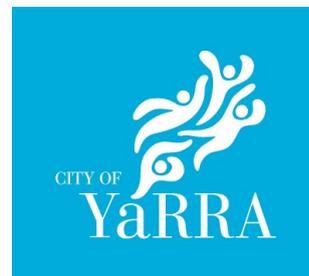


Yarra City Council
Business Advisory Group
Meeting minutes



Meeting number 2 of 4 – 2022

Date: Thursday 2 June 2022

Time: 8am to 10am

Location: Music Market, Collingwood Yards, Collingwood

Attendance:

First Name	Initial	Business Name
Present		
Cr Herschel Landes	HL	Yarra Councillor (Chair)
Daine Singer	DS	Daine Singer Gallery
Freya Berwick	FB	Sense of Self
Jane Stewart	JS	Sustain Ability International
Jeremy Ellis	JE	LaunchPad
Paula Glynn	PG	PixelStorm
Robyn Madeley	RM	Victoria Gardens Shopping Centre
Shane Hryhorec	SH	Push Mobility
Sophie Travers	ST	Collingwood Yards
Trang Du	TD	Two Square Pegs
Apologies		
Cr Edward Crossland	EC	Yarra Councillor
Guido Melo	GM	Melko
Kevin Cahya	KC	Makmur Enterprises
Mark Ryan	MR	Eureka Coffee/Growers Espresso
Mark Schiffer	MS	Blick Creative
Matthew Kovacs	MK	Ventia
Guest		
Erin Cummins	EC	Yarra Council
Esther Kennedy	EK	Yarra Council
Lisa Coffa	LC	Yarra Council
Mary Osman	MO	Yarra Council
Sarah Griffiths	SG	Yarra Council
Shelley Woolcock	SW	Yarra Council
Simon Osborne	SO	Yarra Council
Will Anderson	WA	Yarra Council

	Action/Update
<p>1. Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>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 here today—and to their Elders past, present and future.”</p>	
<p>1. Declaration of conflict of interest</p> <p>No conflicts of interest were declared.</p>	
<p>2. Actions arising from previous meeting and adoption of minutes</p> <p>Minutes adopted</p>	
<p>3. Yarra’s Circular Economy – presentation from Lisa Coffa, Senior Advisor Waste Minimisation at Yarra Council</p> <p>Lisa presented on Yarra's Circular Economy Strategy 2022/30, and discussed how we can reduce waste at each step, from design and purchasing to use and disposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planet Ark... packaging... Australasian Recycling Label - JE: We have a member at LaunchPad called Northmore Gordon who specialise in commercial energy reduction solutions and re-processing of waste from businesses, etc. https://northmoregordon.com/ They would definitely be interested in participating and providing input if this would add value. - SH: can we do a 1-week challenge in the community to encourage circular economy practices, and we can share stories and create dialogue? - EC: it’s not just about recycling your waste, it’s about buying products made from recyclable materials - HL: I grew up in a time with less waste – glass milk bottles get refilled, take TV to the repair shop instead of purchasing new - FB: we’re working on developing products at the moment and it’s near impossible to have zero waste or completely recyclable materials. - JS: cafes using peas to recreate an ‘avocado’ substitute <p>We split into small groups to discuss several questions relating to the circular economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JS: Collingwood Yards tenants, - Give people practical knowledge on how to complete some circular economy waste actions, rather than just thinking - FB: using private waste mgmt. to separate waste streams. Vic Gardens – tenants and customers are on board with packaging - Hard rubbish booked collection in Yarra – pros and cons - Stories and narratives around what ppl are doing. Peer reinforcement through these incentives. - Different waste methods in different countries – communal bins - TD: the waste we’re currently generating – what can/can’t we recycle - Redistribute waste - EK: Good Karma Network for Yarra businesses – to post offers or requests 	
<p>4. Introduction to Yarra’s planning department</p> <p>Senior members of Yarra’s planning team provided a brief update on how the department works, improvements that are currently underway, and will seek feedback for the next BAG meeting dedicated to the planning topic</p>	

	Action/Update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MO: Today we're starting a discussion. We'll be back at the September BAG meeting for a further discussion - We know business is a big part of Yarra - How we can assist business in Yarra with planning? - SG: planning permit applicants can submit applications online – this has been live for 3-4 weeks - SH: If we are limited in what we can do re: process vs policy. What are the steps to change the policy? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o MO: process we can change. Policy is something a lot longer term. I don't want to limit your ideas, but understand that policy changes are longer term. - SH: Can we create a WIP document so people can transparently see the ideas written down and track progress and accountability? - SH: open this discussion up to ppl outside of BAG so their perspectives are recorded 	
<p>5. Update from Michael Caputo from Victorian Government Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions</p> <p>A short update from the Local Government and Suburban Development area of DJPR, looking at how metro Melbourne is recovering, the impacts of flexible working and any trends and future forecasts for the remainder of the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inner metro Melbourne team - Reasonably new team... place-based approach to Melbourne's inner-city – cities of Melbourne, Yarra and Port Phillip. - Recent developments include federal election and state budget - Trends already at play before COVID-19... flexible work, ecommerce, online retail, how ppl access goods and services. The pandemic has accelerated these - Reduction in international students and stalling of Australian immigration program - Office occupancy in the CBD 36% of pre-COVID levels and rising. - Walking around our shopping strips we're seeing the night-time economy and weekend economy seem to be returning to pre-COVID normality. The business hours economy is still slow – Mon-Fri, 9-5. The past few months have been the closest to seeing an equilibrium emerge. - Winter is here now. Prevalence of covid and the flu. - Change of government in Canberra. Where we responded best to the pandemic, was with alignment with all 3 levels of government (local, state and federal), where people had a common objective. - Something to take away from this election result – a focus on local. There will be new MPs who have demonstrated a connection to local community. - One of the policies Labor took into the election – includes revitalisation of the CBD. Defining 'city' not just as CBD. A whole ecosystem. - Climate change commitment. Meeting a carbon reduction target by 2030. There are actions we all need to do to meet this target. Circular economy is important to this goal. - Commonwealth games 2026 in regional Victoria - \$50m growing suburbs fund. - Living local fund - \$9.7m commitment to suburban revitalisation program – targeted to disadvantaged suburbs - \$2.3m public libraries fund 	

	Action/Update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SH: it's great that there's cash going around, is there some funding for businesses to make upgrades for accessibility (ramp upgrades or bathrooms) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o MC: I'll have to take that on notice. Living local fund is getting ready to be launched. Potential this could be included in this funding. - TD: there seems to be messaging encouraging people to go back to CBD, but also encouraging ppl to live local. - ST: loss of casual and parttime workers. Will there be more funding for job creation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o MC: Lots of funding from Jobs Victoria. I can take that on notice. Those supports from government are important. It's a difficult problem. - TD: people that use my course feel exploited in some jobs/industries. They don't see career progression, they aren't treated well, demeaning work. - SO: can you give an update on the dining and entertainment fund? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o MC: I don't figures. Lots of uptake from cinemas and theatre shows like Hamilton. 	
<p>6. General business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction from Erin Cummins (Small Business Energy Efficiency Officer at Yarra Council) on her role and grants available. 	
<p>7. Closing</p> <p>Meeting closed.</p>	