

# Banyule Environment & Climate Action

## Advisory Committee | Minutes



### Meeting details

<b>Date of meeting</b>	Wednesday, 13 August 2025
<b>Time</b>	6:30pm to 8:30pm
<b>Venue</b>	1 Flintoff St Greensborough – Level 4 – Griffin Room 4.06
<b>Chair/Facilitator</b>	Cr Mark Di Pasquale

### Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

“Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as Traditional Custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region’s history.”

### Diversity Statement

“Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.”

### Member attendees

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Affiliation/Organisation</b>
Denise Fernando	BECAAC member
(Dugal) Duncan Wallace	BECAAC member
Elana Berton	BECAAC member
Ellie Hall	BECAAC member
Keith Alan Beresford	BECAAC member
Kellie Watson	BECAAC member
Kyle Pilgrim	BECAAC member
Michelle Giovas	BECAAC member
Nichole Foster	BECAAC member

### Councillors

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chair	Cr Mark Di Pasquale
Deputy Chair	Cr Peter Castaldo (online)

## Council staff

Role	Name and Title
Manager	Natasha Swan – Director City Development
Contact officer	Damien Harrison – Acting Manager City Futures
Minute taker	Lisa Conley – Community Climate Action Lead

## Guests

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
N/A	

## Apologies

Member Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Andreas Che Katsineris-Paine	BECAAC member
Prajakta Bhagwat	BECAAC member

## Items

### 1. Introduction (6:30pm – 6:50pm)

Chair Cr Mark Di Pasquale opened the meeting at 6:30pm and read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians and Diversity Statement.

The Chair noted the two apologies for the meeting and outlined basic housekeeping.

The Chair welcomed all members to the first BECAAC of the new term and expressed the importance of BECAAC as Banyule's longest-standing advisory committee.

The Chair invited each committee member to introduce themselves, their expertise and their aspirations on BECAAC.

### 2. Standing items (6:50pm – 7:00pm)

#### 2.1 Minutes of the previous meeting – 5 minutes

The Chair indicated that the minutes of previous meeting will be a standing item.

Staff outlined how the minutes will be taken at each meeting and that no names will be recorded against any discussion items to maintain anonymity, unless a member specifically requests their name to be noted against an item.

#### 2.2 Conflict of interest – 5 minutes

The Chair asked if any member had a conflict of interest to declare. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Staff provided examples of what a conflict of interest could be, such as being on the assessment panel for Council's Environment Grants program when one or more applications being assessed will provide the assessor with a benefit. Staff advised that a member with a conflict of interest would likely be asked to leave the room when the matter in conflict is being discussed.

Staff encouraged members to seek clarification if they are unsure whether they have a conflict of interest.

### 3. New business (7:00pm – 8:25pm)

#### 3.1 Terms of Reference – 20 minutes

Staff introduced the Terms of Reference (ToR), including objectives of BECAAC, the process for making recommendations and the role of Working Groups.

##### Discussion

Some discussion took place around raising of agenda items. Staff advised that members can request 'other business' items be included on the agenda. Members can also raise items in the meeting if needed, though beforehand is preferable so them can be published in the agenda and allow time for staff to prepare if needed. Staff will do a call out for other business items before the agenda is set.

Working groups are possible at the Committee's discretion in terms of topic, time duration, and purpose. These will be informal and can be led by members to work through a particular matter. For example, a biodiversity strategy working group comprising four BECAAC members and four community members was created in the past to provide focused input into that strategy.

The group confirmed the current Terms of Reference. Staff advised that the Chair, a staff member or any committee member can request amendments to the ToR at anytime provided there is consensus of the group. In accordance with the Committees Policy, the Chief Executive Officer has delegated authority to approve any proposed amendments.

A member suggested that more information from Council on the North East Link Project (NELP) and upcoming place-based projects/initiatives would be beneficial at each BECAAC meeting. Members supported the idea of a standing agenda item for NELP where Council staff could provide a NELP update at each meeting to raise awareness of how Council is advocating or raising issues with NELP. Staff indicated that updates would need to be based on what Council could disclose, noting much information Council is provided is subject to a non-disclosure agreement. A member indicated that NELP had a tunnel exhaust meeting recently, but few community members were aware of it, providing an example of the kind of information members would like to know.

##### Action 1

Staff to include a NELP update from Council staff as a standing item on the agenda.

#### 3.2 Reflections on past term of BECAAC – 10 minutes

Past BECAAC members shared their reflections on the BECAAC 2021-2024 term, including priorities that are still relevant today.

##### Discussion

Past BECAAC members shared the following reflections:

The group supported four core environmental plans (Biodiversity Strategy, Weed Management Plan, Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Framework)

The past committee also provided input into the State of the Environment (SoE) Report. It was suggested this report will remain a key item for BECAAC to inform future improvements. The need to address the frequency of

some indicators, creating good case studies of environmental projects and identifying more robust measures based on good data were identified as important.

Bird numbers were a focus in past SoE reports and numbers dropped due to development and weather conditions—we need to be able to compare similar metrics. Also wants more water harvesting and quality data.

More complex understanding of sustainability is needed, including having impacts statements within reports that are prepared for Council. Staff confirmed that a section on environmental sustainability impacts assessment had recently been included in all Council reporting templates.

There was recognition of the need to increase community education around particular issues- like cutting trees to get better solar coverage (without thinking about tree's cooling impacts in the summer).

### 3.3 Introduction to Council's environmental sustainability portfolio and priorities – 10 minutes

Staff provided an overview of Council's environmental sustainability priorities as outlined in key strategies and plans.

#### Discussion

Staff outlined six key environmental sustainability strategies relevant to BECAAC, including the Biodiversity Strategy, Community Climate Action Plan, Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP), Toward Zero Waste Management Plan, Water Plan and Urban Forest Strategy.

Upcoming strategy priorities include:

- The final Biodiversity Strategy is going before the next Council meeting on 1 September 2025 for consideration after a two-year redevelopment.
- The redeveloped CERP is also being considered by Council on 1 September to be placed on public exhibition. Staff confirmed that the target in the CERP is to eliminate Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2028 without offsets (real zero), while a longer-term target will be set for Scope 3 supply chain emissions.
- The Water Plan will be replaced by a new Integrated Water Management Plan that is under development in 2025-26.
- Council is developing a new Climate Adaptation Plan in 2025-26.

A question was raised about resourcing for Council strategy actions and initiatives and how the financial feasibility is assessed. Staff advised that most actions across Council strategies can be funded but not all. Strategies are intentionally ambitious to drive innovation and leverage external funding opportunities.

Some discussion around electrifying Council's fleet. When the CERP was first adopted Council was optimistic that the technology would progress more rapidly in the market. Staff advised that this has not been the case and fit for purpose options for rubbish trucks and other heavy fleet have not entered the Australian market yet. Councillor mentioned that MAC trucks in USA and BYD in China have built side loading waste trucks that can do the job, but they have not been brought to Australia yet. Is there an opportunity for Banyule to provide industry leadership here?

Other upcoming priorities include a robust data monitoring plan within the Biodiversity Strategy, rollout of community EV infrastructure, and reviewing the Better Score Program. The importance of considering drought monitoring for the biodiversity monitoring program was raised.

### 3.4 Setting goals for the term – 30 minutes

Staff ran a workshop on priorities over the BECAAC term, particularly the first 12 months.

#### Discussion

Members were asked to form groups of three and workshop the following questions:

- What is your vision for the four-year term and what would like to achieve?
- What priorities do you feel BECAAC is best placed to invest its time in providing advice on?
- How would you like to be engaged to offer advice?

The results of this activity are outlined in Attachment 1 and summarised below.

- *Vision and priorities:*
  - Focus on informing strategies and plans
  - Focus on what Council and the committee can control and influence
  - Biodiversity and climate are important priority areas.
- *Engagement:*
  - Working groups will be important
  - Information to be shared with agenda papers about items to be discussed so that everyone is briefed and prepared for the discussions
  - Opportunities to connect with and share information between committees should be explored.

A suggestion was raised for Councillors to provide feedback to BECAAC on any recommendations the group makes before they are tabled at Council. The Chair encouraged members to be frank and fearless with their recommendations to Council and suggested guidance from a Councillor may be counterproductive. The Chair acknowledged that Councillor representatives on BECAAC would have their opportunity to consider and discuss any recommendations once they have been put forward by the committee, but it is important that they be tabled independent of Councillor views, based on the expertise and honest advice from the group.

Members raised the need to understand the remit of other advisory committees, particularly the Sustainable Living Advisory Committee, to explore any potential sharing or information or collaborating.

## Action 2

Staff to share the Sustainable Living Advisory Committee ToR with BECAAC so that members are aware of its priorities and opportunities for information sharing and collaboration.

## 3.5 Appointing Environment Grants assessors – 5 minutes

Staff advised that Council is seeking two BECAAC members to volunteer as Environment Grants assessors in October 2025. The two members would sit on a panel with two staff members to assess all applications.

The commitment will be approximately four hours and will be held in the week of 13-17 of October. Members were encouraged to think about it over the coming days and email Damien to confirm interest as soon as possible.

## 3.6 Other business – 10 minutes

Councillor raised embedded emissions in concrete as an other business item.

### Discussion

Embedded emissions in concrete (Scope 3 emissions) were raised as a concern by the Councillor, citing the recent Olympic Pavilion project that used excessive concrete in its design. Some discussion around the need to elevate embedded emissions standards in projects. This will be important ahead of upcoming Council projects such as the Ivanhoe Aquatic Centre redevelopment. Staff advised that the revised CERP will be elevating Scope 3 emissions as a priority area for action moving forward.

### Action 3

Staff to prepare a briefing paper for BECAAC and on the status of embedded emissions in Council construction projects, opportunities for improvement and how Council could approach a project like Olympic Pavilion differently in future to get the most sustainable outcome.

The Chair did a call out for any other business items. No further items were raised.

## 4. Close and date of next meeting (8:25pm – 8:30pm)

The next meeting will be on **8 October** 2025, 6:30pm at 1 Flintoff St Greensborough.

The Chair noted that the meeting had gone overtime and Council would tighten up the agenda for the next meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:55pm.