

4.2 2022-24 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Responsible Committee: Environmental Advisory Committee

Responsible Director: Jarrod Doake

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the updated Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Environmental Advisory Committee 2022-24.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the revised Terms of Reference (TOR) for the 2022-24 Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) as required under the current TOR and for Council to note that the revision brings the TOR into alignment with the Advisory Committee Policy and Governance Guidelines.

BACKGROUND

The current TOR for EAC was due for review in July 2022. The review aligns with the seeking and appointment of new members to the Committee.

The role of the EAC is to act in an advisory capacity to Council on issues relating to environmental sustainability, improving the Monash environment and on the implementation of Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016 – 2026.

Established on 28 August 2007, the Committee comprises of up to sixteen (16) members appointed by Council including up to three (3) Councillors and up to thirteen (13) community members.

Since the last revision of the Terms of Reference, Council has developed Advisory Committee Policy and Guidelines in 2021, which all Committees need to follow.

DISCUSSION

Every two years, council seeks new members to the Environmental Advisory committee. At the same time, the Terms of Reference is updated.

With the development of the new Advisory Committee Policy and related governance guidelines, it was decided to review and update the Terms of Reference first to align with these documents and prior to seeking new members for 2022-24.

Changes to the EAC terms of Reference ensured minimisation of duplication between the overarching policy documents for Advisory committees and the draft terms of reference. It was also an opportunity to review the policy to update the focus of the committee.

One of the key themes in the committee was about community engagement and communication with the community on sustainability. Hence, the EAC terms of reference has been updated slightly to address this in the membership criteria. In addition to advising council on progressing sustainable initiatives, enabling the committee to share information on sustainability initiatives through their community is beneficial.

Once the updated EAC terms of Reference is endorsed, an expression of interest will go out to call for new members.

CONSULTATION

The EAC members have been consulted on the updated TOR.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Committee supports the delivery of the sustainability actions under the Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016 – 2026, Council Plan and Monash 2040. Updating the policy to align with overarching Advisory Committee policy and guidelines, helps to provide clarity in the role as an advisory committee member and makes them consistent with other committees. The new EAC Terms of Reference will also guide the selection of new community members to the committee.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The valuable contribution that community members make through their participation on the EAC enhances Council's work in the area of environmental sustainability and ultimately facilitates opportunities for good advocacy, policy development and service provision for sustainability benefits and the community at large.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report is in line with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and in particular with the following rights: freedom of expression; and taking part in public life.

GENDER EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

Policy was reviewed by the Gender equity team and updated based on this feedback.

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, this report recommends that Council

approve the revised Terms of Reference for the 2022-24 Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC).

Attachment 1: 2022-2024 Terms of Reference for the Environmental Advisory Committee.