

MEETING MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 2019 IN THE ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL - ANDY
MCNEILL ROOM

PRESENT

Mayor Damien Ryan
Deputy Mayor Matt Paterson
Councillor Glen Auricht (Chair)
Councillor Marli Banks (*arrived 4:42pm*)
Mr Rod Cramer - Rural Area Association
Mr John Gaynor - Dept. Environment Natural Resources (*arrived 4:35pm*)
Mr David Koch - Community Member
Ms Judith Lovell - Community Member
Mr Tierneigh Parnell - Youth Member
Mr Alex Read - Arid Lands Environment Centre
Mr Peter Somerville - Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
Dr Kate Stevens - Land for Wildlife
Ms Georgia Stewart - Community Member

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Scott Allen - Acting Chief Executive Officer
Mr Dilip Nellikat - Acting Director Technical Services
Mr Takudzwa Charlie - Manager 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 2018/2019					
	5 Nov - 18	4 Feb - 19	1 April - 19	3 June - 19	6 Aug - 19
Mayor Damien Ryan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deputy Mayor Paterson	✓	A	A	✓	✓
Councillor Glen Auricht	A	✓	✓	A	✓
Councillor Marli Banks	A	A	✓	A	✓
Rod Cramer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Gaynor		✓	✓ phone	✓ proxy	✓
Kate Stevens	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
David Koch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Judith Lovell	A	A	✓	✓	✓
Martin O'Neill				✓	A
Peter Somerville	✓	--	✓	✓	✓
Tierneigh Parnell	✓	✓	--	✓	✓
Alex Read	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Georgia Stewart			✓	✓	✓

- ✓ Attended
- ✓ proxy Proxy attended in place of committee member
- A Apology received
- No attendance and no apology recorded

The meeting opened at 4:30 pm.

1. APOLOGIES

Martin O'Neill - Power and Water
Charlotte Klempin - Environment Officer
Jodie Summers - Manager Governance

2. UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

Nil

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 Correspondence – Letter of thanks to Mr Robbie Henderson

The Committee noted the correspondence.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 1 APRIL 2019

5.1 Unconfirmed Minutes of the Previous Meeting held 3 June 2019

RESOLVED:

That it be a recommendation to Council:

That the minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee meeting held 3 June 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

Moved: Mayor Ryan **Seconded:** David Koch **CARRIED**

Minor grammatical corrections were noted and will be actioned.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 Soil erosion and mitigation concepts

The Acting Chief Executive Officer advised a meeting had taken place between Director of Technical Services, the Environment Officer and Rod Cramer on 18 July 2019 in response to an action item from the 3 June 2019 Environment Advisory Committee Meeting. This meeting was held to discuss soil erosion and surface water runoff mitigation techniques associated with Council.

It was suggested that a start-up meeting be held with key stakeholders in attendance to discuss the below key strategies and that their role in addressing soil erosion control in the municipality and immediate surrounds would be a strategic move forward.

Items to be discussed:

- Fire management
- Soil conservation
- Surface water management
- Weed management
- Vegetation management

RESOLVED:

That it be a recommendation to Council:

That Council facilitates a meeting with the following key stakeholders to discuss issues of soil erosion mitigation and surface water flow policies:

- **Land for Wildlife**
- **Department of Primary Industry and Resources**
- **Department of Environment and Natural Resources**
- **Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics**
- **Weeds Reference Group**
- **Rural Area Association**
- **NT Rural Fire Service**
- **Alice Springs Town Council**

Moved: Rod Cramer **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Paterson **CARRIED**

Rod Cramer expressed his support for this startup meeting to discuss concerns regarding poor practices regarding land management, fire mismanagement, and work to adopt best practice in these and related areas for the unique desert environment.

Alex Read noted Territory NRM (Natural Resource Management) held a soil symposium in Alice Springs on Tuesday 30 July 2019. He noted they are interested in doing more work in the area on soil conservation and may be valuable to involve them in this conversation.

6.2 Sub-group concept in regard to ecological services and behaviours

Councillor Banks entered the room at 5:42 pm

Judith Lovell requested this item be treated as a standalone item, as it was intended, and provided clarification on her request regarding a subgroup concept which would:

- form a subgroup to create working papers about Landscape Scale and Ecological Services / Payment for Ecological Services to show where these concepts have been used, and research examples of models
- start a conversation and inform discussion as to how Council could take on an Ecological Services approach
- potentially provide information to create new Council policy

Judith would like to see this concept 'championed' by Council as it has done with Solar.

Discussion ensued regarding the definition and interpretation of Ecological Services. Judith advised the term "Ecological Services" is used quite specifically in the literature, in community development, and in other contexts. She reported the concept is well defined and suggested those definitions would be a good starting point.

Judith reported Ecological Services and Payment of Ecological Services are:

- a vibrant economy in parts of Australia, especially in remote areas
- useful for bringing together large grants and opportunities
- focus can be around giving acknowledgement to natural environmental values of the area
- landscape framing, and
- economic drivers

Councillor Banks enquired in regard to whether Judith anticipated this would require the expansion of a Council officer position, and what the economic impact was to Council. Judith responded that the scope would include:

- the extent of Crown Land within the Municipality

- concepts regarding the preservation, planting and protection of trees – value that can be ascribed
- encouraging landowners to manage their properties with an ecological overlay or lens
- fire reduction
- investigation that would need to be undertaken to determine how Council could derive direct income, and
- where the offsets are against additional expenses in the future

Judith reported that there are Municipal Council's that have implemented this concept successfully and that a working group would have a look at those things and start to consider where there is a way for Alice Springs Town Council to adopt this concept.

Discussion ensued regarding the make-up of members for the subgroup, and how this group would report to Council.

Judith noted a presentation made by Robbie Henderson at the EAC meeting on 2 October 2017 in regard to Payment for Ecological Services.

Action:

Environment Officer to distribute Robbie Henderson's *'the Nakau programme'* presentation from 2 October 2017 in regard to *Payments for Ecological Services*.

Action:

This item to remain on the agenda for the next meeting for the Committee to discuss how the concept of Payment for Ecological Services is understood in regional local government and other contexts.

7. **DEPUTATION**

Nil

8. **LAND**

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

The committee received and noted the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Report.

Fire Management

John reported for the information of the Committee, the most senior Bushfires NT Management Officer contactable in Alice Springs is Lee Gleeson who can be reached through Bushfires NT. Joshua Fisher, the System Operations Manager has recently relocated to Darwin.

A Fire and Vegetation Management Plan is being developed as part of the Lhere Mparntwe Management Strategy. The plan aims to provide a detailed plan and set priorities along the entire stretch of the river for a consistent approach to maintenance for all stakeholders.

Judith Lovell enquired in regard to management zones for the Todd and Charles rivers with the following responsibility being clarified:

- Parks and Wildlife - Telegraph Station
- Alice Springs Town Council - Todd and Charles
- Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics - Gap Rd / South of Gap.

Lhere Mparntwe - Todd and Charles Rivers Management Strategy

The Lhere Mparntwe Strategy aims to:

- protect and enhance the natural and cultural values
- encourage more locals and visitors to use the river in a culturally and ecologically appropriate way, and
- encourage collaboration between levels of Government to care for the river

John provided updates regarding the Lhere Mparntwe Strategy which DENR hopes to be able to launch it soon in conjunction with an education campaign:

- working with Schools
- promoting the “Natures Boarding House” poster, and will
- encourage the development of a potential “Friends of the Todd River” group

Todd River Basin

John reported DENR is actively engaged in managing water use in the Town Basin, and taking precautionary measures to ensure impacts do not occur if the dry spell continues.

Following the May rain and partial flow event, there has been a small recharge of the basin. This combined with cooler weather requiring reduced extraction for irrigation has provided some temporary relief for licenses.

Councillor Banks enquired in regard to who has a license to source water through the town basin. John responded, advising that the Alice Springs Golf Club, St. Philips College, and Power and Water are the three licensees for the Town Basin and noted that Council sources water through Power and Water for use on Parks and Ovals.

Discussion ensued in regard to whether the current circumstances suggested water levels in the Basin were at a critical level, and what steps Council was taking in regard to water crisis prevention. The Acting Chief Executive Officer reported water reduction processes were already in place with a reduction of water to some Parks. He noted that the watering schedule for Ovals currently remains the same.

Councillor Banks expressed concern regarding last season’s loss of trees due to extreme heat circumstances, and the negative media impact on Council, suggesting Council pre-empt criticism from the public with a social media campaign explaining decisions in regard to water conservation.

Judith Lovell enquired in regard to the use of recycled water. John responded, noting that the process regarding the use of recycled water with evaporation ponds and pumping meant that it contained a high salt content.

Rod Cramer enquired if any progress had been made in regard to reactivating the Water Advisory Committee, whether meeting dates had been scheduled and if a Chairperson had been recruited. John reported that DENR is awaiting the appointment of a new Chairperson and that he hasn’t heard any updates since his return from leave.

8.2 Community Garden

Mr Alex Read provided an update on the Community Garden noting:

- work on the gate has been completed
- the shed has been relocated
- everything looking healthy due to the mild weather, and
- the DesertSMART Eco Fair is on this weekend
 - events being held from the 8-11 August 2019
 - Craig Reucassel (ABC’s War on Waste), EcoFair Ambassador Costa Georgiadis (Gardening Australia) are both attending

- everyone is welcome

Mayor Ryan enquired in regard to overall water usage for the Community Garden, and how individual plot owners pay their fees at the Community Garden. Alex responded, advising that plot owners pay their fees to Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) on a 6 or 12-month basis, and these fees include water usage. Alex took a question on notice regarding the overall water usage of the Community Garden.

Action:

Alex Read to report back to the next EAC meeting in regard to the overall water usage for the Community Garden.

8.3 Feral Animals

The Feral Animals Report was received and noted by the Committee.

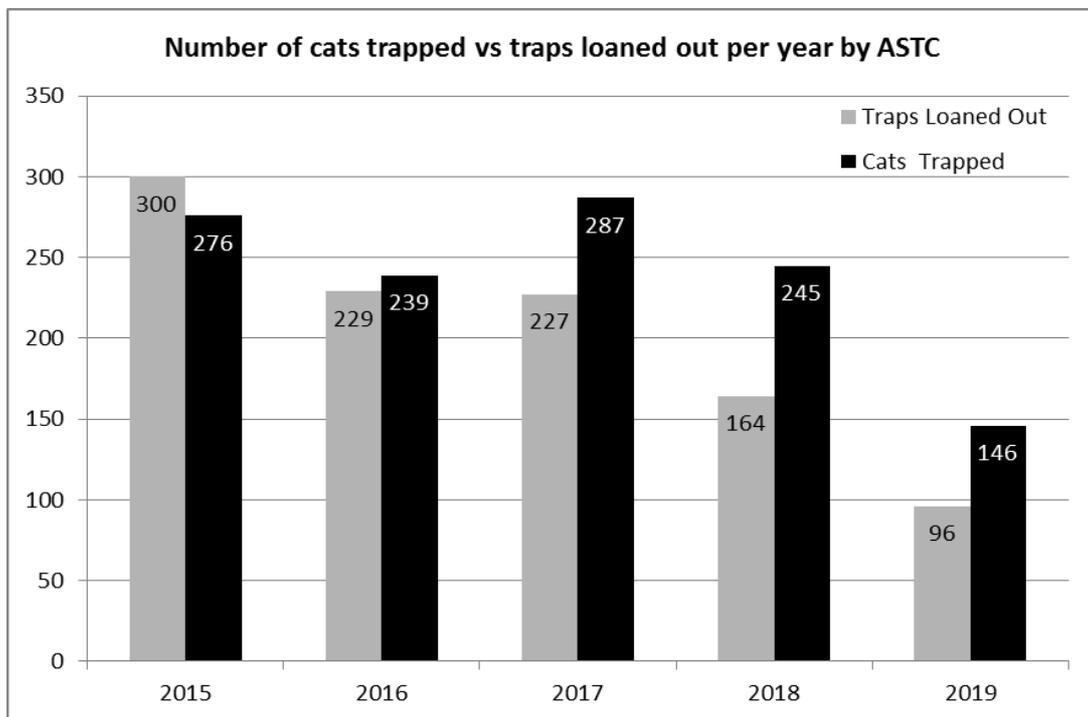


Figure 1. The number of cats trapped and traps loaned out per year by the Alice Springs Town Council.

Kate Stevens noted the substantial increase cats trapped in the *Feral Animals trapped (by month) by Garden for Wildlife members in urban gardens of Alice Springs (Mar-June 2019)*, identifying the June data was received recently from one member.

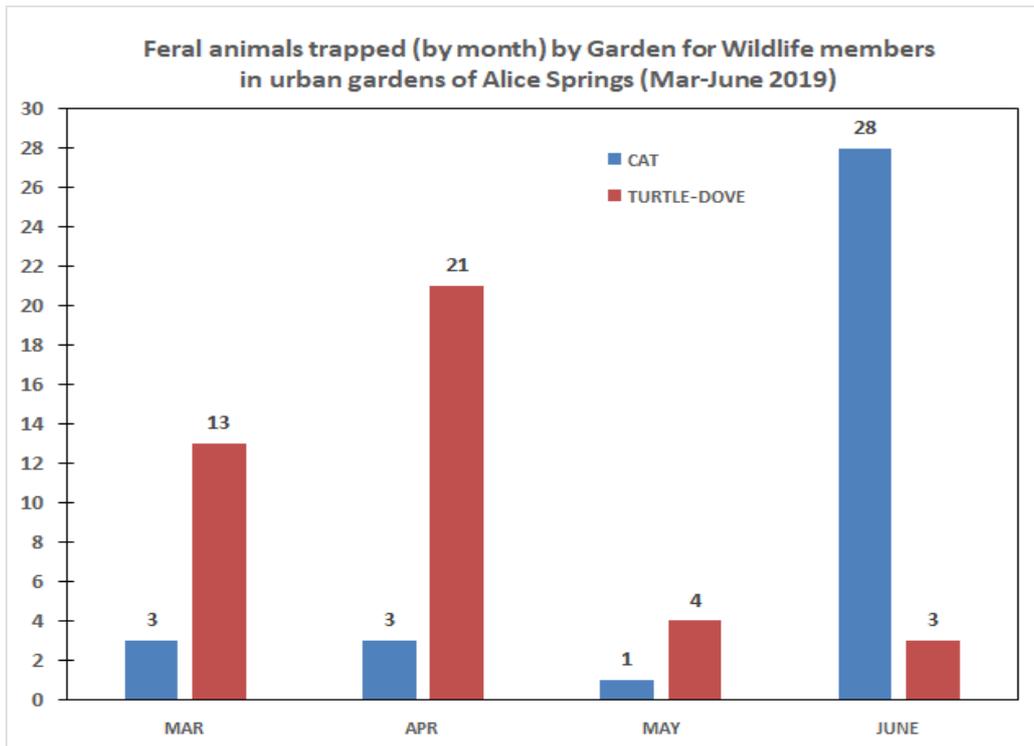


Figure 2. Number of cats and turtle doves trapped from March-June 2019 by Garden for Wildlife

Deputy Mayor Paterson left the room at 5:32 pm
 Deputy Mayor Paterson returned to the room at 5:33 pm

9. TRANSPORT

Nil

10. ENERGY

10.1 Solar:

The Solar report was received and noted by the Committee.

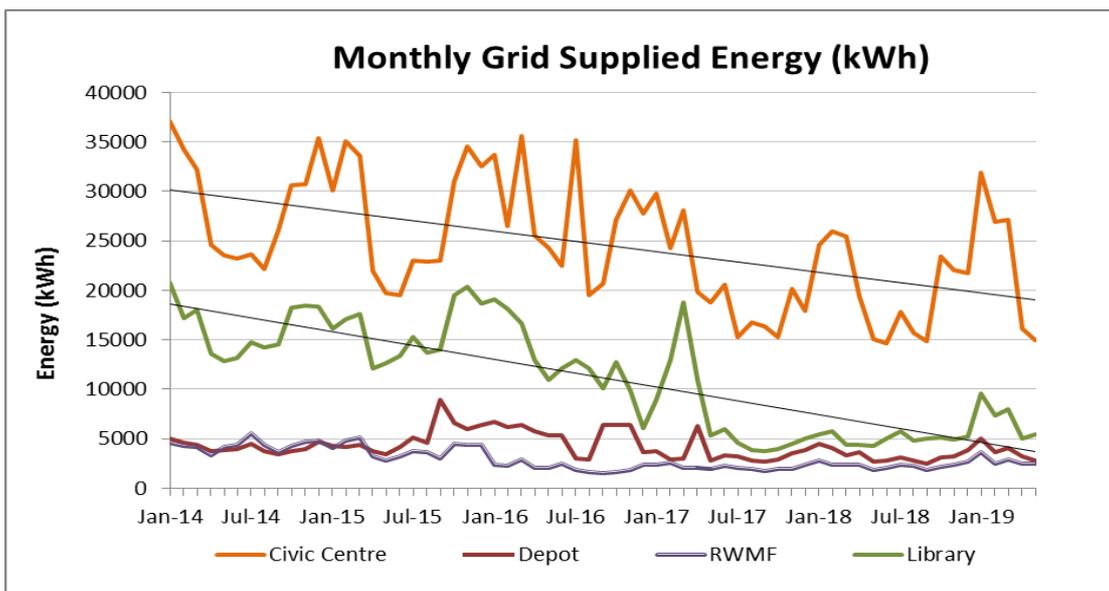


Figure 3. Monthly grid-supplied energy (kWh) for the Civic Centre, Depot, Library and RWMF

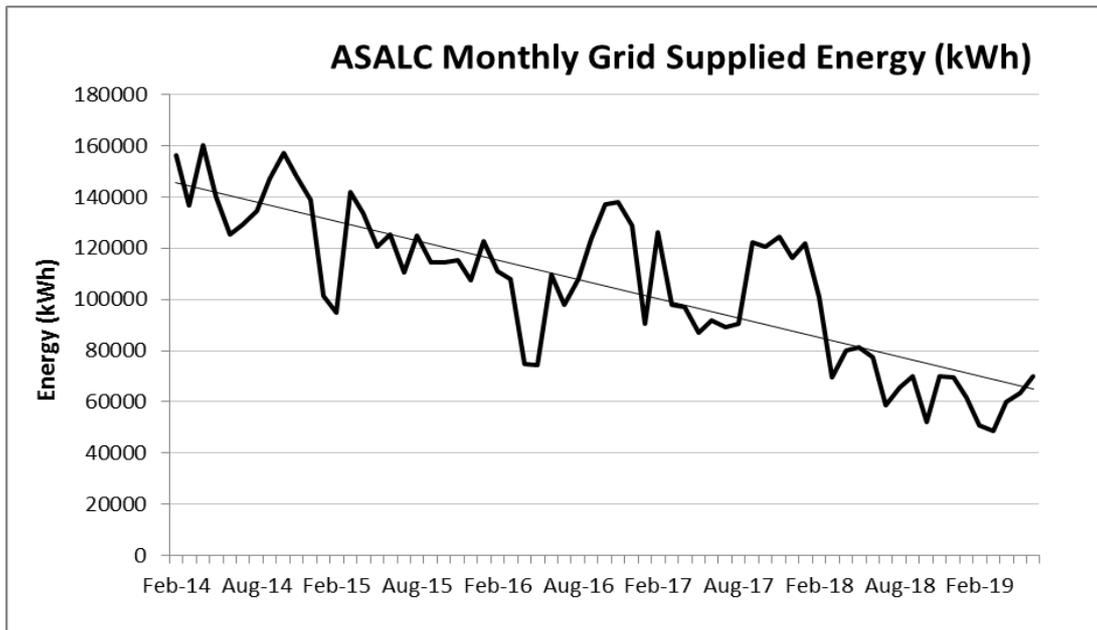


Figure 4. Monthly grid-supplied energy (kWh) for the ASALC. Note drop in energy use indicates pool closure.

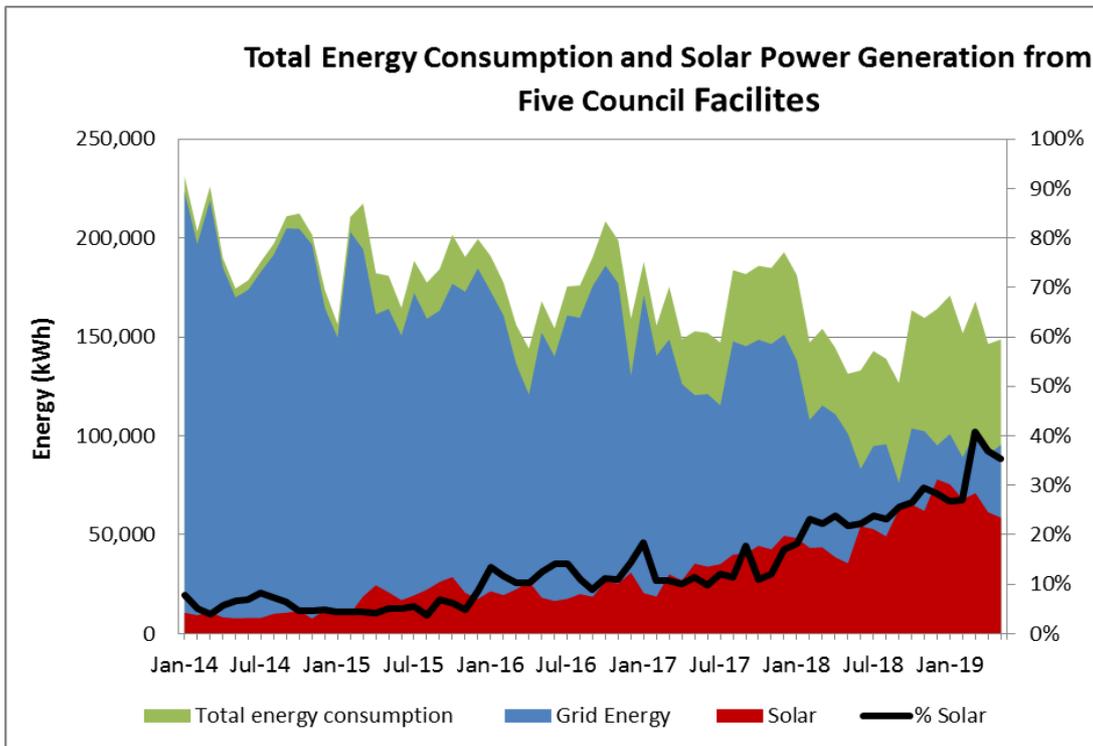


Figure 5. Total energy consumption, grid-supplied energy and solar energy produced for five individual Council facilities. The graph also shows Greenhouse Gas emissions avoided through the use of solar power (red).

11. WATER

Nil

12. WASTE AND RECYCLING

12.1 Regional Waste Management Facility (RWMF) - June 2019 Report

The Committee received and noted the *Regional Waste Management Facility - June 2019* report.

Total Waste: Total Waste MINUS clean fill collected at the Regional Waste Management Facility (RWMF) for July 2018 to June 2019 was 35,233.94 tonnes. In July 2017 to June 2018 34,360.03 tonnes of clean fill was collected.

Total Recycled: Total Recycled material for July 2018 to June 2019 period was 2,832.69 tonnes, compared to 3937.59 tonnes from July 2017 to June 2018.

Percentage Recycled: Total percentage of materials recycled between July 2018 and June 2019 is 8.04%. In July 2017 to June 2018 11.39% was recycled.

	July 2017- June 2018		July 2018- June 2019	
	Tonnes IN	Tonnes OUT	Tonnes IN	Tonnes OUT
Animal Carcass	10.06		8.19	0.00
Asbestos	590.04		110.88	0.00
Building Material		139.39	0.00	113.78
Cardboard & Paper	286.44		318.71	52.95
Chemicals	0.00	0.00	599.82	306.18
Clean Fill	12,780.14		10636.43	120.76
Concrete	2,598.71	1,065.58	2897.09	663.89
Container Deposit	10.82	10.82	0.00	0.00
Council Supported	73.46		1.36	0.00
Demolition Materials	6,225.14		5335.02	15.63
Domestic Bins	7,346.98		6836.38	0.00
Drop off Zone* (Shop)		143.31	7.57	127.94
Electronic waste	49.02	37.66	48.97	42.04
Glass **	94.24	12.40	109.05	37.18
Green Waste	2,697.94	418.20	2198.62	1097.72
Household Goods		43.29	0.00	74.10
Liquid Waste	1,259.22		1204.86	0.00
Mattresses	71.64	61.11	923.16	1.66
Metals ***	829.31	1,285.28	617.40	86.28
Mixed Waste ****	11,737.52		13487.37	0.00
Timber & Pallets	685.03	716.41	468.16	92.48
Tyres	14.32	4.14	61.33	0.00
Total	47,360.03	3,937.59	45,870.37	2,832.59
Total minus clean fill	34,579.89		35,233.94	
Percentage recycled		11.39%		8.04%

Table 1. Breakdown of items and recycled material through the weighbridge displayed as yearly accumulated data for the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 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. white goods etc.)
- **** Mixed Waste - includes other categories (e.g. confidential burial; food surrender; transfer station, general waste; street clean

Mayor Ryan congratulated the staff at the Regional Waste Management Facility for the clear and tangible efforts being made at the facility.

Kate Stevens sought clarification in regard to the *tonnes in* and *tonnes out* in the report. The Manager RWMF clarified, items listed as “out” don’t go into landfill, and are either purchased through the shop or recycled.

Mayor Ryan enquired in regard to whether negotiation had taken place in regard to the next big demolition in Alice Springs. The Manager RWMF advised preparations are underway to receive an expected amount of building waste in regard to concrete and asbestos.

12.2 Recycling Initiatives

The Committee received and noted the Recycling Initiatives Report.

Recycling Initiative	Item	Amount
Close The Loop	Printer cartridges	6.25 kg
Mobile Muster	Mobile phones	1.2 kg
MRI	Household batteries	15.75 kg

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

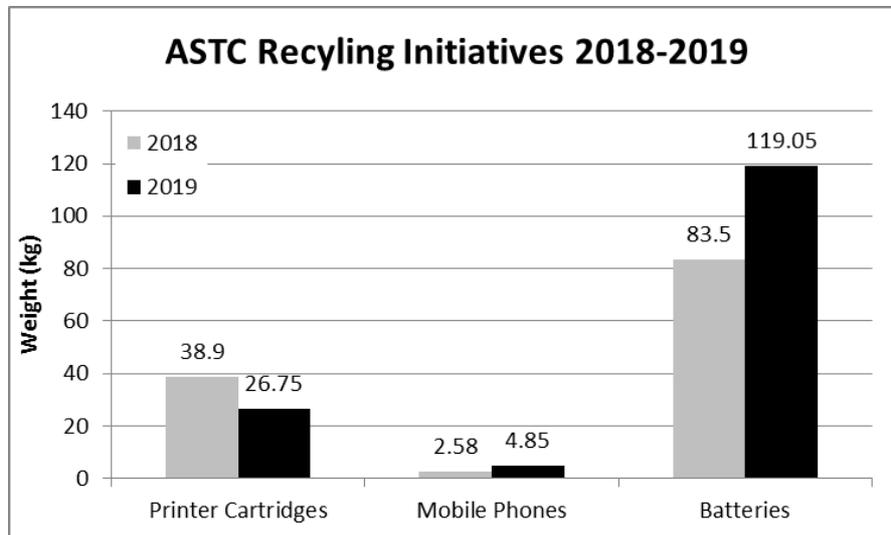


Figure 6. The total weight of printer cartridges, mobile phones and household batteries collected during 2018-2019 at the Regional Waste Management Facility.

The Manager Technical Services noted the graph showing the number of fluorescent light tubes recycled annually at the Regional Waste Management Facility, in response to an action item from the previous meeting.

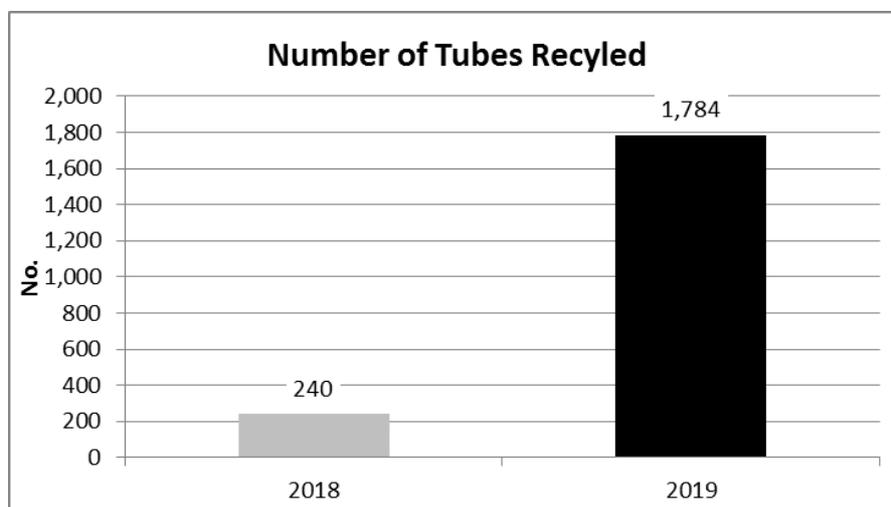


Figure 7. The total number of fluorescent tubes recycled during 2018-2019 at the Regional Waste Management Facility.

13. **CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**

13.1 **Climate Action Plan**

The Committee received and noted the Climate Action Plan updates.

Action Number	Action	Progress
5.1.1	50% renewable energy by 2021	Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Grant 2018-19- Successful application
5.2.1	Installation of indoor pool blankets	Blankets have been installed
5.3.10	Electric Vehicle	Budget discussion for vehicle in progress
5.4.1	Food Organics & Garden Organics (FOGO) trial	Project management plan in progress and consultant engaged
5.4.16	Commercial composting systems	Included as part of the FOGO Trial
5.4.18	Reduce food and garden waste	FOGO Trial
6.3.34	Implement FOGO	Trial in progress

14. **OTHER BUSINESS**

14.1 **Climate Emergency - Alex Read**

Alex Read presented the document *Understanding Climate emergency & local government* to start a conversation surrounding Climate Emergency. He noted that Alice Springs has experienced its hottest Summer and mildest Winter in recent times, that we are experiencing water stress. He encouraged the Committee to consider what Climate Change is going to look like and how we adapt.

Discussion ensued regarding preparation, identifying risks, promoting the work that Council is currently undertaking.

Alex proposed a Climate Change Forum is held to:

- educate on the work that Council is currently doing,
- provide information to the community in regard to what Summers in Alice Springs are going to look like in the future, and
- educate the community on how to stay safe and stay cool

Manager RWMF left the room at 5:48 pm

Manager RWMF returned to the room at 5:49 pm

David Koch noted the proactive work currently being undertaken by Council, for example, the Climate Action Plan.

Mayor Ryan requested a report to consolidate the work already undertaken by Council and summarizing what has been achieved, to then review and determine the next steps. Kate Stevens agreed a report would inform the community, showcase and highlight the work already being done, and asked if there would be scope for Council to recognise other Community Group's efforts in this field.

Discussion ensued regarding the realistic goals Council can achieve, climate adaptation, and Council's role regarding education, advocacy, and public safety.

Rod Cramer left the room at 5:51 pm

Rod Cramer returned to the room at 5:53 pm

Action:

Environment Officer to prepare a consolidated report of Alice Springs Town Council initiatives regarding Climate Change. This report is to be returned to EAC meeting on the 7 October 2019.

14.2 Action in regard to meeting with David Letheby - Rod Cramer

Rod Cramer reported he had not yet been able to secure a meeting with David Letheby regarding an action from the previous meeting.

14.3 Elected Members on Committees - August nominations - Councillor Banks

Councillor Banks noted that August is when the Elected Members nominate for their position on Advisory Committees for the following 12-months, and thanked the Committee for their valuable contributions to the Environment Advisory Committee.

14.4 National Tree Planting Day - Acting Chief Executive Officer

The Acting Chief Executive Officer reported on Sunday 18 August 2019, Council is encouraging residents to join in for National Tree Planting Day at either of the two locations:

Palm Circuit, Heavitree Gap

7:30 – 10:30 am

150 Trees to be planted

Free public BBQ

Paul Fitzsimmons Oval (CDU), off Stott Terrace Sadadeen

From 10:30 am

A variety of native species will be planted at both locations.

15. NEXT MEETING

Monday 7 October 2019 - 4:30 pm in the Andy McNeill Room, Civic Centre - 93 Todd Street.

The meeting closed at 5:55 pm