



# MEETING MINUTES

## Environment and Sustainability Reference Group

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2023

**Meeting Start:** 5:30pm

**Meeting End:** 7:36pm

**Venue:** Whitehorse Civic Centre

**Minutes recorded by:** Cassie Lukies

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**Attendance:** Cr. Cutts, Cr. Massoud, Anne Payne (OAM), Glenys Grant (OAM), , John White, Kushal Singhal, Peter Whittle, Steven White, Belinda Moody, Callan Walker, Cassie Lukies, , Miho Kawaga

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**Apologies:** John Malvestuto, Shaun Scallan, Thomas White, Jeff Green, Eric Sun, Steve Day

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# Agenda Items:

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## **Item 1. Welcome**

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Welcome was undertaken by Cr Massoud in Cr Cutt's absence at the beginning of the meeting.

Previous meeting minutes were accepted by Cr Massoud, seconded by Glenys Grant OAM.

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## **Item 2. Urban Forest Strategy**

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Cassie Lukies presented on behalf of Steve Day information on the Urban Forest Strategy in answer to questions raised by Community Representatives.

Belinda Moody presented information to answer questions raised by Community Representatives.

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### **Key discussion points:**

- In order to reach canopy targets there needs to be an increase of trees not only on Council land, but also on private land. Council is currently working on more strategic plans to achieve targets.
  - Community education is required for increased understanding of biodiversity and canopy importance in order to create behaviour change.
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### **Item 3. Save Our Canopy Trees Forum**

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The Reference Group members discussed the CROWAG Save Our Trees Forum held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

Belinda Moody provided responses to the questions raised by Community Representative Glenys Grant OAM.

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#### **Key discussion points:**

- Desktop study found that 56% of trees planted before July 2019 still remain, 35% were removed and 9% unclear
- Several potential mechanisms to increase tree planting retention were provided
- Many of the questions raised did not have simple answers or there currently isn't the data to provide a detailed answer

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### **Item 4. ESRG Google Drive**

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Cassie Lukies demonstrated the use of the ESRG Council webpage that is currently under development and requested Reference Group input on several options.

Cassie Lukies demonstrated the use of the ESRG Google Drive as a central information drive for all ESRG documents.

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#### **Key discussion points:**

N/A

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## **Item 5. Other Business**

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- Cr Cutts raised solar panels and people's right to free sunshine vs abutting buildings blocking especially in NRZ/GRZ areas. Current policy for pruning street trees does not allow for pruning or removal of trees to account for solar panels. Solar panels are not part of the decision making process at present.
- Miho Kawaga provided an update on the development of the Sustainability Strategy and the proposed targets. The name of the strategy will be the Climate Response Strategy.
- Steven White provided an update on the Dogs in Parks and Reserves community consultation. Over 1,200 responses were received.
- John White raised concerns over the significant number of deaths of wildlife due to second generation rodenticide poisoning. Potential alternatives were proposed.

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### **Action Items from meeting:**

- Extend invitation to Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee to attend the next meeting
- Distribute the KooyongKoot Gardiners Creek collaboration document to ESRG members
- Request for a yearly update report on progress of Council's strategy targets and action plan targets

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**Next Meeting: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2023, 5:30pm**

**Location: Nunawading Meeting Room 2, Whitehorse Civic Centre**

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