



MAROONDAH ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING HELD AT MAROONDAH NETS
11TH February 2020

MINUTES

1. Opening of Meeting

1.1 Welcome/Apologies

Cr Marijke Graham, (Chair)
Cr Samantha Mazzuchelli
Cr Paul Macdonald
Howard Elston, Community Representative
Elspeth De Fanti, Community Representative
Ken Whitney, Community Representative
Liz Sanzaro, Community Representative
Lisa Keedle, Community Representative
Michelle Mailbaum, Community Representative

Apologies:

John Senior, Community Representative
Sonia Nuttman, Community Representative

Employees

Minute taker: Dale Bristow, Team Leader Strategic Planning & Sustainability (MCC)

Other attendees

Fiona Burridge, Social Planning and Development Officer (MCC)
John Richardson, Coordinator Assets Projects and Facilities (MCC)

1.2 Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2019 were confirmed.

1.3 Declaration of Interests

Nil.

2. Guided Tour of Maroondah Nets

A tour of the Maroondah nets facility was provided. John explained and demonstrated the various ESD features that have been incorporated into the facility.

Action: None arising

3. Liveability and Wellbeing Strategy

Note the presentation from Fiona is attached.

State legislation requires Council to prepare a revised strategy at the beginning of each new Council term.

Council is currently inviting views on the creation of a holistic strategy covering key priorities to improve the health and wellbeing of the Maroondah community.

The closing date for submissions of views is 30th March. Fiona offered MEAC the opportunity to have an in-depth workshop to discuss themes of the Strategy in further detail at a later date.

An overview of achievements from the 2017 - 2021 plan was provided. A notable difference to the current approach is that the revised Strategy will cover a 10-year period in recognition of the effort required to cause the desired change and will seek to act as a catalyst for greater partnership working with other agencies.

Current work is looking to understand how issues affect different social groups, and places and in identifying how Council can have greatest influence.

Attention is being directed to eight key topic areas.

Particular support was sought in promoting the consultation amongst the 18-25 year age bracket.

The project timeline anticipates the Strategy will be formally exhibited March - April 2021 with a view to its adoption in June 2021.

Members of the Committee enquired if environmental anxiety was an issue amongst the community and in discussion advised that climate change will have a significant impact and cut across many of the topic areas. Thus, it was advised that it should not be considered as a standalone item.

Action: MEAC members to promote, and complete, the survey and or attend a follow up session with Fiona.

Officers to provide further information on Council's Affordable and Social Housing Policy and the 20-minute neighbourhoods project.

Welcome a report on the community feedback to the consultation to understand how climate change and environmental health is understood by the community.

4. ESD in Council Assets

Note the presentation from John is attached.

John advised the Committee of the diversity of Council's asset portfolio, explained the ESD policy triggers and highlighted the current ESD features that are being included in Council's capital works program. This includes development of the first five-star Greenstar building in the eastern suburbs (ie Realm).

To date 3,000 solar panels have been installed equating to 1,000kw of capacity, which on builds such as the Maroondah Nets is meeting 50% of energy demand.

It was noted that the capital works program as well as benefiting from the guidance of the ESD policy is also informed by the wider strategic work undertaken across Council such as the Energy Performance Contract which is helping to reduce energy demand in buildings.

The presentation concluded with an overview of the challenges faced in installing ESD features. It was acknowledged that capital cost is a significant barrier.

Discussions ensued relating to comparison of Council's ESD policy with other councils. The Committee was advised that an independent report is currently being prepared to this effect amongst the Councils of the EAGA region. This report is anticipated to be completed by the end of March after which the findings can be shared with MEAC.

It was advised that in addition to solar installation, capacity is being created for battery storage as part of design for later installation subject to funding opportunities.

Banyule Council was highlighted regarding its timeframe that it has set itself for achieving compliance with its own ESD target; namely by 2028.

Reference was made to the opportunity to install electric vehicle charging points as part of the capital program. It is understood that the EAGA Councils are currently investigating this. MEAC to be informed accordingly on receipt of the report.

Council was encouraged to give thought to how it can gain leverage from its positive experiences of installing ESD in its building program to further embed the approach into its own work as well as in encouraging the wider community to adopt similar practices.

Action: Provide information on operation of biodiversity offsets
Provide information on the EAGA report regarding EV charging infrastructure
Share the EAGA report on evaluation of Council ESD in Asset Policies
Discussion on the Croydon Community Precinct

5. Information Only Report

No questions arising.

6. Other Business

Action: Dates for a MEAC visit to Howard's house to be organised.

Meeting closed at 8.53pm.