

Banyule Environment & Climate Action Advisory Committee | Minutes



Meeting details

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 8 October 2025
Time	6:30pm
Venue	1 Flintoff St Greensborough – Level 4 – Griffin Room 4.06
Chair/Facilitator	Cr Peter Castaldo

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
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
Prajakta Bhagwat	BECAAC member

Councillors

Role	Name
Deputy Chair	Cr Peter Castaldo

Council staff

Role	Name
Manager	Nadine Wooldridge – Manager City Futures

<i>Contact officer</i>	Damien Harrison – Environment Coordinator
<i>Minute taker</i>	Abdul Ahad – Corporate Emissions Reduction Lead
<i>Presenter</i>	Lisa Conley – Community Climate Action Lead

Guests

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
N/A	

Items

1. Introduction

Chair Cr Peter Castaldo opened the meeting at 6:40 PM and read the Acknowledgement of traditional custodians and Diversity Statement, then welcomed all participants.

1.1 Apologies

Chair Cr Peter Castaldo acknowledged the following apologies for the meeting.

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Nichole Foster	BECAAC member
Kellie Watson	BECAAC member
Andreas Che Katsineris-Paine	BECAAC member
Cr Mark Di Pasquale	BECAAC Chair and Banyule Councillor

1.2 Conflicts of interest

Chair Cr Peter Castaldo called out for any conflicts of interest to be declared. There were none.

2. Standing Items

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

The Chair provided an overview of the minutes and actions arising from the previous meeting. Staff provided an update on Item 3, discussing follow-up actions required.

Action	Meeting date	Action description	Update to members
Item 1	13 August 2025	Staff to include a NELP update from Council staff as a standing item on the agenda.	This is now included as a standing item.
Item 2	13 August 2025	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.	These were circulated to all members along with the minutes of the 13 August meeting.

Item 3	13 August 2025	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.	Staff overlooked a governance consideration when this action was raised. Instead of it being listed as an action it should have been proposed as a recommendation to Council or should have formed part of the priority setting for BECAAC. We apologise for this oversight. Would BECAAC like embedded emissions in construction to be a priority theme?
---------------	----------------	--	---

Discussion

Staff provided an update on actions arising from the previous meeting. In relation to Item 3, members discussed whether emissions from construction activities are currently included in Council's corporate emissions profile. The redevelopment of the Ivanhoe Aquatic Centre was raised as a potential opportunity to track and report on construction-related emissions in future projects. Staff advised they would seek information from other Councils on how construction emissions are being measured before determining whether this should be listed as a formal action.

Action 1

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.

3 New business

3.1 BECAAC priorities for 2025-26 (6:40pm – 7:00pm)

Speaker: Damien Harrison

- Staff summarised the meeting 1 workshop results and outlined a proposed schedule of priorities for 2025-26. Priorities included:

Community Electric Vehicle Infrastructure discussion	Biodiversity priorities	Vegetation retention on private land for biodiversity and canopy cover
Integrated Water Management discussion *	Sustainable behaviour change discussion	Decarbonisation priorities
Climate adaptation priorities *	Toward zero waste discussion	Embedded emissions in construction

* Denotes topics that relate to strategy/policy work that Council is undertaking in 25-26 and would like to consult BECAAC on.

Discussion

Staff summarised the outcomes from the previous meeting and reflected on the historical approach to BECAAC meetings, noting that agendas have traditionally been driven by Councillors and Council officers. Staff proposed rethinking this approach by inviting BECAAC members to take a more active role in leading the agenda-setting process to ensure the committee derives the greatest value from meetings.

Members discussed the potential for a balanced approach, combining topics suggested by BECAAC with those where Council seeks specific advice or recommendations. Discussion also covered major external matters such as the North East Link Project (NELP), housing infrastructure around Greensborough, and other State Government initiatives where Council's advocacy could be informed by BECAAC's input.

Members acknowledged that some recommended priorities may already align with existing Council work or established positions. Staff noted that while some matters may already be underway, there remains scope for BECAAC to provide well-considered, evidence-based recommendations that Council can meaningfully consider. Staff emphasised the value of BECAAC as a channel to provide informed input to Council. Reference was made to the Terms of Reference, which allow the establishment of working groups at the committee's discretion. These groups can explore specific topics in greater depth and report back to BECAAC with draft recommendations for Council's consideration. The Chair also noted that while some work can occur during meetings, there is also value in members contributing to actions and discussions between meetings.

3.2 Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan (7:00pm – 7:10pm)

- Staff presented the draft Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan and undertook a discussion and feedback activity with members. Staff noted that the plan is on public exhibition until 19 October. The draft plan and online feedback survey can be accessed by visiting <https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/ClimateResponse/CERP>

Discussion

Staff provided an update on the Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP), outlining that Council has already addressed Scope 2 emissions and is targeting the elimination of Scope 1 emissions by 2028 and Scope 3 emissions by 2035. Post public exhibition, a Councillor briefing is scheduled for early November, with the aim for Council to adopt the updated CERP by early December.

Staff encouraged members to contribute feedback via the [Shaping Banyule webpage](#). The 2028 target applies to Council's Scope 1 emissions and will be achieved without the use of offsets. Staff confirmed that the language has been refined to use "real zero" rather than "net zero" to reflect this commitment.

A member suggested that reduction targets may be more appropriate for Scope 3 emissions, given their complexity. Discussion took place around the role of offsets, with staff noting that offsets are not intended to be used as a substitute for actual emissions reduction. Drawdown initiatives are already occurring, and further opportunities are being explored through the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA). Members discussed the ambition and communication of Council's targets, noting the importance of framing aspirational goals in a way that motivates progress without creating perceptions of failure. Staff advised that work is continuing to improve historic quantification of Scope 3 emissions, with a focus on supplier engagement next year.

Clarification was sought on the meaning of "drawdown." Staff explained that drawdown refers to the process of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, for example through natural processes such as reforestation, afforestation, vegetation growth or projects like the biochar initiative in the Yarra Ranges.

3.3 Climate Adaptation Plan (7:10pm – 8:10pm)

- Staff presented on the development of Council's first Climate Adaptation Plan and facilitated a workshop with BECAAC to garner feedback on climate risks and adaptation priorities. Further information about the project can be found at <https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/ClimateResponse/Adaptation>

Discussion

Staff introduced the Adaptation Planning session, providing an overview of work undertaken to date, including previous workshops, the survey on Shaping Banyule, storytelling initiatives, and mapping exercises. Staff outlined the objectives of the session and mentioned the need for everyone to have an emergency plan.

Staff clarified the roles and responsibilities of local government compared with other levels of government and philanthropic organisations. The Mitigation/Adaptation Venn diagram showing the distinction and overlap between the two was reviewed, and staff noted that the Adaptation Plan will work closely with the Integrated Water Management (IWM) which will be discussed at BECAAC during the session in December. Staff also described the methodology and framework underpinning the Adaptation Plan, noting limits to Council action and referencing data on disaster costs and revenue. Members were invited to participate in working groups for data analysis and further input.

The meeting split into three groups to work through risks and opportunities in the context of projected climate trends for Melbourne over coming decades, with guidance and clarification from staff. The workshop findings will be shared with BECAAC once compiled and analysed.

Staff and members discussed whether the Adaptation Plan should be combined with the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP). There was broad support for combining and simplifying the documents into a single source of information, while retaining separate sections for Council-led actions and community-focused initiatives. Staff noted potential enhancements through interactive online tools, dashboards, and climate resilience guides to provide personalised and actionable information for the community.

Action 2

Disseminate workshop results to BECAAC.

3.4 Other business (8:10pm – 8:30pm)

- Soft Plastics

Discussion

A member raised recent media coverage, including the Greenwrap article on Woolworths' soft plastics trial, highlighting the importance of progress towards Council's Toward Zero Waste Management Plan (TZWMP) target of zero waste to landfill by 2030. The 2023/24 audit indicates that 44% of waste is still sent to landfill, demonstrating the need for ongoing focus. The member suggested obtaining further information from the Waste team on current progress toward this target and proposed the potential establishment of a subcommittee to explore opportunities for improvement, noting the target is ambitious and there is significant work to be done.

The member also shared personal experience with RecycleSmart and observed changes in household waste habits. Staff suggested dedicating an upcoming session to have the Waste team present on progress and initiatives. Discussion noted challenges in liaising with external organisations for soft plastics recycling and explored whether Council could manage this at the Waste Recovery Centre or integrate it with current waste services. Staff confirmed this item would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

Action 3

Set waste as an agenda item for discussion at the December BECAAC meeting.

- North East Link project update (standing item)

Discussion

Staff provided an update on information sharing with the North East Link Project (NELP), noting that non-disclosure agreements limit the ability to share certain details with BECAAC. Staff offered to collate questions from the committee and raise them directly with NELP.

A member clarified that the intent of this standing agenda item was not to seek confidential information, but to understand Council's perspective and how the broader community is engaging with Council about the project. Specific concerns included cement dust from the M80 works, which previously relied on geofabric that is no longer in place due to issues with street sweepers. The cement dust, which is highly alkaline, may eventually enter wetlands. Additional issues raised included potential flooding impacts and the formation of a new sediment island in the Kalparrin Lake as a result of months of pollution from construction works. Staff offered to investigate and provide further information on these matters.

- Honorariums

Discussion

Staff advised that all committee members across the five advisory committees receive an honorarium. Council acknowledges and appreciates the time and effort contributed by committee members. Members may choose to receive a \$100 gift card or request that the amount be donated to the Banyule Community Fund (BCF). Staff will assume members wish to receive a gift card unless advised otherwise via email.

- Filling the existing BECAAC vacancy

Discussion

Staff advised that there are currently 11 members on the committee and the aim is to fill the vacancy prior to the next meeting in December. The Expression of Interest (EOI) process will be reviewed to identify the next most qualified candidate on the list, who will then be appointed by the Director in accordance with the Committees Policy.

- Other business

Discussion

A member raised an issue they had noticed at Chelsworth Park in Ivanhoe concerning sediment build up or dumping in the creek. Staff will report this to relevant Council Officers.

Members raised the Waste to Energy plant as a topic for discussion. Staff noted that this item will be addressed at the next meeting, alongside other waste-related items on the agenda.

Action 4

Staff to report sediment issue at Chelsworth Park to appropriate Council Officers for investigation.

4 Close and date of next meeting

The Chair noted that the next meeting will be on 10 December 2025 at the same time and location. The Chair encouraged members to keep the conversations going over the next few weeks before next meeting. Staff asked members to think about priorities and working groups before next meeting and noted that the meeting might be moved to a bigger room next time.

The Chair noted that some of the working groups could overlap with the Sustainable Living Advisory Committee as well.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:37 pm.