February / March 2024

yarranews



Our rapid capital works progress page 9

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Celebrating our Community Award winners below and page 12



Message from the Mayor

Hi everyone,

As 2024 unfolds, Yarra is excited to lead with our new



Financial Sustainability Strategy, a first for a Victorian council. This strategy reflects our commitment to the responsible management of ratepayers' funds and good governance; and ensures that we can meet the service and infrastructure needs of our community, now and into the future.

The launch of our Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) bins is coming up in July, a major step forward towards environmental sustainability and a circular economy. We are grateful for the community's support of this important initiative and will continue to work with all parties as it's introduced.

In line with our sustainability goals, we recently installed Yarra's first reverse vending machine at Collingwood Leisure Centre, as part of Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme. This facility supports recycling and rewards residents with refunds for eligible containers.

We've renewed our commitment to advocating on behalf of residents living in public housing. Affordable housing is a significant priority for Council and we strongly oppose the privatisation of public housing sites across Yarra. We are urging the Victorian Government to maintain existing public housing, and to increase public and social housing to address the housing affordability crisis.

We continue to advocate to the Victorian Government for more public open space for our city and have expressed disappointment over their refusal to increase developer contributions for this cause. More than 85% of Yarra's population lives in medium or high-density housing, and our community relies on public open spaces for health and well-being.

With the return of Victoria's Pride Street Party, we're excited to unveil the updated rainbow footpaths on Smith Street, which now include the Intersex Inclusive Progress Pride Flag. I look forward to speaking with you at our 'Meet the Mayor' pop-up at the street party on Sunday 11 February, and at other events in Yarra throughout the year.

Let's make 2024 a year of positive change and strong community spirit!

Cr Edward Crossland Mayor City of Yarra

Wurundjeri Acknowledgement

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

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 and to their Elders past, present and future.

Stay connected with Yarra

- Online at yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Sign up for our community engagement e-news and have your say on projects at yoursayyarra.com.au
- Follow us on Facebook or Instagram (@cityofyarra) and Twitter (@yarracouncil)
- Register for our monthly e-news at yarracity.vic.gov.au/yarralife

On the cover: Yarra Community Award winners: Citizen of the Year Mubarek Imam (right) and Young Citizen of the Year Bol Mayan (left).



Latest News

Pride Flag footpaths in Fitzroy get an update

In a celebration of inclusivity, we have updated the iconic rainbow footpaths on Smith Street in Fitzroy to include the Intersex Inclusive Progress Pride Flag. First painted on the corners of Peel Street / Smith Street and Gertrude Street / Smith Street in 2014, the rainbow footpaths have evolved from a temporary treatment into a permanent community landmark. This refresh demonstrates our continued support for the LGBTIQA+ community, and Council's commitment to fostering an inclusive Yarra. Find out more about Victoria's Pride Street Party, taking place on Sunday 11 February, on page 15.

Yarra awarded Community Champion for My Smart Garden program

Our My Smart Garden program, a collaboration with ten other Melbourne councils, has been recognised with the Community Champion award at the Premier's Sustainability Awards. This initiative supports residents in creating sustainable gardens in various spaces, offering free resources on food, water,

shelter, habitat, and waste management. It also fosters community connections and educates on sustainable living practices. The program has also received the Tidy Cities Award in the Education Category at the Tidy Towns and Cities Sustainability Awards.

Yarra hosts local climate conference as part of global action

In late November we held a mini-Conference of the Parties to the Convention (mini-COP) local stocktake, as part of global contributions to the COP28 in Dubai, which took place in December. This gathering of community and experts generated key ideas for sustainable living and environmental care, emphasising climate justice and community empowerment. The outcomes of the summit are contributing to global climate discussions, showcasing Yarra's commitment to innovative and equitable environmental solutions.

For more details on these stories and other news, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/news



FOGO bins to roll out this July

A new kerbside waste stream is coming to Yarra in 2024.

Residents and organisations that receive a kerbside collection service from Yarra Council will receive a new lime green-lidded bin that will collect food and garden organic (FOGO) materials. This will be collected and turned into compost, reducing emissions from landfill and contributing to Victoria's circular economy.

Why are we introducing this service?

Our community wants a future for Yarra where people and nature thrive in a safe climate.

Each year, we collect around 13,000 tonnes of material from residents and organisations that is sent to landfill, with approximately 40% made up of food and organic materials. These materials in

landfill break down over time, releasing large volumes of methane, contributing to climate change.

By finding new uses for our food and garden organic materials and keeping them in circulation, we can reduce the volume of material sent to landfill. This will create new jobs, reduce harm to our climate, protect our environment, and build a more sustainable future.

Planning for the introduction of a FOGO service began in 2019 with the introduction of our Abbotsford four-bin waste trial. The trial has been overwhelmingly successful, with a 60% rate of diversion from landfill and strong support from the community.

Our community has been advocating for the introduction of municipality-wide FOGO for a long time through many Council strategies. The most notable of these are the Council Plan, Community Vision and our engagement on the Circular Economy Strategy.

How do I best use this service?

There are three steps you can keep in mind if you want to minimise the amount of food waste you produce at home:

1. Food waste avoidance

Reduce the amount of food you throw away by being intentional with your purchasing habits.

2. Composting/worm farming

Take advantage of Yarra's partnership with Compost Revolution to deal with your food waste at home.

3. Use your FOGO bin

Place your remaining food and garden organic materials in your FOGO bin for collection.

What does this mean for Yarra?

If you receive a Council waste collection service, you will receive a new lime green-lidded FOGO bin before 1 July 2024. The FOGO collection service will begin on 1 July 2024.

Except for the Abbotsford trial area: This FOGO kerbside collection service will be added in all suburbs without changing the existing waste collection service for

rubbish, recycling and glass. The collection frequency for the municipality will be:

- weekly FOGO and rubbish
- fortnightly glass and recycling

Waste collection in the Abbotsford trial area, where a FOGO service is currently in place, will remain unchanged:

- weekly FOGO
- fortnightly glass, rubbish and recycling

What happens to the materials collected in the FOGO bin?

We will collect the materials in your lime green-lidded FOGO bin and transport this valuable resource to our material processing partner RepurposelT's facility in Epping to be turned into compost. The compost will primarily be used on farms to grow fresh local food, as well as in parks and gardens.

Where can I learn more?



For more information about the upcoming FOGO service including which materials will be accepted and future updates, check out our new

webpage by scanning the QR code or visiting **yarracity.vic.gov.au/FOGO**

Grow with Yarra: Community Growing Spaces

Express your interest to attend our next free online workshop to learn about sustainable, low-maintenance food gardening in Yarra's public spaces. Discover how our planter boxes, using compost from FOGO waste, embody the circular economy in action. Transform your street into a green, community focused space.



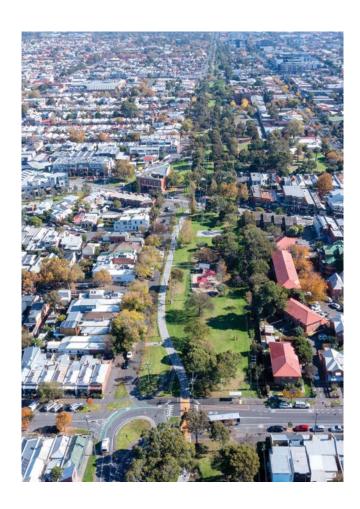
Find out more at yarracity.vic.gov.au/grow



Our push for more public open space

We are advocating to the Victorian Government for more public open space, and expressed disappointment over the Victorian Government's rejection of our interim request to increase developer contributions specifically for this purpose.

Yarra has an urgent need for such spaces, with a community where over 85% of residents live in medium or high-density housing. The delay in decision-making by the government, despite a recommendation from an Independent Planning Panel supporting our request, has raised concerns. We seek transparency from the government and stress the importance of public spaces for the health, well-being, and recreational needs of residents and workers, particularly in growing areas like Cremorne and Collingwood.



'Thanks for 30': Keeping our streets safe

We're expanding the 30km/h speed limit area in Fitzroy and Collingwood, following Council endorsement and Victorian Government approval of a new trial area. Subject to securing funding, the trial would commence in 2024 and expand the existing 30km/h area to cover the remainder of Fitzroy and Collingwood, excluding major roads – Johnston Street, Nicholson Street, Hoddle Street, Alexandra Parade, and Victoria Parade.

Fitzroy and Collingwood are some of the busiest areas for vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists. The benefits of a 30km/h speed limit are backed by a range of health and safety organisations around the world and in Australia

including the World Health Organisation, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Victoria Walks, Pedestrian Council of Australia, the Bicycle Network, and the Heart Foundation.

Research shows that a pedestrian or cyclist has a 40% chance of being killed at 40km/h and only a 10% chance of being killed at 30km/h. We are proud to be championing safety in our community with a 30km/h speed limit. There is a clear body of evidence from across the globe, that slower travel speeds save lives.

Together, we can make our streets safer for everyone to enjoy, whether you are walking, driving, or cycling.



Standing up for public housing residents

Council strongly opposes plans by the Victorian Government to demolish 44 public housing towers across the state, including 12 towers in Fitzroy, Collingwood and Richmond.

Access to public, community and affordable housing is an important priority among our advocacy efforts. We oppose the privatisation of public housing sites and are urging the Victorian Government to maintain existing public housing, and to ensure a significant increase in public and social housing dwellings to address the housing affordability crisis.

Yarra's commitment to community advocacy

We will continue to strengthen our partnerships with other levels of government to represent and advocate for reforms, investment and projects which reflect our community's needs. Our Advocacy Action Plan outlines our priorities to make sure the voice and needs of our community are heard and addressed at State and Federal levels of government.

What is Advocacy?



Advocacy is the act of speaking up for, supporting, and working towards a cause or policy. In the context of

local government, it involves the Council advocating or lobbying to State and Federal government for outcomes that benefit the community. Learn more and read our recently-launched Advocacy Action Plan at yarracity.vic.gov.au/advocacy

Leading the way in financial responsibility

In a demonstration of transparency and good governance, Council recently endorsed Victoria's first-ever council Financial Sustainability Strategy.

The strategy aims to strengthen Council's financial health, focusing on smart investments and sensible financial management for long-term community benefits.

The valuable feedback we received from our community has informed this strategy. The community's insights and contributions were vital in shaping our approach, ensuring that Council's financial decisions reflect the community's needs and priorities.

Goals of the strategy include:

- Short-term (0 to 2 years): Maintain a positive financial state, reduce reliance on loans, and start saving for specific purposes.
- Medium-term (3 to 5 years): Build sufficient savings to repay loans and cover all costs, with about \$20 million

- in cash reserves for growth and unexpected needs.
- Long-term (10 years): Aim for \$30 million in cash reserves to support unforeseen expenses and population growth, without compromising key services.

To guarantee the success of this strategy, Council will regularly review and adapt it. This ensures our financial management stays effective and responsive to evolving needs and circumstances, keeping us on track with our long-term objectives.



Find out more and read the strategy in full at yarracity.vic.gov.au/fss



Building a better Yarra



We have successfully completed **70%** of our planned infrastructure projects for this financial year, marking a big step in improving community facilities and services.

Yarra has been buzzing with activity as we've been hard at work to ensure our infrastructure meets the needs of our residents, now and into the future.

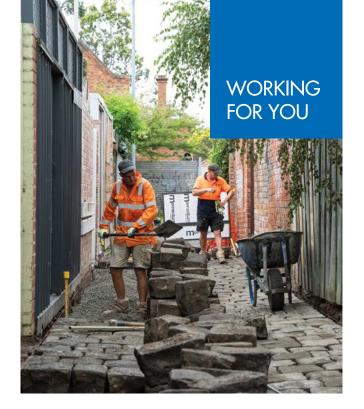
Here's a snapshot of the progress we've made:

A significant milestone in capital works

We have completed 70% of our Annual Capital Works Projects for the financial year ending June 2024 – that's over 50 capital works projects in under six months. These improvements include footpath and road pavement revamps, raised crossings, tree root maintenance and essential upgrades to a traffic signal intersection.

Investing in safer streets

Approximately \$5 million has been invested in road capital works, including strategic transport and traffic engineering projects. This significant investment has enhanced both the quality and safety of our road network.



Fast tracking for faster results

We have fast-tracked and completed 17 projects well ahead of their planned timelines, demonstrating our commitment to efficiency and progress.

Sustainable practices

Where suitable, we have been using recycled materials as part of our new road surfaces. It's better for the planet and just as sturdy.

Improving Yarra's drains

We're halfway through our \$2.25 million project to upgrade drains and pipes. This work includes fixing old drains, responding to emergencies, and relining pipes to make sure our drainage system works well for everyone.

These improvements are all about making Yarra a better place to live, work, and play.

Stay up to date on the projects happening in your area with our online Capital Works Map.



See how we're investing in Yarra's future with our Capital Works Map at yarracity.vic.gov.au/currentworks

Purrfect timing for pet registration and cat curfew reminder

If you're the owner of one of Yarra's adorable fur babies, don't fur-get to renew your pet's registration by Wednesday 10 April. This yearly task makes sure your cats and dogs are on record, helping us quickly bring them back to you if they get lost.



For cat owners, there's a big change to remember. From 1 January 2024, Yarra has a new rule: cats need to stay inside their property from 7pm to 7am. This night-time curfew helps in many ways:

- Safety: It's safer for your cats to be indoors at night, away from dangers and the chance of getting lost.
- Protecting wildlife: Our local birds and animals are safer when cats are inside at night.
- Less noise: Keeping cats in at night means fewer disturbances for everyone.

This night-time curfew shows our commitment to taking care of pets and wildlife.

When renewing your pet's registration, tell us about any changes like a new address, updated contact details, if your pet has been desexed, or if you no longer have your pet.

Remember, if you don't renew on time, you might get a fine. To learn more about the curfew and renew your pet's registration, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/pets

Let's work together for the safety and wellbeing of our pets and neighbours!



Blooming marvellous public plant displays

We've been busy improving and rejuvenating our community's green spaces, planting at over 35 sites across all of Yarra's wards over the past year.

From residential streets to overpasses, our work spans across Abbotsford, Clifton Hill, Richmond, Carlton North, Collingwood, Fitzroy North and more.

Our 'Greening Yarra' initiative continues to invigorate our city, bringing vibrant flowers and greenery to our public spaces while also creating a healthier, more sustainable environment.

These efforts show our commitment to not just maintaining, but improving the natural beauty and biodiversity of Yarra for everyone to enjoy.







Biodiversity thrives in 'Gardens for Wildlife'

Have you got your hands on a copy of our 'Gardens for Wildlife' booklet?

This practical guide is filled with tips on creating wildlife-friendly gardens that support our local fauna. From choosing native plants to building habitats for birds and insects, the booklet is an essential tool in our collective effort to enhance biodiversity – a key component to addressing the climate emergency.



By following 'Gardens for Wildlife's' advice, you can make a real difference right in your backyard. Scan the QR code to download your copy

today and join our mission to nurture a more sustainable Yarra.

Biodiversity is a key element in addressing the climate emergency. We're committed to ecological preservation to ensure a greener future for the Yarra community. Our initiatives include creating wildlife-friendly spaces and working with the community in sustainability efforts. Learn more at yarracity.vic.gov.au/biodiversity

Join the conversation with your Councillors

As we step into 2024, we're delighted to announce our face-to-face 'Talking Yarra' program, offering you renewed opportunities to meet with your Councillors and have meaningful discussions about the issues that are important to you. This is in addition to our Your Say Yarra engagement pop-ups.

Meet the Mayor

Sunday 11 February, 11am to 12 midday



Come along for a chat at Victoria's Pride Street Party. Keep an eye on our website for location details and more upcoming event dates.

Learn more about your Councillors and Yarra's wards at yarracity.vic.gov.au/councillors



Honouring our community champions

Each year, we recognise the extraordinary individuals and groups who contribute significantly to our community through the Yarra Community Awards.

At our 2023 awards ceremony in November, we celebrated a diverse group of winners, each one having made a remarkable impact in Yarra.

Citizen of the Year

Mubarek Imam

Mubarek Imam has been a strong and steady supporter of the Yarra community, especially in North Richmond. He has played a key role within the North Richmond Precinct Community Committee, helping to make sure the community's ideas turn into real actions. He co-chairs the Health, Wellbeing and Participation group for the North Richmond Precinct Project and is involved in the Yarra Residents Voice group. His establishment of the Young Assets Foundation provides important support and guidance to the youth in Yarra. Mubarek's efforts extend beyond local boundaries, with appearances in media and his advocacy for public housing residents that demonstrate his dedication to equity and the betterment of our community.



Mubarek Imam



Bol Mayan

Young Citizen of the Year

Bol Mayan

Known for his creativity and hard work, Bol Mayan, has made a big impact on the community, especially among young people and the local African Australian diaspora. When Bol was a child, he and his family fled South Sudan as refugees and settled in the North Richmond Public Housing Estate. His initiatives, like skateboarding workshops and mentoring for the Centre of Ethnicity's .05 project, focus on important life skills and social justice. Bol's podcast. The Seed Network, raises the voices of African Australians. encouraging conversations between different generations and communities. His commitment to mentoring and empowering his community is truly inspiring.



Mervyn Keane

Community Initiative of the Year

Mervyn Keane

Mervyn Keane's Acacia Place River Bankers project is a testament to community-driven environmental conservation. This project, supported by Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water. focuses on planting indigenous species along the Yarra River in Abbotsford. This helps increase plant and animal life, making the river area healthier. The regular gardening bees are not only good for the environment but also bring local residents together, fostering a sense of community and connection with nature. Mervyn's dedication to this volunteer effort has transformed Acacia Place into a more sustainable and beautiful part of Yarra.

These are just a few of the extraordinary individuals and initiatives honoured this year. To learn more about all the winners and their remarkable contributions, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/awards

Exploring Brunswick Street's heritage

A gem among Yarra's 54 heritage precincts, Brunswick Street in Fitzroy is a living display of Melbourne's rich history. Established in 1839, it quickly grew from a simple road in Fitzroy into a bustling business hub during the gold rush. This period saw the construction of grand buildings, many of which still stand today, connecting us to Yarra's past.

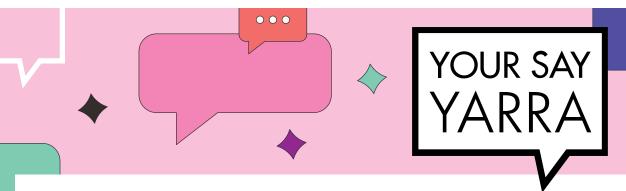
Among the architectural marvels is the historical building at 277–281 Brunswick St, which served as the headquarters of Moran & Cato, a famous grocery chain in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. In the years since, it has housed restaurants and retail stores, and stands as a testament to Brunswick Street's commercial prowess and architectural heritage.

Over the years, Brunswick Street has reflected the changing cultures of Melbourne. Once a center for the Italian

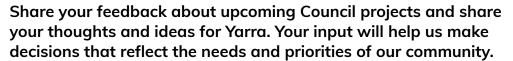


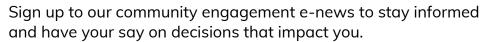
and Greek communities, it has grown into a diverse area known for its cafes, art galleries, and music venues.

Yarra's places, structures, and landscapes play an important role in our local history and we're passionate about protecting it. Learn more about our past and how Yarra protects local heritage at yarracity.vic.gov.au/heritage



Get involved in Yarra's projects





Visit yoursayyarra.com.au to find out more.



What's on



Victoria's Pride Street Party

Sunday 11 February, 11am to 9.30pm Gertrude Street and Smith Street

Fitzroy's iconic Gertrude and Smith Streets will once again be transformed into an extravagant street party to celebrate Victoria's diverse LGBTIQA+ communities.

This year's event will showcase live performances, music, circus, keynote speakers, activities, community stalls and interactive demonstrations, delivered by Midsumma in partnership with the Victorian Government. Keep an eye out for our Rainbow Yarra street poster campaign featuring members of Yarra's incredible LGBTIQA+ community running throughout Midsumma! Full program details are available on our website.



Johnston Street Fiesta

Saturday 24 February, 12 midday to 11.30pm

Sunday 25 February, 12 midday to 9pm

It's back! The Johnston Street Fiesta is one of Yarra's much-loved cultural events, a vibrant street festival celebrating the heritage, tradition, music and food of the world's many Spanish-speaking countries.



National Sustainable Living Festival 2024

On now until the end of February Various locations

Join us at Yarra Libraries for a celebration of sustainable living and community action! Our diverse range of workshops includes 'Textiles Lab: Alter and Mend Your Clothing', 'Keep Your Cool with Trees & Vines', 'North Fitzroy Urban Agriculture Walk', 'Visible Mending', and the 'Merri Creek Soundwalk'. These interactive sessions offer practical skills and insights into living more sustainably. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with your community and learn how to make a positive environmental impact. For the full program and more details visit library.yarracity.vic.gov.au

Details about these and more events around Yarra are available at yarracity.vic.gov.au/events

Your Councillors

To find your Ward visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/councillors

Below are contact details for your Ward Councillors. These are listed in alphabetical order.

Langridge Ward

- Cr Michael Glynatsis michael.glynatsis@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Stephen Jolly stephen.jolly@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Anab Mohamud (Deputy Mayor) anab.mohamud@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Melba Ward

- Cr Edward Crossland (Mayor) edward.crossland@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Herschel Landes herschel.landes@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Claudia Nguyen claudia.nguyen@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Nicholls Ward

- Cr Bridgid O'Brien bridgid.obrien@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Amanda Stone amanda.stone@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Sophie Wade sophie.wade@yarracity.vic.gov.au

To contact your Councillors, call **9205 5055**, send a letter to **c/o PO Box 168**, **Richmond VIC 3121**, or email their address above.

Council Meetings

Meetings take place at Richmond Town Hall. If you would like to attend, please visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/meetings for details.

All meetings are live streamed at yarracity.vic.gov.au/webcast

- Tuesday 13 February
- Tuesday 12 March
- Tuesday 9 April

Information from this edition in your language. For more information please call 9280 1940 and quote REF19,903.

本期的《Yarra News》介绍了我们社区的最新动态以及当地即将举行的活动和市议会最新的重要消息。欲了解有关《Yarra News》的更多信息,请致电**9280 1937**并报上查询参考编号19,903。

Σε αυτήν την έκδοση του δελτίου Yarra News, μάθετε τι συμβαίνει στην κοινότητά μας. Διαβάστε για τις επερχόμενες τοπικές εκδηλώσεις και τις σημαντικότερες ενημερώσεις του Δήμου. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες σχετικά με το Yarra News καλέστε στο **9280 1934** και δώστε τον αριθμό αναφοράς 19,903.

في هذا العدد من Yarra News (أخبار يارا) تعرَّفوا على ما يحدث في مجتمعنا وعلى الأحداث المحلية القادمة وأهم وآخر مستجدات المجلس. لمزيد من المعلومات حول Yarra News (أخبار يارا)، اتصل على 1930 9280 واذكر الرقم المرجعي 19903.

Trong ấn bản này của Yarra News, hãy tìm hiểu xem điều gì đang xảy ra trong cộng đồng của chúng ta. Đọc về các sự kiện sắp tới được tổ chức tại địa phương và các thông tin cập nhật quan trọng của hội đồng. Để biết thêm thông tin về Yarra News, hãy gọi số **9280 1939** và trích dẫn số tham chiếu 19,903.

Nella presente edizione di Yarra News, scoprite cosa sta succedendo nella nostra comunità. Leggete delle novità dei prossimi eventi locali e degli aggiornamenti importanti del comune. Per ulteriori informazioni su Yarra News telefonate al numero **9280 1931** e citate il numero di riferimento 19.903.

En esta edición de Yarra News, descubra lo que sucede en nuestra comunidad. Lea sobre los próximos eventos locales y las importantes actualizaciones del municipio. Para más información sobre Yarra News, comuníquese al **9280 1935** e indique el número de referencia 19.903.

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