

## 4.7 APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Responsible Committee: Environmental Advisory Committee

Responsible Director: Jarrod Doake

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council:*

*Endorses the appointment of the following fifteen (15) community representatives to the 2022-24 Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) for a period of two years according to the current Terms of Reference.*

- |                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>- John (Jack) Krohn</i>     | <i>- Lee Tan</i>           |
| <i>- Phei (Faye) Lok</i>       | <i>- Peter Mathieson</i>   |
| <i>- Joanna Prendergast</i>    | <i>- Jeffrey Xia</i>       |
| <i>- Mark Nantie</i>           | <i>- Graham Bryant</i>     |
| <i>- Natasha Abrahams</i>      | <i>- Philip Liberatore</i> |
| <i>- CC Hua</i>                | <i>- Amit Agrawal</i>      |
| <i>- Ratnakar Vellabhaneni</i> | <i>- Euan Ronald</i>       |
| <i>- Phong Si (Rowland)</i>    |                            |

### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to appoint 15 community members to Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) from December 2022 until November 2024.

### **BACKGROUND**

The current term for the community members of the EAC was due to expire in June 2022 but has been extended to allow for the revision of the Terms of Reference and also acknowledge that the existing members did not have an opportunity to meet until December 2020 due to COVID and Council Elections.

With the development of the new Advisory Committee Policy and related governance guidelines, it was decided to review and update the Terms of Reference first to align with these documents and prior to seeking new members for 2022-24. Council endorsed the 2022-2024 EAC Terms of Reference in August 2022. The Terms of Reference were also updated to increase engagement and communication with the community on sustainability.

The role of the EAC is to act in an advisory capacity to Council on issues relating to environmental sustainability, improving the Monash environment and on the implementation of Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016 – 2026.

Established on 28 August 2007, the Committee comprises of up to eighteen (18) members appointed by Council including up to three (3) Councillors and up to fifteen (15) community members. In line with the EAC Terms of Reference the Environmental Advisory Community Membership is re-advertised every two years.

As per the EAC Terms of Reference, expression of interest for new EAC membership positions was advertised on the website, Bulletin and on social media. An online application form included the questionnaire used for previous EAC appointments. The role was advertised for six weeks and closed on 31 October 2022.

### **DISCUSSION**

Council received a total of twenty one (21) nominations, including from eight (8) existing members who were deemed suitable to continue as members. Assessment of the new nominations was undertaken by current EAC Councillors - Cr Stuart James (Mayor) and Cr Brian Little, with the support of Council officers.

Each new applicant was assessed on the information they provided and the skills and experience they presented. The composition of EAC as a whole was also taken into consideration in determining the suitable applicant create the new committee.

All new applicants were invited to one of three group interviews conducted over zoom by officers, inclusive of the current member Councillor, Cr Brian Little.

The following 15 applicants, inclusive of 8 existing members and 7 new members, were considered suitable for membership of the Committee:

### **Members list**

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| - * John (Jack) Krohn   | - * Lee Tan         |
| - * Phei (Faye) Lok     | - * Peter Mathieson |
| - * Joanna Prendergast  | - * Jeffrey Xia     |
| - *Mark Nantie          | -* Graham Bryant    |
| - Natasha Abrahams      | - Philip Liberatore |
| - CC Hua                | - Amit Agrawal      |
| - Ratnakar Vellabhaneni | - Euan Ronald       |
| - Phong Si (Rowland)    |                     |

\* Indicates existing member

All recommended applicants met the membership criteria set out in the Committee's Terms of Reference and offer a broad range of skills, experiences and educational qualifications.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The appointment will assist the EAC to continue to represent the community in relation to delivery of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-26. The EAC Terms of Reference guided the process.

The EAC supports the delivery of the sustainability actions under the Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016 – 2026, Council Plan and Monash 2021: A Thriving Community.

The EAC Terms of Reference was reviewed prior to opening to new members to ensure the new committee reflected the intention of the Terms of Reference. Please find attached. The Terms of Reference allows for previous members of the EAC to reapply if they are interested in continuing their role.

***SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

The valuable contribution that community members make through their participation on the EAC enhances Council's work in the area of environmental sustainability and ultimately facilitates opportunities for good advocacy, policy development and service provision for sustainability benefits and the community at large.

***HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS***

This report is in line with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and in particular with the following rights: freedom of expression; and taking part in public life.

***GENDER EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS***

Policy was reviewed by the Gender equity team and updated based on this feedback.

***FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

There are no cost implications for Council regarding this appointment.

***CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION***

To enable the EAC to effectively support Monash City Council in delivering the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, this report recommends the appointment of following community members to the EAC:

- *John (Jack) Krohn*
- *Phei (Faye) Lok*
- *Joanna Prendergast*
- *Mark Nantie*
- *Natasha Abrahams*
- *CC Hua*
- *Ratnakar Vellabhaneni*
- *Phong Si (Rowland)*
- *Lee Tan*
- *Peter Mathieson*
- *Jeffrey Xia*
- *Graham Bryant*
- *Philip Liberatore*
- *Amit Agrawal*
- *Euan Ronald*

Attachment 1: IS EAC Terms for Reference 2022-24

# ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## TERMS OF REFERENCE



### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the Environmental Advisory Committee is to advise and collaborate with Monash City Council on environmental and sustainability related issues to enhance the collective impact of council.

### 2. Governance

The Terms of Reference for the Environmental Advisory Committee aligns and should be read in context with the **Advisory Committee Governance Rules, Policy for Advisory Committees** and the **Conflict of Interest for Advisory Committee Members** <https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Council/Committees>

### 3. 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/groups
- Advise on projects and discuss topics which may contribute towards a zero carbon, zero waste and climate-resilient community, natural and indigenous heritage, and environment, in line with the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-26 and related strategies
- Monitor and review environmental and sustainability issues in Monash and assist in collection information to determine impact of programs and initiatives.
- Facilitating formal networks and communication between Council and selected stakeholders
- Advocate to Council for the benefit of the Monash environment, and
- Bring up issues of community concern to assist Council in determining of priority activities to be undertaken and annual objectives.

### 4. Meeting procedures

Meetings are to be held a minimum of every two months or more often as agreed by consensus. EAC may also establish Working Groups to address specific issues as they arise. Advisory Committees are not required to give public notice of their meetings and meetings are not required to be open to the public. Meetings will:

- Commence on time and conclude by the stated completion time
- Provided an Acknowledgement of Country
- Encourage fair and respectful discussion
- Focus on the relevant issues at hand, and
- Provide advice to Council, as far as practicable, on a consensus basis

Council will ensure that all members have an equal opportunity to contribute to the discussion and that the meetings are accessible and flexible for all members, including offering virtual attendance. We seek to remove barriers to participation (i.e. caring responsibilities, living with a

disability), and while we understand many people choose not to disclose, members are encouraged to identify barriers they face so we can put measures in place to address needs.

A record of informal meeting will be completed after each meeting.

## 5. Period of membership and method of appointment

The Committee will comprise:

**Councillor(s)** – Up to 3 Councillors appointed annually by Council

The role of the Councillors is to:

- Act as Chairperson of the EAC
- To be the link between Council and the EAC
- To table issues and concerns to Council on behalf of the EAC

**Community representative(s)** – Up to 15 community representatives who live, work and/or study in Monash, appointed by Council, through a registration of interest and selection process, for a period of two (2) years. A strong interest or knowledge in environmental sustainability is desirable, with an interest in representing their community.

Casual vacancies may be filled by co-opting suitable candidates from the most recent selection process or through a public expression of interest process. Staff in consultation with the Chairperson will prepare a recommendation for Council approval to appoint the casual vacancy candidate/s to the committee for the remainder of current term.

## 6. Conduct and interest provisions

In performing the role of Advisory Committee member, a person must:

- Impartially exercise his or her responsibilities in the interests of the local community
- Not improperly seek to confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person
- Act with integrity and treat all persons with respect, having regard to the opinions, beliefs, rights and responsibilities of other persons
- Not make improper use of information acquired because of their position or release information that the member knows, or should reasonably know, is confidential in nature.

## 7. Other

A short communique may be provided to EAC members to promote activities they are involved in and to share with their community. Community members should defer any media enquires to Council's Communications Manager and should take care not to respond to the media as a committee representative.

EAC community representatives will be reimbursed for any transport and/or childcare costs they have incurred in participating in meetings and related activities as deemed appropriate.

## 8. Review date

Directorate: Infrastructure and Environment  
Responsible Officer: Sustainability Coordinator  
Review Date: August 2024