

# Environment Community Reference Group Minutes



|   |  |             |                  |
|---|--|-------------|------------------|
| <b>Date</b>   | Thursday 3rd December 2020   | <b>Time</b> | 6 - 8pm          |
| <b>Location</b>   | Cunningham Room, Ipswich Civic Centre  |             |                  |
| <b>List of Elected Representatives</b> (P = Present, A = Apology, NA = Not in attendance)     |  |             |                  |
| P   | Cr. Andrew Fechner   |             |                  |
| P   | Cr. Russell Milligan   |             |                  |
| P   | Cr. Kate Kunzelmann  |             |                  |
| A   | Mayor Teresa Harding   |             |                  |
| <b>List of Council Attendees</b> (P = Present, A = Apology, NA = Not in attendance)           |  |             |                  |
| P   | Charlie Dill – General Manager, Infrastructure and Environment (Facilitator) |             |                  |
| P   | Kaye Cavanagh - Manager, Environment & Sustainability                        |             |                  |
| P   | David McAlister - Resource Recovery Manager                                  |             |                  |
| P   | Melanie Rippon – Community Engagement Officer                                |             |                  |
| <b>Community Reference Group Attendees</b> (P = Present, A = Apology, NA = Not in attendance) |  |             |                  |
| NA  | Sonia Brown  | P           | Joseph McLeod    |
| P   | Ian Dainer   | P           | Robert Otjen     |
| A   | Billy Diehm  | NA          | Stephen Phillips |
| NA  | Jim Dodrill  | NA          | James Prentice   |
| P   | Amber Dupouy   | NA          | Peter Surgeoner  |
| P   | Angus Evans  | A           | Paul Sutton      |
| NA  | Esther James   | P           | David Trezise    |
| NA  | Pam Lenton   | NA          | Conny Turni      |
| NA  | Alex Mair  | NA          | Luise Manning    |

| Agenda Item |                              | Participants  | Minutes   |
|-------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| 1           | <b>Facilitator's welcome</b> | Charlie Dill – General Manager, Infrastructure and Environment  | Charlie Dill welcomed members and elected representatives to the meeting and recapped on the group's scope/Terms of Reference and meeting etiquette.<br><br>Cr Kunzelmann delivered an Acknowledgement of Country.  |
| 2           | <b>Group check-in</b>        | Charlie Dill – General Manager, Infrastructure & Environment<br><br>Community Reference Group Members | <i>How do members prefer to receive information from council?<br/>What formats and channels are most effective?</i><br><br>All attendees agreed that email was the best way to receive communications.<br><br>Facebook is only useful for some who have accounts. |

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|--|--|---|
| <p><b>3 Closing the loop:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sustainability strategy</b></li> <li>• <b>Waterway strategy</b></li> </ul> | <p>Community Reference Group Members</p> | <p>Kaye Kavanagh provided an update on the following:</p> <p><b>Sustainability policy</b> – was adopted by Council in November 2020. This is a first time for Council for this type of policy. The policy’s development was underpinned by robust community and council staff engagement. A sustainability strategy will follow, and it is hoped that the team will return to the CRGs to engage on this.</p> <p><b>Waterway strategy</b> – adopted in May 2020 – benchmarked trend etc. Presented in August. Budgeting done per capex program. Stream rehab &amp; stabilisation. Platypus management plan endorsed. Will deliver on in next few years.</p> <p>Charlie Dill explained that the Growth, Infrastructure &amp; Waste Committee has full delegated authority however all other Committee resolutions need to be elevated to an Ordinary Council meeting for full resolution.</p> <p>Question: How big is the local platypus population? A healthy population exists in the mid-Brisbane River stretching from Kholo bridge to Sapling Pocket and potentially a lot further. A known population exists in Woogaroo Creek and Opossum Creek. In addition there are confirmed anecdotal and environmental DNA records from Six Mile Creek, Bundamba Creek and Sandy Creek (Camira). No population is known from the Bremer but there are anecdotal sightings from Woodend historically but no recent evidence can be found. The total size in not known and would be impossible to know given the species extremely cryptic nature and difficulty of surveying.</p> <p>Charlie Dill briefed members on the new Waste &amp; Circular Economy Transformation Policy Directive. <b>ACTION ITEM</b> – Circulate the document to members (attachment 1)</p> |
| <p><b>4 Materials Recovery Plan</b></p>  | <p>David McAlister</p>                   | <p>David McAlister presented an overview on the Materials Recovery Plan (attachment 2). The plan covers council’s remit</p>   |

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|             | CRG members  | <p>for waste management in Ipswich - management, planning, regulatory and advocacy.</p> <p>Questions &amp; Answers:</p> <p>Q: can the MRP include strategies to address all waste responsibilities that within council's remit? A: Yes, it will oversee all aspects within Council's remit.</p> <p>Q: Is the 90% waste diversion from landfill target by 2050 achievable? A: This is the state government target and depends on a range of factors being achieved.</p> <p>Q: Why did the glass recycling stop so suddenly? A: This was due to the sudden and unexpected change in China's recycling policy. At that time, Council was re-negotiating it's agreement with China. At that time ICC decided to focus on recycling for the 4 key resources. Ipswich offers glass recovery services at central locations across the city.</p> <p>Q: Does that mean the other council's have a higher contamination rate? A: Contamination rates vary significantly across the city. Ipswich has a relatively higher contamination rate compared to other LGAs.</p> <p>Charlie Dill explained that the State government also looking into new recycling and repurposing opportunities for resources, particularly for infrastructure. Council's design team is also looking into similar opportunities in Ipswich.</p> <p><i>How can Ipswich households &amp; Council divert more waste resources from landfill?</i></p> <p>'Glass. Challenge is that we can't recycle some. More recycling bin? Hard to operationalise'</p> <p>'Households need to be more aware, take ownership is their waste. Council can provide education programs and build trust.</p> |

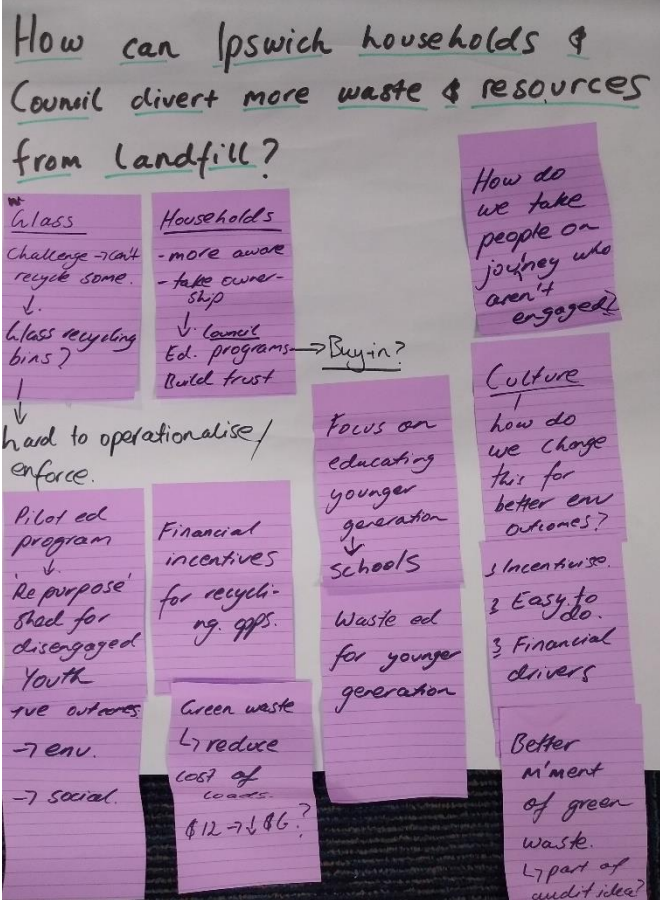
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|-------------|--------------|---|
|             |              | <p>How does council and the community generate buy-in?</p> <p>'How do we take people on journey who aren't engaged?'</p> <p>'Suggested initiative – Pilot education program: 'Re-purpose shed for disengaged youth. Positive outcomes for environment and schools'</p> <p>'Need financial incentives for recycling opportunities'</p> <p>'We need better management of green waste. Can this be part of an audit? Could we reduce the cost of green waste loads to encourage greater uptake?'</p> <p>'Focus on educating the younger generation on waste management e.g. schools'</p> <p>'Culture – how do we change this for better outcomes? 1. Incentivise 2. Must be easy to do 3. Financial drivers'</p> |

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|-------------|--------------|--|
|             |              | <p><u>How can Ipswich households &amp; Council divert more waste &amp; resources from landfill?</u></p>  <p><b>Glass</b><br/>Challenge - can't recycle some.<br/>↓<br/>Glass recycling bins?<br/>↓<br/>hard to operationalise/enforce.<br/>Pilot ed program<br/>↓<br/>Re purpose shed for disengaged Youth<br/>+ve outcomes<br/>→ env.<br/>→ social.</p> <p><b>Households</b><br/>- more aware<br/>- take ownership<br/>↓ Council Ed. programs → Buy in?<br/>Build trust</p> <p><b>Culture</b><br/>how do we change this for better env outcomes?<br/>1 Incentivise.<br/>2 Easy to do.<br/>3 Financial drivers<br/>Better m'tment of green waste.<br/>↳ part of audit idea?</p> <p><b>Focus on educating younger generation</b><br/>↓<br/>Schools<br/>Waste ed for younger generation</p> <p><b>Green waste</b><br/>↳ reduce cost of costs<br/>\$12 → \$6?</p> <p><b>Financial incentives for recycling apps.</b></p> |
|             |              | <p>Q: Does Brisbane dump their waste in Ipswich? How do we address this? Can we put up an embargo? A: Yes, Brisbane waste does end up in Ipswich. This is legislative/planning/state control remit. These are privately owned sites and Council cannot regulate their operations as this is a state government responsibility.</p>   |
|             |              | <p>Charlie Dill outlined strategic work priorities for environment and sustainability portfolio moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 year Enviro plan – celebration of 25 year mark in 2021</li> <li>• Review of nature conservation &amp; sustainability strategy</li> <li>• Disaster Risk Reduction community programs, linked to</li> </ul>  |

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|--|---|--|
|  |   | Integrated Catchment Plan.   |
| <p>5 <b>Q&amp;A session with Councillors</b></p> | <p>Elected representatives<br/><br/>CRG members</p> | <p>Cr. Fechner – The Environment &amp; Sustainability committee has been running for 9 months to date. The current Council is progressive &amp; green. We are taking more ‘green’ action than any previous council in Ipswich, particularly in the area of waste and resources. Intergenerational equity is on our radar. We acknowledge that progress is slow but it is being made. We thank all members for their interest and contributions.</p> <p>Q: The Waste &amp; Mining reference group, is this still happening?<br/>A: This will be formed in 2021.</p> <p>Q: Regarding the BMI ‘super dump’ proposal, they have stated that they don’t have to do rehabilitation and do not have a security deposit for rehabilitation. Is this normal?<br/>A: This is a challenge across the board and something we acknowledge and want to address.</p> <p>Q: Why aren’t we advocating for our ‘Clean &amp; green image’?<br/>Ipswich’s reputation is not aligned with this. A: Agreed &amp; taken on board. As opportunities arise we need to talk about our ‘green policies’ more and more in order to change this. Media and communications to play an important role in changing our image.</p> <p>Cr Kunzelmann commented that the primary roles of Council are education, infrastructure provision &amp; policy development. To set the required frameworks in place.</p> <p>A member commented that environmental education for young people was enforced at school but there needs to be more. It is hard to compete because the school curriculum is already so full.</p> <p>Cr Milligan asked members if the suggestions and feedback that members make in the CRGs are of value to Council and in its</p> |

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|                                       |  | <p>decision making (multiple members nodded in agreement).</p> <p>Charlie Dill commented that although council's mentality is 'green', it is a long term journey for council to achieve many of its environmental goals and outcomes. This started today with the policy declaration. Please continue to advocate this long-term message to the community.</p>  |
| <p><b>6 Check-out &amp; close</b></p> | <p>Charlie Dill</p> <p>CRG members</p> | <p><i>Do you feel your contribution in within the CRG is having value and making a difference?</i></p> <p>Responses from members included:</p> <p>'Yes. I am one person but I represent other community groups here'</p> <p>'It's taken a while. We are doing better now that Council is settled in'</p> <p>'Yes'</p> <p>'It has been useful as a learning process. I represent lots of community groups and I take info back to them'</p> <p>'We can do much better. Knowledge could be harvested better'</p> <p>'The changes indicate that Council is listening'</p> <p>'Good, but the timescale is long term. It's going to take time to see results'</p> <p>'Starting to get there as the strategies are coming out now'</p> <p>'The items that were raised in the initial meetings by members have not yet been addressed. It would be good to do this moving forward'</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> – revisit initial ideas from first few meetings and consider for future agenda items</p> |



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Meeting closed: **7.30 pm**

Date of next meeting: **February 2021 TBC**

**Attachment 1:** Waste & Circular Economy Transformation Policy Directive

**Attachment 2:** Materials Recovery Plan Presentation