



# Agenda

## Extraordinary Council Meeting

6.30pm, Monday 5 June 2023

Richmond Town Hall

## Council Meetings

Council Meetings are public forums where Councillors come together to meet as a Council and make decisions about important, strategic and other matters. The Mayor presides over all Council Meetings, and they are conducted in accordance with the City of Yarra Governance Rules.

Council meetings are decision-making forums and only Councillors have a formal role. However, Council is committed to transparent governance and to ensuring that any person whose rights will be directly affected by a decision of Council is entitled to communicate their views and have their interests considered before the decision is made.

## Addressing the Council

An opportunity exists to make your views known about a matter that is listed on the agenda for this meeting by addressing the Council directly before a decision is made.

### Registration

To ask address Council, you will need to register by 6.30pm on the day before the meeting. Late registrations cannot be accepted, and you will be unable to address the meeting without registration.

### Addressing the Council

Before each item is considered by the Council, the Mayor will invite everyone who has registered in relation to that item to address the Council. When your turn comes, come forward to the microphone and:

- state your name;
- direct your statement to the Mayor;
- confine your submission to the subject being considered;
- avoid repeating previous submitters;
- don't ask questions or seek comments from Councillors or others; and
- if speaking on behalf of a group, explain the nature of the group and how you are able to speak on their behalf.

You will be provided a maximum of three minutes to speak, but do not need to use all of this time.

### Comments not allowed

When you are addressing the meeting, don't make any comments which:

- relate to something other than the matter being considered by the Council;
- are defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable;
- are aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or a member of Council staff;
- include or relate to confidential information; or
- relate to something that is subject to legal proceedings.

## Arrangements to ensure our meetings are accessible to the public

Council meetings are held on the first floor at Richmond Town Hall. Access to the building is available either by the stairs, or via a ramp and lift. Seating is provided to watch the meeting, and the room is wheelchair accessible. Accessible toilet facilities are available. Speakers at the meeting are invited to stand at a lectern to address the Council, and all participants are amplified via an audio system. Meetings are conducted in English.

If you are unable to participate in this environment, we can make arrangements to accommodate you if sufficient notice is given. Some examples of adjustments are:

- a translator in your language
- the presence of an Auslan interpreter
- loan of a portable hearing loop
- reconfiguring the room to facilitate access
- modification of meeting rules to allow you to participate more easily

## Recording and Publication of Meetings

A recording is made of all public Council Meetings and then published on Council's website. By participating in proceedings (including during 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.

## Order of business

1. **Acknowledgement of Country**
2. **Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence**
3. **Declarations of conflict of interest**
4. **Council business reports**

## 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

### Attendance

#### Councillors

- Cr Claudia Nguyen Mayor
- Cr Edward Crossland Deputy Mayor
- Cr Michael Glynatsis Councillor
- Cr Stephen Jolly Councillor
- Cr Herschel Landes Councillor
- Cr Anab Mohamud Councillor
- Cr Bridgid O’Brien Councillor
- Cr Amanda Stone Councillor
- Cr Sophie Wade Councillor

#### Council staff

##### *Chief Executive Officer*

- Sue Wilkinson Chief Executive Officer

##### *General Managers*

- Brooke Colbert Governance, Communications and Customer Experience
- Kerry McGrath Community Strengthening
- Peter Moran Infrastructure and Environment (Acting)
- Mary Osman City Sustainability and Strategy
- Jenny Scicluna Corporate Services and Transformation

##### *Governance*

- Phil De Losa Manager Governance and Integrity
- Rhys Thomas Senior Governance Advisor
- Mel Nikou Governance Officer

## 3. Declarations of conflict of interest

Any Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at this meeting is required to disclose that interest either by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present or advising that they have disclosed the nature of the interest in writing to the Chief Executive Officer before the meeting commenced.

#### 4. Council business reports

<b>Item</b>		<b>Page</b>	<b>Rec. Page</b>	<b>Report Presenter</b>
4.1	Hearing of Community Feedback in Relation to the Draft 2023/24 Budget and Associated Documents	7	10	Wei Chen - Chief Financial Officer

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## 4.1 Hearing of Community Feedback in Relation to the Draft 2023/24 Budget and Associated Documents

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<b>Reference</b>	D23/187958
<b>Author</b>	Shane Looney - Corporate Planner
<b>Authoriser</b>	General Manager Corporate Services and Transformation

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### Purpose

1. To hear any person who wishes to speak in support of written feedback to the Draft 2023/24 Budget and Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2032/33 and Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2023/24.

### Critical analysis

#### History and background

2. Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 provides that Council must prepare and adopt a Budget for each financial year and the subsequent 3 financial years.
3. Section 96 of the Local Government Act 2020 provides that Council must develop the budget in accordance with its community engagement policy.
4. Section 91 of the Local Government Act 2020 provides that Council must develop, adopt and keep in force a Long-Term Financial Plan for period of at least the next 10 financial years in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.
5. At its meeting on 18 April 2023, Council resolved to adopt for the purpose of seeking feedback;
  - (a) The Draft Budget 2023 – 24;
  - (b) The Draft Revenue & Rating Plan 2023 – 24; and
  - (c) The Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2023/2024 to 2032/2033.
6. The draft Budget and associated plans were developed over six months through a rigorous process of review by Council and Council Officers.
7. The draft Budget aligns with Yarra's Council Plan 2021-25 and the Community Vision.
8. There have been two stages of community engagement for the draft budget. The first stage occurred prior to the preparation of the draft budget between November and December 2022 and the second stage included a public exhibition period between 21 April and 19 May 2023.
9. At the time of writing, Council had received feedback from 73 people in relation to the draft budget and 65 comments in relation to the separation of waste services charges.

#### Discussion

10. Like all other councils across Victoria, Yarra is facing financial challenges with rising cost pressures, rate capping and cost shifting, coupled with unprecedented growth and increasing pressure and demand on its services.
11. More recently, changes to the current economic landscape have compounded these challenges with high levels of inflation and significant increases to cost of services, labour, energy and construction materials. Work to meet these challenges will need to be ongoing and require constant attention. There is no single solution- rather a holistic approach will be required.

12. The draft 2023/24 budget seeks to strike a balance between addressing financial challenges, prioritising existing services and infrastructure and delivering a range of projects that will help achieve our community's vision for Yarra. In addition, Council has made the decision to separate waste and recycling costs from general rates and to implement a separate rate for public and kerbside waste services. This would be achieved by reducing general rates by the equivalent value.

### Community Engagement

13. Stage 1 of community engagement on the 2023/24 budget took place from November to December in 2022.
14. We invited the community to share its priorities and ideas for the 2023-24 Budget and received feedback from almost 500 people in the community. Feedback was invited online via 'Your Say Yarra' and through a series of in person pop ups at various locations across the City of Yarra. A youth forum was also held to capture the priorities of young people living in the city. The feedback from the community has assisted in the development of the draft Budget and Long Term Financial Plan.
15. The Draft 2023/24 Budget and associated documents were presented to the Ordinary Council meeting on 18 April 2023. These were adopted in principle, to seek community feedback.
16. Stage 2 of community engagement included a public exhibition period which closed on 19 May, seeking feedback on the draft Budget, draft Long Term Financial Plan and draft Revenue and Rating Plan. Engagement during the exhibition period included:
  - (a) Online engagement portal - Your Say Yarra feedback opportunities;
  - (b) Hard copy draft budgets available at town halls and posted if requested; and
  - (c) Community engagement sessions (incorporating separate waste services charge sessions) four pop-up information sessions across the municipality and two waste station events and dedicated engagement session for young people during April and May 2023.
17. A dedicated Your Say Yarra webpage was created for both the draft Budget and waste charge and attracted 4,776 views from 2,112 unique visitors. The page and in-person pop ups were promoted through the following communications channels:
  - (a) 31 social media posts;
  - (b) Social media advertisements reaching approximately 258,633 people;
  - (c) Ten Council email newsletters reaching an approximate total of 33,748 subscribers;
  - (d) Seven-page spread in the April/May edition of Yarra News;
  - (e) Three news items featured on the home page of the corporate website;
  - (f) Static information stations of printed collateral available at events and all Council venues;
  - (g) A stakeholder webinar was held via Zoom to provide key community partners information about the separation of waste service charges;
  - (h) Direct mail-outs to 47,785 properties with a focus on the waste charge and promoting local pop-up sessions; and
  - (i) The in-person pop up events were also promoted through a direct mail out to people living in close proximity to the event site.



18. In recognition of the diversity of our community, the following activities aimed to support engagement with our CALD community:
  - (a) Our Bicultural Liaison Officers attended all in person events;
  - (b) The Bicultural Liaison Officers represented the top five ratepayer language groups. Additional language support in other languages was available if needed;
  - (c) Information on Your Say Yarra is able to be instantly translated into ten languages through our translations tool to further assist people who speak a language other than English;
  - (d) In-language translations of brochures;
  - (e) In-language advertisements in CALD newspapers (Neos Kosmos, Asian Multi Media, Il Globo and Viet Times); and
  - (f) Promotion through CALD radio stations.
19. A significant number of in-person engagement opportunities were also created;
  - (a) Eleven in-person engagement events to promote the draft Budget 2023/24 and explain the separation of the waste services charge;
  - (b) A dedicated youth event was held at the Yarra Youth Centre;
  - (c) A family-friendly Depot Open Day was held to provide an insight into a variety of Council services; and
  - (d) Events were held in almost every suburb in the municipality.
20. Council received feedback on Draft 2023/24 Budget and Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2032/33 and Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2023/24 from 73 contributors. Some contributors raised multiple issues in their feedback with a total of 108 issues referenced.
21. Council also received 65 comments on the separation of waste services charges.
22. A summary table of the themes raised in the feedback/comments can be found at **Attachment 1**.

#### Options

23. There are no options to be considered in this report.

### Policy analysis

#### Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

24. Council has adopted its first Community Vision on 20 July 2021, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020. The Vision – Yarra 2036 - identifies the long-term aspirations and priorities of the community and provide a future lens to guide planning and decision making.
25. The Council Plan 2021-25, formally adopted on 19 October 2021 in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, addresses Yarra 2036 Community Vision and outlines six Strategic Objectives, representing Council's direction for the next four years.
26. The Draft Budget and Draft LTFP incorporate the financial resources necessary to implement the Council Plan objectives and strategies over the next 4 years and to work towards achieving the Community Vision over the next 10 years.

#### Climate emergency and sustainability implications

27. There are no climate emergency and sustainability implications considered in the report.

#### Community and social implications

28. There are no community and social implications considered in this report.

#### Economic development implications

29. There are no economic development implications considered in this report.

### [Human rights and gender equality implications](#)

30. There are no human rights and gender equality implications considered in this report.

### Operational analysis

#### [Financial and resource impacts](#)

31. The Budget has major financial implications for Council's current and future operations and financial direction into the future.

#### [Legal Implications](#)

32. The Draft 2022/23 Budget and associated documents have been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

### Conclusion

33. Council has received feedback on the Draft 2023/24 Budget and Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2032/33 and Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2023/24 and is providing an opportunity for contributors to present their feedback in person prior to the Council meeting to adopt the 2023/24 Budget on 19 June 2022.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
  - (a) receives and notes the written and verbal feedback received in relation to the Draft 2023/24 Budget, Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2032/33 and Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2023/24; and
  - (b) thanks the community members for their attendance in support of their written feedback.

### Attachments

- 1 Attachment 1 - Draft 2023-24 Budget Community Feedback Summary