



**GLEN EIRA
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

The Environmental Stewardship meeting commenced at 6:00pm.

**Monday 8 December 2025
6:00pm–8:00pm**

Yarra Yarra Room

Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield

Present:

<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	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	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.

3. Apologies Cr Arabella Daniel

Simon Campbell- Councillor committee member (joined the meeting at 6:20pm)
Cr Simone Zmood left the meeting at 7:25pm

3. Introduction – Councillors, Council Officers Cr Arabella Daniel

Councillors and council officers introduced themselves to the committee.

7. Introduction- Committee Members Cr Arabella Daniel

Committee members introduced themselves to the committee.

5. Committee Terms of Reference and Purpose Niall McDonagh

The ToR were taken as read and it was explained that at each meeting any Conflict of Interest (COI) must be declared. A local government training day is being held in February which committee members will be invited to.

6. Members Roles and Responsibilities Cr Arabella Daniel

The roles and responsibilities of each member of the committee were outlined, and it was mentioned that these meetings will be held in such a way that they are effective and that everyone is included and feels respected and valued.

The Chair communicated that she valued the time that people have given to attend these meetings, and she is hoping that these meetings are collaborative, respectful, open, effective, enjoyable; and that they lead to improvements for the community and provide practical environmental improvements.

Chair- Appointed annually to run meetings, ensure orderly business, present minutes to Council, and draft resolutions when needed. Deputy Chair steps in when unavailable.

Council- Receives all committee minutes at public meetings and votes on any recommendations requiring decisions.

Community members- Appointed based on the committee's needs.

Executive Sponsor - A Director who supports the Chair, oversees agenda/minutes, ensures proper documentation, and prepares reports for Council when decisions are needed.

Secretary - Nominated by the Executive Sponsor to prepare meeting documentation.

7. Contextualising Council's approach to Environmental Stewardship Damien Connell & Bruce Paton

A presentation was given which outlined the urgent need for climate action, highlighting local impacts, community feedback, our achievements to date, key findings, and the Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2025–2029 (CERS), along with upcoming initiatives.

It emphasised that Glen Eira holds a position of responsibility and is well-placed to develop a strategy that provides the community with guidance, support, and practical steps for best practice.

Data shows that 99% of climate emissions come from the community, with only 1% from council operations. Gas and electricity remain the top contributors to municipal emissions.

There are 94 actions aligned with council plans, though air quality work is new territory for us. We have also strengthened trust with First Nations communities through meaningful conversations and actions.

Council is leading four major initiatives, a significant challenge that requires substantial behavioural change within the community. It is critical that we share our progress openly and engage the community in these efforts. The committee remains receptive to exploring additional areas of alignment.

The current four initiatives are:

- ❖ Circular Economy Plan Refresh for the next financial year
- ❖ UFS (Urban Forest Strategy) refresh
- ❖ IWMP (Integrated Water Management Plan)
- ❖ Clear pathway and measurable progression towards Council and community-wide climate emissions reduction

8. Member feedback on areas of focus

Focus Areas

- Committee members agreed with Council's five existing initiatives and suggested adding air quality as a sixth focus area.
- Council officers noted that this could be informed by an upcoming study on sources of air pollution in Glen Eira (e.g., wood heaters, bushfire smoke, dust from extreme winds, indoor air quality) and actions Council can take to improve local air quality.

Political Advocacy

- The committee discussed long-term hurdles in engaging with State and Federal governments.
- Next year's election presents strong advocacy opportunities, particularly with local MPs Steve Dimopoulos and Josh Burns.
- Councillors support the committee and can apply pressure, while the directorate will continue to advocate and build momentum.

Communications

- A clear communications plan is needed.
- Council's communications team will lead targeted engagement and collaborate with other councils for positive outcomes.

Community Engagement & Sustainability

- Members emphasised more on the ground work to assist schools, businesses, shops, and community groups with recycling
- Opportunities exist for partnerships in this area e.g. "Green Building" groups, procurement
- Schools can access rebates for solar panels and water collection through the Solar Savers Program, as they often lack resources.
- Opportunity for load-shifting power during periods of oversupply

Biodiversity

- Planting on nature strips was suggested as a high-visibility action for residents. E.g. Council planting sample nature strip outside Carnegie pool with signage for promotion.
- The idea of plaques for private properties was raised and will be considered in the Biodiversity Plan.

Circular Economy

- Questions were raised about returning bags to shops for recycling.
- Existing resources include:
 - Circular Economy Hub
 - Repair Cafés
 - Men’s Sheds
 - Training programs

Long-Term Vision

- The committee reflected on goals for the next one and five years.
- Emphasis was placed on shifting thinking beyond State vs. Federal issues—the community has a powerful voice that should be leveraged effectively, including emotional appeals.
- Council should help facilitate solar installations for businesses.

9. 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:

- 16 February 2026
- 11 May 2026
- 10 August 2026
- 16 November 2026
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10. Closure of Meeting:

The meeting closed at 8:00pm.

Minutes to be presented for adoption at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday 3 February 2026.

Title/Item	Action	Update	Responsible Officer	Active/ Closed
Training- Local Government Victoria (Community members)	Confirm dates and advise committee	Jan	Kylie	Active
PPT presentation	Include in minutes	Dec	Kylie	Closed
PPT presentation (fourth initiative)	Amend “zero emissions” to “zero climate emissions”	Dec	Bruce	Closed
Previous council strategies- progress	Include in minutes	Dec	Bruce	Closed

