

Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee MINUTES



Thursday 6th October 2022

Chairperson

Cr Andrew Fullagar

Members present

Jess Rae (YRC), Suzanne Burville (YRC), Sarah Bond (YRC), Tom Meek (YRC), Garry Detez (YRC), Jeff Barlow (member), Graeme George (member), Ron Sawyer (member), Laurence Gaffney (member), Jonathan Gay (member), Bec Brannigan (member), Lucy Southwell-Hambly (member), Lauren Dwyer (member), Lucy Gilchrist (member), Melanie Birtchnell (member), Darren Wandin (member), Mel Carmody (Melbourne Water), Merryn Kelly (DELWP)

Apologies

Cr Johanna Skelton, Kym Saunders (YRC), Amanda Smith (YRC), Julia Kelley (YRC), Graham Brew (YRC), Clinton Muller (member), Peter Martin (member), Joanne Antrobus (Parks Vic),

Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 4th August 2022

Moved: All members

Seconded: All members

Declaration of interest

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

Outstanding Actions		
ACTION	Cr Johanna Skelton to provide an update on the outcome at forum regarding the motion on planned burns. <i>Completed</i>	Johanna Skelton
ACTION	Dixon's Creek site ecology discussion - Graeme George, Darren Wandin and Brett Ellis. <i>Pending</i>	Darren Wandin

New Actions		
ACTION	Schedule Biodiversity subcommittee meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft Nature Plan• Dixons Creek – Cultural Burn	Amanda Smith
ACTION	Progress data set from DELWP and discuss as subcommittee Biodiversity working group <i>Pending</i>	Amanda Smith
ACTION	Email group for interest in subcommittee/working groups <i>Completed</i>	Suzanne Burville

1. Agency Updates

Melissa Carmody (Melbourne Water), Merryn Kelly (DELWP)

Melbourne Water

- New team leader Ross Bleazby is starting on Monday October 10
- Silvan recommencing storm recovery works next week
- Typha weed at Lillydale Lake to be removed
- Yering Billabong Project progressing as planned

DELWP

- Liwik Barring Landscape Conservation Area team back on-site visits – fencing/maintenance
- Crown land surveys along Little Yarra, Yarra Junction taking place
- Helmeted Honeyeater recovery team are looking for new release sites
- Forest management plans are being updated
- Living Melbourne (urban greening) is going well, however, they are seeking a new funding source.

Parks Vic

2. Integrated Transport Strategy

Presenter: Karen O’Gorman (YRC)

- Aims to reduce private car use, increase opportunities for walking and cycling and for public transport to be a viable option
- Challenges include traffic/parking congestion, low density living, lack of existing services, road safety, topography, behaviour
- Key projects include Anderson Street bike land, Blacksmith Way, Council Fleet Policy updates, footpath program, advocacy

Q: What were the impacts of COVID on this strategy and what is Council doing to pivot?

A: Working with local community and agencies.

Q: Do footpaths have adequate lighting as this can be perceived as being ‘safer’

A: They often have existing lighting because they are near roads

Q: Are more pedestrian crossings being considered?

A: We are looking at travel plans to key destinations to determine where they would be required.

Q: Are parkiteers and bike racks being considered to compliment train upgrades?

A: Yes, facilities will be added to promote sustainable transport.

Q: What safety measures will be in place?

A: Lower speed limits, cycle lanes and/or shared paths, local traffic management, safer crossings.

Comment: The slow point/‘wombat crossing’ behind Coles Healesville (River Street) is confusing and needs to be addressed.

3. Dixon Creek Visit Feedback

Presenter: Laurence Gaffney

- Several members showed an interest in discussing this visit further

ACTION

Schedule Biodiversity subcommittee meeting to include this item

Amanda Smith

4. Biodiversity Sub-committee Report

- There appears to be a random use of strategic planning terminology i.e. 'vision'
- A council document should be more secular – it could support cultural practices but not beliefs
- Disappointed so few recommendations made it into the draft document, it was previously stated that the sub-committee's input was valuable and would be included in draft plan
- Premature to put rough draft out without finishing content and style document

Comments:

There was an urgency to get the Nature Plan out, as it was aligned to Tree Canopy Strategy and engagement

Some Councillors were underwhelmed by targets

Only 2.65% of Council budget is spent on the environment, the Nature Plan proposes a 40% increase in budget

The Tree Strategy and Nature Plan don't appear to 'talk to each other'. The Tree Canopy Strategy fails to mention biodiversity.

Draft Nature Plan community engagement update:

The Draft Nature Plan is halfway, over 500 downloads of the plan from the Shaping Yarra Ranges website, with the site being viewed by 800 people, with 38 contributions. Additional contributions (upwards of 30) have come from other pop-up engagement sessions. Upcoming engagement at the Playtpus Festival, Wandin-Silvan Field Day and Kilsyth Festival will be great opportunities for more community conversations.

ACTION	Biodiversity subcommittee meeting to talk through further concerns	Amanda Smith
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5. Committee Open Floor

Preserving roadside frontage

- Clearing of roadside frontage ramped up post June 2021 storm, however, clearing still appears to be taking place
- Guidance for residents is needed as there is nothing on the website about managing council land on your property

Response

Residential nature strip guidelines are available on the website. There are plans to follow it up with a rural one, however, it's complex as there are competing values in that space.

Deer Control

Yarra Ranges Council has been awarded a \$130k grant which will strengthen the Peri-Urban plan by supporting a new Officer role.

Response

Ron Sawyer noted the deer population in his area was reduced after a previous deer-management program.

5. Committee Moving Forward

Andrew Fullagar noted committee input needs to flow through to Councillors and proposed interest or working groups within the committee. These groups could discuss issues and report back to the broader committee.

ACTION	Email group for interest in subcommittee / working groups	Suzanne Burville
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Meeting closed

7.48

Deferred topics

Urban Tree Canopy Strategy update

Amendment C148 – Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme

Revised Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act