



# Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee – Minutes

**Meeting Details:**

Date: Tuesday 24 February 2026      Time: 6:45pm - 8:30pm      Location: Meeting Rooms 1 & 2, Realm

**Attendees:**

**Councillors**

Cr Chris Jones (Chair)  
 Cr Paul Macdonald (Deputy Mayor)  
 Cr Claire Rex (entered the meeting at 6:54pm)

**Council Officers:**

Grant Meyer, Manager City Futures  
 Anita Ransom, Coordinator Strategic Planning and Sustainability  
 Michael Blowfield, Transport & Sustainability Planner      4.3  
 Rachel Devlin, Strategic Environment Planner      4.4  
 Chloe Messerle, Senior Governance Office (Minute Taker)

**Community Representatives:**

Dennis Zhang (left the meeting at 7:40pm)  
 Jessica Odlum  
 John Cull  
 Keith Loveridge  
 Kirsty Bishop-Fox  
 Lucy Harberts  
 Lyndon Walker  
 Paul Thompson  
 Shea Vaughan  
 Vinotha Bheem

**Apologies:**

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Nil
Community Representatives:	Elspeth De Fanti

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure:**

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Nil
Community Representatives:	Nil

## Items Discussed

### 1. OPENING OF MEETING

Cr Jones opened the meeting and provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

### 2. WELCOME

Cr Jones welcomed all to the meeting

Cr Jones introduced the Councillors and Council Officers.

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - TUESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2025

ITEM 3

The minutes were unable to be moved due to the number of new community members.

### 4. ITEMS

#### REVIEW OF DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

ITEM 4.1

The Terms of Reference were moved by consensus.

#### REVIEW OF MEETING START TIME

ITEM 4.2

Cr Jones spoke discussed the possibility of reviewing the meeting start time.

Discussion was held regarding the start time of 6:45pm. Community Representatives agreed on continue with the current start time.

#### PRINCIPAL PEDESTRIAN NETWORK CONSULTATION

ITEM 4.3

Michael Blowfield provided a presentation on the Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN) Consultation.

Michael provided clarity on the PPN advising that it was a mapped network of main routes that are likely to carry the greatest walking volumes to key destinations in the municipality.

The most recent review was held in 2009 and since then the landscape of the area has changed significantly, therefore there is a need to update the routes and proposed pathway construction routes for pedestrians.

Michael shared with the Committee the Project Stages noting that we are currently in the Public Exhibition stage.

The draft PPN has four classifications of routes streets and crossing -

1. Primary (high use)
2. Secondary (medium use)

3. Teritary (low use) and
4. Special routes.

Michael shared with the Committee the 12 guiding principles, the PPN is underpinned by.

Discussion was held about the importance of air quality and overgrown foliage on footpath/pavement with issues near intersections.

The Your Say Maroondah link for the PPN engagement and survey for public consultation can be viewed in the following link:

[Maroondah Principal Pedestrian Network Review | Safer, Connected Routes | Maroondah City Council](#)

Michael advised that some bicycle networks will be included in the Plan but Council has separated them between the walking network and Bicycle Network Plan.

Some suggestions of guiding principles could include - highlight the natural areas, noting the best times for walking areas, accessibility to green spaces, street tree canopy interactions, being conscious of additional concrete construction and additional tree planting options.

Dennis Zhang left the meeting at 7:40pm.

Discussion surrounded the length of footpaths and proposed new pathways noting that concrete may not be the best construction material.

It was suggested that Council not use recycled rubber/micro plastics due to their adverse impacts on the natura environment.

#### DANDENONG-TARALLA-BUNGALOOK CREEKS BIOLINK CONSULTATION

ITEM 4.4

Rachel Devlin spoke to a powerpoint presentation and advised that this plan is informed by the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action Plan and highlighted the eight biolinks in Maroondah noting how they all interact.

Further to this Rachel spoke about the pre settlement vegetation which includes five Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC's) in the Dandenong-Taralla-Bungalook Creek.

A key stakeholder group was formed to guide action planning for the Dandenong-Tarralla-Bungalook Creeks Biolink and the Shared Vision is as follows:

*The Dandenong-Tarralla-Bungalook Creeks biolink immerses you in nature, bringing Wurundjeri culture to the forefront. Cherished by all, it is cooperatively protected and cared for by community, government and business.*

Rachel spoke about seven focal species and how they interact with each other, specifically the Spotted Marsh Frog. She explained how this species interact with flora and fauna in the area to ensure a proactive habitat and positive impact on the entire ecosystem.

There are 10 sections that form the draft DTB Creeks Biolink Action Plan with the plan seeking to empower stakeholders and local community to achieve long term and consistent action together.

The Your Say Maroondah Community Consultation will be uploaded early in March 2026.

The iNaturalist project will also be connected to the Biolink Plan once uploaded.

Rachel shared cards allowing the Committee members to share their thoughts on the following -

- Promote - Ideas to promote the Biolink
- Learn - What would you consider to be the communities interest in the Biolink? How can we best facilitate the interest to create connection
- Engage - Ideas to engage the community

Discussion surrounded understanding what the actual Biolink is, helping children understand at a school educational level, ensuring the environmental integrity, understanding nature in a mindful way, activities to engage the community, capturing nature through images, educational video shorts and ready-made learning to connect the community.

#### FOR INFORMATION REPORT

ITEM 4.5

Cr Jones noted the For Information Report and advised that if anyone would like to contribute or suggest ideas for the meeting to contact the Councillors or Anita.

Discussion surrounded a Chemical Use Policy that was previously in use in relation to spraying weeds - Anita/Grant to take it on notice and follow up.

Future meeting items for consideration/follow up:

- Sewerage over flows into Dandenong Creek
- Light pollution
- Water quality in wetland areas
- Recycling - information to be provided

Feedback - Cheong Park is well maintained and the group that look after it should be commended.

Environmental weeds in the municipality are prevalent. The need for more programmed weed management especially in relation to trees is important.

#### MEETING CLOSE - NEXT MEETING: 12 MAY 2026

ITEM 4.6

Cr Jones closed the meeting advising that the next meeting will be held on the 12 May 2026.

The Meeting concluded at 8:45pm.