



SUSTAINABILITY TASKFORCE MINUTES Tuesday 18 November

Chair: Cr. Kate Hamley

Date: Tuesday 18 November

Scheduled Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Format: In-person meeting

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| | <p>Present: Cr. Kate Hamley, Cr. Steve Gagen, Harsimran Kaur, David Chandler, Bruce Barbour, Eva Mazzei, Ranjeet Verma, Frances Evans, Amy Sledziona, Sarah Flegg, Jo Russell, Brooke Watson (<i>Manager Community Health and Wellbeing</i>), Kaye Roberts-Palmer (<i>Sustainability Engagement Officer</i>)</p> <p>Guest: Daniela Pascuzzo (<i>Coordinator Land and Biodiversity</i>)</p> <p>Apologies: Nadia Montalto, Jo Hannan, Cassy Ye, Analisa Malone, Shelley Franklyn (<i>Coordinator Sustainability Engagement</i>)</p> | <p>Meeting opened 6.30pm</p> |
| | <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 items • No conflict of interest was declared | <p>Cr. Hamley</p> |
| | <p>Action items from previous minutes (14 October)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaye Roberts-Palmer to contact the libraries about external Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung resources for their collection (completed). • Kelly Heffer to contact Jo Hannan about Enviro Group (completed). • Michelle Bennett to reach out to the Parks Team about electric lawnmowers trials (held over to next meeting). • Michelle Bennett to develop explanations around charge percentages in the electric fleet vehicles (completed). • Kaye Roberts-Palmer to organise end-of-year meeting on Tuesday 18 November (completed). | <p>Floor</p> |
| | <p>Confirmation of previous minutes 14 October, 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion moved by (Eva Mazzei) seconded by (David Chandler) • Motion carried | <p>Floor</p> |

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| | <p>Eva Mazzei’s resignation from the Sustainability Taskforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr. Hamley thanked Eva at the meeting for her time and efforts as a Sustainability Taskforce member. A certificate of appreciation will be sent out to Eva. • It was noted that Nadia Montalto has also resigned from the Sustainability Taskforce but was unable to attend the meeting. Cr Hamley acknowledged Nadia’s contributions and efforts, and a certificate of appreciation will also be sent to her. | <p>Cr. Hamley</p> |
| | <p>Acknowledgement of Aunty Jo Russell’s award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr. Hamley acknowledged and congratulated Aunty Jo Russell on her 2025 Victorian Senior of the Year – Emerging Impact Award. | <p>Cr. Hamley</p> |
| | <p>Participate Hume Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wattlebird Street Reserve in Roxburgh Park – community consultation open until 30 November. | <p>Cr. Hamley</p> |
| | <p>Presentation: Proposal for a Waste to Energy Plant Bulla/Sunbury Presenter: Bruce Barbour (<i>Sustainability Taskforce member</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The presentation highlighted concerns with the proposed installation of a Waste to Energy facility in Bulla/Sunbury and included an independent analysis of waste management data. • Ranjeet Verma mentioned that plastic in powder form is used in the layout of roads and waste to energy plants are increasing in India. • Amy Sledziona commented on the data in Bruce’s presentation and suggested checking data accuracy by using a consultant to boost and support his argument. Cr. Hamley agreed, mentioning the use of a third party. • David Chandler said it was Council’s responsibility to seek professional advice on the waste to energy plant. • Cr. Gagen said that Council doesn’t have any planning powers on this but can advocate on the community’s behalf. He spoke about the waste to energy plants in the UK. Cr. Gagen said it was a complex issue and suggested calling upon Council to form an opinion before voting on the proposal. • Frances Evans mentioned the Star Weekly article on the waste to energy proposal 27/08/2025 Residents Fight Back and that Council does not have a formal position on the waste to energy proposal. • Cr. Hamley said that the issue hasn’t gone to Council. She sees the Council’s current role as supporting the community group and amplifying the community’s voice. | <p>Bruce Barbour</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce put forward the recommendation: <i>‘That Council oppose the proposal by HiQ Pty Ltd to construct and operate a waste to energy plant between Bulla and Sunbury’.</i> • The Taskforce voted on the recommendation with six members in favour, two opposing and one member abstaining. In accordance with the Terms of Reference, a recommendation must achieve a minimum of 60% support to be referred to Council. With 67% of votes in favour, Council officers will prepare a report on the recommendation. The presentation date will be confirmed at the inaugural Sustainability Taskforce meeting in 2026. | |
| | <p>Presentation: Hume’s Conservation Areas Presenter: Daniela Pascuzzo (Coordinator Land and Biodiversity)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The presentation highlighted conservation areas under the management of Hume City Council and outlined the various conservation practices employed to maintain and protect these assets. • Daniela Pascuzzo mentioned one of the differences between parks and nature reserves was the quality of native vegetation and biodiversity such as the striped legless lizard. She also advocated for keeping rocks intact in the environment as they support conservation efforts. • Cr. Gagen mentioned property defoliation from sheep and goats. Daniela Pascuzzo confirmed that the same effect can be caused by increases in kangaroo population within restricted areas. • Amy Sledziona said that the increase in development has impacted the kangaroos grazing in conservation areas. She said that conservation programs were also affected by dumped rubbish on roadsides. She commented that there seemed to be limited budget to clean up rubbish when balanced against regular operational work as part of nature reserve management. • Amy Sledziona mentioned that using Snap, Send & Solve to report dumped rubbish seemed to take months to clean up rubbish and involved multiple follow ups. • Ranjeet Verma commented on signage interpretation and suggested an audit of all reserves signage with a priority list of signage improvement. • David Chandler commented on the Green Wedge Management Plan and conservation reserves and to educate the community on the importance of these areas for wildlife. • Harsimran Kaur commented on community outreach through Gardens for Wildlife opportunities to contribute and helping the community understand that Hume has different vegetation classes. | <p>Daniela Pascuzzo</p> |

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| | <p>She said there is disconnect with the community understanding Indigenous food plants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jo Russell mentioned her bush food/plants and medicine plants workshops that she runs. • David Chandler said there have been repeated dumping in his area and cameras on Oakland Road have helped and would like to see more of them. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniela Pascuzzo to follow up on the time it's been taking for a reported rubbish job to be completed through Snap, Send & Solve reporting mechanism. • Daniela Pascuzzo to follow up a potential signage audit. • Daniela Pascuzzo to find out about the possibility of planting medicinal plants in open space areas with the Urban Forestry team. | |
| | <p>Presentation: Sustainability Taskforce summary document Presenter: Kaye Roberts-Palmer (Sustainability Engagement Officer)</p> <p>The Terms of Reference require a summary of the Taskforce's achievements for the year to be presented. In 2025, six meetings were held, featuring a total of 13 presentations.</p> <p>Key areas of focus included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing illegal dumping • Promoting waste voucher usage • Recruiting Garden Guides and gardens for Wildlife initiative • Developing and promoting the sustainability program • Updates on Merlynston Creek Parklands and Wattlebird Street Reserve in Roxburgh Park • Participate Hume opportunities • Animals of Emotion Survey • Home Energy Upgrades program • Electric vehicle usage • Waste-to-energy facility <p>Key achievements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided advice/guidance on topics including illegal dumping, promotion of waste voucher usage, recruiting garden guides, sustainability content and promotion • Represented the community at the Moonee Ponds Creek Chain of Ponds Re-Commitment Ceremony and BioBlitz Easter Barred Bandicoot event • Provided input in community engagement opportunities including Merlynston Creek Parklands and Wattlebird Street Reserve in Roxburgh Park | <p>Kaye Roberts-Palmer</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine projects for potential impacts including the waste to energy facility, Rural Strategy, Jacksons Creek biik wurdha | |
| | <p>Other business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for the next meeting to focus on dumped rubbish and traffic safety around schools. The Community Safety team will be contacted. | Floor |
| | Meeting finished | 8.39pm |
| | <p>Next Meeting: Wednesday 18 February Meeting starts at 6.30pm to 8.30pm In-person meeting (Craigieburn Global Learning Centre).</p> | |