

From:
Sent: Tue, 25 May 2021 13:42:33 +1000
To: City of Wagga Wagga
Subject: Draft 2021 2022 Delivery Program
Attachments: Submission to Draft 2021.docx

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see attached.

Submission to Draft 2021/2022 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

This is a very short submission, not detailed. I apologise in advance if the readers of this submission are fully cognisant of these issues.

The NSW Government and Wagga Wagga City Council are committed to acting together to achieve net zero emissions (NZE) by 2050.

That time frame may shorten as environmental problems, and solutions, accelerate. It is a truism: failures start slowly, then “fall off the cliff”.

Pathways to NZE are numerous and require complex analysis, defining objectives and outcomes. Then funding decisions follow.

Some observations about public policy funding and implementation/monitoring. Some recent disasters:

- Successive Murray darling management plans. Near-to-nothing done to monitor actual daily operations and compliance. Massive roting. Minimal prosecutions.
- Aged care sector. Office tasked with overseeing and maintaining standards in this industry did only 2 or 3 actual on-site inspections. Desk-bound public servants reluctant to go to the “coalface”?

Any NZE policy needs to avoid this. Constant real time monitoring is the gold standard. This must be costed and funded.

A broad issue. A hallmark of modernity is “remoteness”. With the second phase of the industrial revolution, starting in the late 19th century, the need to locate factories close to power source was removed. Electricity could be generated in power stations hundreds of kilometres away. Soon power, water and other services would be provided to houses from remote sources. Rubbish would be carted away, to distant dumps. Local produce was supplanted by industrial food, sold in huge supermarkets. The local general store disappeared. In Wagga the processing of Riverina primary produce largely ceased – it is now trucked out, processed elsewhere. There is a huge amount of literature on this...

Generally, NZE policies seek to reverse many modern notions. We are now asking people to take an interest in their rubbish, to think about it and to sort it! To think about the source of their power, beyond the wall switch! This is a “big ask”.

Local or nearby actions, where sustainability is the goal and NZE will be advanced, should be examined and emulated. The Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) project. The Junee Community Power project (JCPP).

Warwick Grundy