Terms of Reference

Banyule Sustainable Living Advisory Committee

### Background

The Banyule Sustainable Living Advisory Committee (BSLAC) was established by Council in 2025 to support community to provide on-going input to Council on a range of matters that contribute to improving liveability within the City of Banyule. More broadly, this relates to themes around housing, shared use of open space, and supporting well-connected, active and vibrant neighbourhoods that are well-serviced by local parks, shops, community & civic facilities and public transport infrastructure.

### Purpose

To provide advice to Council on current and emerging issues that relate to Council’s sustainable living portfolios, including:

* Active & Sustainable Transport – ensuring that the community is well connected via public transport, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure.
* Open Space Planning – ensuring equitable access to quality open space for current and future community, especially in areas experiencing increased housing density.
* Housing & Population Growth – providing for the diverse housing needs of the community that will meet the needs of our growing population.
* Public Realm and Urban Design – ensuring our public realm, including in shopping centres, parks, reserves and civic spaces are well-designed and provide safe, accessible places and spaces for the community.
* Cost of living – understanding the drivers around cost of living and what role can Council take to mitigate some of these.

### Committee objectives

* Work collaboratively with all members of BSLAC including Councillors, Council officers and community members to ensure Council is informed of and can respond to current and emerging sustainable living issues.
* To monitor the implementation of adopted strategies related to this portfolio and give input into reviews of related strategies and policies.
* Stay informed by presentations and workshops on specific topics by Council’s subject matter experts.
* Support submissions on broader State and Federal Government policy and strategy reviews and legislation changes.
* Provide advice on how Council can better communicate, engage, evaluate, and consult with communities around the topics within the Sustainable Living portfolio.

### Key priorities of the committee term

* Providing feedback and advice to Councils on key problems, action plans, initiatives, or advocacy needs, particularly related to the following key organisational strategic documents:
	+ Banyule Housing Strategy
	+ Banyule Neighbourhood Character Strategy
	+ Banyule Integrated Transport Strategy
	+ Banyule Public Realm Framework
	+ Banyule Open Space Plan
* Provide a forum to share technical and evidence-based ideas that could mitigate the liveability issues facing the Banyule community.

### Meeting frequency and duration

Meetings will be held 4 times a year for a duration of two (2) hours.

Meetings will be held in a location accessible to public transport and with adequate accessible parking near 1 Flintoff St, Greensborough and also available online if not able to attend in person.

Short-term working groups can additionally be formed for the completion of specific initiatives, actions, or time-sensitive activities and will be facilitated by the Council Staff member leading that portfolio of work.

### Membership

Committee positions are voluntary and may be held for a 4-year term. Representation will be sought from a recruitment process specified in the terms of reference.

There is a preference for a First Nations representative on this committee.

Essential selection criteria:

1. Ability to assist Council to address the key priorities of the committee.
2. Technical expertise related to strategic land use, transport and open space portfolios and ability to advise the committee from an evidence-based approach.
3. Passionate about achieving an equitable, sustainable and liveable Banyule for all.

Up to 12 members who represent the diversity of Banyule across various demographics, including but not limited to age, culture, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities and genders. We strongly encourage young people to join the committee and will consider all applications based on the applicant’s stated belief they can contribute effectively to the key priorities and objectives of the committee based on student experience or training.

Recruitment selection criteria:

* Live, work or study, or have a relevant connection with Banyule.
* Technical expertise or credentials in strategic, open space and transport planning portfolios derived from either professional, educational and/or community advocacy.
* Direct links to the local community and/or relevant organisations in Banyule.

### Chair and supports

The Chair is a Councillor delegate, who will be supported to run effective and aligned meetings by the Manager City Futures and the Coordinators of Strategic Planning & Urban Design, Open Space Planning & Design, Environment and, Transport Planning & Projects. Additional relevant Council officers may be invited during the term to provide information and support.

## Member Expectations

All applicants seeking to become BSLAC members must first read the Council Committees Policy and agree to the Code of Conduct in writing. These documents, in conjunction with this Terms of Reference, outline expectations for group membership and ways of working which must be adhered to for membership.