



## Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee – Minutes

### Meeting Details:

Date: Tuesday 15 November  
2022

Time: 7pm-8:30pm

Location: MS Teams

### Attendees:

#### **Councillors**

Cr Marijke Graham (Chair)  
Cr Paul Macdonald  
Cr Suzy Stojanovic

#### **Council Officers:**

Dale Bristow, Coordinator Strategic Planning and Sustainability  
Doug Evans, Strategic Environment Planner  
Karin Wiggins, Coordinator Statutory Planning  
Roger Lord, Team Leader Environmental Planning  
Chloe Messerle, Senior Governance Office (Minute Taker)

#### **Community Representatives:**

Elspeth De Fanti  
Howard Elston (Left at 8:20pm)  
Liz Sanzaro  
Ken Whitney  
Tim Malloch  
Alicia Lehr  
Dennis Zhang

### Apologies:

Councillors:

Nil

Community Representatives:

John Senior  
Sonia Nuttman  
Lisa Keedle

### Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Councillors:

Nil

Council Officers:

Nil

Community Representatives:

Nil

## Items Discussed

### 1. OPENING OF MEETING

Cr Graham read the Acknowledgment of Country.

### 2. WELCOME

Cr Graham welcomed all to the meeting.

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - TUESDAY, 9 AUGUST 2022

ITEM 3

Cr Stojanovic moved the minutes and Liz Sanzaro seconded them.

### 4. ITEMS

#### MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING

ITEM 4.1

Cr Graham introduced the item.

Cr Stojanovic discussed the Business Awards specifically mentioning the 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle' category. She noted the possibility of a new category referring to a circular economy model. Dale Bristow to pass the information on to the Business and Precincts Department.

Liz Sanzaro requested further information regarding the car park at Heathmont which has since had its funding withdrawn by the Commonwealth Government.

Liz also enquired re the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's (DELWP) role re the 20 minute neighbourhoods approach. Dale advised that work on planning 20 minute neighbourhoods has its origins in Plan Melbourne which is overseen by DELWP. Dale also advised that Victorian Planning Authority assist Councils in the implementation of Plan Melbourne land use and infrastructure policy in strategically important precincts.

Discussion was held in regards to the LXP Project with Cr Graham advising that Directors had been in consultation with the project Managers in terms of how the project would run. Cr Graham advised that if Councillors received any updates, she would circulate what she could onto the group.

Dale spoke about the recent award received from the Planning Institute of Australia for the Planning Excellence Awards for the 'Healthy Streets' work completed in conjunction with Stantec and the community feedback. Dale thanked the committee members of MEAC who also participated in providing feedback.

Cr Graham spoke about Maroondah Festival held recently on Sunday 6 November 2022. She spoke specifically about the Café Consult tents in regards to climate change and the need to see transformational change.

Cr Graham spoke about the question emailed through from Liz in regards to why Maroondah Council is not acknowledging why there is need to action regarding a climate change emergency.

Howard Elston entered the Teams meeting at 7:57pm.

Liz spoke about climate issues such as floods and emergencies and noted that some people feel fearful in regards to the future of climate change.

Dale advised that Council has not called a climate emergency to date. Efforts have focussed on carbon reduction initiatives and securing carbon neutral certification.

Cr Stojanovic advised that she has been on a site visit to the new Bellfield Community Hub to visit the For Change Café which is a social enterprise café facility. Cr Stojanovic spoke about the Hub and provided information on its redevelopment that included:

- Early years rooms
- Community/training rooms
- Planned activity group area for senior citizens
- Maternal and child health centre facilities
- Commercial kitchens
- Community gardens

Cr Graham noted that there were additional social housing homes being built on the other side of Heidelberg on Tarakan Street and off Bell Road.

## THE TREE CANOPY COVER OF MAROONDAH

## ITEM 4.2

Cr Graham introduced the item.

Doug Evans provided a powerpoint presentation for circulation with the minutes.

Doug provided further information regarding how the canopy cover changes over time and how to measure the cover change. The powerpoint included a slide with an outline of the municipality and an image depicting the tree canopy cover. Further to this, Doug provided a clearer understanding of the locality of the canopy cover with two-thirds of the canopy cover on private land and a sixth of the cover along roads.

Alicia Lehr noted there were no an analysis completed for 2022 to be able to see the comparisons over time seeing as there has been comparisons completed from 2016 through to 2021. The discussion of funding for these types of reporting was discussed and Cr Graham noted Councillors would follow up.

Doug spoke further about the changes in the canopy cover providing additional images of the canopy loss and canopy gain between 2016 and 2021. Discussion was held in regards to the possible reasons for the change including environmental factors such as urban and non-urban areas as well as private and commercial land areas.

Doug provided an update regarding Tree Ledger™:

- Is still a model but estimated to be about 95% accurate in its detection of foliage
- Can help identify where significant changes (losses and gains) are occurring, but not the causes
- Can help understand the rate and extent to which changes (losses and gains) are occurring on different land use types
- Can provide a method for reporting against the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision Community indicator of progress "Tree canopy cover"

TREE PROTECTION AND REMOVAL PERMITS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY      ITEM 4.3

Cr Graham introduced the item.

Karin Wiggins and Roger Lord provided a powerpoint presentation to be circulated with the minutes.

Karin and Roger provided a background as to their roles at Maroondah City Council.

Karin spoke about Planning and Tree Preservation at Maroondah City Council as well as the characteristics of both the vegetation in the municipality as well as the types of planning applications received. Karin also spoke about the tree and vegetation in the Maroondah Planning Scheme.

Further to that Roger, spoke in more detail in regards to the tree controls in Maroondah and the limitations that were faced across board.

Howard Elston left the meeting at 8:20pm.

Karin and Roger spoke in further detail regarding tree removals and replacement, giving examples of situations where the tree removals were granted and when they were not. There were also examples of times that replacements were required and the types of trees replanted.

Discussion was held in regards to the following examples of building development and issues with trees where the Environmental Planners providing written reports for the recommendation of certain trees:

- 85 Wonga Road Ringwood North
- 78 Mt Dandenong Road Ringwood East
- 51--57 Merrindale Drive Croydon South
- 34-36 The Greenway Heathmont

Karin and Roger also provided examples of illegal tree removals, VCAT cases and the enforcement process that follows. Discussion was also held in regards to the length of time that Officers and Planners spend reading and inspecting applications and proposals, the timeline for VCAT applications and the follow up with residents.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEM      ITEM 4.4

No questions arising.

OTHER BUSINESS      ITEM 4.5

No other business.

CLOSE OF MEETING - NEXT MEETING TBC

ITEM 4.6

Cr Graham closed the meeting and advised all members that this was the last meeting for the year. She wished everyone Seasons Greetings and advised that meetings/calendar invites would be distributed in the new year.

The Meeting concluded at 9:12pm.