, including:

- Task Force is made up of at least 1 and no more than three representatives of each of the 17 SDG Direct Action Groups. The Task Force aims to have a rep for each of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Task Force and those committed to an Action Group will all form “the network”.
- 'Those who commit to the network will establish regular opportunities to meet and to work directly on each of the goals, setting regional targets and planning for successful delivery while recognising the interconnectedness of the goals and using the Task Force forum to collaborate and achieve the SDGs across the region.'
- 'Joining the Network will allow you to contribute to the resources to support others in developing targets and also to demonstrate actions your organisation is taking or share successes that contribute to achieving the Goals.'

Relevance to SN Alliance:

- Alliance and SN groups meet the commitment to ‘commit to an Action Group / the network’ already through existing meetings, but would need to better articulate endeavours with reference to the SDGs.
- Signing the Pledge:
Ideally those who sign the pledge will make a commitment to join an action group (one that aligns closely with their business and targets). The webform will ask which of the goals you align with and details will then be passed on to the coordinator of that Action Group. There are also some groups still to lock in a coordinator.
- It is not compulsory to join an Action Group and they are still very interested in organisations signing the pledge and sharing success stories and business cases of how they are committing to and delivering on the SDGs in our region.
- Suggest most relevant SDGs are 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Additional notes:

- There is an intention for Council to join the network, especially considering SDGs are already integrated in the ESSAP. Council staff are preparing info to propose to Council to confirm.

Resolution: The Alliance signs the pledge to join the Hunter Region Sustainable Development Goals Task Force, agree that you will work towards actions that advocate and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs across the Hunter Region.

Note that we don’t currently have capacity to join an Action Group, but will be pleased to be part of the wider network and share progress and ideas.

3. Centennial Coal application re coal haulage trucks on public roads

Centennial Coal has applied to DPIE to place coal haulage trucks on public roads from Myuna Bay Colliery to Awaba Colliery via Wangi and Wilton Roads. If approved, it will allow up to 62,000 coal trucks a year on Wilton and Wangi Roads.

The road is already dangerous with undulations, bends and 90kmh, and poses a risk to wildlife from Awaba reserve. Note that the application is being proposed because the coal coming from Myuna Colliery is of poor quality, and needs to be mixed with coal from Mandalong to be suitable for use at Eraring Power Station. The Newstan Community Consultative Committee was not informed of the lodgement of the modifications to the DPIE.

The two applications are on exhibition and available at <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/35031?fbclid=IwAR2OcuPXPmFsbIv51dbEcZuY-HMdaf8l02Ny0Yxrn-1NaCAyMkk4SIhi7ok> and https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/35026?fbclid=IwAR1g-zHvag6BFw9rULVGGxKVuzW2JL0Pk3GdEJpvnOG11T_aybIFYUJEnK4.

Submissions are due 27 August 2020

PROPOSAL: The Alliance to write a submission objecting to the two proposals.

Carried. Robyn to write submission, and share petition on Alliance Facebook page.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

4. July Treasurer's Report

Attached below.

5. Risk assessments

- **West Wallsend District SNG – monthly meetings**
Risk assessment for monthly meetings with consideration of covid. Circulated and approved via email.

6. Reports

- **Citywide Clean Up, 9 August**
Very successful. Great effort at first citywide event for SN groups, and as an opportunity for a covid safe face to face event. Lucky with the weather.
60 participants across 5 sites. Waiting to hear back the kg/tonnes of rubbish collected, but it was a lot!
Publicity and promotions went well with excellent coverage pre and post event. Pre event articles in Newcastle Weekly (x2), In touch magazine, and Newcastle Live. NBN visited 2 sites, and broadcast positive story on the Sunday evening. Also SN network promo on Facebook and email + through Council channels.

Some feedback from Dennis Speers Pt site:

- Although booked out with a maximum of 20, only 15 turned up on the day. I had two apologies. A family of three did not show up.
- Only two syringes found. They are in the designated container.
- No reported incidents or injuries.

- Positive feedback from people using the bike track.
- Some rubbish had clearly been there for a number of years
- Most of the rubbish collected was material captured in the mangroves that border Cockle Creek
- Not a lot of evidence of dumping. Most obvious were the rubber tyres. Found two brand new, fully inflated tyres on their rims.
- Two bulka bags were not enough for the amount of rubbish we collected. Excess was stacked beside the bulka bags.
- We have found more rubbish and potentially hazardous material beyond our cleanup area – adjacent to the bike track, closer to Bunnings Glendale. Will investigate and advise. Did not have time on Sunday.
- Styrofoam should be banned. It gets everywhere. Is easily abraded and breaks down into beads which you can't collect.
- Undertaking a rubbish audit is impractical. We filled out the sheets you provided post the event so what you have is an estimate and is indicative only. Most of our group were elderly and no one wants to get down on their knees and spread out bags of rubbish on a tarp, pick through it on your knees, then rebag it. If you want to undertake this audit then it's best to dedicate some people to the task and provide a table to sort and count items.

Additional feedback:

- Increase registration places to account for people who are bound to not show up.
 - Maybe keep registrations open a bit closer to the event start to help manage cancellations better.
 - Pelican and others keen for another event.
 - Are we managing the right end of the problem? What about more signage? Or stopping the litter at it's source? Clean out public place litter bins more regularly. Dealing with micro plastics and small litter like cigarette butts.
 - Useful for communication and promotion in any case and to increase our visibility. Noted a number of new participants who hadn't been involved in SN before.
- **School activities**
Team meeting 10 August. Agreed on general approach to create 2 resources for SN groups to use to approach their local schools. Short promotion / summary of what we can offer generally; and a (just internal for now) register of SN volunteers, activities and other orgs and resources.
Can we have those resources ready for Outdoor Classroom day in November?
Gab planning to resubmit NatureScape project in the current round of Council Community Environment Grants.
 - **ReLeaf Lake Mac**
Website has been launched at releaflakemac.org.au.
 - **SN Network Gathering**
Planning for Sustainable Neighbourhood network event (online), **Wednesday 26 August, 6-8pm**. Propose reports from local groups, and discussion of Alliance 10th Anniversary (July 21) and other citywide projects – eg ReLeaf Lake Mac, Schools activities.

- **2020 Annual Report**
Currently collating volunteer hours, financial report and Chair's report. Aiming to complete and have ready to distribute by end of August.
- **Valentine SNG officially disbanding**
Following our recent request for renewing membership, the remaining 5 financial members of the Valentine SNG have decided to fold as a formal group.
They have been relatively inactive for some time. They have some funds in their bank account and will decide whether to donate to a local Valentine group or the Alliance.
- **Green cemetery at Oakdale Road Quarry**
The Greater Charlestown SNG have suggested that part of the quarry site, when rehabilitated would be perfect for use as a green cemetery. Request for the Alliance to take this up with council and open discussions as an actual legacy project for the Alliance.
Rachelle had a quick chat with Donna Davis, Council's Cemeteries Officer, and can report:
 - Unsure about that site in particular. Would require large investment from Council to investigate soil/geology, watercourses nearby etc, DA, regulations etc
 - Many definitions of what a 'Green Burial' means.
 - Currently 9 Council operated cemeteries in Lake Mac, <https://www.lakemac.com.au/For-residents/Cemeteries>. All of these offer the option for a kind of green burial. Morisset and Wyee have bushland / treed areas that may suit a more natural burial.
 - Lake Macquarie Memorial Park – privately operated at Ryhope – has option for natural burials.
 - Some examples to research include Lismore, Shoalhaven and Orange.
 - Donna is happy to meet with SN volunteers to discuss.
 - Can you please nominate if you'd like to be involved in a meeting with her?
 - We can set up a meeting date, and invite whoever might be interested from other groups.

7. Correspondence (16 July – 18 August 2020)

- Various correspondence and promotions with Council and media outlets regarding the citywide clean up.
- Coastal Zone Management Committee June minutes received from Council, and invitation to August meeting.
- Waste to Art reminder sent to all past artists and registrations
- Notification of inclusion in Grilld Fundraiser for August
- Various expressions of interest from SN network regarding school activities
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, July 2020
- Invitation sent to board members for 2 nominations to participate in Regional Disaster Preparedness focus group, with Resilience NSW
- Welcome from the Beyond Zero Emissions Zero Carbon Communities
- Notification of cancellation of Living Smart Festival
- Notice from Valentine SNG that they intend to disband.
- Submitted SN Alliance info to the BZE Zero Carbon Communities website for inclusion on their online map.

LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE
GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 July to 31 July, 2020.



Account 724181724 with Greater Bank, Charlestown Branch.

Balance **\$ 15,762.27 CR**

RECEIPTS

09 Jul 2020 OskoPmt K.O'Donoghue Landcare \$ 106.40

Total Income **\$ 106.40**

EXPENDITURE

09 Jul 2020 K,O'Donoghue landcare \$ 106.40

14 Jul 2020 K.O'Donoghue Landcare \$ 106.40

Total Expenditure **\$ 212.80**

BALANCE **\$ 15,655.87 CR**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period 1 July to 31 July, 2020.

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 14 August, 2020.

NOTE

Balance

CBA **127.30**
GrtrB **15,655.87**

Balance **\$ 15,783.17**