



# Minutes

## Extraordinary Council Meeting

7.01pm, Monday 28 November 2022

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 survived European invasion and never ceded sovereignty.*

*We also acknowledge the significant contribution made by the many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra.*

*We acknowledge that Fitzroy and Collingwood are areas of special significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people—as the cradle of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs in Victoria, the birthplace of important Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, the centre of political activism and a meeting place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to link in with family, community and services.*

*We acknowledge the role played by past federal and state government policies in the social and cultural dispossession of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people—and the dispossession of land—which has caused the current disadvantages faced by many Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. And we believe that having an awareness of, and taking steps towards, mending this disadvantage is the shared responsibility of all residents in the City of Yarra.*

*Council pays its respects to all in the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and Elders from all nations with us today - and to their Elders past, present and future.”*

## 2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence

### Attendance

#### Councillors

- |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| • Cr Sophie Wade      | Mayor        |
| • Cr Edward Crossland | Deputy Mayor |
| • Cr Stephen Jolly    | Councillor   |
| • Cr Herschel Landes  | Councillor   |
| • Cr Anab Mohamud     | Councillor   |
| • Cr Claudia Nguyen   | Councillor   |
| • Cr Bridgid O’Brien  | Councillor   |

#### Council officers

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| • Sue Wilkinson    | Chief Executive Officer                  |
| • Brooke Colbert   | Group Manager Advocacy and Engagement    |
| • Malcolm Foard    | Director Community Wellbeing             |
| • Gracie Karabinis | Group Manager People and Culture         |
| • Chris Leivers    | Director City Works and Assets           |
| • Wei Chen         | Director Corporate, Business and Finance |
| • Mary Osman       | Director Planning and Place Making       |
| • Rhys Thomas      | Senior Governance Advisor                |
| • Mel Nikou        | Governance Officer                       |

### Apologies

- Cr Gabrielle de Vietri Councillor
- Cr Amanda Stone Councillor

## 3. Announcements

### Ivan Gilbert – Retirement

*Before I reflect on my own year as Mayor, I first want to acknowledge that this Council meeting is the final one at the City of Yarra for Ivan Gilbert.*

*Ivan's retirement marks the end of an era not just for Yarra but for the local government sector. A thoroughly kind and thoughtful human, Ivan's calm and cheery presence and encyclopaedic knowledge of all things Yarra will be greatly missed. Ever the professional, Ivan has had a remarkable career and is very well known and highly respected by senior leaders across Victoria.*

*The very abridged story of Ivan's career is that he started out at the former City of Northcote, then Omeo and quickly moved to senior roles including the Town Clerk at the City of Shepparton. During the period of Council amalgamations, he was appointed interim CEO at the Shire of Campaspe and then CEO at the Shire of Mount Alexander. In 2005 he joined us here in the Executive at the City of Yarra.*

*It is impossible to adequately capture the impact Ivan has had at Yarra except to say that we will always be grateful for his hard work and commitment to the City and the community.*

*Ivan has one last task to oversee before he leaves us, which is to oversee the election of our next Mayor. I will leave it to them to formally farewell Ivan on behalf of the organisation, but for now, please join me in passing on our best wishes on his retirement.*

### Mayors reflection

*I've been part of this community, the Yarra community, in one sense or another, since I was 6. I came to Alphington Primary School at the start of Grade 2, and I think it's fair to say that even by Grade 6, I still felt a bit like "the new kid". That's what communities in Yarra are like: steadfast, loyal, committed to one another. 20 years on from leaving Alphington Primary, some of my closest friends today are still those that I made there.*

*Since I moved to Collingwood 4 and a half years ago I think it's fair to say I take no day living here for granted. It is not a cheap place to live, even in a small apartment, and I thank all my lucky stars that I can live in this wonderful community, in this area that is filled with life, music, friendship, tolerance and joy.*

*I think it's fair to say I've had an unusual Mayoral term. From the outset, I was aware that I would be running the process to hire a new CEO - a major role that is in charge of rolling out the Council Plan, a \$200 million annual budget, overseeing and being responsible for a staff of over 1000 people, and looking after our 100,000 or so residents.*

*Three days into my term, the Local Government Minister announced that they were appointing a Municipal Monitor - an unusual step, for which we did not, and never did, receive a consistent or coherent explanation. Thankfully, we were able to make the best of this odd situation that our residents were expected to foot the bill for, and Mr Blacher, as impartial and competent as they come, was a useful sanity check for much of my term.*

*We also saw two elections, federal and state, and the politicking that came with them.*

*It was a lot, and at times it was tough, but I am proud to say that we persisted, and I think the Council is in a better position now than it was when I commenced my term.*

*There's about a thousand highlights from the year I could share, but given we've got a sick Councillor on the line, and a new Mayor to elect, I'll save that for my old friend/taskmaster: social media. I will, however, give some thankyou's.*

*To my Councillor group - I think people make a lot of assumptions about us, but when asked, I repeat the following: I think we are the most progressive Council in the state, and we have a very high values alignment amongst Councillors. This is something I am very proud of.*

*To my Deputy, Ed, thank you for your unwavering support, kindness and patience. Thank you for the post meeting chats, sharing the load, and your positivity in the face of negativity.*

*To Anab, the strongest person I know, thank you for persevering through such challenging times, and always striving for the best for our community. Thank you for the positive text messages and all the love.*

*To Claudia, I've enjoyed our chats this year and hope they can continue - I like feeling out the edges of an idea with you, and planning ways to ensure we're hearing from the full breadth of our community.*

*To Herschel, our discussions, debates and deliberations about dollars have kept me on my toes, and I think we've both learnt a lot from each other. May that continue.*

*To Steve, the Plug Nickel chats have been enlightening, and I hope you'll continue making some time for me next year. More big things ahead.*

*To my fellow ward Councillors, Amanda and Bridgid, I'm looking forward to continuing my role as a Nicholls ward Councillor alongside you. Amanda, you are one of the hardest working people I know, and we (and your community) sees and appreciates this.*

*To Gab, who is not here tonight, and I think we can now officially call our outgoing Councillor, a big congratulations! Richmond has chosen well, and I cannot wait to work alongside you in your new role. Your warmth, intelligence, creativity and ability to work so incredibly hard in the most difficult of circumstances (lock downs, newborns, etc!) I believe will stand you in incredibly good stead. I'm bloody sad to lose you from Council, but grateful for the time that we had.*

*To the staff of Yarra Council: a huge thank you. Those who have worked closely with me, both here and at the law firms I've worked at, know that I can have incredibly high standards and be unrelenting at times. I must say, I had a fear that I'd find local government too slow, or unable to match the 'fast pace' of an environment filled with lawyers. I was very wrong. I tell people all the time how hard working our staff are, how smart, how savvy. How caring. It has been an absolute pleasure to learn more about many of your jobs over this year, and I look forward to learning more over the years to come - from Branko and our extensive graffiti efforts, to Siu and Brona and the arts team and their roll out of a whole bunch of new events earlier this year with the COVID relief grant money, to our staff at Willowview who I met last week, with their good humour and care for our senior citizens, Simon and Eco Dev and the rapid parklet roll out, to the library team... I am continually impressed by you all.*

*To the exec, past and present: Bruce, Lucas, Geoff, Diarmuid, Mary, Chen, Gracie, Ivan, Malcolm - it's been a big year, and you've kept the ship running, and running well, through it all. A special shout out to Brooke, our Comms and Engagement Group Manager, who has borne with me as I've hatched a thousand plans to reach more*

*people, to directly chat to communities, and to spread the positive vibes, and is again, one of the hardest workers I've ever met. And to Chris, who was our interim CEO for half of my term, I'll say that we had a bloody tough job ahead of us coming into 2022, and life looked a lot better for having you at my side.*

*To Sue, we chose well. Darebin's loss was our immense gain.*

*To my friends and family, who I love dearly, for putting up with my patchy attendance, for their love, support and their pride in me. To Mum, with her, "my daughter, the Mayor!" To all of you who made me who I am and stand by and watch me while I muddle through and hug me when needed: thanks.*

*To my closest colleague in the law, James, and everyone else at JWS - thank you for giving me the opportunity to take a year out, and a place to return. May all employers be as accommodating and supportive as you have been, and as excellent a human as James is.*

*And to our community. I was at an event at the Gathering Place at the Richmond Housing Estate recently, with Fatuma Muhudin, our Citizen of the Year for 2021, and a few other women who contribute enormously to the Yarra community, and we all agreed: Yarra is a special place. We have this huge diversity here - people from all over the world, people who have come from conflict, people of all ages, people who speak different languages, people of all physical abilities, queer folk and straight folk, people from both extremes of the financial security spectrum, and we look after each other.*

*So, thank you, for putting your faith in me this year. It has been an absolute honour.*

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

No declarations were made.

#### **5. Council business reports**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Res. Page</b>
5.1 Governance Arrangements	6	6
5.2 Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor	7	-
5.3 Appointment of Council delegates	8	9
5.4 Council Meeting Schedule 2023	10	10

## 5.1 Governance Arrangements

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**Reference** D22/262719  
**Author** Rhys Thomas - Senior Governance Advisor  
**Authoriser** Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

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**RECOMMENDATION** Start time: 7.12pm

1. That Council determine to elect a Mayor for a twelve month period for 2022/2023.
2. That Council establish the position of Deputy Mayor for 2022/2023.

### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Councillor Crossland                      **Seconded:** Councillor Mohamud

1. That Council determine to elect a Mayor for a twelve month period for 2022/2023.
2. That Council establish the position of Deputy Mayor for 2022/2023.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 5.2 Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

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<b>Reference</b>	D22/262872
<b>Author</b>	Rhys Thomas - Senior Governance Advisor
<b>Authoriser</b>	Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

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The election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor is conducted in accordance with the Yarra City Council Governance Rules 2020. No Council resolution is required.

The Chair called for nominations of Mayor:

Councillor Nguyen nominated herself.

No further nominations were received

In accordance with Chapter Two, Rule 6.1 of the Yarra City Council Governance Rules, the Chief Executive Officer declared Councillor Nguyen elected as Mayor for 2022/2023.

The Mayor called for nominations of Deputy Mayor:

Councillor Wade nominated Councillor Crossland

Councillor Crossland accepted

No further nominations were received

In accordance with Chapter Two, Rule 6.1 of the Yarra City Council Governance Rules, the Mayor declared Councillor Crossland elected as Deputy Mayor for 2022/2023.

The Mayor addressed Council and then invited Councillors to address Council. The following Councillors provided an address:

Councillor Crossland addressed Council;

Councillor Wade addressed Council;

Councillor Mohamud addressed Council; and

Councillor O'Brien addressed Council.

## 5.3 Appointment of Council delegates

**Reference** D22/262662  
**Author** Rhys Thomas - Senior Governance Advisor  
**Authoriser** Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

### RECOMMENDATION

Start time:7.26pm

1. That Council ratify the following Delegated Committee appointments for 2022/2023:

Delegated Committee	Appointments for 2022/2023
Planning Decisions Committee	All Councillors, subject to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with Councillors, determining a quarterly attendance roster allocating three Councillors to each meeting, with the Committee membership for each meeting comprising those Councillors rostered to attend or their agreed substitute.

2. That Council appoint the following Councillors to the Audit and Risk Committee for 2022/2023:

Committee	Appointments for 2022/2023
Audit and Risk Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____

3. That Council appoint the following Councillors to the Advisory Committees listed below for 2022/2023:

Advisory Committee	Appointments for 2022/2023
Active Ageing Advisory Committee	Cr _____
Active Transport Advisory Committee	Cr _____
Arts Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____
Business Advisory Group	Cr _____ ...
Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee	All Councillors
Community Awards Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____ Cr _____
Disability Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____
Environment Advisory Committee	Cr _____ ...
Heritage Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____ Cr _____
Multicultural Advisory Group	Cr _____
Rainbow Advisory Group	Cr _____ Cr _____

Yana Ngargna Advisory Group	Cr _____ Cr _____
Yarra Libraries Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____

4. That Council appoint the following Councillors to the external bodies listed below for 2022/2023:

Organisation or body	Appointments for 2022/2023
Australian Local Government Women’s Association	Cr _____
Collingwood Children’s Farm Management Committee	Cr _____
Friends of Baucau	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)
Mayors for Peace	Cr _____
Merri Creek Management Committee	Cr _____
Metropolitan Transport Forum	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action	Cr _____
Victorian Local Governance Association	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Councillor Wade

**Seconded:** Councillor Jolly

1. That Council ratify the following Delegated Committee appointments for the remainder of 2022 and 2023:

Delegated Committee	Appointments for 2022/2023
Planning Decisions Committee	All Councillors, subject to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with Councillors, determining a quarterly attendance roster allocating three Councillors to each meeting, with the Committee membership for each meeting comprising those Councillors rostered to attend or their agreed substitute.

2. That Council appoint the following Councillors to the Advisory Committees listed below for the remainder of 2022 and 2023:

Advisory Committee	Appointments
<u>Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee</u>	<u>All Councillors</u>

3. That Council defer appointment of Councillors to the Audit and Risk Committee, Advisory Committees (other than the Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee) and external bodies listed in this report until after the casual vacancy triggered by Cr de Vietri’s election to the Victorian Parliament is filled.

**CARRIED**



**Conclusion**

The meeting concluded at 7.32pm.

Confirmed Tuesday 6 December 2022

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Mayor