

## Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel

### MEETING MINUTES – 21 OCTOBER 2025

#### Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel (SEAP)

Date & Time:	21 October 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:	Dana Hicks, Kassandra Steward
Apologies:	Wendy Bryant-Bergman, Daniel Summers, Andrew Vocke
Guest Presenter:	Nil

#	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.	
#	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
1.	That Council seek coordination through a regional body (such as LGAT or the Cradle Coast Authority) to engage a suitably qualified individual to review and summarise the National Climate Risk Assessment Report, providing insights into projected climate risks out to 2050 relevant for local government application.

### 1 WELCOME

- A quorum was established, and the meeting was officially opened at 16:58

### 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**Moved:** K. Feeney **Seconded:** B. Hosking

That the minutes of the SEAP meeting held on 19 August 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><b>Ballad Ave:</b> 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><b>05/23:</b> first raised.</p> <p><b>02/24:</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p><b>03/24:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed.</p> <p><b>06/25:</b> Draft masterplan endorsed for Community Consultation.</p> <p><b>10/25:</b> Final masterplan adopted.</p>	<p>I. Ferris</p> <p>B. Hocking</p> <p>C. Hocking</p> <p>D. Hicks</p>	<p>The Ballad Avenue Environmental Plan was submitted to Council at the October meeting and was adopted. There was some discussion about how to keep the community engaged with continued buy in moving forward.</p> <p>Council will now be progressing with the agreed actions for 2025/26 from the master plan, with future actions subject to funding as part of council's annual budget cycle.</p> <p>Now that the Plan has been adopted it has become an operational document which moves beyond the panel's remit. Action is now closed.</p>
<p><b>Tree &amp; Vegetation Strategy:</b></p> <p>R: Review and replace the existing Tree Management Policy with a comprehensive Tree &amp; Vegetation Policy and Strategy</p> <p>R: Adopt the interim Tree &amp; Vegetation Policy and Guidelines.</p>	Action Plan Focus Area 3.1	<p><b>03/23:</b> first raised.</p> <p><b>11/23:</b> recommendation raised from SEAP meeting: review &amp; replace existing tree management policy.</p> <p><b>01/24:</b> recommendation made and endorsed.</p> <p><b>02/24:</b> SEAP endorse draft project plan.</p> <p><b>04/24:</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p><b>05/24:</b> recommendation made and endorsed.</p>	<p>C. Hocking</p> <p>I. Ferris</p> <p>D. Hicks</p> <p>D. Summers</p>	<p>The group received an update on the Tree and Vegetation Strategy, noting methodology improvements need to be made to the corridor work on council managed land. There was some discussion about the relationships between the vegetation framework and a future wildlife corridor strategy.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the desire to prioritise this project, as well as the need to embed processes and staff engagement being emphasised to support successful implementation.</p> <p>The group discussed the Fuel Reduction Burning paper, noting it is a hot topic with unclear guidance due to historically limited research and conflicting expert views. Advocacy remains important, alongside respect for cultural practices and awareness of potential engagement issues. The discussion led to outlining Council's role in fire management, being guided by current legislation. Whilst</p>

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R:= recommendation				<p>this topic is likely to remain of interest to Council and the Panel in the future, it was determined to re-focus to strengthening an advocacy item under the State of Environment topic.</p> <p><i>Fire Country</i> by Victor Steffensen was recommended as a useful resource for understanding cultural burning practices.</p> <p><b>Task:</b> D. Summers to circulate the scope of the vegetation framework</p> <p><b>Task:</b> K. Feeney to circulate copy of the suggested book "Fire Country" by Victor Steffensen.</p>
<p><b>Sisters Beach Road:</b></p> <p>R: Council to request reduced speed limit.</p> <p>R: Council consideration for extending virtual fencing.</p>	SEAP	<p><b>05/23:</b> recommendations raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p><b>06/23:</b> recommendations made to Council and endorsed.</p> <p><b>03/25:</b> Council sought Transport Commissioners approval to reduce speed along Sisters Beach Road.</p>	<p>D. Summers</p> <p>A. Vocke</p> <p>C. Hocking</p>	<p>Members were advised that the Woolnorth virtual fencing study presentation is delayed due to CCA staff changes. They were also made aware that Council is still awaiting the Transport Commissioner's response on road speed for Sisters Beach Road, and the panel heard an update on progress for a bridge renewal project at Sisters Beach.</p>
<p><b>Expanding Focus Areas:</b></p> <p>R: SEAP &amp; Councillors to attend other municipal localities to expand focus.</p>	SEAP	<p><b>09/23:</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p><b>10/23:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed.</p> <p><b>02/24:</b> SEAP to identify site locations to visit</p>	SEAP	<p>Councillors endorsed SEAP's recommendation to undertake a joint site visit to Camp Creek and Frenchs Road Reserve. Members were advised that the visit is likely to occur towards the end of November, with the exact date to be confirmed.</p>

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<p>R:= recommendation</p> <p><b>Climate Leadership in line with Paris Agreement</b></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><b>02/24:</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p><b>03/24:</b> recommendation made to Council, noted and tabled for workshopping.</p> <p><b>08/24:</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p><b>09/24:</b> recommendation made to Council, tabled for workshopping.</p>	<p>B Hosking</p> <p>D Summers</p>	<p>A draft climate position advocacy template was presented to the group for feedback. Discussion was minimal, with a suggestion to streamline the template, ideally reducing it to a one-page document.</p> <p><b>Task:</b> K. Steward to revise the draft industrial development feedback response template to be one page and circulate for final comments.</p>
<p><b>State of the Environment</b></p> <p>R: Advocate to the state government to publish the 2024 State of the Environment Report immediately following its release to parliament</p>	SEAP	<p><b>05/24:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed.</p>	<p>D Hicks</p> <p>D Summers</p>	<p>Members reviewed the circulated State of the Environment Implications for Local Government document, focusing on advocacy items. Some amendments were made during the meeting as part of a brainstorming and feedback session. It was advised that the document would be refined based on the session and circulated for final review and recommendation. Members were asked to submit any additional commentary on the revision by the end of the week (26 Oct).</p> <p><b>Task:</b> D. Hicks to make final revisions to high-level advocacy priorities based on feedback and circulate for review and recommendation out of session.</p>

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#### 5 NON-ACTIVE ACTIONS – FOR INFORMATION

Action Item	Source	Action Record	Comments
R:= recommendation			
<b>Community Adaptation &amp; Resilience:</b> 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 July 2025 meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for climate education highlighted via presentations on rising CO<sub>2</sub> levels at Cape Grim</li> <li>Discussion planned on water quality and availability monitoring, focusing on catchment management in areas like Sisters Creek.</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Leadership in line with Paris Agreement</b>	Action Plan Focus Area 1		No Discussion Active conversation points from discussion July 2025 meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of non-Tesla EV charging infrastructure in Wynyard</li> <li>Opportunities to improve community awareness of renewable energy, especially linked to new federal programs</li> </ul>
<b>Waste Education</b> Seek information on possible funding for waste education through the state government.	Action Plan Focus Area 2	03/23: first raised	No Discussion
<b>Green Waste Recycling</b>	Action Plan Focus Area 2		No Discussion
<b>Local &amp; Sustainable Food Waste Systems</b>	Action Plan Focus Area 2		No Discussion
<b>Increase Native Biodiversity</b>	Action Plan Focus Area 3		No Discussion
<b>Land for Wildlife Reserves</b>	Action Plan Focus Area 3		No Discussion

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<b>Natural Values Database</b>	Action Plan Focus Area 3		No Discussion
<b>Plan for Arboreta/ums</b>	Action Plan Focus Area 3		No Discussion
<b>Weed Reduction Program:</b> form a sub-group and produce reduction program incl. education	Action Plan Focus Area 3	<b>03/23:</b> first raised.	No Discussion
<b>Wildlife Corridors:</b> research and provide case studies for the group's consideration to follow vegetation strategy actions	Action Plan Focus Area 3	<b>03/23:</b> first raised. <b>04/23:</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.	No Discussion Active conversation points from Tree & Vegetation Strategy discussion Jul 2025 Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature corridor strategy development aligned with vegetation management discussed.</li> <li>Plans to trial corridor principles in select areas.</li> </ul>
<b>School Engagement on Alternative Transport:</b> R: Council to engage with school community re: traffic & ways to encourage walking/riding to school	SEAP (Action Plan Focus Area 1)	<b>11/23:</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. <b>01/24:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed. <b>12/24:</b> active travel survey out for parents and carers community response. <b>07/24:</b> Action parked – low response rate, returned to non-active actions for time being.	<b>PARKED – NON-ACTIVE</b>
<b>Sponsorship Signage Policy:</b> R: amend Sponsorship Signage Policy to exclude fossil fuels in recognition of their health and climate impacts.	Action Plan Focus Area 1	<b>03/23</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. <b>04/23:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed. <b>05/23:</b> implementation complete, action closed.	<b>COMPLETE - CLOSED</b>

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<b>Cities of Power</b> R:= recommendation 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	<b>03/23</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. <b>04/23</b> : recommendation made to Council and endorsed. <b>04/23</b> : implementation initiated. <b>07/23</b> : implementation complete, action closed	<b>COMPLETE - CLOSED</b>
<b>Annual EcoFair:</b> 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.	Action Plan Focus Area 3	<b>03/23</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. <b>04/23</b> : recommendation made to Council and endorsed. <b>04/23</b> : implementation initiated. <b>10/23</b> : implementation complete, action closed.	<b>COMPLETE - CLOSED</b>
<b>HEAT:</b> R: Council to seek out greater uptake options	Action Plan Focus Area 1:	<b>03/23</b> : first raised. <b>05/23</b> : recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. <b>06/23</b> : recommendation made to Council and endorsed. <b>08/24</b> : implementation scheduled for progression in the 2024/2025 financial year, action closed.	<b>COMPLETE - CLOSED</b>
<b>FOGO:</b> Regional implementation of FOGO for reduced waste to landfill.	Council (Action Plan Focus Area 2)	<b>03/23</b> : 2020 feasibility study shared with SEAP. <b>05/23</b> : Council endorse regional rollout. <b>02/24</b> : update on rollout. <b>12/24</b> : implementation complete, now embedded into operational practice, action closed	<b>COMPLETE - CLOSED</b>

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<p>R:= recommendation</p> <p><b>Food Security:</b>            Investigate opportunities to develop a food policy.  <b>R:</b> Identify and facilitate mapping of food security based partnerships.  <b>R:</b> Develop a food security policy and plan for the future of the community, incorporating community education on food security.  <b>R:</b> SEAP recommend to Council to adopt the Food Security Policy.</p>	<p>Action Plan            Focus Area 1.1</p>	<p><b>03/23:</b> first raised.  <b>09/23:</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.  <b>10/23:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed.  <b>02/24:</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.  <b>03/24:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed.  <b>05/25:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed. Policy adopted.</p>	<p>Action now closed as resolved.  <b>COMPLETE – CLOSED</b></p>
<p><b>Stormwater Policy</b>  <b>R:</b> SEAP recommend to Council to adopt the Urban Stormwater Policy and Guidelines. (out of session)</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p><b>04/24:</b> first raised  <b>06/25:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed. Policy adopted.</p>	<p>Action now closed as resolved.  <b>COMPLETE – CLOSED</b></p>

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#### 6 GENERAL BUSINESS

##### 6.1 LGAT Climate Decision Framework

- SEAP was updated on LGAT's Climate Decision Framework project, part of the 2023–25 Local Government Climate Change Capability Program. Co-designed in 2024, the project highlighted varying councillor climate knowledge and the need for decision-making support. A reference group advises on the framework, with LGAT engaging a consultant for climate information. There are a handful of participating councils in the process. SEAP were advised that updates will be provided as they become available.

##### 6.2 National Climate Risk Assessment Report – Discussion Paper

- Following the release of the *National Climate Risk Assessment Report*, SEAP discussed its dense content and the need for a digestible summary highlighting risk to 2050. It was suggested an individual could be engaged to review the report and provide relevant insights for iCEP, potentially in collaboration with other councils or via LGAT or CCA to share costs and benefit the NW region. It was noted that the task included exploring governance for regional support. This work would inform the remaining five years of the iCEP delivery plan, embedding prioritisation opportunities and aligning with the upcoming corporate strategic plan review and post-election iCEP refresh.

**Moved:** C. Hocking **Seconded:** Cr. A. Courtney

**Recommendation:** That Council seek coordination through a regional body (such as LGAT or the Cradle Coast Authority) to engage a suitably qualified individual to review and summarise the National Climate Risk Assessment Report, providing insights into projected climate risks out to 2050 relevant for local government application.

##### 6.3 Sisters Beach Foreshore Management Plan

- Members received an update on Sisters Beach coastal hazard projects, including the Parks & Wildlife Services Foreshore Management Plan (developed in partnership with Council), creek mouth mitigation, and open space planning, which was noted at Council's October meeting. SEAP emphasised the need for online consultation to properly allow engagement with non-permanent residents that may otherwise miss out on the process. It was confirmed that a working group would be engaged to help develop an implementation plan for Council-led actions. Members were advised that plans and actions are available on the Council website, and that the community will be kept informed.

##### 6.4 SEAP Terms of Reference Review

- Members were reminded that a workshop with current and past SEAP members will be held at the 16 December meeting to review the existing Terms of Reference. Feedback on what works, what doesn't, and potential improvements will inform a revised version to be presented to Council for adoption ahead of the next panel EOI, with the current panel term ending in August 2026.

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#### 6.5 Additional Items

- The resignation of a panel member was noted, resulting in a shortfall of the minimum number of community members required under the Terms of Reference. A temporary amendment to the ToR was suggested to allow the panel to proceed with the remaining five meetings, with the option to approach previous members to fill the vacancy if needed in the short term.

**Task:** D. Hicks to approach previous SEAP membership to identify whether they are able to return to the Panel.

**Task:** K. Steward to embed any necessary changes at the next Council meeting for consideration/endorsement by councillors to enable continuation of the panel until the end of its term.

#### 7 UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Next meeting on 16 December 2025 located at Council Chambers was confirmed during meeting.

#### 8 CLOSURE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 19:01.