

# MAROONDAH ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Minutes

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Meeting Room 4, Council Offices, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood

7:00 - 8:30 pm

1. *Attendance:* Cr Marijke Graham (Chair)  
Cr Paul Macdonald  
Cr Samantha Marks  
Moya Brown, Community Representative  
Dr Graeme Lorimer, Community Representative  
Patricia Donati, Community Representative  
Ken Whitney, Community Representative  
Fiona Ede, Community Representative  
Liz Sanzaro, Community Representative  
Grant Meyer, Manager Integrated Planning (MCC)  
Dale Bristow, Team Leader Strategic Planning & Sustainability (MCC)

*Guests:* Vincent King, Manager Operations (MCC)  
Cristina Rivero, Strategic Planner (MCC)

*Apologies:* Pam Yarra, Community Representative  
Ellen Mitchell, Community Representative

2. *Conflict of Interest:*

There were no conflicts of interest declared

3. *Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting*  
Agreed

4. *Other Business*

- The Committee acknowledged that today is World Environment Day.
- A domestic wind turbine has recently been proposed in Croydon North.
- The Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) is looking at the feasibility of installing a solar farm on capped landfill sites in Yarra Ranges and Knox. Maroondah will be watching with interest with view to potentially becoming a partner.
- The subject of current waste collection and recycling issues facing Councils and the broader community was raised. It was noted that in any discussions on waste to energy conversion plants as a potential solution, air quality issues should be considered also.
- As part of Maroondah's involvement with the EAGA Energy Performance Contracts initiative, a range of energy efficiency measures have been rolled out at Council facilities including Aquahub, Aquanation and Realm. This is a \$1.6M project, that features anticipated \$188,000 p/a savings and a reduction of 1,500 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

## 5. *Heritage and Neighbourhood Character Studies*

Cristina presented an overview of the heritage program and, in particular, the Heritage Study that is currently being undertaken by Council.

The first Maroondah Heritage Study, completed in 1992, was limited to historic places of well-recognised heritage significance. A Heritage Study Review was conducted in 2003 resulting in more places of heritage significance being protected in Council's Heritage Overlay and identifying others requiring further assessment.

The current Review will identify places that have significant cultural heritage value to warrant local level heritage protection. These places or precincts require a full heritage assessment and the preparation of a statement of significance to determine whether a place satisfies the threshold of local significance and would justify the application of the Heritage Overlay. The Review will make recommendations on the conservation and protection of the municipality's cultural heritage.

It was noted that Council will look to communicate the message that sensitive design by a conservation architect should not mean that no development can occur to heritage buildings. Guidance on the demolition of buildings and the issue of facadism will be provided as part of the heritage review. In addition, trees that are currently included in the Heritage Overlay will be reviewed to see if it would be more appropriate that they be protected through alternative planning controls.

Cristina presented an overview on the Maroondah Neighbourhood Character Study currently being undertaken by Council.

Neighbourhood character is shaped by the combination of the public and private realms. Every property, public place or piece of infrastructure makes a contribution, whether great or small. It is the cumulative impact of all these contributions that establishes neighbourhood character. Understanding the relationships that physically appear on the ground is the most important aspect of establishing the character of an area.

The objectives of the Study are:

- Undertake an assessment of the character attributes of residential areas across Maroondah.
- Recommend ways to ensure that existing character is respected and preferred new character achieved.
- Identify and justify any new neighbourhood character areas or revised boundaries to existing neighbourhood character areas.
- Identify areas that require heightened levels of protection to support neighbourhood character.
- Identify important view lines and view corridors across Maroondah and how these are affected by current and future building heights.
- Understand how proposed changes will impact on Maroondah's housing capacity.

Consultation will commence in late 2018 with a draft Report due in early 2019.

In discussion that followed it was confirmed that broad engagement with will be undertaken during the review. The need to balance neighbourhood character with other objectives within the Maroondah Planning Scheme was stressed.

**6. MEAC Discussion Paper to inform Vegetation Review Issues and Options Paper**

Liz presented an overview of the work of Committee members re matters to be considered in the emerging Issues and Options Paper to inform Council's Vegetation Review.

Graeme then tabled five questions for the Committee's consideration: 1/ The values of vegetation, 2/ The human actions influencing those values, 3/ What is reducing those values, 4/ Are these things widely understood and 5/ What should change to protect vegetation and its values?

The work of the Committee was acknowledged and commended by the Chair.

Dale noted that the scope of the Vegetation Review is primarily to review the planning controls, so whilst having merit some issues identified may be beyond the scope of this review.

**7. Information Only Items**

Dale spoke to the Sustainability Activities Report that highlighted the progress being undertaken on the implementation of the Maroondah Sustainability Strategy.

The Chair and fellow Councillors complimented both the presenters and Committee members on the high quality of the presentations and discussions at the meeting.

Liz highlighted a recent Whitehorse Council Resident Newsletter sustainability edition as an example of a publication Maroondah should take note of. Discussion followed on the importance of communications.

**9. Next Meeting:**

August 28<sup>th</sup>

EAGA project on solar farm on landfill sites.

Meeting closed at 9:10pm