



Minutes  
Banyule Environment  
and Climate Action  
Advisory  
Committee  
14 March 2024

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



<b>Date of meeting</b>	Thursday, 14 March 2024
<b>Time</b>	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm
<b>Venue</b>	Flintoff Street office, Greensborough – Level 4, Griffin Room
<b>Chair/Facilitator</b>	Cr Alida McKern (Councillor)
<b>Minutes</b>	Abdul Ahad Mohammed Firoze – Corporate Emissions Reduction Lead
<b>Attendees</b>	Cr. Alida McKern (Chair)
	Vicky Rowe – BECAAC Member
	Paul Gale Baker – BECAAC Member
	Michelle Giovas – BECAAC Member
	Lynne Siejka – BECAAC Member
	Denise Fernando – BECAAC Member
	Kellie Watson – BECAAC Member
	Sarah Bandey – BECAAC Member
	Trivess Moore – BECAAC Member
	Alex Tzikas – BECAAC Member
	Zoe Coverdale – potential new member
	Jonathan Risby - Manager Transport & Environment
	Rowena Cairns – Community Climate Action Lead / Contact Officer (Acting Chair, second half of meeting, as Cr McKern was an apology for second half)
	Abdul Ahad Mohammed Firoze – Corporate Emissions Reduction Lead
	Paul Davis – Acting Environment Coordinator
<b>Apologies</b>	Cr. Peter Castaldo (Councillor)
	Mayor Cr. Tom Melican (Councillor)
	Damien Harrison – Environment Coordinator

Time	Topic	Presenter
6:00 pm (30 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dinner</li> </ul>	
<b>Introduction</b>		
Meeting start 6:38 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledgement of Country</li> <li>Diversity Statement</li> </ul>	Chair

- Welcome
- Introduction of new members and guests

## New Business

### Councillor Updates

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Cr Alida McKern

- Urban Forest Strategy, Urban Food Strategy and Volunteer Policy have recently been adopted.
- MoU for Friends Groups to provide guidance on how Council and groups can collaborate to progress their important work. It will involve co-development of an annual works plan.

### Discussion about one item from the minutes from the December 2023 BECAAC meeting: BECAAC December 2023 meeting Recommendation:

BECAAC Recommendation: that Council considers the inclusion of broader environmental sustainability as a standing consideration in the Council Report template. *Moved by Lynne Siejka, Seconded by Vicky Rowe; however a quorum was not present at this meeting. BECAAC to seek further advice on how this is resolved. Discuss at next meeting.*

- Current template includes Gender impact etc but does not include an assessment of sustainability on the project.
- Sometimes the focus is quite narrow and doesn't look at the bigger picture. Eg LaTrobe solar farm chopping down trees. People installing solar but cutting down neighbouring trees that shade the panels and affect output. Intent is to have a **more holistic view** and include climate change impact.
- Cr McKern example: Garbage trucks report last year to replace 8 vehicles. If there had been a sustainability element in the report, it would have been picked up. Gives staff a checklist to cover and the template will force staff to consider it.
- There is a quorum today at this BECAAC meeting. This committee recommends to council: *"That council considers the inclusion of broader environmental sustainability as a standing consideration in the Council Report Template"*
- **8 FOR 1 AGAINST (Treviss)**
- The recommendation is to be carried up to Council.
- It should say environmental "and" (note if "and" is added, then "issues" has also been added.
- Guidelines need to be more specific. Forest cover, biodiversity is just as integral.

**ACTION: BECAAC Recommendation: that Council considers the inclusion of broader environmental and sustainability issues as a standing consideration in the Council Report template.**

### Item 1

### Child Safe Standards

Rowena Cairns

- To be included as a new regular item as an agenda item each quarter.
- Committee members should be familiar with this.
- Is there any obligation for Council to ensure that organisations that receive grants should have child safe standards as well?
- All adults are now responsible for this.
- Requirements around Working with Children checks should be consistent as well.
- Cr McKern: Is there a requirement for members to have WWC as well? JR: No, we don't have a blanket policy but any roles that involve contact with children have an obligation to have a WWCC.

**Action: Rowena to send through our policy and code of conduct to BECAAC members.**

**Paul Gale-Baker to send through Sustainable Macleod Child Safe Policy**

Item 2	Current Surveys	Chair
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### Banyule Community Think Tank

- This think tank will be involved in creating Council's four year council plan.
- Postcards handed out and requested to be distributed to member's individual networks.
- Surveys are an important way to distribute information to our community.
- Members encouraged to complete this survey.
- **Shaping Banyule Survey link:**
- [Banyule Futures | Shaping Banyule](#)

### Active Banyule

- Surveys: Active Banyule.
- It's about both active and passive recreation, sport and lifestyle. Ensure that we tick the boxes and encourage more people to participate as sports and recreation has a positive active on health and lifestyle. Closes on the 5th of April.
- Members encouraged to complete this survey
- [Active Banyule | Shaping Banyule](#)

### Heidelberg Structure Plan

- Surveys: Heidelberg Structure Plan proposed amendment:
- Addresses our major activity centre. Important transport hubs, shopping centres, allied things such as schools and medical. Involved land use and urban design recommendations ie how high the buildings are going to be. It is a change to the structure plan. Affects the Heidelberg major activity centre only and not the other MACs. If interested have a look at Shaping Banyule and leave comments and feedback. Should be a good one to promote to your networks.
- Members encouraged to complete this survey
- [Heidelberg Structure Plan - Planning Scheme Amendment C172 | Shaping Banyule](#)

Item 3	Councillor Updates	Chair
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- Councillor Updates
  - ***Climate Emergency Australia***
  - ***ICLEI – update on one year trial period - Also to add to June agenda***
  - ***ICLEI – Cr McKern update***
  - ***Feedback on forums on climate change adaptation***
  - ***Urban Food Strategy – what has been covered***
- CEO contract has been extended for another 5 years effective Dec 2024 (through December 2029).
- Council meeting coming up on the 18<sup>th</sup> March. Items are now publicly available.
- Last year we were given an opportunity to nominate a Councillor to the CEA board (Cr. Alida). Aim of CEA is to encourage more councils to declare a climate emergency. Main role is advocacy and information sharing. To that end, there is a council coming up in 2024. Hosted by Maribyrnong to reinvigorate climate action and interest at a council level for councillors and council staff. It's only been 6 years since LG has been involved in declaring a CE.
- There will be a sister conference. Further updates to come.

- Cr Alida is happy to take any feedback and comments to CEA. How we can do action on climate. Aim is to make more of a difference on the climate action front.
- Will report back post the 19th April conference.
- ICLEI emails go to mayor.
- Report to be received.
- This year ICLEI will be meeting in Brazil. They have now shifted their focus more towards sustainability, circular economy nature in the city. More urban than agrarian for the first time in the history of the world.
- Further information needed to ensure what we commit to is making a positive impact.

Urban Food Strategy -

- Further information available on website. Was a timely strategy coming out of COVID. There is now a working group that makes recommendations to BECAAC who then consider and take it up to Council.

**New Business**

**Item 4                                      State of the Environment (SoE) Report                                      Paul Davis (for Damien Harrison)**

- All teams reporting into the SOE met last Wednesday 6th March to review and analyse the intent from their perspective, what the SOE needs to achieve.
- Damien is leading this project and will be able to circulate a more comprehensive update on the outcomes to BECAAC in the June Meeting.
- It was a highly engaging session with a lot to unpack from everyone’s contributions.
- Some of the high-level discussions we had were:
  - Is the current document reporting what we want it to? A lot of good news stories which are important, but are we providing realistic indicators of the SOE in all environmental and sustainability areas?
  - An example are the biodiversity indicators, which are currently focused on output programs (e.g., B1G1, indigenous plants planted etc). There has been clear advice from internal staff, the community and external stakeholders for more rigorous biodiversity monitoring indicators. The Biodiversity Strategy will outline a more detailed biodiversity monitoring program that will provide more realistic biodiversity indicators to be presented in a future SOE document.
  - The aim will be to marry up what internal teams can provide, would like the document to do and what the expectations from community and council are.

**ACTION: Outcomes of the State of Environment Report Review back to BECAAC at the June Meeting and up to Council as a briefing on July 22nd.**

**Break (5 minutes)**

**Item 5                                      BECAAC Process                                      Rowena Cairns**

**Following up from the December meeting:**

- There is no specialized software for pre-discussion for BECAAC.
- Jonathan has raised it with our director Natasha. It is technically possible, but concerns were regarding moderating it from Council’s end with staff resources.
- Cr Alida: Slack was used in the development of the Urban Food Strategy. However it was setup by an external consultant (Nick).

- The aim of this process is to enable more discussion. There is very limited discussion at the quarterly meetings and hence looking for an opportunity outside of the quarterly meetings to allow for more discussion.
- JR recommendation: To use working groups a bit more for specific topics.
- Michelle: Reply all on email and a WhatsApp group could potentially be set up. Admin needs to be identified.

Item 6	Library of Things	Rowena Cairns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rowena provided an update from the community health and resilience team.</li> <li>• The Community Resilience &amp; Health team are currently undertaking an opportunities analysis to scope out a <b>'Library of Things'</b> model for Banyule.</li> <li>• A Library of Things is a place you can go to borrow different types of items you may not use frequently. It is like a regular library, but may include tools, outdoor equipment, arts and craft supplies, kitchen appliances and utensils, toys, party equipment, or more.</li> <li>• As part of our research, we would like to invite you to take part in a quick 5-minute survey to share your insights as members of Banyule's Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee.</li> <li>• You can find the survey here: <a href="https://forms.microsoft.com/r/sdAV8KCLzK">https://forms.microsoft.com/r/sdAV8KCLzK</a></li> <li>• Thermal cameras are now available as well. They travel and have appeared at Watsonia library as well.</li> </ul>		

**ACTION: BECAAC members encouraged to complete the survey.**

Item 7	Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan Update	Abdul Ahad Mohammed Firoze
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Abdul presented on the CERP current status and update on survey underway.

- Currently in Stakeholder engagement phase and moving into the Strategy Development phase in April.
- Previous CERP has 9 priority actions.
- Current emissions reductions indicate a rapid decline in scope 1 and 2. Scope 3 predictions look to be much slower due to a number of challenges we are facing.
- Challenges identified include heavy fleet emissions and the shift to electric (lower emitting options) are facing financial challenges and a technology gap compared to current carbon emitting fleet.
- Watermark looking to convert to a no gas facility. This is currently one of the largest
- Options in the CERP redevelopment will look at:
  - can we keep hitting our 2028 target with no offsets,
  - will we require offsets to achieve 2028 target, or
  - will we report the target was ambitious, there are good stories from what we have achieved but the target was unachievable from things out of our control.
- Idea: Can we rethink what an offset is? How do all the other environmental plans and strategies help to use and offset concept? Can things like the Climate Adaptation Framework, Biodiversity Strategy etc look into how they can play into practical localised offsets.

Refer also Powerpoint slides (attached).

Item 8	Biodiversity Plan Update	Paul Davis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On December 13th Enviro Team presented an update with the Community Biodiversity Working Group with a high-level presentation of the findings from the consultation process.</li> </ul>		

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Received good feedback and all members are looking forward to the next step. This was also a chance to thank the group for their input and outline the results of their work to date.

- Finalised the consultation findings report in December.
- We have now received the Biodiversity Benchmarking Report from our engaged Environmental Consultants that has a number of recommendations for us to consider.
- Context: The Biodiversity Benchmarking Report is an independent assessment of Banyule's current biodiversity management practices and programs against other industry practitioners. It also makes recommendations on best practice biodiversity management practices for Banyule to consider in the update of the Biodiversity Strategy.
- With both the Consultation Findings Report and the Benchmarking Report we have started to draft actions and are testing them with teams that will own these. Receiving good form teams on these so far.
- There will be an update on the findings up on Shaping Banyule in the coming weeks. The Shaping Banyule page will include the Consultation Findings Report and the Biodiversity Benchmarking Report for full transparency.
- Next steps are to finalise draft actions with teams and develop the draft strategy for internal review and adjustments. Once this is complete, we will go to Council via a presentation and seek endorsement for the draft strategy to go on public exhibition. Briefing and presentation earmarked for July 29th.
- We are hoping to have the Community Biodiversity Working group to meet again over the public exhibition period to provide live feedback and celebrate the work they have helped us achieve to date. Dates to come on this.

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<b>Item 9</b>	<b>Adaptation Plan Update</b>	<b>Rowena Cairns</b>
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- Rowena presented on the Adaptation Framework current status and update on survey.
- Refer Powerpoint slides for details.
- Survey closing 24<sup>th</sup> March.

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<b>Item 10</b>	<b>Ecofest</b>	<b>Rowena Cairns</b>
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- Rowena gave an update that Ecofest is on this Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March at Montmorency (Petrie Park).
- From Michelle: There is a combined stall with a number of community orgs and it will be awesome.

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<b>Item 11</b>	<b>Other Business</b>	<b>All</b>
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- No other business raised.

**Meeting end 8:40 pm, closed by Rowena Cairns, Acting Chair**

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Attached:**

- **BECAAC Powerpoint Slides**
- **Banyule Community Think Tank committee brief**
- **Banyule – Child Safe Policy**
- **Sustainable Macleod – Child Safe Policy**