

Yarra Environment Advisory Committee (YEAC)

Thursday 8 September 2022, 6:00-8:00pm

Richmond Town Hall, Meeting Room 3



Agenda

Attendees: Caitlyn Socwell, Fiona Bowie, Jack Clancy, Jo Lane, Pierre Dao, Shane Delphine, Candice Worsteling, Cr Amanda Stone, Michael Oke, Sam Green.

Apologies: Cr Sophie Wade (Mayor), Lin Oke, Michalis Hadjikakau, Miranda Sharp, Chris Williams, Sally Mangan, Rachel McConville, Ai Tam Do (Tam), Craig Lupton, Sai Tavate. Chris Currie, Gabrielle Murphy

Chair: Cr Stone

1. Acknowledgement of Country (Cr Stone) – 6.00pm

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.

2. Review of previous minutes and actions (Cr Stone) – 6.05pm

- Review of actions:
 - ACTION: Seeking an update on the Collingwood Children's Farm community gardens (to be scheduled for future meeting)
 - ACTION: Send copies of relevant Council strategies (included with minutes)
 - ACTION: Provide YEAC members a timeline of Council strategy development in 2023-24 (underway)
 - ACTION (via email): Support for apartment owners and renters in taking climate action (on this agenda via Climate Emergency update)
 - ACTION (via email): Support for vulnerable communities in taking climate action (on this agenda via Climate Emergency update)
 - ACTION (via email): Seeking update on the capacity and results of the North Fitzroy community battery / future community battery installations in Yarra (to be scheduled for future meeting)
- Do committee members have any follow up questions to last week's introductory meeting or the minutes? *No. Minutes Accepted*

3. Councillor update on general council matters relevant to this Committee (Cr Stone) – 6.15pm

- Council has opened consultation on Fitzroy and Collingwood Planning Controls including Design and Development Overlays DDO's. Individuals can respond to this consultation or you can let us know if (and why) it should come via YEAC.
- Zero Carbon Developments are still progressing, and have been submitted to the Minister for approval to advertise
- The National Construction Code was updated to raise the ESD bar including minimum 7 star builds
- Committee Q. *How is Yarra's financial position and how does it affect the environment and potential advice from this committee?*
- Committee Q. *Are there opportunities for new revenue streams?*

- Committee Q. *How many different types of rates are there (i.e residential vs commercial. For those interested visit our page on [How rates are calculated](#)*

4. Council's work in relation to climate emergency – short presentation by Sam Green, Climate Emergency Coordinator

- Climate Emergency Plan can be found [here](#)
- See slides attached with the Minutes
 - Noted the work of Rethink Recycling with the Collingwood estate in sorting bottle lids that then come back as cool products like skateboards.
- Art space is somewhere people to come to when they are feeling despondent about climate
- *Issue for future discussion?: climate despondency, physiology, despair etc... What role could Council play in supporting out community around this?*
 - Ideas – more good news stories that don't have the emphasis on the individual having to take action. There is a feeling that individual actions are having less impact and that big business and legislation needs to change. Yarra should be more prominent in promoting and communicating the good news (in a way that isn't too vague)
 - Can we work with a Behavioural Scientist to help on messaging?
 - Climate justice and equity is very important
 - Potential to promote Climate 'Safe Spaces' where people can drop in a talk to others
- *Issue for future discussion? What metrics could/should we collect data on that could underpin the climate emergency plan?*
- *Q. Engaging with Young people – will this include children? Yes, but following good advice. Feedback that group that engaging Children is super important*
- *Q. If we say we are going where the energy is and where the leaders are to support them, what about the laggards. Have we targeted and how are we working with them.*
- *Q. Are we going to look at restorative in the next CEP?*

5. Active Consultations (Your Say Yarra <https://www.yoursayyarra.com.au/>)

- [Fitzroy and Collingwood Planning Controls](#). Feedback Closes 3 Oct

A Design and Development Overlay (DDO) is a planning tool that is applied to areas such as activity centres like precincts and shopping strips that need specific requirements to guide the built form and design of new development.

In Yarra, DDOs generally try to achieve a balance between allowing new development and it needing to be sensitive towards heritage buildings, existing houses and backyards and avoiding overshadowing of public spaces like footpaths and parks.

6. Are there any emerging issues or opportunities which the committee would like to raise, and that Council should be aware of? (Cr Stone) – 6.55pm

- EcoLogic conference about recycled materials and embedding them into Council infrastructure.
- Webinar from Planet Arc and Colgate. Colgate transitioning to 100% recyclable. Products are made from 50% recycled.

7. Future agenda items (Cr Stone) – 7.05pm

- Suggestions from the previous meeting include:

- The capacity and results of the North Fitzroy community battery / future community battery installations in Yarra.
- An update on the Collingwood Children's Farm community gardens.
- *Issue for future discussion?:* climate despondency, physiology, despair etc... What role could Council play in supporting out community around this? Ideas – emphasis on good news stories that don't have the emphasis on the individual having to take action. There is a feeling that individual actions are having less impact and that big business and legislation needs to change.
- *Update on Nature Strategy*
- *Update on work to support Apartments sustainability*
- *Update on work to support Vulnerable households*
- *Update on work to roll out municipal-wide Green Waste collection*

8. Staying in touch as a group (Cr Stone) – 7.10pm

- Following on from last week's discussion re: the group potentially wanting to be in contact outside of the YEAC
- Email conversations for now. All committee members have confirmed that they are happy for their email addresses to be shared with this group.
- Committee Members will lead the process to develop a group to engage outside of the YEAC Meeting, if there is strong interest from this to occur. No expectations for committee members to participants. This group would not be expected to include Council Officers or Councillors.
- Agreed that this could be followed up between meeting by committee members, or else discussed again at a future meeting with broader representation.

9. Any other business?

Nil

10. Close – 8.00pm

11. Next Meeting: TBC