

## 4.8 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Responsible Director: Jarrod Doake

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council notes the activities of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) during 2022, and thanks all members of the Committee for their time and contributions while being representatives of the Monash community.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to provide an annual report on the Environmental Advisory Committee for 2022, in accordance with Council's resolution at their September 2019 meeting, for all Advisory Committees to provide annual updates on activities.

### **BACKGROUND**

The purpose of the EAC is to inform and advise Council on environmental and sustainability related issues and Council's role in improving the natural environment of Monash. The 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.

EAC is represented by up to 15 community members and up to three Councillors. The term for the community membership is approximately 2 years. Community members are appointed by Council following a public expression of interest.

### **DISCUSSION**

In 2022, meetings were held monthly from 6.00-7.30pm on the first Monday of the month. A total of seven meetings were held, with all but one meeting held online (via Zoom). In August the meeting was run from 6.30-8pm.

Between September and December, the new Terms of Reference (TOR) was presented to council for endorsement and the expression of interest was promoted for 2022-24 membership. No meetings were held during this time.

There were no resignations in 2022 and 8 of the members reapplied to continue in the committee for 2022-24. Some members had difficulty attending to due to work commitments or Covid-19 restrictions, but most attended 70-80% of the meetings. On average five staff members including

speakers attended to support the workshops and coordination of the discussions.

The 2022 meeting format includes workshops during meeting time, to enable all community and council members the opportunity to collaborate with others when providing feedback under the following agenda:

- Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Attendance and Apologies
- Conflict of Interest declaration and confirmation of minutes
- Workshop on topic of interest including occasional staff presentations.
- Outstanding actions and other the business

The table below lists the topics discussed during 2022 by the EAC and how this information was used to support and inform program delivery.

2022 meeting topics	Outcome and Achievements
<b>February</b> Zoom – 6.7.30	
Gambling Policy Update New EPA Act – presentation by Jo Prendergast from EPA Update on Weekly Food waste collection program ESD policy update.	Provided feedback as general representatives of community. Information gathering on impacts of new EPA Act on council programs. Inform future program.  Contributions informed feedback on weekly food waste communication campaign and to inform education roll out to the significant behaviour change program of the year.
<b>March</b> Zoom – 6.7.30	
Priority 1: Sustainable Local Transport- Daniel Berry presentation. Updates on FOGO, Business energy saver, Open Garden day .	Contributed to final format of public EV charging stations. Identified that cycling confidence was limiting sustainable transport options – leading to a number of training workshops for community to encourage more cycling. Initiated review of current maps and trails. Informed delivery of events to achieve best outcome.
<b>April</b> Zoom – 6.7.30	
Communicating the circular economy by April Williams and workshop discussion.	Provided feedback on promoting the concept of Circular Economy to the community and strategies to move away from just waste collection to life cycle thinking around what is acquired and how it is disposed. Aligns and will inform with Zero Net Carbon Action Plan and Waste Strategy Delivery.
<b>May</b> Zoom – 6.7.30	
Successful collection of household chemicals and challenging times for tyre disposal. Energy Performance Contract – What is it and how are we tracking City Nature Challenge update.	Feedback on future campaign ideas to help reduce barriers to sustainable action. Inform on key programs delivered by council to inform members to share with their networks. Addressed the concept of Microforests and the benefit to Monash.
<b>June</b> In person - 6-7.30	



advice from the community. Community membership is based on public invitation and members selected to provide a balanced representation of 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.

***FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

***CONCLUSION***

That Council note the discussions and outcomes that the Environmental Advisory Committee has contributed in 2022.