

# Banyule Biodiversity Community Working Group



## BECAAC Working Group – Terms of Reference

### Introduction

Banyule is known for its natural conservation areas, wildlife corridors and green open spaces, all of which support our rich biodiversity. The Council Plan 2021-2025 outlines Council's intent to strengthen our sustainable environment by protecting and enhancing the natural environment, and this mandate is driven through the *Biodiversity Plan*.

Throughout the 2023 calendar year, Council will be engaging with all stakeholders who help influence our local biodiversity, including the community. These groups will help develop important actions to ensure Council is protecting, enhancing and connecting with our local biodiversity. The development of a Biodiversity Community Working group is key to help deliver an updated Biodiversity Plan for Banyule Council.

### Key objective

To support the development of an updated Biodiversity Plan by identifying gaps from previous actions, outlining future possibilities to support local biodiversity, assist in the development of the community facing actions in an updated *Plan*.

### Term of working group

The Biodiversity Community Working Group will be established for three months beginning in March 2023. The group will meet three times in this period.

Meeting duration will be a maximum of 1.5 hours.

### Working Group Membership

Membership for the Biodiversity Community Working Group will include;

- No more than eight (8) members
- One Councillor to chair the working group (failing this the responsible Council Officer will be chair)
- One Council Officer (additional to the eight members)
- Members must make all reasonable effort to attend no less than two of the three meetings

Members of the working group/s must possess at least **two** of the following criteria;

- Professional experience working in the environment industry
- Membership of a community environment group
- Experience working with community groups, environment organisations or government
- Experience as an environment advocate or leader
- Experience in planning and/or community development and/or policy development
- Experience in environmental education

The selection process will prioritise applications from nominees who live or work in Banyule

## Working Group Monitoring and Reporting

This working group is considered an informal meeting involving Councillors and in accordance with the Banyule Governance Rules the details of the meetings including topics discussed, attendees and any conflicts of interest declared will be recorded, tabled and reported back to BECAAC.

The responsible officer will record minutes of meetings and circulate to members via email for confirmation, and then be included in a briefing to BECAAC.

Once disbanded, the responsible Officer will report back to members of the working group and BECAAC on the outcomes of their work through a final report highlighting the working groups input into the final Biodiversity Plan and next steps.

## Working Group Code of Conduct

All members of the working group will adhere to section **3. GOOD GOVERNANCE** of the BECAAC Terms of Reference which will be provided to members prior to accepting a position on the working group.