



**GLEN EIRA
SUSTAINABILITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

The Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 7.00pm

27 April 2023

Location: Yarra Yarra Room, Glen Eira Town Hall, and Online via Teams

Present:

Councillors:

Cr Simone Zmood
Cr Sue Pennicuik

Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member

Community

Representatives:

Rochelle Lake
Christopher Gatto
Bruce McDonald
Julia Vogrig
Peter Petros
Helen Fischer

Community Committee Member
Community Committee Member
Community Committee Member
Community Committee Member
Community Committee Member
Community Committee Member

Council Staff:

Jessica Wingad
Bruce Paton
Shlomit Kuttner

Manager Sustainability and Infrastructure
Coordinator Climate Emergency and Environment
Sustainability Project Officer

1. Apologies

Cr Li Zhang

Gina Rosenberg

2. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

No conflicts of interest were declared

3. Action Items Update from last Committee Meeting

Title/Item	Action	Update	Responsible Officer	Active/Closed
5.4 Community batteries	Circulate link to Glen Eira sustainability e-news	Link circulated with minutes	Bruce Paton	Closed
5.4 Community batteries	Circulate copy of community battery presentation with explanatory notes	Presentation circulated with minutes	Bruce Paton	Closed
5.5 Biodiversity Report	Circulate link to <i>Biodiversity in Glen Eira 2018 report</i>	Link circulated with minutes	Bruce Paton	Closed
5.5 Biodiversity Report	Circulate copy of Biodiversity Plan presentation with explanatory notes	Presentation circulated with minutes	Bruce Paton	Closed
5.5 Biodiversity Report	Incorporate researching Glen Eira's pre-1788 biodiversity and incorporating regional context (in terms of both biodiversity and actions being taken by councils) in the development of the Biodiversity Plan and/or the tender for consultants.	No action as of yet – this will be incorporated into the plan and tender documents where appropriate	Bruce Paton	Not started
5.6 SAC workshop review	Create sharable document for the Committee members to share their ideas on key priorities and actions	Document created and link shared with minutes	Bruce Paton	Closed
5.6 SAC workshop review	Create document summarising the priorities of Council from the point of view of Council officers	Document created and link shared with minutes	Bruce Paton	Closed

4. Endorsement of minutes from previous meeting

Summary provided:

Yes

Have the recommendations been adopted by council at the relevant Ordinary Council Meeting:

N/A as no recommendations came out of the last meeting

The Committee voted to endorse the minutes from the March 2023 meeting

5. Items for Discussion:

5.1 SAC Workshop Review

Jessica Wingad

Notes:

JW provided a summary of the SAC workshop in November of 2022. She specified that the five goals of SAC were revisited but that how the Committee will achieve them was not discussed due to time constraints.

BP provided a summary of SAC's discussion of the workshop outcomes at the previous SAC meeting in March 2023. The feedback from the Committee members in this meeting was that the Excel document summarising the workshop outcomes was too complex, and that therefore as an action from this meeting BP developed two documents for Committee members: an online document for the Committee members to share their ideas on key priorities and actions, and a summary of the priorities of Council from the point of view of Council officers. These documents were circulated prior to the Committee following the meeting.

The Committee members then split into two groups, so that Committee members could review the comments that had been made on the online document, discuss additional priorities and actions, and decide which priorities the Committee will focus on going forward:

- Group One consisted of Cr Simone Zmood, Helen Fischer, Julia Vogrig and Peter Petros, supported by Jessica Wingad
- Group Two consisted of Cr Sue Pennicuik, Bruce McDonald, Christopher Gatto and Rochelle Lake, supported by Bruce Paton

Committee members reconvened and provided a high-level summary of their discussions.

Group One identified waste and biodiversity/urban forest as critical issues for SAC to address, while Group Two identified three priority areas: waste, solar and energy, and biodiversity/green spaces/urban forest.

During the discussion Committee members raised the following points:

- The priorities from both groups were similar.
- To address these the next four meetings of the Committee should each focus on one topic, and that these should include waste, solar and energy, and biodiversity/urban greening.
- These meetings should all be held in the next six months, with the first meeting taking place before the end of June 2023.
- Each of these topics is also linked to municipal emissions and aligns with Council goals.
- Room should be provided in the agenda of each meeting to allow for additional discussion regarding the topic.

- The Committee members will provide comments and questions ahead of each meeting to provide more room for discussion.

The Committee agreed that the notes from the group discussions will be circulated to Committee members, and that Committee members will reflect on the order of topics to be discussed at the upcoming meetings.

JW clarified that Council is currently at the scoping stage for the Biodiversity Plan and that there is opportunity for the SAC to provide advice during the development stage. Based on this the Committee agreed that biodiversity will be the first topic of discussion at the next meeting.

JW has invited Committee members to a google drive folder which allows members to share and comment on documents.

Actions:

BP to share group discussion notes with Committee members.

BP to share doodle poll to confirm dates for the next four meetings.

JW to reshare google drive folder link with Committee members

5.2 SAC Working Groups

Cr Sue Pennicuik (Chair)

Notes:

JW provided a summary of this item, which was suggested at the November 2022 workshop as a means of helping SAC deliver on priorities going forward.

During the discussion Committee members raised the following points:

- During the previous discussion solar there were some differences between the priorities raised by the two groups, as solar was identified as a priority issue by Group Two.
- However the members of Group One agreed that solar is a priority, but that it is more complex, and that even if individual members are not as knowledgeable about it, it is still a priority.

The Committee agreed that at this stage the Committee should focus on themed meetings, and that Committee members can come back to this discussion of working groups as they see fit.

BP mentioned that it would be good to tap into the expertise of the members within the Committee, and that this would provide the group the opportunity to provide knowledgeable advice on Council actions.

5.3 General Business

All

Notes:

SP asked if there was any general business from the group. The following points were raised by members:

- It was suggested that the SAC work to implement cat curfews, to help protect local biodiversity.

- Council facilitates solar and renewable energy programs, and that the Committee can improve community engagement. It was suggested that this be discussed in the “solar/energy” meeting.
- There will be many changes in the solar and electrification space in the next few years.
- There are a range of community initiatives being run across different Council teams. She suggested that SAC and Council look at how they can leverage these initiatives to get better outcomes.
- A Committee member asked whether there are any programs currently in place to engage schools and/or connect younger generations and older residents. BP responded that there are many citizen science programs being run in Glen Eira and that Council facilitates a youth advisory Committee and youth climate sustainability action group.

5.4 Future Meeting Schedule

Cr Sue Pennecuik (Chair)

Action:

BP to share doodle poll to confirm dates for the next four Committee meetings..

5.5 Closure of meeting

The meeting closed at 8.43pm

Note:

- **Recommendations will be noted above under each Agenda Item**
- **Actions from this meeting**

Title/Item	Action	Update	Responsible Officer	Active/Closed
Group discussion notes	Group discussion notes to be shared with Committee members.	Shared with minutes	BP	Closed
Shared google drive	Google drive folder link to be shared with Committee members to facilitate sharing and document management	Link emailed to Committee members	JW	Closed
Next meeting dates	Doodle poll shared to confirm dates for the next four meetings.	Shared with minutes	BP	Closed