



**GLEN EIRA
SUSTAINABILITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

The Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 7.00pm

29 June 2023

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

Present:

Councillors:

Cr Li Zhang	Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
Cr Sue Pennicuik	Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member

Community

<i>Representatives:</i> Bruce McDonald	Community Committee Member
Christopher Gatto	Community Committee Member
Helen Fischer	Community Committee Member
Peter Petros	Community Committee Member

Council Staff:

Jessica Wingad	Acting Director Sustainability Assets and Leisure
Bruce Paton	Coordinator Climate Emergency and Environment
Radha Wagle	Biodiversity and Climate Adaptation Lead
Mark Dornau	Manager Parks Services
Jarrold Knight	Coordinator Urban Forest

External speaker: Kerry Gore

1. Apologies

Cr Simone Zmood
Gina Rosenberg
Julia Vogrig
Rochelle Lake

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
5.1 SAC workshop review	Group discussion notes to be shared with Committee members	Notes shared with minutes of meeting	Bruce Paton	Closed
5.1 SAC workshop review	Google drive folder link to be shared with Committee members to facilitate sharing and document management	Link shared with minutes of meeting	Jessica Wingad	Closed
5.1 SAC workshop review	Doodle poll shared to confirm dates for the next four meetings.	Doodle poll shared with minutes of meeting	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 April 2023 meeting

5. Items for Discussion:

5.1 Introductions

Bruce Paton

Notes:

Radha Wagle and Kerry Gore introduced themselves to the committee.

Radha has recently been appointed as the Biodiversity and Climate Adaptation Lead at Glen Eira. She brings with her a great deal of relevant experience in Nepal, including leading climate negotiations in international forums, working with local communities to manage forests and protect biodiversity and facilitating climate adaptation programs.

Kerry is a Glen Eira community member with many years' experience in urban greening, including working closely with Council's Parks Services department to support the development of the Glen Eira Urban Forest Strategy. He's kindly agreed to attend the meeting to provide some context and background on urban greening, and inform the Committee's discussions.

Actions:

None

5.2 Urban Greening

Kerry Gore

Notes:

Kerry Gore presented on the principles of urban greening and sound planning and policy, including how this had informed the development of the Glen Eira Urban Forest Strategy.

The question was raised as to whether Council has considered transitioning areas with lots of concrete to better designed green spaces. Council has identified that the most efficient approach to increase tree cover is planting on residential streets.

Kerry has shared his Powerpoint slides along with supporting documents, which Bruce will circulate to the committee.

Actions:

BP to share Kerry Gore's slides and supporting documents

5.3 Implementing the Glen Eira Urban Forest Strategy

Mark Dornau

Notes:

Mark Dornau presented on the Urban Forest Strategy, and the actions that Parks Services are taking to support and promote urban greening and biodiversity in Glen Eira.

The following questions were raised during the presentation:

- *How does Council manage trade-offs when managing these issues, and what are the hardest trade-offs that you have had to make to achieve your desired outcomes?*

Mark Dornau replied that linking parks has been a challenge – Council

- *Are you accessing the expertise and experience of other Councils and locations to inform your planning?*

Bruce Paton responded that Council will be benchmarking biodiversity and urban greening plans and delivery strategies across south east Melbourne, to inform how we direct our investment and the development of the Biodiversity Plan.

- *How do you protect trees and biodiversity on private land?*

Council officers are currently preparing a draft local law, looking at blanket tree and vegetation protection for Glen Eira.

Bruce Paton acknowledged the benefits of using small spaces to create 'micro forests' and other small-scale methods of supporting biodiversity, which can allow Council to avoid some of the trade-offs that have traditionally needed to be made when weighing up the use of space for urban greening.

Kerry Gore agreed, citing the example of the Miyawaki method, which is used to grow high biodiversity 'tiny forests'. He also pointed out that planning for urban greening in Glen Eira is driven by streets and small spaces.

Actions:

None

**5.4 Group discussion:
How will we protect and promote biodiversity in Glen Eira?**

**Cr Sue Pennecuik
(Chair)**

Notes:

Bruce Paton presented the Biodiversity Program Logic that Council has developed to guide the development of the Biodiversity Plan, and the actions that Council is taking to support and promote biodiversity. The committee members discussed the program logic and proposed amendments which have been incorporated into an updated document, which will be sent to the Committee.

The following points were also raised in the discussion:

- Planning has traditionally prioritised 'gray infrastructure'. Green and blue infrastructure need to be raised to an equal level of consideration in the planning process.
- The City of Melbourne provides a point of comparison for Glen Eira.
- We need to have a willingness to make tough choices, such as prioritising adding trees. This can involve exploring multiple benefits, which can (for example) encourage a mode shift in transport that frees up space for trees. Kerry Gore provided the example of converting 2-way streets to 1-way streets to improve streetscapes and greening, which is a good example of how biodiversity and planning overlap.
- Large areas of non-Council land provide opportunities to improve biodiversity. Examples of this include Monash University's Caulfield campus and land managed by VicRoads.
- Working with schools can provide quick wins and influence the community. Kerry Gore mentioned that he has done some work with schools, including incorporating these topics into the curriculum.
- Engineers are a good target audience. If they are educated about urban greening they can integrate it into planning, and they can be leveraged to influence others.
- We will need to ensure developers incorporate urban greening and biodiversity. The planning scheme should be amended to require this.
- Some solutions are simple to implement, such as permeable concrete for crossovers.
- Councils must be advocates for biodiversity. Example of how this can be done effectively include Melbourne City Council's Green Factor tool (<https://www.greenfactor.com.au>) and the Planning for a Safe Climate campaign (<https://www.gmca.org.au/planning-for-a-safe-climate.html>), which Council is a member of. Our advocacy also needs to meaningfully engage the community, to influence hearts and minds.
- Monitoring is an essential component of protecting and promoting biodiversity. This includes adding targets and indicators, defining what is being measured and determining the baseline to measure this from. Examples of this could include setting targets for the area or percentage of Glen Eira with biodiversity coverage, and naming specific target dates rather than a band of time.
- Our overall goal shouldn't be limited to Glen Eira. Instead we need to contribute to biodiversity at a regional level, such as through the creation or maintenance of habitat corridors. The proposed south east biodiversity network, which Glen Eira is working on in partnership with other councils in our region, would be an excellent way to accomplish this.
- We need to foster community level programs that protect and promote biodiversity on private land, such as Land for Wildlife (or something similar). This should be promoted through education and engagement, and will generate a lot of pride in the people who become involved.

Actions:

BP to send a live version of the updated program logic to Committee, to edit and add comments.

5.5 General Business

Cr Sue Pennecuik (Chair)

Notes:

Bruce Paton, Mark Dornau and Jarrod Knight raised the fact that the Urban Forest Strategy includes the following action:

Establish a community Urban Forestry/Climate and Sustainability/Parks and Gardens advisory committee.

They proposed that the Sustainability Advisory Committee expand its scope to include these topics, rather than creating a new stand alone committee.

The Committee members were supportive, and have asked Bruce Paton to investigate.

Actions:

BP to investigate whether and how the Committee' scope can be expanded to include Urban Forestry and Parks and Gardens

BP to circulate draft amendments to Terms of Reference to Committee members for comment

5.6 Future meeting schedule

Bruce Paton

Notes:

The Committee members have responded to the Doodle poll that was sent out, and some preferred dates have been identified. These will be circulated to the Committee.

Actions:

BP to send preferred meeting dates to the Committee.

5.7 Closure of meeting

The meeting closed at 10pm.

Note:

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

Title/Item	Action	Update	Responsible Officer	Active/Closed
5.2 Urban Greening	Share Kerry Gore's slides and supporting documents	Sent with minutes of meeting	Bruce Paton	Closed
5.4 Group discussion: How will we protect and promote biodiversity in Glen Eira?	Send a live version of the updated program logic to Committee, to edit and add comments.	Sent with minutes of meeting	Bruce Paton	Closed
5.5. General business	Investigate whether and how the Committee' scope can be expanded to include Urban Forestry and Parks and Gardens.	Bruce Paton has confirmed that the Terms of Reference can be expanded. The revised Terms of Reference will be submitted to a full Council meeting for endorsement.	Bruce Paton	Closed
	Circulate revised Terms of Reference to the Committee	The Terms of Reference will be circulated to the Committee once they have been updated	Bruce Paton	Closed
5.6 Future meeting schedule	Circulate dates to the Committee	Dates and calendar invitations have been sent to Committee members.	Bruce Paton	closed