

Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes



Date: Wednesday 11 December 2019
Time: 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Venue: Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Greensborough
Chair: Cr Jane Ashton
Minute taker: Lisa Pittle

1. Welcome

Present: Cr Jane Ashton, Kirsten Reedy, Lisa Pittle, Colin Broughton, Kate Shannon, Zachary Lombardo, Alan Thatcher, John Brenan, John Huf, Aidan Somers, Elizabeth Parsons, Stephanie Orive, Kate Shannon, Areej Hashmi-Weyman, Carol Jadraque, Andrew Robinson, Narelle Campbell, Jon Miller

Apologies: Elley Thomas, David Turner, Sali Bache, Lauren Poulton

2. Conflict of interest

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.

3. Confirmation of minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the committee meeting on 16 October 2019.

Moved: Narelle Campbell

Second: Alan Thatcher

4. Discussion around Agreed Way of Working and confirmation of sub-working groups (15 min)

- Committee members discussed forming interest groups / sub committees
- Agreed ways of working – sub committees to organise themselves and bring info or requests for further information to the committee
- CEN to provide their monthly summary of links to articles of interest re climate for circulation to the committee

5. Discussions around ESAC priorities

- Green Wedge Management Plan

- Endorsed November 2019.
- The committee discussed potential topic ideas for Greenwedge conversations:
 - Sustainable land / pasture management
 - Nature conservation / biodiversity
 - Tourism in the Green Wedge / ecotourism

- Weed management / impact of invasive species on agriculture and biodiversity
- Urban development eg in townships Hurstbridge and St Andrews
- Agriculture – what is it – fully commercial to hobby farms
- What is a wildlife corridor
- Community incl indigenous community living in the Green Wedge
- Water and Melbourne Water programs
 - Stream flow
 - Impact of dams
 - Sugarloaf as a recreation facility
 - Water extractors – am I allowed to pump out of the creek or not
- What does Green Wedge mean?
- Transport
- Housing insecurity
- Indigenous burning

- **Recycling and Waste Management**

Lisa provided an overview of Council's waste services – universal 3 bin system consistently achieving greater than 60 and current issues including:

- Recycling crisis - overview
- State and Commonwealth initiatives
 - Victorian Auditor General Office *Recovering and Reprocessing Resources from Waste*
<https://www.audit.vic.gov.au/report/recovering-and-reprocessing-resources-waste>
 - Infrastructure Victoria *Advice on recycling and resource recovery infrastructure in Victoria*
<https://www.infrastructurevictoria.com.au/project/advice-on-waste-infrastructure-in-victoria/>
 - Victorian government's Circular Economy policy and action plan in development
<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/sustainability/circulareconomy>
 - Commonwealth government *Australian Recycling Investment Fund*

- **Environment & Sustainability education and engagement**

- Summary of environment and sustainability activities in Nillumbik. In future update to be provided with agenda and data in terms of uptake, impact or no of people engaged.
- Disa project video available on Facebook
- All committee members will be signed up to Council's environment and sustainability enews (formerly Fringe Focus)

- **Biodiversity and the natural environment**
 - Future land use planning and biodiversity nominated as a priority - Alan Thatcher to develop issues paper for committee discussion.
 - Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act review. Council will consider a submission and committee members are welcome to provide input (by 30 December 2019) for the submission to be endorsed by Council. <https://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/about/review>
 - Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Plan draft indicators and measures are being developed. Kirsten Reedy can provide an offline opportunity for committee members to be involved with Areej, Carol, Narelle interested.

- **Renewable Energy**
 - Solar farm
 - The former committee was informed about the project at masterplan stage
 - Reporting in the Leader that implied that Council had made a decision to build a solar farm through a private developer was questioned. Council's decision following the presentation of the solar farm feasibility study was to green light continuing to pursue this project. No decision was made regarding funding model.

- **Climate** – “Climate Futures” presentation by Colin Broughton, Nillumbik Landcare Facilitator on what global climate models are predicting across Australia and in Nillumbik and implications for biodiversity:
 - CSIRO Climate Futures tool
 - CSIRO AdaptNRM
 - Impact of modelled climate change on distribution of plant and animal communities in Australia
 - Outcome is that new principles and approaches required for biodiversity conservation - helping biodiversity adapt – revegetation benefit, refugia, assisted dispersal.
 - Committee members can access these tools online and explore different data sets.
 - Colin's presentation to be circulated to Committee members.

- **Sustainable Land Management** – “Soil carbon sequestration, climate change adaptation & mitigation and food security” presentation by Stephanie Orive, Land Management Officer
 - Soil carbon holding capacity – particularly humic pool – soil carbon being lost due to poor agricultural practices.
 - Increase humic pool – above ground litter cycling, root sloughing, sugary root exudates – all contribute to fungal and microbial growth which contribute to the humic pool.
 - Carbon feedback loop – photosynthesis – organic carbon – soil water holding capacity.

- Stephanie's presentation to be circulated to Committee members.
- Discussion included:
 - Use of herbicides is antithetical to soil carbon sequestration
 - Bushfire preparation - people are advised to rake up fine fuels and burn which is a short term risk reduction measure but longer term increases drying and contribution to climate change
 - Council can set up trial sites to demonstrate different soil carbon management methods.

6. Overview of Council's current Climate Change Action Plan

- Ian Culbard, Council's Sustainability Officer, can be contacted directly for information about Council programs and other initiatives in the climate change space, particularly mitigation measures and renewable energy initiatives.

7. Discussion re the development of Council's new Climate Action Plan

- Topic held over for next meeting for discussion on the areas that a climate action plan could encompass – process and scope
- **Action - committee members read the previous plan prior to the next meeting and Committee members to provide 3 to 5 dot point suggestions in relation to the new Climate Action Plan.**

8. Other business

- Discussion on potential for more frequent meetings

Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes



Date: Wednesday 19 February 2020
Time: 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Venue: Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Greensborough
Chair: Lisa Pittle
Minute taker: Kate Shannon

1. Welcome

Present: Kirsten Reedy, Lisa Pittle, Kate Shannon, Alan Thatcher, John Huf, Aidan Somers, Elizabeth Parsons, Carol Jadraque, Andrew Robinson, Narelle Campbell, David Turner, Lauren Poulton

Apologies: Cr Jane Ashton, John Brenan, Zac Lombardo, Areej Hashmi-Weyman, Elley Thomas, Sali Bache

2. Conflict of interest

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.

3. Confirmation of minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the committee meeting on 11 December 2019.

Moved: John Huf

Second: Alan Thatchet

4. Climate Action (105 minutes)

- Kirsten Reedy presented an overview of National and International commitments
- Ian Culbard presented a brief overview of what Council has achieved to date
- The committee broke into three groups for discussions about climate issues (in land management, natural environment, energy, recycling and waste, water sectors etc); what's within Council's control to action; and potential mitigation / adaptation opportunities for Nillumbik to explore in preparing the new Climate Action Plan.
- See attached for further details.

5. ESAC priorities – reports by sub committees and Council officers (5 min)

- The group ran out of time to present reports from the sub committees, but acknowledged the importance of allowing time for this at future meetings.

6. Other business (5 min)

- Lisa Pittle explained the process and timeline for the committee's report going to Council in April.

7. **Next meeting date:** Wednesday 15 April 2020

ESAC climate action small group discussion summary

	Adaptation	Mitigation	Targets
Group 1	<p>Flooding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> retarding basins, building them stormwater storage/capture and reuse for sports fields etc (e.g. like being done in Hurstbridge) <p>Heat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think about how to support elderly residents to stay cool Provide air-conditioned venues that are open for extended hours during very hot days / heat wave events e.g. Libraries Help support solar on the roof to power air conditioners Help support a move to more efficient air-con systems and usage \$\$ support to run their air con (State) Have 'My Aged Care' home visit assessors check air con efficiency and options to enable at least one room in the house to be cooled in an affordable manner <p>Existing landholders (rural, agricultural)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend current program to assist land management, drought proof <p>Flexible opening hours and services for people experiencing stress during extreme events.</p>	<p>Council (Corporate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads development and resealing to include recycled content from local kerbside bins and council operations waste Bio char facility (green waste reuse with less carbon emissions and potentially avoid burning off) Biogas for Eltham Leisure Centre Endorse a policy for improved council operations procurement with carbon emissions in mind e.g. all purchases to avoid single use plastics Street light LEDs Introduce smart sensor street lights e.g. motion sensors to turn lights on/off especially in rural areas or quieter urban streets <p>Community (all of us)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not council's job to set targets for the community but council can have a role in education and engagement in line with state and local climate goals Electric vehicle infrastructure required to support and promote uptake in the community 	<p>The contributors and mitigation to/of climate change should have their own targets e.g. Parramatta example</p> <p>Percentage should be dictated by the science –</p> <p>CSIRO/Net zero emissions by 2050 (state)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversion from landfill by _% Renewable energy by _% Maintain native vegetation cover by _% Overall objective -2°C limit Council target to be/align with net zero by 2050
Group 2	<p>1 What can be done in Nillumbik Shire to lessen Climate Change impacts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant trees – increase tree canopy/cover Regenerative farming/land management Develop planted fire breaks: decrease flammable species (?) Education/increase awareness in the community Set up Renewable energy best cases for hubs and solutions proofing e.g. Yackandandah Empower community <p>2 What can council control and/or influence?</p>	<p>Renewable energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mini grids Zero emission communities Waste energy burners to pyrolysis waste to bio char for residents <p>Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero carbon building policy for council and community building Establish test cases of zero carbon towns e.g. St Andrews, Hurstbridge, Kangaroo Ground – e.g. Mini grids Set limits to facility access and set points of temperature 	<p>The various members of this group each proposed different Council targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net 0 by 2030 Net 0 by 2050 50% by 2040 <p>E.P zero Carbon by 2030 to increase \$</p> <p>Non conclusive targets as there are many factors to consider. Such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costing for implementation Measuring to baselines Measuring the actions Costing the priorities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Wedge zone – reveg/weed/species planting guidance • Promote opportunities and information and incentives to plant trees <p>Renew ESD policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning rules/guidelines should be reviewed to consider climate change aspects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ e.g. Lighter roof colours should be permitted • Support proofing and case studies around community – zero carbon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoalhaven good example of innovation e.g. composting. <p>Recycling and Waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic waste recovery materials • Increase capacity for residents to compost and access volume of product for reuse – incentives <p>Redirecting some surface water e.g. road run off and direct to landscape Council – workshops, materials and opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What responsibility – Council, State, Federal. <p>Community targets should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% by 2030 • 0% by 2050 (align with State)
<p>Group 3</p>	<p>GWMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce fire risk • Stream frontage management • Storm water management and harvesting for soil quality • Keep vulnerable people safe and well in extreme weather events <p>Resilience – Need KPIs. Specify what they are and how to capture/measure them for BMO areas and urban areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Roads • Preparedness • e.g. rates of death during extreme weather events is a current State adaptation measure <p>Recycling and waste management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular economy • Bio char • Highly localised solutions • Different land management options • Expanding rate reduction or other mechanism opportunities for land management that is adequate for climate change • Composting • Economic development priority to attract circular economy <p>Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase urban cooling and tree canopy to reduce heat island effect 	<p>Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar farm @ Plenty • Pilot and measure calculations for carbon <p>Sustainable land management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure and recognise capability of land to sequester carbon vegetation, soils and carbon farming initiative for land owners to incentives • Education and engagement • Land management advisory service • Audit and retrofitting advice infrastructure to reduce emissions including financials in neighbourhoods <p>Put into Green Wedge conversations Range of mediums No more brochures</p>	<p>State Govt targets: 50% renewable by 2030; and net zero carbon emissions by 2050.</p> <p>Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2030 net zero • 2040 below zero <p>Need hard (not aspirational) targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to baseline emissions and carbon capture - Then forecast <p>Can we have measurable quantifications of real outcomes?</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen and increase beneficial partnerships and collaboration • Storm water management • Reduce impacts of severe weather events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain road access and egress ○ Impervious surfaces • Heat sink elimination in urban parts of Shire <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant trees 25% tree cover deciduous trees for shade and shelter • Regenerative farming • Working group for worked examples • Case studies and pilots for carbon neutral communities in green wedge villages 		
Supplementary suggestions from ESAC members who were absent from the meeting			

MEETING AGENDA

Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee

Thursday 30 April 2020

9.30am – 11.00am

Skype for Business

Attendees: Cr Grant Brooker, Corrienne Nichols, Petra Begnell, Beth Dunlop, Sarah Quick, Jacinta Geary, Lisa Dempster, Rosie Brennan

Apologies: Melanie Holt, Tina Robinson, Jess Crimmins, Karly O'Donaghue and Pamela Johnson

No.	Agenda item	Owner
1	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country Chair	
2.	Check in, introduction and current arrangements Chair	
3.	<p>Organisational and community responses to COVID-19.</p> <p>Prompts:</p> <p>Is your organisation/community providing specific 'relief' services in response to the pandemic?</p> <p>If so what are the key needs of the community members you are supporting?</p> <p>What support could Council offer in supporting your service to run during this pandemic?</p> <p>Round table discussion</p>	<p>Julia from HealthAbility: Services have moved to telehealth for majority of clients. The centre is still open for clients with complex needs or that require face to face services. A wellbeing taskforce has been established for all clients. Comprehensive service with link to additional supports that may be required: financial stress, social connection, pets, accommodation etc.</p> <p>Petra from North East Health Communities (NEHC): NEHC is gearing up to support the NEHC partners navigate COVID relief and recovery efforts collaboratively across the catchment. Social isolation project: NEHC will perform a mapping activity across the catchment, create a social inclusion alliance and adopt a collective impact approach for sharing and combining efforts.</p> <p>Beth from Austin Mental Health: Austin Mental Health is open and still seeing consumers. Reduced direct contact with slight changes to inpatient settings etc. There is increased funding for carers with a COVID relief package. The centre has been quiet. In the last week there has been an increase in calls from parents living with a mental illness. High levels of stress have been reported from having kids home from school and there being little respite time available. Demand for services is seeming to build. Research</p>

	<p>across the sector indicates an increase in next months to weeks to years as further impacts are seen.</p> <p>Rosie – Women’s Health in the North (WHIN). Continuing to work from homes. WHIN has suspended in person training programs and developing training online. GenVic are responding to an increase in family violence. WHIN are continuing GE work and applying a gender equity lens over the unfolding pandemic. In the Sexual Reproductive Health space education has been adapted to be shared through social media using a number of different methods. WHIN will be establishing a virtual women’s circle for respectful relationships program. Happy to contribute to service mapping.</p> <p>Yarra Plenty Regional Libraries Every member over 70 is receiving a phone check in. Targeted at the older cohort who may not be online. YPRL will be starting groups next week. I.e. Yack and yarn, homework help, story time, walking them through assignments. Reach as many people as possible share in newsletters and networks.</p> <p>Sarah – Gambler’s Help Closed site in Greensborough and now operating out of the Heidelberg. Telehealth is being used for Counseling services. Volunteer groups have been suspended but are operating online where they can. Health promotion arm of Gambler’s Help is usually based in schools/ community. Currently developing online resources cyber safety, parental controls access gambling.</p> <p>Jacinta Geary – Relationships Victoria RV has adapted quickly to phone and zoom counselling services. Quite challenging for consumers to access the services privately whilst living with families or others. Group work currently on hold.</p> <p>Corrienne Nichols – Nillumbik Shire Council Meals on wheel operating with staff deployed to fill volunteer roles. Maternal Child Health taking appointments for 1-8wk. Appointments are available to all parents if they are concerned about their child. The waste centers are reopening next week (4th May). In the community partnerships space – the youth team are holding a strong social media presence on the Youth FB and Instagram, e-news letters for community and youth. Invite to share content. Development of a discussion paper – mapping service delivery and providing gap analysis for relief coordination.</p>
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3.2	What support could Council offer in supporting your service to run during this pandemic?	<p>HealthAbility – Julia Mapping of services operating. Feeding back information around community needs.</p> <p>North East Healthy Communities – Petra Opportunity now to look externally. NEHC to support, facilitate and coordinate across Councils and region. Discussion how to place the MHWBP to reflect broader north metro regional plans.</p> <p>Rosie - Women’s Health in the North Continuing to put Gender lens over pandemic responses. Any promotion of trainings and workshops. No reinventing the wheel – sharing information wherever possible.</p> <p>Beth – Austin Mental Health Services mapping would be useful. Triage number to be shared.</p> <p>Jacinta – Relationships Victoria Ideas for clients to access services from home safely. RV to discuss ideas with HealthAbility counselling.</p>
4	Community wellbeing results presentation – Anna Maio	<p>The CD team work through the framework of informed, connected and resilient communities. The survey was sent to community groups to identify services and needs during and beyond pandemic. Survey results have highlighted the strengths of the community and show how groups have quickly adapted to move digital. This has looked different for a number of groups. I.e. For Men’s Shed Eltham the president has been calling all members individually to check in. This information will contribute to the discussion paper and the mapping of services. A fortnight community newsletter is also being curated. Members are invited to send content to be included in this newsletter.</p>
5	Development of next iteration of Health and Wellbeing Plan Keera	Keera presented on legislative requirements and timelines of HWBP 2021-2025.
6	Closing remark Chair	

Next Meeting:
TBC, late June.

Action Summary

Agenda item	Responsibility	Start date	Action required	Progress to date
3.	NSC	30 th April	To share contact details with all members.	
3.1	NSC	30 th April	To set up meeting with NEHC and Community Services team at NSC.	
3.2	NSC	30 th April	To share service mapping on completion of discussion paper	
3.3	Relationships Victoria & Healthability	30 th April	To make contact regarding virtual counselling services	
4	NSC	30 th April	To share contact details for contents to be submitted to bi-weekly community newsletter.	