Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel

MEETING MINUTES – 28 APRIL 2026

	Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel (SEAP)
Date & Time:	28 April 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 Celisa Edwards, Cr Andrea Courtney, Andrew Vocke

#	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 17:01

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved B. Hosking Seconded I. Dutton

That the minutes of the SEAP meeting held on 17 February 2026, 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	An update was provided regarding implementation of signage associated with the approved speed reduction works at Sisters Beach Road. Timing for installation is expected to align with Departmental processes and arrival of the supplies.
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	Officers provided an update on progression of the Tree and Vegetation Strategy and associated by-law review process. Discussion focused on strengthening Council's ability to respond to vegetation vandalism and environmental damage within public reserves. Members discussed the need for clear education, communication and implementation measures alongside any future enforcement powers. The panel discussed opportunities to support community understanding through signage, explanatory material and digital engagement tools. It was acknowledged that consultation and education would be important components of the future by-law rollout. Members also discussed the importance of clearly identifying land tenure, management responsibilities and reserve classifications when progressing vegetation management actions.

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				Discussion also included the potential future development of a significant tree register. Officers advised this remains under consideration as part of the broader vegetation framework review.
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. **02/26**: Site visit completed.	SEAP	Members reflected positively on recent site visits and discussed opportunities for future on-site engagement activities, particularly at Camp Creek, Inglis River and Doctors Rocks. Discussion highlighted the importance of clear land management responsibilities and collaborative planning between Council, Parks and Wildlife Service and community groups when progressing environmental projects.

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Action Item R:= recommendation	Source	Action Record	Responsibility	Outcome
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 previous advocacy to the Cradle Coast Authority relating to regional climate risk assessment work. While there has been interest from the regional level, resourcing constraints have limited further progress at this stage. Members agreed the item should remain active and be reframed to more clearly separate completed actions from ongoing advocacy work.
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. **R**: 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.	SEAP	**05/24**: recommendation made to Council and endorsed. **02/26**: recommendation made to Council and endorsed.	D Hicks D Summers	The panel agreed the State of the Environment advocacy matter had progressed sufficiently and could now be closed as an active item.

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.
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

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Action Item R:= recommendation	Source	Action Record	Comments
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 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**

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Action Item R:= recommendation	Source	Action Record	Comments
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**
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:

Cat and Dog Management

Officers advised that Council is considering future work relating to cat management facilities and the upcoming review of the Dog Management Policy. Early planning and stakeholder engagement were identified as priorities to better support future consultation processes and environmental outcomes. Discussion also acknowledged the interaction between domestic animals, wildlife pressures and broader climate impacts.

Terms of Reference Review

Officers presented a discussion paper outlining potential updates to the SEAP Terms of Reference. Discussion focused on clarifying the panel's advisory role, improving project feedback loops, strengthening governance pathways for emerging ideas and refining how non-active or emerging issues are managed within agendas and work programs.

Members discussed opportunities to improve promotion and understanding of SEAP within the community, including clearer consultation references, community education approaches and broader communication methods. The importance of maintaining individual member representation, confidentiality expectations and youth engagement within the panel structure was also discussed.

The panel also considered mechanisms for capturing new ideas and emerging environmental issues without overloading meeting agendas. Officers will investigate a clearer "decision pathway" or scoping process to support future panels and project prioritisation.

Water Quality Monitoring

Officers provided an overview of Council's current recreational water quality monitoring obligations and noted that Council does not currently undertake broader ecological or environmental water quality monitoring.

Members discussed the absence of long-term catchment and river health monitoring across the municipality and broader concerns regarding the loss of historical state monitoring programs. Discussion considered the value of baseline environmental data, citizen science approaches, catchment management responsibilities and Council's potential role in environmental monitoring and advocacy.

It was agreed that further investigation is required to better understand Council's head of power, potential partnerships and examples of catchment monitoring programs elsewhere in Tasmania.

Task: D. Summers & D. Hicks to investigate Council's current head of power and responsibilities relating to catchment management and environmental water quality monitoring.

Task: C. Hocking to provide examples of monitoring or catchment management approaches used elsewhere in Tasmania.

Task: K. Steward to source and provide available recreational water quality monitoring data information for review at next meeting.

Climate Resilience Grant Update

Members were advised that Council had been successful in securing climate resilience funding for biodiversity restoration projects across several sites, including Camp Creek, Frenchs Road, Ballard Avenue and Inglis River. Officers noted that further project information would be provided to the group at a future meeting.

Task: D. Hicks to provide further details on the climate resilience grant to the group at the next meeting.

Blue Economy CRC

A brief update was provided regarding offshore aquaculture research activities associated with the Blue Economy CRC. Members noted the increasing availability of publicly accessible monitoring and research information associated with the project.

7 Upcoming Meetings

- Next meeting on 18 August 2026 located at Council Chambers has been confirmed

8 Closure

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 18:53.