

#### 4.1 APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO FILL CASUAL VACANCIES

Responsible Director: Deb Cailes

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council approves the appointment of the following community representatives: Jeffrey Xia, Mark Nan Tie and Boris Lai, to the 2020-22 Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) as casual vacancies to replace departed members, in accordance with the current Terms of Reference of the Environmental Advisory Committee, until June 2022.*

##### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of the three recommended new members to Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) until June 2022, to replace those members who have resigned.

##### **BACKGROUND**

In 2020, a total of 15 members were appointed to the 2020-2022 EAC Panel and since December 2020 the committee has been meeting monthly. However over the last six months, five members have resigned, four because they have left the municipality and one for family commitments.

According to the Terms of Reference for the EAC committee, if a vacancy arises, this position can be filled from the list of suitable applicants from the 2020-2022 EAC membership call for interest, or if there is no one suitable, to advertise for casual vacancies. The full EAC membership term is from July 2020 until June 2022 and the term of the replacement EAC member/s would be until June 2022, there can be up to 15 members.

##### **DISCUSSION**

At the July EAC meeting, it was determined in agreement with the chair and council members, that there was a need to advertise for new members to fill the vacancies that had arisen. One replacement was sought early in 2021 from the 2020-2022 call for interest but they were one of those who resigned and other applicants were not deemed suitable.

The casual vacancies were promoted on the website home page, social media and in the Sustainable Monash e-news in early August, and closed on the 20 September. The Director of Environment and Infrastructure was notified of the process on the 2 August 2021.

A total of five applications were received through web applications by the closing date, which was extended to the 20 September 2021.

The applications were presented to the three Councillor members of EAC. (Mayor Brian Little (chair), Josh Fergeus and Stuart James) to select preferred members. Each applicant was assessed on the information they provided and the skills and experience they demonstrated. The current composition of EAC was also taken into consideration in determining the suitable applicant to fill the vacancy. Of the applications, three applicants were determined to be suitable replacements.

Mark Nan Tie, Jeffrey Xia and Boris Lai were determined to be suitable replacements to fill the vacancies.

- Mark is an environmental scientist and has been a sustainability manager within industry and Government, and has a strong interest in innovative waste reduction approaches and promotion of sustainability initiatives.
- Jeffrey is a policy researcher and has emissions industry experience. He was a Australian Young Achiever semi-finalist in 2019, and cofounded an education program for students on the Sustainable Development goals
- Boris has been active in the Monash community as a Monash Youth Ambassador. He provides a youth perspective and is very passionate about protecting the environment.

#### ***POLICY IMPLICATIONS***

The appointment will assist EAC to continue to represent the community in relation to delivery of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy. The [EAC Terms of Reference](#) guided the process.

#### ***FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

There are no cost implications for Council regarding this appointment.

#### ***CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION***

To enable the EAC to effectively support Monash City Council in delivering the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, it is recommended that Council approves the appointment of Mark Nan Tie, Jeffrey Xia and Boris Lai to the EAC until June 2022.