



Minutes Banyule Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee

9 December 2022

Banyule Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee | Minutes



Meeting details

Date of meeting	Thursday, 8 December 2022
Time	6pm – 8:30pm
Venue	Room 4.06, Level 4, 1 Flintoff Street Greensborough
Chair/Facilitator	Cr Alida McKern
Minutes	Ellie Hall

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

“Our meeting is being held on the Traditional Land of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and, on behalf of Banyule City Council, I wish to acknowledge them as the Traditional Custodians. I would also like to pay my respects to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders, past, present and emerging, and to acknowledge other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Elders joining us today.”

Inclusive Banyule Statement

“Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation, and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.”

Attendee

Attendee name

Denise Fernando - BECAAC Member

Jacinta Humphrey – BECAAC Member

Lynne Siejka - BECAAC Member

Paul Gale Baker - BECAAC Member

Michelle Giovas - BECAAC Member

Cr Alida McKern - Chair

Cr Peter Castaldo

Cr Tom Melican

Jonathan Risby – Environment & Transport Manager

Damien Harrison – Environment Coordinator

Ellie Hall – BECAAC Contact Officer

Paul Davis – Biodiversity Advisor

David Moon – Development Planning Coordinator

Tom Crawshaw – Park Ranger

Apologies

Name

Banyule Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee

Alex Del Brocco

Alex Tzikas

Kellie Watson

Sarah Bandey

Trivess Moore

Vicky Rowe

Jack Ellis

Items

1. Introduction

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians

Diversity Statement

2. New Items

Bushland Management Update

- Krefft's Gliders on Darebin Creek – monitoring program from 2017. Nest box program with FO Darebin Ck. Numbers peak over summer and have risen consistently over the past five years. Current population estimate is 50-60 individuals.
- Community plantings – 6,000 plants planted with volunteers in 2022. FO Darebin Ck project along Darebin Ck corridor.
- Northern Grassland Reserve – restoration project from scratch. Direct seeding program has transitioned a significant degraded area into 100% native ground cover.
- Robert Bender microbat program in Ivanhoe.
- Montmorency Environment Group – nest box program. Collecting data on boxes to monitor wildlife over time.
- Ensuring we gather community / citizen science data is important.

Green Factor Tool and Tree Controls

- Designed by the City of Melbourne
- Being applied on a voluntary basis by inner city Councils
- Sets a target score of 0.55 for most developments, and 0.25 for industrial sites.
- Trial included a range of permit applications across eight res and one industrial typology.
- In high density environments elevated scores rely on planter boxes and green roofs.
- In core residential areas scores are meeting the mark and no improvements are required.
- Multi-townhouse developments tend to be moderately below the target score, and medium trees and shrubs are often required to achieve target.
- Industrial are significantly below target and greater interventions are needed.
- BESS & Green Factor not mandatory at present.
- Other option is to Improve Neighbourhood Character Policy
- Encourage use of Greenfactor tool – we do this through pre-app process and repeat this at public notice. Question raised about how we better incentivise use of the tool (i.e. faster processing, or reduced fees).
- Encourage green roof/walls/facades for high density
- More understorey planting in townhouse developments
- % garden cover requirement (30%) introduced recently.
- Vegetation protection controls – native protection in NE. Native and exotic along Yarra River corridor.
- Planning investigations – 74 tree-related in 2022.
- How can we better inform the community and developers about tree protection guidelines? Need to ensure the information is pitched appropriately to each distinct geographic area.
- Need to tailor Green Factor to Banyule if continued use as it currently has City of Melp priorities in the back end.

Biodiversity Working Group

- Denise, Michelle, Vicky & Lynne are current nominated reps. One councillor rep sought to chair the working group.
- WG term will commence in March for a three-month period, meeting three times for a maximum of 1.5hr each meeting.

- The Chair will follow up with the Mayor and CEO to secure a suitable Councillor rep for the WG.

ACTION: Send the ToR out to the broader BECAAC group and confirm these by 18 Dec

ICLEI

- The Chair promoted the benefits of Council becoming a member of ICLEI.
- Holistic approach to supporting government progress sustainability in Oceania.
- Given we are strongly committed to climate action, biodiversity and the urban forest (key priorities for ICLEI), it might be worthwhile becoming a member.
- Neighbouring councils are members.
- Cost of \$3,600 incl. GST per annum.
- Supports Cities with Nature, Circular Food Systems Program. Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate Action.
- BECAAC members encouraged to read background information on ICLEI ahead of a possible motion at the next meeting.

ACTION: Briefing on ICLEI Membership to come to BECAAC in March

State of the Environment Report

- Ellie presented the key messages and findings.
- Biodiversity – 13,994 indigenous plants planted, introduced G4W program and reported on the continued increase in the Krefft's Glider population. G4W program widespread, with 155 applicants to date.
- Water – tracking under target with our water use. 1300 tonnes of silt removed from waterbodies in the year, which is significantly above the 180-tonne target. This is due to the Alan Noy Wetland project. 300,000L pumped into Alan Noy wetland.

ACTION: Find out what happens with the silt? How long does it stay on-site and how is it stored?

- Corporate emissions – PPA came online on 1 July triggering a significant drop in our emissions footprint. Cogen turned off at Watermarc in March 2022.
- Community emissions – incentivising through Solar Savers, Better Score and Better Energy, HWBP
- Waste – FOGO trail led to the introduction of the program earlier in 2022. Successful nappy workshops.
- Community engagement – upskilling workshops, enviro grants, BECAAC, Change Makers, Nature Mystery Maps
- Data on canopy cover important for future reporting / monitoring – to be include in the next SOE

ACTION: Ensure the SoE comes back to BECAAC before being taken to Council for adoption?

ACTION: Follow up on permeable surfaces data.

3. Standing Items

Northeast Link Update

- Funeral for the trees on 19 November to recognise the significant loss and raise political awareness of the impact of the development.
- More protests planned in 2023.
- 5 storey car park at Watsonia Station – will create a large visual barrier.

Urban Food Strategy Update

- Big hurdle is that people engaged in the discussion at present are already well informed and supportive of urban food.
- Resident feedback – local food economy is currently retracting. Barriers to healthy eating include that it is harder to access local food, economic disparity with cost of living stress, food groups would like to collaborate more (i.e. community gardens). Gardens provide an opportunity to showcase what is possible in urban gardening in the local area.

- Urban farm movement
- More ops to buy local food
- More comm initiatives like food swaps, pop-up market
- 54% of Banyule residents shop for food outside of the area.
- People want more diversity of small food retailers in their local area.
- People being time-poor a barrier (i.e. time to cook, time to shop).
- Lack of understanding for a proportion of the community about where their food comes from / how it is produced.
- Members encouraged to contact Paul or email any suggestions to him.

Council Reports & Updates

- SOE
- Urban Forest – will be a 12-week consultation finishing in March 2023.
- Election of Cr Peter Castaldo as Mayor and Cr Alida McKern as Deputy Mayor.
- Uluru Statement of the Heart was supported. An emotive decision and moving for attendees.
- Budget preparations for 2023-24. 13 December consultation.