

Minutes Sustainable Living Advisory Committee



Meeting details

Date of meeting	Tuesday, 4 August 2026
Time	6:00pm to 8:00pm
Venue	Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub – Clara Southern Room , 275 Upper Heidelberg Rd, Ivanhoe
Chair/Facilitator	Cr Alida McKern
Minutes	Fae Ballingall

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."

Attendees

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Alida McKern	Banyule City Council
Christie Khanna	Committee member
Pippa Griffith	Committee member
Melissa Murphy Webster	Committee member
Mary Stringer	Committee member
Shavaj Kallamkote	Committee member
Goran Babusku	Committee member
Lourdes Gomez	Committee member

Council staff

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Nadine Wooldridge	Manager City Futures, Banyule City Council
Fae Ballingall	Coordinator Strategic Planning & Urban Design, Banyule City Council
Damien Harrison	Coordinator, Environment

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Jean Mehrtens	Committee Member
Zoe Coverdale	Committee member

Absent

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Peter Hanning	Committee member
Philip Meadors	Committee member
Dianne Downey	Committee member

Items

Introduction 6:00 – 6:20 pm

Speaker: Cr McKern

- Acknowledgement of traditional custodians
- Diversity Statement

1. Minutes from the previous meeting 6:20-6:30pm

Speaker: Cr McKern

Confirmed

2. New business 6:30 – 7:30pm

2.1 Community Climate Resilience Plan

Speaker: Damien Harrison, Environment Coordinator

Presentation

Cr McKern introduced the item and acknowledged Council's position on the climate emergency. The Committee was advised that individual feedback on the draft Community Climate Resilience Plan could be provided through the public exhibition survey.

Damien Harrison presented the draft Community Climate Resilience Plan, including the background to the plan, climate trends, the plan's vision, goals and actions, the adaptation lens, and proposed next steps.

Discussion

The Committee discussed the potential impact if data centres were to be established in Banyule or nearby industrial areas. Members noted an existing facility in Epping and discussed whether there will be more localised centres, state government approval pathways, and Council's possible referral role.

Melissa raised concerns about the need for consultation material to be clearly evidenced and appropriately referenced, particularly in relation to statements about heatwaves, health impacts, climate-related mortality, and impacts on people with disability.

Melissa also queried wording that links violence to climate change and noted that some statements may be perceived as alarmist. She supported the three-tier structure but requested clearer explanation of its meaning. She also requested clarification of the financial benefit statement on page 12 and advised that she would provide further notes.

Goran advised that he supported the document overall but requested further detail about delivery, including new ways of working, how targets will be achieved, and which Council departments will be responsible for key actions.

Members noted the importance of accurate, peer-reviewed and transparent data.

Damien advised that a water management strategy is under development and will address water conservation needs.

Goran suggested that the plan identify the technology that will be used to monitor actions and generate useful datasets, particularly in relation to pages 27 and 33. Resourcing for implementation was also noted as a key consideration.

Workshop activity

Damien facilitated a workshop activity and invited members to provide detailed feedback, either individually or in small groups. Members were asked to consider what was missing, how the actions could be strengthened, what was likely to work, and what they supported.

Damien advised that the actions are intentionally high level and will guide the next stage of more detailed implementation planning.

Committee feedback

Cr McKern invited each member to report back on their key feedback. A summary of this feedback is:

- Strengthen transparency, references and balance, and avoid alarmist language.
- Scale up the adaptation game, which was seen as having potential to make a meaningful difference.
- Consider how mitigation actions can move beyond approaches already used over the past decade and deliver a larger impact.
- Focus on involving the whole community, as this was seen as one of the most challenging but important factors for lasting change.
- Include measurable targets and indicators so implementation progress and success can be assessed, particularly for ongoing actions.
- Separate or more clearly distinguish adaptation and mitigation actions to support clearer monitoring and evaluation.
- Clarify how success will be measured, including measurable targets for ongoing actions.
- Consider combining electrification and sustainable development actions into a more succinct action area.
- Provide real-time data on solar energy, power consumption and EV charging.
- Educate the community about how existing solar panels are performing.
- Include actions that support walking on local streets.
- Emphasise both adapting to climate change and slowing climate change.
- Provide community education about climate change, what is within local control, and practical actions people can take.
- Acknowledge that electrification can increase carbon impacts if electricity is not sourced from renewables, and consider the role of power purchase agreements.
- Consider the carbon footprint of manufacturing and consumption, including advocacy and education around repairability and the right to repair.
- Explore partnerships with community organisations, neighbourhood centres, businesses and private-public partners to deliver high-level actions and promote local champions.
- Investigate incentives for landlords to improve energy efficiency for rental properties.

Other comments

- Improve the Banyule website to better support climate action information, engagement and searchability.
- The Committee noted a question regarding the reference to the advisory committee on page 33 and the role of SLAC in implementation.
- Melissa asked whether the engagement webpage could remain open for a longer period, noting the number of survey responses received in 2025. Nadine advised that the current timing is linked to end-of-year deadlines and that additional promotion has been undertaken to increase participation. The Committee noted that BECAC will also review the draft plan.

Actions and next steps

Damien thanked the Committee and noted that the feedback would inform development of the strategy. Members were encouraged to review the survey and provide further feedback during the exhibition period. The link to Shaping Banyule has been provided in previous emails.

2.2 Connected Communities Advisory Committee Item

Speaker: Nadine Wooldridge

The Committee discussed the provision of car parking on development sites and the impact of development-related parking on local streets, including implications for safety, accessibility and movement through local car parks and streets.

Context

Nadine provided background to the item, noting that the discussion related to both the physical width of car parking spaces and the type and amount of parking provided within new developments. She advised that Council had considered what influence it can have in relation to car parking, including relevant standards and the different requirements that apply to high-turnover and short-term parking.

Discussion

The Committee discussed construction-related parking impacts, including examples such as the Bellfield development, and noted the challenges associated with parking allocation in higher-density developments. Members discussed the need to consider parking at the design stage, the relationship between density and well-located development, and the role of Council's parking strategy.

Members noted that increased parking provision may assist some residents, traders and visitors, while also recognising the importance of continuing to promote sustainable transport options, including walking, cycling and public transport.

The Committee discussed the tension between meeting current parking demand and supporting longer-term emissions reduction and mode-shift objectives. Members reflected on examples of walkable cities where large numbers of people live without private cars, while also acknowledging Banyule's local context, including topography, older housing areas developed before widespread car ownership, and existing household car ownership patterns.

The Committee also discussed whether smaller car park dimensions could encourage the use of smaller vehicles, noting that any changes would need to be considered alongside accessibility, safety and applicable standards.

Key themes

- Consider car parking requirements early in the design of new developments.
- Balance current parking demand with longer-term sustainability, emissions reduction and transport mode-shift goals.
- Continue to promote sustainable transport options while recognising local constraints such as topography and existing development patterns.
- Consider the impacts of development and construction-related parking on surrounding streets, traders, residents and pedestrians.

Any other business 7:40 -8:00pm

Managing dog waste in parks update

- The Committee was thanked for providing commentary and survey input on ways to improve engagement with dog walkers and achieve better outcomes for all park users.

- Waste Operations has finalised the community campaign for managing dog waste in Banyule parks and reserves. The campaign was informed by survey insights collected at five parks during September and October 2025.

Campaign key messages

- Council-provided dog waste bags are for emergency use only.
- Dog bag dispensers are regularly serviced and are not refilled on request.
- Dog owners are required to carry their own waste bags and clean up after their dog under the Community Local Law 2025.
- Seven poster designs and stickers for bag dispensers and nearby larger signage will be installed across 12 parks and reserves in June and July 2026.
- A key recommendation from SLAC engagement was to place signage on dispensers advising that bags are not refilled on request. A5 stickers with this message will be placed on all dog bag dispensers.

Additional actions

- Web content has been updated on the Dog Walking and Parks webpage.
- Information on cleaning up after dogs was included in the March 2026 animal registration notice, distributed to more than 14,000 owners.

Other questions and comments

- Cr McKern invited any other questions or comments from the Committee.
 - o The Committee was advised of an upcoming Dog Working Group meeting in September, focused on promoting responsible pet ownership. Committee members interested in joining the group were invited to contact Cr McKern. Cr McKern will forward further information, and Nadine will confirm the August date.

Goran Babusku provided an update on the Gardiner Creek project he was involved in.

The Committee expressed interest in Goran presenting on this work at the next meeting.

Lourdes Gomez provided a brief introduction of her background to the committee.

3. Close and date of next meeting

- Next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 11th November 2026**.
- The meeting will be held at the Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, in the Clara Southern Room.

Thanks to Committee and staff.

Meeting closed at 8.04.