



# Ordinary Meeting of Council Agenda

**to be held on Tuesday 21 July 2020 at 7.00pm  
via TEAMS**

## **Participating in Council meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic**

In order to ensure the health and safety of Councillors, staff and the community, Council meetings held during the Victorian State of Emergency are closed to the public. This is in accordance with advice provided by the State Government.

Members of the public are encouraged to watch proceedings online at [www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/webcast](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/webcast).

## **Making a submission**

If you have participated in consultation about a matter before this meeting, you do not need to submit your feedback again. However, if you would like to ask a question about something that is not on the agenda, or make a brief submission about something that is listed, you can join the meeting online using the Microsoft Teams platform.

To register for the meeting and receive instructions on how to participate, please register by following the link to this meeting from [www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/meetings](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/meetings). Your registration must be lodged by 10.00am on the day of the meeting.

## **Recording and Publication of Meetings**

An audio and video recording is made of all public Council Meetings, streamed live and published on Council's website. By participating in proceedings (including during Public Question Time or in making a submission regarding an item before Council), you agree to this publication. You should be aware that any private information volunteered by you during your participation in a meeting is subject to recording and publication.

Meeting recordings can be viewed at <http://webcast.yarracity.vic.gov.au>.

[www.yarracity.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au)

## **Order of business**

- 1. Statement of recognition of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Land**
- 2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence**
- 3. Declarations of conflict of interest (Councillors and staff)**
- 4. Confidential business reports**
- 5. Confirmation of minutes**
- 6. Petitions and joint letters**
- 7. Public question time**
- 8. Delegates' reports**
- 9. General business**
- 10. Questions without notice**
- 11. Council business reports**
- 12. Notices of motion**
- 13. Urgent business**

## 1. Acknowledgment of Country

*“Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra.*

*We acknowledge their creator spirit Bunjil, their ancestors and their Elders.*

*We acknowledge the strength and resilience of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, who have never ceded sovereignty and retain their strong connections to family, clan and country despite the impacts of European invasion.*

*We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra.*

*We pay our respects to Elders from all nations here today—and to their Elders past, present and future.”*

## 2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence

Anticipated attendees:

### Councillors

- Cr Misha Coleman (Mayor)
- Cr Mi-Lin Chen Yi Mei (Deputy Mayor)
- Cr Danae Bosler
- Cr Jackie Fristacky
- Cr Stephen Jolly
- Cr Daniel Nguyen
- Cr Bridgid O’Brien
- Cr James Searle
- Cr Amanda Stone

### Council officers

- Vijaya Vaidyanath (Chief Executive Officer)
- Brooke Colbert (Group Manager Advocacy, Engagement and Communications)
- Ivan Gilbert (Group Manager Chief Executive’s Office)
- Lucas Gosling (Director Community Wellbeing)
- Gracie Karabinis (Group Manager People and Culture)
- Chris Leivers (Director City Works and Assets)
- Diarmuid McAlary (Director Corporate, Business and Finance)
- Bruce Phillips (Director Planning and Place Making)
- Rhys Thomas (Senior Governance Advisor)
- Mel Nikou (Governance Officer)

## 3. Declarations of conflict of interest (Councillors and staff)

## 4. Confidential business reports

### Item

#### 4.1 **Tender Report C1522 – Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Gym and Audio Equipment**

*This item is to be considered in closed session to allow consideration of private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets or if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.*

*These grounds are applicable because the report contains information submitted to Council on a commercial in confidence basis as part of a tender process.*

#### 4.2 **Alpha Partners Affordable Housing**

*This item is to be considered in closed session to allow consideration of private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets or if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage; and information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.*

*These grounds are applicable because the premature release of the commercially sensitive aspects of the agreement may disadvantage the community housing provider in future agreements and because the report contains the text of a previous confidential Council resolution.*

#### 4.3 **Chief Executive Officer Annual Review**

*This item is to be considered in closed session to allow consideration of personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.*

*These grounds are applicable because the report contains private information about the personal affairs of a member of Council staff.*

## **Confidential business reports**

The following items were deemed by the Chief Executive Officer to be suitable for consideration in closed session in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020. In accordance with that Act, Council may resolve to consider these issues in open or closed session.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the meeting be closed to members of the public, in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020, to allow consideration of:
  - (a) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets or if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;
  - (b) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989; and
  - (c) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

## **5. Confirmation of minutes**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7 July 2020 be confirmed.

## **6. Petitions and joint letters**

## **7. Public question time**

Yarra City Council welcomes questions from members of the community.

### Public question time procedure

Ideally, questions should be submitted to Council in writing by midday on the day of the meeting via the form available on our website. Submitting your question in advance helps us to provide a more comprehensive answer. Questions that have been submitted in advance will be answered first.

Public question time is an opportunity to ask questions about issues for which you have not been able to gain a satisfactory response on a matter.

### Public submissions procedure

If you wish to raise matters in relation to an item on this meeting agenda, Council will consider submissions on these items in conjunction with and prior to debate on that agenda item.

The public submission period is an opportunity to provide information to Council, not to ask questions.

**8. Delegate's reports**

**9. General business**

**10. Questions without notice**

## 11. Council business reports

Item		Page	Rec. Page	Report Presenter
11.1	Update on the World Heritage Management Plan review and the draft Heritage Management Plan for Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens	8	14	Ivan Gilbert – Group Manager Chief Executives Office
11.2	Peacemaking Project in North Richmond	15	21	Lucas Gosling – Director Community Wellbeing
11.3	Community Grants 2020-2021 Initiation Report	23	29	Michael van Vliet – Community Grants Team Leader
11.4	Governance Rules	30	33	Rhys Thomas - Senior Governance Advisor

## 12. Notices of motion

Nil

## 13. Urgent business

Nil

---

**11.1 Update on the World Heritage Management Plan review and the draft Heritage Management Plan for Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens**

---

## **Executive Summary**

### **Purpose**

To seek Council authorisation to provide Council feedback on the review of the World Heritage Management Plan and the exhibited draft Heritage Management Plan (an updated version of the formerly known Conservation Management Plan) for Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens (REB&CG).

### **Key Issues**

A review of the World Heritage Management Plan (WHMP) for REB&CG is currently underway. This review also exhibits a draft Heritage Management Plan (HMP). There is an opportunity for the Council to provide a feedback to the review of the WHMP (Attachment 2) and the Draft HMP (Attachment 3).

### **Financial Implications**

There is no significant financial implications of this consultation to the Council.

### **PROPOSAL**

It is proposed that Council consider providing a response to the draft HMP for the REB&CG and authorise officers to provide general feedback for the review of the WHMP through the Engage Victoria's consultation webpage on REB&CG.



---

**11.1 Update on the World Heritage Management Plan review and the draft Heritage Management Plan for Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens**

---

Reference: D20/120407

Authoriser: Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

**Purpose**

1. Purpose of this report is to seek Council authorisation to provide a feedback on the review of the World Heritage Management Plan and a Council response to the draft Heritage Management Plan (an updated version of the formerly known Conservation Management Plan) for Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens (REB&CG), currently on exhibition (from 1 June to 27 July 2020).

**Background**

2. Councillors are aware of the review of the World Heritage Management Plan currently underway.
3. The review is being undertaken by the Steering Committee for the REB&CG ('the Steering Committee'), and is being coordinated by Heritage Victoria within the Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning (DELWP); the City of Melbourne and Museums Victoria; with input from the City of Yarra and the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
4. The current World Heritage Management Plan (WHMP) for the REB&CG was approved by the Minister for Planning in 2013, and includes the following component documents as attachments:
  - (a) Conservation Management Plan (being renamed the "Heritage Management Plan" following the current review process);
  - (b) Carlton Gardens Master Plan;
  - (c) Royal Exhibition Building and Exhibition Reserve Master Plan; and
  - (d) World Heritage Strategy Plan for the World Heritage Environs Area.
5. Each of the above component documents are being individually reviewed as part of this review process.
6. The current consultation process invites comments from the community on the existing documents which will inform the review and preparation of revised drafts.
7. The Engage Victoria website includes a discussion paper (Attachment 1) that provides background information on the World Heritage Management Plan (Attachment 2) and its component parts, including the statutory and governance requirements, and identifies key questions to assist anyone who is submitting a feedback.
8. It is intended that following this review, the Conservation Management Plan will be known as the Heritage Management Plan, in accordance with the requirements of the EPBC Act.
9. Detailed information about each stage of the review process can be accessed from Engage Victoria Website [www.engage.vic.gov.au/rebcgreview](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/rebcgreview)
10. It is expected that a draft of the reviewed WHMP document will be available for public comment in late 2021, once the review of all component documents listed above is complete.
11. Pages 14 and 15 of the Discussion Paper (Attachment 1) provide an account of the key outcomes of the existing Conservation Management Plan (CMP).
12. The review of CMP has included:
  - (a) review of the physical fabric of the place (REB and Carlton Gardens) to document and describe key changes since the 2008 CMP;

- (b) additional historical research, including use of primary sources and other information which has come to light since the 2008 CMP;
  - (c) consultation with Museum Victoria and the City of Melbourne to identify operational and management issues; and
  - (d) consultation with the HMP Review Steering Committee.
13. A draft Heritage Management Plan (which is the revised version of the former Conservation Management Plan) has also been placed for community feedback. Refer Attachment 3.
14. This report focusses on the draft Heritage Management Plan (HMP) for the REB&CG so that a formal Council response can be provided to the draft HMP.
15. The report also provides officers feedback for the review of the WHMP.
16. Officers have already provided comments on the initial review of the World Heritage Strategy Plan and it is intended that comments on the Carlton Gardens Masterplan and Carton Reserve Masterplan will be provided when their drafts are placed on public exhibition.

### **Draft Heritage Management Plan**

17. The purpose of the HMP is to guide the conservation of the REB&CG.
18. This includes conserving the heritage values of the place in the context of ongoing exhibition use and management by Museums Victoria and the City of Melbourne.
19. The HMP is ultimately the primary source of information relating to the management and protection of the World Heritage List, National Heritage List and Victorian Heritage Register heritage values.
20. The draft HMP revises and updates the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens CMP, prepared by Lovell Chen for Heritage Victoria in 2007, updated in 2008 and readopted in 2013.
21. A Project Steering Committee comprising representatives from Museums Victoria and the City of Melbourne, provided direction and guidance on preparation of this report.
22. The HMP reorganises the structure and content of the earlier CMP; incorporates more up-to-date statutory and descriptive/physical information, including in relation to works which have occurred, or are underway, since completion of the previous report and includes additional historical information and graphics.
23. The Bibliography has also been updated with reference to recent reports and studies, and additional primary sources and archival material.
24. The HMP incorporates feedback on the earlier report and other stakeholder consultation, noting that consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is to be undertaken in 2020 as a separate process and a new document is in preparation under the auspices of the REB&CG World Heritage Management Plan Steering Committee that will examine the cultural heritage values of the place from a Traditional Owner and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective.
25. The HMP (Attachment 3) comprises four chapters as follows and appendices:
- (a) Chapter 1: Introduction;
  - (b) Chapter 2: The heritage place;
  - (c) Chapter 3: Conservation policy; and
  - (d) Chapter 4: Operation and Management.
26. The chapter 3 on conservation policy provides principle conservation objectives and policies.
27. The policies are arranged to provide:
- (a) overarching policies for Royal Exhibition Building, South Garden, North Garden and Exhibition Reserve;

- (b) use of the place;
  - (c) buildings and structures;
  - (d) Carlton Gardens hard and soft landscapes;
  - (e) exhibition reserve;
  - (f) views and vistas;
  - (g) presentation;
  - (h) interpretation; and
  - (i) works to the place.
28. The discussion on above includes significance of various elements, policies, general and specific conservation actions; and a discussion/rationale which explains and justifies the policy approach.
29. The HMP also recommends that a staged approach to implementation would be appropriate.

### **External Consultation**

30. The first stage of community consultation on the overall World Heritage Management Plan opened on 1 June 2020.
31. It is a co-ordinated effort by all the stakeholder agencies (Heritage Victoria, Museum Victoria, City of Melbourne, City of Yarra and the National Trust) to engage with the broader community on the World Heritage management framework for the REB&CG.
32. This Stage of consultation involves:
- (a) an online survey;
  - (b) online information sessions;
  - (c) social media posts; and
  - (d) information and promotion of the consultation through professional institutions such as the National Trust.
33. Council through its social media is also supporting the consultation process.
34. Whilst the community has the opportunity to provide a feedback on the any of the existing component documents, this consultation also seeks feedback on the HMP (a revised draft Conservation Management Plan).
35. Councillors have been invited to participate and provide their feedback.
36. The document was also circulated to Yarra's Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) and was discussed in the recent HAC meeting on 25 June 2020.
37. Their feedback included that HAC:
- (a) generally supports the revised draft HMP;
  - (b) considers this as an improvement over the previous CMP as it provides more direct and specific guidance on various elements within the world heritage site and includes a rationale behind that;
  - (c) notes that this review process proposes a consultation with the Aboriginal community and preparation of a separate document post that consultation, identifying the cultural values of the Aboriginal community to this site, however HAC recognises this as an area of gap in the current work which needs to be completed and the current HMP document then may be modified based on the findings of this further work;
  - (d) suggests that the review of WHMP should clearly illustrate the interrelationship between various components documents and their governance; and

- (e) also suggests that an effective World Heritage Management Plan for the REB&CG would require that the HMP and other component documents are supported by a proposed investment plan for coming years.

### **Internal Consultation (One Yarra)**

- 38. The information on this consultation was also sent to the following units of the Council for their comment:
  - (a) Strategic Planning;
  - (b) Urban Design;
  - (c) Strategic Transport; and
  - (d) Statutory Planning.

### **Financial Implications**

- 39. No direct financial implications, to the Council, other than some officer time, have been identified related to the consultation on the HMP.

### **Economic Implications**

- 40. There are no significant adverse economic impacts to the Council.

### **Sustainability Implications**

- 41. There are no adverse sustainability impacts to the Council.

### **Climate Emergency Implications**

- 42. There are no known climate emergency impacts to the Council.

### **Social Implications**

- 43. There are no adverse social impacts to the Council.
- 44. This review process proposes a consultation with the Aboriginal community later in 2020 and preparation of a separate document post that consultation, identifying the cultural values of the Aboriginal community to this site which is currently recognised as a gap.

### **Human Rights Implications**

- 45. There are no known adverse human rights implications to the Council.

### **Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

- 46. All aspects of this consultation are being coordinated based on the State process.

### **Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications**

- 47. Heritage Management of the World Heritage site and its environs is recognised in Council's Heritage Strategy 2019-2030.

### **Legal Implications**

- 48. Preparation of the HMP is also a statutory requirement of the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) for places included in the World Heritage List and National Heritage List.
- 49. The Victorian Heritage Act 2017 provides legislative measures to meet the Operational Guidelines for a listed place.
- 50. The Heritage Act 2017 sets out the basis of the membership of the Steering Committee.
- 51. Council is being represented by the Senior Advisor City Heritage as a member of the REB&CG Steering Committee for the World Heritage Management Plan (appointed by the Minister for Planning and environment).

## Other Issues

52. Museum Victoria and the City of Melbourne are responsible to conserve the heritage values of the REB&CG in the context of its ongoing exhibition, use and management.
53. Council does not have a direct responsibility for the management REB & CG.
54. Council however is responsible for the management of the heritage values within World Heritage Environs Area.
55. A draft response on the HMP has been prepared for Council consideration - refer Attachment 4.
56. Officers have also reviewed the existing WHMP (Attachment 2) and make the following observations for its review:
  - (a) The existing WHMP has been reliant on the bilateral agreement between the Australian Government and the State of Victoria. Currently, the responsibility for the management of world heritage site lies with various agencies. There is no single agency with the overall responsibility in the governance of world heritage values of the world heritage site and its environs area. The document only incorporates logos of the State department, Heritage Victoria, Museums Victoria and City of Melbourne which again diminishes the value of this document;
  - (b) In reviewing community concerns about impacts of the new developments in the environs area to the world heritage values of the site it would be appropriate to see whether the decision making process places values to the Burra Charter or best practice conservation principles. Based on the review appropriate policy, guidelines and management processes should be recommended;
  - (c) The section on the interpretation of the site should include interpretation strategies including opportunities for the 19 Century heritage setting of the buffer area;
  - (d) The structure of the WHMP should clearly state and include a diagram (flow chart) that can illustrate inter-relationships between various component documents;
  - (e) The section (4) on the components of the Management Plan should also generally describe what various component documents contain so that the reader of the document knows what information would be available through those individual component documents. There may also be a possibility that some common areas such as history and interpretation etc. are stated in the WHMP and not repeated in individual documents; and
  - (f) Consultation with the Aboriginal community and agencies is required so that the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the site are understood and acknowledged and aspects of management of cultural heritage significance are addressed in the plan.
57. Once the review of all component documents is complete and a revised WHMP is prepared and placed on exhibiting there will be an opportunity for Council to make a formal submission on the revised draft WHMP.

## Options

58. In view of the above Council can consider following options:
  - (a) Option 1: Council makes a general submission of support to the draft HMP;
  - (b) Option 2: Council makes a submission generally supporting the draft HMP and provides its response as in Attachment 3;
  - (c) Option 3: Council does not provide any response to HMP at this stage and makes a submission when the revised WHMP is exhibited; and

- (d) Option 4: Council authorises officers to provide their general feedback for the review of existing WHMP in the lines of para 56 of this report through the Engage Victoria Webpage on REB&CG recognising that Council will have an opportunity to provide a formal Council response to the WHMP when a draft WHMP is placed on public exhibition.

### **Conclusion**

59. Option 2 and 4 stated above would be preferable as;
- (a) Option 2 identifies gap areas needing further work in the HMP and may help finalising the HMP that would be exhibited with the draft WHMP; and
  - (b) Option 4 would help indicate areas that would need to be considered whilst reviewing and revising the WHMP through a general response whereas there will be an opportunity for the Council to make a formal Council response when a draft WHMP is on public exhibition.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council:
  - (a) notes the above report;
  - (b) in accordance with Option 2, makes a response to the draft Heritage Management Plan for the REB&CG;
  - (c) authorises officers to email Council's response in Attachment 4 to [heritage.policy@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:heritage.policy@delwp.vic.gov.au) as outlined in Option 2, before the close of this consultation on 27 July; and
  - (d) authorises officers to provide general feedback on the existing WHMP for its review in line with para 56 above through Engage Victoria Consultation webpage for REB&CG.

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Ivan Gilbert  
**TITLE:** Group Manager Chief Executive's Office  
**TEL:** 9205 5110

### **Attachments**

- 1** ⇨ Attachment 1 - Discussion Paper REB&CG WHMP Review
- 2** ⇨ Attachment 2 - Royal Exhibition and Carlton Gardens World Heritage Management Plan 2013
- 3** ⇨ Attachment 3 - REB and Carlton Gardens HMP Draft
- 4** ⇨ Attachment 4 - YCC Response to the draft HMP for REB&CG

---

## 11.2 Peacemaking Project in North Richmond

---

### Executive Summary

#### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the intent to commence a community engagement project in the North Richmond precinct, aimed at ensuring that the community is better engaged, heard and supported to appropriately discuss issues relating to amenity, safety and lived experiences.

#### Key Issues

At a meeting of Council on 23 June, Council resolved that officers bring forward a report to the July cycle of meetings outlining:

- (a) The progress of the Neighbourhood Justice Centre Peacemaking Project in North Richmond and its relationship to other community development and capacity building initiatives in the area; and
- (b) The role to be played by Yarra Council in these initiatives and the benefits to Yarra citizens.

Given the divergent and passionate views of members of the community, it is clear that a different approach to community engagement is required, one that enables community based conversations to occur respectfully amongst individuals and groups that have divergent views and high levels of emotion about the issues.

In late 2019, Council commenced discussions with the Neighbourhood Justice Centre's (NJC) Peacemaking Service to explore whether a specific Peacemaking project could assist with the issues and concerns in the North Richmond precinct.

#### Financial Implications

In order to support the implementation of the project, officers intend to allocate a part time role to provide the necessary logistical, relationship building and secretariat support to the project. It is expected that this role will be re-directed from existing resources and within the current operational budget.

#### PROPOSAL

1. That Council:
  - (a) notes and supports the intent of the Neighbourhood Peacemaking project;
  - (b) endorses the temporary allocation of staffing resources to support the project; and
  - (c) request officers provide further reports to Council on the progress and outcomes of the project.

---

## 11.2 Peacemaking Project in North Richmond

---

Reference: D20/104713  
 Authoriser: Director Community Wellbeing

### Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the intent to commence a community engagement project in the North Richmond precinct, aimed at ensuring that the community is better engaged, heard and supported to appropriately discuss issues relating to amenity, safety and lived experiences.

### Background

2. At a meeting of Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, Council resolved that officers bring forward a report to the July cycle of meetings outlining:
  - (a) The progress of the Neighbourhood Justice Centre Peacemaking Project in North Richmond and its relationship to other community development and capacity building initiatives in the area; and
  - (b) The role to be played by Yarra Council in these initiatives and the benefits to Yarra citizens.
3. The further intent of this report is to meet the requirements of the resolution.
4. Safety and amenity issues in North Richmond continue to be a challenge for many residents in the area.
5. Council's recent community satisfaction survey indicated that for residents of South Abbotsford and North Richmond, issues related to drug use are the number one safety concern.
6. Much of the public discourse on these matters has related to the presence and location of the Medically Supervised Injecting Room (MSIR), with strong but disparate views held by many of the individuals and groups in the community.
7. Some residents have expressed strong support for the MSIR and have campaigned for its continuation and expansion, whilst others have argued strongly that the presence of the room has significantly exacerbated safety and amenity concerns.
8. Some in the community have expressed support for the concept of the room, but don't believe the location is appropriate, whilst others argue the room should be removed from the precinct altogether.
9. Council has consistently resolved to support the MSIR, and recognises that the presence of the room is a needed health response to a challenging community issue that is saving the lives of users of injecting drugs.
10. Following the external review of the MSIR by Professor Margaret Hamilton and the independent review panel, the Minister for Health, the Hon. Martin Foley has announced that the room will continue to operate for a further three years and that an additional injecting facility will open in the City of Melbourne.
11. Throughout the last two years of the trial, significant collaborative work was undertaken by a range of government departments, including the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Department of Justice and Community Services (DJCS), Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC), alongside other key stakeholders such as Victoria Police and North Richmond Community Health.
12. A series of communication and engagement activities has occurred across this time, with varying degrees of success.



13. However, on-going deep community engagement has yet to materialise, and in its absence a number of advocacy groups have attempted to fill the void in an attempt to garner broader community support for the various positions expressed.
14. At times, the publicly expressed exchange of views by individuals and groups has been less than ideal. Some community members have expressed anger, frustration and range of other deeply emotive responses to the situation, both to the relevant authorities and towards each other as residents. In some cases residents have spoken of the emotional and psychological trauma they have experienced. Given the depth of feeling, some of this has manifested in exchanges both in person and over various media that has been perceived as often disrespectful and in some cases even threatening. Attempts to engage meaningfully across the range of views has not led to better discourse, as the lived experience of residents, traders and visitors is highly varied.
15. Council officers have engaged extensively with individuals and groups alike to understand the various perspectives and support improvement actions where possible. However, despite the large number of professional forums and meetings that have occurred, formal community engagement is low, apart from some representation on the MSIR community reference group being facilitated by NRCH.
16. As the lead agencies, both DHHS and NRCH are committed to improving the level and breadth of community engagement across the precinct in an attempt to ensure that community sentiment, including those that do not support the room can be heard, validated and respected.
17. However, the specific mechanism to achieve this outcome has not previously been fully finalised and agreed.
18. Council officers have advocated consistently for the need for a better approach to engaging with residents. Whilst engagement of those residents who live directly on the Richmond Housing estate is clearly important, further work with residents who do live in the broader precinct is also required.
19. Over the last year, there has been some attempts to meaningfully engage with the community. A community forum conducted at Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House, facilitated by DHHS, with high level representation from Council officers, Victoria Police and North Richmond Community Health. The forum attracted more than 300 local residents, who were able to share and express their views, as well as identify any issues that required action. However, since that event, communication and engagement has been sporadic, and has contributed to at least some feelings of mistrust and suspicion within the community.
20. Victoria Police has also conducted a precinct wide Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessment, which identified more than 40 actions to improve safety and amenity outcomes. Almost all of these actions have now been implemented with much of the responsibility falling to DHHS.
21. Given the extension of operations of the MSIR, officers are keen to ensure that all stakeholders are given the opportunity to better engage in respectful, constructive dialogue about the precinct and the associated issues, as well as continue to create pathways for meaningful actions to improve safety and amenity.
22. To support that outcome, DHHS has made significant investments in the precinct. This includes capital investment of the development of a youth hub (noting Councils initial \$185k commitment to this project). The Hub works are underway and it is hoped they will be completed by August 2020
23. Furthermore DHHS has invested in the development of the North Richmond Community Capacity Building Initiative. This program aims to build socially, economically and environmentally sustainable neighbourhood where residents can learn, work, be connected and have a say in their community. The Initiative is led by a Project Manager within the Department of Health and Human Services and supported by two Community Development

Officers and staff based at Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House (BANH). The program works closely with residents who live on the public housing estates and key partners.

24. In addition, DHHS has also employed a further senior officer to assist with the development of responses to issues focused on the surrounding precinct.
25. Following the announcement of the continuation of the MSIR, the State Government also announced that an additional \$9M of funding will be available for the broader precinct, and that the community will play a central role in helping to determine how some of this resource is allocated.
26. To assist with those future decisions, DHHS has committed to the development and implementation of a new governance structure to manage the various issues, with a further commitment to community collaboration and co-facilitation of a range of working groups. Whilst the final structure is yet to be realised the new arrangements will place community leadership more at the centre of discussions around four key areas including:
  - (a) Safety and Security;
  - (b) Amenity and Neighbourhood;
  - (c) Health, opportunity and Economic inclusion; and
  - (d) Pride and Participation.
27. In order for a more permanent role for Yarra community members to be effective in the long term, it is likely that some form of initial additional community development and engagement intervention will be required to ensure the success of the planned outcome.

#### Neighbourhood Justice Centre – Peacemaking Project

28. Given the divergent and passionate views of members of the community, it is clear that a different approach to community engagement is required, one that enables community based conversations to occur respectfully amongst individuals and groups that have divergent views and high levels of emotion about the issues.
29. In late 2019, Council commenced discussions with the Neighbourhood Justice Centre's (NJC) Peacemaking Service to explore whether a specific Peacemaking project could assist with the issues and concerns in the North Richmond precinct.
30. NJC has considerable experience and specialist expertise in the development and implementation of programs of this kind, and is a well-respected and essential part of the broader service system in Yarra. The NJC is uniquely placed to lead the project, with support from a range of key stakeholders including Council.
31. The planned approach seeks to ensure that each community voice and perspective is heard, validated and respected. Whilst the decision about the location and operation of the MSIR rests with the responsible Minister and is therefore outside the authority of any stakeholder, it is nonetheless important and incumbent upon those involved to deeply understand the effect of that decision and to seek to mitigate its impact through education and shared understanding.
32. The approach uses principles of both restorative and community justice, which view community members as partners, and seek to address issues collaboratively, by decentralising authority and accountability to a local level. Community perspectives on lived experience and injustice are acknowledged and validated, using processes such as community conferencing, which can lead to a greater and shared understanding of community harm.
33. The planned project aims to support local community members to “*transform conflict into cooperation*”, through the use of the facilitated process called community conferencing. This approach has a considerable evidence base of efficacy and has been widely used in Australasia, Europe and North America.

34. A key dynamic at the heart of Peacemaking processes is that a group of people make sense of a complex situation together, by each contributing their own experience to the bigger picture.
35. Members of any community of people who share some common interest or goal need to establish, maintain and deepen relationships. From time to time, they may need to re-set or restore relationships. A range of processes supports this work of managing relationships. The need for formal processes is usually most pronounced where conflict is associated with a breakdown in relationships, which some formal process can help re-set or *restore*. This is the meaning of the terminology of “restorative practices”.
36. In practice, with support from Council, facilitators from NJC will hold a series of one on one preparatory interviews in the first instance, followed by at least one group meeting, often using some version of the community conference. The number and format of group meetings held during an exercise of Peacemaking is determined by the specific issues that need to be addressed, and by the preferences of the participants.
37. An exercise in Peacemaking may continue over an extended period of time (in some cases for as long as 18 months, or even longer if necessary). Again, the length of time involved is determined by progress on reaching agreement and the preferences of participants.
38. A properly prepared and facilitated community conference can:
  - (a) expand the network of people who can provide insight, support & oversight;
  - (b) involve that network of people in “truth-telling” & “problem-solving”;
  - (c) through truth-telling: transform conflict into cooperation;
  - (d) harness that cooperation for problem-solving & then developing a pragmatic plan to:
    - (i) respond with authority to harm, &/or
    - (ii) prevent further harm, &/or
    - (iii) promote well-being;
  - (e) coordinate “community” & “official” resources to provide ongoing support & oversight.
39. There are *at least* four formats of the Community Conference, all of which can be used as part of Peacemaking, in combination with other decision-making and dispute resolution processes such as mediation. The combination of processes used in any Peacemaking exercise will be determined by the presenting situation.

Different Applications for a Community Conference in Peacemaking			
<b>A single incident of undisputed harm</b>	<b>A sequence of poorly resolved incidents</b>	<b>An issue of common concern</b>	<b>A legacy of betrayal trauma</b>
What happened and how were people affected?  What now needs to be done to: (a) repair harm, (b) reduce the risk of further harm (c) restore relations	1. Things were good (enough)  2. Things turned bad  3. Things went from bad to worse  4. Now something <i>really</i> needs to be done	We have different <i>specific</i> experiences of the same <i>general</i> situation:  (a) Specific <b>examples</b>  (b) General <b>Issues</b> ( <i>prioritised</i> )  (c) General <b>Options</b>  (d) Specific <b>Actions</b>	An historic abusive situation that has caused trauma:  (a) A narrative of the incident or patterned behaviour  (b) Official or formal response  (c) Shared lessons  (d) Plans of action & support  © D. B. Moore & A. Vernon

40. It is Council officer's view that a successful Peacemaking project will deliver the requisite levels of investment in community engagement, whilst also providing the necessary support to the development of DHHS' new community governance arrangements.
41. DHHS has indicated it's in principle support for the project and it is expected that they will have the opportunity to play an active role to ensure that there is no duplication or confusion about the intent of the Peacemaking project, whilst also implementing improved community governance arrangements to manage local issues.
42. An exact commencement date for the project is yet to be determined. A date will be determined whilst considering the resourcing capacities of each of the stakeholders currently focused on both COVID response and emergency management planning. However, each agency is very supportive of the program and the project will commence as soon as is practical, within the parameters of current health priorities.

#### **External Consultation**

43. Council officers have been working with NJC, North Richmond Community Health and DHHS on the development of the project.
44. Elements of the intent to the project have also been socialised with a number of professional networks within Yarra, containing a broad range of Yarra's existing service providers.

#### **Internal Consultation (One Yarra)**

45. The project has been socialised within the Community Wellbeing Division and will be managed with the support of staff from the Social Strategy and Community Development branch. Additional support will be sought through the communications branch where possible.

#### **Financial Implications**

46. In order to support the implementation of the project, officers intend to allocate a part time role to provide the necessary logistical, relationship building and secretariat support to the project. It is expected that this role will be re-directed from existing resources and within the current operational budget.

#### **Economic Implications**

47. The Peacemaking project has the potential to engage with a diverse group of stakeholders, including traders within the broader precinct.
48. The work of the project is intended to be compatible with work already undertaken by DWELP and the 'Victoria St and Bridge Rd Revitalisation project, aimed at improving economic outcomes in these respective activity centres.

#### **Sustainability Implications**

49. There are no specific sustainability implications to this report

#### **Climate Emergency Implications**

50. There are no specific climate emergency implications to this report

#### **Social Implications**

51. Community amenity and safety relating to drug issues has been one of the biggest areas of concern for residents within the North Richmond and South Abbotsford area for a number of years.
52. Meaningful change, regardless of which strategy is employed will require more community engagement from all of the relevant authorities than has been evident to date.

#### **Human Rights Implications**

53. The project is broadly in line United Nations *Declaration of Human Rights article 19* which states:

*“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”*

### **Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

54. The success of the project will rely heavily on the capacity of the stakeholders to engage widely with the community. NJC, along with Council staff and support from the existing DHHS and BANH community development workers will be important to ensure that communication and engagement occurs with a range of culturally diverse residents.

### **Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications**

55. The objectives of the Peacemaking project are consistent with the Vision set out in the Council Plan (2017-2021) which aims to create *“a vibrant, liveable and sustainable inner city that the community can be proud of.”*
56. The project is also compatible with a number of key Council objectives in the plan including
- (a) Promote a community that is inclusive, resilient, connected and enjoys strong mental and physical health and wellbeing;
  - (b) Assist to reduce the harms from alcohol and drugs on individuals and the community in partnership with state agencies and key service providers; and
  - (c) Provide opportunities for people to be involved in and connect with their community

### **Legal Implications**

57. There are no specific legal implications for this report

### **Other Issues**

58. There are no other issues presented as part of this report.

### **Options**

59. There are no options presented as part of this report.

### **Conclusion**

60. There is a clear need for a better approach to community engagement in North Richmond. Whilst DHHS and NRCH will continue to play a lead role in the medium to long term, the planned Peacemaking project, to be led by NJC in partnership with Council and NRCH has the potential to fill an important gap in the public discourse.
61. Significant investments by the State Government through DHHS, such as the North Richmond Community Capacity Building Initiative, increased staffing and \$9M of further funding each present a unique opportunity to affect major step change within North Richmond.
62. The implementation of the Peacemaking project, led by NJC is a positive step toward achieving a significantly greater outcome for residents, traders and visitors to North Richmond.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council:
- (a) notes and supports the intent of the Neighbourhood Peacemaking project'
  - (b) endorses the temporary allocation of staffing resources to support the project; and
  - (c) request officers provide further reports to Council on the progress and outcomes of the project.

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Lucas Gosling  
**TITLE:** Director Community Wellbeing  
**TEL:** 9205 5440

**Attachments**

There are no attachments for this report.

---

**11.3 Community Grants 2020-2021 Initiation Report**

---

## **Executive Summary**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview and seek endorsement of the process, objectives, priority areas and assessment procedures for the Annual Grants 2021, the Investing in Communities Grants 2021-23, Small Project Grants 2020/2021 and the Room to Create Responsive Grants 2020/2021.

### **Key Issues**

Community Grants aim to support community initiatives and projects that address local issues, increase community resilience, build social capital and enhance the wellbeing of Yarra residents. Due to the administration of the COVID-19 Quick Response Grants, it was necessary to postpone the opening of the regular Yarra grants program (normally opening in June/July each year). The grants program is one of the key strategies by which Council promotes social cohesion and supports projects which aim to strengthen the community.

### **Financial Implications**

The amounts of \$983,888 for the Annual Grants 2021, \$301,790 per annum for three years (+CPI) for the Investing in Communities Grants 2021-23, \$75,863 for the Small Project Grants 2020/21 and \$25,000 for the Room to Create Responsive Grants 2020/21 have been allocated in the draft budget and are subject to the approval of the 2020/2021 budget at the 8 August Council Meeting.

### **PROPOSAL**

That Council endorses the process, objectives, priority areas and assessment procedures for the Annual Grants 2021, the Investing in Communities Grants 2021-23, Small Project Grants 2020/2021 and the Room to Create Responsive Grants 2020/2021 and the guidelines, assessment, monitoring and evaluation processes for each of the programs.

---

## 11.3 Community Grants 2020-2021 Initiation Report

---

Reference: D20/111531

Authoriser: Senior Coordinator Community Development

### Purpose

1. This report provide an overview and seek endorsement of the process, objectives, priority areas and assessment procedures for the Annual Grants 2021, the Investing in Communities Grants 2021-23, Small Project Grants 2020/2021 and the Room to Create Responsive Grants 2020/2021.

### Background

2. Due to the administration of the COVID-19 Quick Response Grants, it was necessary to postpone the opening of the regular Yarra Grants Program (normally opening in June/July each year) and communicating with current grant recipients regarding acquittals, varying funding agreements, and advising numerous community members making enquiries.
3. The April 2 resolution on the COVID-19 Community and Economic Support Package recorded that the Investing in Community Grants, Annual Grants, Small Project and Room to Create grants were to be suspended and that an alternate social investment be made through grant making with criteria to promote resilience and recovery. Given the significant funds allocated through the COVID-19 Community and Economic Support Package, both awarded and remaining, it was established that there was no need to make material changes to these grants and they can proceed as normal.
4. The Annual Grants provide financial and in-kind support for community initiatives and projects. The annual grants are split into a number of different streams, some of which also have sub-categories, and these are: Arts and Culture, Community Development, Community Housing, Family, Youth and Children, Sports and Recreation, Sustainability and Youth-Led Grants. The total budget for 2020/21 is \$983,888.
5. The Investing in Community Grants provide three years of funding (from 2021-23) for projects that benefit people from disadvantaged backgrounds, increase community participation and support the health, wellbeing and connectedness of Yarra residents. The per annum budget in 2020/21 is \$301,790 and the grants run over three years.
6. The Small Project Grants are quick response grants for community groups and artists running projects in Yarra. Funds are split, with 40 percent allocated to Arts and Culture and 60 percent for Community Projects. The total budget in 2020/21 is \$75,863.
7. The Room to Create Responsive Grant Program is a Council initiative that is intended to help creative spaces and live music venues remain in Yarra. The total budget in 2020/21 is \$25,000.
8. The Annual Grants priorities, streams and objectives are similar to those of last year with minor updates. One of the changes is to encourage schools and not-for-profit organisations apply for the costs of street closures through the Community Celebrations grant stream. The Youth-Led Grants (up to \$3,000) have been moved from the Annual Grants to the Small Project Grants program with \$12,000 budgeted. The Sustainability grant stream is now known as the Climate Action stream to reflect its new focus. The grants will open for applications in October and close in November for projects delivered in 2021. The revised Annual Grants guidelines are provided in Attachment One.



9. The \$35,000 that was originally earmarked for The Village in the Celebrate Yarra triennial program for 2021 will be reallocated towards the Arts and Culture stream of the Annual Grants. The Village were not successful in their application for triennial funding under the Celebrate Yarra program for 2019-2021. As a result, the 2020 funds were reallocated to the Arts and Culture stream of the Annual Grants, and it is proposed the same arrangement be made in 2021 due to strong demand for Annual Grants in this stream.
10. The Investing in Communities Grants 2021-23 (ICG) are a competitive grant round of larger grants aimed at making substantial impact in the community over three years. In the previous round there were 10 successful recipients receiving an average of \$30,000 per annum. The grants focus on 27 funding priorities that have been drawn from key strategic plans, namely: Access & Inclusion Plan, Active Ageing Plan, 0-25 Years Plan, Yana Ngargna Community Plan, Reconciliation Action Plan, Multicultural Partnerships Plan, Social and Affordable Housing Strategy, new Homelessness Strategy (which has already been exhibited for community consultation and will be presented to Council for adoption in August), and Yarra Environment Strategy. The ICG guidelines are provided in Attachment Two.
11. The Small Project Grants (SPG) continue to be popular receiving 125 applications in the past year. Eighty grants totalling \$73,700 were awarded in 2019-2020. The SPGs allow organisations and individual artists to gain access to small amounts of funding quickly (up to \$1,000 within four weeks). The funding pool is split \$30,000 for Arts and Culture and \$45,000 for Community Development. The grants will open in August 2020 and close in May 2021 or when the funding pool is exhausted. The SPG 2020/21 guidelines are provided in Attachment Three.
12. The Room to Create Responsive Grants (RTC) were launched in 2015 as a Council response to issues related to noise and patron behaviour complaints experienced by venues. The program has been extended to help creative spaces as well as live music venues to stay in Yarra. \$25,000 has been allocated to the program for 2020/21. The RTC 2020/21 grant guidelines are provided in Attachment Four.
13. The assessment process for the grants is dependent on the size of the grants. The SPGs are assessed internally by Council Officers. However the ICG, RTC and Annual Grants are assessed by community panels, derived from external community representatives and Council Officers.
14. Community panels conduct an assessment process based on the grant guidelines, objectives, criteria and knowledge of stream priorities and community needs. After reviewing the applications, the panel meet to make their recommendations for approval by Council.
15. Council has established a selection criteria for community representation on the panels. Panel members are required to possess:
  - (a) a strong working knowledge of the Yarra community;
  - (b) expertise in, and representative of, a program area relevant to the Annual Grants; and
  - (c) a commitment to complying with the ethical requirements of the process, including confidentiality and declaration of any conflict of interest.
16. Members of the panels will be identified in the confidential recommendations report to Council. The Yarra Arts Advisory Committee (excluding Councillors) will form the Arts and Culture Community Panel. The Yarra Environment Advisory Committee (excluding Councillors) will make up the Sustainability Community Panel. The Community Development panel will have at least one representative from the Disability Advisory Committee.

### **External Consultation**

17. Extensive feedback was gathered at both the application stage and through the acquittal process from grant applicants and recipients. This feedback was collated, and where practical, incorporated into the guidelines and application process for 2021.

**Internal Consultation (One Yarra)**

- 18. We surveyed internal (council officers) and external assessors on their views on the grants process. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive about how the grants program is run. The guidelines and application form are subject to annual review and minor changes are made to improve useability and make the grants process clear as possible. The grants team works throughout the year to improve our governance, accountability and transparency.
- 19. The Community Grants are a cross-organisational program. The grants team regularly engages and consults with stream managers and internal assessors who are integral to the effective running of the grants program. Stream managers and internal assessors come from the following branches and units: Community Development; Family, Youth and Children Services; Arts, Culture and Venues; Aged and Disability Services, Sustainability and Strategic Transport; and Sports and Recreation.

**Financial Implications**

- 20. The amounts of \$983,888 for the Annual Grants 2021, \$301,790 per annum for three years (+CPI) for the Investing in Communities Grants 2021-23, \$75,863 for the Small Project Grants 2020/21 and \$25,000 for the Room to Create Responsive Grants 2020/21 have been allocated in the draft budget and are subject to the approval of the 2020/2021 budget at the 8 August Council Meeting.
- 21. The proposed budget for the Annual Grants 2021 is shown in this table alongside the budgets in 2019 and 2020:

<b>Funding Streams</b>	<b>2018 Allocation</b>	<b>2020 Allocation</b>	<b>Proposed 2021 Allocation</b>
Community Development	\$341,500	\$351,570	\$379,388
Family, Children and Youth	\$161,000	\$162,000	\$163,000
Climate Change	\$40,000	\$42,000	\$50,000
Arts and Culture	\$214,000	\$229,030	\$270,000
Sports	\$56,000	\$56,000	\$56,000
Yarra Housing Grant	\$52,500	\$53,500	\$53,500
Youth-Led Grants	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$12,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$874,000</b>	<b>\$903,100</b>	<b>\$983,888</b>

**Economic Implications**

- 22. Community Grants strengthen the community sector through providing a flexible and responsive source of funds to community-based Not-for-Profit organisations. Funding is used to support projects that deliver the outcomes outlined within the Council Plan, target the areas of highest need within the community, and ultimately aim to improve the long term economic outlook for local individuals, families and businesses through strengthening the capacity of local organisations.
- 23. Grants redistribute funds to those less advantaged in the community. Projects that are funded to support new arrivals, young people and families through skills development or projects that support service coordination also have an indirect economic benefit.

**Sustainability Implications**

- 24. All grant applicants are encouraged to consider the environmental impact of their projects and ways in which to minimise their ecological footprint. All applicants, regardless of which grant round they are applying for, are asked to consider ways of reducing and/or re-using resources
- 25. All applicants are encouraged to submit their applications online, reducing the need for printed forms. The Guidelines will also be available online. The assessments, both internal and external, will also take place online.

### **Climate Emergency Implications**

26. The Sustainability grant stream is now known as the Climate Action stream in recognition of the climate emergency. The sum of \$50,000 has been set aside towards this stream; an increase of 19 per cent to last year. This funding will help community organisations lead the fight against climate change through grassroots projects.

### **Social Implications**

27. The Annual Grants Program aims to address social needs across various areas: arts and culture, environment, community development, sport and recreation, family, children and youth. Social objectives addressed within the grants program are:
- (a) building a sense of community through:
    - (i) cultural activities: community celebrations, observance of traditional celebration days, cultural festivals and events;
    - (ii) recognition of diversity: projects that strengthen Yarra's diverse community or celebrate and recognise diversity; and
    - (iii) social cohesion: projects which seek to bring people together and support the development of communities with shared aims and aspirations; and
  - (b) promoting and improving community health and wellbeing through:
    - (i) recreation opportunities: sports, social recreation, walking and improving access to recreational activities;
    - (ii) improving health and wellbeing: food security, nutrition, skills development, health information, social engagement and support; and
    - (iii) promoting the participation of people with a disability in cultural, social and civic activities: encouraging organisers to increase the accessibility of their events and programs.
28. These grants, along with the resources provided through the COVID-19 Community and Economic Support Package, will help community organisations to regroup from the detrimental social effects of COVID-19 when Government restrictions ease.

### **Human Rights Implications**

29. The Community Grants Guidelines are in alignment with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and actively support people to participate in and contribute to their community.

### **Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

30. The grants are one of the most visible ways in which the Council interacts with local CALD community organisations who are encouraged and supported to apply. Interpreters are available upon request at information sessions and meetings with the grants team. More than 30 CALD organisations were directly helped with their applications in last year's grants.

### **Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications**

31. The 2017 - 2021 Council Plan closely guides the Community Grants objectives. Community Grants are intended to support the delivery of the Council Plan and are a key way in which those objectives can be achieved in partnership with the community.
32. Six of the seven key objectives of the Council Plan relate to the Grants Program:
- (a) *Community health, safety and wellbeing are a focus in everything we do:* The Community Grants Program provides a flexible and responsive source of funds to support projects and initiatives within the not for profit community sector. The program supports Council's commitment to social justice and social inclusion principles, and provides support to communities living in Yarra's public housing estates. Many of the grants address social issues which improve community health and safety by seeking to resolve some of the urban problems of poverty, drug addiction and family violence;

- (b) *Inclusion, diversity and uniqueness are welcomed, respected and celebrated:* The program provides support for community groups to offer inclusive and diverse activities, services, information and cultural celebrations, particularly in the arts and cultural and community development stream;
- (c) *Council leads on sustainability and protects and enhances its natural environment:* The provision of a Climate Action stream which provides support to local community groups through community education and engagement in environmental sustainability. All applicants are asked to consider the environmental impact of their project;
- (d) *Local businesses prosper and creative and knowledge industries thrive:* The Social Enterprise Grants have helped numerous local small businesses over the years to provide support to the community;
- (e) *Connectivity and travel options are environmentally sustainable, integrated and well-designed:* Bicycle projects have been prioritised through the grants which incorporate the City of Yarra Bike Strategy; and
- (f) *Transparency, performance and community participation drive the way we operate:* Yarra City Council's Community Grants Program is a recognised leader among Local Government in Victoria. As well as having a diverse grants program, Yarra's grants have been an innovative means of connecting with and supporting local communities and involving them in the decision making process.

### **Legal Implications**

33. The grants program enables Council to achieve some of the basic tenets of the *Local Government Act 1989*:
- (a) Section 3C to promote the social, economic and environmental viability and sustainability of the municipal district;
  - (b) Section 3D fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic life; and,
  - (c) Section 3E planning for and providing services and facilities for the local community.
34. Council has not sought legal advice in relation to the grants program this year.

### **Other Issues**

35. There are no other issues.

### **Options**

36. There are no options provided.

### **Conclusion**

37. The Community Grants remains a key way for Council to invest in community through a responsive community-focused program. A significant investment of resources is allocated for this purpose with strong outcomes in the community.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
  - (a) endorses the guidelines for the Annual Grants 2021, Investing in Communities Grant Program 2021-2023, Small Project Grants 2020/2021 and Room to Create Responsive Grants 2020/2021;
  - (b) appoint the Yarra Arts Advisory Committee (excluding Councillors) as the community panel for the Arts and Culture grants stream;
  - (c) endorses the proposal to appoint community representatives to serve on the ICG and Annual Grant assessment panels; and,
  - (d) notes the amounts of \$983,888 for the Annual Grants 2021, \$301,790 per annum for three years (+CPI) for the Investing in Communities Grants 2021-23, \$75,863 for the Small Project Grants 2020/21 and \$25,000 for the Room to Create Responsive Grants 2020/21 have been allocated in the draft budget and are subject to the approval of the 2020/2021 budget at the 8 August Council Meeting.

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Michael Van Vliet  
**TITLE:** Team Leader Community Grants  
**TEL:** 9205 5146

### Attachments

- 1 [⇒](#) Attachment 1 - Annual Grant Guidelines 2021 FINAL
- 2 [⇒](#) Attachment 2 - Investing in Communities 2021-2023 Grant Guidelines
- 3 [⇒](#) Attachment 3 - Small Project Grant Guidelines 2020-2021
- 4 [⇒](#) Attachment 4 - Room to Create Responsive Grant Guidelines 2020-2021

---

## 11.4 Governance Rules

---

Reference: D20/122295  
 Authoriser: Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

### Purpose

1. To endorse Proposed Governance Rules and place them on exhibition ahead of their anticipated presentation to Council for adoption ahead of the 1 September 2020 deadline in the *Local Government Act 2020*.

### Background

2. On 24 March 2020, the *Local Government Act 2020* received Royal Assent, marking the end of a reform process that has taken place over the past three years.
3. Background information, including a link to the Act itself can be found at <https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/our-programs/local-government-act-2020>
4. One feature of the Act is that implementation will take place progressively, with a number of milestones triggering specific provisions of the 2020 Act, while simultaneously rescinding the equivalent provisions of the 1989 Act.
5. On 6 April 2020, Stage 1 took effect, which included:
  - (a) new definitions of 'confidential information' for Council reports (narrower definitions);
  - (b) new provisions for the closure of meetings to the public (can be closed where people are disrupting the meeting); and
  - (c) completely restructured electoral provisions (requiring postal votes, compulsory voting for over 70s and the eventual move to single member wards).
6. On 1 May 2020, Stage 2 took effect, and requires the delivery of a number of specific matters on or before 1 September 2020:
  - (a) Governance Rules;
  - (b) Expenses Policy;
  - (c) Delegated Committees;
  - (d) Asset Committees;
  - (e) Audit and Risk Committee Charter; and
  - (f) Public Transparency Policy.
7. This report responds to point (a) above and presents a draft set of Governance Rules and accompanying Council Meetings Operations Policy and recommends that Council endorse these documents and place them on public exhibition in order to receive community feedback ahead of their further consideration by Council in August.

### Governance Rules

8. The Draft Governance Rules at **Attachment One** have been developed based on a template provided by Council's solicitors.
9. In developing the draft rules, officers have sought to follow the template where possible, but have made a number of adjustments to ensure that Yarra City Council's public meeting retain their characteristic of being open, transparent and inclusive.
10. The review of the rules (and a number of changes in the Local Government Act itself) has provided an opportunity to make a number of changes to the current arrangements. The key changes are:

- (a) the right to make a submission on every matter that comes to a Council meeting will now be enshrined in our rules for the first time. This has been a long standing feature of our meetings, but was never formally part of our meeting procedures;
  - (b) it will no longer be possible to elect a Mayor or Deputy Mayor by 'pulling a name from a hat' in the event of a tie. Our rules now require that both roles be elected by an absolute majority;
  - (c) we're requiring that notices of meetings, agendas and minutes all have to be published on our website, as well as the timetable for the annual meeting schedule. That has been the practice for many years at Yarra, but it hasn't been required by our rules until now;
  - (d) we're removing a provision which allowed motions to be carried automatically and without a vote of the Council in certain circumstances and requiring that resolutions can only be carried following a formal vote; and
  - (e) we're removing the requirement to use gender specific pronouns when addressing the Mayor and staff in meetings.
11. Our review and examination of what other jurisdictions are doing, shows us that in many ways, Yarra's meetings demonstrate best practice in inclusivity and accessibility. To that end, the following provisions are not proposed to change:
- (a) we will continue to live stream our Council Meetings, and publish recordings on our website;
  - (b) we will conduct all of our voting by show of hands – so you can see exactly who voted for each motion;
  - (c) we will retain Public Question Time at Council meetings, and not require people to register in advance or submit their question in writing (although we will make it possible for people to do so if they wish); and
  - (d) we will continue to make sure all conflicts of interest are openly and transparently declared and recorded.

#### Council Meetings Operations Policy

12. The Draft Council Meetings Operations Policy at **Attachment Two** has been developed following a review of the existing policy adopted by Council in September 2019 which set out, for the first time, the processes for public question time, public submissions, live streaming and publication of certain matters on Council's website.
13. The review was limited to making only those changes necessary to ensure compliance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Draft Governance Rules. The proposed changes are shown in the marked up document attached and are limited to:
- (a) adjusting references to section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 to also include references to consultations conducted under our soon to be adopted Community Engagement Policy;
  - (b) incorporating processes for the receipt of petitions in the policy, rather than a standalone procedure;
  - (c) removing references to "Special Meetings" (which have not been carried over to the 2020 Act);
  - (d) removing provisions for the conclusion of meetings at 11.00pm which are intended to be included in the Governance Rules; and
  - (e) updating references to the 1989 Act to the equivalent provisions in the 2020 Act throughout.

### **External Consultation**

14. There has been no direct external consultation in the development of the draft Governance Rules.
15. Following Council's endorsement of the proposed rules, they will be placed on exhibition via the YourSayYarra page from 22 July to 9 August 2020. This exhibition period will enable the community to provide feedback on both the proposed Governance Rules and the Council Meetings Operations Policy.
16. Following the exhibition period, submissions will be considered and a further draft will be brought back to Council for consideration at its meeting on 18 August 2020. Submitters will be invited to attend this meeting.
17. This exhibition process is modelled on section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 and follows advice from our solicitors that this is the most appropriate mechanism. That process will be launched on YourSayYarra as soon as the proposed Governance Rules are endorsed by Council.
18. Council's solicitors have provided significant advice in the development of the Governance Rules, and provided a template upon which our (and much of the Victorian Local Government sector's) rules are based.
19. Benchmarking has taken place with IMAP and neighbouring Councils in respect of two matters arising from the review of the Instruments of Delegation.

### **Internal Consultation (One Yarra)**

20. Internal consultation has taken place primarily at the Executive level, including a discussion at the Executive Team Meeting on 15 June and 13 July 2020 and the facilitation of a Governance Workshop with Councillors on 13 July 2020.
21. A number of specific consultations have taken place internally with subject matter experts.

### **Financial Implications**

22. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **Economic Implications**

23. There are no economic implications arising from this report.

### **Sustainability Implications**

24. There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

### **Climate Emergency Implications**

25. There are no climate emergency implications arising from this report.

### **Social Implications**

26. There are no social implications arising from this report.

### **Human Rights Implications**

27. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **Communications with CALD Communities Implications**

28. It is not proposed to undertake targeted communication with CALD communities in the consideration of the Governance Rules, although the YourSayYarra page contains relevant multilingual messaging and access to translation services.

### **Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications**

29. Aside from the matters directly addressed in the discussion paper, there are no other Council Plan, Strategy and Policy implications arising from this report.



### Legal Implications

30. Council is obligated to meet the 1 September 2020 deadline in the Local Government Act 2020.

### Other Issues

31. There are no other issues identified in the development of this report.

### Options

32. In order to meet the legislative timelines for the Adoption of Governance Rules, Council must adopt a set of proposed rules at this meeting. It is open to Council to make modifications to the draft rules (and policy) by alternate resolution.
33. Council will have a further opportunity make changes to the rules and policy at the Council meeting on 18 August 2020.

### Conclusion

34. Officers recommend that Council place the draft Governance Rules and Draft Council Meetings Operations Policy on exhibition in order to receive feedback in time to adopt its Governance Rules in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
  - (a) endorse the Draft Governance Rules at **Attachment One**;
  - (b) endorse the Draft Council Meetings Operations Policy at **Attachment Two**;
  - (c) place both the Proposed Governance Rules and Proposed Council Meetings Operations Policy on exhibition from 22 July to 9 August 2020; and
  - (d) receive a further report on the outcomes of the consultation process at its meeting on 18 August 2020, and invite submitters to present to Council if they would like.

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Rhys Thomas  
**TITLE:** Senior Governance Advisor  
**TEL:** 9205 5302

### Attachments

- 1 [↔](#) Attachment 1 - Draft Governance Rules 2020 (including Election Period Policy)
- 2 [↔](#) Attachment 2 - Draft Council Meetings Operations Policy (showing markups)