

Notice of Meeting

Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee Meeting

A Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee Meeting of Byron Shire Council will be held as follows:

Venue	Conference Room, Station Street, Mullumbimby
Date	Thursday, 9 May 2024
Time	9.00am

Shannon Burt
Director Sustainable Environment and Economy

I2024/703
Distributed 06/05/24

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

What is a “Conflict of Interests” - A conflict of interests can be of two types:

Pecuniary - an interest that a person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person or another person with whom the person is associated.

Non-pecuniary – a private or personal interest that a Council official has that does not amount to a pecuniary interest as defined in the Code of Conduct for Councillors (eg. A friendship, membership of an association, society or trade union or involvement or interest in an activity and may include an interest of a financial nature).

Remoteness – a person does not have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the interest is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision the person might make in relation to a matter or if the interest is of a kind specified in the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

Who has a Pecuniary Interest? - a person has a pecuniary interest in a matter if the pecuniary interest is the interest of the person, or another person with whom the person is associated (see below).

Relatives, Partners - a person is taken to have a pecuniary interest in a matter if:

- The person’s spouse or de facto partner or a relative of the person has a pecuniary interest in the matter, or
- The person, or a nominee, partners or employer of the person, is a member of a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter.

N.B. “Relative”, in relation to a person means any of the following:

- (a) the parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descends or adopted child of the person or of the person’s spouse;
- (b) the spouse or de facto partners of the person or of a person referred to in paragraph (a)

No Interest in the Matter - however, a person is not taken to have a pecuniary interest in a matter:

- If the person is unaware of the relevant pecuniary interest of the spouse, de facto partner, relative or company or other body, or
- Just because the person is a member of, or is employed by, the Council.
- Just because the person is a member of, or a delegate of the Council to, a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter provided that the person has no beneficial interest in any shares of the company or body.

Disclosure and participation in meetings

- A Councillor or a member of a Council Committee who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Council is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Council or Committee at which the matter is being considered must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable.
- The Councillor or member must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting of the Council or Committee:

- (a) at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by the Council or Committee, or
- (b) at any time during which the Council or Committee is voting on any question in relation to the matter.

No Knowledge - a person does not breach this Clause if the person did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

Non-pecuniary Interests - Must be disclosed in meetings.

There are a broad range of options available for managing conflicts & the option chosen will depend on an assessment of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the significance of the issue being dealt with. Non-pecuniary conflicts of interests must be dealt with in at least one of the following ways:

- It may be appropriate that no action be taken where the potential for conflict is minimal. However, Councillors should consider providing an explanation of why they consider a conflict does not exist.
- Limit involvement if practical (eg. Participate in discussion but not in decision making or vice-versa). Care needs to be taken when exercising this option.
- Remove the source of the conflict (eg. Relinquishing or divesting the personal interest that creates the conflict)
- Have no involvement by absenting yourself from and not taking part in any debate or voting on the issue as of the provisions in the Code of Conduct (particularly if you have a significant non-pecuniary interest)

Committee members are reminded that they should declare and manage all conflicts of interest in respect of any matter on this Agenda, in accordance with the [Code of Conduct](#).

RECORDING OF VOTING ON PLANNING MATTERS

Clause 375A of the Local Government Act 1993 – Recording of voting on planning matters

- (1) In this section, **planning decision** means a decision made in the exercise of a function of a council under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979:
 - (a) including a decision relating to a development application, an environmental planning instrument, a development control plan or a development contribution plan under that Act, but
 - (b) not including the making of an order under that Act.
- (2) The general manager is required to keep a register containing, for each planning decision made at a meeting of the council or a council committee, the names of the councillors who supported the decision and the names of any councillors who opposed (or are taken to have opposed) the decision.
- (3) For the purpose of maintaining the register, a division is required to be called whenever a motion for a planning decision is put at a meeting of the council or a council committee.
- (4) Each decision recorded in the register is to be described in the register or identified in a manner that enables the description to be obtained from another publicly available document and is to include the information required by the regulations.
- (5) This section extends to a meeting that is closed to the public.

OATH AND AFFIRMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

Councillors are reminded of the oath of office or affirmation of office made at or before their first meeting of the council in accordance with Clause 233A of the Local Government Act 1993. This includes undertaking the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of Byron Shire and the Byron Shire Council and faithfully and impartially carrying out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested under the Act or any other Act to the best of one's ability and judgment.

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

BUSINESS OF MEETING

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 3.1 Confirmation of minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2024 6

4. STAFF REPORTS

Sustainable Environment and Economy

- 4.1 Sustainability Team - project updates..... 13
4.2 Future Discussion Items for Climate Change and Resource Recovery
Advisory Committee..... 42

Infrastructure Services

- 4.3 Resource Recovery Projects Update..... 46

5. LATE REPORTS

6. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- 6.1 Update report from Committee representatives of Mullum Cares, ZEB and
Plan C..... 55

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ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Report No. 3.1 Confirmation of minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2024


5 **Directorate:** Sustainable Environment and Economy

File No: I2024/601

10 **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the minutes of the Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory
Committee Meeting held on 15 February 2024 be confirmed.**

15 **Attachments:**

1 Minutes 15/02/2024 Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee,
I2024/199 , page 8 [↓](#) 

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BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1

Report

The attachment to this report provides the minutes of the Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee Meeting of 15 February 2024.

Report to Council

- 5 The minutes were reported to Council on 28 March 2024.

Comments

In accordance with the Committee Recommendations, Council resolved the following:

- 10 **24-108 Resolved** that Council notes the minutes of the Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee Meeting held on 15 February 2024.

Minutes of Meeting
Climate Change and Resource Recovery
Advisory Committee Meeting

Venue	Conference Room, Station Street, Mullumbimby
Date	Thursday, 15 February 2024
Time	9.00am



BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 - ATTACHMENT 1

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 - ATTACHMENT 1

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES 15 FEBRUARY 2024

Minutes of the Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 15 February 2024

File No: I2024/199

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Cr A Pugh (Chairperson)	Present
	Cr M Swivel	Present
	Cr S Ndiaye	Apology
Staff:	Sharyn French (Manager Environmental and Economic Planning)	Present
	Shane Melotte (Sustainability Team Leader)	Present
	Hayley Briggs (Sustainability Officer)	Present
	Danielle Hanigan (Manager Resource Recovery)	Present
	Sarah Child (Resource Recovery Strategy and Engagement Officer)	Present
	Arika McElroy (Project Support Officer)	Present
Community:	Bronwyn Elliott	Present
	Fleur Brown	Present
	Sasha Mainsbridge	Present
	Elizabeth Gray	Present
	Anne Stuart (ZEB representative)	Present
	Luke McConnell	Apology
	Madeline Green	Apology

Cr Pugh (Chair) opened the meeting at 9.10am and acknowledged that the meeting was being held on Bundjalung Country.

ATTENDANCE VIA AUDIO-VISUAL LINK: Danielle Hanigan

APOLOGIES:

Cr Sarah Ndiaye, Luke McConell, Madeleine Green

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 - ATTACHMENT 1

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES 15 FEBRUARY 2024

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY

There were no declarations of interest.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Report No. 3.1 Confirmation of Minutes of 21 September 2023 meeting
File No: I2024/121

Committee Recommendation:

That the minutes of the Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2023 be confirmed.

(Swivel/Gray)

The recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried.

Note: The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2023 were noted, and the Committee Recommendations adopted by Council, at the Ordinary Meeting held on 23 November 2023.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

There was no business arising from previous minutes.

STAFF REPORTS - INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Report No. 4.1 Resource Recovery Update
File No: I2024/128

Committee Recommendation:

That the Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee notes the report.

(Pugh/Mainsbridge)

The recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried.

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES 15 FEBRUARY 2024

STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

Report No. 4.2 Sustainability Team Project Updates
File No: I2024/114

Committee Recommendation:

That the Committee note the report.

(Swivel/Mainsbridge)

The recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried.

**Report No. 4.3 Future Discussion Items for Climate Change and Resource
Recovery Advisory Committee**
File No: I2024/123

Committee Recommendation:

That the Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee:

- 1. Notes the report.**
- 2. Receives further information on disaster related waste and emergency recovery from Sasha Mainsbridge and Bronwyn Elliot.**
- 3. Receives an update on the future of the Library of Stuff from Sasha Mainsbridge.**
- 4. Receives an update from staff on the electrification of homes.**

(Mainsbridge/Pugh)

The recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

**Report No. 6.1 2024 Meeting dates for Climate Change and Resource Recovery
Advisory Committee meetings**
File No: I2024/124

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11:04am.

STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

Report No. 4.1 Sustainability Team - project updates

Directorate: Sustainable Environment and Economy

5 **Report Author:** Hayley Briggs, Sustainability Officer
Rachel Thatcher, Sustainability Officer
Shane Melotte, Sustainability Team Leader

File No: I2024/591



Summary:

10 This report provides an update on the Sustainability Team's key projects.

RECOMMENDATION:

15 **That the Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee notes the report.**

Attachments:

20 1 Speaking 4 the Planet - Trees the Guardians of Life - Support-Package, E2024/46009 , page 19  

Report

This report will provide updates on the following Sustainability Team Projects:

- a) 2022/23 Annual Emissions Inventory
- b) Urban Cooling / Heat Resilience Plan
- 5 c) Grant applications underway
- d) Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Electric Vehicle and Plant Day
- e) Electric vehicle fast chargers in the Shire
- f) Climate Conversations
- g) Car share
- 10 h) Community gardens
- i) "Speaking 4 the Planet" competition for high schools in the Shire
- j) Support for Community College Ingrained Grant Application

a) 2022/23 Annual Emissions Inventory

- 15 The 2022/23 Annual Emissions report has been delayed several times for different reasons. It will be reported to the 23 May Council Meeting and can then be presented to the next available CCRRAC meeting.

b) Urban Cooling / Heat Resilience Plan

- 20 Staff are continuing their investigation into the development of an urban cooling heat resilience plan. Listed as an action in the BSC Climate Change Adaptation Plan, the plan is focusing on risks to human health but also including agricultural and biodiversity risks. The ongoing works include the following key actions:

- Collaboration with students from Monash University who are supporting some research aspects of the project.
- 25 • Collaboration with the City of Sydney Sustainability and Resilience team who are supporting Council to replicate their development of a heat vulnerability index map for Byron Shire Council. The heat vulnerability index uses a range of ABS spatial data such as housing tenure and health risks to provide guidance on which parts of the community will be at greatest risks to increasing heat projections.
- 30 • Councils GIS officer has also deciphered how to develop a heat map for the shire using land surface temperature data collected by satellites (Landsat Surface Temperature).

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

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- Ongoing engagement with key stakeholders including early discussions with Living Lab Northern Rivers with regard to collaborating on some of community engagement aspects of the project.

5 The Sustainability Team are aiming to prepare an options paper for the project and report it to the Executive Team by the end of the financial year.

c) Grant applications underway

i. NSW Government Electric Vehicle Destination Charger Grants

10 Staff are preparing an application to the NSW Electric Vehicle Destination Charger grants. The due date for applications is 2 August 2024. If successful, the grant funding will cover 75% of the hardware and installation costs, and 75% of the initial year's software subscription cost for up to four charging ports.

15 Staff have selected sites (Council Administration building carpark in Mullumbimby and Lawson Street North carpark in Byron Bay) and have issued a request for quotation. Responses to the RFQ are currently being evaluated and staff expect to notify the successful proponent by 30 April.

ii. Community Energy Upgrade Funding –

20 Staff are preparing an application to the Federal Community Energy Upgrade Funding grants program. The CEUF is a targeted, competitive grant program that provides co-funding for energy upgrades at existing local government facilities. The team are proposing two project concepts under a single application which include the following:

1. Cavanbah Centre Solar and Smart Energy Storage

25 Solar and Smart Battery Energy Storage System at Council's key recreation centre will provide load shifting and flexibility of services and electricity during short term power network outages. This will reduce energy costs and grid reliance and improve the energy resilience of the precinct which is also a major evacuation centre for the Shire. It will assist with aligning energy demand with wholesale renewable energy generation and deliver on absolute contraction of carbon emissions. The system will also function as a virtual power plant where any excess generation will be netted off against Council's total electricity demand through our Electricity Supply/PPA agreement with energy retailer.

30 2. Byron Shire Council Administration Building *or Depot* Smart Electric Vehicle Charging

Smart EV Chargers at Council's Administration Building will allow EV charging loads to be managed based on grid demand, energy costs and grid energy carbon intensity. This will demonstrate the capacity for destination charging at community and commercial facilities to support the transition to electric vehicles and 100% renewables in the grid.

35 Applications for the grant funding are due 30 April 2024 and successfully projects are expected to commence in September 2024. The grant criteria include details of proponent's efforts to make facilities more efficient, reduce energy bills and greenhouse emissions, and capacity building/information sharing associated with the project.

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STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

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d) Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Electric Vehicle and Plant Day

On Wednesday 10 April, the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) in collaboration with Byron, Lismore, Ballina and Tweed Shire Councils hosted an electric vehicle and plant event at the Cavanbah Centre. The day was kicked off by NRJO Chair and BSC Mayor Michael Lyon with approximately 60 people including Councillors and Council staff from across the region attended.

The day was part of an effort to building the region's knowledge on the rapidly advancing electrification of vehicles and plant. It included presentations from a range of key stakeholders and leading organisations providing solutions to accelerating the transition. This included demonstration of how electrification of council fleets can commence now without additional cost burden and inclusive of the necessary charging infrastructure. Several of the presenters are actively working with local councils to support their transition.

There was also plenty of opportunity for test drives with 19 electric vehicles including vans and light commercial vehicles and multiple plant such as street sweepers and mowers at the event. The event was well received and well attended by BSC staff.

e) Electric vehicle fast chargers in the Shire

Staff are analysing what the extent of Councils' role should be in public electric vehicle fast charging, and how best to implement a strategic approach to fast chargers in the Shire. We have engaged a consultant to provide a financial assessment between three operational models (Build, Own, Operate / Land lease / Revenue share) to help guide Council's approach on this matter. We aim to report the business case findings to the Executive Team before the end of the financial year.

f) Climate Conversations

At the February CCRRAC meeting staff reported on the highly successful outcomes of the biennial Climate Conversations project. Given the project's success using a creative and innovative approach to engage the community on environmental issues, the project was nominated in the Innovative Leadership category of the 2024 Local Government Excellence Awards. The project has been chosen as a finalist and will be celebrated at an awards ceremony in June where the final winners will be announced.

This is welcome recognition for the Climate Conversations project and demonstrates a great example of cross-directorate collaboration in delivering a highly successful and impactful project for our community. Staff are now preparing for the second rendition of the event to be held in 2025. An expression of interest is currently being prepared to send out to local community artists in July of this year.

g) Car share

Council currently facilitates a car share program within the Shire. Car sharing forms part of Council's long-term objective to encourage more sustainable modes of travel within Byron Shire. Car share service, Popcar, has held the contract with Council since 2019. Popcar currently operates fourteen cars out of designated bays around the Shire, twelve in Byron Bay and two in Mullumbimby (in the Council Administration building carpark).

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

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Given the success of the program so far, Council has resolved to consider a possible expansion of car share parking spaces. The locations that are being considered are:

- Park St, Brunswick Heads
- Ashton St, Bangalow
- 5 - Beech Dr, Suffolk Park

Council is currently in the process of seeking feedback from nearby business owners and residents in these areas. Feedback will then be assessed and reported to the Local Traffic Committee. If approved, line marking and signage will commence in the coming months.

h) Community gardens

- 10 The Sustainability team has been discussing options to increase community garden awareness and hopefully membership following the impacts of Covid-19 and the cost of living. The gardens serve as invaluable community assets to promote community wellbeing through access to fresh food, social connections, and physical activity.

- 15 Staff are proposing to run an expression of interest for existing community gardens to propose activities and events to promote awareness of the gardens and increase membership. Council will seek to support the activities through in-kind efforts and small financial contributions. We anticipate that the EOI will be prepared and released by the end of May 2024.

i) "Speaking 4 the Planet" competition for high schools in the Shire

- 20 Council has paid a fee so that high school students in the Shire can participate in the ["Speaking 4 the Planet" competition](#). Speaking 4 the Planet is an "arts-based approach to youth advocacy for a sustainable world". The topic for the competition is *Trees, the Guardians of Life* and the deadline is Friday 26 July 2024. Staff will promote the competition to high schools in the Shire at the start of term 2 and advertise it on social media.

The support package for the competition can be found at Attachment 1 - *Speaking 4 the Planet - Trees the Guardians of Life - Support-Package*.

j) Support for Community College Ingrained Grant Application

- 30 Staff recently provide some high-level support to the Community College for the preparation of their grant funding application to the Ingrained Foundation 2024 Grants Round. Titled 'Make Change Happen', the project seeks to provide education from trusted sources at Byron College, access to necessary tools through Mullumbimby Library of Stuff and in-kind support from the Byron Shire Sustainability Team.

- 35 The aim is to deliver a series of workshops that empower individuals with practical knowledge and skills to adopt eco-conscious behaviours such as repair, recycle, and reduce plus preparing for natural disasters. The initiative strives to reduce waste, enhance local biodiversity, diminish reliance on fossil fuels, and cultivate a sense of communal responsibility. Through education and access to resources, the project aims to equip

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

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residents with the knowledge and tools needed to make informed choices that benefit both the environment and their wallets.

Key issues

Nil.

5 Strategic Considerations

Community Strategic Plan and Operational Plan

CSP Objective	CSP Strategy	DP Action	Code	OP Activity
1: Effective Leadership We have effective decision making and community leadership that is open and informed	1.2: Engage and involve community in decision making	1.2.4: Advisory Committees - Coordinate advisory committees to inform decision making on their areas of expertise	1.2.4.1	Coordinate and support Advisory Committees to assist with effective Council decision making

Recent Resolutions

Nil.

Legal/Statutory/Policy Considerations

10 Nil.

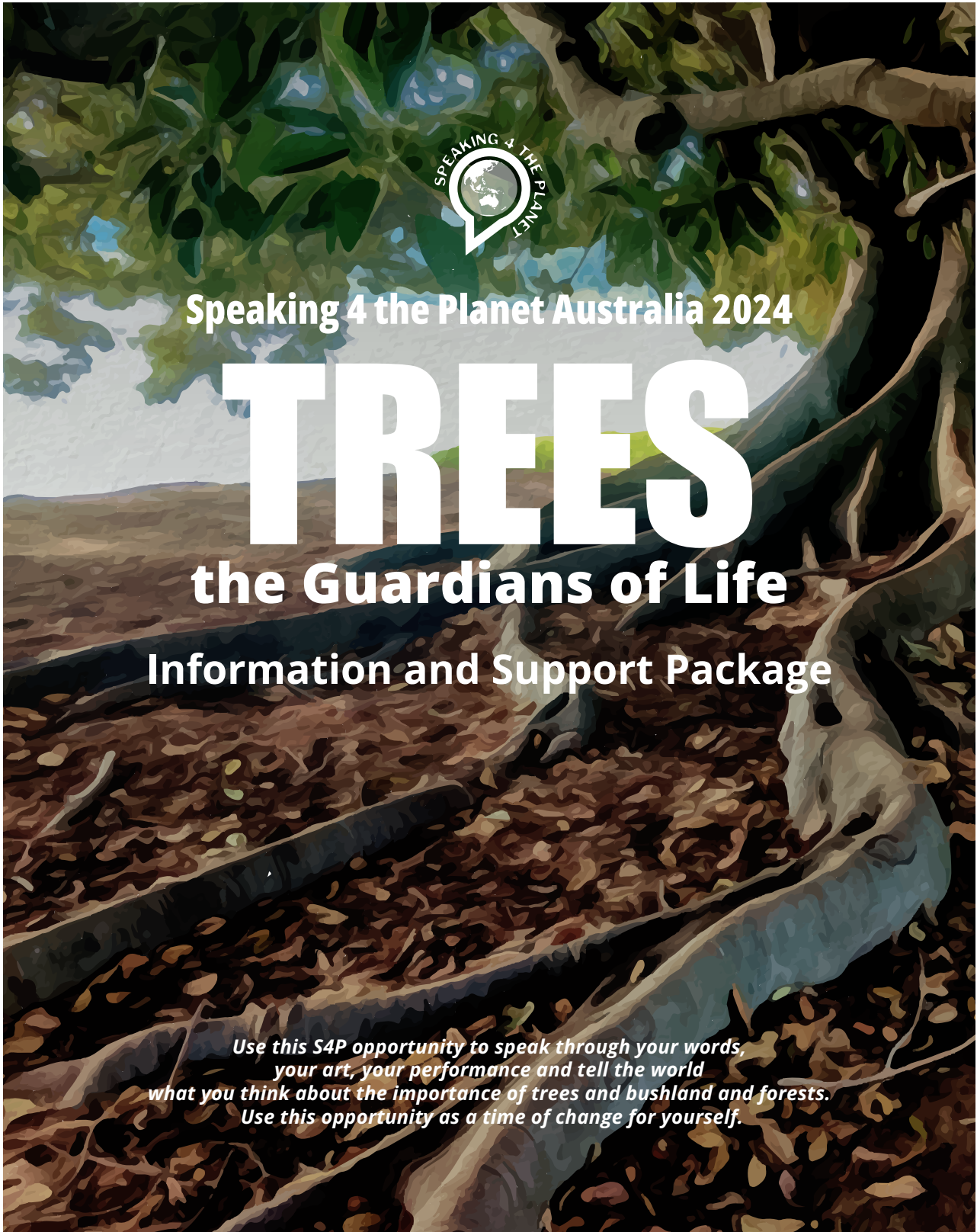
Financial Considerations

Nil.

Consultation and Engagement

Nil.

15



Speaking 4 the Planet Australia 2024

TREES

the Guardians of Life

Information and Support Package

*Use this S4P opportunity to speak through your words,
your art, your performance and tell the world
what you think about the importance of trees and bushland and forests.
Use this opportunity as a time of change for yourself.*



With our project, we aim to make meaningful contributions to the United Nations

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**Speaking 4 the Planet Australia 2024
Information and Support Package**

TREES
the Guardians of Life

**A competition for young people and
teachers around Australia**



Phil Smith
Founder and CEO
Speaking 4 the Planet

phil@speaking4theplanet.org.au

Competition Summary

1. This Information and Support Package is for the 2024 Australian S4P competition. It contains information about the competition categories, and the judging criteria; it also provides some links to articles relevant to the theme.
2. The topic for the competition is **Trees, the Guardians of Life**. This is linked to Sustainable Development Goal #15.
3. The competition will be held online. This package explains how to make your submissions online.
4. The deadline is Friday 26 July. The winners will be announced on 31 August. Check the website on that day.
5. This competition is for high school students (aged 12-18) and for teachers. For the first time, teachers are invited to participate in the writing category.
6. There are four competition categories:
 - **Speaking** – prepared speeches. Maximum time is 4mins.
 - **Writing** – have your say in 30 words.
 - **Visual Arts** – a range of materials/styles can be used.
 - **Performance** poetry – write and perform your own poem. A time limit of 4mins.
7. Participation is free for students and teachers whose councils are supporting the initiative. This link identifies participating Councils: [Trees, Guardians of Life – 2024 – Speaking 4 the Planet](#). If your council is not on the list of supporters, please contact Phil at phil@speaking4theplanet.org.au to discuss how you might participate.
8. Research is vital. This package contains links to useful articles and programs and talks. All participants are encouraged to do their own research.
9. Participants are to produce or present items that are original. They are also invited to make their work quirky.
10. Prizes will be awarded for first and second place.
 - First: practical item plus \$100 voucher from Paddy Pallin (outdoor adventure store).
 - Second: \$100 voucher from Paddy Pallin.
 - Councils are invited to offer local prizes.All participants receive a certificate.
11. Winning entries will be published on the S4P website and form a part of a new digital magazine that will be sent to decision-makers in our communities and country.
12. By submitting their works, participants give permission for their entries to be placed on the Speaking 4 the Planet website and/or used on the Speaking 4 the Planet YouTube channel. Participating councils and competition partners may also wish to place some of the entries on their websites.



Trees Matter

improve health

are beautiful and
inspirational

generate oxygen

sequester carbon

boost wildlife

TREES

help science

reduce pollution

grow the economy

grow the economy

protect the soil and
improve soil quality

help conserve
water

ameliorate climate change
and counter-act global
warming

can be a flood-
proofing tool

Contents

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Prepared by **Phil Smith** and **Hanh Do**

With support from



<https://www.ssec.org.au>



<https://www.paddypallin.com.au>

S4P competitions are supported by the Australian Association for Environmental Education and the World Environmental Education Congress Secretariat



<https://www.aaee.org.au>



<https://weecnetwork.org>

Design and layout by **Petur Farkas**

1. Purpose of this booklet

Trees, bush, bushland, forest, scrub.... Which word do you use?

This year, the Speaking 4 the Planet competition creates an opportunity for you to express your ideas about the importance of trees. You are invited to prepare and deliver punchy, quirky, creative, and pointed submissions that seek to influence the thoughts, emotions, and actions of the audience.

This information package is designed to help you prepare quality entries for the competition. It provides:

- Information on Speaking 4 the Planet and the competition categories
- Judging criteria
- Links to relevant websites and articles.

You are strongly encouraged to research widely and build evidence-based and powerful messages.

2. Speaking 4 the planet: Changing the world, one presentation at a time

Speaking 4 the Planet (S4P) is an arts-based approach to sustainability education. It is a competition for secondary school students that invites students to express their views on matters related to the planet and the future – their future. S4P creates space and opportunities for young people to intertwine humanities and sciences, to philosophise about human actions, and to imagine a better world while standing deep in the science of the world they live in. Youth marches and student strikes are the very public faces of (climate change) protest. Speaking 4 the Planet is an equally powerful opportunity for students to speak up and advocate for a healthy future – for humans and all species.

S4P events inspire young people to think creatively, critically, independently, and courageously; they create space for students to ask challenging questions. S4P creates opportunities for youth voice not silence. The sustainability changes that the world needs won't occur by following existing dogma and practices. New thinking is required. Youthful thinking is required. Speaking 4 the Planet is founded on the belief that science provides the information we need to achieve sustainability, and the arts deliver the vehicles for transformation. Science provides the data; the arts change the world.

Here's a video prepared to support the nomination of S4P for an international Earth Prize. It tells you more about the initiative and demonstrates some of the skills of the students.

[Advocates 4 the Earth](#)

This 2024 S4P competition gives you a chance to step up and speak up about your concerns and fears, about your hopes and dreams and ideas, about the work that needs to be done to create a healthy, sustainable world. The competition moment also invites you to think about how you can help bring about such a world.

Here's [an article on the importance of speaking up](#)

And another article on the importance of public speaking: [Ideas, Inspirations and Incites - with Phil Smith - New Bush Telegraph](#)

Here are some links to great performances from previous S4P events.



[Mother Earth, Chloe. The winner of the first Performance Poetry category 2022.](#)



[Dance and art, Bayview Secondary College, Tasmania, in support of restoring Lake Pedder.](#)

Get inspired by last year's contestants



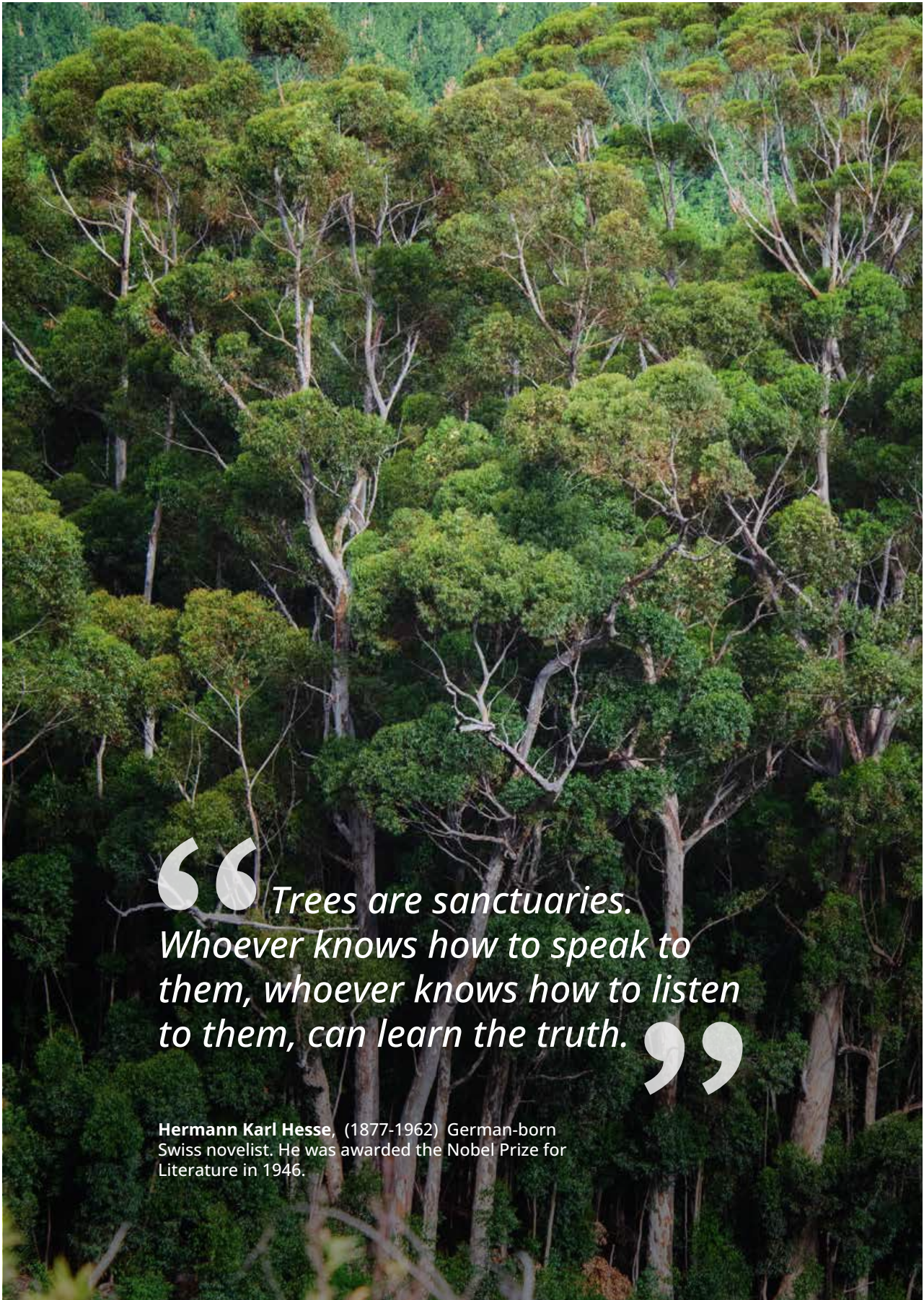
Roseanna
<https://youtube.com/shorts/dbyQtQ2mDoU?feature=share>



Anthony
<https://youtube.com/shorts/Kboj5Y85QU0?feature=share>



Ashwini
<https://youtu.be/hMMvHyZVsns>



“ *Trees are sanctuaries.
Whoever knows how to speak to
them, whoever knows how to listen
to them, can learn the truth.* ”

Hermann Karl Hesse, (1877-1962) German-born Swiss novelist. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1946.

3. Competition partners

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

For the first time, S4P is partnering with the Australian Association for Environmental Education to host this inaugural competition. AAEE is Australia's peak professional body for Environmental Educators. Members work in government agencies, schools, universities, businesses and community organisations. AAEE does these things:

- Advocates for Environmental Education and promotes best practice.
- Supports and contributes to skills development among educators across Australia and internationally.
- Helps members to stay at the forefront of sustainability education and models of change.



Read more: www.aaee.org.au

PADDY PALLIN

Paddy Pallin has supported S4P since the beginning. Paddy Pallin is the first outdoor and adventure company in Australia, and it's also the first outdoor business to support S4P to connect with the next generation of environmentalists. Paddy Pallin sells clothing and equipment to help you get outside and into nature. Paddy Pallin wants to help maintain the quality of the environment so there's something to enjoy when you get out there!



www.paddypallin.com.au

4. Target audiences

This competition is for high-school-aged youth (12-18) and for teachers.

For the first time, **teachers** are invited to participate in the S4P competition – in the writing category.

Teachers are invited to submit a piece of writing – under the same conditions as those for the students. 30 words. Any genre. Any style. Impact matters.

Teachers, please also note that the links in the Resources section below can provide useful ideas for teaching.

5. Competition categories and criteria

There are 4 categories in this competition. All submissions must focus on the competition topic, *Trees, the Guardians of Life*. And all entries must capture something about the local region.

Below is information about each of the competition categories. The judging criteria are also included. **Specialists in each of the competition categories will judge the submissions.**

SPEECH

Participants prepare and deliver a speech on the competition topic. Maximum time 4mins. Remember to include something about your local region in the speech.

The speech is an opportunity for you to suggest innovative ways to raise awareness, influence policies and behaviours, and to improve the integrity of forests and bushland in your area.

Speakers will need to state clearly the problems or issues being addressed. They will also need to make links between problems and solutions, and speakers should also use techniques of persuasion that can shift the way the audience thinks and feels about the issues. The time limit is important. Please avoid reading your speech.

Here are some public speaking tips: [Public Speaking Tips – Speaking 4 the Planet](#)

Here's an article with good advice on public speaking Communication habits that can undermine women's power [The communication habits that can undermine women's power – Speaking 4 the Planet](#)

Here's an article that gives you [Tips on videoing yourself](#)

Judging criteria

A small panel of judges will use the following criteria to judge the speeches and find a winner. You should use them in your preparation.

On topic.

Within the time limit.

Idea:

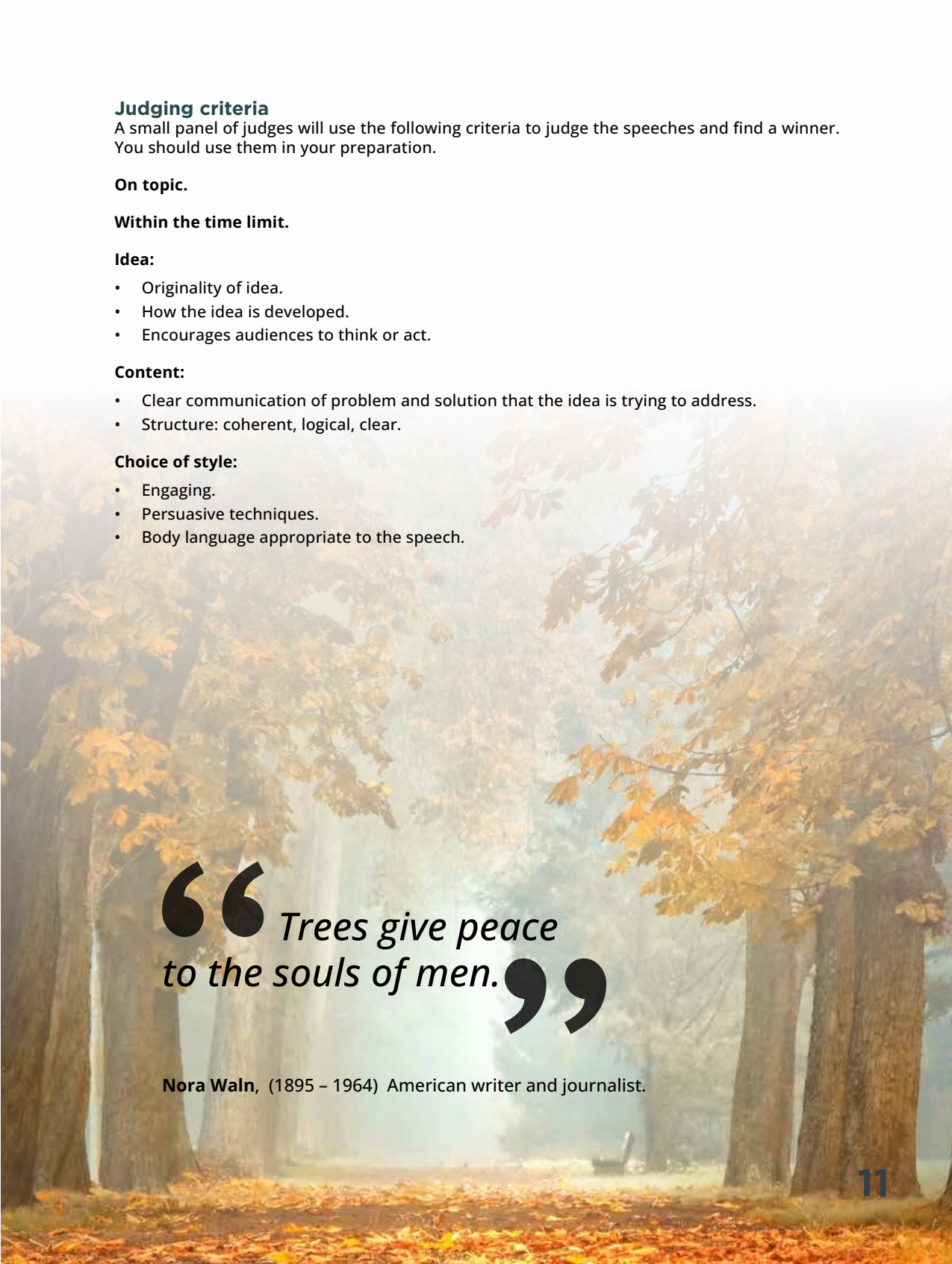
- Originality of idea.
- How the idea is developed.
- Encourages audiences to think or act.

Content:

- Clear communication of problem and solution that the idea is trying to address.
- Structure: coherent, logical, clear.

Choice of style:

- Engaging.
- Persuasive techniques.
- Body language appropriate to the speech.



“Trees give peace
to the souls of men.”

Nora Waln, (1895 – 1964) American writer and journalist.

WRITING

This category requires you to write only 30 words on the topic of the competition.

Remember to ensure your writing refers to local trees and bushland.

Note that you can write in any genre – poetry, prose, drama. You can write fiction or non-fiction. Your writing can be expository, descriptive, narrative, persuasive, creative. Submissions that exceed 30 words will not be considered. Submit your writing as a Word document.

Here's a tip for writing [Tips for Better Writing – Speaking 4 the Planet](#)

Judging criteria

A small panel of judges will use the following criteria to judge your writing submission. You should use them in your preparation.

On topic.

Within word limit.

Clarity of purpose.

Accuracy:

- Spelling.
- Grammar.
- Sentence structure.

Resolution Impact:

- Does the piece move the mind or imagination of the reader and prompt a response?

VISUAL ARTS

Artworks need to be related to the competition topic, Trees, the Guardians of Life. Artworks can be paintings or drawings. Paint, charcoal, ink, graphite, pen, etc. may be used. You may wish to do a cartoon strip.

Here's an article that may be of interest: [Art can Change the World](#)

Judging criteria

Use these criteria in your planning.

Concept:

- Visually engaging.
- Imaginative qualities evident.
- Theme confidently investigated.

Skill in production

- Technically accomplished.
- Skilful interpretation via a selected medium.

Resolution:

- Successfully resolved.
- Clear communication of ideas.
- Creativity evident in finished artwork.

Impact/Meaning

- Clarity of message.
- Makes an impact on viewer.

PERFORMANCE POETRY

Write your own poem. Video yourself performing it. You may invite one other person to help with the performance. Maximum performance time is 4minutes. Ensure your poem and performance are about the competition topic.

Here's an article that gives you [tips on videoing yourself](#).

Read more about performance poetry here [Tips on Reciting](#)

Judging criteria

A small panel of judges will use the following criteria to judge your performance poetry. It will be judged against these criteria. You should use them in your preparation.

On topic.

Within the time limit.

Physical presence.

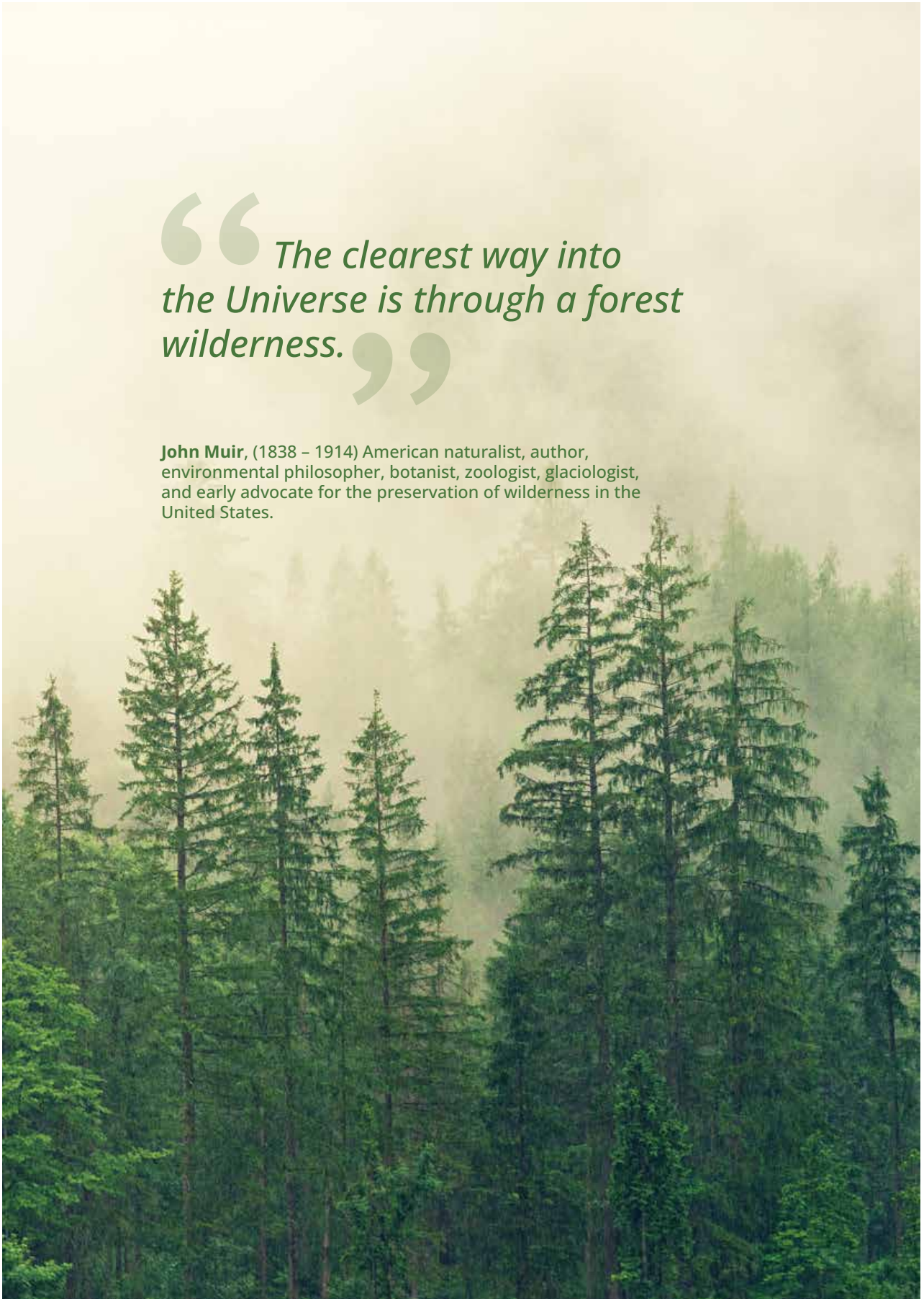
Voice and articulation.

Use of literary devices.

Dramatic appropriateness.

“ *The clearest way into
the Universe is through a forest
wilderness.* ”

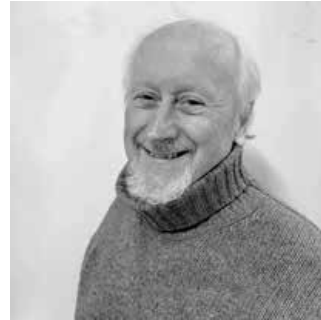
John Muir, (1838 – 1914) American naturalist, author,
environmental philosopher, botanist, zoologist, glaciologist,
and early advocate for the preservation of wilderness in the
United States.



6. The judges

Specialists in each category will assist with the judging. Some are writers and artists, some teach in universities and communities, and some are performers and public speakers. S4P draws on expertise to determine the winners in each category.

For the Writing Category for teachers, S4P has secured the support of a published writer, Rowan Cahill, a graduate of the universities of Sydney, New England, and Wollongong. Prominent in the student, anti-war and New Left movements of the 1960s and 70s, he was a Conscientious Objector during the Vietnam War. He has variously worked as a farmhand, teacher (in the technical education, secondary school, prison, and university systems), freelance writer, and for the trade union movement as a publicist, historian, and rank and file activist. Currently an Honorary Fellow at the University of Wollongong, he has published widely in mainstream, trade union, social movement, and academic publications. His most recent books, co-authored with Terry Irving, are *Radical Sydney* (2010) and *The Barber Who Read History* (2021). His website is at <https://rowancahill.net/>



7. Prizes

Winners will be announced on the S4P website by the end of August. Winners will receive a combination of practical and monetary prizes.

Once again, Paddy Pallin, a competition partner, will provide very practical items for first place in each category. This year, we have added a monetary element to the prizes. In addition to the item from Paddy Pallin, first place winners will each receive vouchers to the value of \$100. Second place winners will simply receive the \$100 voucher.

Councils are invited to provide prizes for any students in their LGAs and find opportunities for students and teachers to present/display their submissions after the competition finishes.

All participants will receive a certificate.

8. Submitting your work

Submit your work here: <https://forms.gle/6KLkY8ffWjKrYAc96>

All submissions are to be made through the portal above. Click on the link – it will take to you a page with questions about name, age, etc., and it will ask you to upload the link of video of your speech or the document with your writing. You must make your videos public so we can access and download for evaluation.

To submit your speech items as a URL, you must create a channel in YouTube.

- You can sign in with your Gmail account and click on the user icon at the top right of the screen
- Click on the gear icon to get to your account's YouTube Settings
- Click on Create a new channel

Upload your video in the channel and **keep in as public or unlisted**. Do not use background music as it may lead to copyright violations.

- After logging into YouTube, click on the 'create a video or post' button in the top right corner of the page.



- From the drop-down menu, select the 'Upload video' option to be taken to the upload page.

While choosing a privacy setting option, select the option of **"Unlisted"** or **"Public"**. Once the uploading completed, add a title and a short description of your video.

9. Resources

All participants are urged to research the topic. This section contains some links to websites that will help in the preparation of submissions. Search for more.

Sustainable Development Goals

Protecting trees and bushland and forests and their habitats and species is the focus of Sustainable Development Goal #15, Life on Land. Check out this specific goal and all the others – they are all connected!

Find the SDGs here: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Achieving the SDGs requires the partnership of governments, private sector, civil society and citizens alike to make sure we leave a better planet for future generations.



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Your Local Council

Check your local council's tree policy and other policies related to the management of trees and bushland in your area.

Also check local community organisations that look after bushland.

Songs of Trees

We have learned from ecological science and evolutionary science and studies of the physiology of plants that, when we walk into a forest, we're not walking into a place that is full of separate interacting individuals. That was the old view of ecology. Instead, we now know that we're walking into a living network, a place where every creature exists only through relationships with others. And so, for example, a tree is not just one species, one individual, but a tree is a living community. Every leaf on a tree has hundreds of species of bacteria and fungi living within its leaves. Without those other species, the leaf cannot function; it gets overrun by pathogens, it can't protect itself from drought.

The message here is to listen to the songs of trees.

<https://www.dailygood.org/story/3176/david-george-haskell-songs-of-trees-preeta-bansal/>

It's the Trees. Are we caretakers or undertakers?

<https://newbushtelegraph.org.au/ideas-inspirations-and-incites-with-phil-smith/>

We breathe out. They breathe in. They breathe out. We breathe in. Exchanging oxygen for carbon dioxide for oxygen. In out. In out.

We live in an intimate relationship with trees. We need to value that relationship and love those trees. David Attenborough has forever told us that, 'We depend upon the natural world for every mouthful of food we eat and every lungful of air we breathe.'

National Tree Day

<https://treeday.planetark.org>

Australia's largest tree planting and nature care event.

Schools Tree Day Friday 26 July

National Tree Day Sunday 28 July

Tropical Tree Day Sunday 1 December

<https://nationaltoday.com/national-tree-day/>

This link includes a history of national tree day.

Schools Tree Day Education Resources

<https://cool.org/schools-tree-day-education-resources>

Tree-Planting

<https://conservationvolunteers.com.au/plant-a-tree-this-national-tree-day/>

This site provides "five incredible reasons why the simple act of planting native trees is so much more than meets the eye."

Mending an Ecosystem

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vL-i_yNcFVY

Permaculture instructor Andrew Millison explains the process for repairing a degraded ecosystem. We begin with the metrics for assessing ecosystem health, and then go over the

steps to triggering biological activity and ecological succession.

Trees provide...

<https://www.co2australia.com.au/why-are-trees-important-to-the-environment/>

[Why Are Trees Important to the Environment?](#)

Most people recognise that trees play an essential role in the environment, but they perhaps undervalue the true extent of these incredible organisms' benefits. Trees provide oxygen and limit carbon in the atmosphere. They reduce air pollution, provide food and shelter for wildlife, minimise erosion and maintain healthy soil, increase rainfall, and absorb sunlight as energy. Simply, trees are an essential component of life on Earth.

Trees and past civilizations

<https://newbushtelegraph.org.au/ideas-inspirations-and-incites-with-phil-smith/>

6 Ways Trees Benefit All of Us

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/build-healthy-cities/cities-stories/benefits-of-trees-forests/>

From a city park to a vast forest, trees deliver for us when we help them thrive.

Australia's forests at a glance

https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/forests_at_a_glance.pdf

Australia has few native conifers, therefore 99% of our native forest area is broadleaf. In contrast, about 60% of plantations are exotic conifers. Native forests are dominated by eucalypt species (78%), followed by acacia species (10%) and melaleuca species (4%).

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30 Australian tree statistics 2022

<https://treesdownunder.com.au/australian-tree-statistics/#:~:text=Native%20Trees%20and%20Canopies,is%20Australia%27s%20oldest%2Dknown%20tree.>

The country has a staggering 24,000 species of native plants and trees. Acacia, grevillea, emu bushes, and gum trees (eucalyptus) are among the most common Australian trees found in native forests. The King's Holly from Tasmania is Australia's oldest-known tree. May 17, 2022

The forests of Australia

<https://www.integratesustainability.com.au/2019/03/29/the-forests-of-australia/>

Forests extend across Australia's northern tropical regions, and down the east coast through sub-tropical regions to temperate cool-season wet and cold-wet zones in the south-east; they are also found in Mediterranean climate zones in the south-east and south-west.

Deforestation in Australia

Australia is the top country among developed countries which has the highest rate of deforestation. More than 135,000 trees are bulldozed on the shores everyday that's 57 times of the area of Sydney Harbour destroyed every 365 days. The urgency of saving trees in Australia. [Why do we need to save trees in Australia? | Why do we need to save trees in Australia? | WWF Australia](#)

Australia has a long history of forest clearing. [Australia spends billions planting trees - then wipes out carbon gains by bulldozing them | Deforestation | The Guardian](#)

Tree myths

<https://forestrynews.blogs.govdelivery.com/2020/03/23/common-tree-myths-and-why-you-shouldnt-believe/#:~:text=Myth%20%231%3A%20A%20tree%27s%20root,as%20the%20tree%20grows%20taller.>

Losing tree cover

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2024/jan/04/its-slipped-off-the-radar-why-are-there-fewer-street-trees-in-the-australian-bush?fbclid=IwAR2KkP2o5XucJ5lfal.9KOZWdHgkSYiTgtd33vyfj786_-6w2Uii8xXN4aMU

'It's slipped off the radar': why are there fewer street trees in regional towns across Australia? Beyond the tree-lined high streets, many regional towns are lacking tree cover and experts say the reliance on cars could be to blame.

Sydney kids, no matter where they live, must have trees to climb

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/sydney-kids-no-matter-where-they-live-must-have-trees-to-climb-20240104-p5ev7o.html>

As Sydney moves to higher density living – and we need to – there must be a focus on green spaces. While more of us live in apartments and townhouses, we must make sure there are appropriate options for generations of screen-focused kids to spend time outside, even in a warming climate.

“But tell me,” Yusuf/Cat Stevens asked, “where do the children play?”

Tree Canopy Indicator

Video included in the document from NSW State Government

<https://www.movementandplace.nsw.gov.au/place-and-network/built-environment-indicators/tree-canopy>

Lots more!

Trees: [5 reasons we need trees for a healthy planet - Earth Day](#)

Trees' values: [The Importance of Trees - Learn Value and Benefit of Trees \(savatree.com\)](#)

More trees" values [22 Benefits of Trees - TreePeople](#)

The power of one tree: [The Power of One Tree - The Very Air We Breathe | USDA](#)

Trees can live long. One tree need other trees. Do trees need people? [Do Trees Need People? - Idaho Forests Products Commission](#)

Native trees in Australia: [Why Trees? | Carbon Positive Australia](#)

Impacts on one of the oldest tree of Australia: [Scientists rush to save Australia's loneliest tree — the 'ice age gum' — from the brink of extinction - ABC News](#)

Tree protection laws in Australian states and territories: [Microsoft Word - Urban Trees_Lensink.docx \(treenet.org\)](#)

Ways to save trees in Australia: [10 ways to help save trees in Australia | 10 ways to help save trees in Australia | WWF Australia](#)

10 facts to fall in love with forests

- 1) Forests are home to over 80 percent of land animals and plants and cover 31 percent of the world's total land area.
- 2) A tree can sequester up to 150 kilograms of carbon dioxide per year. The world's forests store an estimated 296 gigatonnes of carbon in both above- and below-ground biomass.
- 3) Trees are important for creating sustainable cities: in urban areas, they can cool the air by up to 8 degrees, reducing air conditioning needs by 30 percent. Urban trees are also excellent air filters, removing harmful pollutants and fine particulates.
- 4) Wood fuel provides 40 percent of today's global renewable energy supply – as much as solar, hydroelectric and wind power combined.
- 5) Forest products contribute to reducing and replacing polluting and carbon intensive materials.
- 6) Using wood for construction saves about 40 percent of carbon emissions in comparison to concrete, and about 30 percent in comparison to steel.
- 7) More than 25 percent of the medicines we use originate in rainforest plants. Yet only 1 percent of rainforest plants have been studied for medicinal properties.
- 8) More than one third of our biggest cities, including New York, Bogota, Tokyo and Barcelona, get a significant proportion of their high-quality drinking water from protected forests.
- 9) The tallest tree in the world is called Hyperion. It's a coast redwood from California that is an incredible 115.61 metres tall. The largest tree in the world by volume is a giant sequoia called General Sherman which has a trunk 10 metres round and contains an estimated 1486 cubic metres of wood.
- 10) A large oak tree can transpire 151,000 litres of water in a year. On average, 40 percent of rainfall over land originates from evapotranspiration from plants.

Source: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Report No. 4.2 Future Discussion Items for Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee

Directorate: Sustainable Environment and Economy

5 **Report Author:** Arika McElroy, Project Support Officer

File No: I2024/320

Summary:

This report summarises reports and information requested by the Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee.

10 These requests, resourcing and alignment with Council's Operational Plan are tabled for discussion by the committee, to resolve whether these requests are taken to Council for consideration for inclusion in a future Council OP and budget.

15

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee notes the report.

20

Report

The following requests for reports or information have been received by Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee members:

Information requested	Resourcing	Operational Plan & other Council Strategies
<p>Requested by Cr Swivel at 15 February meeting:</p> <p>Receives an update from staff on the electrification of homes.</p>	<p>Staff are not currently resourced to implement a Shire-specific action plan for the electrification of homes.</p> <p>Staff do have capacity to distribute information (see update below) to the community. This could be done in collaboration with Zero Emissions Byron.</p>	<p>There is no activity in Council’s OP that directly resources this action.</p> <p>The following <i>Delivery Plan</i> Action provides indirect support:</p> <p><i>5.3.2: Electrification opportunities - Explore electrification opportunities as they arise.</i> Note that none of the three 2023/24 OP Activities linked to this DP Action are related to the electrification of homes.</p>

Update on the Electrification of Homes

5 Electrification of homes provides an enormous opportunity to reduce greenhouse emissions and deliver cost of living savings over the life of the appliance. There is still significant use of bottled gas in homes across the Shire which is becomingly increasingly more expensive. Gas is generally used for hot water and cooking. Water heating is the second largest segment of household energy use, ranging from 15% to 30%
 10 (www.energy.gov.au).

Electric heat pumps are one electrification step that can reduce the energy needed to provide heating and cooling services and unlock the potential to deliver heating and cooling services with near-zero emissions by integrating heat pumps with renewable energy sources ([Energy Efficiency Council Australia](http://EnergyEfficiencyCouncilAustralia.com)). Electric cook tops such as induction
 15 cooktops also present a highly efficient and increasingly cost-effective alternative to gas cooktops. It is understood that electric ovens are similar in running cost to gas ovens however produce less greenhouse gas emissions, particularly when sourcing energy from renewable sources.

The Climate Council produced a report on “[How Gas is Costing Households](#)” in 2022. The
 20 report reached the following key findings:

- Australian households are trapped in a vicious cycle of escalating gas bills, which are fuelling a cost-of-living crisis.

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STAFF REPORTS - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

4.2

- It would be cheaper for households in all Australian capital cities analysed to be fully electric, with yearly bill savings ranging between \$514 and \$1,899.
 - The biggest barrier for households going fully electric is the upfront cost of replacing appliances, which governments could fix with low- or zero-interest loans.
- 5
- Making the switch from gas to electric is a win for reducing our costs of living, as well for our health and climate.
 - Going all electric requires coordinated government action.

The NSW Government is seeking to support the uptake of heat pumps through the [Energy Savings Scheme](#). The Scheme is an incentive for replacing electric or gas hot water systems with (Home Energy Efficiency Retrofits or HEERs approved) heat pumps or solar water heaters at residential and small Business sites in NSW. This new scheme is based around each product's energy saving percentage that creates the certificate amounts. ACP's (Accredited Certificate Providers) can only create ESC's (Energy Saving Certificates). As noted above, when a dwelling has an existing solar PV system the potential savings over a gas hot water system can be substantial.

10

15

A further opportunity for electrification of homes lies in the adoption of electric vehicles. The cost of electric vehicles is reducing rapidly as the range of options and scale of production increases globally. Furthermore, some electric vehicles include bi-directional charging capability. Also known as vehicle-to-grid (V2G) or vehicle-to-home (V2H), this type of charging enables the EV to supply power back to the grid, or power a home, using energy from the EV battery. Effectively it enables your EV to act as a home battery, storing energy that can be used to power your home or sold to the grid. In the appropriate circumstances this would enable an EV to supply the evening peak electricity requirements for a home.

20

25 Typically, disseminating information about these schemes to the community has been a core focus of Zero Emission Byron (ZEB). However, ZEB are currently focusing on Good Fire (cultural burning). Staff plan to have further discussions with ZEB about the best way to distribute information about these schemes to the community.

Key issues

30 Nil

Strategic Considerations

Community Strategic Plan and Operational Plan

CSP Objective	CSP Strategy	DP Action	Code	OP Activity
1: Effective Leadership We have effective decision making and community leadership that is open and informed	1.2: Engage and involve community in decision making	1.2.4: Advisory Committees - Coordinate advisory committees to inform decision making on their areas of expertise	1.2.4.1	Coordinate and support Advisory Committees to assist with effective Council decision making

Recent Resolutions

Nil

5 Legal/Statutory/Policy Considerations

Nil

Financial Considerations

No detailed costings for requested items provided at this stage.

Consultation and Engagement

10 Nil

STAFF REPORTS - INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Report No. 4.3 Resource Recovery Projects Update

Directorate: Infrastructure Services

5 **Report Author:** Sarah Child, Resource Recovery Projects & Education Officer

File No: I2024/602

Summary:

10 This report provides an update on projects, programs and operational activities being undertaken within the Resource Recovery Department in accordance with the *Towards Zero Integrated Waste Strategy 2019 to 2029*. The Report includes updates on the Implementation of the Single-Use Packaging and Materials Policy, Litter and Illegal Dumping Prevention Strategy, Education and engagement activities and capital projects.

15

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee notes the report.

20

Report

Single-use Packaging and Materials Policy Implementation

The Single-use Packaging and Materials Policy was adopted by Council on 14 December 2023.

5

Implementation of this Policy will be staged to allow for appropriate stakeholder engagement and ensure Council operations are not negatively impacted. It will occur as follows:

10 **Effective 6 months from adoption**, 14 June 2024: Single-use items identified in the Policy are not permitted to be purchased, sold or distributed by Council Staff, Councillors, Committees, Contractors, volunteers and/or other representatives of Council and Council sponsored and/or funded activities and events.

15 In addition, items Balloons and Decorations are not to be used or displayed by any individual (including members of the general public), group or organisation on Councils managed land, buildings, facilities or road reserves.

(There will be a separate campaign to educate the community on the impacts of balloons and other problematic single-use decorations and the best alternatives.)

20 **Effective 12 months from adoption**, 14 December 2024: Single-use items identified in the Policy not to be purchased, sold or distributed by individuals, groups, or organisations planning to use, hire and/or lease Council owned or managed sites (buildings, facilities and land) that require Council's approval, formal notification or a permit to conduct an activity, either directly through Council or via a Section 355 Committee.

25 This includes, but is not limited to halls, events, markets, information sessions, workshops, meetings, parties, weddings, festivals or club activities.

Effective 24 months from adoption 14 December 2025, or at renewal, whichever comes first, the Policy will apply to all private lease or licences within Council owned buildings, facilities or lands.

30 An action plan has been developed that sets out the activities required to ensure a successful transition through the implementation of the Policy.

The Resource Recovery team has engaged consultants and contractors to collaborate on and undertake activities in the Action plan:

35 Mullum Cares – piloting small scale reuse systems at events and regular activities
Better Cup - policy Integration and infrastructure assessment, monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement and awareness
North East Waste - work with the 4 regular regional events, conducting social and data research, visual audits, documenting current waste practices and exploring regional challenges and barriers.

40

A baseline waste audit of Council's operational building has been completed with the report expected to be presented to the RR team in May, 2024.

Domestic Kerbside Audit 2023

5 Every 3 years, Council engages a consultant to conduct a bin composition audit of the kerbside residential waste, recycling and organics bin contents. The audit was conducted in November 2023. The audit categories were updated to reflect any changes to organics and recycling acceptance criteria since the 2020 composition audit. 232 households were audited for approximately 100 sorting categories.

10 A draft report has been received by the Resource Recovery team and is currently being reviewed and results will be used to develop further education campaigns and programs.

Litter and Illegal Dumping Prevention Strategy

The Draft Litter and Illegal Dumping Prevention Strategy was placed on public exhibition on 22 April 2024 and will be open for feedback until 19 May 2024.

15 The Draft Litter and Illegal Dumping Prevention Strategy aims to reduce the impacts by targeting the most problematic items and issues. The Draft Strategy outlines how these issues will be managed over the next five years, with a focus on:

- 20 • Education, awareness and engagement
- Regulation and Enforcement
- Infrastructure, Services and Clean-up
- Source Control and Circular Economy initiatives
- Monitoring, evaluation and research.

25 The Draft Strategy builds on the success of Council's Illegal Dumping and Litter Education and Enforcement Plan 2018 – 2022, which achieved:

- 40% reduction in litter volume
- 30 • 30% reduction in illegal dumping incidents.

The Strategy provides a framework for how we implement actions to achieve an additional:

- 20% reduction in plastic litter items by 2029
- 40% reduction in all littered items by 2029
- 35 • 20% reduction in illegal dumping incidents by 2029.

Council has applied for the EPA's Round 3 Litter Prevention Funding of up to \$500,000 to implement the strategy, which will minimise impact to Councils budget and move expenditure away from reactive clean up to prevention measures.

40 Workshops and General Education

45 A compost workshop was held at the Re-Market (tip shop) in April. The workshop attendees had access to a free bag of mulch and \$15 worm farms and compost bins. The RR team received positive feedback from attendees. RR staff hosted a clothes swap for Council staff and offered a visible mending and alteration tutorial.

An Expression of Interest will be established to invite more artists, creatives and individuals or groups skilled in upcycling to run workshops or have a residency at the The Re-Market.

Lift the Lid visual inspections continue. In 2024, there have been 4,803 inspections conducted and 227 contaminated bins have been identified.

5 Fees and Charges 2024/25

Council resolved that the Draft Operational Plan 2024/25 and associated Draft 2024/25 Budget Estimates, Draft 2024/25 Statement of Revenue Policy including Fees and Charges and Option 2 rating structure be placed on public exhibition.

10

Major changes will include:

Reduction of minimum charge for mixed recycling, cardboard and polystyrene from \$10 to \$5, to better cater for very small loads.

15

Mattress price – mattresses under double size will be change at the tonnage rate for general waste (less than the \$35 each price currently)

Green waste disposal will increase due to increased costs in grinding and processing the material – this will be reflect in the per tonne rate and minimum charge. Mulch sale price will remain as is.

20

General waste will increase by \$10 per tonne due to the increase in waste levy by this amount.

Capital projects – Byron Resource Recovery Centre

25

A new Resource Recover Project Officer commenced in April to oversee the Capital Projects at the Byron Resource Recovery Centre.

Stormwater Infrastructure Upgrade - package 1:

A tender package advertised with 3 submissions received from suitable contractors. Preferred supplier has been selected and will go to the May planning meeting for endorsement, with the intention of work commencing in late May/ early June.

30

Environmental protection licenses have been modified and endorsed by Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to include the upcoming stormwater package 1 works.

In addition to the tender, Council sought the services of an engineering consultancy (Planit) to provide a Superintendent's Representative to undertake contract management and Site supervision for the construction of the Stormwater Upgrade - Package 1.

35

Leachate System Upgrade:

Final detailed design received from GHD and submitted to EPA for review in April. Delivery and construction quality assurance plans are being finalised with the aim of submitting to EPA at the end of April. Additional electrical scope design is underway and due for delivery in May. Project is currently under time constraints due to weather window, council elections, EPA review.

40

Construction tender to be advertised late May with the aim of awarding construction contract in late June. Due to the specialist nature of these works project delivery will

depend on availability of suitable contractors. Works require a superintendent and construction quality assurance engineer who must be independent of the company managing the construction.

5 Landfill Capping and Rehabilitation:

The final draft drawings are due to be released by the consultant in late April with document and design completion to follow. Landfill capping and rehabilitation will follow the stormwater and leachate upgrades.

Project delivery, at this stage, will be 2025/26.

10 **Strategic Considerations**

Community Strategic Plan and Operational Plan

CSP Objective	CSP Strategy	DP Action	Code	OP Activity
3: Nurtured Environment	3.5: Minimise waste and encourage recycling and resource recovery practices	3.5.1: Waste management and resource recovery strategy - Implement Integrated Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy - Towards Zero	3.5.1.1	Maintain membership and participation in the North East Waste regional waste management group
3: Nurtured Environment	3.5: Minimise waste and encourage recycling and resource recovery practices	3.5.1: Waste management and resource recovery strategy - Implement Integrated Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy - Towards Zero	3.5.1.3	Improve management of Council generated waste through development and implementation of a policy that supports circular economy and waste hierarchy principles by eliminating single use packaging and materials
3: Nurtured Environment	3.5: Minimise waste and	3.5.1: Waste management	3.5.1.4	Develop updated Illegal Dumping and

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	encourage recycling and resource recovery practices	and resource recovery strategy - Implement Integrated Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy - Towards Zero		Litter Education and Enforcement Plan (IDLEEP) for 2024 - 2029 in accordance with new NSW EPA litter and illegal dumping strategies and targets
3: Nurtured Environment	3.5: Minimise waste and encourage recycling and resource recovery practices	3.5.2: Recycling - Work with business and tourism sector to reduce waste to landfill	3.5.2.2	Expand reusable networks in the takeaway food sector and decrease single use, disposable packaging
3: Nurtured Environment	3.5: Minimise waste and encourage recycling and resource recovery practices	3.5.3: Waste collection and landfill - Maintain and enhance solutions to recover / treat / dispose of residual waste	3.5.3.1	Maintain and manage Waste and Resource Recovery Collection, processing and disposal contracts
3: Nurtured Environment	3.5: Minimise waste and encourage recycling and resource recovery practices	3.5.3: Waste collection and landfill - Maintain and enhance solutions to recover / treat / dispose of residual waste	3.5.3.2	Support the progression of a regional waste management and circular economy initiatives in alignment with the adopted strategy and relevant resolutions
3: Nurtured Environment	3.5: Minimise waste and encourage recycling and resource recovery	3.5.4: Education - Empower the community to increase avoidance,	3.5.4.3	Develop and support community-based sustainability and circular economy initiatives that increase reuse, repair

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	practices	reuse, and recycling activities		and upskilling
3: Nurtured Environment	3.5: Minimise waste and encourage recycling and resource recovery practices	3.5.4: Education - Empower the community to increase avoidance, reuse, and recycling activities	3.5.4.4	Improve and enhance the ReMarket (Tip Shop) to support the expansion of local reuse and repair economy
3: Nurtured Environment	3.5: Minimise waste and encourage recycling and resource recovery practices	3.5.4: Education - Empower the community to increase avoidance, reuse, and recycling activities	3.5.4.5	Provide support, information and resources to community stakeholders to assist with salvage, repair and appropriate disposal during disaster clean-up activities
3: Nurtured Environment	3.5: Minimise waste and encourage recycling and resource recovery practices	3.5.4: Education - Empower the community to increase avoidance, reuse, and recycling activities	3.5.4.6	Reduce contamination in kerbside organics and recycling through visual contamination audits, education campaigns, in-vehicle monitoring, and composition audits every three years
3: Nurtured Environment	3.5: Minimise waste and encourage recycling and resource recovery practices	3.5.5: Facilities and services - Provide resource recovery facilities and services that meet statutory requirements	3.5.5.3	Capping, closure and rehabilitation of Myocum Landfill Project - planning and detailed design phases
3: Nurtured Environment	3.5: Minimise waste and	3.5.5: Facilities and	3.5.5.4	Implement Stormwater

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	encourage recycling and resource recovery practices	services - Provide resource recovery facilities and services that meet statutory requirements		Management Plan (Byron Resource Recovery Centre) Project
3: Nurtured Environment	3.5: Minimise waste and encourage recycling and resource recovery practices	3.5.5: Facilities and services - Provide resource recovery facilities and services that meet statutory requirements	3.5.5.6	Leachate System Upgrade (Byron Resource Recovery Centre) Project planning and detailed design phases

Recent Resolutions

Report No. 13.15 Draft Litter and Illegal Dumping Prevention Strategy

File No: I2024/480

5 Resolved that:

1. The Draft Litter and Illegal Dumping Prevention Strategy 2024-2029 (Attachment 1 E2024/32361) be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.

10 2 a) Should there be no submissions, the Draft Litter and Illegal Dumping Prevention Strategy 2024-2029 is endorsed from the date after the close of the exhibition period and;

15 b) Should submissions be received, the Draft Litter and Illegal Dumping Prevention Strategy be reported back to Council noting the submissions and any amendments made as a result of the feedback received
(Lyon/Westheimer)

Report No. 13.3 Public Exhibition of draft 2024/25 Operational Plan, Budget, and Revenue Policy

File No: I2024/419

20 Resolved that the Draft Operational Plan 2024/25 (Attachment 1 #E2024/31007) and associated Draft 2024/25 Budget Estimates (Attachment 2 #E2024/34913), Draft 2024/25 Statement of Revenue Policy including Fees and Charges and Option 2 rating structure (Attachment 3 #E2024/34797) be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
(Dey/Lyon)

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*The motion was put to the vote and declared carried.
Crs Coorey and Westheimer voted against the motion.
Crs Swivel, Ndiaye and Balson were absent for the vote.*

Legal/Statutory/Policy Considerations

5 [NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041](#)

[Towards Zero Integrated Waste Strategy 2019 to 2029 - Byron Shire Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

[Policy-Single-use-Packaging-and-Materials-Policy-2023-current_policies \(2\).pdf](#)

Financial Considerations

Projects are Grant funded or funded through the Waste Reserve.

10 **Consultation and Engagement**

Resource Recovery Team

5 **Report No. 6.1 Update report from Committee representatives of Mullum Cares, ZEB and Plan C**

Directorate: Sustainable Environment and Economy

Report Author: Ainsley Rose, Project Support Officer

File No: I2024/321

Summary:

10 Committee representatives of Mullum Cares (Sasha Mainsbridge), ZEB (Anne Stuart) and Plan C (Jean Renouf) can provide a verbal update of their respective organisations.

Report

At the 15 February meeting the Committee recommend that they:

- receive further information on disaster related waste and emergency recovery from Sasha Mainsbridge and Bronwyn Elliot.
- 5 • receive an update on the future of the Library of Stuff from Sasha Mainsbridge.

Following Sasha’s update, ZEB and Plan C can provide an update of their respective organisations.

Strategic Considerations

Community Strategic Plan and Operational Plan

CSP Objective	CSP Strategy	DP Action	Code	OP Activity
1: Effective Leadership We have effective decision making and community leadership that is open and informed	1.2: Engage and involve community in decision making	1.2.4: Advisory Committees - Coordinate advisory committees to inform decision making on their areas of expertise	1.2.4.1	Coordinate and support Advisory Committees to assist with effective Council decision making

10 **Recent Resolutions**

Nil

Legal/Statutory/Policy Considerations

Nil

Financial Considerations

15 Nil

Consultation and Engagement

Nil