

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY MEETING – 6 FEB 2024

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The meeting was opened at 7:33 pm by President Glenys Patulny with an acknowledgment of country and welcome to participants.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

- Presented awards to students at Namadgi, Lanyon and Lake Tuggeranong, while Vice President, Jeff Bollard presented at Erindale College.
- Worked with others to get information then finalised and submitted the SouthFest Acquittal for 2023.
- Liaised with TCC Youth Engagement Sub-Committee to finalise the 2023 Youth Surveys – one for high school students and one for college students and older.
- Submitted paperwork for the next Lake Clean-up on Clean Up Australia Day, Sunday 3rd March.
- Multiple meetings with Jim Thornton, Carol Vincent and Harvey Bell to discuss our TCC Constitution update.
- SouthFest - met with interested community groups, namely the Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Sea-Change, Communities at Work, Tuggeranong Rotary and Tuggeranong Lions Club re the 2024 event.
- Attended, with Vice President, the Climate Change Council report put on by the EPSDD (Environment, Planning and Sustainability Development Directorate).
- Attended ANU Climate update.

At our next meeting, we will have an update from Transport Canberra about what is happening re road infrastructure around Tuggeranong. We will also hear the latest news about the FOGO recycling works.

The usual Police Report and MP/MLA Updates were not presented in the absence of the relevant people involved.

GUEST SPEAKER

Climate Change Update & the ACT Climate Change Council - ANU Professor Mark Howden

Professor Howden provided a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation that included the following information:

- Last year temperature readings were the highest on record – 1.5 degrees over pre-industrial record.
- We are not responding fast enough; we need to take emissions down to net zero ASAP.
- Also, gases like methane are triple the pre-industrial revolution.
- Affecting coral reefs as coral pushes out coral animals and this leads to bleaching.
- Need to add three new categories for heat stress in the oceans.
- Extraordinary ice melt in Greenland way beyond what has ever been seen before - not just in glaciers, but also massive shrinkage of sea ice in Antarctica.
- Sea level rises – has been rising 1.8ml per annum, last year rose 10ml.
- Huge fires in Canada & USA - area burn similar to our black summer - effected New York.

- Cyclone Daniel last year killed 11,000 people in Libya.
- Cyclone starting near Australia was the longest lasting cyclone in history with the highest accumulated energy on record.

- **Impacts on Human Systems**

- Water - big impacts on water scarcity - things dry up, crops, etc. - driving down productivity and reproduction, also in Fisheries - fish start to die as water becomes warmer.
- Temperature - impacts negatively across all regions.
- Health and wellbeing - infectious diseases increased by higher temperature.
- Mental health - negative impact on Mental Health
- Economic sectors - strong relationship between high temperature and lower productivity
- Heat stress days - will increase by end of century. In tropical regions every day becomes a heat stress day - may affect 1.2 billion people annually.
- Affects domestic violence - both inside and outside the home environment.
- Biodiversity - last year the first global mammalian extinction was recorded.

We are not acting fast enough. There is a big lag between where we are going and where we need to go, now heading to a possible increase of up to 3%. We have to turn the curve and come down by 2025, and then reduce further by 2030.

- **Know how to reduce at reasonable cost now**

- Could reduce by using wind, solar and electric vehicles - have a lot of the technologies, we have enough on the shelf to do a lot and have many potential adaptations.
- When added up the cost to reduce carbon is \$US300 per ton.
- Cost of renewables and batteries are declining, and all adoptions are increasing.

Only problem is one of time.

- Need to improve:
 - Agricultural Systems
 - Building structure - Improved planning and infrastructure
 - Adaptation gaps are growing - big gap is likely to grow, likely to impact poorer people most.
 - Often done in a fragmented way and unequally distributed.
 - Lots of barriers - financial, technical, institutional, etc.
 - Many don't take climate change issues seriously enough.
 - Government will need to make changes, to make some things compulsory.

- **COP28 – Dubai**

- Some say it was a success BUT the same piece of text can be interpreted in different ways:
 - Loss and Damage Fund - operationalised???, but not agreed who will provide the money and how will it be distributed - 2% provided - FAIL
 - Food and agriculture - agree to say we have a problem - FAIL
 - Environment and climate change - not much committed
 - Adaptation goals – need to develop more technologies, e.g. how to build roads to survive in higher temperatures.

COP28 Example - Calls on parties - weakest possible text. To stick to 1.5 degrees, have to go to below net zero and achieve by 2045.

- **Australia**

- ACT most serious government in taking action on climate change - have put funds into solar and wind options.
- Encouraging with financial support for ACT electric vehicles - not as good as Norway.

Queensland- have said they want to reduce emissions by 2025 to bring into line with ACT, NSW and Victoria.

Increases in Renewables is positive - has halved the cost of electricity production.

- Coal now more expensive than renewables.

It is interesting to note that those countries with lots of renewables bounce back better from recessions, etc. than other countries.

BUT the Australian Government is opening up new coal and gas fields.

- It should be noted that a new coal field will emit 4.8 billion tons of emissions by 2030.
- We need to push back on this and ask for increased regularity controls in the corporate sector.

What can we do as: we in Australia have 6 time more emission as that of Europe.

- Assess our own greenhouse gas footprint - determine start point so can see changes.
- Food footprint - 30% of greenhouse gas emissions across the globe - review what we eat and waste.
- EV cars- less greenhouse footprint

Each of us can be influencers - talk with heart and head -plenty of data available.

- Can widen audience - emphasise urgency and integration.
- Climate change might reduce other issues and may solve multiple problems with one movement, e.g. induction stove works better, more efficient and don't burn fossil fuels.
- Can push into industry and government.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Apologies

Geoff Stonehouse, Inspector Rod Anderson, Nicole Lawder, Mark Parton

Previous meeting Minutes

Acceptance of the Minutes of the December meeting was proposed by Didi Sommer and seconded by Andrew Johnson. Approved

Treasurer's Report

Robyn Rofe provided a brief report of activities for the past month. This report was moved by Robyn, seconded by Didi Sommer and approved.

Sub Committee Reports

Environment

- mentioned the Lake Tuggeranong Clean-up on Clean Up Australia Day, 3rd March – starting at 10am at the Tuggeranong Sea Scout Hall.
- National Bee Day celebrations notice

Planning, Transport and Communication

- Put in a new submission re Chisholm Shops.
- The ACT government will be organising online workshops - 1-2 hours sessions re the New Planning Act.

Youth Engagement

- Youth Engagement Survey has just been finalised and all schools informed.
- Next Youth Engagement meeting on Monday, 26th February - 5pm at Little Istanbul, with free drinks for participants (coffee, tea or soft drink).

The meeting was closed by the President around 9:25pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 5 March 2024.