

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 6 APRIL 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held via Zoom teleconference

PRESENT

Mayor Damien Ryan
Councillor Marli Banks
Councillor Eli Melky (Chairperson)
Mr Rod Cramer - Rural Area Association
Mr John Gaynor - Dept. Environment Natural Resources
Dr Judith Lovell - Community Member
Mr Alex Read - Arid Lands Environment Centre
Mr Peter Somerville - Dept. Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
Dr Kate Stevens - Land for Wildlife

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Scott Allen - Director Technical Services
Mr Takudzwa Charlie - Acting Director Technical Services
Mr Oliver Eclipse - Manager Regional Waste Management Facility
Ms Stephanie Dominguez – Executive Assistant (*Minutes*)

13 th Alice Springs Town Council Environment Advisory Committee Attendance List 2019/2020					
	6 Aug 19	7 Oct 19	3 Feb 20	6 Apr 20	1 Jun 20
Mayor Damien Ryan	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor Marli Banks	✓	A	✓	✓	
Councillor Eli Melky		✓	✓	✓	
Councillor Catherine Satour		✓	✓	-	
Rod Cramer	✓	A	✓	✓	
John Gaynor	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kate Stevens	✓	A	✓	✓	
David Koch	✓	A	✓	A	
Judith Lovell	✓	A	✓	✓	
Martin O'Neill	A	✓	A	A	
Peter Somerville	✓	A	✓	✓	
Tierneigh Parnell	✓	✓	✓	--	
Alex Read	✓	✓	✓	✓	

✓ Attended

✓ proxy Proxy attended in place of committee member

A Apology received

-- No attendance and no apology recorded

Not a member of the Committee at this time

The meeting opened at 4:38pm

1. APOLOGIES

Mr Robert Jennings - Chief Executive Officer
Ms Charlotte Klempin - Environment Officer
Mr David Koch - Community Member
Mr Martin O'Neill - PowerWater

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

4. UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

Councillor Melky advised the process that would be adopted at this meeting, to ensure effective and efficient function of the Committee via teleconference:

- That all reports would be considered as read rather than officers presenting each report or reading verbatim, and
- The Chair or Officers would accept questions on any of the reports

Councillor Melky also noted that due to the operational impacts of COVID-19, there may be a delay in progressing actions from this Committee and they would be appropriately prioritised in consideration with all other tasks.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 Unconfirmed Minutes of the Previous Meeting held 3 February 2020

RESOLVED:

That the minutes from the Environment Advisory Committee meeting held 3 February 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

Moved: Mayor Ryan

Seconded: Councillor Banks

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 Soil erosion and mitigation concepts - Director Technical Services

The Director Technical Services advised that the soil erosion meetings and business had been put on hold due to the operational impacts of COVID-19. He noted these would be reintroduced at an appropriate time in the future.

Rod Cramer raised concern in regard to the stormwater component of a rural development application and the potential financial impact to Council. The Director Technical Services advised the application was considered by Council at the Executive Development Committee Meeting.

6.2 Total Emissions Baseline for RWMF - Director Technical Services

The Director Technical Services advised Council had engaged a consultant, *Ironbark*, to provide a report on Council's emissions baseline and information would be provided to the Committee once available.

Alex Read enquired about the scope of the investigation and if it was limited to the Regional Waste Management Facility (RWMF). The Director advised the investigation was not limited

to the RWMF, that Ironbark had provided a report to Council in the past, and this report would indicate where Council's emissions had increased and decreased.

6.3 PowerWater deputation request - Director Technical Services

The Director Technical Services advised he had spoken with Adam Davis from PowerWater who advised, to-date PowerWater would not have any new information to provide the Committee. The Director reported, Mr Davis had advised they would have further information to share with the Committee at a later date.

6.4 Cardboard Income and Expenditure - Manager Technical Services

The Committee received and noted the report from the Manager Technical Services in regard to cardboard which outlined the year to date figures:

- \$10,092.17 of Income received* from Orora Recycling for cardboard
- 300 tonnes of cardboard sent for recycling between July 19 and March 20

** Payments received for year to date, as at 31/03/20*

6.5 EAC Terms of Reference - Director Technical Services

The Committee received and noted the current Environment Advisory Committee - Charter that is due to be reviewed and replaced with a Terms of Reference.

The Director reported he recently attended a meeting with the Manager Governance and Alex Read to discuss Alex's proposal of aligning the Environment Advisory Committee's purpose to Council's Strategic Plan. Alex noted his appreciation for the opportunity to discuss this proposal with the Director and Manager.

The Director Technical Services advised due to the impacts of COVID-19 on Council operations, other priorities had emerged which meant the review of the Committee's old Charter and the draft of a new Terms of Reference had been put on hold. He reported the Manager Governance would work to complete this as soon as possible and provide a draft for the Committee to review and provide input for the Chief Executive Officer's consideration.

The Director Technical Services advised at this stage there was no further action required from the Committee.

7. DEPUTATION

Nil

8. LAND

8.1 Department Environment Natural Resources (DENR) Report Mr John Gaynor, Regional Director Southern Region

John Gaynor gave a report on the actions recently performed by DENR in regard to the following items:

- Lhere Mparntwe - Todd and Charles Rivers Management Strategy has met once this year, with the next meeting scheduled for May 2020
- Works had been completed for spraying of the lower Todd River area after recent rains to cut down the new growth
- Planned burning had been undertaken – however due to some mechanical / technical problems it wasn't quite as successful as planned. John noted as the colder months approached and COVID-19 restrictions lifted they hoped to complete further work on this

- Some spraying works had been undertaken around the Taffy Pick and Palm Circuit area
- A slashing and a comprehensive spraying program around the collars of trees in the Charles River to keep the new growth under control
- Water Availability Working Group meetings had continued with the next meeting, next week via teleconference

John provided an update in regard to the Alice Springs Golf Club and discussion that had been undertaken in regard to access to another bore.

John noted the amount of significant rubbish in the Charles River. Mayor Ryan noted on the 24 March 2020 he joined a group of eight (8) volunteers from AAT-Kings who collected 36 bags worth of rubbish and over 200 plastic wine bottles in the area.

John reported that following the latest rainfall there was a reasonable peak in recharge which resulted in the water in the production zone recording above minimum levels. He noted this, and the reduction in water usage during Winter, may allow the water levels in the southern part of the Todd River to recover.

Alex Read enquired about the ownership of the stormwater drain at the 10th hole of the Alice Springs Golf Course. John Gaynor responded, advising that historically the stormwater retention drain had been used by the Golf Club as a water trap however due to water shortages and upwards of 10 mega-litres of water evaporation per annum in this water trap alone, the Golf Club had made the decision to dry it out. John noted discussions between Council, the Golf Club and Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics would need to occur in regard to further action on this matter.

Rod Cramer advised that written submissions were being accepted until 17 April 2020 for the Royal Commission into the Australian Bushfires. He agreed to distribute the links to the Committee for anyone interested.

Action:

Rod Cramer to circulate details for the Royal Commission into the Australian Bushfires.

It was noted at 5:04pm that Kate Stevens had dropped out of the teleconference

8.2 Community Garden

Alex Read advised that the Community Garden Committee met last week and discussed how to manage the Covid-19 risk and ensure public health and safety is maintained. It was decided that the garden could be kept safely open provided that a range of hygiene measures and covid-19 protocols were put in place that are informed by the adopting the best up to date health information.

Processes that had been adopted by the Community Garden to ensure participants safety include:

- Limiting access to two people, on-site at the one time,
- Notifying users when there are others on-site,
- Limiting visits to 20 minutes,
- Instructing visitors to wash their hands after entering and to wipe down surfaces, and
- Instructing participants to bring their own tools

8.3 Feral Animals – Environment Officer

The Committee received and noted the *Feral Animals* report.

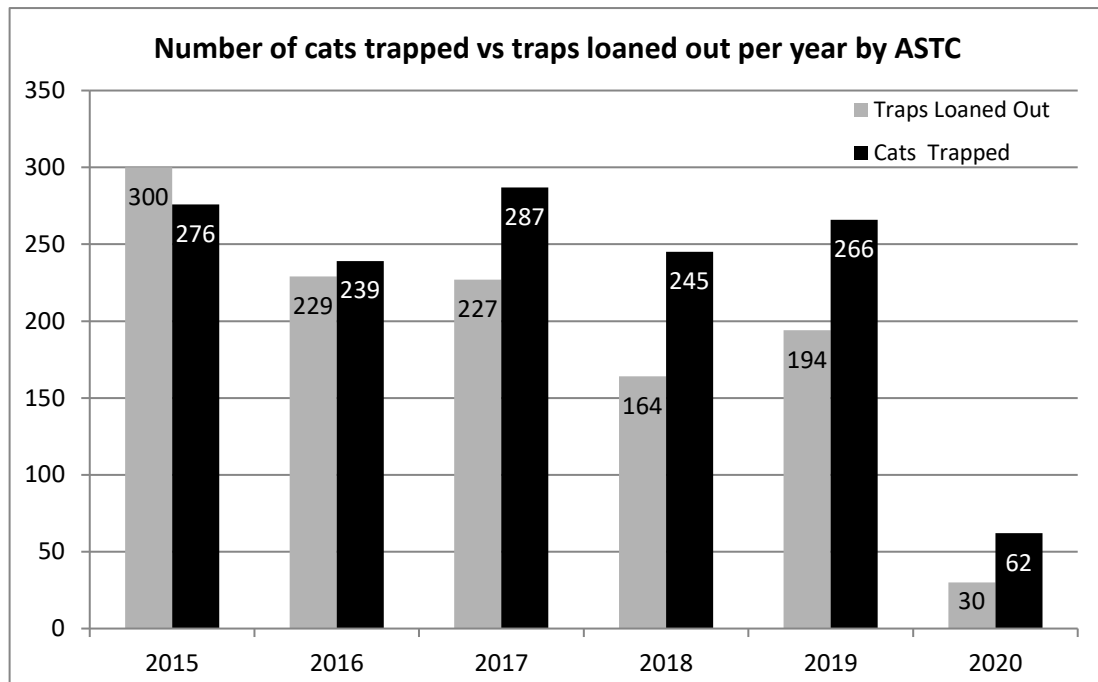


Figure 1. Number of cats trapped and traps loaned out per year by the Alice Springs Town Council.

9. TRANSPORT

Nil

10. ENERGY

10.1 Solar

The Committee received and noted the *Solar* report.

Energy use from ASALC, Civic Centre, Depot, Library and RWMF

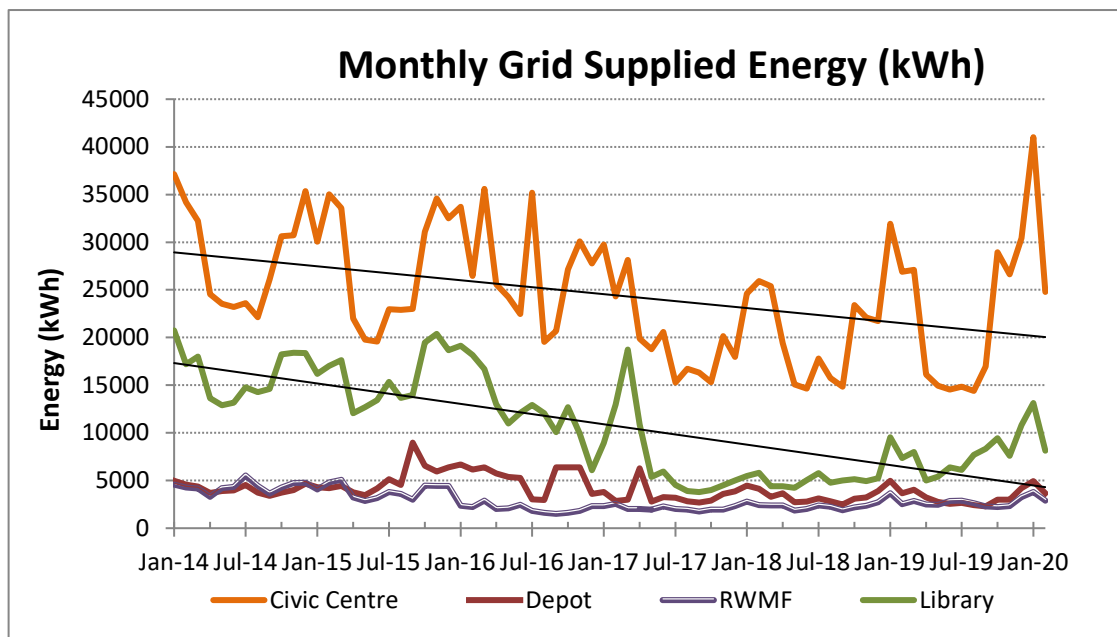


Figure 4. Monthly grid-supplied energy (kWh) for the Civic Centre, Depot, Library and RWMF

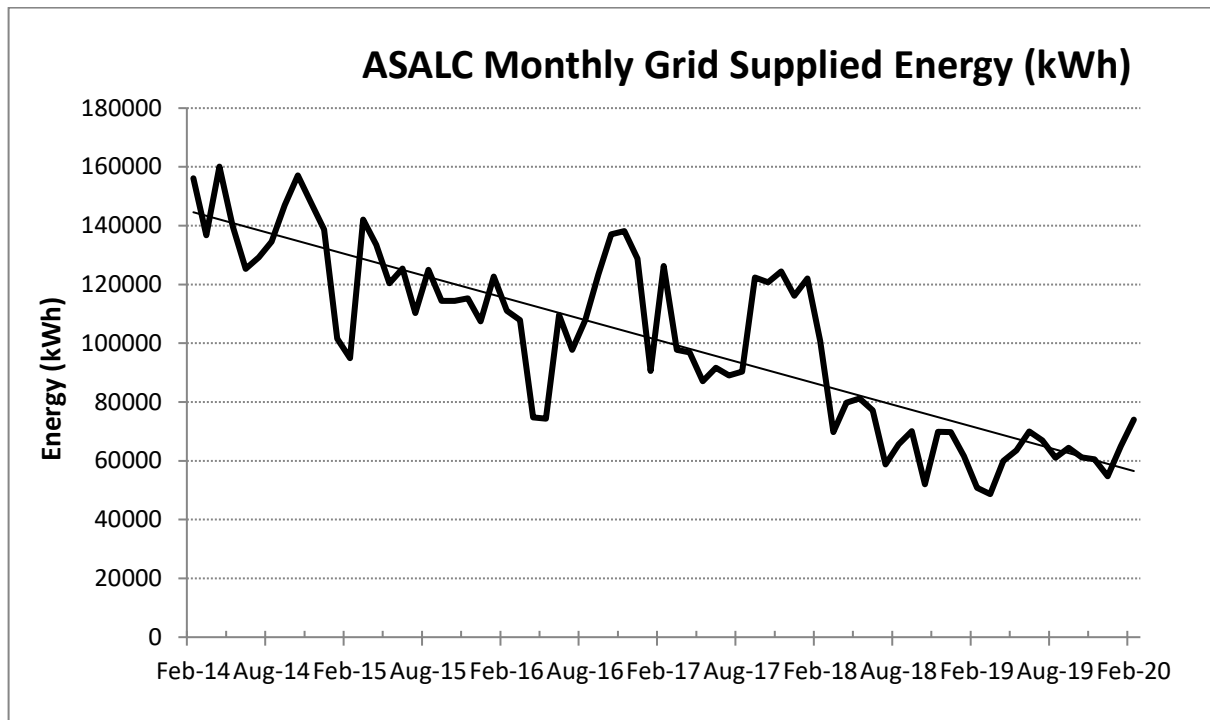


Figure 5. Monthly grid-supplied energy (kWh) for the ASALC. Note drop in energy use indicate pool closure.

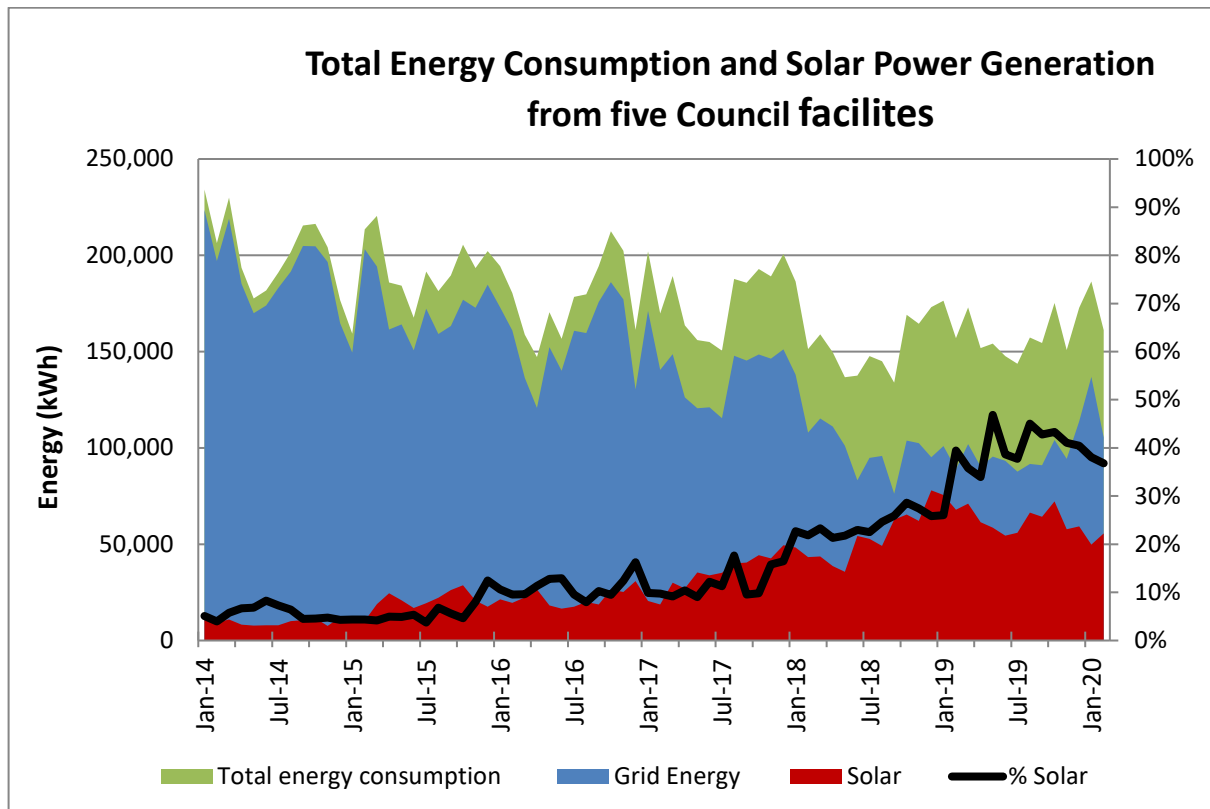


Figure 6. Total energy consumption, grid supplied energy and solar energy produced for five individual Council facilities. The graph also shows Greenhouse Gas emissions avoided through the use of solar power (red).

11. WATER

Nil

12. **WASTE AND RECYCLING**

12.1 Regional Waste Management Facility (RWMF) - Manager RWMF

The Committee received and noted the *RWMF* report.

Total Waste: Total Waste MINUS clean fill collected at the Regional Waste Management Facility (RWMF) for July 2019 to February 2020 was 23,314.79 tonnes. In July 2019 to February 2020 20,028.27 tonnes of clean fill was collected.

Total Recycled: Total Recycled material for July 2019 to February 2019 period was 9610.62

Percentage Recycled: Total percentage of materials recycled between July 2019 and February 2020 is 41.22%. In July 2018 to February 2019 6.52% was recycled.

	July 2018- February 2019		July 2019- February 2020	
	Tonnes IN	Tonnes OUT	Tonnes IN	Tonnes OUT
Animal Carcass	4.85	0.00	6.73	0.00
Asbestos	72.46	0.00	406.13	0.00
Building Material	0.00	79.96	0.00	75.27
Cardboard & Paper	185.46	19.99	379.23	184.18
Chemicals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Clean Fill	5985.46	8.76	20028.27	3293.16
Concrete	2093.11	31.53	1782.40	3472.20
Container Deposit	590.96	303.44	0.00	30.65
Council Supported	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Demolition Materials	4098.12	0.06	4099.02	0.00
Domestic Bins	4566.10	0.00	4597.98	0.00
Drop off Zone* (Shop)	7.57	86.69	0.00	78.55
Electronic waste	42.30	27.78	75.24	13.52
Glass **	76.61	18.10	80.76	61.16
Green Waste	1558.89	911.58	1422.04	207.18
Household Goods	0.00	48.20	0.00	55.95
Liquid Waste	755.10	0.00	758.15	0.00
Mattresses	869.40	1.66	133.27	0.00
Metals ***	441.88	1.90	360.07	1118.98
Mixed Waste ****	7853.52	1.48	8719.06	0.00
Timber & Pallets	347.43	0.00	479.66	1009.65
Tyres	55.67	0.00	15.05	0.61
Total	29604.89	1541.13	43343.06	9610.62
Total minus clean fill	23619.43		23314.79	0.00
Percentage recycled		6.52	0.00	41.22

Table 1. Breakdown of items and recycled material through the weighbridge displayed as yearly accumulated data for the 2018/2018 and 2019/2020 financial periods

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

Steel:

Month	Total Steel
February 2020	282.18 Tonnes
July 2019 to February 2020	1118.98 Tonnes
Income received from Steel (February)	Total
\$50.00/ tonne	\$14,109.00

12.2 Recycling Initiatives - Environment Officer

The Committee received and noted the *Recycling Initiatives* report.

Recycling Initiative	Item	Amount
Close The Loop	Printer cartridges	641.3 kg
Mobile Muster	Mobile phones	4.7 kg
MRI	Household batteries	151.4 kg

The total weight annually of recycled printer cartridges, mobile phones and household batteries collected at the Regional Waste Management Facility.

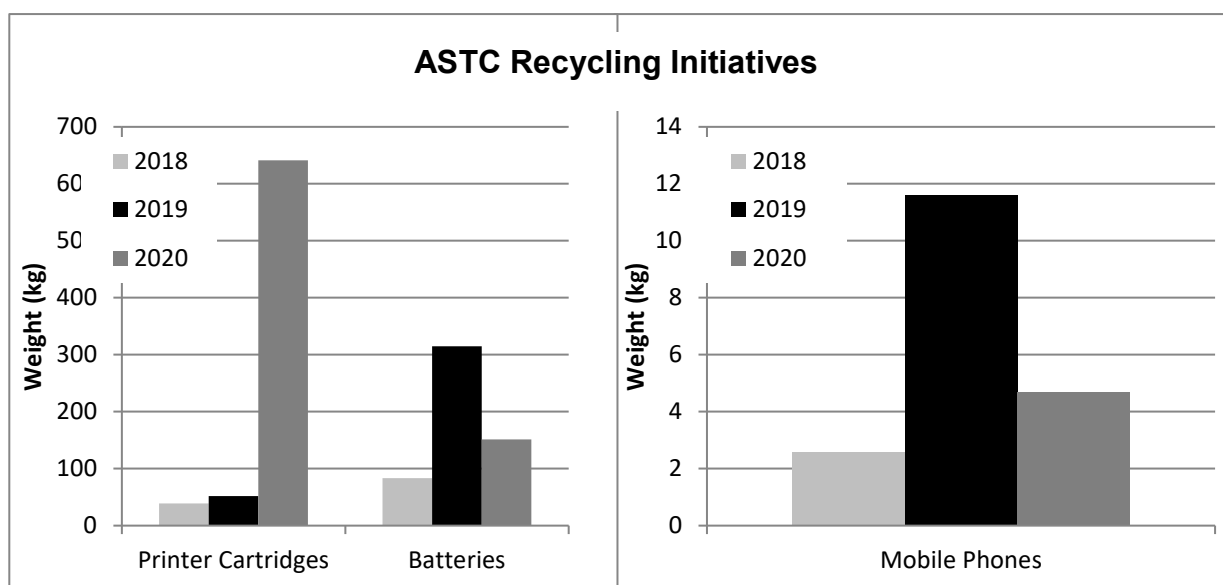


Figure 7. The total weight of printer cartridges, mobile phones and household batteries collected by year at the Regional Waste Management Facility.

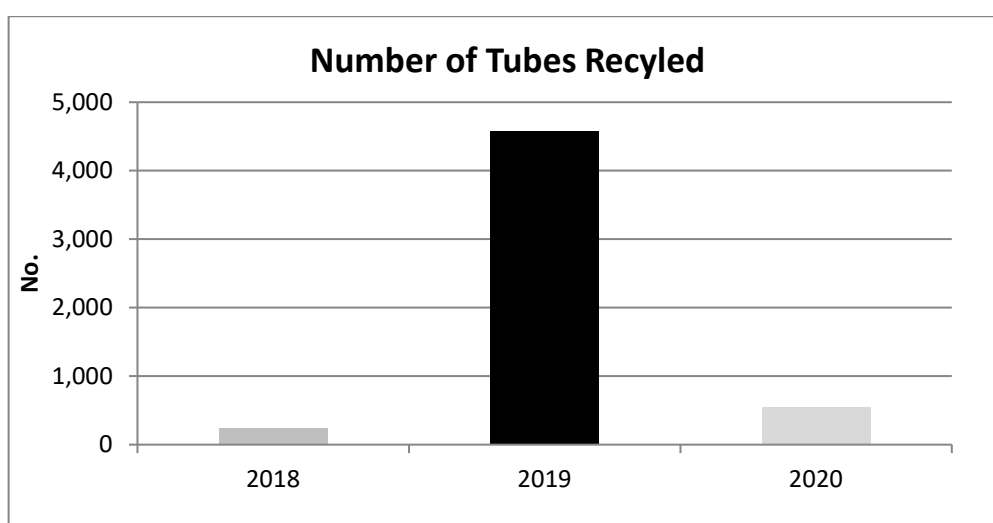


Figure 8. The total number of fluorescent tubes recycled by year at the Regional Waste Management Facility.

The number of fluorescent light tubes recycled annually at the Regional Waste Management Facility.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**13.1 Climate Action Plan - Environment Officer**

As of March 2020, a total of 16.67% of the CAP was completed to 100%.

The Committee received and noted the *Climate Action Plan* report.

Number	Primary	Start Date	End Date	% Complete
	Climate Action Plan	01/01/18	31/12/21	16.67%
	5.1 ENERGY	01/01/18	31/12/21	0%
5.1.1	Source 50% of renewable energy by 2021	01/06/20	01/06/20	50%
	<i>Action- Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Grant 2018- 2019</i>	20/01/20	01/06/20	25%
5.1.2	Implement LED street lighting changeover		31/12/21	0%
5.1.3	Introduce user-pays systems and user-agreements for energy use in Council-owned facilities.	27/03/20	30/06/20	5%
5.1.4	Replace all inefficient lights in Council buildings with LEDs.		31/12/21	15%
5.1.5	Financial support for sports and other user groups to become energy efficient or install renewable energy.	01/12/20	28/02/22	0%
5.1.6	Consider sustainability issues in the decision-making process of planning including a forecast of estimated energy use for all new facilities. Ensure new buildings are appropriately insulated and shaded.		01/08/20	0%
5.1.7	Undertake an energy audit of key Council facilities.		30/11/20	0%
5.1.8	Establish a rolling fund for financing energy efficiency projects and renewable energy.	16/03/20	31/03/20	5%
	5.2 GAS			100%
5.2.9	Pool blankets for indoor heated pools at ASALC.			100%

	5.3 TRANSPORT	01/01/19	31/12/21	38%
5.3.10	Replace one Council vehicle with an electric vehicle per year (when vehicles are due for renewal). Provide a charge point for the electric vehicle.	01/09/19	31/12/21	25%
5.3.11	Introduce an active transport policy for Council staff. Incentivise active transport.		30/07/20	
5.3.12	Ensure bicycles and electric bicycles are available for transport during work hours and encourage their use.	01/01/19	31/12/21	100%
5.3.13	Reduce fuel use at landfill by adopting GPS monitoring for compactor at landfill.			100%
5.3.14	Introduce a green fleet policy.		01/08/20	0%
5.3.15	Introduce minimum fuel efficiency standards for waste-contractor vehicles.		01/08/20	0%
	5.4 WASTE & RECYCLING	01/01/18	31/12/21	21%
5.4.16	Trial commercial food waste composting systems.	01/01/19	31/12/20	25%
5.4.17	Reduce pallets going to landfill by 50%.	01/01/18	31/12/21	50%
5.4.18	Identify cost-effective measures to reduce food waste and garden waste going to landfill.			100%
	5.5 POLICY	01/01/18	31/12/21	44%
5.5.19	Embed sustainable practices and carbon reduction measures into all staff KPIs (Key performance indicator).		01/08/20	0%
5.5.20	Facilitate staff training in energy efficiency, energy auditing, eco-driving, waste management etc.		01/08/20	0%
5.5.21	Collaborate with other Councils to share and contribute advice through the Cities Power Partnership.			100%
5.5.22	Sustainable purchasing policy.		01/08/20	0%

	6.1 ENERGY	01/01/18	31/12/21	2%
6.1.23	Lead, advocate for or assist with community-owned solar.	29/01/20	31/12/21	5%
6.1.24	Provide information on household and business solar.	16/03/20	29/02/20	15%
6.1.25	Open up unused Council land for solar projects.		31/12/21	0%
6.1.26	Engage with and lobby the Northern Territory Government, electricity generators and retailers and other relevant stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition to a renewable energy powered network is feasible. Transition to include innovative technologies to support renewable energy such as peer to peer trading.	01/01/18	31/12/21	10%
6.1.27	Attract a service that enables billing of renters for solar to make it more attractive for home-owners to install solar.	29/01/20	31/12/21	5%
	6.2 TRANSPORT	01/01/18	31/12/21	13%
6.2.28	Set a target for active transport (walking and cycling) and commit to developing a bicycle plan.		01/02/21	0%
6.2.29	Expand provision of safe, secure infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians.		31/12/21	0%
6.2.30	Develop and identity as a bike-friendly town.		31/12/21	0%
6.2.31	Facilitate meetings with key stakeholders to progress the incursion of electric vehicles in central Australia. Lobby NT Tourism and the NTG to set up a linked network of electric vehicles in central Australia. Desert Knowledge Australia.	01/12/19	31/12/21	0%
6.2.32	Install electric vehicle charging stations in a central location.	01/02/20	31/12/21	50%

	6.3 WASTE & RECYCLING	01/01/18	31/12/21	10%
6.3.33	Implement a kerbside recycling service for residents and businesses.		31/12/21	0%
6.3.34	Pending outcome of business case (action item 3), implement a food and garden organics kerbside collection service.	01/01/18	31/12/21	25%
6.3.35	Home composting program implemented.		31/12/20	5%
	6.4 WASTEWATER	01/01/18	31/12/21	100%
6.4.36	Lobby Power Water Corporation to reduce emissions from wastewater by investigating water efficiency programs and wastewater treatment.	01/11/19	01/12/21	100%
	6.5 LEADERSHIP, AWARENESS & EDUCATION	01/01/18	31/12/21	8%
6.5.37	Lobby the NT Government to provide strong leadership on climate action.	01/11/19	31/12/21	33%
6.5.38	Partner with key local organisations to develop or progress action on climate change initiatives.	01/10/19	31/12/21	50%
6.5.39	Engage with and support the community on climate change issues through the arts and through community events.	13/01/20	30/04/20	75%
6.5.40	Establish an environmental grant under Council's Community Grants Program.	13/01/20	01/03/20	100%
6.5.41	Increase awareness of the science of, potential impacts, and mitigating actions of climate change within Council staff and within the community of Alice Springs.		31/12/21	0%
6.5.42	Support innovation through local responses to climate change.		31/12/21	0%

14. OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Corrections Work Restrictions due to COVID-19 - John Gaynor

John Gaynor noted that due to COVID-19 restrictions, the work of Corrections was restricted to their facility and they were no longer available to perform duties for Council and DENR in regard to clearing. He suggested the impact from this, especially if Alice Springs gets any rain, is that fuel loads would increase and there would be a greater bushfire threat moving into Summer later in the year.

Councillor Banks enquired if it was possible for a report to be provided on available resourcing that could be identified in regard to this matter. The Director Technical Services responded, advising that Council would continue to evaluate and prioritize tasks as impacts of COVID-19 emerged. Councillor Banks enquired if the arrangement with Corrections was a fee for service arrangement. The Director took the question on notice.

Action:

Director Technical Services to investigate what arrangement Council had with Corrections and if the arrangement was a fee-for-service.

14.2 Resignation - Alex Read

Alex Read advised that he would be resigning from the Committee as the Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) representative as he was resigning his position with the organisation. He noted a new representative would replace him on the Committee, however that person was yet to be formally nominated.

The Chair expressed thanks to Alex on behalf of the Environment Advisory Committee for his time, effort and contribution to the Committee.

14.3 Correspondence welcomed after the meeting - Director Technical Services

The Director noted the challenges to hosting these meetings via Teleconference, that on occasion some items may come to light after the meeting concluded, and advised he welcomed correspondence from the Committee after the meeting. He would circulate these questions with response to the Committee as they are received.

15. NEXT MEETING

Monday 1 June 2020, 4:30pm via teleconference

The meeting closed at 17:14 pm