

# Environment Advisory Committee Minutes



**Date:** Wednesday 6 July 2016  
**Time:** 7pm  
**Venue:** Candlebark Room, Civic Centre, Greensborough  
**Chair:** Cr Anika Van Hulsen  
**Minute taker:** Pat Vaughan, Exec. Officer Sustainability and Environment

## Order of business

### 1. Attendance

Cr Anika Van Hulsen, Cr Michael Young, David Nicholls, John Huf, Joy Bell, Robin Gardner, Sarah Hunter, Stephen Hadley

Officers: Pat Vaughan, Manager Environmental Services: Stacey Warmuth, Environmental Works Coordinator;

### 2. Apologies

Brent Collett, Janet Mattiske

### 3. Conflict of interest

Nil

### 4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 6 April 2016 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved David, seconded John. Carried

	Details	Action
<b>5. Matters arising from the Minutes</b>	<p>Robin had wanted more feedback on the matter of Council not investing in banks that support fossil fuel companies. Further to previous advice, it is clarified that Council considered an Investment Policy report to Council on 23 February which addressed this matter.</p> <p>That report introduced a new clause (4.5 Environmentally Sustainable Investments). Under this clause, preference will be given to financial institutions maintaining environmentally sustainable investments, provided that this does not compromise Council in terms of risk or the rate of return on investment.</p> <p>A key aspect of this approach will be to seek investments with banks that do not invest in the fossil-fuel industry, provided that the other requirements of the policy in regard to risk and return are satisfied. Quarterly financial reporting will be provided regarding the extent to which Council funds have been invested in those banks which</p>	

	<b>Details</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>do not invest in the fossil-fuel industry.</p> <p>Council adopted the Investment Policy but also approved the following recommendation</p> <p>“Proposes the following motion at the next MAV State Council meeting on 13 May 2016:</p> <p>That the MAV explore opportunities for development of financial investment instruments available to local government from banks and other authorised deposit-taking institutions, which would better enable councils to invest with those institutions that do not provide finance to the fossil-fuel industry, while still achieving the necessary standards of investment risk and return.”</p> <p>This has subsequently been adopted by the State Council of the MAV on 13 May 2016, and advice will be provided on progress of the action as it comes to light.</p> <p>Brent Collett provided comment about this (and other matters) in a recent email and this will be discussed further when he is present.</p>	
<b>6. State Government Strategies and Reviews</b>	<p>Pat Vaughan advised that Council had made submissions on the State government’s Biodiversity Strategy, Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Review and Water for Victoria Report. The latest advice including submissions can be viewed on line at the following links.</p> <p><a href="http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-plan">http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-plan</a></p> <p><a href="http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation-clearing-regulations">http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation-clearing-regulations</a></p> <p><a href="http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/water-for-victoria">http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/water-for-victoria</a></p> <p>The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act Review has been held up and it is uncertain when this will be released for public comment.</p>	
<b>7. Sustainability and Environment Unit restructure</b>	<p>Further to the advice provided in the previous minutes, Pat advised that Donna Stoddart had decided not to take up a position in the new structure and had moved on. The committee recorded their appreciation of Donna’s role over so many years and indicated their support for the comments provided in Pat’s email to environmental groups on 19 May. They were also pleased to hear that Donna had obtained a position as coordinator of the roll out of the NDIS program in the local region.</p>	
<b>8. ESO Review update</b>	<p>Pat Vaughan updated the committee on the status of the ESO amendment C101. After several meetings attended by a large number of people variously concerned about the overlays, Council approved the amendment being referred to an independent Panel, which is expected to meet in August.</p> <p>Council has determined that people could continue to make submissions until 30 July and these will be</p>	

	<b>Details</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>considered when Council presents to the Panel. Landowners could also request a further assessment by a Council ecologist and an independent ecologist to ensure the accuracy of the assessment of their land and to correct any errors in mapping. This is proceeding now.</p> <p>Sarah Hunter raised concerns about the latest advice provided to affected landowners in that it did not indicate the actual location of the property concerned or the ESOs that were under consideration. Pat advised that the information had been provided to people to clarify a number of matters that had been raised as concerns by the community. This was provided in the understanding that the people receiving the letter had already received the previous advice about what ESOs applied to their property. However, Pat would pass on Sarah's concern to the officers that sent out the advice.</p> <p>John Huf recommended that to avoid much of the communication problems about such planning amendments in the future, it would be good to fully document the process and clarify what worked and what did not.</p> <p>Michael clarified that the C81 amendment had been progressed and was with the Minister for approval.</p>	
<p><b>9. Conservation Corridors Program status</b></p>	<p>This program received funding of about \$600,000 over 4 years from the State Government's Communities for Nature Program. Funding for the project has been expended but one-day a week support for the project is being continued for the next year, with Meg Cullen continuing in the project officer role.</p> <p>David advised that the program had worked with Landcare groups to promote the protection and improvement of habitat for rare and threatened species. The works included weed control, pest animal control, specific management for the protection of orchids, fencing to reduce grazing pressure, flora and fauna surveys (including the use of motion sensing cameras), training and workshops, nest box installation and the laying of tiles for use by Common Dunnarts. Over 200 landowners have been involved.</p> <p>Four threatened orchid species have been propagated with assistance from the National Herbarium and the Australasian Native Orchid Society, and suitable sites are now being investigated for the reintroduction of these orchids.</p> <p>Pat advised that given the success of the program, grant funding would be sought to enable this project to continue into the future.</p>	
<p><b>10. Landcare Facilitator Program</b></p>	<p>The Nillumbik Landcare Network (and Council as sponsor) is currently awaiting formal written advice approving the continuation of this program, which should</p>	

	<b>Details</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>status</b>	receive funding for a further three years.	
<b>11. Peri-urban Weed Program (DELWP)</b>	<p>Brad advised that the government has allocated funds of \$4 million over four years for this program, which is in many ways a continuation of the previous Urban Fringe Weed Management Program which Council and local agencies were involved with over the last four to five years. On this occasion it is intended that the funding will be spread across all 16 peri-urban councils, but how it will be allocated is still to be advised. Nillumbik is cooperating with Whittlesea and Manningham councils to work on corridors along the Yarra and the Plenty Rivers, and it is expected that this cooperative effort will encourage a good level of funding.</p> <p>It has also been indicated by the State government that, because of the high quality work undertaken and success of the previous program, Nillumbik was being looked to as a mentor for other Councils yet to be involved. This program concentrates on the collaborative management of weeds on public land, but the government has indicated that it wants more community involvement in decision making. How this will be achieved has yet to be advised.</p>	
<b>12. WSUD assessments by Melbourne Water</b>	<p>Melbourne Water has engaged Alluvium Consulting to undertake assessments of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) installations across Melbourne and including Nillumbik. It is expected that, once they have reported on the condition and reparation requirements of the facilities, funding will be allocated for improvement works. Council has already received some funding from Melbourne Water that can be allocated to this purpose.</p> <p>The WSUD facilities looked at in Nillumbik included the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic Drive development</li> <li>• Eltham North Reserve Swale</li> <li>• Circulatory Road Raingarden, and</li> <li>• Alistair Knox Park Wetland.</li> </ul>	
<b>13. Eltham Copper Butterfly Grant Program status</b>	<p>The four year \$459,000 funding of this project has now run out. This was also funded under the Communities for Nature Grant Program.</p> <p>The project encouraged increased community involvement in protection of the butterfly, but most importantly enabled habitat management works to be undertaken that have resulted in a significant improvement in the viability of the butterfly. Prior to the works it was feared that numbers of the butterfly had become so low that it could well go extinct locally. Thinning out of the shrub layer at the various sites around Greensborough and Eltham has created conditions much more suited to the butterfly and its numbers have</p>	

	<b>Details</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>responded accordingly.</p> <p>Nicole Drever is completing an evaluation report and will be developing a strategy for how to maintain these excellent results into the future.</p>	
<b>14. Environmental Works update</b>	<p>Brad Tadday will be taking on the Acting Coordinator role, with Stacey Warmuth returning to project work, including the Peri-urban Weed Management program discussed above.</p> <p>A possible integration of the Environmental Works and Open Space teams is being investigated with the hope that the interaction will improve overall efficiency and environmental outcomes.</p> <p>Applications are being prepared for 2 new Green Army teams for 2017-18 and 2018-19. The current team is working very well.</p> <p>The Catchment Management Authority has funded a Food, Fibre and Medicine project at Bunjil Reserve which involves the Wurundjeri land management team. This is part of the increasing momentum for local reconciliation.</p> <p>A draft report on the interpretation of the cultural and environmental aspects of the Panton Hill Reserves has just been received.</p> <p>The Panton Hill Reserves User Group has advertised for members of the advisory committee and there have been 4 renewals and three new nominations.</p>	
<b>15. Sustainability and Environment update</b>	<p>Most matters have been dealt with above.</p> <p>The tender for the project to install solar panels at the Shire offices has been approved and the works should commence shortly.</p> <p>A further draft of the Eltham Integrated Water Management Plan is still being reviewed by staff to determine the practicality and costing of the proposed projects.</p> <p>Funds are being sought from the State Government and other funding sources in an attempt to continue the Landcare Network Facilitator and the Conservation Corridors projects in one way or another.</p>	
<b>16. Next meeting date and location</b>	September 7, 2016 in Candlebark 1 and 2	

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

# Agricultural Advisory Committee

## Minutes

---



**Date:** Thursday 14 July 2016

**Time** 4.00 pm

**Venue:** Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Greensborough

**Chair:** Cr Anika Van Hulsen

**Minute taker:** Tim O'Donnell

### Order of business

- 1. Welcome** (attendance and apologies).  
**Present:** Cr Anika Van Hulsen, Cr Ken King, Sue Apted, Barrie Tully, Rob Bassett-Smith, George Apted, Pat Vaughan, Tim O'Donnell.  
**Apologies:** Ross Macmillan, Alex Sutherland
- 2. Conflict of interest and Assembly of Councillor form**  
*Conflict of interest provisions are contained in section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989, the Councillor's Governance Code, the Employee Code of Conduct and the Volunteer Handbook. An Assembly of Councillor form was completed in accordance with the Act. No Conflicts of interest were declared.*
- 3. Minutes of previous meeting**  
George Apted noted that he was listed in the previous minutes as non-voting member of the Committee and that this is not correct on the basis that his membership of the Committee is as a nominee of *Leslie Apted and Sons*, in the same way that Barrie Apted was. All present agreed and hence it is now confirmed that George Apted is a voting member of this Committee.  
Motion: That the minutes of the meeting of Thursday 12 March 2016 are confirmed as a true and accurate record. Moved- Sue, Seconded- George. Carried.
- 4. Actions arising from previous minutes**  
Action 103- Letter of appreciation to Barrie Apted: Pat read out the current draft of the letter and noted that this will be modified to be in the form of a certificate. Some felt that the letter format might be better than a certificate, but in the end all agreed to proceed as Pat had outlined.
- 5. Report on the process for renewal of the Agricultural Advisory Committee**  
Pat outlined that he has discussed the best timing for the renewal process with Council CEO Stuart Burdack and he advised that it would be best to leave renewal of the Committee until shortly after the election. Several current

Committee members indicated that they would be interested to continue on the Committee. It was noted that although continuity of membership into the new Council will be important, there are several vacancies to fill and that some new faces on the Committee would be good. Council officers will undertake the groundwork to ensure that the process for Committee renewal occurs as soon as practicable after the election.

**6. A report on the Hurstbridge and Eltham Farmers markets**

Ken outlined that both the Eltham and Hurstbridge Farmers markets are VFMA (Victorian Farmers Market Association) accredited and they ensure that at least 85% of their stallholders are also VFMA accredited. This accreditation aims to promote and ensure freshly harvested and high quality produce whilst supporting local farmers and directly putting money back into local communities.

Eltham Farmers Market is run by Local Food Connect group. The contact is Chris Chapple who is also Vice president of VFMA. Eltham Farmers' Market is a bi-monthly market, held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month, from 9am to 1pm. Entry is free.

Hurstbridge Farmers Market occurs on the first Sunday of every month except January, from 8.30am to 1pm. This market is coordinated by Nillumbik Shire Council (contact Darko Popovski) and there is a stall-holder committee. Entry is \$2, with proceeds supporting the CFA. Sue Apted noted that although there is a roster for which CFA brigade is booked on for each market, it would be good if reminders were sent to the relevant brigade in the week preceding each market.

**7. Update on Amendments C81 Significant Landscape Overlay and C101 Environmental Significance Overlay**

Pat reported that C81 has been referred to the Minister for adoption. Regarding C101, there is a matter currently with VCAT which may affect the timing as to when this amendment goes to Panel. However at this stage the directions hearing is set for August 4. The process of Council and independent ecologists visiting properties is still on-going and the timing for the end of receiving written submissions is 30 July.

**8. Update regarding the Farm Rate Application Form**

Pat had provided the committee with a revised form as agreed with Council's Finance section. Rob suggested several changes to the form, in particular in relation to section 2 and 4. Sue suggested simplifying Section 2 to be more in line with the wording in the Act (on page 1 P1) and switching item a & b in section 4. The Committee agreed to insert the following after the 'new 4a': *If you answered NO to this question then the property is not classified as farm land and you are not eligible for the farm rate.* Tim will draft up the form in light of the suggested changes and check it with the Committee before sending back to revenue services.

**9. Discussion regarding potential new projects that the Agricultural Advisory Committee might be able to drive**

The Committee members were keen on the idea of working together to develop advisory/advocacy documents regarding issues such as control of deer and or kangaroos in peri-urban areas. It was suggested that this information could then be used to influence programs and actions driven by various level of Government.

Ken suggested that the Committee could also be proactive regarding the control of Indian Mynas, noting that Banyule Council has recently stated that it will actively lead the charge to get Federal and State government support to address this pest animal. Other potential topics briefly mentioned included farm tourism and potential in minimum subdivision sizes in various areas of Nillumbik so as to best promote sustainable and productive farming and land management. This agenda item will be further discussed at the next meeting with ideas to be floated via email.

**10. Other items (10 mins).**

Rob Suggested that the SAR is due for further review and revisited the idea of reducing the farm size for the SAR to be 2ha (as per the farm rate). It was also noted that there could potentially be a 2-tiered SAR. Officers would look at the implications of various scenarios and provide feedback to the next meeting.

**11. Next meeting – 4pm Thursday 8 September, Candelbark Rooms 1 & 2, Civic Centre, Greensborough.**



## Updated progress list regarding actions arising from previous meetings

Action#	Action	Date initiated	Person Responsible	Status
N/A	Inform Tim O'Donnell ASAP after receiving minutes for the AAC meeting if there are suggested changes. No comments will be regarded as acceptance and the minutes will then be forwarded onto all Councillors.	10/03/16	All	Permanent Ongoing
82	Tim to draft up the Farm Rate Form in light of the suggested changes and check it with the Committee before sending back to revenue services	14/07/2016	Tim	Updated
91	Draft (with Malcolm Hackett) additional statement regarding hay cutting for the 2016 Fire prevention notice.	10/12/2015	Sue	Updated
96	Circulate any updates on RHDV K5 release to all.	10/03/16	Tim	Ongoing
98	Contact Victrack regarding AAC concern regarding excessive Blackberry infestation along rail corridors.	10/03/16	Tim	Initiated-request submitted to Victrack
99	Check records for repeating noxious weed offenders and inform committee of potential enforcement cases	10/03/16	Tim	Completed
102	Pass suggestion regarding an environmental award for Peter Rynia onto the appropriate person.	10/03/16	Tim	Noted
103	Prepare and send an appreciation Certificate for Barrie Apted.	14/07/2016	Pat	Updated
104	Undertake the groundwork to ensure that the process for Committee renewal occurs shortly after election on October 22 (e.g. public advertisement for expressions of interest).	14/07/16	Pat/Tim	Updated
105	Find attendee and stall number figures for the Eltham farmers market.	12/05/16	Ken	Completed
106	Tim to circulate email to committee seeking ideas regarding potential new projects that the Agricultural Advisory Committee might be able to drive.	14/07/16	Tim/All	New
107	Revisit previous minutes regarding the SAR to ascertain when a review is required and whether a reduction in the farm size area eligibility was recommended and what the likely budgetary implication would be.	14/07/16	Tim	New