



Minutes Banyule Environment & Climate Action Advisory Committee

10 March 2022

Banyule Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee | Minutes



Meeting details

Date of meeting Thursday, 10 March 2022

Time 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Venue Online – MS TEAMS

Chair/Facilitator Cr Peter Castaldo

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

Alex Tzikas - BECAAC Member

Lynne Siejka - BECAAC Member

Jack Ellis - BECAAC Member

Paul Gale Baker - BECAAC Member

Michelle Giovas - BECAAC Member

Trivess Moore - BECAAC Member

Vicky Rowe – BECAAC Member

Cr Alida McKern

Cr Peter Castaldo - Chair

Cr Tom Melican

Ollie Forster – Banyule Staff

Daniela Tartaglia – Banyule Staff

Pierre Asselin – Banyule Staff

Ruth Robles McColl – Banyule Staff

Jonathan Risby – Environment & Transport Manager

Ellie Hall – Sustainability Officer / BECAAC Contact Officer

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
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Jacinta Humphrey	BECAAC Member
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Linus Mayes	BECAAC Member
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Items

1. Introduction

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians

Diversity Statement

2. Community Energy Service

Ollie Forster

- The Community Energy Officer was established out of the Community Climate Action Plan.
- Community Energy Service;
 - Compare bills
 - Advice on upgrades
 - Support participation in various state and federal programs
 - 88 resident contacts 2022
- Solar Savers
 - Preferred supplier program
 - Easy, affordable, quality
 - 86 enquiries, 8 installs
- Better Score
 - 35 recipients of \$1,500 for upgrades
- What actions do you see as most impactful?
- Avenues for engagement?

Discussion

Council has access to data on who is building/ who is in energy stress, accessing this data would help.

Council should be adjusting people's sense of what is normal – insulation, heat pump, induction.

Display the new technologies in Council buildings and use our reach to adjust the new normal

BCEG provides technical support – lots of community groups who could be skilled up.

Need to keep pushing into vulnerable groups – e.g. BANSIC

Libraries can host energy officer to do one on ones, lots of young families and retirees.

Local businesses, chamber of commerce.

CERES Eco house – somewhere to go and see these technologies working

Rental properties miss out – can do things like draught proofing

Incorporate energy efficiency into community buildings for people to see

Making sure we're promoting stuff that is affordable.

Retro fit research at RMIT – practices as well as awareness – households don't have knowledge.

Preferred supplier programs are great.

In planning processes make sure feedback is communicated at the start.

Make sure packages of things rather than just one-off upgrades.

Making sure information is accessible, in different languages.

3. Environmentally Sustainable Development

Daniela Tartaglia

- ESD in the planning process
 - We're asking for more information, further schedules and drawings to ensure ESD initiatives are baked in.
 - ESD drawings & ESD implementation Schedule

- At endorsement stage we've made a checklist of 7 key documents
- ESD referrals which get sent back to ESD advisor
- ESD training is rolling out to planners
- Compliance in ESD
 - Improving the endorsement process
 - On site inspections target 20% for 21/22
 - Noncompliance are followed up
- CASBE (Council alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment)
 - 31 Vic Councils, collaborating on Elevating Targets project
 - Advocating to State and Federal Gov on National Construction Code
 - Compliance, referrals, WSUD
- Advocacy
 - NCC – Minimum 7-star NatHERS rating for homes
 - Support retrofitting, renewable energy and EV charging.
- Green factor tool
 - Aims to increase the amount of vegetation cover on private land

Discussion

Explaining BESS score at some other time.

More sophisticated stormwater and construction management plans need to be incorporated

Developments generally have poor landscaping plans.

Green factor tool should be used in all residential development as this is where we are losing vegetation

Should be higher scoring for indigenous habitat planting

Increasing focus on 'as built', including inspections, is a big step forward.

A high score for thermal mass hides other deficiencies

No minimum for greenspace/ landscape at the moment?

More to combatting heat island than greening, what about alternatives to concrete/masonry & permeable surfaces.

Action

Come back to BECAAC with a further discussion and explanation of the BESS (Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard) tool.

4. Sustainable Building Guidelines and Olympic Leisure Centre redevelopment

Pierre Asselin & Ruth Robles McColl

- Zero Carbon Senior Project Manager: Net zero target by 2028 lead
- Sustainable building guidelines – raise the bar on building sustainability
 - Enable us to achieve net zero by 2028
 - Incorporate building sustainability best practices consistently
 - Demonstrate responsibility & leadership in sustainability
- Guideline Tools
 - Guideline document and matrix
 - Contains 160 guidelines
 - Matrix forms part of project documentation and requirements
- Informed by many other guidelines and references.
- Key principles
 - Ecology for a natural environment
 - Active and inclusive transport options
 - Comfort, health and wellbeing
 - Reduce; energy, emissions, water, waste, building lifecycle costs
 - Environmentally responsible building materials

- Building performance is managed and measured
- Olympic Leisure Centre upgrade
- Co-design team met 4th March and concept design has been updated.

Discussion

Sustainable Building Guidelines:

Get more progressive, not just leaning on old tools.

Excellent piece of work

Can also use buildings as a communication tool – to show community the norm of new technologies, how much insulation to use, induction cooking etc.

Ensure we are building future climate ready buildings (harsher conditions)

Ensure buildings are thought of as connected across the municipality

Think about buildings as refuges for future climate risks

Long term cost needs to be highlighted – not just upfront cost

Olympic Leisure:

No attempt to save the original 25 metre Olympic pool which has a lot of history behind it.

Think about salt water pool, the additives needed for the water, looking for innovative ways to heat and manage the water.

Make sure we incorporate issues of sustainably managing/running building upfront (i.e. a nice atrium might look good but be impossible to heat)

Think of lifecycle of products we're using for managing the pool, i.e. chemicals.

Potential use for emergency relief centre.

Think about landscaping in terms of wildlife, ensure there are garden beds with dense shrub, as otherwise you will attract Mynahs and bully birds.

No point having a 20 metre pool, must be 25 or 50. Or else you take out use for most groups.

5. BECAAC Member Update: Montmorency Sugar Glider Project

Michelle Giovas

- Lots of works for LXP – losing habitat trees
- Vegetation controls – council officers to guide residents through protection of older trees.

Action

Further discussion to be had regarding the No Local Extinction Plan & how the Montmorency Sugar (Krefts) Glider Project's work can be incorporated.

6. FOGO – FYI

Ellie Hall

- FOGO communication / education campaign has begun
 - FOGO information brochures have been delivered to all households
 - Information session held to answer questions about the new service
 - Dedicated stall at Malahang Festival
- New red lidded bins and bin lids have begun to arrive
- Council will begin delivery of new landfill bins to households, starting from March. This will take up to 4 months, ending in June
- During this time, households will have their new bins delivered kerbside with instructions regarding retrieval of existing bins attached. Shortly after, old bins will be retrieved for recycling

- From June, Kitchen caddies will be delivered to all households. These will contain information packs which will include new waste collection calendars, a waste brochure and information about how to use the FOGO service
- Food and Garden waste service will begin on 4 July

7. Standing Items

NELP – Michelle Giovas

- Last meeting Friday 4th March
- Parts of Greensborough Road turn from 350m road way to 95m trench
- Green bridge at Watsonia Road and Elder Street - Group has suggested in between should be covered as well to supply extra green space.
- Design includes a five-story carpark for the station with only 1 entry and exit, which is a big barrier separating east and west Watsonia.
- Watsonia Station not being made accessible, steep ramps to stay.
- Urban landscape design to be delivered in before Easter with opportunity for community comment.

Council Reports – Johnathan Risby

- Banyule Bicycle Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2027
 - This has been developed to support the use and maintenance of existing facilities, while ensuring future cyclists have access to a safe, convenient and accessible network that connects them to other transport modes and key destinations.
 - Forty actions are included that are categorised according to the key themes of Major Projects and Advocacy; Network Connectivity; Safe and Inclusive Design and Cycling for All.
 - The final Plan will be up on our website shortly to view and we'll get Alison to come and discuss the action plan with us in June.
- Draft Hurstbridge Rail Feasibility Study
 - Looking to create active transport routes along the trainline.
 - Looking to create attractive space and vegetation along the trainline.
- Urban Forest Strategic Plan – principles
 - These were endorsed by Council after changes were made based of BECAAC's feedback as well as feedback from the working group and wider community.
 - We'll put the new principles up on a slide so you can have a look, and as you can see there is much more emphasis on the natural environment and habitat values.
 - The feedback from BECAAC directly influenced the rewording of principle 1 & 4 and the addition of principle 5.
- Banyule Weed Management Strategy
 - Now that this strategy is endorsed work will begin on embedding this in the planning scheme, upskilling staff and educating community.
 - An Integrated Weed Management Plan, which will describe the techniques and processes we use for weed management will be developed in FY 2023/24 and embedded into practice. This will make official what the Bushland Management Team are already doing in their day to day operations.
 - A Planning scheme amendment is also planned for this year to update our vegetation controls and the Weed Management Strategy will be used as a background document for this update.
- Draft Social Infrastructure Framework
 - Title here has changed from 'Community' to 'Social' This is to acknowledge that Banyule is made up of many communities that form our society and reflects the multiple elements that improve the liveability of Banyule.
 - The Framework was recalibrated to achieve further balance between social, environmental, economic and performance. Council have now approved public consultation on the final draft of the

Framework, which was sent out in your briefing papers, and feedback is welcome until mid-April 2022.

- Community Battery Announcement
 - Federal Labor has announced funding for a Community Battery in Bellfield if they win office at the Federal Election.

Action

Find out how BECAAC members can be involved in the next iteration of Urban Forest Working Group