

From: Tue, 25 May 2021 12:04:50 +1000
To: City of Wagga Wagga
Subject: Public Exhibition Submission

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• Draft 2021/2022 Combined Delivery Program and Operational Plan

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Submission:

Submission to the Draft 2021/2022 Delivery Program and Operational Plan - Net zero emissions I commend the New South Wales Government and Wagga Wagga City Council who have agreed to achieve net zero emissions in the community by 2050 (2040 for WWCC). These were defined in the Local Strategic Planning Statement, where objectives, outcome and strategies for the environment and sustainability were defined and clarified. Elements of the Community Strategic Plan (the CSP) provided some detail for the movement to net zero emissions on pages 46-47. I was disappointed to notice that the Combined Delivery and operations Plan only briefly mentions the Net Zero Emissions (NZE) Strategy twice in the document and, given the urgency of NZE needs to more closely connect to these earlier planning documents. There is a need for more focus and action. The great importance and urgency of net zero emissions requires greater detail, incremental targets, real achievable objectives and options for action. We are a LGA that is predicted to be highly affected by climate change: more intense and frequent droughts, fires and floods as a result of climate, as listed on the Councils own website: • Increases to both minimum and maximum temperatures throughout the year • More frequent heatwaves that last longer • Experience fewer cold nights • A shift from when we experience rainfall, with less rain in spring and more rain in autumn <https://clicktime.symantec.com/34xrbYn9x9q25gXDQWMpURC7Vc?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwagga.nsw.gov.au%2Fthe-council%2Fenvironment%2Fclimate-change>. These impacts will seriously affect the economic, cultural and environmental viability of the City of Wagga Wagga and its rural surroundings. It is important that that Delivery program and Operational Plan provide great focus, including funding, to concentrate on this important issue. While there are already published actions provided by the Council

and other actions that can add support and education to the community, business and agricultural practices to achieve NZE, the Council should more proactively act. These actions include but aren't limited to: • Investigate changing the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and the Development Control Plans (DCPs) to more closely follow objectives and targets to NZE, including paths and funding options to achieve these, • Related to this point, work with local business and within Council itself to identify on-site solar photovoltaic systems on large commercial rooftops, including battery storage and EV charging stations and provide mechanisms to achieve high targets set within this program, • Be part of the solution by proactively be involved in the recent Federal Government budget and local CSU research focus on soil carbon sequestration and measurement

(<https://clicktime.symantec.com/3CQamToKabNvgdVo6g3zzPw7Vc?u=https%3A%2F%2Ftheconversation.com%2Fpay-dirt-200-million-plan-for-australias-degraded-soil-is-a-crucial-turning-point-160704>) • As an addendum to the point above, provide immediate funding for planning and planting to be more proactive in building more extensive native vegetation community places and 'habitat highways' to bring back some of the original communities. Over 90% of local box woodlands have been cleared on the western slopes of NSW. As climate change proceeds, revegetation success will become more difficult and costly. On a personal note, I commend Council on the Active Travel Plan and was most impressed with the new Kapooka cycle path. On Sunday, the path was being used by children on bicycles and scooters, adult cyclists and dog walkers. It represents what is possible as a community resource when native vegetation communities are available. • Educate the community on the urgency and the practical implications of the move to a more sustainable city, the benefits that will accrue to the LGA • The urgency to achieve net zero emissions is strong; fund a project to investigate the possibility and pathways to achieving net zero emissions by 2030 to build momentum in achieving success. There are recent indications that setting NZE's will not by themselves be enough to reduce the risks associated with climate change, but it is an important step in the right direction, that with good community publicity and education will build community agility and positivity in working on this urgent issue. Thank you for the opportunity to submit.