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Circular Economy Opportunities

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Presented by the City of Mitcham

Introduction



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- Tasked to investigate the Circular Economy, in particular:
 - Immediate opportunities for the City of Mitcham
 - Identifying the Council's role
 - Key areas of interest
- Findings to be summarised in a report to Council and Administration
- In essence, the circular economy aims to:
 - Design out waste and pollution
 - Keep products and materials in use
 - Regenerate natural systems

Initial Project Scope



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- Analysis of opportunities to move to a circular economy model with respect to: council procured waste, council procurement, and waste collection
- Recycling and organics budget: ~\$2.5million/year
- Landfill disposal budget: ~\$2million/year
- Procurement budget: ~\$10million/year
- Opportunities include:
 - Landfill diversion tactics
 - Increased recyclates in supply chain
 - Use of local recyclates



Initial Project Scope



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- Creation of a Circular Economy Hub (commercial gain/research outcomes) in the Tonsley/Flinders/St Marys Area
- Current Research Hubs:
 - ARC Research Hub for Transformation of Reclaimed Waste Resources to Engineered Materials and Solutions for a Circular Economy
 - CSIRO
 - Planet Ark
 - RMIT
- Opportunities include: Nothing currently, but potentially in the future

Initial Project Scope



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- Community engagement exercises to identify and remove barriers faced by the community, and to increase community understanding of the circular economy
- Online education
- Community events (repair cafes, community gardens)
- Opportunities include:
Awareness and engagement campaigns, community workshops

Initial Project Scope



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- Identify best practice in the circular economy, particularly in the local government sector
- Supranational, National, Regional Plans exist
- Less at the local government level, but this is changing
- Ideas from academia and industry are beginning to disseminate to local government
- Opportunities include:
Development of plans, circular governance



Initial Project Scope



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- Identify opportunities for legislative change at Federal and State level to build the circular economy
- South Australian Waste Strategy (Draft) 2020-2025 has primary aim of transitioning to a circular economy
- National Waste Policy has similar aims
- Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management created recently to supplement Federal decision-making
- Product Stewardship Act 2011 is under review
- Opportunities include: Support of legislative decisions, inform the public

Initial Project Scope



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- Identify opportunities for local businesses to participate in the circular economy
- Rate reductions, press releases, etc.
- Educational resources – workshops, online lectures, programs
- City of Mitcham Grant Finder
- Opportunities include: EDO, education



Narrowing the Focus



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- Surveyed City of Mitcham staff and elected members to identify priorities for the circular economy and the City of Mitcham
- Priorities identified were:
 - Procurement
 - Waste
 - Legislative Change
- These were cited as important due to budgetary considerations, widespread impact, and local government influence
- While the initial scope was considered, these became the focus

Major Project Goals



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- Development of a report on Circular Economy Opportunities for the City of Mitcham
 - This was identified as the best way to summarise a variety of actions
 - Accompanying action plan
 - Aligns with other documents, such as climate adaptation and GHG emission reduction reports
 - Many actions align with Cities Power Partnership and other pledges
- In addition, began progress on some actions

Circular Economy Opportunities



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- The Circular Economy Opportunities Report aims to explain:
 - The current state of the circular economy in the City of Mitcham
 - A variety of actions to encourage circularity
 - Future actions and long-term goals
- The proposed actions are under 5 categories:
 - Waste
 - Sustainable Procurement
 - Community Engagement
 - Business and Collaboration
 - Circular Governance
- Many of the actions relate to recent climate emergency pledges and intentions



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Year	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23
Focus Area			
Waste	Zero Waste campaigns		
	Bin standardisation and catalogue study	Investigate solar panel product stewardship and recycling, council involvement	Investigate waste per kilogram charge
Sustainable Procurement	Introduce Sustainability into procurement	Target high impact supply chains and reintroduce local recyclates into the supply chain	Investigate LCA requirements and inclusion in procurement policy
Community and Council Engagement	Increase CE awareness internally and in community	Develop learning tools for the community	Develop community markets and workshops
Business and Collaboration	Investigate circular economy reporting framework or annual report	Develop incentives for businesses to integrate CE	
	Map CE collaborations to educate business community	GISA, LGA, and other grants	
Circular Governance	Integrate CE into SMP	Setting circularity targets and integrating metrics	
	Follow GHG and Climate Adaptation roadmaps		

Proposed Action Layout



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- **Who** – Which members of staff (or external contractors) will be working towards the action
- **Council's Role** – Leader, Partner, Facilitator, Advocate, Delivery
- **Timeframe** – The estimated time that the action will take to develop, conduct, and finish
- **Outcome measure** – Brief explanation of expected outcomes for the action
- **Internal and external budget estimate** – Will be developed throughout the development of business cases for the proposed actions

Research Towards Actions



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- **Sustainable Procurement**
- Procurement currently undergoing changes
- Proposed changes to:
 - Procurement Policy (language changes)
 - Procurement Guidelines (added section)
 - Procurement Intranet (short page on sustainable decision-making)
 - Procurement Evaluation Matrix (language changes)
 - Procurement Open Tender Document (added section)
- Internal documents on:
 - High Priority Procurements for Sustainability
 - Sustainability in Procurement Reference Guide

Research Towards Actions



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- **Extended Producer Responsibility**
- Report of recommendations for CoM to influence EPR in South Australia
 - Official endorsement of Product Stewardship Act 2011 Review. For CoM, this mostly involves increased community support and awareness
 - Development of tools for local businesses to better understand and utilise EPR opportunities (including grants)
 - Endorse and encourage EPR schemes for key waste streams in the City of Mitcham – plastic packaging and solar panels
 - APCO have developed National Packaging Targets for 2025
 - Sustainability Victoria involved in developing national approach for solar panel disposal



Research Towards Actions



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- **Circularity Metrics and Targets**
- Developed a document detailing how to quantify the circularity of the City of Mitcham (as a corporate entity, not the LGA)
- Method was adapted from a variety of documents, including:
 - Circulytics by The Ellen MacArthur Foundation
 - Circular Material Use Rate by the EU
 - Circular Transition Indicators by WBCSD
- No methods were found specific to local governments, so changes had to be made
- Initial methodology made several assumptions, but given more time (and better data) a closer estimate could be made

Future Work



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- Formally receive report in council agenda (forthcoming, going through final drafting)
- Future Work includes:
 - Development of business cases for chosen actions
 - Continuation of sustainable procurement work (in alignment with sustainable procurement pledge)
 - Work towards 75% landfill diversion rate according to pledge



Conclusions



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- The City of Mitcham is in a potentially unique position in local government in Australia to make a commitment to encouraging a circular economy
- This work is in-line with many other objectives and actions, including:
 - The Cities Power Partnership
 - Climate Adaptation Reports
 - Greenhouse Gas Emission Reports
 - Council intentions and pledges

