



Minutes Banyule Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee

14 September 2023

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



Date of meeting	Thursday, 14 September 2023
Time	6:00 pm – 8:40 pm
Venue	Room 4.06 – Level 4, 1 Flintoff Street, Greensborough / Hybrid Online
Chair/Facilitator	Cr. Peter Castaldo (Mayor)
Minutes	Rowena Cairns / Damien Harrison
Attendees	<p>Damien Harrison, Jonathan Risby,</p> <p>Michelle Giovas – BECAAC Member</p> <p>Alex Tzikas – BECAAC Member</p> <p>Vicky Rowe – BECAAC Member</p> <p>Paul Gale Baker – BECAAC Member</p> <p>Sarah Bandey – BECAAC Member</p> <p>Trivess Moore – BECAAC Member</p> <p>Lynne Siejka – BECAAC Member</p> <p>Denise Fernando – BECAAC Member</p> <p>Cr. Peter Costaldo (Mayor)</p> <p>Jonathan Risby - Manager Transport & Environment</p> <p>Damien Harrison – Environment Coordinator</p> <p>Rowena Cairns – Community Climate Action Lead / Contact Officer</p> <p>Emily Harriss – Strategic Planner</p>
Apologies	<p>Kellie Watson – BECAAC Member</p> <p>Cr. Alida McKern</p> <p>Cr. Tom Melican</p>

Time	Topic	Presenter
Introduction		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgement of Country Diversity Statement Welcome Introduction of new members and guests 	Chair

Housing Discussion Paper

Housing Discussion Paper survey:

<https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/HNC/survey>

Presented by Emily
Harriss, Strategic
Planner, Banyule

- Concerns raised about young families leaving the area due to being priced out of Banyule. Recognition that this situation got worse recently with increased interest rates.
- Some discussion around 4-6 level apartment buildings – are they really medium density? Many would assume they are high density. A member responded by saying that 4-6 storey are typically regarded as medium density in cities, though for Banyule this may feel higher density due to lack of this housing stock relative to inner city areas.
- Concern raised about the lack of space for canopy trees and gardens in new multi dwelling developments.
- While we might be leaders in the ESD space in local Government recognition that we need to do better in terms of vegetation retention and good design. We need to find ways to afford more space for canopy trees to support our urban forest and climate adaptation goals.
- We have a local policy to elevate ESD as the State framework is lagging.
- Sustainable design for energy use – a comment raised that orientation, materials and other matters not being pursued adequately. Ignorance of consumers must be a large contributing factor, not just the development industry getting away with business as usual. No consumer demand holding developers accountable for elevated design outcomes.
- Need to educate builders/developers about Council's sustainability requirements.
- There are planning controls/mechanisms that Council can use to get better outcomes – Council should be pushing for better outcomes.
- Comment that the Discussion Paper is a 'safe' document and Council doesn't seem to be pushing the envelope for better ESD design outcomes. We could be pushing for higher than 7 stars and taking a strong leadership role. We will not achieve our net zero emissions targets if we don't be bold.
- Community housing partnerships are an opportunity for Council to push for high ESD outcomes and provide leadership.
- Exploring the transport corridors and accessible areas for future growth. Need to be mindful that higher density along rail corridors can conflict with wildlife corridors – how can this be addressed?
- Multi-dwelling complexes – need EV infrastructure to be mandated. This should be considered in conjunction with other sustainability requirements like solar, batteries etc.
- How can we better support the development industry to strive for better outcomes? Good design guidelines on Council's website easily accessible for developers and residents.
- Reference to Cape Paterson Eco Village – averaging 8.4 star green star rating. We should be striving to emulate this.
- Design packages that could fast-track application process? – could we look for incentives for developers to raise the bar on environmental design to have a smoother/streamlined application process?

Housing Discussion Paper survey: <https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/HNC/survey>

- Link for the survey is going to stay open for 1 week – if BECAAC Committee Members could complete the survey it would be much appreciated.

BECAAC:

Rowena Cairns

- Extension to the Term
- Recruitment Process / EOI
- Terms of Reference (ToR) Update

All current members in attendance agree to extend their BECAAC Committee membership until September 2024. This aligns with Council's general election cycle.

Further, as we have vacancies in our BECAAC committee, we will shortly commence an expression of interest process for new members.

On 7 August, Council resolved to offer members who hold community positions on our committees an annual thank you gift.

Council agreed to offer community members one (1) of the following gifts:

- A sitting fee of \$100 per year
- A \$100 Shop Local voucher
- A Multi-pass entry at a Council leisure facility (Ivanhoe Aquatic or Olympic Leisure Centre)
- A donation of \$200 per committee term period (two (2) years) to a local service support organisation or the Banyule Community Fund

It is important to be clear about the details of the offer. A gift will be offered under the following conditions:

- The member holds a community member position on the committee.
- The member attends 60% or more of meetings between September 2023 and September 2024, except in exceptional circumstances.

We acknowledge that some community members volunteer their time to participate in our committees without expecting a gift. There is no obligation to accept a gift.

Progress on State of Environment report indicators

Damien Harrison & Rowena Cairns

A review of the State of the Environment (SOE) indicators was completed at the last BECAAC Meeting (June 2023).

Damien presented a review of which of the SoE indicators previously discussed would be:

- (a) feasible / achievable; and
- (b) would require further exploration on feasibility to be included.

Category	Indicator	Comments
Is feasible / can be achieved	Council's community-facing sustainability events and programs – quantitative indicators around participation.	This is a very easy metric to include.
	Scope 1 & 2 emissions – can we separate these out?	This is easily done.
	Total # trees planted on nature strips and in public open space.	We already provide the overall figure, though this can be broken down into street and open space components, and indigenous itemised.
	Electricity is now removed from the emissions tracker, though it would be good to recognise that this is now zero in the data and graphs (if possible).	Yes this is definitely possible in the data and commentary. We'll also look at how this could be graphically represented.
	What makes up the Scope 1 emissions? Break this down further.	This is now gas, vehicle fuel and fugitive emissions. We can explain this in the commentary.
	Electric no gas in building – can we track this?	We can monitor the number of gas accounts and report change over time.
	Graph of emissions sources (gas/oil/electricity) – can we include other sources as well and discussion around what might be found in other would be good.	Fugitive emissions and emissions embedded in our goods and services (Scope 3) can be included, and some commentary around what they include.
	Graph of number of gas appliances across Council facilities.	This will be feasible in the future, though we will need to first undertake a comprehensive audit of our electrification works. This will be happening over the coming 12 months, so it is recommended this be deferred to 2024 SoE.
	Solar on Council facilities - not sure the best way to capture information regarding solar that we export and is not associated with our energy usage but is an important part of our energy story that could be added to the earlier energy graphs or separately.	We currently report on our total renewable energy capacity in MW, though there may be other ways we can report on the positive impact that solar has on Council's environmental footprint. This will be explored further.
Needs further exploration	Impact of Council's sustainability events on behaviour or awareness.	Measuring behaviour change is notoriously difficult without investing significant time and resources.
	Contamination of organics.	Further discussion with Council's Waste team required to ascertain if any audits are undertaken.
	Number of planning applications that included native vegetation removal where some or all of the removal was approved. Investigate pre and post COVID figures. Potential case studies of typical approved applications.	This one will need further discussion with Council's Development Planning team to see what data we capture and how easy this is to extract and report on. We can also investigate net vegetation gain/loss on private land.
	Sustainable Procurement – setting a baseline for recycled materials.	We will explore how this could be achieved, though it would require clear data from all suppliers of goods and services.
	No requirement for implementing the Green Factor tool. Could we develop an indicator around this? We can by negotiation influence developers to use it. The BESS could be too broad.	This one will need further discussion with Council's Development Planning team. We can explore both the BESS and other datasets to see what might be feasible and meaningful to report against. We are anticipating the <u>seven star</u> standard along with no gas in new builds to come into effect next year so we will need to track this.
	How do we show the impact of our energy efficiency and other work to reduce our energy demand? Should we consider an indicator around this?	<i>Council emissions</i> – we track electricity and gas consumption data to see change, though there are many variables to consider, including changing energy demand in facilities and new builds. In 2022-23 our electricity consumption still rose despite several energy efficiency upgrades.
	Is the SoE reporting on the measures of emissions reduction or the initiatives we are undertaking to deliver emissions reduction? How much resourcing should we allocate to promoting the achievements through programs and initiatives vs reporting on emissions data?	Measuring the impact of Council's programs and support for community emissions reduction is challenging and will require some further thought and analysis. Our overall impact on emissions from the residential and business sectors is very low, so perhaps more qualitative analysis and case studies would be more meaningful.
	A more detailed vehicle emissions graph would be very good to show emissions from individual vehicles, which would highlight the importance of <u>particular vehicle</u> types such as heavy vehicle side loading waste trucks.	We will discuss this further with Fleet, though we believe it is achievable. We have overall category fuel consumption and emissions data, so this could be averaged out across the number of each vehicle type.

The Environment Team will look to this for future SoE reports.

Standing Items

Update on Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan refresh

Damien Harrison

Damien advised:

- Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) well underway
- Works being led by Corporate Emissions Reduction Lead, Environment Team.
- Community Consultation likely December through Jan/Feb.
- Next BECAAC meeting in December – will be presented to BECAAC and consultation at next meeting also.

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- Council electricity emissions down to zero – but we may need to present the “why” – we are purchasing green electricity Council - wide.

Biodiversity Plan Update

Damien Harrison

Damien advised:

- Consultation for biodiversity strategy is at its completion, with two more public information sessions to go. Damien wished to thank the representatives on the working group.

Adaptation Plan Update

Rowena Cairns

Rowena advised:

- the Adaptation Framework planning is underway and community consultation will likely be Dec-Jan.
- presented draft planning schedule for the work. BECAAC requested community consultation be open also into February. Rowena also advised this consultation will be in line with the timing of community consultation for CERP.
- Next BECAAC meeting in December – will be presented to BECAAC and consultation at next meeting also.

Community Batteries Follow Up

Rowena Cairns

Rowena advised:

- Jemena are progressing
- Bellfield location remains of interest.
- More to update December meeting.

Urban Food Update

Paul Gale-Baker

Paul advised:

- Food strategy – public exhibition is completed, and the draft will be going to Council on 25 September
- Feedback that the strategy needs to be clearer in its intention and easier to digest.
- Need more than just backyard gardening to supply ample food to the community. Need other forms of urban agriculture.

NELP Update

Michelle Giovas TBC

Michelle advised:

- NELP progressing with the sheds and conveyer belt.
- People are encouraged to report any issues they are seeing/experiencing with the works.
- Report to Council in Oct with recommendations on the latest designs.

Other Business

Any

Plant Based Treaty (Cr. Costaldo):

- Educate the community around the environmental benefits of shifting to a plant based diet.
- Wide support for the above to be considered as an inclusion in the Urban Food Strategy to enhance the environmental focus of the plan.

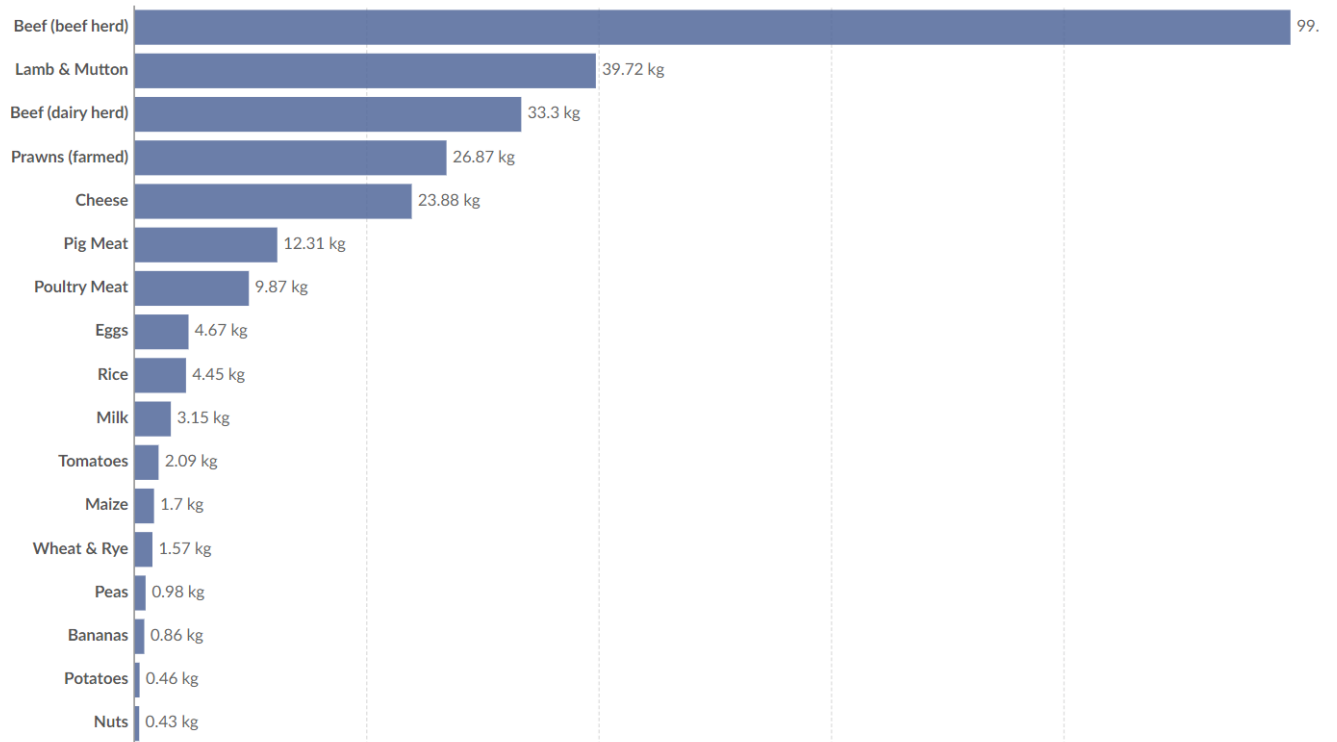
Cr. Costaldo presented from ‘Our World in Data’ – Greenhouse gas emissions per kilogram of food product – for open discussion.

Greenhouse gas emissions per kilogram of food product

Emissions are measured in carbon dioxide-equivalents. This means non-CO2 gases are weighted by the amount of warming they cause over a 100-year timescale.



+ Add food



Source: Joseph Poore and Thomas Nemecek (2018).

OurWorldInData.org/environmental-impacts-of-food

Meeting end 8:40pm – Next meeting 14 December 2023