



Yarra Environment Advisory Committee (YEAC)

Thursday 16 March 2022, 6.00-8.00pm

Richmond Town Hall, Meeting Room 3

Minutes

Attendees: Caitlyn Socwell, Chris Williams, Pierre Dao, Shane Delphine, Lin Oke, Fiona Bowie, Jack Clancy, Sally Mangan, Cr Amanda Stone, Cr Sophie Wade, Craig Lupton, Stiele Hagens, Indy Lingam, Lisa Coffa.

Apologies: Candice Worsteling, Jo Lane, Miranda Sharp, Rachel McConville, Chris Currie, Ai Tam Do (Tam), Michalis Hadjidakau, Gabrielle Murphy.

Chair: Cr Stone/Cr Wade

Minutes: Indy Lingam

1. Acknowledgement of Country (Cr Wade/Cr Stone) – 6.30pm

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 Wade/Cr Stone) – 6.05pm

- Review of actions still pending from November (or previous) meetings. *No actions pending from November meeting.*
- Seek approval of previous minutes. *Minutes approved.*
- Confirm with members – are there any conflicts of interest with any of tonight's topics? *No conflicts recorded.*

3. Councillor update on general council matters relevant to this Committee (Cr Wade/Cr Stone) – 6.10pm

- *Waste charge: Community members, including YEAC invited to provide feedback at <https://yoursayyarra.com.au/draftbudget202324>*

4. Collingwood Children's Farm update (Chris Williams, YEAC member; Lecturer in Urban Agriculture, University of Melbourne; Member, Collingwood Children's Farm Board of Management) - 6.15pm

- *Collingwood Children's Farm (CCF) community garden is focused on regenerative agriculture and providing ecological and social benefits. A 2021 report which highlighted safety issues was the catalyst for clearing the site and designing an inclusive, accessible, all-abilities garden space (with lots not allocated to individuals). CCF will work with groups such as Merri Creek Management Committee to improve biodiversity outcomes. Council is not the manager of this site.*

5. Council's work in relation to biodiversity (Craig Lupton, Senior Biodiversity Officer) - 6.30pm

- *See attached presentation.*
- *LIDAR tree coverage data and report is still being finalised and due to be presented to Councillors in June.*

6. Gardens for Wildlife Program (Stiele Hagens, Nature Engagement Officer) - 6.45pm

- *See attached presentation.*

7. Climate Justice in Colour Program (Indy Lingam for Taryn D’Costa, Climate Emergency Engagement Officer) - 7.15pm

- *Climate Justice in Colour is a program providing training to support migrants and people of colour to engage their communities in climate action. Recruitment to the program is slower than anticipated. ACTION: If YEAC members have suggestions as to how to improve recruitment, please email climateemergency@yarracity.vic.gov.au*

8. Inner Melbourne Partnership Community Battery Project (Indy Lingam, Sustainable Energy Coordinator) - 7.25pm

- *ACTION: YEAC members to provide input via www.yoursayyarra.com.au/neighbourhoodbatteries and participate in focus group sessions. For more information about these sessions email climateemergency@yarracity.vic.gov.au*

9. Active Consultations (Your Say Yarra <https://www.yoursayyarra.com.au/>) (Indy Lingam) – 7.45pm

- www.yoursayyarra.com.au/neighbourhoodbatteries - from Monday 6 March 2023.
We want to hear your thoughts on neighbourhood batteries, where they could go and how you think they could benefit the Yarra Community. *As above.*

10. Are there any emerging issues or opportunities which the committee would like to raise, and that Council should be aware of? Any other business? (Cr Wade/Cr Stone) – 7.50pm

- *Plant-based treaty – What is the plant-based treaty? How is it related to or how might it support Yarra’s climate emergency work? This has been added as a potential future agenda item (see below).*
- *The role of YEAC - this YEAC group is a new group and therefore meetings to date have been focused on providing information about environmental work happening across Council. The role of the group generally is to provide input and advice to Council in relation to environmental-related programs, projects, plans etc.*

11. Future agenda items (Cr Wade/Cr Stone) – 7.55pm

Suggestions from the previous meetings include:

- Plant-based treaty – What is the plant-based treaty? How is it related to or how might it support Yarra’s climate emergency work? (Possibly to be scheduled for meeting in 2023).
- Update on work to support sustainability retrofits in town houses and apartments in Yarra (To be scheduled for meeting in early 2023).
- Update on work to deliver municipal wide green waste collection (To be scheduled for meeting in 2023).

12. Close – no later than 8.00pm

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YEAC meeting dates for 2023

Thursday 11 May

Thursday 13 July

Thursday 14 September

Thursday 16 November