

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel

MEETING MINUTES – 20 AUGUST 2024

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel (SEAP)

Date & Time:	20 August 2024 - 5:00pm
Location:	Council Chambers, 21 Saunders Street, Wynyard
Council Representatives:	Cr Celisa Edwards (Chair), Cr Andrea Courtney (Deputy Chair)
Members in Attendance:	Brenton Hosking, Fiona Loughran, Hannah Sadler Ian Ferris, Ian Newman, Peter Lawrence
Members On-line	Robin Krabbe, Colin Hocking
Staff in Attendance:	Dana Hicks, Sally Blanc, Daniel Summers, Bill Walker
Apologies:	Wendy Bryant-Bergman, Kassandra Steward,

#	AGENDA ITEMS
1.	Welcome
2.	Confirm Minutes
3.	Guest Presenter/s: None
4.	Active Actions
5.	Non-Active Actions (from action plan)
6.	Upcoming Meetings 15 October 2024 at Council Chambers 10 December 2024 at Council Chambers
7.	New/General Business: - Proposed LGAT Motion re Offshore Fossil Fuels - REZ submission
8.	Closure
#	ACTIONS TAKEN
1.	Nil
#	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
1.	SEAP recommend to Council to advocate to the Local Government Association Tasmania (LGAT) regarding offshore oil and gas exploration in Tasmanian and adjacent Commonwealth waters off Tasmania.

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1 WELCOME

- A quorum was established, and the meeting was officially opened at 17:00

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved P. Lawrence Seconded B. Hosking

That the minutes of the SEAP meeting held on 18 June 2024, as circulated to Members, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Carried.

3 GUEST PRESENTER/S: NONE

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4 ACTIVE ACTIONS – MEETING OUTCOMES

Action Item R:= recommendation	Source	Action Record	Responsibility	Outcome
Ballad Ave: Suggest land use options for Council land. R: The Ballad Avenue property be used to enhance the natural values and habitat area of the adjacent riparian zone of the Inglis River	Council Request (relates to action plan)	05/23: first raised. 02/24: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. 03/24: recommendation made to Council and endorsed.	I. Ferris P. Lawrence D. Hicks	Meeting held 19/8 with consultant Jenny Donovan. Still early in process. Opportunity for informed conversation, could be a mixture of opportunities.
Food Security: Investigate opportunities to develop a food policy. R: Identify and facilitate mapping of food security based partnerships. R: Develop a food security policy and plan for the future of the community, incorporating community education on food security.	Action Plan Focus Area 1.1	03/23: first raised. 09/23: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. 10/23: recommendation made to Council and endorsed. 02/24: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. 03/24: recommendation made to Council and endorsed.	R. Krabbe H. Sadler W. Bryant D. Hicks D. Summers	Consultant brief drafted to go to sub-group. W. Bryant will be on sub-group. New policy about to be developed.

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Action Item	Source	Action Record	Responsibility	Outcome
<p>R:= recommendation</p> <p>Tree & Vegetation Strategy:</p> <p>R: Review and replace the existing Tree Management Policy with a comprehensive Tree & Vegetation Policy and Strategy</p> <p>R: Adopt the interim Tree & Vegetation Policy and Guidelines.</p>	<p>Action Plan</p> <p>Focus Area 3.1</p>	<p>03/23: first raised.</p> <p>11/23: recommendation raised from SEAP meeting.</p> <p>01/24: recommendation made and endorsed.</p> <p>02/24: SEAP endorse draft project plan.</p> <p>04/24: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p>05/24: recommendation made and endorsed.</p>	<p>C. Hocking</p> <p>P. Lawrence</p> <p>I. Ferris</p> <p>D. Hicks</p> <p>D. Summers</p>	<p>Fire services reviewing areas requiring potential fire controls.</p> <p>Natural Values Mapping with threatened species have been embedded into council's mapping system. Site specific Flora and Fauna assessments have also been linked in to mapping.</p> <p>Talking about framework with Councillors in early September which will include local native planting discussion. D. Hicks to provide separate report from independent consultant to SEAP which provides a different view than earlier papers on local natives by default. Members to provide feedback in next few weeks.</p> <p>In considering Vegetation of Significance register/mapping, suggesting we move away from a register process as it inadvertently implies that vegetation not on the register is OK to be removed – not consistent with policy. Rather, lean into the policy position that all vegetation is important and rely on valuation methods to limit vegetation removal and LUPPA to protect vegetation on private property.</p> <p>C. Hocking suggested that this be considered by the subgroup alongside vegetation management, possible pilot areas.</p>
<p>HEAT:</p> <p>R: Council to seek out greater uptake options</p>	<p>Action Plan</p> <p>Focus Area 1:</p>	<p>03/23: first raised.</p> <p>05/23: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p>06/23: recommendation made to Council and endorsed.</p>	<p>P. Lawrence</p> <p>K. Steward</p>	<p>No discussion.</p>

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<p>R:= recommendation</p> <p>Sisters Beach Road: R: Council to request reduced speed limit. R: Council consideration for extending virtual fencing.</p>	SEAP	<p>05/23: recommendations raised at SEAP meeting. 06/23: recommendations made to Council and endorsed.</p>	<p>D. Summers B. Walker H. Sadler C. Hocking</p>	<p>A conversation began around fencing and the proposal for removing roadkill on Sisters Beach Road, it was decided that the discussion should be postponed until after the CHC options paper was released given content is likely to provide information necessary for consideration.</p> <p>The CHC options paper has not yet been received. Email CCA to see if SEAP can get copy of report even if only draft.</p> <p>Task: B. Walker email CCA to see if SEAP can get copy of CHC Options Paper.</p>
<p>Expanding Focus Areas: R: SEAP & Councillors to attend other municipal localities to expand focus.</p>	SEAP	<p>09/23: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. 10/23: recommendation made to Council and endorsed. 02/24: SEAP to identify site locations to visit</p>	SEAP	No Discussion.
<p>School Engagement on Alternative Transport: R: Council to engage with school community re: traffic & ways to encourage walking/riding to school</p>	SEAP (Action Plan Focus Area 1)	<p>11/23: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. 01/24: recommendation made to Council and endorsed.</p>	D. Hicks	Suggest that any initiatives should be worked with education department as well as schools. New state transport strategy due to be released.

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Action Item	Source	Action Record	Responsibility	Outcome
<p>R:= recommendation</p> <p>FOGO: Regional implementation of FOGO for reduced waste to landfill.</p>	Council (Action Plan Focus Area 2)	<p>03/23: 2020 feasibility study shared with SEAP.</p> <p>05/23: Council endorse regional rollout.</p> <p>02/24: update on rollout.</p>	D. Hicks	<p>A short update was provided to the group on the progress of the FOGO rollout. Discussed early issues which have reduced significantly since initial rollout. Some concerns from business about lower frequency of collection. This is currently being reviewed.</p> <p>Education on contamination about to begin. Four strike process. 1st report 32% bin presentation rate, expect to improve over time.</p> <p>Household Yield – 6.75kg per home in FOGO. Contamination about 3.5% of weight – aiming for under 1%.</p> <p>Topic to remain on agenda to end of year then removed as business as usual.</p>
<p>Climate Leadership in line with Paris Agreement</p> <p>R: Develop a position statement opposing further offshore oil and gas exploration and development in waters off Tasmania</p>	SEAP (Action Plan Focus Area 1)	<p>02/24: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p>03/24: recommendation made to Council, noted and tabled for workshopping.</p>	<p>H Sadler B Hosking D Summers</p>	<p>Discussed proposed motion prepared by H. Saddler for Council to consider putting to LGAT. Agreed not part of council jurisdiction however they can put motion to the State Body (LGAT) to advocate and provide a position statement on council's behalf to State Government. Noted NSW banned in state waters, however Tas has different legislation.</p> <p>Two motions to be put to Council for Approval from the position statement. Adjustments to motion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add_ adjacent commonwealth waters. • Statement consistent with the Paris Agreement to the motion. <p>Moved: H. Sadler Seconded: P. Lawrence</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: SEAP recommend to Council to advocate to the Local Government Association Tasmania (LGAT) regarding offshore oil and gas exploration in Tasmanian and adjacent Commonwealth waters off Tasmania.</p>
Stormwater Policy	Council	04/24: first raised	D. Summers	I. Ferris provided feedback on documents which D. Summers has reviewed with Manager Engineering and Projects. Possibly hold meeting to discuss more philosophical recommendations made.

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				P. Lawrence noted that waterway appears to be in poor state in Tas. Maybe down the track, look at how to manage waterway quality. Overlap of stormwater management and waterways quality. This could be on action plan for next term of SEAP.
State of the Environment R: Advocate to the state government to publish the 2024 State of the Environment Report immediately following its release to parliament	SEAP	05/24: recommendation made to Council and endorsed.	D Hicks D Summers	Note, the State Government have now updated the timeframe for finalisation of the report to the end of August 2024.

5 NON-ACTIVE ACTIONS – FOR INFORMATION

Action Item R:= recommendation	Source	Action Record	Comments
Community Adaptation & Resilience: provide case studies to assist progress for achievable projects.	Action Plan Focus Area 1:	03/23: first raised	
Climate Leadership in line with Paris Agreement	Action Plan Focus Area 1		
Waste Education Seek information on possible funding for waste education through the state government.	Action Plan Focus Area 2	03/23: first raised	
Green Waste Recycling	Action Plan Focus Area 2		
Local & Sustainable Food Waste Systems	Action Plan Focus Area 2		

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Action Item	Source	Action Record	Comments
R:= recommendation			
Increase Native Biodiversity	Action Plan Focus Area 3		
Land for Wildlife Reserves	Action Plan Focus Area 3		
Natural Values Database	Action Plan Focus Area 3		
Plan for Arboreta/ums	Action Plan Focus Area 3		
Weed Reduction Program: form a sub-group and produce reduction program incl. education	Action Plan Focus Area 3	03/23: first raised.	
Wildlife Corridors: research and provide case studies for the group's consideration to follow vegetation strategy actions.	Action Plan Focus Area 3	03/23: first raised. 04/23: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.	
Sponsorship Signage Policy: R: amend Sponsorship Signage Policy to exclude fossil fuels in recognition of their health and climate impacts.	Action Plan Focus Area 1	03/23 recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. 04/23: recommendation made to Council and endorsed. 05/23: implementation complete, action closed.	COMPLETE - CLOSED
Cities of Power R: participate in the Cities Power Partnership which presents an opportunity to join dozens of other councils across the country leading the way to a zero emissions future by providing the necessary tools, resources, and connections to help accelerate their climate and energy goals.	Action Plan Focus Area 1	03/23 recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. 04/23: recommendation made to Council and endorsed. 04/23: implementation initiated. 07/23: implementation complete, action closed	COMPLETE - CLOSED

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Action Item	Source	Action Record	Comments
<p>R:= recommendation</p> <p>Annual EcoFair: R: Introduce an annual EcoFair event in conjunction with Spring Loaded to raise awareness in the community and promote sustainable living and a healthy relationship with the environment.</p>	<p>Action Plan Focus Area 3</p>	<p>03/23 recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. 04/23: recommendation made to Council and endorsed. 04/23: implementation initiated. 10/23: implementation complete, action closed.</p>	<p>COMPLETE – CLOSED</p>

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6 UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Next meeting on 15 October 2024 located at Council Chambers has been confirmed.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 REZ Consultation Newsletter from ReCFIT Tasmania

B. Hosking queried whether presented submission re this was in right format and should he do anything different.

Understanding that should be putting links down existing disrupted areas such as existing powerline paths etc. Newsletter seems to indicate that contractors are looking to go straight through. Creating a new corridor puts an extra burden on farms etc. Will council take this up to see if there is any social benefit for those farmers / locations that might be impacted. The plans for community “reimbursement” seems to be unclear.

D. Hicks noted that consultation ends 11/9/24 and that an opportunity was offered to the group with no response except from B. Hosking. It is too late for SEAP to make a formal recommendation to Council for adoption prior to the consultation window closing. Any input from SEAP as part of this meeting could be considered informally and may be provided to Council for their consideration.

P. Lawrence noted that the Joint standing committee on energy services covers of these issues he also noted that Marinus might not go ahead – unviable and Victoria can generate own. SEAP members discussed this being a complex issue with potential impacts on loss of land and the subsequent consequences for tourism and agriculture. Discussed how to provide renewable energy in best way for Tasmania and that due to environmental and other concerns council needs to remain closely involved in consultations and understanding of impacts and mitigation strategies to protect - environmental, economic, land loss, vegetation, wildlife.

AGREED To provide summary of concerns to council for consideration (informally).

Task: D. Summers to consider providing feedback to Council for consideration prior to consultation closing.

7.2 Proposed LGAT Motion re Offshore Fossil /Fuels

Details of discussion have been provided in the relevant section in the Active Actions Table above: “Climate Leadership in line with Paris Agreement”.

7.3 Habitat Tree

Council’s arborist has suggested new initiative that signs be erected which advise public that a tree has been preserved as a habitat tree and why.

I. Ferris suggested a contact number or barcode be added for details at the bottom of sign. SEAP agreed that the proposed kookaburra graphic was not appropriate, and it should be changed to a local species such as a bat or tawny frog mouth.

Task: SEAP to review signage content and provide feedback to D. Summers ASAP.

7.4 SEAP

Discussed future of SEAP given current term is due to end next year. D. Hicks noted that we’ll be doing full and detailed a review of process with this group for consideration prior to another term commencing.

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Discussed how to ensure group is best able to provide feedback to officers on new policies / actions etc. Maybe more than one iteration of a document such as the vegetation strategy.

Noted the benefit of SEAP to organisation especially in increasing the knowledge of environmental considerations.

8 CLOSURE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.15pm