

# Hills Climate Action Group Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	Saturday 28 June 2008		
<b>Time:</b>	3:30pm		
<b>Location:</b>	St Cuthbert's Hall Darlington		
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Annolies Truman	<b>Minute Taker:</b>	Gary Warden
<b>Attendees:</b>	Jayne Simpson, Paul Wilson, Meg Wilson, Barry Healy, Karin Lutz, Ellen Wiedenhoeft, Toni Warden, Karen Harvey, Terry Howlett, Sharryn Turrell, Maureen Mandy, Kieren Mandy, Ruth Balding, Glenys Letchford, Malcolm McDonald		
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mel Haymont, Rory Haymont, Jopie Peetoom		

Topic	Discussion	Action	Who
<b>Eastern Terminal Substation</b>	<p>Toni Warden provided an update on the status of the Eastern Terminal Project.</p> <p>Due to pressure initiated by the SETS group, Western Power has now extended the time for submission of comments on its site selection process until 31 July.</p> <p>SETS has also written a letter to the Minister for Environment complaining about clearing of forest for the construction of a new power line from Collie to Perth without any form of environmental assessment.</p>	Forward details of project and site selection process to HCAG members	Toni Warden
		Forward project details on to personal e-mail distribution lists	HCAG members
		Submit comments to Western Power in relation to concerns about proposed site selection process	HCAG members
<b>Bulk Purchase of Photovoltaic Cells</b>	<p>Barry Healy informed the meeting that he had contacted a Perth-based company, Solar Unlimited that was offering 1Kw grid connect systems for \$1,800 after the Federal Government rebate. The company offers two types of panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monocrystalline – these are high efficiency and are good for where roof space is limited and where shading is not a concern. The panels do stop producing electricity if shade falls on any part of the panel.</li> <li>• Amorphous Thin Film – these aren't as efficient as the monocrystalline, however they are less impacted by shade, perform better in hot conditions and contain less embodied energy. They are a good option where space is not a factor.</li> </ul>	Send copy of ACF's proposed letter to the Prime Minister relating to introduction of means test on solar panel rebate scheme.	Gary Warden
		Consider holding a public forum to promote self-generation and generate sufficient interest to obtain bulk purchase discount	Barry Healy

	<p>Kieren Mandy briefed the meeting on research that he had done into wind turbines. Perth is one of the ten windiest cities in the world. Consumers can purchase wind systems ranging in size from 1Kw to 50kW for approximately 1/3 of the cost of the equivalent photovoltaic system. Unfortunately the \$8,000 federal government rebate isn't available on wind systems, however this is a good option for people who don't qualify for the rebate or who need a system larger than 1kw.</p>		
<b>Foot Paths</b>	<p>Karen Harvey provided an update on the status of this topic. A submission was made to council to build new footpaths to connect the local schools. Asked council to move footpath construction forward, highlighting that combined with climate change and serious health issues associated with lack of exercise, we need to encourage more people to walk. There is \$138,000 in the council budget set aside for the open space area and \$110,000 set aside for crossings and speed control measures. However this has been in the budget for several years and hasn't happened. Have 200 signatures on a petition.</p>		
<b>Rainwater Tanks</b>	<p>Jayne Simpson briefed the group on the findings of her research. There are a great number of issues that need to be considered when thinking about buying a new rainwater tank. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calculating the amount of rainwater you'll get off your roof;</li> <li>• Considering filtering of rainwater to produce drinking water. However fluoride is a potential issue.</li> <li>• Installation of backflow preventers;</li> <li>• Installation of first flush diverters. Need to consider what will happen to discarded water.</li> </ul>	<p>Organise trip to Haydn and Janette Woods' property to view their 100,000l rainwater tank and water harvesting system</p>	<p>Annolies Truman</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considering what will happen to overflow.</li> <li>• Leaf-guarding of gutters.</li> </ul> <p>There are a huge number of materials available for construction of tanks, including concrete, fibreglass, steel, polythene etc. Virtually all tanks contain plastic - even steel tanks are lined with plastic. Advantages of plastic are that they're light and recyclable. However there is no research into long term effects of plastic.</p>		
<b>Building Codes</b>	<p>Terry Howlett updated the group on his research into building codes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Shire of Mundaring is part of the "Cities for Climate Change" program and has an aim of reducing emissions by 20% compared to 1998 levels by 2020. They undertook an audit and a report was due out at the end of 2007 looking at ways of achieving this target.</li> <li>• Fremantle Council is currently leading the way in adoption of environmentally friendly building codes. Its building code incorporates building orientation, location and size of windows, requirements for insulation and overshadowing of neighbouring buildings. Unfortunately it does get overwritten by other policies.</li> <li>• Melbourne is one of the leading cities in the world with their design protocols. For example the CO2 building is leading-edge.</li> </ul>	Load up story on CO2 Building in Melbourne onto HCAG website	Gary Warden
<b>Public Forums</b>	<p>Annolies has started planning for a climate change / social change conference in Perth during March next year. The purpose of the conference would be to inform people and to galvanise them into action. Would work on this in conjunction with other people from around Perth. Has spoken to people who would be interested in talking at the conference, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geophysicist who no longer</li> </ul>		

	<p>thinks that nuclear energy is the way to go and is now exploring renewable energy, in particular geothermal energy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scott Ludlum.</li> </ul>		
<b>Electronic Newsletter / Website</b>	<p>Gary Warden noted that the website is up and running at <a href="http://www.wardoffclimatechange.org.au">www.wardoffclimatechange.org.au</a></p> <p>Copies of minutes are loaded onto this site. We will now develop a newsletter as a way of directing members to the website</p>	Develop Electronic Newsletter	Gary Warden
<b>Climate Action Network</b>	<p>Toni and Annolies spoke about a number of climate action group networks, including WWF, The Big Switch and CANA (Climate Action Network Australia).</p>	Include information on networks in newsletter	Gary Warden
<b>Other</b>	<p>Barry Healy prepared a press release regarding the formation of HCAG. An article appeared in the June 28 edition of the Hills Gazette. A copy of this will be placed on the website.</p>	Load copy of Hills Gazette Article on website	Gary Warden
	<p>The meeting agreed to join the Building Codes subgroup with the State Development laws subgroup</p>		
	<p>A new subgroup will be formed to look at Climate Change Law. Meg Wilson, Karen Harvey and Toni Warden agreed to be on this subgroup</p>		
	<p>A new subgroup will be formed to look at protection of our natural environment – taking in the prevention of clearing and the revegetation of degraded areas. Paul Wilson, Maureen Mandy and Glenys Letchford agreed to be on this subgroup</p>		
	<p>Ellen Wiedenhoft and Ruth Balding agreed to join the Water Tanks subgroup.</p>		

	Glenys and Malcolm agreed to join the Solar Panels subgroup.		
<b>Next Meeting</b>	3:30pm Saturday 26 July St Cuthbert's Hall, Darlington		