



**BANYULE ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

February 11 2009

*Community Representatives:* Doug Munro, John Merory, John Cary and John D'Aloia, Craig Reichenbach, Marissa Cesario, Averil Hedley

*Councillor:* Cr Tom Melican

*Council Officers:* John Milkins

**1. Apologies**

Tom Melican, Ellen Mitchell, Natasha Reifschneider

**2. Confirmation of November meeting minutes**

Confirmed John D'Aloia, Doug Munro

**3. Appointment of chairperson**

Current Chair John Merory noted he had held role of Chairperson for 12 months and reminded BEAC of earlier discussions around appointment of rolling 12 month Chairperson role. BEAC discussed and in favour of a rolling Chairperson appointment. Nominations accepted for this year's role. Craig Reichenbach nominated by John D'Aloia and elected as Chairperson unanimously. John Merory nominated by John D'Aloia and unanimously appointed as Deputy Chair. BEAC expressed its appreciation for John Merory's contribution and welcomed Craig Reichenbach to the role.

**4. Guest speaker, Clayton Simpson, Council's Resource Conservation Officer**

Clayton Simpson provided a detailed update of Council's greenhouse gas and water conservation initiatives with regard to Banyule's targets under the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and Water Campaign. In summary:

Greenhouse Gas /Energy

- Council's Greenhouse Action Strategy has 2010 goal of reducing Council's own emissions by 30% from 1996/97 levels.
- By 2007/08, Council emissions have been reduced by 8%... we still have a long way to go to reach our 30% target.
- Opportunity: Streetlights – Replacement of 80 watt (W) Mercury Vapours with new energy-efficient twin 14W T5. Annual 2,700 tCO<sub>2</sub>e emissions saving.

Water

- Council has been implementing water conservation measures and developing a Sustainable Water Management Plan, in which a 2015/16 goal will be set of a 50% reduction of Council water consumption from 2000/01 levels.
- By 2007/08, Council had achieved a 66% reduction of our water consumption.

BEAC noted progress on Water and is concerned with regard to Energy. Discussion ensued around merits of a Council wind farm; streetlights lighting one side of street or off after midnight.

*BEAC thanked Clayton for a detailed presentation and particularly encourages Council to implement T5 lighting at next available opportunity to achieve significant*

progress on Council's greenhouse gas emission targets and make long term financial savings.

## **5. Matters arising from previous meetings**

### *04.09 Greensborough Project*

BEAC noted reopening of Greensborough pool with some concern about expenditure and sustainability implications at this stage of the season.

A meeting of the Greensborough Project Community Consultative Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. Craig R to attend as BEAC's nominated observer.

### *08.20 Darebin Parklands Masterplan*

Held Over

### *08.19 Melbourne Water works on Plenty River, Greensborough*

Held Over

### *08.22 Banyule Bicycle Strategy*

BEAC recommend instigation of Advisory Committee for this Strategy and referral to BEAC of any sustainability related issues.

Ellen will confirm status of Bicycle Strategy with appropriate department and report back.

### *08.23 Council Greenhouse emission targets*

Discussion on this item was related to Clayton Simpson's presentation and Doug Munro's note that the intent of the Agenda Item was not only Council's performance on the targets, but a wider concern regarding the status of the State of Environment Report and its promotion to the community.

John Milkins noted that there had indeed been delays in the preparation and promulgation of the SOE for both 2006/7 and 2007/8. The completion of the ICLEI data presented by Clayton and some other work now allows the finalisation of the two SOE Reports.

Useful discussion occurred around the frequency, timing & provision of SOE reporting to the community.

BEAC recommends that the SOE Report be presented as a 3 year Report with annual "Snapshot Bulletins" to ensure greenhouse gas and water data etc is still available more regularly.

John M noted that this useful feedback will be considered as part of the Environmental Strategy review.

### *05.26 Stormwater Issues*

John Milkins advised that the Stormwater Management Plan was adopted in March 2002 and is under review to be incorporated in the Draft Sustainable Water Use Management Plan.

John Milkins further advised BEAC that Council had been successful in attaining a \$52, 151.28 grant from Melbourne Water's Living Rivers Program comprising Water Sensitive Urban Design tree pits in Burgundy St Heidelberg.

### *08.15 VEAC Investigations*

John Milkins advised that a brief submission made to VEAC will be circulated to BEAC. This submission was prepared in consultation with Strategic Planning and Property Services.

*08.24 Planning Scheme amendment VC49*

Advice will be provided next meeting.

**6. Other Business – All Held Over**

*09.01 Solar power (Raised by John Merory)*

Rooftop hot water panels and photovoltaics, community solar thermal and concentrated photovoltaics.

*09.02 Communal wind power for Banyule (Raised by John Merory)*

Perhaps located off site e.g. Chalicon Hills where there is already the required infrastructure and experience, or Hepburn Springs, etc.

*09.03 Energy Conservation Education (Raised by John Merory)*

Educational campaign for 2009 in conservation of energy

*09.04 Future-proofing our natural assets (Raised by John Merory)*

e.g. heat, lack of water, competing with ovals and golf courses for storm water harvesting.

Contact Ellen Mitchell on 9457 9828 for further information

Next meeting will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009