

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel

MEETING MINUTES – 20 FEBRUARY 2024

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel (SEAP)

Date & Time:	20 February 2024 - 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, Fiona Loughran, Hannah Sadler, Ian Ferris, Ian Newman, Peter Lawrence, Robin Krabbe, Wendy Bryant
Staff in Attendance:	Dana Hicks, Kassandra Steward, Daniel Summers, Bill Walker
Apologies:	Robin Krabbe, Cr Andrea Courtney (Deputy Chair), Ian Newman

#	AGENDA ITEMS
1.	Welcome
2.	Confirm Minutes
3.	Guest Presenter/s: None
4.	Active Actions:
5.	Non-Active Actions: (from action plan)
6.	Upcoming Meetings
7.	New/General Business:
8.	Closure
#	NEW ACTIONS TAKEN
	NIL
#	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
1.	SEAP recommend to Council that the Ballad Avenue property be used to enhance the natural values and habitat area of the adjacent riparian zone of the Inglis River, incorporating educational and limited pathways for improved health and wellbeing opportunities for the whole community in consultation with nearby properties and adjacent school.
2.	SEAP recommend Council develop a food security policy, education materials and a project plan for the future development of a food security strategy.
3.	SEAP recommends that Waratah-Wynyard Council develop a position statement opposing further offshore oil and gas exploration and development in waters off Tasmania, consistent with its commitments in Council's Integrated Council Environment Plan (iCEP), due to its negative impact on north-west Tasmania's marine resources and contribution to climate change.

1 WELCOME

A quorum was established, and the meeting was officially opened at 17:05.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved P. Lawrence Seconded C. Hocking

That the minutes of the SEAP meeting held on 21 November 2023, as circulated to Members, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Carried.

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4 ACTIVE ACTIONS – MEETING OUTCOMES

Action Item	Source	Action Record	Responsibility	Outcome
<p>R:= recommendation</p> <p>Ballad Ave: Suggest land use options for Council land.</p>	<p>Council Request (relates to action plan)</p>	<p>05/23: first raised. 02/24: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p>	<p>I. Ferris P. Lawrence D. Hicks</p>	<p>An update from the Ballad Avenue subgroup provided high level detail of all options considered by the group for land use at Ballad Ave and concluded with the final suggested option (Option 9) for consideration of the group.</p> <p>Discussion occurred regarding the order of events related to making a recommendation on the Ballad Ave land use. The two arguments were around timing for consultation either pre or post making the recommendation. All agreed that consultation is essential for any outcome.</p> <p>The decision was made to put forward the recommendation of Option 9 (refer options table), to Council ahead of consultation, noting Council would, as a matter of course, enter into a consultation process prior to drafting any plan for the site.</p> <p>Moved: I. Ferris Seconded: F. Loughran</p> <p>SEAP were advised that post consultation a draft plan would be created which would come back to SEAP for input prior to finalisation.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: SEAP recommend to Council that the Ballad Avenue property be used to enhance the natural values and habitat area of the adjacent riparian zone of the Inglis River, incorporating educational and limited pathways for improved health and wellbeing opportunities for the whole community in consultation with nearby properties and adjacent school.</p>

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Action Item	Source	Action Record	Responsibility	Outcome
<p>R:= recommendation</p> <p>Food Security: Investigate opportunities to develop a food policy. R: Identify and facilitate mapping of food security based partnerships.</p>	Action Plan Focus Area 1.1	<p>03/23: first raised.</p> <p>09/23: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p>10/23: recommendation made to Council and endorsed.</p> <p>02/24: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p>	R. Krabbe H. Sadler W. Bryant D. Hicks D. Summers	<p>An update from the Food Security subgroup discussed the broad scope of issues currently identified in the community, the capacity to progress such a large issue and the decision to compile a project plan in an effort to produce a recommendation to Council. It was agreed that proactively developing a policy is the first step toward action.</p> <p>Of note, recent statistics are showing that approximately 50% of households in the northwest are currently experiencing some measure of food insecurity.</p> <p>The group proceeded to discuss the content of the draft project plan tabled for review and discussion at the meeting. Key points of interest included; funding, mapping, food services, education, Council's sphere of control, and future proofing for the community.</p> <p>The decision was made to put forward a recommendation to Council to develop a food security policy which would support and progress the earlier food security recommendation endorsed by Council.</p> <p>Moved: W. Bryant Seconded: B. Hosking</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: SEAP recommend Council develop a food security policy, education materials and a project plan for the future development of a food security strategy..</p>

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<p>R:= recommendation</p> <p>Tree & Vegetation Strategy: R: Initiate creation of a comprehensive Tree & Vegetation Policy and Strategy</p>	Action Plan Focus Area 3.1	<p>03/23: first raised.</p> <p>11/23: recommendation raised from SEAP meeting.</p> <p>01/24: recommendation made and endorsed.</p> <p>02/24: SEAP endorse draft project plan.</p>	C. Hocking P. Lawrence I. Ferris D. Hicks D. Summers	<p>An update from the Tree & Vegetation subgroup discussed the draft policy development plan, highlighting the key areas of interest.</p> <p>The discussion moved on the position of native species within the strategy and how reasoning of revegetation with non-native might be handled. It was noted that this point would require further discussion with Council.</p> <p>The group continued at a high level, to discuss the content of the policy development plan tabled for discussion at the meeting and supported the plan and its objectives as the way forward.</p> <p>Moved: C. Hocking Seconded: I. Ferris</p> <p>It was also noted that there would likely be some overlap with a food security policy.</p>
<p>HEAT: R: Council to seek out greater uptake options</p>	Action Plan Focus Area 1:	<p>03/23: first raised</p> <p>05/23: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting.</p> <p>06/23: recommendation made to Council and endorsed.</p>	P. Lawrence K. Steward	Information for noting was provided to the group, no discussion.
BREAK at 17:50 – RESUME at 17:55				

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<p>R:= recommendation</p> <p>Sisters Beach Road: R: Council to request reduced speed limit. R: Council consideration for extending virtual fencing.</p>	SEAP	<p>05/23: recommendations raised at SEAP meeting. 06/23: recommendations made to Council and endorsed.</p>	<p>D. Summers B. Walker</p>	<p>A brief update was given on the virtual fencing and the speed reduction recommendations that had been previously raised to Council. Part of the update on virtual fencing included some new information that is due to come out of the CHC virtual fencing program and noted that studies are showing that there are multiple means of reducing roadkill which may prove transferable to Sisters Beach.</p> <p>The group went on to discuss whether to raise a recommendation to Council to resource data gathering over to support the most effective means of reducing roadkill (not just Devils) for Sisters Beach. It was noted that an options paper on this subject was due to be finalised in the very near future which provides use cases and comparisons of different means of reducing roadkill. Another piece of background information was noted to be a recent short film on the subject which follows work being done in Southern Tasmania to reduce roadkill instances.</p> <p>On reflection of the pros and cons for proceeding to recommendation without more detailed information, the group decided to hold making a recommendation over until the next meeting once the CHC paper, short film and costing options for data gathering had had a chance to be circulated.</p> <p>Task: H. Sadler to provide a copy of the CHC options paper on the means of reducing [Devil] roadkill once it becomes available and circulate a link to the short film by Lara Van Raay re: roadkill and engagement in Southern Tasmania</p> <p>Task: D. Summers, B. Walker to provide costing options to the group for the requisite collection of data [4 years] to substantiate a future recommendation to Council on implementation of proven method(s) of reducing [Devil] roadkill.</p> <p>Task: SEAP group to review data papers from CHC and pricing options for data collection at Sisters Beach, once provided, and discuss offline in order to provide a considered recommendation during April meeting.</p>

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Expanding Focus Areas: R:= recommendation R: SEAP & Councillors to attend other municipal localities to expand focus.	SEAP	09/23: recommendation raised at SEAP meeting. 10/23: recommendation made to Council and endorsed.	SEAP	SEAP have been invited to identify appropriate site visit locations as relevant to the active agenda items.
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.	D. Hicks	Yet to commence - No discussion.
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.	D. Hicks	Information for noting was provided to the group. An update from the volunteer community reps who attended the focus group workshop held on 15 February was provided. The reps relayed their impressions of the information presented in the workshop with the focus group. Details on the timing of the public communications campaign were reinforced and noted by the group.

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5 NON-ACTIVE ACTIONS – FOR INFORMATION

Action Item	Source	Action Record	Comments
R:= recommendation			
Community Adaptation & Resilience: provide case studies to assist progress for achievable projects.	Action Plan Focus Area 1	03/23: first raised	No discussion.
Climate Leadership in line with Paris Agreement	Action Plan Focus Area 1		No discussion.
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.

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R:= recommendation			
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.	No discussion. Noted during General Business that there are updates to be tabled at the next meeting. C. Hocking to follow up on Task 7 and circulate updates out of session. Due to the significant cross over, this item is intended to activate once the Tree & Vegetation Action has been completed.
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
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

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6 UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Next meeting on 16 April 2024 located at Council Chambers has been confirmed.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

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

- H. Sadler raised an item for discussion regarding continued development of fossil fuels off of north-west Tasmania. This discussion followed from an email sent to the group in the days prior to the meeting which flagged the increasing number of proposals for public consultation in the past six months in pursuit of offshore explorative testing and extraction of fossil fuels of the Tasmania coast.
- Following discussion on the matter amongst the group, it was decided to raise, as soon as possible, recommendations that Council develop a policy statement and potentially write to the relevant Federal Government Ministers to express support to ban such exploratory activities offshore, now and into the future. The recommendations were to be supported by a briefing note providing detail on the issue as well as WWC policy details which support the recommended stance on the subject.
- **Moved:** H. Sadler **Seconded:** B. Hosking

Recommendation: SEAP recommends that Waratah-Wynyard Council develop a position statement opposing further offshore oil and gas exploration and development in waters off Tasmania, consistent with its commitments in Council's Integrated Council Environment Plan (ICEP), due to its negative impact on north-west Tasmania's marine resources and contribution to climate change.

Task: H. Sadler to prepare and circulate a briefing note on the recent influx fossil fuel development projects off the coast of Tasmania, to support a recommendation to Council for the creation of a position statement in relation to current and future fossil fuel projects.

Task: D. Summers to provide underpinning rationalisation (ICEP policy clauses) to support the briefing note and the SEAP group's recommendation to Council for the creation of a position statement in relation to current and future fossil fuel projects.

Task: SEAP group to; review the briefing note and underpinning policy rationalisation regarding the development of fossil fuel projects off the Tasmanian coast and provide feedback and/or confirm the proposed recommendation for Council consideration at the next (March) Council meeting.

8 CLOSURE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 18:44.