

# Banyule Environment & Climate Action Advisory Committee | Agenda



## Meeting details

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 10 December 2025
Time	6:30pm
Venue	1 Flintoff St Greensborough – Level 4 – Ibbott Room 4.03
Chair/Facilitator	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

Member Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Andreas Che Katsineris-Paine	BECAAC member
Denise Fernando	BECAAC member
Duncan Dugal Wallace	BECAAC member
Elana Berton	BECAAC member
Ellie Hall	BECAAC member
Keith Alan Beresford	BECAAC member
Kyle Pilgrim	BECAAC member
Michelle Giovas	BECAAC member
Emma Guy	BECAAC member

## Councillors

Role	Name
Chair	Cr Mark Di Pasquale
Deputy Chair	Cr Peter Castaldo

## Council staff

Role	Name
Manager	Nadine Wooldridge – Manager City Futures
Contact officer	Damien Harrison – Environment Coordinator

## Guests

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
N/A	

## Items

### 1. Introduction

Chair Cr Mark Di Pasquale to open the meeting and read the Acknowledgement of traditional custodians and Diversity Statement, then welcomed all participants.

#### 1.1 Apologies

Cr Mark Di Pasquale to acknowledge any apologies.

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Kellie Watson	BECAAC member
Prajakta Bhagwat	BECAAC member
Nichole Foster	BECAAC member

#### 1.2 Welcome to new BECAAC member Emma Guy

Cr Mark Di Pasquale to welcome new member Emma Guy and invite Emma to introduce herself.

Emma introduced herself and her relevant expertise for BECAAC, which included experience in contaminated land management and compliance, and climate action more recently.

#### 1.3 Conflicts of interest

Chair Cr Mark Di Pasquale to call for any conflicts of interest to be declared.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

Name	Nature of conflict

## 2. Standing Items

### 2.1 Minutes of the previous meeting (6:40pm – 6:45pm)

Speaker: Cr Mark Di Pasquale

- Minutes of previous meeting.
- Actions from previous meeting:

Action	Meeting date	Action description	Update to members
<b>Item 1</b>	8 October 2025	That staff investigate approaches to measuring embedded emissions in construction and provide an update to BECAAC at the next meeting, outlining what work would be required to undertake such a task. BECAAC can then decide to include it as a committee priority and/or make any recommendations to Council.	Due to staff leave and the need to prioritise getting the Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan adopted by Council we have not been able to progress this.  <b>This action will be carried over to the February 2026 meeting.</b>
<b>Item 2</b>	8 October 2025	Disseminate climate adaptation workshop results to BECAAC.	Staff are still working through all engagement results over December so we will get the results to you as soon as possible.  <b>This action will be carried over to the February 2026 meeting.</b>
<b>Item 3</b>	8 October 2025	Set waste as an agenda item for discussion at the December BECAAC meeting.	The waste meeting has been set for April 2026 at the Rethink Centre within the Waste Recovery Centre.
<b>Item 4</b>	8 October 2025	Staff to report sediment issue at Chelsworth Park to appropriate Council Officers for investigation.	This was reported to Council's Environmental Operations Coordinator in early October.

## 3 New business

### 3.1 Sustainable catering (6:45pm – 7:00pm)

*Speaker: Damien Harrison*

- Discuss catering for BECAAC meetings going forward and general discussion around sustainable catering.

Vegetarian catering was provided for the meeting and members agreed that all future meetings should be catered vegetarian to promote sustainability.

#### Action 1:

All future meetings to be catered vegetarian.

### 3.2 Merging Climate Adaptation and Mitigation strategies (7:00pm – 7:20pm)

*Speaker: Damien*

- Damien to outline current thinking about merging the existing Community Climate Action Plan with the upcoming Climate Adaptation Plan, and seek BECAAC advice.

## Discussion

Staff provided some background about the proposal to combine the existing Community Climate Action Plan with the proposed climate adaptation plan. Benefits of merging the strategies included:

- Adaptation is part of the broader climate action story
- Consolidation of monitoring and reporting
- Simplifying the narrative for the community
- Avoiding the risk of one plan being read without the other and getting only half the picture
- Adaptation already a theme of the CAP – can just expand upon it
- Opportunity to tighten our framing of climate mitigation and adaptation actions and show the integration that exists.

BECAAC members supported the proposal, citing the following reasons and benefits:

- Support for the benefits outlined by staff
- Mitigation and adaptation are integrated, two parts of a whole, and the narrative to the community should reflect this
- Other organisations have merged these areas, including Agriculture Victoria
- Merging is less complicated for the community
- Biodiversity outcomes are also linked to adaptation, including transitional risks.

Advice and cautionary points raised by BECAAC included:

- Council will need to proactively communicate the intent to merge with the community so there is full clarity on the changed approach
- The CAP has a slant on what schools, businesses and community can do in addition to Council. This could be confusing for residents. Consider how to ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities.
- Ensuring the document doesn't become too big and overwhelming for the reader
- Ensuring the document aligns with Federal and State strategies
- Ensuring the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework is not overcomplicated by merging the strategies
- Achieve a balance between mitigation and adaptation in the merged strategy to give equal weight to both
- Ensuring the merged strategy doesn't try to do too many things
- Keep messaging clear as there can be some contradictions that create complexity, for example the conflict between solar panels and trees that can arise in residential areas (people wanting to remove trees that shade or have potential to shade out panels)
- Having a clear title will be important to intuitively understand the focus of the strategy.

Some discussion centred around tree canopy and adaptation. Tree removal and pruning issues were raised and understanding Council's tree management and pruning standards. A suggestion was made for future an Urban Forest Strategy update to be provided at a future BECAAC meeting.

A question was raised about where climate adaptation risks for Council's operations (corporate risks) would sit relative to community risks. Given the plan is community focussed should they be embedded here or elsewhere? Staff advised the current intent would be to include them in the community plan, though another option would be for Council to approve an addendum to the Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan and have them nested in this strategy. Some BECAAC members commented that the latter would be a good approach.

## Action 2:

Include an Urban Forest Strategy update at an upcoming BECAAC meeting.

### 3.3 Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan 2025-2029 (7:20pm – 7:40pm)

- Discuss the recently adopted Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan 2025-2029 and key priorities over the coming four years, including electrification of leisure centres.

#### Discussion:

Staff outlined the broad priorities of the new CERP, including the large emissions sources of heavy fleet, aquatic centres and Scope 3 emissions.

Some discussion centred around Council's emissions boundary. Points raised include:

- The need to be clear on what is included in the emissions boundary and what isn't so people understand what is being reported on.
- Should waste be a Council Scope 3 emission or is it a community emission?
- NGER program didn't have waste included.

A question was raised about standardising emissions reporting across local government. Staff advised that a collaborative project between member councils of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) was underway to help standardise reporting.

Staff reported that further work on the emissions boundary will occur in early 2026 in conjunction with the NAGA work.

Some discussion centred around energy efficiency in buildings. An identified action in the strategy is to undertake an audit of Council buildings in year 1 to identify future energy efficiency opportunities.

Council has a Sustainable Building Guidelines, which will be updated in 2026 to guide Council construction projects.

A question was raised around what happens with white goods being replaced in Council buildings. Staff advised they are disposed of sustainably wherever possible.

A question was raised about whether buildings that are leased from Council are included in the VECO green power purchase agreement. Staff to report back.

#### Action 3:

Report back to BECAAC on whether buildings leased from Council are included in the VECO green power purchase agreement.

### 3.4 Planning reforms and implications for the environment (7:40pm – 8:00pm)

*Speaker: Group discussion*

- Damien to outline information available for BECAAC and residents to get up to speed on the reforms, followed by a BECAAC discussion on the topic. <https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/Planning-building/Planning-controls/Victorian-Government-Planning-Reforms>

Staff introduced the reforms and Council's response to them. BECAAC members were shown the planning reforms page on Council's website and encouraged to review the content. Any BECAAC questions can be directed to relevant Council officers for a response.

### 3.5 Other business (8:00pm – 8:30pm)

*Speaker: Cr Mark Di Pasquale*

- North East Link project update (standing item)

An update was provided on the NELP proposed wildlife crossing and advocacy around this from the Community Reference Group. The proposal is for an arboreal overpass, but not an underpass for larger terrestrial species. There may be valid reasons for this, though the lack of communication was a concern.

- Feedback from Montmorency Community Group on Climate Adaptation (Michelle)

Michelle reported back on the discussion on Council's climate adaptation work that occurred at a recent Montmorency Community Group meeting. Feedback was provided by email to staff. Some feedback shared with BECAAC included:

- Climate refuges – relying on shopping centres would be a challenge. These centres should be consulted. Would they welcome homeless people seeking shelter?
- Future focus for design and sustainability considerations of Council buildings – are we considering sporting clubs, libraries and how they are designed to support climate refuge? Are community aware of when and where they should go in Banyule during an emergency?
- Honorariums (Damien)

Honorariums were handed out to all members present for 2025-26.

- Disposal of old pallets

Appropriate disposal of old pallets was raised and will be an agenda item in the waste themed meeting. Suggestion that education in the Banner and/or other Council media about this would be beneficial.

- Dumped rubbish

A question was raised about how Council's Local Laws team deal with dumped rubbish in Banyule. Staff took this on notice and will report back.

#### Action 4:

Staff to provide information to BECAAC members on Council's response to dumped rubbish across Banyule.

## 4 Close and date of next meeting

Next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 11 February 2026** in the Ibbott Room, 1 Flintoff St Greensborough.