

**Submission from Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle on
Leichhardt Council's
“Draft Environmental Sustainability Plan 2015 to
2025”
and
“Draft Environmental Sustainability Plan - 4-year
Service Delivery Plan 2015 to 2019”**

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Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle welcomes Leichhardt Council's continuing efforts to reduce the environmental impacts of the Council's activities in particular, and of the community in general.

Our comments on the drafts...

Draft Environmental Sustainability Plan 2015 to 2025

p. 36

"Globally, Australians have the eighth highest per capita emissions of any country in the world"

Worse, highest of all developed nations.

"The Australian Conservation Foundation Consumption Atlas9 ... estimates the ecological footprint of residents in the Leichhardt LGA at 7.83 hectares per person per year."

We appreciate that this is actually what it says at that site, but it makes no sense. We do not each of us require another 7.83 ha. each year! It should just say "7.83 hectares per person".

p. 38, Objective 3

"3. Council can assist the community to break the link between high standards of living and high carbon emissions. "

We feel that this wording unnecessarily reinforces the notion that there is inherently such a link. We suggest instead:

3. Council can assist the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, demonstrating that high emissions are not a necessary consequence of high standards of living.

p. 39

"Heat-related death rates could rise to between 8,000 and 11,000 people per year by the end of the century from a base figure of just under 6,000 in 1990"

We assume this is nationally.

p .41

"Emissions are categorised under three scopes "

While we understand the logic of doing this, it does make it hard to get an overview of all the main emissions sources in direct comparison. Maybe add one more graphic, pooling all scopes, but only showing sources responsible for more than 5% of the total?

"Forty-eight percent of Council's emissions are Scope 1 and 2 and 53% are Scope 3 emissions (Figure 6). "

The figure shows 54% scope 1 + scope 2, 46% scope 3.

p 42

"Scope 3 emissions are other indirect emissions, such as ... electricity-related activities (e.g. transmission and distribution losses) not covered in Scope 2; "

Not sure it makes any sense to separate these from consumption in scope 1. Any action by council to address the scope 1 component will equally affect the scope 2 component.

"The greatest source of Scope 3 emissions is street lighting (Figure 8). Street lighting assets are owned and managed by Ausgrid, meaning Council has no direct control over these emissions."

This wording suggests council has no plans to address this, even though it accounts for 24% of all council's emissions.

Ausgrid has conducted successful tests on LED street lighting and is rolling out

LED for councils that require it^{1,2,3}. As a carrier that charges the utilities per unit of energy carried, Ausgrid has no interest in halving the power consumption of such a large component of their business. It is not clear how the sale of the poles and wires to a private owner might affect this dynamic.

We suggest that council's plan should include

1. Working with Ausgrid to drive a changeover to LED street lighting, and/or
2. requesting state government
 - 2.1. to make provisions for local councils to own or control street lighting and/or
 - 2.2. to make requirements that a future private owner of Ausgrid be required to provide energy-efficient lighting to councils.

¹<http://www.ironbarksustainability.com.au/resources/news/article/leds-approved-in-new-distribution-areas/>

²<http://www.governmentnews.com.au/2015/01/many-councils-take-change-light-bulb/>

³<http://www.thefifthstate.com.au/politics/local-government/ipwea-electricity-utilities-impeding-led-street-lighting/65524>

Draft Environmental Sustainability Plan - 4-year Service Delivery Plan 2015 to 2019

p 14, 1.1.2

"connected, walkable and cyclable neighbourhoods. "

Needs to encompass through routes across LGAs.

p 20, 2.2.8

"Earth Hour: Support the annual international Earth Hour."

With some justification, *Earth Hour* is criticised for giving people a false sense of having done something useful. E.g. turning out the (modern, low power) electric lights and burning a paraffin-based candle; this achieves the exact opposite of reducing emissions while raising living standards!

If council is to express support for *Earth Hour*, it needs to suggest ways to make it truly beneficial.

p 26, 3.2.3

"Provide clear guidelines regarding solar PV development assessment requirements on Council's website."

We ask that the the guidelines also be reviewed, making every effort to simplify the process and to minimise restrictions.