



Minutes

Council Meeting

7.08pm, Thursday 24 June 2021

MS Teams

1. Statement of recognition of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Land

“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 Gabrielle de Vietri | Mayor |
| • Cr Claudia Nguyen | Deputy Mayor |
| • Cr Edward Crossland | Councillor |
| • Cr Herschel Landes | Councillor |
| • Cr Bridgid O’Brien | Councillor |
| • Cr Amanda Stone | Councillor |
| • Cr Sophie Wade | Councillor |

Council officers

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| • Vijaya Vaidyanath | Chief Executive Officer |
| • Brooke Colbert | Group Manager Advocacy and Engagement |
| • 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 |
| • Rhys Thomas | Senior Governance Advisor |
| • Mel Nikou | Governance Officer |

Apologies

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| • Cr Stephen Jolly | Councillor |
| • Cr Anab Mohamud | Councillor |

3. Announcements

No announcements were made.

4. Declarations of conflict of interest (Councillors and staff)

Councillor Nguyen declared a conflict of interest on item 9.1.

5. 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.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor de Vietri

Seconded: Councillor Crossland

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 confidential information

CARRIED

Item

.5.1 Yarra Energy Foundation Funding Agreement 21/22

This item is presented for consideration in closed session because it contains 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.

This item is considered applicable because it contains commercial information regarding the Yarra Energy Foundation.

Following consideration of Confidential business, the meeting resumed in open session.

6. Confirmation of minutes

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor Crossland

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1 June 2021 and Monday 7 June 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Councillor O'Brien left the meeting at 7.11pm

7. Public question time

Item	Page
Public Questions	6

8. Council business reports

Item	Page	Res. Page
8.1 Adoption of Annual Budget 2021/22	7	9
8.2 2021/22 Annual Plan endorsement	12	12
8.3 Guidelines and Budget for the Annual Grants 2022, Small Project Grants 2021-22 and Room to Create Grants 2021-22	13	13
8.4 Active Transport Advisory Committee	14	14
8.5 Yarra Experience Program (Student work placements at Yarra)	15	15

9. Notices of motion

Item	Page	Res. Page
9.1 Notice of Motion No. 4 of 2021 - Support for Additional Cycling Infrastructure	16	17

10. Petitions and joint letters

Item	Page
10.1 Petition - Greening McIlwraith Street, Princes Hill	18

11. Questions without notice

Item	Page
11.1 Councillor Landes - Burnley Golf Course and Recycling	18

12. Delegates' reports

Nil

13. General business

Item	Page
13.1 Acknowledgement and support for Medically Supervised Injecting Room	19
13.2 Northsiders for Refugees Joint Statement	20

14. Urgent business

Nil

7. Public question time

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. A recording of the Council Meeting (including Public Question Time) is available on Council's website for twelve months following the meeting. Where a question is taken on notice and unable to be answered at the meeting, the full response is also published on Council's website when it becomes available.

Councillor O'Brien returned to the meeting at 7.15pm

Questioner	Question	Officer
Mim Ingvarson	Gazettal notice of Sandeman Place, Fitzroy	The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office took the question on notice.
Peter Cooper	Locked gate at the Collingwood Children's Farm	The Mayor responded as a whole to the submitters questions on the Collingwood Children's Farm.
Jennifer Bowen	Locked gate at the Collingwood Children's Farm	The Mayor responded as a whole to the submitters questions on the Collingwood Children's Farm.
Lee Christofis	Locked gate at the Collingwood Children's Farm	The Mayor responded as a whole to the submitters questions on the Collingwood Children's Farm.
Barbara Tinney	City of Yarra account with NAB	The Director Corporate Business and Finance provided a response.
Barbara Tinney	Use of Glyphosate	The Mayor and Director City Works and Assets provided a response.
Bev Story	Parking Infringement Warnings	The Director Corporate Business and Finance provided a response.

Councillor O'Brien left the meeting at 7.37pm

Councillor O'Brien returned to the meeting at 7.40pm

Councillor Nguyen left the meeting at 7.40pm

Councillor Nguyen returned to the meeting at 7.44pm

8.1 Adoption of Annual Budget 2021/22

Reference	D21/60637
Author	Wei Chen - Chief Financial Officer
Authoriser	Director Corporate, Business and Finance

RECOMMENDATION

Start time: 7.51pm

1. That Council, following a community engagement process conducted in accordance with its community engagement policy:
 - (a) notes the following two amendments to the draft Budget that was adopted on 20 April 2021:
 - (i) final valuations of all properties in the municipality have now been received from the Valuer-General Victoria, and adjustments have been made to the “rate in \$” to ensure compliance with the Fair Go Rates System; and
 - (ii) the current borrowing of \$32.5m has been reclassified from non-current liability to current liability in the 2020/2021 forecast balance sheet to align the accounting treatment to the year-end financial statements;
 - (b) notes that the current Council Plan 2017-2021 was used to develop this budget and that Council Plan 2021-25 and a Community Vision are currently in development. Annual Actions for 2021/2022, in advance of this process being finalised, are included in the budget;
 - (c) adopts the Annual Budget 2021/22 as its budget for the 2021/22 financial year and the subsequent 3 financial years (**Attachment 1**);
 - (d) adopts the Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025 (**Attachment 2**);
 - (e) endorses the extension of Council’s current COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy for another year until 30 June 2022 (**Attachment 3**);
 - (f) declares rates and charges as per pages 35-37 of the draft budget document (**Attachment 1**), in summary, an amount of \$119,991,475 (or such greater amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution) as the amount which Council intends to raise by General Rates and other charges, which is calculated as follows:

General Rates	\$118,869,434
Special Rates & other charges	\$723,890
Supplementary Rates	\$878,271
Pensioner rate rebate and other rate offsets	(\$480,120)
Total Rates and Charges	\$119,991,475
 - (g) advises in respect to General Rates:
 - (i) a general rate be declared in respect of and for the entire duration of the 2021/22 financial year;
 - (ii) it further be declared that the general rate be raised by application of a uniform rate;
 - (iii) a percentage of 0.0396395700 be specified as the percentage of the uniform rate which may be alternatively expressed as \$0.0396395700 cents in the NAV dollar: this figure is subject to clarifying the final valuations with the VGV;
 - (iv) it be confirmed that no amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of a general rate in respect of each rateable property within the municipality; and

- (v) the Council funded Pensioner Rate Rebate be declared at \$193.80 for 2020/21;
- (h) declares no Annual Service Charge in respect of the 2021/22 financial year;
- (i) declares no Municipal Charge in respect of the 2021/22 financial year; and
- (j) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to effect administrative and wording changes to the Annual Budget 2021/22, Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025 and COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy, which may be required.

MOTION

Moved: Councillor de Vietri

Seconded: Councillor Nguyen

1. That Council, following a community engagement process conducted in accordance with its community engagement policy:
 - (a) notes the following two amendments to the draft Budget that was adopted on 20 April 2021:
 - (i) final valuations of all properties in the municipality have now been received from the Valuer-General Victoria, and adjustments have been made to the “rate in \$” to ensure compliance with the Fair Go Rates System; and
 - (ii) the current borrowing of \$32.5m has been reclassified from non-current liability to current liability in the 2020/2021 forecast balance sheet to align the accounting treatment to the year-end financial statements;
 - (b) notes that the current Council Plan 2017-2021 was used to develop this budget and that Council Plan 2021-25 and a Community Vision are currently in development. Annual Actions for 2021/2022, in advance of this process being finalised, are included in the budget;
 - (c) notes that an additional \$500k via State Government reimbursement of some costs incurred by Council relating to COVID-19; offset by reduced footpath trading income due to extension through July of Council’s free support of business in Yarra, will improve our year-end financial position 2020/2021;
 - (d) adopts the Annual Budget 2021/22 as its budget for the 2021/22 financial year and the subsequent 3 financial years (**Attachment 1**); subject to the following amendments by including:
 - (i) \$282,000 for **cycling infrastructure**, to be decided by Councillors via consideration of the pending Transport Action Plan;
 - (ii) \$50,000 for **Gleadell Street**, to commence the consultation, concept design and design development and documentation stage, backed by a solid commitment for \$300,000 in 2022/2023, for completing this stage;
 - (iii) \$100,000 towards identifying, planning and commencing new **pedestrian infrastructure in Cremorne**;
 - (iv) \$48,000 for a **traineeship** for one young person within our public housing estates to participate in training and employment experience at Yarra City Council; and
 - (v) **Additional \$20,000 Youth Led Grants;**
 - (e) adopts the Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025 (**Attachment 2**);
 - (f) endorses the extension of Council’s current COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy for another year until 30 June 2022 (**Attachment 3**);
 - (g) declares rates and charges as per pages 35-37 of the draft budget document (**Attachment 1**), in summary, an amount of \$119,991,475 (or such greater amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution) as the amount which Council intends to raise by General Rates and other charges, which is calculated as follows:

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Pensioner rate rebate and other rate offsets	(\$480,120)
Total Rates and Charges	\$119,991,475

(h) advises in respect to General Rates:

- (i) a general rate be declared in respect of and for the entire duration of the 2021/22 financial year;
- (ii) it further be declared that the general rate be raised by application of a uniform rate;
- (iii) a percentage of 0.0396395700 be specified as the percentage of the uniform rate which may be alternatively expressed as \$0.0396395700 cents in the NAV dollar: this figure is subject to clarifying the final valuations with the VGV;
- (iv) it be confirmed that no amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of a general rate in respect of each rateable property within the municipality; and
- (v) the Council funded Pensioner Rate Rebate be declared at \$193.80 for 2020/21;
- (i) declares no Annual Service Charge in respect of the 2021/22 financial year;
- (j) declares no Municipal Charge in respect of the 2021/22 financial year; and
- (k) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to effect administrative and wording changes to the Annual Budget 2021/22, Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025 and COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy, which may be required.

Councillor O'Brien suggested the below amendment. It was not accepted by the mover. The amendment was formally put.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Councillor O'Brien

Seconded: Councillor Nguyen

(d) (i) inclusion of the position of second Heritage Officer with a budget provision of \$92,000, such costings to be off-set by reduction of the funding for an Organisation Strategic Review and the budget provision from \$150,000 to \$58,000;

LOST

CALL FOR A DIVISION

For: Councillors O'Brien and Nguyen

Against: Councillors Stone, Crossland, de Vietri, Landes and Wade

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor de Vietri

Seconded: Councillor Nguyen

1. That Council, following a community engagement process conducted in accordance with its community engagement policy:
 - (a) notes the following two amendments to the draft Budget that was adopted on 20 April 2021:

- (i) final valuations of all properties in the municipality have now been received from the Valuer-General Victoria, and adjustments have been made to the “rate in \$” to ensure compliance with the Fair Go Rates System; and
- (ii) the current borrowing of \$32.5m has been reclassified from non-current liability to current liability in the 2020/2021 forecast balance sheet to align the accounting treatment to the year-end financial statements;
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 - (i) \$282,000 for **cycling infrastructure**, to be decided by Councillors via consideration of the pending Transport Action Plan;
 - (ii) \$50,000 for **Gleadell Street**, to commence the consultation, concept design and design development and documentation stage, backed by a solid commitment for \$300,000 in 2022/2023, for completing this stage;
 - (iii) \$100,000 towards identifying, planning and commencing new **pedestrian infrastructure in Cremorne**;
 - (iv) \$48,000 for a **traineeship** for one young person within our public housing estates to participate in training and employment experience at Yarra City Council; and
 - (v) **Additional \$20,000 Youth Led Grants;**
- (e) adopts the Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025 (**Attachment 2**);
- (f) endorses the extension of Council’s current COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy for another year until 30 June 2022 (**Attachment 3**);
- (g) declares rates and charges as per pages 35-37 of the draft budget document (**Attachment 1**), in summary, an amount of \$119,991,475 (or such greater amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution) as the amount which Council intends to raise by General Rates and other charges, which is calculated as follows:

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- (h) advises in respect to General Rates:
 - (i) a general rate be declared in respect of and for the entire duration of the 2021/22 financial year;
 - (ii) it further be declared that the general rate be raised by application of a uniform rate;
 - (iii) a percentage of 0.0396395700 be specified as the percentage of the uniform rate which may be alternatively expressed as \$0.0396395700 cents in the NAV dollar: this figure is subject to clarifying the final valuations with the VGV;

- (iv) it be confirmed that no amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of a general rate in respect of each rateable property within the municipality; and
- (v) the Council funded Pensioner Rate Rebate be declared at \$193.80 for 2020/21;
- (i) declares no Annual Service Charge in respect of the 2021/22 financial year;
- (j) declares no Municipal Charge in respect of the 2021/22 financial year; and
- (k) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to effect administrative and wording changes to the Annual Budget 2021/22, Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025 and COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy, which may be required.

CARRIED

Councillor O'Brien left the meeting at 8.22pm, not returning.

CALL FOR A DIVISION

For: Councillors Stone, Crossland, de Vietri, Nguyen, Landes and Wade

Against: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.2 2021/22 Annual Plan endorsement

Reference D21/58307
Author Shane Looney - Corporate Planner
Authoriser Manager Corporate Planning and Performance

RECOMMENDATION

Start time: 8.29pm

1. That Council:
 - (a) endorse the 2021/22 Annual Plan; and
 - (b) authorises officers to make minor administrative changes or clarifications if required.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor Wade

1. That Council:
 - (a) endorse the 2021/22 Annual Plan; and
 - (b) authorises officers to make minor administrative changes or clarifications if required.

CARRIED

8.3 Guidelines and Budget for the Annual Grants 2022, Small Project Grants 2021-22 and Room to Create Grants 2021-22

Reference D21/55405
Author Michael Van Vliet - Team Leader Community Grants
Authoriser Senior Planner Community Health and Safety

RECOMMENDATION

Start time: 8.36pm

1. That Council:
 - (a) endorse the allocation of \$965,000 to the 2022 Annual Grants Program;
 - (b) endorse the allocation of \$76,000 to the Small Project Grants 2021/2022;
 - (c) endorse the allocation of \$25,000 to Room to Create Responsive Grants 2021/2022;
 - (d) endorse the guidelines for Annual Grants 2022;
 - (e) endorse the guidelines for the Small Project Grants 2021/2022;
 - (f) endorse the guidelines for the Room to Create Responsive Grants 2021/2022;
 - (g) approves delegation to the CEO to make minor adjustments within the overall budget, prior to final endorsement from Council; and
 - (h) approve the awarding of three-year grants to successful applicants in the Community Strengthening category of the Annual Grants 2022.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor Crossland

1. That Council:
 - (a) endorse the allocation of \$965,000 to the 2022 Annual Grants Program;
 - (b) endorse the allocation of \$76,000 to the Small Project Grants 2021/2022;
 - (c) endorse the allocation of \$25,000 to Room to Create Responsive Grants 2021/2022;
 - (d) endorse the guidelines for Annual Grants 2022;
 - (e) endorse the guidelines for the Small Project Grants 2021/2022;
 - (f) endorse the guidelines for the Room to Create Responsive Grants 2021/2022;
 - (g) approves delegation to the CEO to make minor adjustments within the overall budget, prior to final endorsement from Council; and
 - (h) approve the awarding of three-year grants to successful applicants in the Community Strengthening category of the Annual Grants 2022.

CARRIED

8.4 Active Transport Advisory Committee

Reference D21/672
Author Rhys Thomas - Senior Governance Advisor
Authoriser Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

RECOMMENDATION **Start time: 8.40pm**

1. That Council:
 - (a) establish an Active Transport Advisory Committee;
 - (b) endorse the terms of reference for the committee at **Attachment One**;
 - (c) dissolve the Bicycle Advisory Committee; and
 - (d) thank participants in meetings of the Bicycle Advisory Committee throughout 2020 and invite them to seek appointment to the Active Transport Advisory Committee.
2. That:
 - (a) Cr Herschel Landes and Cr Gabrielle de Vietri be appointed as members of the new committee; and
 - (b) a further report be brought to Council recommending the appointment of community members to the new committee.

Public Submission

Bruce Echberg addressed Council on the matter.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Landes

Seconded: Councillor Crossland

1. That Council:
 - (a) establish an Active Transport Advisory Committee;
 - (b) endorse the terms of reference for the committee at **Attachment One**;
 - (c) dissolve the Bicycle Advisory Committee; and
 - (d) thank participants in meetings of the Bicycle Advisory Committee throughout 2020 and invite them to seek appointment to the Active Transport Advisory Committee.
2. That:
 - (a) Cr Herschel Landes and Cr Gabrielle de Vietri be appointed as members of the new committee; and
 - (b) a further report be brought to Council recommending the appointment of community members to the new committee.

CARRIED

8.5 Yarra Experience Program (Student work placements at Yarra)

Reference D21/57447
Author Kristina Johnson - Manager Human Resource Services and Support
Authoriser Group Manager People and Culture

RECOMMENDATION

Start time: 8.52pm

1. That Council:
 - (a) acknowledges and supports the Yarra Experience Program offered to VCAL students, which compliments the various other placement programs already supported at Yarra.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Nguyen

Seconded: Councillor Crossland

1. That Council:
 - (a) acknowledges and supports the Yarra Experience Program offered to VCAL students, which compliments the various other placement programs already supported at Yarra.

CARRIED

9.1 Notice of Motion No. 4 of 2021 - Support for Additional Cycling Infrastructure

Reference	D21/61676
Author	Ivan Gilbert - Group Manager Chief Executive's Office
Authoriser	Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

Councillor Nguyen left the meeting at 8.56pm, not returning

RECOMMENDATION **Start time: 8.57pm**

1. That Council write to Paul Younis, Secretary, Department of Transport and the Hon. Ben Carroll MP, Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Roads and Road Safety, to:
 - (a) express strong support for the pop-up protected bike lanes along Heidelberg Road, which have significantly increased the safety and accessibility of cycling to a broad range of the community;
 - (b) encourage the State Government to make the Heidelberg Road temporary lanes permanent, subject to further refinement;
 - (c) welcome the State Government's introduction of the new minimum passing distances to improve safety for cyclists of all ages and abilities;
 - (d) acknowledge the need for additional cycling infrastructure to relieve congestion and provide a clean, cheap and quick transport alternative to private motor vehicles - both within the municipality and to provide continuous connections with other municipalities;
 - (e) request that the State Government deliver at least 15km of additional protected bike lanes and enhanced bicycle infrastructure in Yarra within two years as part of the State Government's commitment to 100km of new and improved bike routes across inner Melbourne suburbs, with particular emphasis on:
 - (i) strategic cycling corridors, the principal bicycle network, and in proximity of schools and activity centres; and
 - (ii) developing a stronger network of safe, accessible protected bike lanes for cyclists of all ages and abilities, including, but not limited to:
 - a. addressing the gap in safe cycling facilities between the St. Georges Road shared-path and the Capital City Trail shared path; and
 - b. safe and continuous east-west routes in Richmond towards the CBD.
2. That Council place a message of support on Council's website and social media channels for the Heidelberg Road protected bike lanes to publicly demonstrate Council's support for the project and for cycling projects in general.

Public Submissions

The following people addressed Council on the matter:

Paul van der Sluys, Fairfield Park Boathouse;

Brad Miles;

Craig Richards, Bicycle Network;

Ruth Jelley;

Andrea Goldsmith; and

Ande Bunbury.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor de Vietri

Seconded: Councillor Wade

1. That Council write to Paul Younis, Secretary, Department of Transport and the Hon. Ben Carroll MP, Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Roads and Road Safety, to:
 - (a) express strong support for the pop-up protected bike lanes along Heidelberg Road, which have significantly increased the safety and accessibility of cycling to a broad range of the community;
 - (b) encourage the State Government to make the Heidelberg Road temporary lanes permanent, subject to further refinements to improve the functionality and safety of the route that may arise from review and consultation;
 - (c) welcome the State Government's introduction of the new minimum passing distances to improve safety for cyclists of all ages and abilities;
 - (d) acknowledge the need for additional cycling infrastructure to relieve congestion and provide a clean, cheap and quick transport alternative to private motor vehicles - both within the municipality and to provide continuous connections with other municipalities;
 - (e) request that the State Government consult on and deliver at least 15km of additional protected bike lanes and enhanced bicycle infrastructure in Yarra within two years as part of the State Government's commitment to 100km of new and improved bike routes across inner Melbourne suburbs, with particular emphasis on:
 - (i) strategic cycling corridors, the principal bicycle network, and in proximity of schools and activity centres; and
 - (ii) developing a stronger network of safe, accessible protected bike lanes for cyclists of all ages and abilities, including, but not limited to:
 - a. addressing the gap in safe cycling facilities between the St. Georges Road shared-path and the Capital City Trail shared path; and
 - b. safe and continuous east-west routes in Richmond towards the CBD.
2. That Council place a message of support on Council's website and social media channels for the Heidelberg Road protected bike lanes to publicly demonstrate Council's support for the project and for cycling projects in general.

CARRIED

10. Petitions and joint letters

10.1 Petition – Greening Mcllwraith Street, Princes Hill

Reference: D21/64984

A petition from residents of Mcllwraith Street containing 19 signatures, together with five accompanying testimonials are requesting Council look into the greening of the median strip in Mcllwraith Street Princes Hill to address dangerous driving and parking behaviour around Princes Hill Primary School.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Wade

Seconded: Councillor Stone

That the petition be received and referred to the appropriate officer for consideration.

CARRIED

11. Questions without notice

11.1 Councillor Landes - Burnley Golf Course and Recycling

Question:

I refer to the money in the budget relating to the Burnley Golf Course. In light of the grant dependency and to give some transparency where there may be some confusion.

Confirming the City of Melbourne is moving to a fortnightly recycling waste program, how many Councils are on the old program.

Response:

The Director City Works and Assets provided a response.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9.37pm

The meeting resumed at 9.42pm

12. Delegates' reports

Nil

13. General Business

13.1 Acknowledgement and support for Medically Supervised Injecting Room

Public Submissions

The following people addressed Council on the matter:

Mark Soffer;

Jonathan Lowe;

Darren Chow;

Jenny Samms;

Judy Ryan;

Chrissie;

Dora Tsipouras; and

Shaunna Wilson.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Landes

Seconded: Councillor de Vietri

1. That Yarra City Council:

- (a) recognises the success of the North Richmond Community Health Centre (NRCH) and Medically Supervised Injecting Room (MSIR) in:
 - (i) saving lives;
 - (ii) providing critical health and social support interventions for issues like dental, housing, family violence and drug rehabilitation; and
 - (iii) servicing those most at risk of harm,as evidenced in the Hamilton Report, the Burney Institute Study and the recent article in the Alcohol and Drug Review;
- (b) reaffirms Yarra Council's support for the ongoing trial of this facility in North Richmond;
- (c) acknowledges the work of the Chief Executive Officer of NRCH, Patricia Collocott, Medical Director of the MSIR, Dr Nico Clark, and the committed frontline staff and local supporters in driving the success of the first three years of the trial; and
- (d) acknowledges that there are important community concerns regarding amenity and safety, and commits to continue to work within Council's remit to address these matters in collaboration with other parties, and to work closely with the State Government to support positive outcomes in North Richmond.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

A Burnet Institute study published on 11 June 2021 shows that the North Richmond Medically Supervised Injecting Room (MSIR) is "fulfilling its brief and playing a constructive role by attracting people who are most at risk from harm relating to their injecting drug use, and most in need of the service," including:

- (a) people experiencing homelessness and/or unemployment;
- (b) people who've experienced non-fatal overdoses and people at heightened risk of overdose;
- (c) young people, linking them with treatment, education and support early on in their injecting experience;
- (d) people who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; and
- (e) people who live locally.

The research also points to positive impacts on the amenity of the local area through a reduction in public injecting.

This research bolsters the findings of the Hamilton Report released on 5 June 2020, which reviewed the first two years of the trial, and concluded that the MSIR had successfully saved lives and changed lives for people struggling with drug addiction.

Further, a recent article published in the *Alcohol and Drug Review* on 6 April 2021, described the success of the MSIR's opioid replacement therapy program offered to clients in 2019 and 2020. There are now more than 200 clients seeking this life-changing treatment at the MSIR.

13.2 Northsiders for Refugees Joint Statement

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

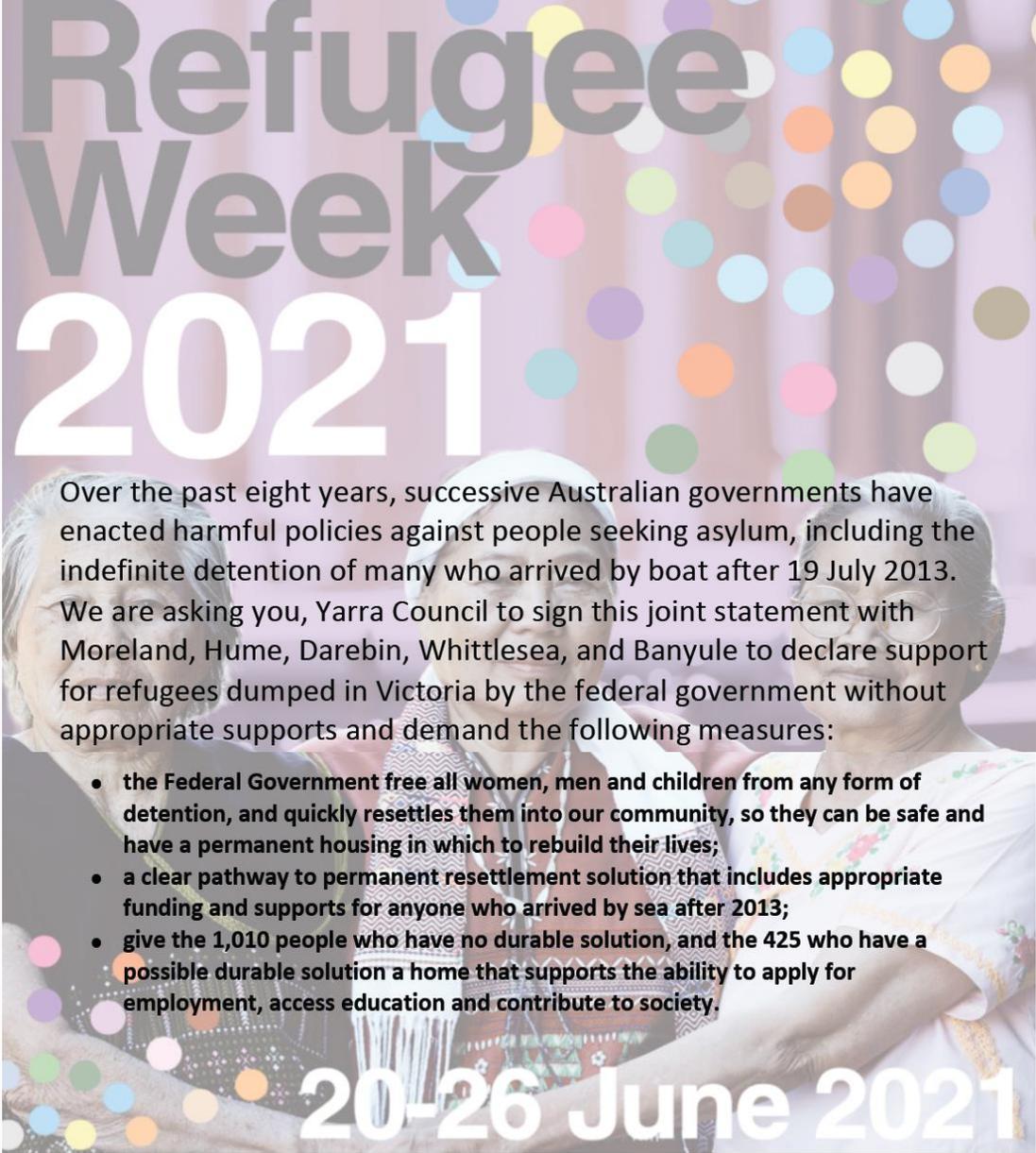
Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor Wade

1. That Yarra Council sign the joint statement prepared by Northsiders for Refugees, along with Moreland, Hume, Darebin, Whittlesea, and Banyule City Councils, to declare support for refugees dumped in Victoria by the federal government without appropriate supports and demand the following measures:
 - (a) the Federal Government free all children and adults from any form of detention, and quickly resettles them into our community, so they can be safe and have a permanent housing in which to rebuild their lives;
 - (b) a clear pathway to permanent resettlement solution that includes appropriate funding and supports for anyone who arrived by sea after 2013; and
 - (c) give the 1,010 people who have no durable solution, and the 425 who have a possible durable solution a home that supports the ability to apply for employment, access education and contribute to society.
2. That this statement reflects Yarra Council's commitment to providing support to refugee and asylum seekers living in our community through ongoing advocacy, community connections and access to council services.

CARRIED

Attachment



Refugee Week 2021

Over the past eight years, successive Australian governments have enacted harmful policies against people seeking asylum, including the indefinite detention of many who arrived by boat after 19 July 2013. We are asking you, Yarra Council to sign this joint statement with Moreland, Hume, Darebin, Whittlesea, and Banyule to declare support for refugees dumped in Victoria by the federal government without appropriate supports and demand the following measures:

- **the Federal Government free all women, men and children from any form of detention, and quickly resettles them into our community, so they can be safe and have a permanent housing in which to rebuild their lives;**
- **a clear pathway to permanent resettlement solution that includes appropriate funding and supports for anyone who arrived by sea after 2013;**
- **give the 1,010 people who have no durable solution, and the 425 who have a possible durable solution a home that supports the ability to apply for employment, access education and contribute to society.**

20-26 June 2021

This statement reflects that your council is committed to providing support to refugee and asylum seekers living in their communities in ways such as:

- ongoing advocacy in a way that amplifies asylum seeker voices.
- Housing, employment opportunities and access to council services

While asylum seekers and refugees are in Australian territory (or otherwise engage Australia's jurisdiction), the Australian Government has obligations under various international treaties to ensure that their human rights are respected and protected.

These treaties include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). These rights include the right not to be arbitrarily detained.

As a party to the Refugee Convention, Australia has agreed to ensure that asylum seekers who meet the definition of a refugee are not sent back to a country where their life or freedom would be threatened. This is known as the principle of non-refoulement.

Australia also has obligations not to return people who face a real risk of violation of certain human rights under the ICCPR, the CAT and the CRC, and not to send people to third countries where they would face a real risk of violation of their human rights under these instruments. These obligations also apply to people who have not been found to be refugees.

There are still 260 people held against their will in Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

Over 1000 women, men and children have been transferred to Australia for critical medical treatment and now live in 'transitory' visa limbo.

Over 100 of those people are held in locked immigration detention centres and so-called 'alternative places of detention', such as the Park Hotel and Kangaroo Point hotel prisons. Tragically, 13 people have died in these centres.

Countless Parliamentary and Departmental inquiries, UN investigations, reports by the Australian Human Rights Commission, and numerous whistle-blowers, including the government's own doctors have repeatedly told us the same story of systematic abuse, violence and medical neglect of people held in detention facilities.



Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 10.34pm.

Confirmed Tuesday 20 July 2021

Mayor