



SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE December 2018

These Terms of Reference are to be read in conjunction with Council's Advisory Group Operation and Conduct Policy.

BACKGROUND

Adelaide Hills Council (the Council) recognises that responding to key issues such as sustainability, biodiversity, climate change, greenhouse gas reduction, energy management, water and waste management are important for achieving a sound future for both the Adelaide Hills area and the planet as a whole.

The Council has initiated steps to reduce its environmental footprint by undertaking a range of sustainable actions. A Council resolution dated 14 August 2012 adopted the *Adelaide Hills Environmental Sustainability Framework* which sets out a strategic direction aimed at achieving sustainability through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, energy usage, overall water usage, solid waste to landfill and for the management of biodiversity.

The Council also recognises the vast wealth of knowledge and expertise residing in community members and external organisations therefore Council has resolved to establish a Sustainability Advisory Group (Group) comprising members of the public who will give their time voluntarily to advise the Council Administration and support Council in its sustainability agenda.

ROLE

The Sustainability Advisory Group provides advice to the Executive Officer on sustainability matters including climate change, energy management, water management, waste reduction, environment, resilient communities and resource recovery.

The Sustainability Advisory Group shall provide the Council Administration with access to external expertise, networks and links to other organisations with regard to sustainability issues including climate change, energy management, water management, waste reduction, environment, conservation and biodiversity.

STRATEGIC LINKS

Strategic Plan

<i>Place - Places for people and nature</i>	3.1	We will work with our community to encourage sustainable living and commercial practices
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Place - Places for people and nature	3.2	We will strive for carbon neutrality as an organisation and encourage our community to do likewise
Place - Places for people and nature	3.7	We will drive further reduction in waste consigned to landfill
Place - Places for people and nature	3.10	We will investigate 'off-grid' power opportunities for facilities and households in our community. We're open to the idea of whole townships doing the same.

FUNCTIONS

The Sustainability Advisory Group will provide advice to the Executive Officer on:

- Climate change issues including scientific findings, current knowledge and the implications of predicted climate change;
- Likely impacts of climate change and appropriate methods of adapting to its potential effects and the building of resilient communities;
- Appropriate actions, methods and/or technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce energy use, reduce water use, reduce waste production and promote resource recovery;
- Opportunities for grant and other project funding;
- Networking opportunities so Council may develop links with experts, community groups, organisations and skilled individuals in the areas of climate change; climate adaptation; water, energy and waste minimisation; natural resource management and biodiversity;
- Achieving the Strategic Goals of Council that relate to sustainability; and
- Linkage of Council's Strategic Goals, Policy and objectives with those of State and Federal Governments within the domain of sustainability.

MEMBERSHIP

The Sustainability Advisory Group shall comprise up to four (4) Council Members and up to five (5) independent representatives.

The five (5) independent members shall be community representatives selected on the basis of skills, knowledge and experience based on selection criteria listed below.

The Manager Sustainable Assets (or nominee) or other officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer shall act as Executive Officer for the Sustainability Advisory Group.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Independent members shall be selected on the basis of their skills, knowledge and experience in one or more of the following:

- Environmental sustainability natural resource management, climate change, climate adaptation or similar
- Energy, water and/or waste reduction strategies and/or technology

- Government grants process particularly as related to climate change, energy, water and waste reduction
- Advisory committees and/or community consultation
- Links to networks and/or groups with expertise in environment, sustainability, and climate change and/or climate adaption.

It shall be a pre-requisite that community representatives live, work or have an active interest in the Council area.