Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel

MEETING MINUTES – 18 AUGUST 2026

	Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel (SEAP)
Date & Time:	18 August 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
Apologies:	Cr Andrea Courtney, Ian Dutton

#	AGENDA ITEMS
1.	Welcome
2.	Confirm Minutes
3.	Guest Presenter/s: Nil
4.	General Business:
5.	Active Actions:
6.	Non-Active Actions
7.	Wrap Up & Final Reflections
8.	Closure
#	**ACTIONS TAKEN**
1.	Nil
#	**RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL**
1.	Nil

1 WELCOME

- A quorum was established and the meeting was officially opened at 17:10

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved B. Hosking Seconded I. Ferris

That the minutes of the SEAP meeting held on 28 April 2026, as circulated to Members, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Carried.

3 GUEST PRESENTER/S: NONE

4 General Business

4.1 Matters Arising from the Final SEAP Meeting

Members were advised that, due to the upcoming local government elections and legislative caretaker period, matters arising from the final meeting would be captured as advice and observations rather than progressed as new formal recommendations. The discussion will be reported to Council to ensure the Panel's views are formally recorded and available to inform future consideration.

4.2 Council's 2026/27 Actions – Future SEAP Input

An overview was provided of several adopted 2026/27 Council actions where input from a future SEAP may be beneficial.

Discussion focused particularly on future vegetation management, including how risk is assessed, the reasons for tree removal, consideration of alternatives and opportunities to test approaches through practical examples or pilot projects. Members supported greater consideration of trees as environmental assets alongside risk and suggested drawing on successful approaches used elsewhere and involving SEAP earlier in the development and testing of frameworks.

More broadly, members supported a future SEAP having more clearly defined areas of focus, with fewer priority matters allowing for greater involvement and meaningful input. The value of having relevant Council officers participate when particular matters are being considered was also noted.

4.3 Water Quality Monitoring

The Panel considered the Water Quality Monitoring and Management discussion paper, recent recreational water quality monitoring data and information clarifying Council's legislative responsibilities. It was noted that Council has statutory responsibilities in areas including local pollution control, recreational water monitoring, urban stormwater and land-use planning, but that broader ecological catchment monitoring is not a general statutory obligation and is a discretionary Council activity.

Discussion acknowledged the value of establishing longer-term baseline information for local waterways, particularly in the context of changing catchment conditions and climate impacts. Members considered citizen science models, lower-cost monitoring approaches and the potential role Council could play in supporting or facilitating monitoring, while recognising the need to consider priorities, costs and available resources before any future model was pursued.

4.4 State Government Environment Budget Cuts

Members discussed the potential local implications of reductions in State Government environmental and natural resource management funding, including pressures on Parks and Wildlife Service and broader monitoring and weed management activities. The importance of continuing to identify environmental needs despite funding constraints was noted, rather than limiting priorities solely on the basis of current resourcing.

The discussion also highlighted opportunities to strengthen collaboration between Council and other bodies, including improved two-way sharing of information and identification of areas where collaboration or advocacy may assist.

4.5 EV Charging

The Panel revisited the availability of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Wynyard. Council had previously tested the market through an expression of interest process; however, limited commercial interest and the level of Council investment sought resulted in the matter being deferred for future reconsideration.

Members considered potential future models, including commercial owner-operator arrangements or Council facilitation through strategically located public land. A central location near businesses and public amenities was considered preferable. It was agreed that the matter remains relevant and should return for future consideration as EV uptake and market conditions continue to develop.

4.6 SEAP Booth at Tulip Festival

Members discussed the potential for a future SEAP presence at the Tulip Festival as a way of increasing community awareness and engagement. Ideas included interactive activities, environmental displays and promoting tools such as iNaturalist to encourage community participation in environmental observation and citizen science.

Discussion recognised that any presence should have a clear purpose and provide an engaging way for the community to understand SEAP and its role. Given the timing of the current Panel's conclusion, officers will investigate what may be achievable for the upcoming festival, with the broader concept available for consideration by the future Panel.

5 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	Members noted that the approved speed reduction signage has now been installed. The outstanding virtual fencing matter will remain for future consideration, with Council seeking further information through discussions with the Cradle Coast Authority regarding experience and learnings from the Circular Head trial.
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	The Panel noted continued work on Council's vegetation management framework, including the upcoming Tree and Vegetation Management Policy review and development of the Street Tree Planting Strategy. Discussion reinforced the importance of transparent decision-making around tree assessment and removal, consideration of mitigation options and ensuring environmental values are considered alongside risk. Members also supported exploring practical trials and protocols that could test the framework in real situations, drawing on existing Council approaches such as the Sisters Beach Rare Plant Road Maintenance Protocol where relevant.

WARATAH WYNYARD COUNCIL

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel

MEETING MINUTES – 18 AUGUST 2026

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. **02/26**: Site visit completed.	SEAP	No further site visits are proposed during the current term. Members suggested that future SEAP activities consider a broader geographic spread across the municipality and that site visits and practical activities continue to form part of the future Panel's work program.
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	Council will continue discussions with regional bodies regarding climate risk and adaptation work and is participating in current regional resilience initiatives. Members suggested that the future SEAP receive an overview of this work to support continued awareness and input.

6 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

WARATAH WYNYARD COUNCIL

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel

MEETING MINUTES – 18 AUGUST 2026

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**

WARATAH WYNYARD COUNCIL

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel

MEETING MINUTES – 18 AUGUST 2026

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**

WARATAH WYNYARD COUNCIL

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel

MEETING MINUTES – 18 AUGUST 2026

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**

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel

MEETING MINUTES – 18 AUGUST 2026

Action Item **R**:= recommendation	Source	Action Record	Comments
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. Action closed.	Action now closed as resolved. **COMPLETE – CLOSED**

7 WRAP UP & FINAL REFLECTIONS

7.1 Action Item & Task Clearing

The existing non-active action list will be retained for consideration alongside Council priorities when establishing the future SEAP annual focus area with members supporting a more targeted approach to priority-setting.

An update was also provided on the Federal biodiversity funding supporting work across the Inglis River, Frenchs Road, Camp Creek and Ballad Avenue sites. The projects will include a range of biodiversity, community education, vegetation, weed and fire management activities and provide opportunities for continued collaboration with Landcare and other community groups.

Task number 62; the task relating to clarification of Council's head of power for water quality monitoring was considered complete following provision of the requested information.

7.2 Reflections

Members reflected on the achievements and learnings of the Panel over its term. Discussion acknowledged that SEAP had created a valuable forum for environmental conversations and contributed to tangible outcomes, while also identifying opportunities to improve how the Panel is used in future.

A consistent theme was the benefit of more clearly defined areas of focus and greater involvement of SEAP at an earlier stage of relevant Council projects and policy development. Members highlighted the breadth of skills and experience available through the Panel and encouraged Council to make greater use of that expertise, including through stronger interaction with relevant operational and technical staff.

Members acknowledged the progress made in building Council's environmental capacity and culture over the term and expressed support for continuation of the Panel under its revised structure. Opportunities for future SEAP involvement in review of the iCEP and other environmental initiatives were also identified.

The Chair thanked members and staff for their contributions throughout the term.

8 CLOSURE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 19:26.