



**GLEN EIRA
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

The Environmental Stewardship meeting commenced at 6:00pm.

**Monday 16 February 2026
6:00pm–8:00pm**

***Yarra Yarra Room
Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield***

Committee members

<i>Councillors:</i>	Cr Arabella Daniel (Chair)	Councillor committee member
	Cr Li Zhang	Councillor committee member
	Cr Simone Zmood	Councillor committee member

Community

<i>Representatives:</i>	Simon Campbell	Community committee member
	Stephanie Epp	Community committee member
	Helen Fischer (online)	Community committee member
	Eva Godnjavec	Community committee member
	Andiope Hatzis	Community committee member
	Jane Knight	Community committee member
	Sue Pennicuik	Community committee member
	Neishika Pillay	Community committee member
	Tamara Taylor	Community committee member
	Mark Wallace	Community committee member

<i>Council Officers:</i>	Niall McDonagh	Director Sustainability, Assets and Leisure
	Damien Connell	Head of Climate & Circular Economy
	Bruce Paton (online)	Coordinator Climate & Sustainability
	Kylie Hill	Executive Management Office

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country Cr Arabella Daniel

The committee was welcomed and the Traditional Owners and Custodians were acknowledged.

2. Apologies Cr Arabella Daniel

Cr Li Zhang and Eva Godnjavec

3. Reminder to declare conflicts of interest Cr Arabella Daniel

Members were reminded of their obligations under the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's Governance Rules. No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. Action items from previous minutes Cr Arabella Daniel

- Community training for committee members and broader community: In progress. Council advised training is planned to be made available more broadly once dates are confirmed.

5. Meeting minutes from previous meeting Cr Arabella Daniel

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2025 were adopted on the 3 February OCM with two amendments required to be made.

1. Added wording under section 7 to read "Clear pathway and measurable progression towards Council and community-wide climate emissions reduction"; and
2. add spacing to the wording "on the ground work".

Simon has requested an amendment to the previous minutes to reflect his additional point with regard to Solar for Schools: GECC could work with schools to help them move to solar, as low-hanging fruit for emissions reductions. What is needed is for someone knowledgeable to meet with the schools to explain the advantages and practicalities.

6. Items for discussion

6.1 Short presentation on Council progress with key focus areas Damien Connell

Council officers provided an update on six priority areas identified at the previous meeting:

- Urban Forest Strategy - Review underway; stronger focus on climate adaptation and biodiversity; alignment with Biodiversity Plan.
- Integrated Water Management Plan- Current actions progressing, next Integrated Water Management Plan scheduled for completion in 2026–27. Elster Creek Litter Action Plan recently presented to Council, focusing on catchment-wide impacts and water quality.
- Council Emissions - Council remains committed to achieving net zero emissions for Council operations by 2031. Major focus on reducing gas usage, particularly at aquatic and leisure facilities. Transition from gas to electric systems underway, supported by external funding. All Council electricity sourced from renewable energy through the VECO scheme ([Home - VECO | The Victorian Energy Collaboration](#)).
- Community Emissions - Recognised as the largest emissions source for Glen Eira. To combat this, Council is focusing on education, behaviour change programs, grants, and partnerships (including schools and community groups).
- Circular Economy Plan - Current Circular Economy Plan (2022–26) is nearing completion;

strong outcomes noted (FOGO, e-waste, repair programs, regional collaboration); preparation is well advanced for next Glen Eira Circular Economy plan.

- Air Quality - Air quality research has commenced, including collaboration with internal and external experts. Initial focus on data collection and correlation with existing monitoring.

Discussion was held regarding waste contamination rates, what model of bulk buying amongst businesses would work, and assisting schools with green waste through education, setting up systems, and then advocacy. Advised that council bin audits are about to begin.

Circular Economy Plan discussion

Damien Connell

- Recap of the Glen Eira Circular Economy Plan (2022-26)
- Introduction to the proposed Glen Eira Circular Economy Plan (2026-30)

Workshop Discussion – Circular Economy and Council’s Role

The Chair facilitated a discussion focusing on Council’s role in enabling the circular economy relative to state/federal government, business and individual roles.

Key themes raised by committee members included:

- Strong support for Council leadership in education, facilitation and advocacy rather than sole delivery.
- Opportunities to work more closely with:
 - Schools (food waste reduction, consistent waste education);
 - Small businesses and traders (organics, contamination reduction);
 - Manufacturers and supply chains (product stewardship, packaging).
- Challenges associated with multi-unit developments and recycling contamination.
- Support for stronger advocacy on:
 - Product stewardship;
 - Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) integration; and
 - Alternatives to a mandatory fourth glass bin kerbside service.
- Importance of equity considerations and impacts across different socioeconomic groups.
- Interest in innovative models such as shared circular economy hubs and precinct-based approaches.

6.3 Emerging circular economy questions to consider

Damien Connell

Based on 6.1 and 6.2, a question was proposed to the committee to consider and comment on:

1. Do you think we adequately captured the community segments we should be engaging with on the Circular Economy Plan (2026-2030)? Is there anyone missing we should approach?

Key point raised:

- The community segments presented appear quite comprehensive. Discussion mentioned that including manufacturers (procurement), academic experts for best practice (Monash), non-locals (visitors/employees), sports clubs, and EPA (NSW AND VIC) would enhance the

Circular Economy Plan.

2. With all these challenges and opportunities in mind, what do you think Council's role should be? Compare/contrast this to the role of State/ federal Governments, Businesses, Product Manufactures and what the individual should be doing.

Discussion themes emerged, which included:

- Constraints and enablers influencing Council action, including State Government policy settings and local laws.
- Areas where Council could strengthen advocacy efforts
- Whether changes to the Waste Management Contract may be required to support circular economy outcomes.
- The importance of continuing to build and promote the Integrated Transport System (ITS).
- Learnings from other jurisdictions and communities, including examples from Germany (separating coloured glass), the South Coast of Australia (four bins per household), and Acland St analysis (bulk purchasing).

A further strategic question was posed to the Committee:

3. Given Circular Economy Plans are typically four-year plans, should the planning horizon extend beyond this timeframe?

Key points raised:

- Strong support for a longer-term vision (e.g. to 2036 or 2040), aligned with our Community Vision.
- There was a preference for:
 - clear and measurable actions;
 - defined interim milestones; and
 - regular reporting and review.
- Emphasis on balancing long-term ambition with urgent, near-term actions.

6.4 Meeting review and next steps

Cr Arabella Daniel

- Reflection on meeting format
Support for deeper focus on one key topic per meeting.
- Schedule for discussion of key areas for future meetings
Preference for discussion questions, next meeting content and background material to be circulated in advance

7. General business

Cr Arabella Daniel

- May 8 is Sir Attenborough's 100th birthday – could the council do something to celebrate this? This was taken on notice with further advice to be provided by officers.
- The length of the meeting was also raised - do we require longer?
Advice provided noted that generally the meetings are kept to two hours, however, where the

agenda requires additional time could be allocated.

- The Chair reminded the Committee that if that had any further reflection in relation to Council's role in Circular Economy to send their thoughts through post the meeting.

8. Meeting schedule

Meetings of the Committee will be held quarterly in person and will be made available online also. The meeting schedule for 2026 is:

- 11 May 2026
- 10 August 2026
- 16 November 2026

9. Closure of Meeting:

The Chair thanked members and officers for their time, insights and constructive discussion.

The meeting closed at 8:00pm.

Minutes to be presented for adoption at next Ordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday 17 March 2026.

Title/Item	Action	Update	Responsible Officer	Active/ Closed
Training- Local Government Victoria (Community members)	Confirm dates and advise committee	January	Kylie	Active
Minutes from 8 December minutes resent with amendment	Circulate amended minutes	February	Kylie	Closed
Waste contamination Rates	Relay data to Cr Zmood and committee	March	Damien	Pending
Emissions data (gas and electricity) for Glen Eira residents	Relay data to Cr Daniel and committee	May	Damien	Pending
Pilot for Circular Economy	Send to Arabella	March	Damien	Pending
Good news stories	Increase communication surrounding good news stories for the public	Ongoing	Damien	Ongoing
Update on UFS	Circulate before next meeting	May	Damien	Pending
Discussion questions and background material to be circulated	Circulate before next meeting	May	Kylie	Pending

Sir David Attenborough 100th birthday celebration	Officers to review options	March	Kylie	Active
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