



**GLEN EIRA
SUSTAINABILITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

The Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 6:30pm

6 October 2022

Location: *Online via Teams*

Present:

Councillors:

Cr Simone Zmood (Chair)	Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
Sue Pennicuik	Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member

Community

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

Council Staff:

Niall McDonagh	Director Sustainability Assets and Leisure
Jessica Wingad	Manager Sustainability and Infrastructure
Bruce Paton	Coordinator Climate Emergency and Environment
Jennifer Shin	Coordinator Circular Economy
Kelly Heffer	Senior Sustainability Officer
Fiona Murphy	Sustainable Design Officer

1. Apologies

Cr Li Zhang

Cr David Zyngier

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
Recruitment of new SAC community representatives	Provide SAC community representatives with information about the expression of interest process once it is publicised.	The EOI process was publicised through a wide range of channels that the community members could access.	Bruce Paton	Closed
Circular Economy Plan update	Send Committee members a link to the draft Plan and Have Your Say survey when it is available.	Links to the Plan and survey were sent to the committee on May 23 2022	Bruce Paton	Closed
Woodfire heating advocacy	Ensure there is a dedicated website and information sheet	A website and information sheet were created	Brooke Ranken	Closed

4. Summary of meeting 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

Bruce Paton provided an update from the May 2022 Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting, including

- That this was the final meeting in the term of the previous community representatives.
- The key topics covered in the meeting were Woodfire Heating Advocacy, an update on the Circular Economy Plan, an update on the Integrated Water Management Plan and a discussion of community engagement.
- Following the meeting Council's Project Management Office also provided an update on the Multi-Level Car Parks project, which was circulated to committee members by email. An additional update has been received for this meeting (see below):

Multi-Level Car Parks project update

Council initiated a further round of engagement from 30 May to 3 July to share the outcomes of the Project Feasibility Phase and seek community feedback to inform the decision about the next steps for the commuter multideck car parks in Elsternwick and Bentleigh. The outcomes of this consultation process were presented to Council on 30 August 2022.

After a discussion amongst Councillors that included noting feedback received during community consultation, Council supported a hold point for the project until further guidance is received from the Federal Government regarding the Urban Congestion Fund. The report and meeting minutes can be found [here](#).

Council will report back to the community once an update from the Federal Government is received, which is expected later this year.

5. Items for Discussion:

5.1 Introducing the new members of the committee (Chair)

Cr Simone Zmood

Notes:

SZ welcomed the new members of the committee

SAC members introduced themselves

5.2 How will the Committee work in this term? (Chair)

Cr Simone Zmood

Notes:

SZ asked the committee their preferences for the frequency and duration of meetings, and whether the meeting should be online or face-to-face. The committee members responded that:

RL prefers to meet in person, but a mix face to face and online is acceptable, with quarterly meetings at 2 hours duration

HF preferences as above, with urgent matters escalated and interim meetings called

CG preferences as above

JV preferences as above, with the option of bringing children for face-to-face meetings – this was supported by the other committee members.

BM preferences as above. He also raised concerns surrounding infrequent meetings in terms of ensuring that the actions decided upon are monitored and completed.

PP has occasional international travel, and therefore he will be online for the majority of meetings (even those where other committee members meet face to face)

SZ proposed five meetings for next year, possibly on the 3rd Thursday of every month, noting that issues requiring an urgent response can be moved online if need be

NM stated the committee would like to avoid inaction, but that it is also necessary to give officers time to complete actions.

SZ stated that interim meetings (outside our regular quarterly meetings) are to be confirmed or cancelled 2 weeks in advance

RL inquired as to the outcomes achieved by previous committee.

SZ stated, in response to this question, that the focus of the previous committee was mainly on developing strategy – and that now we are at the implementation stage.

JW made the point that the operation of the committee is in the hands of the members, and that Council is supportive of the committee proactively guiding its own agenda.

SZ suggested holding a face-to-face meeting to workshop the goals of the committee and how these might be achieved. The committee members supported this suggestion and it was agreed that the meeting should be held in late November or early December.

NM stated that Council is committed to moving into the implementation of strategies, and therefore will be able to report to and receive input from group. However Council will need assistance from committee members to achieve recommendations.

Actions/ Recommendations:

- Future meetings to be moved to a 7pm - 9pm timeslot
- **Bruce Paton** to circulate proposed dates for face-to-face meeting in November/December

5.3 Introduction to key frameworks and policies

Jessica Wingad

Notes:

JW presented a high-level reflection on council workings with an overview of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IPRF). The presentation included tier one and tier two strategies, and the framework for influencing decision making and reporting measurements and achievements. JW stated we need to review and respond to community aspirations.

BM asked whether there was a stand-alone energy plan.

SZ responded that energy is included in *Our Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2021-2025 | Dhumbali Wurrungi-biik Parbin-ata*, and that the draft Circular Economy plan refers to embedded energy.

JW noted that there are also some plans that are still a work in progress, and that therefore these may not have been represented in the presentation.

RL asked how do we track and report on progress?

NM responded that Council provides high level reporting quarterly on strategies linked to the council plan, and that more detailed reporting can be provided if there is an appetite for this from the committee.

SZ suggested providing a snapshot of community engagement to the committee

5.4 Climate action communications and engagement campaign

Kelly Heffer

Notes:

KH presented on the proposed communications and engagement campaign, including:

- Goals 2, 4 and 6 of *Our Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2021-2025 | Dhumbali Wurrungi-biik Parbin-ata*, which are designed to protect the community and support them to take action.
- A list of key actions from the strategy, which guide Council's communications and engagement.
- The objectives of the campaign:
 - Engage a broad cross-section of the Glen Eira community to take climate action in a range of different ways
 - Raise the profile of the climate action being taken by Council and the community and communicate this in a coherent way
 - Engage people to understand the climate emergency and the scale and urgency of the response needed

- Proposed key messages to achieve these objectives.
- 10 proposed sub-campaigns designed to deliver these messages and achieve the campaign objectives.
- Examples of similar campaigns delivered by other councils.

SZ asked members to share an inspiring story related to climate response and how they're making a difference. The committee members responded that:

RL is involved with a company waste pilot to remove hygienic products from landfill.

HF is involved with ACF, and promotional work for adding environmental groups to a will.

CG enjoys planting native plants, veggie gardens, and is involved with a community group turning laneways into sustainability hubs.

JV focuses on reducing fossil fuel consumption, growing fruit and veg at home, and has procured solar panels, a Dutch cargo bike, with an EV on the horizon.

BM has solar panels, has begun electrifying home appliances, and is working with Murrumbene PS to build data for an energy consumption model, while advocating for increased solar panel usage in schools.

PP works with mushrooms and fungi and is encouraging mushroom cultivation within the community.

SZ asked whether the committee members are happy to be contacted to build a story sharing initiative.

All members responded 'yes'.

BP has an EV car on the way and is focused on making the invisible 'visible' by getting sustainability initiatives seen in the community.

KH in the process of getting house off gas and continuing to grow own food.

JW is an EV owner and has been involved in a community driven waste collection 'beach patrol' in Mornington Peninsula.

JS joined 7.52pm

5.5 Community engagement slides - Advocacy

Bruce Paton

BP delivered a short presentation on Council advocacy in the lead up to the 2022 Victorian state election, including:

- How GECC advocates for climate action
- Strategic documents that guide this advocacy
- Council's advocacy priorities in the upcoming State election
- Asking the committee members to assist with this advocacy, by getting the word out through their community networks

BM queried about open space, and asked if a sports field is a useful open space, or could we potentially look at turning exclusive land into something for all of the community?

SZ noted that GECC have invested considerable planning and finances towards developing open space and, ideally, we'd like to meet biodiversity and sporting needs together

Additional information

<https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/get-involved/advocacy>

<https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/get-involved/advocacy/state-election>

5.6 Circular Economy update Jennifer Shin

Notes:

JS presented on the circular economy, focusing on:

- The background to the Circular Economy Plan
- Council actions and successes in the context of the circular economy
- Details of the Hard Rubbish service review and community engagement plan, which is listed as action 1.1.4 within the draft Circular Economy Plan

JS asked for feedback from the committee on the scope of the engagement.

RL queried the service model for hard rubbish collection and asked whether there is evidence that scheduled hard rubbish collections promote re-usage more than booked hard rubbish collections.

JS responded the engagement may be able to provide some insight.

PP is in favour of scheduled collections to create community involvement in re-purposing hard rubbish.

SP put forward that we could offer a mixed model, as Multi-Unit Developments (MUDs) need flexibility in collection. SP also suggested targeted waste stream collection days.

SZ suggested that the booking process for hard rubbish collection can include a box to tick for good quality items.

Update following the meeting: The Circular Economy Plan was formally adopted by Council on October 12 2022.

6. General Business:

HF noted that not much recycling is happening at some high schools, and asked if Council can send officers to set up recycling systems.

JS responded that waste collection depends on the school, as some are privately managed. GECC has previously conducted one-off collections for large volumes e.g., cardboard.

RL suggested exploring better ways of allowing feedback from the committee, such as word clouds or collaborative software.

SZ suggested possibly reducing the agenda to allow more time for feedback.

PP queried whether Council is interested in developing an app for waste circulation.

BM suggested breaking into sub-committees, concerned that with the number of members it may be hard to delve into the details.

SZ suggested a possible theme for each meeting and 'breaking-out' into rooms to increase traction.

JW suggested trialling feedback mechanisms to catch feedback in-between committee meetings.

KH noted any feedback on her presentation is welcome by email/phone.

SZ requested KH to please share the CERS presentation.

KH responded that CERS presentation will go out with the minutes.

Actions/ Recommendations:

- **Bruce Paton** to include presentations when the minutes are circulated to the committee

7. Forward Meeting Schedule

Cr Simone Zmood

DATE	Items	Officer/Member

The dates for future meetings have not yet been set. Bruce Paton will include a list of potential dates when the minutes are circulated to the committee

Actions/ Recommendations:

- **Bruce Paton** to include a list of potential meeting dates when the minutes are circulated to the committee

8. Next Meeting

See above

9. Closure of Meeting:

The meeting closed at 8:33pm

Minutes to be confirmed at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 2 November 2022.

Note:

- **Recommendations will be noted above under each Agenda Item**

- **Actions from this meeting**

Title/Item	Action	Update	Responsible Officer	Active/Closed
5.2 How will the Committee work in this term?	Circulate proposed dates for face-to-face meeting in November/ December	Proposed dates circulated with minutes	Bruce Paton	Closed
6. General business	Include presentations when minutes are circulated to committee	Presentations included in minutes	Bruce Paton	Closed
7. Forward meeting schedule	Circulate proposed future meeting dates	Proposed dates circulated with minutes	Bruce Paton	Closed