

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel

MEETING MINUTES – 22 JULY 2025

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel (SEAP)

Date & Time:	22 July 2025 - 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, Ian Ferris, Wendy Bryant-Bergman Ian Dutton, Karen Feeney
Staff in Attendance:	Daniel Summers, Dana Hicks, Kassandra Steward, Andrew Vocke
Apologies:	Cr Andrea Courtney, Ian Ferris, Wendy Bryant-Bergman

#	AGENDA ITEMS
1.	Welcome
2.	Confirm Minutes
3.	Guest Presenter/s: Nil
4.	Active Actions:
5.	Non-Active Actions: (from action plan)
6.	New/General Business:
7.	Upcoming Meetings
8.	Closure
#	ACTIONS TAKEN
1.	Nil
#	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
1.	Nil

1 WELCOME

- A quorum was established, and the meeting was officially opened at 17:09

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved C. Hocking Seconded C. Edwards

That the minutes of the SEAP meeting held on 15 April 2025, 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	Source	Action Record	Responsibility	Outcome
<p>R:= recommendation</p> <p>Ballad Ave: Suggest land use options for Council land.</p> <p>R: The Ballad Avenue property be used to enhance the natural values and habitat area of the adjacent riparian zone of the Inglis River</p>	Council Request (relates to action plan)	<p>05/23: first raised.</p> <p>02/24: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p>03/24: recommendation made to Council and endorsed.</p> <p>06/25: Draft masterplan endorsed for Community Consultation.</p>	<p>I. Ferris</p> <p>P. Lawrence</p> <p>B. Hocking</p> <p>F. Loughran</p> <p>I. Newman</p> <p>C. Hocking</p> <p>H. Sadler</p> <p>D. Hicks</p>	<p>A brief update on the Ballad Avenue Master Plan was provided, including advice that the public consultation period for the draft had been extended by one week due to low response numbers.</p> <p>There was some discussion about the assumption that the grassy area is entirely exotic, with a suggestion to re-check for potentially valuable native species. Questions were also raised about fire-retardant vegetation, weed management, use of consultants, and how the transition from concept to implementation would be managed.</p> <p>Council advised that detailed elements—including surveying, natural values assessments, and weed management planning—will be addressed following adoption of the master plan.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to submit any further feedback.</p>
<p>Food Security: Investigate opportunities to develop a food policy.</p> <p>R: Identify and facilitate mapping of food security based partnerships.</p> <p>R: Council develop a food security policy and plan for the future of the community, incorporating community education on food security.</p>	Action Plan Focus Area 1.1	<p>03/23: first raised.</p> <p>09/23: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting: Council to identify and facilitate mapping of food security based partnerships.</p> <p>10/23: recommendation made to Council and endorsed.</p> <p>02/24: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p>03/24: recommendation made to Council and endorsed.</p>	<p>R. Krabbe</p> <p>H. Sadler</p> <p>W. Bryant</p> <p>D. Hicks</p> <p>D. Summers</p>	<p>Council confirmed that the Food Security Policy has been adopted, with associated partnership mapping and some education initiatives—such as Tulip Festival involvement—now complete.</p> <p>The panel agreed the item is complete and can be closed.</p> <p>A comment was raised regarding earlier discussions about potential garden plots at Ballad Avenue. It was confirmed that the idea was considered but ultimately not pursued due to its inconsistency with the native setting.</p>

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Action Item	Source	Action Record	Responsibility	Outcome
R:= recommendation R: SEAP recommend to Council to adopt the Food Security Policy.		05/25: recommendation made to Council to adopt Food Security Policy and adopted.		It was acknowledged that food security themes may still emerge in future projects. Action now closed as resolved. COMPLETE – CLOSED
Tree & Vegetation Strategy: R: Review and replace the existing Tree Management Policy with a comprehensive Tree & Vegetation Policy and Strategy R: Adopt the interim Tree & Vegetation Policy and Guidelines.	Action Plan Focus Area 3.1	03/23: first raised. 11/23: recommendation raised from SEAP meeting: review & replace existing tree management policy. 01/24: recommendation made and endorsed. 02/24: SEAP endorse draft project plan. 04/24: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. 05/24: recommendation made and endorsed.	C. Hocking P. Lawrence I. Ferris D. Hicks D. Summers	Discussion commenced on the intersection of the Tree and Vegetation Strategy with fire management practices. It was noted that although Council is not directly responsible for fire control or fuel reduction burning, it has a key relationship with relevant fire authorities and should maintain an informed position. New research is questioning the long-held assumptions around fuel reduction burns. C. Hocking offered to provide a short briefing paper giving an overview of current views and research, including new technologies (e.g. satellite monitoring, rapid response teams) and alternative approaches to fire mitigation. Opportunities to progress a nature corridor strategy were raised, with potential to align with existing vegetation management efforts. Officers confirmed this is included in the SEAP agenda for future development and proposed trialling corridor principles in selected areas. Timing and approach will be explored and reported back at the next meeting.

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R:= recommendation				<p>The group was briefed on research into tree valuation methods as part of the Vegetation Framework. A case study was conducted using the 150-year-old oak tree at the Wynyard Community Centre, applying the City of Melbourne methodology. The valuation returned a figure of approximately \$520,000, demonstrating the potential policy implications for future development and tree protection.</p> <p>Task: C. Hocking with I. Dutton to prepare a briefing paper on Fire Management.</p> <p>Task: D Hicks wildlife corridor examples taken on notice to review programming and return to August SEAP meeting.</p>
<p>Sisters Beach Road:</p> <p>R: Council to request reduced speed limit.</p> <p>R: Council consideration for extending virtual fencing.</p>	SEAP	<p>05/23: recommendations raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p>06/23: recommendations made to Council and endorsed.</p> <p>03/25: Council sought Transport Commissioners approval to reduce speed along Sisters Beach Road.</p>	<p>D. Summers</p> <p>B. Walker</p> <p>A. Vocke</p> <p>H. Sadler</p> <p>C. Hocking</p>	<p>The group was advised that Council is still awaiting the Transport Commissioner's decision regarding the proposed speed reduction on Sisters Beach Road.</p> <p>There was minimal discussion about the virtual fencing along Sisters Beach Road. It was noted that the CHC options paper, intended to inform the potential for additional fencing, is still in development. The NRM Officer offered to provide a summary of the paper as it relates to WWC and suggested inviting the CCA Biodiversity Programs Manager to discuss the topic further.</p> <p>Task: A. Vocke to provide a synopsis of the CHC options paper/report on the Devil virtual fencing for October meeting.</p> <p>Task: A. Vocke to approach CCA Biodiversity Programs Manager to attend October meeting as a guest speaker on the Tassie Devil Program, virtual fencing and other mitigations.</p>

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R:= recommendation Expanding Focus Areas: R: SEAP & Councillors to attend other municipal localities to expand focus.	SEAP	09/23: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. 10/23: recommendation made to Council and endorsed. 02/24: SEAP to identify site locations to visit	SEAP	No Discussion
School Engagement on Alternative Transport: R: Council to engage with school community re: traffic & ways to encourage walking/riding to school	SEAP (Action Plan Focus Area 1)	11/23: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. 01/24: recommendation made to Council and endorsed. 12/24: active travel survey out for parents and carers community response. 07/24: Action parked – low response rate, returned to non-active actions for time being.	K. Steward	A brief update was provided, noting that only a minimal number of survey responses had been received so far—too few to support meaningful analysis. The group discussed the possibility of offering an incentive to boost participation. It was also noted that some of the issues the survey aimed to address, such as bike paths and connected trails, are already included in broader plans e.g. vegetation management plan. The survey will remain open, though the item may be deprioritised pending further community interest. It was agreed to move this item back into the non-active actions list, while the group focuses on more immediate priorities. PARKED – NON-ACTIVE

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Action Item	Source	Action Record	Responsibility	Outcome
<p>R:= recommendation</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> <p>R: Council to advocate to LGAT regarding offshore oil and gas exploration in Tasmanian and adjacent Commonwealth 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>08/24: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p>09/24: recommendation made to Council, tabled for workshopping.</p>	<p>H Sadler</p> <p>B Hosking</p> <p>D Summers</p>	<p>The group discussed progress on developing a standard high-level response for Council regarding industrial development referrals, particularly offshore oil and gas exploration, following the recent unsuccessful motion at LGAT. A draft response was circulated for feedback at the next meeting to help streamline future submissions.</p> <p>Additional climate action topics raised included the lack of non-Tesla electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Wynyard and opportunities to enhance community awareness of renewable energy options, especially under new federal programs.</p> <p>The potential for climate education was noted, with mention of recent presentations on rising atmospheric CO₂ levels measured at Cape Grim. Relevant resources and expert contacts will be shared for future use.</p> <p>Task: I. Dutton to send through information on rising CO₂ levels to K. Steward.</p> <p>Task: D. Hicks to circulate background on EV charging stations for discussion in a future meeting.</p>
<p>Stormwater Policy</p> <p>R: SEAP recommend to Council to adopt the Urban Stormwater Policy and Guidelines.</p>	Council	<p>04/24: first raised</p> <p>06/25: recommendation made out of session for Council to adopt the Urban Stormwater Policy and Guidelines and adopted.</p>	D. Summers	<p>The new stormwater policy, focusing on water quality management for new developments, was adopted at the June Council meeting. The item was closed from the agenda. Further discussion will continue regarding water quality and availability monitoring, particularly in relation to catchment management in areas such as Sisters Creek. Action now closed as resolved.</p> <p>COMPLETE – CLOSED</p>

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Action Item	Source	Action Record	Responsibility	Outcome
<p>R:= recommendation</p> <p>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</p>	SEAP	05/24: recommendation made to Council and endorsed.	<p>D Hicks</p> <p>D Summers</p>	<p>The panel discussed the recently released State of the Environment report, noting its delayed release and mixed relevance to local government jurisdiction. The focus is on identifying advocacy opportunities where council can influence outcomes, especially relating to environmental themes aligned with the council's sustainability plan (iCEP). The report shows most environmental indicators are worsening, highlighting challenges for local efforts amid broader state-level declines. Panel members suggested prioritising actionable local strategies, including fire management, vegetation policies, and better environmental monitoring. Emphasis was placed on marine and coastal concerns, peri-urban environmental issues, and threatened flora and fauna unique to the area. The panel was encouraged to further review the information provided for recommendation at the next meeting.</p>

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5 NON-ACTIVE ACTIONS – FOR INFORMATION

Action Item	Source	Action Record	Comments
R:= recommendation			
Community Adaptation & Resilience: provide case studies to assist progress for achievable projects.	Action Plan Focus Area 1	03/23: first raised	No Discussion - active conversation points from discussion above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for climate education highlighted via presentations on rising CO₂ levels at Cape Grim • Discussion planned on water quality and availability monitoring, focusing on catchment management in areas like Sisters Creek.
Climate Leadership in line with Paris Agreement	Action Plan Focus Area 1		No Discussion – active conversation points from discussion above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of non-Tesla EV charging infrastructure in Wynyard • Opportunities to improve community awareness of renewable energy, especially linked to new federal programs
Waste Education Seek information on possible funding for waste education through the state government.	Action Plan Focus Area 2	03/23: first raised	No Discussion
Green Waste Recycling	Action Plan Focus Area 2		No Discussion
Local & Sustainable Food Waste Systems	Action Plan Focus Area 2		No Discussion
Increase Native Biodiversity	Action Plan Focus Area 3		No Discussion

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Action Item	Source	Action Record	Comments
R:= recommendation			
Land for Wildlife Reserves	Action Plan Focus Area 3		No Discussion
Natural Values Database	Action Plan Focus Area 3		No Discussion
Plan for Arboreta/ums	Action Plan Focus Area 3		No Discussion
Weed Reduction Program: form a sub-group and produce reduction program incl. education	Action Plan Focus Area 3	03/23: first raised.	No Discussion
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.	No Discussion – active conversation points from Tree & Vegetation Strategy discussion above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature corridor strategy development aligned with vegetation management discussed. Plans to trial corridor principles in select areas. Timing and approach to be explored and reported at next 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>	Action Plan Focus Area 3	<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>	COMPLETE – CLOSED
<p>HEAT: R: Council to seek out greater uptake options</p>	Action Plan Focus Area 1:	<p>03/23: first raised. 05/23: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. 06/23: recommendation made to Council and endorsed. 08/24: implementation scheduled for progression in the 2024/2025 financial year, action closed.</p>	COMPLETE - CLOSED
<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. 05/23: Council endorse regional rollout. 02/24: update on rollout. 12/24: implementation complete, now embedded into operational practice, action closed</p>	COMPLETE - CLOSED

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6 GENERAL BUSINESS

- Discussion touched on the importance of monitoring creek and river water quality and surrounding vegetation, particularly within existing projects like the Inglis River and Camp Creek initiatives. It was agreed this topic would be recorded under general business. Council officers will report back on any current water quality monitoring processes at the next meeting.

Task: D. Hicks to circulate information on any current water quality monitoring undertaken by Council to group.

- Discussion acknowledged ongoing work on community adaptation and resilience, with recognition that some non-active items remain under review and will inform future priorities.
- Emphasis was placed on the need to prioritize and focus efforts, particularly on improving vegetation and tree management strategies.
- It was agreed to swap agenda items six and seven, placing general business first followed by upcoming meetings.

6.1 Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Action Plan and Service Level Document

- The draft Waste and Resource Recovery Action Plan and associated service level document were presented to formalise and clarify the council's current waste management practices without altering existing service standards. The new local action plan is designed to align directly with the regional waste strategy, thereby eliminating duplication and promoting consistency in diversion targets. Currently, the estimated diversion rate stands at about 46.6%, with a goal to reach the regional target of 60%. The plan is detailed and ambitious, though its full implementation will likely depend on securing external funding. Panel members appreciated the clarity and thoroughness of the documents and were invited to provide further feedback ahead of the next meeting.

7 UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Next meeting on 19 August 2025 located at Council Chambers was confirmed during meeting.

8 CLOSURE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 18:35