

Report of John Gabrielson's Address to AGM – 3.12.2010

John Gabrielson from City of Mandurah addressed PPG's recent Annual General Meeting and commenced by explaining the teams under his control

- Ranger & Emergency Services which includes Wildlife, control of beaches as well better known activities, like animal and litter control.
- Environmental Health which includes water (and shellfish) quality monitoring and mosquito control (we have had 7 aerial sprayings this year). Remember Ross River Virus is again active.
- Building and Development Compliance which includes illegal clearing
- Eco Services with which PPG frequently deals. This department has 400 environmental volunteers eg "Friends" Groups. The local State of the Environment Report prepared by this department is being updated and will be a working document with a Report Card system for annual reviews.
- Climate Change Service is the newest department where Brett Brenchley now works to carry on and support Mayor Paddi Creevey who is an expert and strong campaigner in this field. John reports that the most recent predicted Sea Level Rise figure has been adjusted upwards from .7m to .9m. Paddi told us that much attention has been paid to ocean fronts, estuary and rivers but reminded us that lakes will also be affected by the rise in water levels. This department is working on a Climate Change Impact document which is due to be released in 2011. City of Mandurah takes climate change seriously and has reduced their corporate energy uses by 30% since 1998. They have done a Vulnerability Risk Assessment for our area.

John went on to comment on other subjects and projects that he is involved in –

Waterways – Both the Murray and Serpentine are seriously degraded with poor water quality as evidenced by algal blooms and fish kills. There needs to be greater support from the State Government to work towards a remedy for this situation.

Thrombolite Recovery Group - is a state govt. initiative which was established to look after the thrombolites in Lake Clifton. CoM are a member of the group which hasn't really been as active as they should be so it is our intention to encourage greater activity in this area. To help further we are about to embark on a project to examine land use in the area with a view to identifying possible sources of pollution which may impact on water quality and the general well-being of the Lake Clifton system. Part of this project is education of residents.

Solar Energy - A future goal/aim is for zero carbon pollution (without offsets) – see "Zero Carbon Australia 2020" on the internet. Solar Energy Project, large scale – we are preparing a paper to try to get funding to examine the feasibility of a large scale solar power project in the Peel region hopefully offsetting a significant amount of energy use, maybe 30 -40%. We are in the very early stages of this but we hope to be able to attract funding to begin study. In respect to the City of Mandurah' energy use we currently have reduced overall energy use by about 30% with a view to being carbon neutral by 2020, without the need to purchase offsets. This is ambitious but we wish to aim high.

Electric Cars – The City is about to take delivery of its first electric car, to be used and assessed for introduction of a fleet for shorter journeys. They expect a 250km range and the cars could be used in delivery of Council services around the area.

Solar Cities Initiative will make use of improving environmentally sustainable design. John remarked that the Mandurah Sustainable House was so well designed it remains relevant and up-to- date. He feels building design codes are slower than they should be to adopt newer sustainable designs.

Materials Recovery Facility - Of the 24,000 tonnes of domestic garbage collected annually in Mandurah, 8,000 tonnes are recycled. This greatly reduces the amount going to landfill at Dardanup. City of Mandurah gains income from royalties for recycling material from nearby centres. Although uncertain when it will eventuate, a planned new facility would include a "Recycling Shop" where used but useful goods could be given new life. Currently the nearest facility of this type is in Millar Road and run by Rockingham City Council.

John then took some questions and told us the “Significant Tree Register” is available on the City of Mandurah website.

The question arose about the watering of some civic areas /parks 3 times per week. This is a question he will put to the Parks & Gardens staffs, as he is not sure why but will ask if there is a review process given water scarcity.