

SERVICES DELEGATED COMMITTEE

REVISED AGENDA

(Open to the public)

6.30pm, Monday 20 March 2023

Council Chamber - 8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell

Date of Issue: 17 March 2023

Please note: No audio, video, photographic or any other recording of proceedings at Council or Delegated Committee meetings is permitted without written authority from Council.

Order of Business

- 1 Adoption and confirmation of the minutes of the Services Delegated Committee meeting held on 12 December 2022**
 - 2 Declaration of conflict of interest of any councillor or council officer**
 - 3 Presentation of officer reports**
 - 3.1 Serpells Lane Strategic Property Project - Proposal for paid car parking

Supplementary Reports

 - 3.2 Electrify Boroondara Alliance - Boroondara Community Climate Action Support and Reference Group
 - 4 General business**
 - 5 Urgent business**
 - 6 Confidential business**
- Close of meeting**

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3 Presentation of officer reports

3.2 Electrify Boroondara Alliance - Boroondara Community Climate Action Support and Reference Group

Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider Council's relationship with emerging community group, Electrify Boroondara Alliance.

Background

Electrify Boroondara Alliance is a new community group that is establishing itself to encourage the community to take action that will contribute to the reduction of emissions. The group is specifically focused on:

- Increasing the use of rooftop solar and batteries;
- Reducing the use of fossil fuels by transitioning to electric appliances;
- Increasing uptake of electric vehicles; and
- Improving the energy efficiency of existing housing stock, apartments and buildings.

The group is guided by the following aims:

- To support Council in achieving the outcomes sought in its Climate Action Plan; and
- To support the community in reducing carbon emissions.

The group would like to form a relationship with Council to work collaboratively towards these aims.

Key Issues

There are a number of ways Council could choose to define its relationship with this new community group. Given the focus of the group which will assist Council to achieve its aspirational target of the Climate Action Plan to reduce community emissions, it is recommended that two Councillors are nominated to attend meetings and report back to the full Council on the group's activities.

Next Steps

Council's involvement with this group will be reviewed over time to determine if it is appropriate to consider the group as having an advisory capacity and for councillors to be appointed to regularly attend meetings.

Funding or other requests requiring resourcing support are to be considered through the grants process and the development of the next Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan.

Officers' recommendation

That Council:

1. Nominate Cr _____ and Cr _____ to attend meetings of Electrify Boroondara Alliance and report to Council on actions of the group;
2. Support Electrify Boroondara Alliance through the provision of existing and proposed Council developed promotional material on climate action;
3. Consider any specific requests from Electrify Boroondara Alliance for resourcing support through the development of the next Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan; and
4. Review involvement with Electrify Boroondara Alliance in time to consider future appointments to the group through the annual Councillor Appointments process.

OR

That Council:

1. Note the establishment of Electrify Boroondara Alliance and consider support of the group through grants programs and other mechanisms in line with support offered to other community groups.

Responsible director: Daniel Freer, Director Places and Spaces

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider Council's relationship with emerging community group, Electrify Boroondara Alliance - Community Climate Action Support and Reference Group.

2. Policy implications and relevance to community plan and council plan

The recommendations made in this report are consistent with the policy direction and actions within the following Council strategies:

Boroondara Community Plan 2021-2031

Theme 3: The Environment

Strategy 3.1 Community resilience and capacity to live sustainably is increased through advocacy, education and resources.

Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan 2021-2023

- 1.11 Implement a solar PV bulk buy program for homes and businesses;*
- 1.12 Develop and deliver a home and business energy audit program;*
- 1.13 Provide sustainability resources for loan through Boroondara libraries;*
- 1.14 Provide increased support for community leadership on climate action;*
- 4.2 Install fast charging stations at two community locations;*
- 6.2 Engage an officer to increase support for community sustainability education and initiatives;*
- 6.3 Develop and implement a Climate Action Plan community engagement strategy;*
- 6.9 Increase funding for climate action grants as part of Council's grant program. - new grant category created to be implemented when revised Grant Policy is adopted by Council*
- 6.10 Provide support for ESD in private development;*
- 6.11 Hold a Sustainable Living Festival; and*
- 6.14 Collaborate to elevate Environmentally Sustainable Development targets for new development.*

3. Background

Electrify Boroondara Alliance is a new community group that is establishing itself to encourage the community to take action that will contribute to the reduction of emissions. The group is specifically focused on:

- Increasing the use of rooftop solar and batteries;
- Reducing the use of fossil fuels by transitioning to electric appliances;
- Increasing uptake of electric vehicles; and

- Improving the energy efficiency of existing housing stock, apartments and buildings.

The group is guided by the following aims:

- To support Council in achieving the outcomes sought in its Climate Action Plan; and
- To support the community in reducing carbon emissions.

The group would like to form a relationship with Council to work collaboratively towards these aims. A proposal from the group is included at **Attachment 1**.

4. Outline of key issues/options

The focus of the group is driven by a request to develop a strong relationship with Council to focus on Council's aspirational targets to reduce community emissions.

The exact governance structure of the community group is yet to be finalised but members are actively working within the community.

There are a number of approaches Council could take to formalise the relationship with this community group.

Option 1: Advisory Group

The community group could be considered to operate in an advisory capacity to Council. In this case Council could nominate Councillors and/or Council Officers to attend meetings with the community group, listen to the advice provided and report back to Council. Any involvement in specific project delivery or funding would be subject to Council approval through grants or the Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan.

This is the preferred option in the short term. Should the group prove to be sustainable appointments of Councillors will be referred to the annual Councillor Assignments.

Option 2: Alliance

Council could commit to Councillors and/or Council Officers becoming members of the community group as representatives of Council. This would require a memorandum of understanding or other formal documentation to define the exact role of Councillors and resource implications of Council Officers. This model is more typically used where all other participants are government agencies.

Option 3: Supportive

This approach would be similar to Council's relationship with other community groups in Boroondara that do not have a lease or licence for use Council's facilities. The group would be eligible for grant funding, including the new Climate Action Plan grant category, and could contact Council Officers for advice without any formal arrangement in place. Support for these types of groups often includes access to venues for hire and collateral for distribution.

5. Consultation/communication

Informal discussions with members of the Electrify Boroondara Alliance group have taken place to consider the options for the involvement of Council.

Internal consultation has taken place with the Governance and Legal Department.

6. Financial and resource implications

There are no direct financial implications from the recommendations of this report. Any funding of Electrify Boroondara Alliance would be through other Council processes such as grants and the group would not be given preferential treatment as a result of the involvement of Councillors or Council Officers.

Any involvement of Council Officers in specific projects will need to be confirmed through the development of the next Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan, and subject to the adoption by Council.

The resource implication of a Council Officer attendance, preparation, and providing advice to meetings and follow up conversation is likely to be approximately 4 hours per month. Meeting administrative support including scheduling, organisation, agendas and minutes is likely to be 4 hours per meeting. Any specific research, or outside of monthly meeting cycles would be additional resource commitment.

7. Governance issues

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have a general or material conflict of interest requiring disclosure under chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Boroondara City Council.

The recommendation contained in this report is compatible with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006 as it does not raise any human rights issues.

8. Social and environmental issues

Electrify Boroondara Alliance is focused on taking action to reduce the emissions produced by the community in Boroondara. This will have positive environmental impacts and contribute to minimising any negative impact of emissions on the climate.

The group will also have a positive social impact on the community by bringing people together from diverse backgrounds to work towards a common goal.

9. Evaluation and review

Council's involvement with Electrify Boroondara Alliance should be reviewed after six months and if considered successful any future appointment of Councillors to meet with the group should be undertaken through Council's annual process of Councillor Assignments.

10. Conclusion

Electrify Boroondara Alliance is a new community group that is looking to take actions which will support Council to achieve the aspiration goal of our Climate Action Plan to reduce community emissions.

It is in the Council's interest that this group be successful.

Director: **Daniel Freer, Director Places and Spaces**

Manager and report officer: David Shepard, Manager Environmental Sustainability and Open Spaces

Following on from the last meeting on Friday 3 March of the Electrify Boroondara Alliance (EBA), below is a proposed approach for the relationship between Council and Electrify Boroondara.

It is proposed that EBA be recognised by Council as a **Community Climate Action Support and Reference Group**.

This would mean the members of EBA see that their community actions are consistent with the Council CAP, and Council acknowledges this group is working for improved community outcomes that would require significantly more Council inputs if it were not supported by EBA. It is a community run group that meets regularly with Council.

A supportive formal relationship with this group, with agreed terms of reference, is seen as essential for a number of reasons including that it :

- Ensures the group works in the same coordinated direction as Council.
- Provides confidence to the community that the work of the group is consistent with Council policy.
- Encourages a wide range of sectors from the community to work on projects under this banner.
- Assists in obtaining access to information and data from other government organisations.
- Assists in the sharing of information and relevant toolkits from other council-based initiatives across the country.
- Better enables strong relationships to be built with other levels of government, to tap into their resources to assist.
- Assists in building good relationships with elected state and federal representatives across Boroondara.
- Provides a mechanism for ongoing interaction and review to ensure good outcomes.

The following terms of reference are proposed as the basis of the relationship between Council and Electrify Boroondara Alliance as a community climate action support and reference group.

1. To support Council in achieving the outcomes sought in its Climate Action Plan.
2. To support the community in reducing carbon emissions.
3. To meet regularly with councillors and staff nominated by Council, as a reference group. The monthly meetings between Council and the EB Alliance will be open to all other Councillors. The minutes from these meetings will be made available to all Councillors.
4. To contribute to Council's efforts to reduce carbon emissions in the community where possible, including by accessing appropriate experts with knowledge in such topic areas as rooftop solar and batteries, transitioning from gas to electric appliances, increasing the uptake of electric vehicles and e-bikes and improving the energy efficiency of all residential dwelling and other building types.
5. To become and to foster community champions who will support other community members to reduce their carbon emissions by sharing knowledge and resources.

6. To conduct an annual review with Council to share knowledge of progress and discuss each other's work plan for the next 12-month period so actions are complementary and as far as possible, reflect an integrated effort in pursuit of the shared aim to reduce carbon emissions.
7. To be politically non-partisan.

Attached is the Statement of Purpose and an outline of the Governance Structure for this group.

Please feel free to call me on the number below if I can assist in any further clarification or context. At the end of the day, this is just a group of dedicated people who are in sync with both council's Climate Action Plan **and** the desires of 93% of Boroondara residents.

Mark Cubit
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Electrify Boroondara
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Electrify Boroondara Alliance

Context

Boroondara Council have established an ambitious Climate Action Plan setting emission targets for both Council operations and the Boroondara community. It is recognised that Council does not have direct control over community emissions. The aspirational targets of Boroondara Council are to reduce carbon emissions in the community to reach net zero by 2035, by, in part increasing solar rooftop panel uptake to three times its current level by 2030 (an additional 50,000 kW). These targets respond to recent Boroondara community research related to the Climate Action Plan that found that 93% of residents randomly surveyed, rated support of renewable energy and energy efficiency as fairly or very important.

Statement of Purpose

The Electrify Boroondara Alliance aims to work closely with Council to actively engage with all parts of the Boroondara community to inform and encourage through the provision of knowledge and volunteer resources, the actions required to meet Council's aspirational carbon emissions targets by primarily focusing on :

- increasing the uptake of rooftop solar and batteries
- reducing the use of fossil gas by gradually transitioning to electric appliances
- increasing the uptake of electric vehicles
- improving the energy efficiency of new and existing housing stock, apartments and other forms of building.

Governance structure

Electrify Boroondara is an alliance between a wide and growing range of community groups, such as schools, church groups, climate groups, Rotary and business groups, and individuals who have joined together in response to the above Statement of Purpose, to offer expertise or simply to act as a resource , to assist in trying to deliver Council's targets.

The Alliance is primarily a series of working groups. Most are working within different sectors of the community, led by individual members of the steering group whilst others are focusing on issues such as education and public information including stalls, pamphlets, forums, and other events , as well as building a website and maintaining network capacity, and undertaking research on various issues of relevance to the Alliance and Council.

A small executive will manage administrative matters such as meeting scheduling and agendas. This is comprised of the Chairperson (Mark Cubit) and Deputy Chair (Carolyn Ingvarson), who will consult with Council on these matters. Brief CV's for both Mark and Carolyn follow.

A steering and coordination committee meeting involving the leads of each working group, and other interested community members, is currently being held once a month, chaired by Mark Cubit. Zoom meetings may also be arranged to ensure co-ordination.

Our government representatives at state and federal levels are in the process of being consulted about support for the approach taken by the Alliance. Federal member for Kooyong and State members for Hawthorn and Kew have all expressed an interest in being involved with Electrify Boroondara and meetings are being scheduled with the Federal member for Higgins and State member for Ashwood.

The relationship between these parties and the Alliance, is still to be confirmed, but it is likely to be ongoing at office staff level.

Other organisations are already indicating an interest, eg Swinburne and Powercor and a wide range of organisations will be invited to be part of an afternoon on April 30 to demonstrate ways of being part of this project.