



SUSTAINABILITY TASKFORCE MINUTES

Chair: Cr. Kate Hamley

Date: Tuesday 17 June 2025

Scheduled Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Format: Online meeting was recorded

(Please view the recording for more indepth coverage of the meeting)

1	<p>Present: Cr. Kate Hamley, Cr. Steve Gagen, Harsimran Kaur, Bruce Barbour, Sarah Flegg, Nadia Montalto, Joanne Russell, Frances Rebecca Evans, Eva Mazzei, Brooke Watson (<i>Manager Community Health & Wellbeing</i>), Shelley Franklyn (<i>Coordinator Sustainability Engagement</i>), David Hajzler (<i>Principal Strategic Planner</i>), Cassandra Borg (<i>Senior Rural Environment Officer</i>), Danielle Prentice (<i>Manager Waste and Sustainability</i>), Michelle Bennett (<i>Coordinator Climate Action Integration</i>), Dominic Bowd (<i>Team Leader Environmental Planning</i>), Kaye Roberts-Palmer (<i>Sustainability Engagement Officer</i>)</p> <p>Apologies: Amy Sledziona, Edgar Caballero Aspe, Analisa Malone, Ranjeet Verma, David Chandler, Cassy Ye, Jo Hannan</p>	Meeting opened 6.30pm
2	Acknowledgement of Country	Councillor Hamley
3	<p>Conflict of Interest Statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Members' attention was drawn to declare any conflicts of interest arising from agenda itemsNo conflict of interest was declared	Councillor Hamley
4	<p>Data regarding the community's uptake of waste vouchers</p> <p>Around 17 per cent of all waste vouchers have been used since introducing the new entitlements at the start of this financial year. This is based on the below calculations, using data from reports (1 July 2024 – 06 June 2025).</p>	Danielle Prentice

	Description	Value	
	Households	97,472	
	Total Vouchers (households x 5)	487,360	
	Used Vouchers	83,335	
	% of all vouchers used	17%	
	m3 of waste disposed of through vouchers	157,142	
	We are on trend for close to 20 per cent vouchers to be used by end of the financial year.		
5	Confirmation of previous minutes 25 February 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion moved by [Steve Gagen] seconded by [Harsimran Kaur] • Motion carried 		Floor
6	Waste to Energy Plant proposal in Sunbury (brief update) View the Sustainability Taskforce meeting video to see this presentation and more detail on the discussion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr. Hamley said HiQ are submitting an application to the State Planning Department which does not require Council's approval to move ahead with the Plant. • As part of the application process, HiQ will have to meet certain requirements including Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) assessments. • There will be community consultation as part of the EPA process. • Cr. Hamley had a successful Notice of Motion to Council to prepare a report about the Waste to Energy facility. • Eva Mazzei said she had concerns about how far away the facility would be from houses and Cr. Hamley said it was approximately 1.2km from the nearest housing estate. • Cr. Gagen mentioned that prevailing winds and land shape could have an impact. • Harsimran Kaur questioned whether community input was useful at this time if its bypassing Council. • Cr. Hamley said Council will develop a submission including community feedback. • Michelle Bennett mentioned that there can be significant carbon savings compared to landfill. 		Councillor Hamley Presentation and feedback

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce Barbour cited his concerns around increases in waste being brought into the municipality, increased numbers of trucks on the road especially through Bulla and road damage. Bruce questioned the carbon savings in comparison to a modern landfill. He mentioned that some countries are removing their plants. He said that most waste was plastic, a fossil fuel and will lock in plastic pollution rather than considering other approaches. • Danielle Prentice said waste to energy reduces waste going to landfill and needed to be established without impacts close to populations. She said there is also another proposal at a different site by a different operator (Cleanaway) for the Melbourne Energy and Resource Centre outside of Hume's boundaries (Wollert). There is a cap on tonnage statewide. • Shelley Franklyn said nine south eastern metropolitan Councils have developed the Southeast Metropolitan Advanced Waste Processing Company (SEMAWP) for the purchase of the procurement of waste supplier agreement. Shelley suggested Council could become a more active stakeholder/member/partner to these sorts of agreements. The SEMAWP facility is bulk hauling waste to the Latrobe Valley. • Michelle Bennett said she assumed the assessment that the other Councils have done was based on their active FOGO services. She said that while the FOGO service can take us so far, there is organic material entering the municipal waste stream. Need to look at the assumptions behind the emissions calculations. • Cr. Hamley mentioned about the amount of water needed to manage the burners and balancing the removal of landfill vs the unknowns. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr. Hamley to help organise a presentation from HiQ to the Sustainability Taskforce August meeting. • Bruce Barbour to send his submission to Cr. Hamley. 	
7	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>Rural Strategy and Rural Engagement Plan presentation <i>Presenter:</i> David Hajzler (Principal Strategic Planner) and Cassandra Borg (Senior Rural Officer)</p> <p>View the Sustainability Taskforce meeting video to see this presentation and more detail on the discussion.</p>	Presentation and feedback

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harsimran Kaur said she was happy to see so much care is being taken to improve the land. • Frances Rebecca Evans asked if the rural grants were on offer for the landholders and Cassandra Borg confirmed this was the case. • Cassandra Borg said the conserving our rural environment grant closed in June 2025/26 and the rural land management grant opens 1/07/2025 and closes 30/05/2026. Primary producer rebate applications are open year-round. • Cr. Hamley asked what happens if there were rural property business owners who undertook illegal activities and how Council manages that as part of the planning scheme. • David Hajzler said there is a process that the statutory planning team and the enforcement team go through with legal and compliance. • David Hajzler said when owners want to use their land in a specific way e.g. winery, Council will look at planning considerations including conserving Hume's green wedge. <p>Find out about all available rural grants</p>	
8	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>Chain of Ponds presentation</p> <p><i>Presenter: Rachel Lopes (Chain of Ponds Collaboration Lead)</i></p> <p>View the Sustainability Taskforce meeting video to see this presentation and more detail on the discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eva Mazzei thought it was a great idea to help our rivers and clean them up. • Cr. Gagen was happy to hear about the removal of concrete culverts. • Cr. Gagen asked about recreating the chain of ponds waterways. Rachel Lopes clarified there was only a chain of ponds in the bottom of the catchment. • Bruce Barbour asked how much concrete channelling is left in Hume and Rachel Lopes said it is mainly in other Council areas but as far as she was aware there wasn't any in Hume. • Bruce Barbour asked how Chain of Ponds determined the Aboriginal name for the creek and Rachel Lopes said it was through her work with Wurundjeri. • Eva Mazzei asked how far up does the Moonee Ponds creek come into Hume and Rachel Lopes responded saying the 	Presentation and feedback

	<p>head waters are mostly in the Woodlands Historic Park in Greenvale.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harsimran Kaur said she wasn't sure if concreting reduces flooding by not letting the water seep in underground. She also asked if Hume City Council is now the Chain of Ponds host does that mean the work done in 2025 – 2028 would be in Hume? Rachel Lopes responded saying a lot of work has been in the middle of the catchment. • Rachel Lopes said she wants to hear from the Hume community to make a difference to the top section of the creek e.g. Bike path in Woodlands Historic Park and Wurundjeri cultural celebrations. • Harsimran Kaur asked about where to find out more about previous activities. Rachel Lopes said at the Chain of Ponds website • Harsimran Kaur asked how does the Hume community find out about the Chain of Ponds and get involved. Rachel Lopes said that's why she came along to ask the Taskforce how best to get the word out but recommended initially putting messages through the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek. • Nadia Montalto wanted to know how we could be adopting the 'adopt a creek' program within Hume. Rachel Lopes said 'adopt a creek' program is a great community involvement opportunity and to get in touch. • Cr. Gagen said as the Ward Councillor of the creek head waters it might be helpful to brand it as the head of the Moonee Ponds creek to identify our interests with the Friends of Moonee Ponds creek. He also mentioned that the paths and bike paths do not join up near or across creeks and is supportive of local bridges. • Rachel Lopes mentioned having all the agencies as part of the Chain of Ponds can achieve results. • Frances Rebecca Evans asked if the 6 August Moonee Ponds Creek Chain of Ponds Re-Commitment Ceremony was a public event. • Rachel Lopes said it's an invitation to all their partners including the Friends of Moonee Ponds creek and other community members and invited the Sustainability Taskforce to come along. • Frances Rebecca Evans asked if the new creek name would apply to the whole length of the creek. • Rachel Lopes confirmed it would apply all the way down to Docklands. Rachel is happy to discuss her work further with individual Taskforce members. 	
--	--	--

	Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rachel Lopes to forward an invitation to the Moonee Ponds Creek Chain of Ponds Re-Commitment Ceremony to the Sustainability Taskforce. 	
9	Other business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business to be tabled and considered in upcoming Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruce Barbour would like a report on what's happening in the Jackson Creek upgrade (timeline and works proceeding) 	Floor
10	Next Meeting: Tuesday 12 August (online) 6.30pm to 8.30pm	