

## Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel

### MEETING MINUTES – 9 DECEMBER 2025

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

Date & Time:	9 December 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, Ian Dutton, Karen Feeney
Staff in Attendance:	Daniel Summers, Dana Hicks, Kassandra Steward, Andrew Vocke
Apologies:	Nil
Guest Presenter:	Nil

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

#### 1 WELCOME

- A quorum was established, and the meeting was officially opened at 16:59

#### 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**Moved:** Cr. A. Courtney **Seconded:** I. Dutton

That the minutes of the SEAP meeting held on 21 October 2025, as circulated to Members, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Carried.

#### 3 GUEST PRESENTER/S: NONE

#### 4 SEAP STRUCTURE REVIEW – BRAINSTORMING SESSION

The group completed structured brainstorming activities to identify strengths, gaps, and future needs within the SEAP structure. The resulting themes will guide improvements to SEAP and support the development of revised Terms of Reference for the 2026 panel term.

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#### 5 ACTIVE ACTIONS – MEETING OUTCOMES

Action Item	Source	Action Record	Responsibility	Outcome
<p>R:= recommendation</p> <p><b>Sisters Beach Road:</b>            R: Council to request reduced speed limit.            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><b>12/25:</b> Transport Commissioner approval for speed reduction to Sisters Beach Road. Action part A closed.</p>	<p><b>D. Summers</b>  <b>A. Vocke</b>            C. Hocking</p>	<p>The group received a brief update confirming that Council has been advised by the Transport Commissioner that the requested speed reduction on Sisters Beach Road—from 100km/h to 80km/h—has been approved. With this confirmation, the speed-limit component of the action is now considered complete, while the virtual-fencing component will remain open for the time being.</p> <p>On a semi-related note, the group noted progress on the upcoming bridge project on Sisters Beach Road, highlighting environmentally conscious design options that minimise vegetation removal while maintaining traffic and structural integrity. Further details and community updates will be provided once plans are formally confirmed.</p>
<p><b>Tree &amp; Vegetation Strategy:</b>            R: Review and replace the existing Tree Management Policy with a comprehensive Tree &amp; Vegetation Policy and Strategy            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            I. Ferris  <b>D. Hicks</b>  <b>D. Summers</b></p>	<p>The group discussed progress on the Tree and Vegetation Strategy, noting a shift in focus from drafting strategy documents to strengthening culture and guiding on-ground teams toward environmental objectives. Work is underway to engage staff early, recognising that effective cultural change is essential for any strategy to succeed. A light policy review and development of a base strategy will continue, with an emphasis on bringing staff along the journey rather than creating documents that don't translate into practice.</p>

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<p>R:= recommendation</p> <p><b>Expanding Focus Areas:</b>            R: SEAP &amp; Councillors to attend other municipal localities to expand focus.            R: SEAP recommends that a cooperative site visit to Camp Creek and Frenchs Road Reserve be organised for SEAP members and Councillors.</p>	SEAP	<p><b>09/23:</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.  <b>10/23:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed.  <b>02/24:</b> SEAP to identify site locations to visit  <b>08/25:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed  <b>10/25:</b> site visit organised for end of November.  <b>12/25:</b> site visit re-scheduled to 4 February.</p>	SEAP	The Council endorsed a joint site visit to Camp Creek and Frenchs Road Reserve. Though the initial visit was cancelled due to weather and risk concerns, a rescheduled date for the 4 February 2026 was confirmed.
<p><b>Climate Leadership in line with Paris Agreement</b>            R: Develop a position statement opposing further offshore oil and gas exploration and development in waters off Tasmania.            R: Council to advocate to LGAT regarding offshore oil and gas exploration in Tasmanian and adjacent Commonwealth waters off Tasmania.            R: 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.</p>	SEAP (Action Plan Focus Area 1)	<p><b>02/24:</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.  <b>03/24:</b> recommendation made to Council, noted and tabled for workshopping.  <b>08/24:</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.  <b>09/24:</b> recommendation made to Council, tabled for workshopping.  <b>10/25:</b> National Climate Risk Assessment Report – Discussion Paper raised under General Business  <b>10/25:</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.  <b>11/25:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed.</p>	B Hosking D Summers	The group discussed progress on the climate-leadership action, noting a recommendation for a regional body to translate the National Climate Risk Assessment into practical guidance for local government. While nothing is formal at this stage, there are early indications that an external body may explore supporting this work, which was viewed as a positive sign of broader regional alignment. Members also shared potential opportunities to involve expert guest speakers in future discussions to help deepen understanding of climate-risk insights.

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R:= recommendation				
<b>State of the Environment</b> 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	The group discussed the final revisions to the State of Environment document, noting that some proposed changes had not yet been consolidated due to time constraints. Members agreed to review and resolve the suggested amendments via an email as this approach will allow everyone to consider the details carefully before the document is finalised.

### 6 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>

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<b>Waste Education</b> Seek information on possible funding for waste education through the state government.	Action Plan Focus Area 2	<b>03/23:</b> 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
<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

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<p>R:= recommendation</p> <p><b>Wildlife Corridors:</b>            research and provide case studies for the group's consideration to follow vegetation strategy actions</p>	Action Plan Focus Area 3	<p><b>03/23:</b> first raised.</p> <p><b>04/23:</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p>	<p>No Discussion</p> <p>Active conversation points from Tree &amp; Vegetation Strategy discussion Jul 2025 Meeting:</p> <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>
<p><b>School Engagement on Alternative Transport:</b>            R: Council to engage with school community re: traffic &amp; ways to encourage walking/riding to school</p>	SEAP (Action Plan Focus Area 1)	<p><b>11/23:</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p><b>01/24:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed.</p> <p><b>12/24:</b> active travel survey out for parents and carers community response.</p> <p><b>07/24:</b> Action parked – low response rate, returned to non-active actions for time being.</p>	<b>PARKED – NON-ACTIVE</b>
<p><b>Sponsorship Signage Policy:</b>            R: amend Sponsorship Signage Policy to exclude fossil fuels in recognition of their health and climate impacts.</p>	Action Plan Focus Area 1	<p><b>03/23</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p><b>04/23:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed.</p> <p><b>05/23:</b> implementation complete, action closed.</p>	<b>COMPLETE - CLOSED</b>
<p><b>Cities of Power</b>            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.</p>	Action Plan Focus Area 1	<p><b>03/23</b> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p><b>04/23:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed.</p> <p><b>04/23:</b> implementation initiated.</p> <p><b>07/23:</b> implementation complete, action closed</p>	<b>COMPLETE - CLOSED</b>

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<b>R:= recommendation</b>  <b>Annual EcoFair:</b> <b>R:</b> 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> <b>R:</b> 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>	Action Plan Focus Area 1.1	<p><b>03/23:</b> first raised.</p> <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> recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p><b>03/24:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed.</p> <p><b>05/25:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed. Policy adopted.</p>	<b>COMPLETE – CLOSED</b>
<p><b>Stormwater Policy</b>  <b>R:</b> SEAP recommend to Council to adopt the Urban Stormwater Policy and Guidelines. (out of session)</p>	Council	<p><b>04/24:</b> first raised</p> <p><b>06/25:</b> recommendation made to Council and endorsed. Policy adopted.</p>	<b>COMPLETE – CLOSED</b>
<p><b>Ballad Ave:</b>            Suggest land use options for Council land.  <b>R:</b> 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 plan endorsed for public consultation</p> <p><b>10/25:</b> final masterplan submitted to Council and adopted. Action closed.</p>	<p>Action now closed as resolved.</p> <p><b>COMPLETE – CLOSED</b></p>

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#### **7 GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **7.1 2026 SEAP Meeting Calendar**

- Meeting dates for the remaining panel sessions were confirmed, with potential opportunities being explored to include guest speakers where feasible.

##### **7.2 Additional Items**

- SEAP's involvement in the Sisters Beach coastal retreat process was noted, with discussion on how this could inform broader approaches to coastal erosion across the region. Community engagement and co-design work with consultants will soon be underway, though timelines and consultant appointments are still being finalised.
- The panel noted the need to continue engagement and recruitment for future membership, including outreach to past members and consideration of diversity and skills in the next round.
- Updates on potential grants were shared, including opportunities through Rotary Environment initiatives and community solar/battery projects for local sporting clubs and centres, with timing and guidelines for federal grants still pending.
- Appreciation was expressed to panel members for their contributions, expertise, and engagement throughout the process, acknowledging the value they bring to council discussions.

#### **8 UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Next meeting on 17 February 2026 located at Council Chambers was confirmed during meeting.

#### **9 CLOSURE**

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 18:40.