



# Minutes Banyule Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee 9 March 2023

# Banyule Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee | Minutes



## Meeting details

<b>Date of meeting</b>	Thursday, 9 March 2023
<b>Time</b>	6pm – 8:30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Room 4.06, Level 4, 1 Flintoff Street Greensborough
<b>Chair/Facilitator</b>	Jonathan Risby
<b>Minutes</b>	Damien Harrison

## 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

Alex Tzikas – BECAAC Member

Sarah Bandey – BECAAC Member

Paul Gale Baker - BECAAC Member

Trivess Moore – BECAAC Member

Vicky Rowe – BECAAC Member

Cr Alida McKern

Cr Peter Castaldo

Jonathan Risby – Environment & Transport Manager

Damien Harrison – Environment Coordinator

Ellie Hall – BECAAC Contact Officer

Cameron Schmelitschek – Urban Forestry Strategic Officer

Michele Purtle – Advocacy Lead

Andrew Croft – Waste Coordinator

Alana Shepherd – Senior Team Leader Waste Education and Facilitation

# Apologies

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**Name**

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Alex Del Brocco - BECAAC Member

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Michelle Giovas - BECAAC Member

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Cr Tom Melican

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Kellie Watson - BECAAC Member

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Lynne Siejka - BECAAC Member

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Jack Ellis - BECAAC Member

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Denise Fernando - BECAAC Member

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# Items

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## 1. Introduction

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians

Diversity Statement

## 2. Standing Items

### Northeast Link Update

- N/A – Michelle Giovas apology

### Urban Food Strategy Update – Paul Gale-Baker

- Consultation report is now finalised.
- Sustain, the consultants, did a terrific job.
- Highlights, issues, and opportunities:
  - Increased food insecurity – more parcels going out.
  - Local food economy is contracting
  - Connected and engaged Council staff – strength
  - Good alignment with other strategies / policies
  - Enviro Grants supporting
  - Employment & Innovation cluster
  - Food assets – Farm Raiser and Bellfield Community Garden
  - 33 acres identified where we can grow food – unclear where this land is, though presumably government-held land.
  - Critical issues – cost of living and inequity
  - Banyule Support & Info Centre – now giving food parcels to people who have mortgages and reasonable income.
  - Danger of volunteer burnout
  - Could groups like Sustainable MacLeod mentor other groups?
- Next steps:
  - getting a strategy developed
  - getting some traction / early wins

### Council Reports & Updates

- The arts & culture strategy (Creative Banyule 2030) is out for public comment.  
<https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/creativebanyule>
- Community visioning project for Olympic Leisure Centre in progress. Feedback from BECAAC was to ensure pool remains and that design adheres by Sustainable Building Guidelines. This has been taken on board.
- Economic Development Strategy is out for consultation, has some environmental aspects.  
<https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/EcoDevStrategy>

### 3. New Items

#### Urban Forest Strategic Plan – Cameron Schmelitschek

- Key priorities include: addressing the 10,000 street tree vacancies and elevating canopy cover in deficient areas such as Bellfield.
- Comment that the strategy will likely need additional resources. Council will consider any additional resource needs when it receives the draft plan.
- A question was raised about the projected increase in tree planting. Cameron confirmed that tree planting will ramp up in the short-medium term to address the vacancies, though decline once the program transitions to maintenance.
- Recognition of tree removal as an issue in the private realm. The strategy doesn't deal with this specifically, though Council can take enforcement action where Planning Scheme vegetation protection controls are contravened.
- BECAAC members encouraged to attend the upcoming community forums or complete the feedback survey.
- <https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/UrbanForest>

#### Banyule's Advocacy Priorities – Michele Purtle

- Council's key priorities for advocacy, include;
  - electrification of facilities,
  - electric fleet transition,
  - Heidelberg West Business Park 100% renewable.
- Outlined some of our regional partners and our collaborative approach with other councils.
- BECAAC asked if we can we advocate on some of the systemic waste issues discussed tonight?
- BECAAC members encouraged to table any future advocacy opportunities as they emerge in discussion through the course of the year.
- Council has put forward a pre-budget submission to State and Federal governments around electrification priorities.
- Opportunities to provide case studies of key electrification projects to DEECA. Using the learnings to inspire future innovations.
- A comment was made about the importance of advocacy, and a question raised about what the impact of Council's advocacy has been in terms of attracting funding for projects.

#### **ACTION:**

Officers to follow up with DEECA around electrification case studies

#### Banyule's Integrated Waste Strategic Plan – Andrew Croft & Alana Shepherd

Feedback:

- Product stewardship – what level of advocacy does Council have to producers of pre-packaged goods? Recognition that there are significant quantities of goods being unnecessarily packaged.
- More education about single-use plastics. It is hard for consumers to distinguish between what plastic is recyclable or compostable, and what isn't.
- Textile waste raised as a significant issue that is largely hidden or unknown in waste streams. Need more emphasis on education about these waste products.
- Issue of short life cycle products to be addressed. Setting some minimum standards on how long a product should last if not recyclable or compostable. Too much short life products entering waste and accelerating waste to landfill.
- Discussion around incineration as a waste management tool. Cr Castaldo posed a question - is incineration a better outcome for the environment than burying waste? Recognition that burial produces emissions at a much slower rate where controlled emissions capture is possible.

- Contamination management was raised as a priority. The strategy will seek to reduce contamination due to issues in utilisation of the by-products (i.e. organics to farms that contain contaminants).
- Polystyrene – difficult to recycle. No physical space at the Banyule recovery centre to manage it at present. Commented that it is used at landfills to promote anaerobic bacteria growth and speeding up methane production. As such, not a great concern to have this transferred to landfill in the short-term, though seeking options to recycle it more desirable.
- Sustainability Victoria offering innovation grants through the landfill levy to businesses.  
<https://www.cebic.vic.gov.au/grants-funding-and-investment/grants-and-funding/circular-economy-business-support-fund-round-3>
- Trash Talks on 28 March (1 Flintoff, Greensborough) and 30 March (Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub)
- Survey via [www.shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/TZW](http://www.shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/TZW) – BECAAC members encouraged to provide feedback.

## Updates:

### Volunteer Strategy

- Council is currently working on a volunteer strategy which will cover those volunteers who are directly employed by Banyule.
- Concurrently to this, the Bushland Management Unit will be developing a framework which guides their work with Banyule's Friends of Groups.
- Council is hoping to convene another BECAAC working group which can work with the Bushland Management Unit and coop members of Friends of Groups to ensure the Framework is well considered.
- Council be in contact with BECAAC once this process is bedded down.

### Biodiversity Working Group

- The Community Biodiversity Working group has been confirmed with 3 members of BECAAC and 5 members from the wider community forming the group.
- The group is scheduled to meet over the next three months with the first date confirmed, March 20<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm – 8.00pm
- This session one will focus on setting the stage and understanding:
  - What are the challenges facing biodiversity in Banyule?
  - What things contribute to a biodiverse Banyule?
  - What ways can the community engage with biodiversity in Banyule?
  - What do people see as Council's role in biodiversity management?

### ICLEI Membership

- Cr McKern introduced ICLEI and the perceived benefits to Banyule.
- Cr McKern indicated that ICLEI provides an opportunity for greater Councillor involvement in advocacy and partnerships in progressing sustainable development.
- Reporting requirements were outlined, which at minimum would include additional reporting to ICLEI to maintain membership.
- BECAAC is two members short of a quorum. As such the group cannot vote on a decision to join ICLEI. The intent is to take a recommendation from BECAAC to Council to consider. BECAAC members to remotely provide their support or otherwise for the proposal.

## RECOMMENDATION

BECAAC recommends that Council pursue membership of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability Oceania for a trial year of 2023/23 and that BECAAC receives an activity & evaluation report before a recommendation is made on continued membership.