



FORREST & DISTRICT COMMUNITY GROUP MEETING MINUTES

Monday 10 July 2023, 6.00 pm
47 Grant Street Forrest

Participants: Geoff Kennedy (President), Sharon Bradshaw (Treasurer), Anthony Griffiths (Secretary), Les Roe, Mary Dracup, Gillian Brew.

Agenda Items

1. Open Meeting and Welcome
We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land, and pay our respects to their cultures and their Elders past, present and emerging.

2. Confirmation of previous minutes

Minutes Confirmed. – Geoff Kennedy Moved, Sharon Bradshaw seconded

3. Barwon Water Wastewater Investigation Works update

BW Project Team and Design Consultants were in Forrest this morning to kick off the design proposal process. There is an updated Comms piece available on the BW Your Say site. There will also be an update in the next edition of the Forrest Post.

What is the latest on the wastewater investigations works?

Over four years of engagement with us, Forrest community members have generously shared their insights and feedback on wastewater management options in their town. We included plans to keep progressing the Forrest Wastewater project in our 2023-2028 Price Submission, which was submitted to the Essential Services Commission at the end of September. This project proposes a whole-of-town wastewater solution, which upgrades/replaces existing onsite systems and includes an additional centralised system. Further work to refine options and costs, understand funding avenues and regulatory and environmental approvals is required to progress the project. Subject to the resolution of these items - and importantly, securing an affordable outcome for all - construction could commence later this decade.

Will a Forrest Wastewater system be funded in the next five years?



Barwon Water remains committed to delivering this project in line with the community's vision and to support the prosperity of the town. We are proposing to deliver the design and construction of a whole-of-town wastewater solution over the 2023-2028 price submission period. The full cost of this project will not be passed on to customer bills until after 2028, once the final costs are confirmed. This is to ensure customers are not paying for the project until further certainty on the final option, cost and funding is known.

4. Mary Dracup – Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group

Holly Project meet twice a month on site at Hennigan Crescent. This year planning to plant another 1 thousand plants after previously planting 1500 plants. East and West Barwon River health is a priority. Landcare group is liaising with Barwon Water and CCMA on projects to improve river health.

5. Gill Brew – FLARE group – Changing climate likely to impact frequency and severity of Bushfires in the District. Creating a Safe and Resilient Community.

6. Colac Otway Shire - Climate Change Action Plan – FDCG response – FDCG response to COS Climate Change Action Plan, was submitted to COS on 7 July 2023.

7. AGM 27 August. Sharon to check availability with Barwon Water to speak on the day regarding Barwon Water projects in the District..

8. Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday 14 August 2023

9. Meeting Close 7:55pm