

Banyule Environment & Climate Action Advisory Committee | Minutes



Meeting details

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 10 June 2026
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
Denise Fernando	BECAAC member
Dugal Wallace	BECAAC member
Emma Guy	BECAAC member
Kyle Pilgrim	BECAAC member
Michelle Giovas	BECAAC member

Councillors

Role	Name
<i>Chair</i>	Cr Mark Di Pasquale
<i>Deputy Chair</i>	Cr Peter Castaldo
<i>Councillor observer</i>	Cr Alicia Curry

Council staff

Role	Name
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 welcome all participants.

1.1 Apologies

Cr Mark Di Pasquale acknowledged three apologies and one absent member.

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Andreas Katsineris-Paine	BECAAC member (absent)
Elana Berton	BECAAC member (apology)
Ellie Hall	BECAAC member (apology)
Keith Alan Beresford	BECAAC member (apology)
Kellie Watson	BECAAC member (apology)
Nichole Foster	BECAAC member (apology)

1.2 Conflicts of interest

Chair Cr Mark Di Pasquale to call for any conflicts of interest to be declared. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Standing Items

2.1 Minutes of the previous meeting (6:35pm – 6:40pm)

Chair Cr Mark Di Pasquale confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting. No amendments were proposed. Information relating to an action from the April meeting was circulated with the minutes (Waste to Energy). No further questions were raised about the information provided.

3 New business

3.1 State of the Environment (SoE) Report workshop (6:40pm – 7:50pm)

Speaker: Damien Harrison

- Damien presented on the background to the SoE review and feedback provided by BECAAC previously.
- The workshop included two components:
 - A review of indicators from the Victorian government SoE report 2023 to identify if any are relevant for inclusion in Banyule's SoE
 - A review of Council's current SoE indicators.
- Members recorded their feedback on handouts. The results of the workshop are outlined in the attachment titled '**SoE workshop results**'.
- BECAAC did not have enough time to complete the second activity, so members were encouraged to email Damien with any further feedback.
- Some general feedback from the group included:

Discussion

Some general feedback from the group that emerged in discussion included:

- The future SoE should provide an honest and transparent assessment of indicators irrespective of the result being positive or negative.
- Recognition that some future indicators may not be reported on annually due to time to collect meaningful data.
- Recognition that the upcoming Biodiversity Monitoring Program will identify future indicators for biodiversity.
- Consensus that Council should focus on reporting on indicators where data is readily available rather than committing significant additional Council resources to data collection.
- Mining existing datasets such as BoM, Bureau of Statistics and other sources and reporting on them in a accessible way for Banyule residents.
- **A question was raised about the possibility of establishing water quality monitoring stations for Waterwatch monitoring. This can be explored further.**
- **A comment was made about the potential to explore partnerships with universities like La Trobe to collect data on Banyule's local environment. This can be explored further.**
- If an indicator trend doesn't tell us much about what Council could change, or if it isn't in Council's control, we should consider it as a 'nice to have' rather than 'must have'.

ACTION 1:

Staff to investigate the points above that are in **bold**.

3.2 Electric vehicle infrastructure discussion (7:50pm – 8:00pm)

Speaker: Damien Harrison

- Damien presented an update on Council's preferred direction for supporting a rollout of EV chargers across Banyule for the community. Key updates included:
 - This work was informed by a Northern Councils Alliance paper in 2022-23 investigating the future need for EV chargers across the northern region of Melbourne.
 - Council has supported the pursuit of a two-step process:
 - Supporting commercial operators to set up chargers on Council land through an Expression of Interest
 - Once opportunities are tested with the market, Council to consider filling any gaps in the network to support equitable access across Banyule.

- Damien outlined Council's intent to develop a Policy for EV charging on Council land and that BECAAC would be consulted about this policy in late 2026.
- Damien sought BECAAC's general reflections on Council's approach. Members supported the approach.
- Regarding Council generating any income from owned and operated chargers or license agreements, a suggestion was made that Council should consider investing the revenue into furthering the rollout or investing back into Council's environmental initiatives.
- A comment was made that chargers should be at market rate so they are competitive.

3.3 Shaping Banyule consultations (8:00pm – 8:10pm)

Speaker: *Damien Harrison*

- Damien provided an overview of some key Council consultations on Shaping Banyule that may be of interest to BECAAC, including:
 - Hurstbridge Rail Corridor Active Transport & Open Space Masterplan
 - *Reimagining Greensborough* consultation
 - Caring for Rosanna Parklands – a plan for the future
- BECAAC members were encouraged to visit Shaping Banyule to provide feedback.
- Damien also outlined upcoming consultations to be aware of, including:
 - Draft Banyule Transport Strategy – likely consultation in October 2026
 - Draft Community Climate Resilience Plan – likely public exhibition from 14th July
 - Draft Integrated Water Management Strategy – likely out for consultation in late 2026.
- Damien suggested that Shaping Banyule consultations could form a standing agenda item for BECAAC to raise awareness about any current or upcoming consultations.
- BECAAC supported adding Shaping Banyule as a standing agenda item.

3.4 Council advocacy priorities 2026-27 (8:10pm – 8:20pm)

Speaker: *Damien Harrison*

- Damien outlined Council's seven advocacy priorities for 2026-27 and showed Council's advocacy campaign short video titled 'Banyule's Ready'.

3.5 Other business (8:10pm – 8:30pm)

Speaker: *Cr Mark Di Pasquale*

- **North East Link project update (standing item)**
 - An update was provided about the NELP Community Consultation Group and noise and light pollution issues raised. These remain issues.
 - The wildlife corridor petition is still open and has 1,952 signatures. A member encouraged other members to promote the petition.
- **Cat curfew trial**
 - A member tabled some concerns questions and concerns raised about the cat curfew trial by a Banyule community group. These questions included:
 - How effective is it?
 - How do you communicate this to cat owners?
 - How do you evaluate effectiveness of this?
 - Should sightings of cats roaming streets at night be reported to Council?
 - Damien provided the following responses with input from Council's Municipal Laws team
 - The trial was established for a two-year period, due to conclude in February 2027.

- A report will be prepared for Council after the trial concludes with an evaluation of the program and any recommendations.
- The program has been communicated through several channels, including Council's website, at festivals and events, in the Banner, social media and through local area mailouts.
- Mailouts are undertaken in hot spots where higher numbers of sightings are reported.
- Residents can report sightings of cats during curfew hours through the 'report it to us' online form on the website <https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/Contact-us/Report-it-to-us> and through customer service.
- Residents can also loan cat traps if a cat is trespassing on their property during curfew hours.
- Council is exploring opportunities to trap cats on public land.
- **Save our Trees campaign**
 - A member raised awareness of the community 'save our trees' campaign in response to concerns about Council's carriageway clearance pruning program.
 - Damien provided a response prepared for BECAAC by Michael Tanner, Manager Parks & Natural Environment at Banyule. Key points included:
 - Council is aware of the campaign and has acknowledged the concerns raised
 - In response to community feedback Council paused the carriageway clearance pruning program on 26 May to undertake a structured internal review
 - The program forms part of Council's responsibilities to manage risks within the road reserve in accordance with legislative obligations
 - Council recognises the need to balance risk and safety with enhancing urban canopy, biodiversity and amenity
 - The review will consider consistency of decision-making, technical standards and operational practices, compliance and risk requirements and urban forest canopy, amenity and biodiversity outcomes
 - Only emergency works to address critical safety risks will continue while the review is undertaken.

Discussion:

- Questions and comments from BECAAC on this matter included:
 - What has triggered the campaign?
 - Concerns were raised about heavy pruning and whether there were alternatives to this that could support higher tree retention.
 - Is the reported 900 trees impacted factual or misinformation? What is the actual number of trees impacted and the circumstances surrounding them?
 - Acknowledgement that concerns may build on other concerns about trees in Banyule, for example dissatisfaction about tree loss through development planning, which heighten the issue for some people.
 - Why has this issue only been raised in Banyule when all local governments would undertake the similar pruning in meet the same carriageway clearance requirements?

Action 2:

Damien to seek further information from Michael Tanner on the issue and provide a response to BECAAC.

- **Vacancy on BECAAC**
 - Damien indicated that a vacancy existed on BECAAC and that recruitment would be undertaken to fill this vacancy.

4 Close and date of next meeting

- Cr Mark Di Pasquale closed the meeting at 8:45pm.
- Next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 12 August 2026** at 1 Flintoff St Greensborough.