

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel

MEETING MINUTES – 21 NOVEMBER 2023

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel (SEAP)

Date & Time:	21 November 2023 - 5:00pm
Location:	Council Chambers, 21 Saunders Street, Wynyard
Council Representatives:	Cr Celisa Edwards (Chair), Cr Andrea Courtney (Deputy Chair)
Members:	Brenton Hosking, Colin Hocking, Fiona Loughran, Hannah Sadler, Ian Ferris, Ian Newman, Peter Lawrence, Robin Krabbe, Wendy Bryant
Staff in Attendance:	Dana Hicks, Kassandra Steward, Daniel Summers, Bill Walker
Apologies:	Wendy Bryant, Guest Presenter Kylie Ashley, Cr Andrea Courtney
Guest Presenter:	Veronika Tietz – Sustainability and Threats to Food Security

AGENDA:

1. Welcome
2. Confirmation of Minutes
3. Guest Presentation: Cat Management In Tasmania – Kylie Ashley
4. Guest Presentation: Sustainability and Threats to Food Security – Veronika Tietz
5. Ballad Avenue Update
6. Bicycle Paths Wynyard
7. Wildlife Corridors Discussion Recap
8. Action Plans for Parks and Reserves
9. Standards of Practice to Guide Ecosystem Restoration
10. Tasmanian Threatened Species Strategy Discussion Paper
11. Recommendations Update
12. Review of Actions List
13. Upcoming Meetings
14. General Business
15. Closure

ACTIONS TAKEN:

1. I. Ferris to include additional columns for iCEP assessment, values, action plan to the Ballad Avenue options table and circulate for input.
2. The group to review the table of options and collectively review and comment offline. Final option for recommendation to be brought to the February meeting.
3. The group to arrange a site tour of Ballad avenue.
4. C. Hocking to refine Wildlife Corridor idea into an easy to read table (similar to Ballad Ave) and circulate for collaboration. Before the next meeting so that a recommendation could be made.
5. B. Hosking and D. Summers review recent examples of options studies produced for agenda that included statement of “no environmental impact.”
6. C. Hocking to produce wording to be included in the Vegetation Management Strategy for the appropriate inclusion of native vegetation use as a first option in restoration projects.
7. P. Lawrence to send personal HEAT contact information through to assist in progressing recommendation 4.
8. D. Summers to gather speed and counter data in reference to recommendation 5 and circulate ahead of February meeting for evidence driven speed reduction recommendation to Council.
9. K. Steward to send action table to members for updates prior to meeting agenda.
10. D. Hicks to circulate eco village art images to group for comment and consideration of they could be used.

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11. D. Hicks to circulate Facebook post from the Waratah-Wynyard Council regarding the community meeting on the Sisters Beach erosion.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

1. Engage with school community to investigate traffic flows to school nodes ways to encourage young people to walk and ride to school (and stay active).

1 WELCOME

- A quorum was established, and the meeting was officially opened at 17:05

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved P. Lawrence, Seconded H. Sadler

That the minutes of the SEAP meeting held on 19 September, as circulated to Members, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Carried.

3 CAT MANAGEMENT IN TASMANIA – KYLIE ASHLEY

The presentation on cat management was postponed due to illness.

There was some minor discussion and a short overview provided by P. Lawrence of a cat management forum. There was some consideration as to whether locally declaring cat free zones would work in places such as Frenchs Road Reserve. Further conversation was concerned with responsible pet management and care, how it can be addressed in the community and how it could be enforced. It was decided that the points raised be carried over to the rescheduled presentation for further investigation.

4 SUSTAINABILITY AND THREATS TO FOOD SECURITY – VERONIKA TIETZ

The speaker was introduced and proceeded to give the group some of her background and an overview of her role and responsibilities and spoke about food security in the region while looking into key environmental and social challenges.

Ms. Tietz, originally from Germany, is the Environmental Sustainability Manager at Circular Head Council. She completed her bachelors degree in food science in Germany and a masters degree in sustainable food systems in Sweden. Her thesis' focused on food wastage and alternative food systems. After completing her masters degree moved to Australia. Ms. Tietz relayed that part of her role as the Environmental Sustainability Manager was not specifically focusing on food security, but to make it part of the way her team continues to work. The team consists of a variety of people who can focus on developing an environmental plan including a natural resource manager, environmental health officers cadets in training and a landscape designer.

A question was then raised concerning what an individual could do considering the issue with food inequity, current supply systems, market forces and globalisation which are outside the control of a single individual. It was stated that it is a combined effort and will require conversations with many stakeholders with many challenges. With such globalised and complex systems in place, there are many factors to take into account in relation to food security such as environmental, economic and social factors.

From an environmental perspective, management of soil, land degradation and biodiversity loss through land clearance for single purpose agriculture. From an economic perspective it is agricultural economy and market accessibility including loss of small scale farms and from a social perspective relying on access to nutritious available food. Community resilience is also closely linked to food security through health and wellbeing and what is often overlooked when it comes to food security is the culture. Getting

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together, having meals together, with our loved ones because loneliness, depression and anxiety are part of fixing the global food system. Sustainability is about creating systems that work together in an efficient way and to sustain a healthy outcome.

A question was put to Ms Tietz about what she would like to achieve in her role to which the response was the creation of an environmental stewardship plan and integrating the natural environment into the community, to see the environment as part of a community and as life sustaining.

In answer to a question regarding local and community based food systems, Ms. Tietz suggested there are plenty of opportunities to establish alternative food networks in Australia. As Australia is dominated by two major supermarket chains which are at the mercy of the supply chain for every decision made, it is valuable to have community led systems in place and farmer led alternatives.

Discussion then centred around the lack of diversity of local food production, the expense of local products vs imported foods due to long supply chains. This in turn lead to more ethical concerns such as removing resources from other countries, food wastage, increased use of fossil fuels, waste in a variety of energy types, labour, etc. It was stated that the global food system is too chaotic a system with too many stakeholders to be controlled. Ms Tietz suggested that the opportunity Councils have is not in disrupting the global food system, it is in looking into and implementing where possible, alternative ways of ensuring that the community has access to food. Locally there is the capability to start a conversation, look at who are the most vulnerable, who need better access to fresh produce, asking how can we make it possible? An example was given of a program the Swedish government implemented last century whether they planted apple trees in the urban landscape and now there are apple trees everywhere, free to take. This brought food closer to the individual instead of letting it be handled by corporations who do not necessarily have the best interest at heart.

There were several mentions of people in Australia and other developed countries who already cannot afford basic food items anymore. Recent articles highlighting the fact stories of mothers who have enough to feed their family but not enough for themselves were mentioned. This illustration led to a local discussion around a current pilot for a school lunch program in Tasmania that is run for the past two years. The program brings food in from different suppliers, and the lunches are cooked for kids a few times a week. The program is already seeing good results with attendance being better, behaviour being better in the afternoon and parents contacting the schools for the recipes being used and learning how to make meals stretch with lentils and the like. It was thought that there was some very productive work to be done in this space.

5 BALLAD AVENUE UPDATE

A short update was provided on a small on site meeting with the sub-group and a few stakeholders. The options for Ballad Ave had been distilled into a table which had been circulated to the group larger group for input and discussion. The group discussed the use case table which highlights the concept, details, pros and cons of each potential use for the land. It was thought that this medium would help to narrow the options and highlight where the benefits and implications are.

It was decided that the next step is for the group to decide on the recommendation that will go to Council, then look at how to deliver. Further discussion led to the idea of identifying environmental and social values that must be met or improved as a sort of means test for ultimate option/s. It was thought that the current state options table would benefit from an extra column which assesses the option against iCEP. This merged into a conversation about who would really be using the site, community involvement and stakeholders.

It was decided that once the table had been updated and recirculated for update and input, the agenda item would come up in the February meeting for recommendation. It was also decided that the group should also, to assist in options and decision making, make arrangement to walk around the site.

Action 1: I. Ferris to include additional columns for iCEP assessment, values , action plan to the Ballad Avenue options table and circulate for input.

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Action 2: The group to review the table of options and collectively review and comment offline. Final option for recommendation to be brought to the February meeting.

Action 3: The group to arrange a site tour of Ballad avenue.

6 BICYCLE PATHS WYNYARD

Bicycle paths was raised to the agenda as an item that came out Ballad Avenue when noting that there are a couple of creeks that people need to cross in the area to get to shops, schools, for transport. It was thought that if you could get across those it would open up the community to travel by bikes, e-scooters and walking which removed some of the congestion in peak movement times.

It was mentioned that the Coastal Pathway would expand using the rail corridors. It was also mentioned that we can link back to the Open Space Sport and Recreation Plan which facilitates the having those trails and connections around the township and between townships.

A question was raised as to whether there was a bicycle or pathways user group that could provide feedback on the need for additional or improved pathways. The question raised led to discussion around the liveable settlement strategy, the overarching ICEP and the SEAP group's action plan for this first term.

This moved back into being onsite at Ballad Avenue and speaking to the school about congestion issues with driving. It went onto accessibility of the tracks and how to encourage use. A consideration was raised around the compatibility of actions, because corridors are seen as environmental corridors but are also transport corridors. It was suggested that care needed to be taken in planning and modes of transport promoted, that one does not impact the other.

The conversation moved on into awareness and promotion of activities to get people walking such as walk to school day. It was decided to make a recommendation to Council to engage with the school community to investigate school nodes ways to encourage young people to walk and ride to school as a means of gathering information about pathway needs and barriers around the school in particular as a first step.

- Moved P. Lawrence, Seconded F. Loughran

Recommendation 1: Engage with school community to investigate traffic flows to school nodes ways to encourage young people to walk and ride to school (and stay active).

7 WILDLIFE CORRIDORS DISCUSSION RECAP

C. Hocking provided a brief recap of the discussion around wildlife corridors from the September meeting. This was followed by further discussion around the timing of a corridor strategy and its relationship to the vegetation strategy. It was decided that a recommendation would be put in the next meeting (February) once sufficient ideas, information and wording were collected and collaborated on by the group offline in a table similar to that for Ballad Avenue.

The recommendation would be framed as following on from the development of the Vegetation Management Policy and Strategy, Council work to develop a Wildlife Corridors Policy and Strategy. The discussion noted that the same processes that facilitate the Vegetation Strategy & Policy could feed into a Wildlife Corridor Strategy & Policy such as mapping and data collection. The recommendation would include a suggestion that Council look at obvious examples of wildlife corridors as part of the vegetation mapping of existing established corridors, to facilitate a less rework should they choose to endorse the production of a Wildlife Corridor Strategy.

Action 4: C. Hocking to refine Wildlife Corridor idea into an easy to read table (similar to Ballad Ave) and circulate for collaboration. Before the next meeting so that a recommendation could be made.

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8 ACTION PLANS FOR PARKS AND RESERVES

B. Hosking provided context wishing to raise the issues encountered in trying to work through projects across different land tenures and across different sites.

Additionally, some quick conversation around how agenda items were reviewed as a concern was raised regarding a recent options study on the Inglis River track which suggested that there was 'no environmental impact' out of the proposed options. It was suggested that the reviews could be improved and that a review of recent examples of agenda items that included 'no environmental impact' be reviewed.

Action 5: B. Hosking and D. Summers review recent examples of options studies produced for agenda that included statement of "no environmental impact".

9 STANDARDS OF PRACTICE TO GUIDE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

B Hosking raised the question of whether moving forward, regardless of land tenure, that Council use as the basic guidelines the standards of practice for ecosystem restoration. This would encourage the use of local species to plant out where appropriate. It was discussed whether this needed to be written into the Vegetation Management Strategy and Policy. There was agreement that this would be beneficial but should be flexible so that local species are not only used where required but as appropriate. A balance in horticultural need, with the use of local native alternatives where possible except where inappropriate.

It was decided to finesse the wording to get appropriate balance and intent in the recommendation and table it at the next meeting for recommendation if required.

Action 6: C. Hosking to produce wording to be included in the Vegetation Management Strategy for the appropriate inclusion of native vegetation use as a first option in restoration projects.

10 TASMANIAN THREATENED SPECIES STRATEGY DISCUSSION PAPER

Some minor discussion was held which led to the two SEAP members stating that they were planning to provide a personal response to the discussion paper. It was thought that although there was overlap into what SEAP are doing, it was not a group item. The question was raised as to whether Council were planning to prepare a response and with the group offering to weigh in if needed.

11 UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

- **Recommendation 4:** *SEAP recommends Council to investigate opportunities for greater take up and usage of the Home Energy Audit Toolkit (HEAT).*
 - Some background research has been undertaken on the HEAT toolkits which has raised concerns. The toolkits no longer have a support contract which had been located at Hobart City Council and has not been replaced. Further enquires are being made with local and federal agencies around support and updated information.
- **Recommendation 5:** *SEAP recommend Council request a speed limit reduction for Sisters Beach Road from the Transport Commissioner.*
 - Environmental implication is still to be investigated.
 - Counters data in (2 locations) have registered a median speed of 83 kph. It was suggested that there would be a low impact to reduce speed to 80kph in these area with this supporting data.
 - The finalised evidence to be tabled for the February meeting for recommendation.
- **Recommendation 6:** *SEAP recommend Council consider extending the virtual fencing along Sisters Beach Road*
 - The group were reminded that at least two years of data would be required support the progress of this recommendation.

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- It was suggested that this recommendation be rescinded in favour of the speed reduction, maintain current fencing and wait for the outcome of the options paper on roadkill migration options going to CHC Council as it may be relevant to this purpose.
- **Recommendation 7:** *SEAP recommend Council identify and facilitate mapping of food security based partnerships.*
 - no update
- **Recommendation 8:** *SEAP recommend the group along with Councillors attend various communities (e.g. Waratah, Somerset, etc.) to visit and expand the focus areas of interest.*
 - It was suggested that this could be opportunities to do this as a by product of the vegetation management strategy work.

Action 7: P. Lawrence to send personal HEAT contact information through to assist in progressing recommendation 4.

Action 8: D. Summers to gather speed and counter data in reference to recommendation 5 and circulate ahead of February meeting for evidence driven speed reduction recommendation to Council.

12 REVIEW OF ACTIONS LIST

Due to time constraints this item has been deferred with an action to be taken to circulate the action list prior to the meeting for update so that it does not need to be talked to during the meeting.

Action 9: K. Steward to send action table to members for updates prior to meeting agenda.

13 UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Next meeting on 20 February 2024 located at Council Chambers has been confirmed.

14 GENERAL BUSINESS

The Chair called for members to raise other general business; the following discussions were noted:

- Results of the eco village community question images were provided for members to look at. The images will be sent to members for review, comment and consideration of how they could be used.
- The group expressed an interest in meeting the Council's sustainability and environmental team to come to the meeting for a short talk (5-10 mins) and make introductions.
- Short point raised on the Sisters Beach erosion walk around meeting consultation and stabilisation options. It was advised that a post from Waratah-Wynyard Council's social media had been put to the community. It was requested that for those who may not have seen it, the post was circulated for information to the group.
- I. Ferris requested that Council use the group more as intended; to seek input and ask questions of SEAP to facilitate a more balanced interaction.

Action 10: D. Hicks to circulate eco village art images to group for comment and consideration of they could be used.

Action 11: D. Hicks to circulate Facebook post from the Waratah-Wynyard Council regarding the community meeting on the Sisters Beach erosion.

15 CLOSURE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 19:29