



Minutes
Banyule Environment
and Climate Action
Advisory
Committee
9 June 2022

Banyule Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee | Minutes



Meeting details

Date of meeting Thursday, 9 June 2022

Time 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Venue Online – MS TEAMS

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

Kellie Watson – BECAAC Member

Denise Fernando - BECAAC Member

Lynne Siejka - BECAAC Member

Jack Ellis - BECAAC Member

Paul Gale Baker - BECAAC Member

Trivess Moore - BECAAC Member

Vicky Rowe – BECAAC Member

Jacinta Humphrey – BECAAC Member

Cr Alida McKern – Chair

Cr Peter Castaldo

Cr Tom Melican

Jonathan Risby – Manager Environment & Transport

Ellie Hall – BECAAC Contact Officer

Paul Davis – Biodiversity Advisor

Apologies

Name

Alex Tzikas – BECAAC Member

Michelle Giovas – BECAAC Members

Items

1. Introduction

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians

Diversity Statement

2. Hurstbridge Rail Feasibility Study

Discussion

- Vic Roads new entrance into Banyule via bike rather than Heidelberg Rd – a bridge over Darebin creek is an option but expensive.
- Opportunity to extend the bike lane along Ellesmere road
- Works in McNamara street for bike lanes through to Macleod Station.
- DOT will come out with an announcement on bike lanes around Heidelberg station. St James to Rosanna, no indication of that.
- Greensborough/Monty bike path, at the moment the option is to cross Para Road, rather than utilise the underpass.
- Some of the routes weave in and out, are we ensuring signage is part of the project – **A:** wayfinding signs are mentioned
- Can we ensure any materials used in making path are sustainable – **A:** This is not in scope of this project but would be part of discussion with hope to advocate for state funding.
- Are we looking at habitat restoration works across this corridor? – **A:** That will be in scope – three criteria biodiversity, habitat and visual improvement.
- Main driver was residents wanting beatification along the railway.
- Really great community engagement piece, well done
- Eaglemont are sceptical about the plan as it seems like it is only a bicycle plan, the biodiversity aspect needs to be integrated.

Recommendation

BECAAC recommends that any further investigation and new works regarding the Hurstbridge line prioritises habitat, biodiversity and its value as a wildlife corridor.

3. No Local Extinction Plan

- Six species are: Eltham Copper Butterfly, Swift Parrot, Powerful Owl, Platypus, Kreffts Glider, Growling Grass Frog
- Mapping of Powerful Owls – 5km buffer, are we using that buffer for all species. – **A:** Yes, we want to understand the connected habitats and how we can work with neighbouring local gov and state gov.
- Will there be recommendations for community members on how they can be involved. – **A:** Want to use community and citizen science initiatives to help understand our species. Not just about awareness and knowledge building, but practical things public can do to contribute.
- Platypus mentioned, does that mean working with MW to improve water quality. – **A:** Yes, Water sensitive urban design as standard to clean water off our hard surfaces. Working with MW on healthy water by supporting terrestrial habitat growing around water ways.
- Need to involve the broader community and send information to ensure people appreciate these species.
- Community is integral to the success of these programs.
- Using species that are cute and cuddly and recognisable will help people to connect to them.
- Having these types of documents which bring all our work together will give us evidence to ensure strong protections can be better advocated for.
- Reference document in the planning scheme, this document brings together for the whole municipality.

- Monty Sugar Glider Report is incorporated into this NLE
- The full list of Fauna will be available public.
- Focused on fauna to get the community involved

Action

Send out final tech report when ready

4. Banyule Refuge Centres

- Understand Emergency Relief Centres and some upcoming threats, vulnerabilities or opportunities.
- These deliver life support and essential services to people effected by an emergency.
- This is evolving as disasters change.
- Threats and hazards are increasing, vulnerability gaps are widening, and emerging trends are changing demands and expectations
- We need to leverage existing assets for use as ERCs & ensure we have different scales of response so people don't have to go to the ERC unless necessary.
- We also need to ensure mitigation for climate change, good communication, upgrades of housing stock.
- Design principles: Diversity, adaptability, robustness, technological capacity, passive capability – need to be able to do their job when services are out
- University was used in Lismore Floods, make sure to look at other organisations like La Trobe.
- Internal referrals already are sent to Emergency Management for council owned facilities, indoor and outdoor.

5. BCEG Energy Expo

- BCEG looking to hold an expo for clean energy to be held at Old Shire Offices, want to show EVs and other energy efficiency products.
- Looking to be held on 25th September.
- Looking to include the Community Energy Officer
- BCEG is planning an EV bulk buy in November partnering with the Good Car Co.
- Old Shire Offices to be a show room for clean energy solutions.

6. Councillor Update

- Green Factor Tool – City of Melb tool. Several Councils have adopted it.
- One of the criticisms of the Green Factor, is that it is largely about green roofs/walls as it was based on a city scape.
- It could have application in Banyule as it considers soil substrate, along with other things.
- Study showed we need to improve the way we assess landscape in planning applications to address urban heat island, biodiversity loss and to provide more green canopy on private land.
- Resolved at the last Council Meeting, that council would receive within the next 6 months, more testing of the Green Factor Tool, to understand its application in the Banyule Planning Scheme.
- ESD – Sustainability Guidelines for corporate use. Looking to get easier to access ESD guidelines hosted on our website.
- BECAAC was presented with Council braded Sustainable Building guidelines for internal use at the last meeting.
- There is no provision of Council branded guidelines for public use. Council currently has links on its website to the CASBE website which has public ESD guidelines.
- Planning dept is looking into providing a Council branded copy of these guidelines to be housed on the council website.

7. FYIs

- FOGO: Across the month of June, kitchen caddy's will be delivered to households in Banyule, to assist with collecting food waste in the kitchen and transporting it to your FOGO bin.

- WCS 50 Years: Wanted to give a shout out to Warringal Conservation Society on finally getting to celebrate their 50-year anniversary (they've actually been going for 52 now!) They were supposed to have a big celebration as part of the Arty Farty Festival which got cancelled in March 2020. They have been continuously advocating for the green spaces in Banyule in that time and are incredible custodians of the Banyule Flats.
- Re-Recruiting for BECAAC: Going to recruit for two new members to join us for our September meeting. The link for EOI's will be circulated.
- Acknowledge This: As part of the UpSkilling program this workshop will teach participants how to deliver a genuine acknowledgement of country. Thursday 7th July, 6pm-8pm
<https://www.trybooking.com/BWUCD>

8. Council Reports

- **Yarra Strategic Plan (Burndap Birrarung bumdap umarkoo)**
 - This was to note the official release of the final strategic plan.
 - The Plan is made up of two parts – Part 1 is for achieving the performance objectives and Part 2 the land use framework, covers statutory planning matters.
 - The four 10-year performance objectives in Part 1 – a healthy river and lands, culturally diverse corridor, quality parklands, and protecting the natural beauty of the Yarra – will mostly be achieved by local and state government authorities continuing to invest and maintain current assets as per their operational plans.
 - Part 2 of the Plan is the land use framework, which provides directions for future land use and development that aligns with the performance objectives in Part 1. It is set at a regional scale and will inform planning scheme amendments. This includes whole-of river actions and a series of land use directions that apply to the four *reaches* – *urban rural*, *lower rural*, *suburban* and *inner city*. The land use framework will be incorporated into local planning schemes as a background document through a planning scheme amendment process managed by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).
 - Approval of the Plan brings the first Victorian integrated river corridor strategy into operation and is the culmination of five years of collaboration and partnership between Melbourne Water, the Traditional Owners and the Yarra Collaborative Committee (YCC).
 - Melbourne Water will continue as lead agency for implementation of the Plan and the YCC will reconvene to support this process.
 - Banyule will continue to be represented on the YCC and will now be required to have regard to and implement it in pursuit of any Council actions in the Yarra River corridor.
- **Ivanhoe Aquatic Centre redevelopment – stage 2**
 - Throughout 2021, several workshops were held to address the scope of this next stage and exploration of Sustainable Environmental Design (ESD) goals.
 - A concept plan for Stage 2 has been developed and includes full electrification of the centre, additional program and leisure water spaces (including spa and sauna) and associated amenities.
 - This design responds to the increased community and member need for aquatics space at Ivanhoe to support growth in learn to swim, demand for better opportunities for lap swimming and other water-based programs such as aqua classes.
 - Stage 2 scope once implemented will deliver on Council's commitment to net zero through an all-electric, 5 Star Green Star accredited facility outcome.

- A Community Engagement plan has been developed and broad consultation on the plan will take place throughout April and May.
- **Elevating ESD targets – stage 2**
 - Banyule City Council is a member of the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) and has been collaborating with the CASBE in partnership with a group of 31 Councils across Victoria in Stage 1 of the Elevating Targets Planning Project.
 - The Elevating Targets project sets out to improve existing local ESD policy including the introduction of mandatory minimum standards to work to achieve net zero carbon emissions for energy use in new buildings where a planning permit is required.
 - Council participating in this project is consistent with the direction and commitment articulated in Banyule’s Community Climate Action Plan and the project has the potential to lift ESD in planning outcomes and furthers Banyule’s advocacy position on climate action.
 - Concurrently, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) have released a Roadmap outlining the State Government’s agenda for supporting ESD through Victoria’s planning system.
 - Stage 1 of a two-stage process of the project has now been completed which developed the evidence base through a set of three Technical Reports to support improved environmental performance within the Banyule City Council Planning Scheme, in conjunction with CASBE and a group of 31 Victorian Councils
 - Stage 2 of the project involves the Planning Scheme Amendment Process and is estimated to commence from June 2022. Key standards the project is proposing to improve include:
 - Zero carbon operating requirements
 - Increased landscaping and green infrastructure
 - Increased bicycle parking and EV infrastructure
 - Updated circular economy standards
 - Increased water efficiency targets
 - New indoor environment quality standards