

**Minerals, Energy
Resources, Environment
and Waste Advisory
Committee**

**Operational Guidelines and
Terms of Reference**

Trim 7632-3#6

/

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Contents

Contents	2
Minerals, Energy Resources, Environment and Waste Advisory Committee - Terms of Reference	3
1. Objective of the Minerals, Energy Resources, Environment and Waste Advisory Committee.....	3
2. Links to Community Strategic Plan 2033	3
3. Key Focus Areas for the Minerals, Energy Resources, Environment and Waste Advisory Committee.....	3
Minerals, Energy Resources, Environment and Waste Advisory Committee - Operational Guidelines.....	5
1. Meeting Frequency, Times and Venue	5
2. Membership.....	5
3. Membership Selection and Tenure	5
4. Other Attendees	5
5. Chairperson.....	6
6. Responsibilities of Members.....	6
7. Role of the Council Officer.....	7
8. Quorum & Decision Making	7
9. Minutes, Agendas & Reporting Requirements	7
10. Standing Agenda Items	8
11. Financial	8

MINERALS, ENERGY RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. OBJECTIVE OF THE MINERALS, ENERGY RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To bring together interested community members to engage with Council on waste management and environmental issues that includes the extraction of minerals and petroleum (coal seam gas) within the Wollondilly Shire.

2. LINKS TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2033

The Minerals, Energy Resources, Environment and Waste Advisory Committee directly supports Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033 as it enables Council to engage with its community by listening to and responding to their needs and concerns.

The Minerals, Energy Resources, Environment and Waste Advisory Committee will consider issues and pursue actions and strategies which support Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033.

The Minerals, Energy Resources, Environment and Waste Advisory Committee will report on its outcomes and achievements annually, in particular identifying how the activities have contributed to the overall outcomes of Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033.

3. KEY FOCUS AREAS FOR THE MINERALS, ENERGY RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Minerals, Energy Resources, Environment and Waste Advisory Committee will pursue specific actions and strategies in the following key focus areas associated with each of its three streams:

Waste Management stream

- Revision of Council's Waste Management Strategy that includes
 - Illegal dumping
 - The future management of the Bargo Waste Management Centre.
 - Kerbside collection and bi-annual clean-ups.
 - Waste minimisation and achieving increased levels of recycling.

Environmental protection stream

- Protection and management of biodiversity as well as waterways within the Wollondilly Shire
- Establishment of a National Park for the Bargo River Gorge

- Legislation review and policy announcements within the Wollondilly LGA.
- Development and implementation of sustainability initiatives.

Minerals and petroleum extraction stream (focus areas of specific relevance to minerals and petroleum extraction)

- Mining and coal seam gas extraction activity affecting or potentially affecting the natural environment within the Wollondilly Shire.
- Legislation review and policy announcements of relevance to minerals, petroleum and gravel extraction issues within the Wollondilly LGA.

MINERALS, ENERGY RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

1. MEETING FREQUENCY, TIMES AND VENUE

The Minerals, Energy Resources, Environment and Waste Advisory Committee is to meet quarterly. The meeting will be held at 5.30pm on the third Wednesday of March, June, September and December at Councils Administration Centre.

More frequent meetings may be convened as the need arises.

Alternatively, there may be a need in certain circumstances to establish temporary sub-committees or working groups to pursue specific issues / projects etc.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The Minerals, Energy Resources, Environment and Waste Advisory Committee is to have a minimum of (five) 5 community members and a maximum of ten (10) community members.

3. MEMBERSHIP SELECTION AND TENURE

Community members/industry representatives are to be recruited through a public expression of interest process which will be advertised in the local media and on Council's website.

Selection will be based on set criteria which will be outlined as part of the nomination process.

Membership will be for four (4) years and is to be dissolved/renewed in line with the electoral term of Council. The next dissolution and renewal process would occur after the Council election in 2020.

If a member resigns or is terminated, the position may be filled through a review of earlier Expressions of Interest or a call for new Expressions of Interest.

4. OTHER ATTENDEES

Designated Council officer(s) will attend the Advisory Committee. The role of this officer/s is to coordinate the Advisory Committee and to fulfil secretarial duties (see section 7 below).

Councillor attendance is optional. The Advisory Committee can meet without a Councillor present.

Guest Speakers/Observers may be invited as required and as determined by the Advisory Committee.

5. CHAIRPERSON

A staff member will act as Chairperson and is required for the quorum.

If the regular Chairperson is absent, an alternative staff member will Chair the meeting.

Councillors will not be eligible to be Chairperson unless specifically appointed by Council.

Training will be available to Chairpersons as required.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

Members will be required to sign a declaration that they have read and understood Council's Code of Conduct and will act in accordance with these Operational Guidelines. This includes communication, representing the Advisory Committee, attendance at relevant meetings / forums / conferences and speaking to the media.

Council's Code of Conduct and associated protocols are to be followed by members.

Members will be required to be respectful of the diverse opinions of others during discussions.

Members are not to use the meetings of the Advisory Committee as a platform for personal accusations / defamatory statements or as an interrogation of Council business.

Ongoing membership will be dependent on members conducting themselves in a respectful, courteous and constructive manner.

Members will be responsible for their own travel to and from Advisory Committee meetings and associated events and activities.

Members will be encouraged to contribute items of interest to the meeting agenda by contacting the Council Officer prior to the meeting. Items may also be raised in General Business.

Members will have no power or delegation to make decisions on behalf of Wollondilly Shire Council or allocate funds.

Members will be expected to actively participate in meetings, working parties (where relevant) and associated activities or events.

In the event that a member cannot attend a meeting, an apology or notification must be made to the Council Officer prior to the meeting.

Consecutive lack of attendance (3 meetings or more) without prior apology may result in the individual member's position being declared vacant by a motion of the Advisory Committee.

7. ROLE OF THE COUNCIL OFFICER

Designated Council Officers are responsible for:

- Chairing the meeting.
- Coordinating the meeting arrangements including calendar notifications.
- Preparation and distribution of agendas, minutes and other reports and communications as required.
- Ensuring that meetings and activities of the Advisory Committee are conducted in accordance with these operational guidelines and any associated protocols including Council's Code of Conduct.
- Identifying any decisions which may require further consideration by Council's Executive or the elected Council body.
- Acting as spokesperson for the Advisory Committee through the Mayor.

8. QUORUM & DECISION MAKING

Five (5) community members would need to be present to form a quorum. The staff member/Chairperson is required for the Quorum.

Councillor attendance is not a requirement to form a Quorum.

The Advisory Committee will make recommendations by consensus. If this is not possible, recommendations may need to be voted upon and a majority vote will be needed for a decision to be recorded.

Council officers and Councillors do not have voting rights but would be able to contribute to consensus decision-making.

At times the Advisory Committee may make decisions which require further consideration by Council's Executive or the elected Council body. Any such decisions will be identified by the Council officer and recorded in the minutes. The matter will then be referred for consideration by Executive and/or Council as required.

9. MINUTES, AGENDAS & REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Meeting date schedules for the coming year are to be placed in the Councillor newsletter, Council's corporate calendar and on Council's website.

Advice of upcoming meetings will be distributed to members and Councillors and posted on Council's webpage at least 10 days prior to the date of the next scheduled meeting (this advice will include an agenda and the previous meeting's minutes).

Minutes are to be taken by the Council officer and distributed to Advisory Committee members, placed in the Councillor newsletter and on Council's website within 14 days of the meeting date.

An annual report will be provided to Council outlining the activities of the Advisory Committee during the previous year and upcoming 12 month period. This should demonstrate clearly how the work of the Advisory Committee has contributed to the Community Strategic Plan 2033 outcomes.

The annual report should also outline proposed priorities for the Advisory Committee in the upcoming 12 months.

10. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

These Operational Guidelines and Terms of Reference have been developed and tailored to meet the specific needs of the Minerals, Energy Resources, Environment and Waste Advisory Committee. The goals and tasks for the remainder of the 4 year term of the Advisory Committee are outlined in the Terms of Reference on page 3 of this document.

Standing agenda items for all working groups:

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Disclosure of interests
- Attendance & Apologies
- Confirmation of minutes
- Tasks/Actions
- General Business
- WHS

11. FINANCIAL

The operational costs of convening Advisory Committees will be met by Council's budget.

No sitting fees or out of pocket expenses will be paid to members of the Advisory Committees.