

Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee MINUTES



Thursday 7^h April 2022

Chairperson

Cr Andrew Fullagar

Members present

Cr Andrew Fullagar (YRC), Mark Varmalis (YRC), David Harper (YRC), Jess Rae (YRC), Kym Saunders (YRC), Suzanne Burville (YRC), Lauren Dwyer (member), Jeff Barlow (member), Graeme George (member), Ron Sawyer (member), Laurence Gaffney (member), Jonathan Gay (member), Bec Brannigan (member), Peter Martin (member), Melanie Birtchnel (member), Lucy Gilchrist (member), Lucy Claire-Southwell (member), Merryn Kelly (DELWP), Mark Scida (Melbourne Water), Paula Newman (YRC), Alison Fowler (YRC)

Apologies

Cr Johanna Skelton (YRC), Cr Tim Heenan (YRC), Jess Baillie (YRC), Graham Brew (YRC), Tom Meek (YRC), Joanne Antrobus (Parks Vic), Darren Wandin (member), Clinton Muller (member), Steve Hosking (Melbourne Water)

Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 11th November 2021 (YREAC) and 3rd March 2022 (SEAC)

Moved: Graeme George

Seconded: By show of hands

Declaration of interest

Cr Andrew Fullagar – member of Macclesfield Landcare and Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands

Outstanding Actions		
ACTION	Organise a site visit to Dixon's Creek to observe the impact of firestick practice over time. <i>Pending. Laurence suggested we invite Graeme Lorimer because of his knowledge of indigenous grasses.</i>	Darren Wandin Garry Detez Jess Rae
ACTION	The targeted vegetation condition and assessment project 2010-2012 to be supplied in a raw format. <i>Completed. Amanda to call Laurence to discuss data set.</i>	Amanda Smith
ACTION	Determine if we can map weed removal overlain with the heavily impacted areas of the June 9 storm. <i>Completed. Read update</i>	Alison Fogarty
ACTION	Discussion with Planning Dept about presenting at future SEAC meeting <i>Completed. C148 update will be given by Alison Fowler at June meeting.</i>	David Harper
ACTION	Determine if an update on the Urban Tree Canopy Strategy can be presented to SEAC. <i>Completed. An update cannot be given at this time because the strategy has been on hold. Will revisit this in the second half of the year.</i>	Jess Rae
ACTION	Determine if an update on the Integrated Sustainable Transport can be presented. <i>Completed. An update will be given by Karen O'Gorman at a future meeting.</i>	Jess Rae
ACTION	Determine if a presentation can be made on the Economic Development Strategy. <i>Completed. This will be scheduled for the June meeting.</i>	Jess Rae
ACTION	Provide methodology on council's CO2 emissions graph	Kym Saunders

ACTION	Provide 2021 Monash University Feasibility to committee	Kym Saunders
ACTION	An extraordinary Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee meeting regarding the biodiversity plan be scheduled for the 21st April.	Suzanne Burville
ACTION	Cr Johanna Skelton to provide an update on the outcome at forum regarding the motion on planned burns.	Johanna Skelton
ACTION	Agency Reps to be allocated time on meeting agenda	Suzanne Burville
ACTION	DELWP staff member to talk about Strategic Management Prospects	Merryn Kelly

1. Housing Strategy Review

Presenter/s: Alison Fowler, Paula Newman

- Housing issues for Yarra Ranges
- What is Council doing about it?
- Is there more Council can do?
- Housing review process
- Council needs to hear your views

Visit <https://shaping.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/housing-strategy-review> for more information.

Written submissions can be made until 19 April – designandplace@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

[View the PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Feedback/questions

- There is a shortage of properties for sale and long-term rental properties.
- Airbnb income on weekends is locking people out of securing long-term rentals
Response: This is a known problem in Warburton which is also affecting businesses being able to retain workers because they have no where to live. Council is advocating for planning scheme change to align to a similar one for farmers. London model offers incentives to critical workers which could be applied here.
- Is there potential to build more communal affordable type accommodation?
Response: Lilydale structure plan is looking at apartment blocks in the commercial area near transport.

ACTION	N/A	
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2. Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Update

Presenter: Kym Saunders

- Solar farm status
- VECO
- Our solar portfolio
- Council's CO₂ emissions
- Active energy precincts

[View the PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Feedback/questions

- Council's CO₂ emissions - several members of the committee asked to see data and parameters.
- If we get 100% renewable from VECO then what's left and how can we tackle it?
- How did COVID affect Council's CO₂ emissions?
Response: The Treehouse building which has solar panels on its roof was empty during work from home periods.
- How will future hybrid work conditions affect Council's CO₂ emissions? Does the model take into consideration work from home and if not, how can we include these?
Response: Current monitoring doesn't account for work from home emissions (Scope 3).

- Is there a target for community to transition to renewables?
Response/s: No, this was not included in the Liveable Climate Plan, however, EAGA is working what this would look like for Councils. Six community groups in our region have been talking to Government about set community targets and it's hoped this will be addressed in the upcoming budget.
- Can the 2021 Monash University Feasibility Review be provided?
Response: Yes, however any documents shared must remain confidential to this committee
- Yarra Valley Community Hub was hoping to develop ?? on the old landfill sites.
Response: The Waste Team are going through a process with EPA thus the sites aren't currently available.
- Community resilience during storm event: The cell towers only have 24-hour battery leaving many without the ability to communicate.
Response: Council is advocating to the Federal Government highlighting how the loss of power affected the community i.e. tower generators weren't accessible because of storm debris. We are upgrading eight community hubs to be power/shower/comfort buildings. We have also secured a 10M Building Resilience Grant to better equip our community for future disasters.
- Why only aim for a 6-star council building, why not 9 or 10 stars?
Response: Council agreed to this at the time.
- Solar farm delay could result in community negativity. How do we sell the message?
Response: We will get advice from Council's Executive Leadership Team on managing expectation.

ACTION	Provide methodology on council's CO ₂ emissions graph	Kym Saunders
ACTION	Provide 2021 Monash University Feasibility to committee	Kym Saunders

3. Report and Recommendations on the Biodiversity Plan

The Biodiversity Sub-committee recommendations on the Biodiversity Plan were presented. [View document.](#)

- Jeff Barlow stated he feels he doesn't have the expertise to provide feedback
- Graeme George put forward a motion that the recommendations are voted on by the SEAC committee. Some members of the committee felt further discussion was required and proposed a special SEAC meeting to be scheduled.

ACTION	An extraordinary Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee meeting be scheduled for the Thursday 21st April.	Suzanne Burville
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3. Committee Open Floor

Jeff Barlow provided a Yarra Valley Power Hub update and talked about how committee members can share information with community members.

The sale of four parcels of land to fund the purchase of 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth was raised along with the desire to see all green space retained so that residents don't need to get in their car to go to their closest park. Response: Council cannot afford to purchase 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth without the land sale. There is currently a formal submission process in place and feedback can be provided via <https://shaping.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/notice-intention-sell-council-land>. Melanie Birtchnel quoted Doncaster Golf Course redevelopment (Manningham) as a good reference for this situation.

A query was raised as to the status of Laurence's motion in regard to planned burns that was to be presented to Council by Cr Johanna Skelton. Cr Skelton has put forward the motion, therefore the original action has closed. What follow up will take place? Response: The Bushland Team will provide a report at forum.

It was requested that the agency reps be reallocated time on the agenda. Response: They will continue to provide written reports and speak to one priority area at each meeting.

Can someone from DELWP attend a meeting to talk about Strategic Management Prospects.

ACTION	Cr Johanna Skelton to provide an update on the outcome at forum regarding the motion on planned burns.	Cr Johanna Skelton
ACTION	Agency Reps to be allocated time on meeting agenda	Suzanne Burville
ACTION	DELWP staff member to talk about Strategic Management Prospects	Merryn Kelly

Meeting closed

7.45pm

Deferred topics

Urban Tree Canopy Strategy update

Integrated Sustainable Transport