
This record is provided as a summary of the questions asked by members of the public during Public Question Time at a meeting of the Yarra City Council. This summary includes the original question, the response provided at the meeting and, where applicable, the response provided after the meeting to any question taken on notice (which is included in red text).

7.1 Mr Robert Radcliffe-Smith - Darling Gardens Masterplan re Toilet Block

Question:

We live on South Terrace and the toilet block is across the road from us and as well as being an eyesore, has been very unsafe for the children to use in the past. It is likely to remain unsafe after it is rebuilt and not moved further away from the street. We suggest that the toilet is rebuilt on the site of the Maternal and Child Health Care Centre so that it is further from households and the road and closer to the BBQs and more central to the other parts of the park. A toilet block on the Maternal and Child Health Care Centre site would also have the advantage of being able to utilise the plumbing and power already attached to the centre. Additionally, having the BBQ and picnic area nearby would deter other inappropriate use of the toilet block.

Response:

The Director Planning and Place Making took the question on notice.

The Manager Recreation and Open Space subsequently advised that the Darling Gardens Master Plan was endorsed by Council on 6 October 2015. The Master Plan gave consideration to the toilet, and it was recommended that: "the existing building be replaced by new toilets in the current location as it will serve the increased activity proposed in the south of the park." A timeframe for installation of new toilets in Darling Gardens has not been confirmed, but will be considered as part of the forward capital works program.

He further advised that works of this nature will be subject to consultation with local residents at that time and Council has the ability to test a preferred location for this facility as part of that process.

7.2 Ms Sophia Daws - Disabled Parking

Question:

My husband is ill and we put in a request with the doctors letter to keep the disabled parking, but it was mentioned that we have a drive-way so we don't need it, but the problem for my husband is that it is not wide enough for him to open the car door so he needs to be able to park in the street.

Response:

The Mayor advised that she would be happy to meet with the resident on site to discuss the issue.

Cr Jolly advised that the matter be reviewed and that Ward Councillors be informed via email on the outcome.

7.3 Mr Benjamin Sanders - Name a street after Peter Norman

Question:

Will you name a street after Peter Norman, the Australian track athlete who won the silver medal in the 200 metres at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico? He also supported the two American athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos at the time when they accepted their medals and they joined in a Black Power salute, Peter Norman wore a badge on the podium in support of the Olympic Project for Human Rights.

Response:

The Mayor advised that Council has a street naming process that prioritises Wurundjeri names and then people from Yarra who are important, that doesn't mean that we wouldn't consider someone else. When a street needs to be named, the usual process would be to go through a public consultation process asking for suggestions, so when the matter is raised again you will be able to forward your suggestion.

The Group Manager Chief Executive Officer also advised that a report will be provided to Council in the next few meeting cycles.

7.4 Ms Catherine Mililli - Damage to Property

Question:

I would like an explanation as to how my current situation with Yarra sits in with the City of Yarra's Service Standards Charter?

It relates to my property that I purchased in 1998 and currently what I consider a victim of development. Five years ago the property behind me, 144-146 Johnston Street was developed, it's on a heritage overlay and in that development a new property which is land locked was built called 101 Sackville Street, that is to the rear of my property. In order for this development to happen services needed to be installed. Telstra cables were put in along the western boundary wall of my property, in January last year a storm water drain was installed, again on the western wall of my property and in July last year my western wall leaned outwards. I called the City of Yarra and a Building Compliance Notice was placed on my property. My insurance company was notified and after investigation it was found that the storm water drain that was installed, was not water tight. My claim was accepted and there has been a lot of investigation through Engineers and Suncorp. It was found that the work that the City of Yarra performed caused the wall to become unstable /lean outwards. On all times that my builders and insurance company contacted Council about my wall, a reply was only received because I contacted the Minister Richard Wynne. The damage has now been extended to 3 rooms, which is the entire front of the property. Most of the house needs to be knocked down and I have to move out for 6 months while the house is being built. When I contacted Council about the problem they denied liability and put it all on me. If I wasn't insured I would be destitute.

We have also received calls from the City of Yarra why we haven't repaired the wall and the reason we haven't is because each test the storm water drain has shown it is not water tight and we have had to find a way to repair around this leaking drain. The leaking drain has only been looked at by the City of Yarra by the person who installed it.

Response:

The Acting Chief Executive Officer firstly apologised for her experience and also advised that Kathy Duffy, the Risk, Audit and Procurement Manager had kept him up to date and also noted that the usual Municipal Building Supervisor was back from being away for a period of time and suggested that Kathy arrange a meeting as soon as possible with Ms Mililli.

7.5 Ms Dorothy James - Waste Service Charge

Question:

My Yarra Newsletter was delivered on Sunday afternoon and I now understand that you're giving another session. Four information sessions around the bin tax were missed by anyone living in my precinct. The newsletter is meant to come out in April/May and I got it on the last day of April, so that doesn't give people a fair chance to get any information about what is going on. As well as the bin tax being less visible/lack of transparency on the 'What's on in Yarra' webpage, there are eight items on there, four of those items, the residents in my area couldn't have attended even if they wanted to because they all finished in April. We got our bi-monthly newsletter on the last day of April. Why was our newsletters delivered so late, that we missed our opportunity to receive important information? The Mayor made a comment on the news that everyone was informed when clearly it was not the case.

Response:

The Mayor advised that at the time she made a comment, she was of the understanding that everyone had been informed. The Yarra Newsletter had been delivered that week as it had been the undertaking given by the contractors. When it was heard that some people hadn't received the newsletter, officers followed up with the contractors. Delivery had stopped due to the public holidays and rain and the contractors were asked to deliver the rest of the newsletters immediately. The contractors worked over the weekend and clearly why some residents had received the newsletter on the Sunday and why submission dates have been extended.

7.6 Mr Mark Waters - Richmond Recreation Centre

Question:

I wanted to note the wording in the Proposed Waste Service Charge, my neighbour thought it was going to be a shifting of that cost out of rates instead of a separate item because of the way it reads; 'new separate item', it wasn't very clear.

I am a member of the Richmond Recreation Centre. Two years ago some machines were bought for self-entry, those machines are not operating yet and we were notified that they would be operating by December 2016 and it is now May.

When will the machines be operating? I also wanted to note that the carpet in the gym tear your clothes. The carpet was changed with industrial carpet some years ago because the previous carpet wore too quickly. The lighting is industrial type lighting with no defuses and those of us with photosensitivity can be blinded if you like and the new surface by the pool which is an extremely coarse material should be

tiles, as a young girl fell and grazed her knee. It feels like you should be walking around in steel capped boots with overalls and not speedos. It is defiantly a decline in the facility with these upgrades since its opening in 2002.

Response:

The Director Community Wellbeing took the question on notice and advised he would liaise with the resident and update Councillors.

The Director Community Wellbeing subsequently followed up directly with Mr Waters and received his feedback about a number of operational matters and suggestions at the Richmond Recreation Centre.

The Director Community Wellbeing further advised that the self-entry system will allow members to scan in and to access classes independently and without the need to go to the customer service counter, using an RFID band or card for access, and to print out tickets for classes. He advised that the soft launch of the system nwill commence on 22 May, where staff will invite patrons to try the kiosks. The formal launch (including the rear door entry from Griffith St) will occur in the week beginning 29 May, with extra staff on hand at each facility to assist customer using the kiosks once we 'go live'.