Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel

MEETING MINUTES – 17 FEBRUARY 2026

	Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel (SEAP)
Date & Time:	17 February 2026 - 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:	Dana Hicks, Kassandra Steward, Daniel Summers, Andrew Vocke
Apologies:	Cr Andrea Courtney, Andrew Vocke, Karen Feeney
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.	SEAP recommends that Council endorse the State of the Environment advocacy statement and authorise the Mayor and CEO to advocate, where appropriate, to the Tasmanian Government for the matters outlined within the statement.

1 WELCOME

- A quorum was established and the meeting was officially opened at 17:08

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved: I. Dutton **Seconded:** B. Hosking

That the minutes of the SEAP meeting held on 09 December 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 **R**:= recommendation	Source	Action Record	Responsibility	Outcome
Sisters Beach Road: **R**: Council to request reduced speed limit. **R**: Council consideration for extending virtual fencing.	SEAP	**05/23**: recommendations raised at SEAP meeting. **06/23**: recommendations made to Council and endorsed. **03/25**: Council sought Transport Commissioners approval to reduce speed along Sisters Beach Road. **12/25**: Transport Commissioner approval for speed reduction to Sisters Beach Road. Action part A closed.	D. Summers A. Vocke C. Hocking	The panel received an update on implementation of the approved speed reduction along Sisters Beach Road, with signage works expected shortly. The virtual fencing component remains under consideration, pending further updates.
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 I. Ferris D. Hicks D. Summers	An update was provided on the progression of the Tree and Vegetation Strategy, with current efforts focused on strengthening internal engagement and resourcing to support on-ground delivery. Members discussed recent observations of drought-related tree stress and the importance of recording specific concerns through Council's reporting system. The need for consistent monitoring approaches to support future environmental reporting and funding applications was also noted.

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Action Item R:= recommendation	Source	Action Record	Responsibility	Outcome
Expanding Focus Areas: **R**: SEAP & 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.	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 **08/25**: recommendation made to Council and endorsed **10/25**: site visit organised for end of November. **12/25**: site visit re-scheduled to 4 February.	SEAP	The panel reflected on the recent site visit to Frenchs Road Reserve and Camp Creek, noting the value of on-site discussion and cross-representation from Councillors, staff and SEAP members. The visit provided useful context to inform future planning considerations. Master plans for the sites are nearing completion.
Climate Leadership in line with Paris Agreement **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.	SEAP (Action Plan Focus Area 1)	**02/24**: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. **03/24**: recommendation made to Council, noted and tabled for workshopping. **08/24:** recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. **09/24:** recommendation made to Council, tabled for workshopping. **10/25:** National Climate Risk Assessment Report – Discussion Paper raised under General Business **10/25:** recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. **11/25:** recommendation made to Council and endorsed.	B Hosking D Summers	An update was provided regarding potential regional collaboration to translate the National Climate Risk Assessment into practical guidance for local government. Members supported a coordinated regional approach and noted the importance of measurable monitoring frameworks to support climate adaptation and decision-making.

Action Item R:= recommendation	Source	Action Record	Responsibility	Outcome
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	Revised advocacy wording relating to the State of the Environment was presented and discussed. Members agreed the document now reflects the panel's intent and should be progressed to Council for formal consideration. The importance of transparency, environmental monitoring and continued advocacy was acknowledged. **Moved:** B. Hosking **Seconded:** C. Hocking **Recommendation**: SEAP recommends that Council endorse the State of the Environment advocacy statement and authorise the Mayor and CEO to advocate, where appropriate, to the Tasmanian Government for the matters outlined within the statement.

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	No Discussion Active conversation points from discussion July 2025 meeting: • Potential for climate education highlighted via presentations on rising CO_2 levels at Cape Grim • Discussion planned on water quality and availability monitoring, focusing on catchment management in areas like Sisters Creek.

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Climate Leadership in line with Paris Agreement	Action Plan Focus Area 1		No Discussion Active conversation points from discussion July 2025 meeting: • 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
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

WARATAH WYNYARD COUNCIL

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Action Item **R**:= recommendation	Source	Action Record	Comments
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 Jul 2025 Meeting: • Nature corridor strategy development aligned with vegetation management discussed. • Plans to trial corridor principles in select areas.
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.	**PARKED – NON-ACTIVE**
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 **R**:= recommendation	Source	Action Record	Comments
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.	Action Plan Focus Area 3	**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.	**COMPLETE – CLOSED**
HEAT: **R**: Council to seek out greater uptake options	Action Plan Focus Area 1:	**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.	**COMPLETE - CLOSED**
FOGO: Regional implementation of FOGO for reduced waste to landfill.	Council (Action Plan Focus Area 2)	**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	**COMPLETE - CLOSED**

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Action Item **R**:= recommendation	Source	Action Record	Comments
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. **R**: SEAP recommend to Council to adopt the Food Security Policy.	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. **05/25**: recommendation made to Council and endorsed. Policy adopted.	**COMPLETE – CLOSED**
Stormwater Policy **R**: SEAP recommend to Council to adopt the Urban Stormwater Policy and Guidelines. (out of session)	Council	**04/24**: first raised **06/25**: recommendation made to Council and endorsed. Policy adopted.	**COMPLETE – CLOSED**
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. **06/25**: draft plan endorsed for public consultation **10/25**: final masterplan submitted to Council and adopted. Action closed.	Action now closed as resolved. **COMPLETE – CLOSED**

6 General Business

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

- An update was provided on the refreshed Home Energy Audit Toolkit, including improvements to accessibility and online content. The initiative recently received positive media recognition, and members discussed opportunities to increase community awareness and uptake.
- The panel also received a brief update on the Blue Economy CRC offshore aquaculture trial, with discussion acknowledging both research transparency and broader community sentiment.
- Members were advised that feedback from recent workshops is being incorporated into a revised Terms of Reference for SEAP. The current panel term concludes in August 2026, with a refreshed panel likely to commence following the 2026 local government elections. Members expressed interest in reviewing draft documentation once available.

7 Upcoming Meetings

- Next meeting on 28 April 2026 located at Council Chambers has been confirmed

8 Closure

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 18:00.