



SUSTAINABILITY TASKFORCE MINUTES Tuesday 16 June 2026

Chair: Cr. Steve Gagen

Date: Tuesday 16 June 2026

Scheduled Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Format: Online meeting

	Present: Cr. Kate Hamley, Cr. Steve Gagen, Frances Evans, Harsimran Kaur, Bruce Barbour, Ranjeet Verma, David Chandler Officers: Danielle Prentice (<i>Manager Sustainability, Climate and Waste</i>) Melissa Doherty (<i>Acting Coordinator Sustainability Engagement</i>) Kaye Roberts-Palmer (<i>Sustainability Engagement Officer and Taskforce administrator</i>) Presenters: Sean Greer (<i>Coordinator Growth and Transport Planning</i>) Edgar Caballero (<i>Sustainability and Education Coordinator, Banksia Gardens</i>) Jessamy Nicolas (<i>Senior Project Manager</i>) Apologies: Cassy Ye, Analisa Malone, Amy Sledziona, Sarah Flegg, Joanne Russell, Jo Hannan	Meeting opened
	Conflict of Interest Statement • Members' attention was drawn to declare any conflicts of interest arising from agenda items • No conflict of interest was declared	Cr. Gagen
	Confirmation of previous minutes 14 April, 2026 • Motion moved by [Harsimran Kaur] seconded by [David Chandler] • Motion carried	Cr. Gagen Floor

	Action items from previous minutes (14 April, 2026) • Action – Cr. Hamley to follow up on the contaminated waste issue for David. (completed) • Action – Philip Thompson and Kaye Roberts-Palmer to contact Ranjeet Verma about possible options around growing herbal plants in a community. (completed) • Action – Kaye Roberts-Palmer to book in Philip Thompson to present on the new IWM Plan later in the year. (completed) • Action – Kaye Roberts-Palmer to send out the information on the 24 May Rural Hume Bus Tour to members. (completed)	Kaye Roberts-Palmer
	EOI – membership recruitment campaign 1. EOI period: Monday 13 July to Sunday 9 August 2. Selection process: Monday 10 August to Friday 28 August 3. Appointment and Induction: 31 August to 14 September 4. First meeting with all new members: Tuesday 13 October Recent members will continue in their roles, including: Jo Hannan, Joanne Russell, Cassy Ye, Amy Sledziona, Analisa Malone, Ranjeet Verma, Sarah Flegg. Older members will step down from their positions but are encouraged to reapply, this includes: Frances Evans, Harsimran Kaur, David Chandler, Bruce Barbour Going forward, membership is for a two-year term and limited to a maximum of three terms (six years).	Floor
	Upcoming Participate Hume projects (have your say): Members can keep up-to-date with the latest projects at Home Participate Hume. Current planning project included: • Project Broadmeadows Feedback deadline: Tuesday 30 June	Floor

	Presentation: Sunbury Central Transport Plan View the Sustainability Taskforce meeting video to see this presentation and more detail on the discussion. • Cr. Gagen mentioned the options for active transport are limited in many areas of Hume City. He said that ratepayers need to raise the issue of paths that don't lead anywhere and that ratepayers complain about lack of bus services with Kalkallo having no bus services and Council is lobbying State Government about this. • Sean said they are doing the line work for Greenvale looking at safeguarding/facilitating future infrastructure. • Cr. Gagen mentioned that developers are required to build paths in their development but no further, leading to commuter gaps. He asked if this was the same situation in the newer areas of Sunbury. • Sean identified the Lancefield Road precinct having some of these issues and even in some of the more established areas that there was a lack of footpaths overall. • Bruce asked if there were any plans to join the Blind Creek Track along Jacksons Creek to the Nook. Sean said he would take that one on notice. Bruce Barbour mentioned that Salesian College is in the way of joining up Blind Creek and The Nook. • Cr. Hamley said that currently there is no agreement with Salesian College but she is still looking into it as a long-term project. Bruce mentioned it would be a great addition to the track system and for the students. • Cr. Gagen said that one of the biggest problems in Woodlands Ward was when there were a lot of creeks it becomes Melbourne Water's responsibility and many different permissions then apply. Cr. Gagen is advocating to simplify this. • Harsimran asked whether it was a Council lead project and the team was after funding. Sean confirmed that the project is Council led and Council has funded it from an operational perspective so Sean's team can do the project. In terms of implementation, this will be subject to obtaining Council capital funding or advocating for other tiers of government to fund it. Part of the reason to get endorsement of Council is to give it status and capital funding in future financial years. • Bruce asked if Sean was including the existing walking trails. Sean said the Open Space Planning Team were leading all trail work and any future trail extensions, but Sean's team will incorporate any of the trail updates from the Open Space program into their projects. • David asked whether the paths were just for commuting or was community fitness being considered. Cr Gagen confirmed that it was part of transport considerations. Sean also confirmed that the precinct report cards had a section about wellbeing and this is a driver for the	Sean Greer
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	project and they are looking at what infrastructure barriers are there for people wanting to get active. • Action: Sean Geer to follow up about plans to Blind Creek Track along Jacksons Creek to the Nook with the Open Space Team and their Trail Strategy	
	Presentation: Banksia Gardens View the Sustainability Taskforce meeting video to see this presentation and more detail on the discussion. • Cr. Gagen said he was impressed by Banksia Garden's depth of involvement and asked about the name Carya for the program. Edgar responded saying it was a play on words and that it means 'Climate Adaption Requires Youth Action' • David said it was a great talk and appreciated all the things that Banksia Gardens is involved in. • Cr. Gagen asked what Banksia Gardens was growing in its food forest. Edgar said they have a lot of stone fruit and a lemon tree but originally they had to build the soil up with compost and nitrogen fixing trees. • Ranjeet asked if the Banksia Gardens food forest could include a Jamum tree (Java plum) (<i>Syzygium cumini</i>), Mangosteen tree (<i>Garcinia mangostana L.</i>) and Sacred Fig tree (<i>Ficus religiosa</i>), and Neem tree (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>) for the community. • Edgar said that Banksia Gardens is considering plants that can cope with hotter weather as part of climate adaption. • Action: Kaye Roberts-Palmer and Edgar Caballero to organise a tour of Banksia Gardens for the Sustainability Taskforce. • Action: Ranjeet Kaur to send a list of trees to Kaye Roberts-Palmer to pass on to Banksia Gardens to consider for planting.	Edgar Caballero
	Presentation: Project Broadmeadows View the Sustainability Taskforce meeting video to see this presentation and more detail on the discussion. • Cr. Gagen said he didn't realise Project Broadmeadows was so broad in what it covered and mentioned that there were too many car parks in the area. • David mentioned about the disruption to the environment through construction processes including heavy machinery and trucks and waste materials and commented that there needs to be serious thought to major construction projects. David said it was great to see that Project Broadmeadows had the long view as this is important to the community.	Jessamy Nicholas

	• Jessamy responded saying her previous work at Environmental Protection Agency Authority she was educating developers and construction works to do things responsibly. • Cr. Gagen said illicit dumping is one of the biggest issue Council faces with construction waste being the worst in his ward. Council has unanimously requested that State Government increase the penalties and make it easier to report this behaviour. • Cr. Gagen didn't realise that Broadmeadows has the heat island effect as they are a lot of street trees in Broadmeadows. Jessamy responded saying the plan focuses on the metropolitan activity centre and that the centre will be subject to extreme heat conditions some of the time noting 5 to 10 degrees and up to 15 degrees above average with areas closest to the train station. Cr. Gagen spoke about integrating gardens into shopping centres. Jessamy said that they have meet with Vicinity Centres, owners of the Broadmeadows Plaza and are looking at bringing in more green spaces into the design but Vicinity Centres will not lead the change. • Cr. Gagen said this would help with reducing energy costs because now there are a lot of air-conditioning units on the Broadmeadows Plaza's roof. • Cr. Gagen asked where the smoke was coming from indicated in the plans. Jessamy said it's because its windy and the topography is low and flat. She mentioned that because of bushfires Broadmeadows would be impacted by smoke and emphasized planning in a consistent and organised way. • Bruce asked about a white roofs program in Broadmeadows. Jessamy said that the urban design framework will have guidance put into that which becomes part of the roadmap and provides guidance to future developers and projects for consideration. Bruce Barbour spoke about retrofitting white roofs that it keeps the buildings cooler but in Winter it may not be as good. • Cr. Gagen spoke about roof insulation and it not being adequate in Australia especially older properties. He also mentioned that he would like the State Government to legislate to require houses to have light coloured roofs rather than black ones. • Cr. Gagen said another issue that has been raised by Councillors in relation to outer suburbs was wildlife corridors and recommended this be considered in the planning as this applies to older built up areas like Broadmeadows. Jessamy mentioned there was reference to it in the Open Space Strategy and looking at ways to align to the strategy.	
	Other business: • Action: Cr. Hamley agreed to be on the EOI selection panel for new Sustainability Taskforce members.	Floor

	Meeting finished	8.25pm
	Next Meeting: Tuesday 11 August 2026 (online)	

APPROVED ☒

NOT APPROVED ☐

Danielle Prentice



Sustainability Taskforce 16 June minutes 2026 (1)

Final Audit Report

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