

7.4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

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| Responsible Manager: | Kristy Green, Manager Sustainable Monash |
| Responsible Director: | Jarrold Doake, Director City Services |

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the activities of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) in this report during 2025 and thanks all members for their time and contributions.
2. Acknowledges the following outgoing members for their time and valuable contributions:
 - a. CC Hua
 - b. Jo Prendergast
 - c. Amit Agrawal
 - d. Euan Rowland
 - e. Philip Liberatore
 - f. Ratnakar Vallabhaneni
 - g. Lee Tan
3. Notes the successful appointment of:
 - a. Lee Whitfield
 - b. Genevieve Fryer
 - c. Jungang Fu
 - d. Scott Musgrave-Takeda
 - e. Venkata Kalva
 - f. Dr. Rajmohan Ramanathapillai
 - g. Edna Louzado
 - h. Ann Maria Baby
 - i. Ryan Beurle

INTRODUCTION

At its Meeting on 24 September 2019, Council resolved that its Advisory Committees provide annual updates. This report provides an update of the activities associated with Council's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) during 2025.

COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

A city that promotes environmental sustainability

Where neighbourhoods are designed and developed along environmentally sustainable development and urban design principles, in sympathy with the natural environment.

A council with good governance, strong leadership and community involvement in decision making

A Council that provides governance and leadership for the benefit of our community through community engagement, advocacy, decision making and action.

BACKGROUND

Purpose:

The purpose of the EAC is to inform and advise and collaborate with Monash City Council on environmental sustainability related issues and to enhance the collective impact of Council and the Monash community. EAC has advisory capacity only and has no delegated authority to make decisions as if they were Council. Advisory Committees provide advice to Council and staff to assist them in their decision making.

Since 2007, EAC has provided advice on Council's environmental sustainability programs with a focus on the implementation, monitoring, and review of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026 actions and resulting strategic projects. In more recent years, EAC have provided advice regarding the implementation, monitoring and review of the Zero Net Carbon Action Plan 2020-2025, and the development of the draft Climate Resilience Plan 2026-2030.

Objectives:

The objectives of the Environmental Advisory Committee are to:

- Provide formal input and advice to Council on issues of environmental sustainability
- Provide a forum for information sharing between Council and community
- Advise on projects and discuss topics which may contribute towards a zero carbon, zero waste and climate-resilient community, and healthy and biodiverse environment
- in line with the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-26 and related strategies, including Council's draft Climate Resilience Plan
- Monitor and review environmental sustainability issues in Monash and assist in collection of information to determine the impact of programs and initiatives
- Facilitate formal networks and communication between Council and selected stakeholders,
- Advocate to Council for the benefit of the Monash environment
- Bring up issues of community concern to assist Council in determining of priority activities to be undertaken and annual objectives

Composition:

In accordance with the Terms of Reference (TOR), EAC is represented by up to 15 community members and up to three Councillors, including a Chairperson and a Sub-chairperson. All Environmental Advisory Committee positions are voluntary positions.

In 2025, the membership of EAC included:

- Cr Brian Little (Chair)
- Cr Rebecca Paterson (Sub-chair)
- Cr Nicky Luo (substitute)
- John (Jack) Krohn
- Phei (Faye) Lok
- Mark Nan Tie
- Natasha Abrahams
- Peter Mathieson
- Lee Whitfield
- Genevieve Fryer
- Jungang Fu

- Scott Musgrave-Takeda
- Venkata Kalva
- Dr. Rajmohan Ramanathapillai
- Edna Louzado
- Ann Maria Baby
- Ryan Beurle

15 community members were appointed by Council following a public expression of interest (EOI) process, held during January and February 2025, and endorsed at the 25 March 2025 Council Meeting.

Seven members resigned from the committee, 10 new members were appointed to the committee, and five members extended their appointment for a further 2-year term. A sub-chair, Cr Rebecca Paterson, was also appointed to the committee.

One new member who was appointed to EAC in 2025, Joanne Yu, resigned from the position to take up a position on Council’s Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

DISCUSSION

In 2025, EAC meetings were held bi-monthly from 6:00PM to 7:30PM on the second Monday of the month. A total of six meetings were held, with all meetings held in person (with an option for members to join online via Microsoft Teams if needed). It is an expectation that members attend 60% of all meetings. Additional meetings may be called as required.

Between September 2024 and February 2025, the TOR for EAC was reviewed and updated in alignment with the TOR for Council’s other advisory committees, including terms of appointment. The 2025-2027 EAC TOR was endorsed by Council at the 25 March 2025 Council Meeting.

Table 1: Key matters discussed in 2025

| Meeting date | Attendees | Topics discussed |
|---------------|---|---|
| February 2025 | <p>Attendees:</p> <p>Cr Brian Little (Chair) Yen Phei Lok Peter Mathieson Natasha Abrahams, Mark Nan Tie Jack Krohn</p> <p>Council Officers:</p> <p>Kristy Green Claire Brace</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>CC Hua Jo Prendergast Amit Agrawal</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on review of Terms of Reference and EOI process. • Consultation with Monash Events and Festivals team. • Overview of upcoming Council sustainability projects and initiatives of relevance to EAC members. |

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| | Euan Rowland Philip Liberatore Ratnakar Vallabhaneni Lee Tan | |
| April 2025 | <p>Attendees:</p> <p>Cr Brian Little (Chair) Cr Nicky Luo Yen Phei Lok Natasha Abrahams Lee Whitfield Genevieve Fryer John Gerard (Jack) Krohn Peter Mathieson Jungang Fu Scott Musgrave-Takeda Venkata Kalva Dr. Rajmohan Ramanathapillai Edna Louzado Ann Maria Baby Ryan Beurle</p> <p>Council Officers:</p> <p>Kristy Green Claire Brace John Yovanches Fiona Fernandes Rebecca Walton</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <p>Mark Nan Tie</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of new members to the committee. • Consultation on draft Integrated Strategic Plans, including presentation on draft Asset Plan and draft Health and Wellbeing Plan. • Overview of opportunities to submit feedback and upcoming Council sustainability projects and initiatives of relevance to EAC members – including Suburban Rail Loop East Draft Precinct Structure Plan and Draft Planning Scheme Amendment, and City of Monash climate change risk assessment. |
| June 2025 | <p>Attendees:</p> <p>Cr Brian Little (Chair) Yen Phei Lok Natasha Abrahams Lee Whitfield Genevieve Fryer John Gerard (Jack) Krohn Jungang Fu Venkata Kalva Mark Nan Tie Ann Maria Baby Ryan Beurle</p> <p>Council Officers:</p> <p>Kristy Green Claire Brace</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monash Climate Change Risk Assessment – presentation from consultant from HIP V HYPE SUSTAINABILITY on the progress of Council’s independent climate change risk assessment. • Presentation on household electrification, renewable energy, and the Rewiring Australia campaign. • Other business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glen Waverley Civic Precinct community consultation opening 23 June 2025 on Shape Monash website. • 100 Neighbourhood Batteries Initiative: Monash Operations |

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| | <p>Daniel Berry</p> <p>Consultants:</p> <p>Nick Chester</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <p>Dr. Rajmohan Ramanathapillai Scott Musgrave-Takeda Peter Mathieson Edna Louzado</p> | <p>Centre Community Battery installation, successful grant funding application.</p> |
| August 2025 | <p>Attendees:</p> <p>Cr Brian Little (Chair) Cr Rebecca Paterson (Sub-chair) Yen Phei Lok Natasha Abrahams Lee Whitfield Scott Musgrave-Takeda (online) Ryan Beurle Venkata Kalva Jungang Fu Mark Nan Tie Peter Mathieson</p> <p>Council Officers:</p> <p>Kristy Green Claire Brace Andrew Shaw Yanthi Nilam</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <p>Ann Maria Baby Edna Louzado Genevieve Fryer John Gerard (Jack) Krohn Dr. Rajmohan Ramanathapillai</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Waste Services Charge. • Glen Waverley Civic Precinct. • Other business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Advisory Committee Meeting – Museum of Australian Photography 27/08/25. • Launch of new Solar Savers offering. • Development of Climate Resilience Plan commencement. |
| October 2025 | <p>Attendees:</p> <p>Cr Brian Little (Chair) Cr Rebecca Paterson (Sub-chair) Yen Phei Lok Natasha Abrahams (online) Lee Whitfield Ryan Beurle Jungang Fu Mark Nan Tie Edna Louzado Peter Mathieson</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Resilience Plan workshop with consultant from HIP V HYPE SUSTAINABILITY. • Other business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory committee member survey. |

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| | <p>Scott Musgrave-Takeda John (Jack) Krohn Genevieve Fryer Rajmohan Ramanathapillai</p> <p>Council Officers:</p> <p>Claire Brace Claire O’Sullivan</p> <p>Consultants:</p> <p>Alexandra Faure</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <p>Ann Maria Baby Venkata Kalva Kristy Green</p> | |
| December 2025 | <p>Attendees:</p> <p>Cr Brian Little (Chair) Cr Rebecca Paterson (Sub-chair) Yen Phei Lok Natasha Abrahams Lee Whitfield Ryan Beurle Jungang Fu Mark Nan Tie Edna Louzado Peter Mathieson Scott Musgrave-Takeda John (Jack) Krohn Genevieve Fryer Rajmohan Ramanathapillai Ann Maria Baby</p> <p>Council Officers:</p> <p>Claire Brace Daniel Berry Celina Samarakoon Janice Lane</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <p>Venkata Kalva</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions for Earth school sustainability program. • MOC Neighbourhood Battery project. • Draft Economic Development Strategy. • Other business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAC meeting schedule 2026. |

Achievements in 2025

- Provided environmental sustainability advice on a number of Council's Integrated Strategic Plans including the Council Plan 2025-29, Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-29, and Asset Plan 2025-35.
- Provided advice contributing to the development of Council's draft Climate Resilience Plan 2026-2030, which will supersede and provide strategic direction beyond the Zero Net Carbon Action Plan 2020-25 and the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026.
- Provided feedback on several significant Council projects including the Glen Waverley Civic Precinct redevelopment.

Proposed activities for 2026

- Continue to provide environmental sustainability advice on Council's policies, plans and programs.
- Explore opportunities to support increased greenhouse gas emissions reduction within the Monash community.
- Provide feedback on Council's draft Climate Resilience Plan 2026-2030.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

As per the Terms of Reference, EAC provide advice and guidance on the delivery of Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-26 actions and related programs. All EAC members have been informed on the new Policy for Advisory Committees and updated Governance rules for Advisory Committees, and the TOR were reviewed and updated in 2025.

CONSULTATION

Community consultation was not required.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Engagement with the community on matters of importance to them is a key responsibility of Local Government, and Advisory Committees are one way of establishing formal mechanisms to share information and seek input and advice from the community.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The operation of Council's Advisory Committees ensures that many community members have the opportunity to engage with Council on matters of importance to them, consistent with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 in relation to the right to take part in public life.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT



A GIA was not completed because this agenda item is not a 'policy', 'program' or 'service'.

CONCLUSION

An outline of the activities and achievements of Council's Environmental Advisory Committee in 2025 is included in this report for Council's information.

ATTACHMENT LIST

Nil