



# Minutes Banyule Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee

12 September 2024

# Banyule Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee (BECAAC) | Minutes



## Meeting details

<b>Date of meeting</b>	Thursday, 12 September 2024
<b>Time</b>	6.00pm – 8.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Flintoff Street office, Greensborough – Level 4, Griffin Room
<b>Chair/Facilitator</b>	Cr Alida McKern
<b>Minutes</b>	Damien Harrison / Lisa Conley
<b>Attendees</b>	Michelle Giovas – BECAAC Member
	Lynne Siejka – BECAAC Member
	Kellie Watson – BECAAC Member
	Zoe Coverdale – BECAAC Member
	Andreas Katsineris-Paine – BECAAC Member
	Denise Fernando – BECAAC Member
	Sarah Bandey – BECAAC Member
	Alex Tzikas – BECAAC Member
	Jonathan Risby – Manager, Transport, Development & Environment
	Damien Harrison – Environment Coordinator
	Lisa Conley - Community Climate Action Lead / BECAAC Executive Support Officer
<b>Apologies</b>	Vicky Rowe – BECAAC Member
	Cr Tom Melican - Mayor
	Paul Gale Baker – BECAAC Member
	Trivess Moore – BECAAC Member

Time	Topic	Presenter
6.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dinner</li> </ul>	
<b>Introduction</b>		
<b>Meeting start</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledgement of Country</li> <li>Diversity Statement</li> </ul>	Chair
6:32 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome</li> </ul>	

Time	Topic	Presenter
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction of new members and guests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced Lisa Conley, new Community Climate Action Lead. Lisa shared some photos from her hometown and discussed how her focus on environmental issues was shaped by her lived experience.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

### New Business

#### Item 1 CURRENT SURVEYS –

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### New Business

#### Item 2 Councillor Updates

- Tuesday midday - going into caretaker period (17 Sept- 25 Oct is election). November 11- Councillors known.
- Cr Alida McKern shared her presentation from the ICLEI World Congress on the Urban Food Strategy. Topic was the Bundoora Secondary College and Local Food Connect partnership. Created horticulture and school farm which bolstered the school. First Urban Food Strategy approved by Council in September 2023.
- The [Climate Review 2024](#) was launched yesterday - please read it.

### New Business

#### Item 3 ICLEI membership update

- Damien explained council resolution to discontinue membership of ICLEI due to lack of local opportunities for Banyule.
- Council endorses signing up to Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (no membership fee). Also supports Cities with Nature and ICLEI's CityFood programs. We are currently exploring these and will report back on the benefits of these.
- Cr Alida McKern stated that ICLEI's benefits were the networks and opportunities to share our knowledge in larger communities, including international conferences like the World Congress she just attended.
- Cr Alida McKern shared information on Climate Emergency Australia. Started in Darebin and advocating the climate actions needed for state and federal change. The group is powerful and still growing. Our role here can encourage others to join. Cost is less than \$4,000/year.
- Damien explained the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action and its benefits which include networking, shared resources, conferences and collaboration opportunities.

**Damien Harrison**

### Action

### Recommendation

### New Business

#### Item 4 Summary of Council achievements in environment and climate action in this term of Council

- Input into review and development of 14 Council strategies / plans / policies.
- Four BECAAC recommendations to council.

**Damien Harrison**

Time	Topic	Presenter
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BECAAC member input into awarding 68 environment grants.</li> <li>• Input into a range of projects and programs such as the State of the Environment Report and Better Score Program.</li> <li>• Recommended environmental sustainability be a standing consideration in the Council Report template and this has been agreed to.</li> </ul>	
<b>Action</b>		
<b>Recommendation</b>		
<b>Item 5</b>	<b>Current BECAAC term - acknowledgment of members</b>	<b>Cr McKern</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cr Alida McKern thanked all members for their service on this advisory group.</li> <li>• Damien handed out thank you cards to everyone.</li> </ul>	
<b>Action</b>		
<b>Recommendation</b>		
<b>Item 6</b>	<b>Current BECAAC term - highlights for each member</b>	<b>All</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The standout for one member is the council officer's dedication. She's proud of this Council and what it has stood for. She's enjoyed going over the strategies in detail.</li> <li>• One member liked the opportunity to join the biodiversity working group and is looking forward to the Biodiversity Strategy when it comes out. Looking forward to improvements in the SOE report.</li> <li>• Another member has said BECAAC is well organised and staff put in a lot of time. Liked working on the SOE and the Community Grants.</li> <li>• A member said it's been a completely positive experience for another member of getting to know like-minded people. Feels like she's getting more bold and vocal from the environment here. She's learning a lot about food, climate change, and sustainability. She gets a deep insight into how policies and strategies are created.</li> <li>• Another member loved working on the Community Grants and has felt really listened to and taken seriously, enjoyed how the feedback they give takes it on board and enacts it.</li> <li>• One member has liked the genuine feedback loop, that they feel heard by council and actions are based on their feedback. Enjoyed the Community Grants process.</li> <li>• One member is still a newbie but personally it's been inspiring and enlightening to see what people in council do. Helps her with anxieties about climate. She feels she's learning and contributing.</li> <li>• Another member comes to these meetings and is very excited. She takes her ideas back to her work and tries to apply the learnings. Getting confidence in talking about climate change and from the chair and officers. Keen to bridge divide between her sector of work and local government.</li> </ul>	
<b>Action</b>		
<b>Recommendation</b>		
<b>Break - 7:30 PM to 7:35 PM</b>		
<b>Item 7</b>	<b>Advisory committees - 2024-2028 Council term</b>	<b>Damien Harrison</b>

Time	Topic	Presenter
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timetable and reestablishment process: after this meeting all advisory committees are dissolved. Subject to approval by Council, BECAAC would be re-established in late 2024.</li> <li>• Will also adopt revised policy, Code of Conduct, and Terms of Reference.</li> <li>• Likely January will be EOI for joining the committee. February will be approval process. Feb-March will be new members' induction. March-April 2025 will be first meeting.</li> </ul>	
<b>Action</b>		
<b>Recommendation</b>		
<b>Item 8</b>	<p>Advisory committees - 2024-2028 Council term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitated discussion – BECAAC terms of reference, draft Advisory &amp; Population Committee policy; draft Code of Conduct</li> <li>• Feedback received so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need guidelines for people who want to sit in on meetings without being members.</li> <li>○ Need to make the TOR more robust so members bring the adequate background and specialist skills to be advisors.</li> <li>○ One suggestion for 2.1 Key Objective of group, to “add biodiversity and urban forest strategies.”</li> <li>○ Shift December meeting back into November because it's too busy to attend.</li> <li>○ Would like to do more workshopping in these meetings.</li> <li>○ Urgency for this subject- we need to act quickly.</li> <li>○ Suggestion to hold 6 meetings instead of 4 each year which are shorter in length.</li> <li>○ One member added we need ways to include local organisations in the environment and sustainability space (including hospitals and libraries) to educate and advocate for them and to change and adapt the communities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Damien Harrison</b>
<b>Action: Members will email Lisa and Damien ideas and these will be shared with the group. <a href="mailto:Lisa.conley@banyule.vic.gov.au">Lisa.conley@banyule.vic.gov.au</a> or <a href="mailto:Damien.harrison@banyule.vic.gov.au">Damien.harrison@banyule.vic.gov.au</a></b>		
<b>Recommendation</b>		
<b>Item 9</b>	<p><b>BECAAC - 2024-2028 Council term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment &amp; climate priorities for new Council &amp; committee term</li> <li>• What do the net zero targets mean in terms of the CERP? One person stated there's a need for transparency of whether heavy fleet will be offset for diesel. Financial disclosure policy happening this year.</li> </ul>	<b>Damien Harrison</b>
<b>Action</b>		
<b>Recommendation</b>		
<b>Standing Items</b>		
<b>Item 10</b>	<p><b>Environmental Strategies Review Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlined the revised Biodiversity Strategy; CERP and the new Climate Change Adaptation Framework and the timelines for their movement through Council.</li> <li>• Some changes to this timeline will happen because of council elections: Integrated Water Management Plan. This new plan will</li> </ul>	<b>Damien Harrison</b>

Time	Topic	Presenter
	replace the old water plan, reflecting the fact that water is more complex and multifaceted by climate and development. Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) will be included.	
<b>Action</b>		
<b>Recommendation</b>		
<b>Other Business</b>		
<b>8.20pm (15 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North East Link updated by Damien: secured contract for 599 funded trees by NELP to help kick off the Urban Forest requirements. Not sure if they are native or not. Not sure of certain locations for planting.</li> <li>Member mentioned noise and dust impacts are getting worse around the NELP. NELP will do double glazed windows or respite but not both and is requiring non-disclosure agreements.</li> </ul>	<b>All</b>
<b>Meeting end 8:36pm, closed by Cr Alida McKern Chair</b>		

**Attached:**

- BECAAC PowerPoint slides