



Minutes

Council Meeting

6.31pm, Tuesday 16 May 2023

Richmond Town Hall

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 Claudia Nguyen Mayor
- Cr Edward Crossland Deputy Mayor
- Cr Michael Glynatsis Councillor
- Cr Stephen Jolly Councillor
- Cr Herschel Landes Councillor
- Cr Anab Mohamud Councillor
- Cr Bridgid O’Brien Councillor
- Cr Amanda Stone Councillor
- Cr Sophie Wade Councillor

Council staff

Chief Executive Officer

- Sue Wilkinson Chief Executive Officer

General Managers

- Wei Chen Corporate Services and Transformation (Acting)
- Brooke Colbert Governance, Communications and Customer Experience
- Peter Moran Infrastructure and Environment (Acting)
- Kerry McGrath Community Strengthening
- Mary Osman City Sustainability and Strategy

Governance

- Phil De Losa Manager Governance and Integrity
- Rhys Thomas Senior Governance Advisor
- Mel Nikou Governance Officer

Leave of absence

Councillor Jolly requested leave for the Council Meeting on Tuesday 20 June 2023.

3. Announcements

No announcements were made.

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

Councillor Glynatsis declared a conflict of interest on item 7.2

Councillor Nguyen declared a conflict of interest on item 7.1.

Councillor Wade declared a conflict of interest on item 7.1.

5. Confirmation of minutes

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor Wade

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18 April 2023 be amended to replace the name of former Councillor Gabrielle de Vietri with Cr Michael Glynatsis, and that subject to that amendment, the minutes be confirmed.

CARRIED

6. Question time

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13. Urgent business

Nil

6. Question time

This record is provided as a summary of the questions asked by members of the public during Question Time and is not a transcript of proceedings. A recording of the Council Meeting is available on Council's website for twelve months following the meeting.

The following questions were asked:

1. **Philip Connole:**

I have been made representations about rubbish bins that are permanently left on Swan Street between Lennox St and Church Street over recent months. Council officers appear to keep putting stickers on the bins but the bins remain. When will Council officers actually take steps to remove the bins?

The General Manager Infrastructure and Environment provided the following response:

- Council has received complaints regarding bins and littering in this area.
- Officers investigated the complaints on 3 May, contacting several business owners and advising them of the requirements under the Local Law. They also took the first step in enforcement action by placing direction notices on certain bins. If non-compliance continues, the bins are programmed for removal in line with waste collection cycles.
- The next time Council's waste collection trucks were in the area was 8 May, and eight offending bins were emptied, then removed by Council officers.
- The following collection cycle was a week later on 15 May, where four additional bins were identified as non-compliant and immediately removed.
- We are aware this is an ongoing problem, and will continue to patrol the area to monitor compliance – including removing offending bins where necessary.

2. **Claire Heaney:**

Why weren't Mary Street residents, living just metres from the top of the intersection of Sheedy Street, where a No Standing area has been turned into a garden bed – approximately four metres by 2 metres - invited to engage in consultation about the size and execution of the planting to ensure there was buy in from the community given we will have to maintain the garden bed?

The General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy provided the following response:

- Council has consulted with residents in Sheedy Street and the corner properties fronting on to Mary Street in October 2022 on a proposal for new tree planting on Sheedy Street.
- While I acknowledge that other residents nearby have an interest in new planting, engagement is targeted with affected properties.
- The community is not expected to maintain the garden bed - this will be managed by Council.

Councillor Jolly left the meeting at 6.44pm, not returning.

7.1 E-Scooter Update

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Reference | D23/162067 |
| Author | Simon Exon - Unit Manager Strategic Transport |
| Authoriser | General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy |

*Councillors Nguyen and Wade left the meeting due to a conflict of interest at 6.45pm
The Deputy Mayor assumed the Chair.*

RECOMMENDATION Start time: 6.45pm

1. That Council note the E-scooter update report.

Public Submissions

The following people addressed Council on the matter:

Shane Hryhorec; and

Jo Casey.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION (PROCEDURAL)

Moved: Councillor Stone **Seconded:** Councillor Landes

That standing orders be suspended to enable additional members of the public to be heard.

CARRIED

Standing orders were suspended at 6.59pm.

Additional Submissions

Grant; and

Andrea Cook.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION (PROCEDURAL)

Moved: Councillor Stone **Seconded:** Councillor Landes

That Council resume standing orders.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Standing orders were resumed at 7.12pm.

MOTION

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

1. That:
 - (a) Council note the E-scooter update report;
 - (b) officers continue to work with micro-mobility hire companies to establish interim geo-fenced parking across the whole municipality for hire bikes, e-scooters, and e-bikes as soon as practicable;

- (c) officers continue to engage with the Disability and Active Transport Advisory Committees, and other relevant parties as they continue to work with the State Government, other Councils and companies participating in the trial to establish program enhancements and permanent solutions; and
- (d) officers bring a report to a Councillor Workshop this calendar year outlining program enhancements and permanent solutions, including:
 - (i) preliminary plans for ideally dedicated, separated micro-mobility corridor solutions for a number of corridors and other enhancements to further encourage riders to utilise safer infrastructure and not ride on the footpath; and
 - (ii) establishing an approach to the introduction of a range of “mobility and access zones” typologies across the municipality that include:
 - a. Dedicated parking bays for hire bikes, e-scooters, and e-bikes;
 - b. Disabled parking bays;
 - c. Car share parking bays;
 - d. Loading parking bays;
 - e. Bike parking, inclusive of cargo bikes and bikes with trailers;
 - f. Bike maintenance stations;
 - g. E-scooter and e-bike charging stations;
 - h. Electric car charging stations; and
 - i. Further provision of parking sensors so parking bay availability within the “mobility and access zones” can be checked by users in real-time on relevant apps to assist in journey planning.

Councillor O'Brien left the meeting at 7.23pm

Councillor O'Brien returned at 7.26pm

The meeting adjourned at 7.28pm

The meeting resumed at 7.39pm

AMENDMENT

Moved: Councillor Stone

- (d) officers update Council this calendar year after the conclusion of the trial outlining possible program enhancements which may include, but not limited to route management , storage and uses preliminary solutions for potential micro-mobility outcomes that consider the policy objective of the Yarra Transport Strategy.

The amendment was accepted by the mover and seconder and incorporated into the motion.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Councillor Landes

- (d) officers update Council this calendar year after the conclusion of the trial outlining possible program enhancements which may include, but not limited to route management , storage and nuisance and uses preliminary solutions for potential micro-mobility outcomes that consider the policy objective of the Yarra Transport Strategy.

The amendment was accepted by the mover and seconder and incorporated into the motion.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Crossland

Seconded: Councillor Mohamud

1. That:

- (a) Council note the E-scooter update report;
- (b) officers continue to work with micro-mobility hire companies to establish interim geo-fenced parking across the whole municipality for hire bikes, e-scooters, and e-bikes as soon as practicable;
- (c) officers continue to engage with the Disability and Active Transport Advisory Committees, and other relevant parties as they continue to work with the State Government, other Councils and companies participating in the trial to establish program enhancements and permanent solutions; and
- (d) officers update Council this calendar year after the conclusion of the trial outlining possible program enhancements which may include, but not limited to route management, storage and nuisance and uses preliminary solutions for potential micro-mobility outcomes that consider the policy objective of the Yarra Transport Strategy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.2 30km/h Speed Limit Trial Expansion - Fitzroy and Collingwood

Reference D23/159677
Author Danny Millican - Coordinator Civil Engineering
Authoriser General Manager Infrastructure and Environment

Councillors Nguyen and Wade returned to the meeting.

The Mayor assumed the Chair.

Councillor Glynatsis left the meeting due to a conflict of interest at 7.48pm

RECOMMENDATION Start time:7.48pm

1. That Council note:
 - (a) officers are undertaking a pre-trial study to explore a proposal to extend the existing 30km/h speed limit trial in parts of Fitzroy and Collingwood to cover all streets within Fitzroy and Collingwood (except for Johnston Street);
 - (b) the outcomes of the pre-trial study will be presented to Council later in 2023 for formal consideration; and
 - (c) any proposal to extend the existing trial to cover all local roads in Fitzroy and Collingwood (except for Johnston Street) would require the approval of the State Government.

Public Submission

Shane Delphine, Yarra Climate Action Now addressed Council on the matter.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor Wade

1. That Council note:
 - (a) officers are undertaking a pre-trial study to explore a proposal to extend the existing 30km/h speed limit trial in parts of Fitzroy and Collingwood to cover all streets within Fitzroy and Collingwood (except for Johnston Street);
 - (b) the outcomes of the pre-trial study will be presented to Council later in 2023 for formal consideration; and
 - (c) any proposal to extend the existing trial to cover all local roads in Fitzroy and Collingwood (except for Johnston Street) would require the approval of the State Government.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.3 Yarra Moves Physical Activity Action Plan 22-24 - Year 1

Reference D23/152935
Author Steven Jackson - Coordinator Recreation
Authoriser General Manager Infrastructure and Environment

Councillor Glynatsis returned to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION Start time: 7.56pm

1. That Council:
 - (a) note the progress made against the Year 1 Yarra Moves Action Plan 2022-24.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Mohamud **Seconded:** Councillor Stone

1. That Council:
 - (a) note the progress made against the Year 1 Yarra Moves Action Plan 2022-24.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.4 Annual Plan Progress and Financial Report Third Quarter 2023

Reference D23/159459
Author Shane Looney - Corporate Planner
Authoriser General Manager Corporate Services and Transformation

RECOMMENDATION Start time: 8.02pm

1. That Council:

- (a) note the results of the Quarterly Annual Plan Progress, Financial Report and Capital Works Progress to 31 March 2023;
- (b) endorse the following amendments to the actions listed below in the 2022/23 Annual Plan:
 - (i) 2.01 Collingwood College early childhood centre build
Current milestones proposed to be removed:
March - Commence construction
 - (ii) 4.02 Cambridge Street expansion reserve and Otter Street park
Current milestones proposed to be removed:
December - Complete Cambridge Street construction
March - Commence Otter Street construction
June - Complete Otter Street construction
Proposed milestones to be added:
June - Complete Cambridge Street construction
June - Commence Otter Street construction
 - (iii) 4.04 Yambla Street Pavilion and public toilets renewal
Current milestones proposed to be removed:
June - Commence contractor on site
 - (iv) 5.03 Road safety studies and implementation program
Current milestones proposed to be removed:
September - Commence Alphington precinct/corridor study
March - Complete Alphington precinct/corridor study

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Landes

Seconded: Councillor Stone

1. That Council:

- (a) note the results of the Quarterly Annual Plan Progress, Financial Report and Capital Works Progress to 31 March 2023;
- (b) endorse the following amendments to the actions listed below in the 2022/23 Annual Plan:
 - (i) 2.01 Collingwood College early childhood centre build
Current milestones proposed to be removed:
March - Commence construction
 - (ii) 4.02 Cambridge Street expansion reserve and Otter Street park
Current milestones proposed to be removed:
December - Complete Cambridge Street construction
March - Commence Otter Street construction
June - Complete Otter Street construction
Proposed milestones to be added:
June - Complete Cambridge Street construction
June - Commence Otter Street construction
 - (iii) 4.04 Yambla Street Pavilion and public toilets renewal
Current milestones proposed to be removed:
June - Commence contractor on site
 - (iv) 5.03 Road safety studies and implementation program
Current milestones proposed to be removed:
September - Commence Alphington precinct/corridor study
March - Complete Alphington precinct/corridor study

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.5 Governance Report - May 2023

Reference D23/154094
Author Rhys Thomas - Senior Governance Advisor
Authoriser Manager Governance and Integrity

RECOMMENDATION Start time: 8.10pm

1. That Council note this Governance Report on:
 - (a) the citizenship ceremony on 16 April 2023;
 - (b) the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment (Medically Supervised Injecting Centre) Bill 2023; and
 - (c) Victorian Local Governance Association Board Election.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Landes **Seconded:** Councillor Wade

1. That Council note this Governance Report on:
 - (a) the citizenship ceremony on 16 April 2023;
 - (b) the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment (Medically Supervised Injecting Centre) Bill 2023; and
 - (c) Victorian Local Governance Association Board Election.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.6 C1627 Street Sweeping Services

Reference D23/162183
Author Brett Grambau - Manager City Works
Authoriser General Manager Infrastructure and Environment

RECOMMENDATION Start time: 8.11pm

1. That Council:
 - (a) approves the award of Contract C1627 to _____ for Street Sweeping Services for an initial term of seven (7) years commencing on 1 July 2023, with an option to extend at Council's discretion for one (1) further year. The Services are based on a lump sum payments and schedules of rates;
 - (b) notes the services are based on an annual lump sum of _____ (exclusive GST) and schedules of rates;
 - (c) notes the contract will be subject to Rise and Fall based on the consumer price indexation for costs in labour, transportation and materials in Melbourne;
 - (d) authorises the Acting General Manager Infrastructure and Environment Officer to sign on behalf of Council all necessary documentation including any contract variations relating to Contract C1627; and
 - (e) authorises Council officers to communicate this information to the extent necessary to give effect to the recommendation.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Wade

Seconded: Councillor Stone

1. That Council:
 - (a) approves the award of Contract C1627 to Spotless Services Pty Ltd ABN 83 072 293 880 for Street Sweeping Services for an initial term of seven (7) years commencing on 1 July 2023, with an option to extend at Council's discretion for one (1) further year. The Services are based on a lump sum payments and schedules of rates;
 - (b) notes the services are based on an annual lump sum of \$2,988,520.00 (exclusive GST) and schedules of rates;
 - (c) notes the contract will be subject to Rise and Fall based on the consumer price indexation for costs in labour, transportation and materials in Melbourne;
 - (d) authorises the Acting General Manager Infrastructure and Environment Officer to sign on behalf of Council all necessary documentation including any contract variations relating to Contract C1627; and
 - (e) authorises Council officers to communicate this information to the extent necessary to give effect to the recommendation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Mohamud left the meeting at 8.15pm, not returning.

8. Notices of motion

8.1 Notice of Motion No.2 of 2023 - Short-stay accommodation in Yarra

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Reference | D23/165432 |
| Author | Sophie Wade - Councillor |
| Authoriser | Chief Executive Officer |

RECOMMENDATION

Start time: 8.16pm

1. That a report concerning the provision and regulation of short stays in the City of Yarra be provided to a Councillor Workshop, addressing:
 - (a) the best available estimate of the number and availability of short-stay properties relative to the number of owner-occupied and rented dwellings;
 - (b) the availability and utility of statutory measures to limit short-stays within the Australian context;
 - (c) whether there is merit to the inclusion of short-stay rental accommodation measures within the general local law (as in Mornington Peninsula Shire);
 - (d) the current extent of authority for Councils to influence the provisioning of short-stay accommodation in their municipalities, considering planning and property rating; and
 - (e) provide viable options to affect positive change through policy or strategic advocacy.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Wade

Seconded: Councillor Stone

1. That a report concerning the provision and regulation of short stays in the City of Yarra be provided to a Councillor Workshop, addressing:
 - (a) the best available estimate of the number and availability of short-stay properties relative to the number of owner-occupied and rented dwellings;
 - (b) the availability and utility of statutory measures to limit short-stays within the Australian context;
 - (c) whether there is merit to the inclusion of short-stay rental accommodation measures within the general local law (as in Mornington Peninsula Shire);
 - (d) the current extent of authority for Councils to influence the provisioning of short-stay accommodation in their municipalities, considering planning and property rating; and
 - (e) provide viable options to affect positive change through policy or strategic advocacy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Petitions and joint letters

9.1 Joint Letter - Trees along Burnley Street, Richmond

Reference: D23/159927

A joint letter containing 88 signatures are requesting the following to Council:

We strongly disagree with the decision to plant trees along the road in our small shopping hub along Burnley Street (117 to 133), Richmond.

We propose that you place the trees on the footpath, that way it will not take up valuable parking spaces and still provide the environmental benefits that we still desire.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Landes

Seconded: Councillor Stone

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Questions without notice

10.1 Councillor Landes - Tree Planting

Question:

What is the officers policy in terms of advertising when the tree plantings are to take place, ensuring that they capture all the residents who may have an interest in the outcome of where the trees are being planted?

Response:

The General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy provided a response.

10.2 Councillor Landes - Bridge Road Tram Stop No.17

Question:

The current inspection of tram stop 17 shows one bollard left and I think a temporary bollard there that generally gets knocked off. It is a very confusing stop, which is evident from the divots on the side of the platform. It has been subject to many complaints for quite a long time. The CEO did suggest at the last meeting that she was going to speak to the statutory authority on that.

What progress has been made in terms of remedial action in the short term but also perhaps and in the long term as well?

Response:

The Chief Executive Officer provided a response.

10.3 Councillor Stone - North East Link

Question:

Have officers had discussions with the relevant authority on the impacts that it will deliver to Yarra, whether there is any amelioration being planned and whether there are traffic counts on Hoddle Street planned for a before and after comparison?

Response:

The General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy provided a response.

10.4 Councillor Wade - Planning Scheme Amendments

Question:

Are there any updates on the various planning scheme amendments that we are waiting on?

Response:

The General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy provided a response.

10.5 Councillor O'Brien - Yarra Bend Netball Courts

Question:

Do we have any updates on the Yarra Bend Netball Courts? It is a very important facility for woman's sport, Netball Victoria and the Yarra Netball Association are very involved and they are currently lying idle, but I believe they are complete. When will it be up and running, who will be taking up management of the site and any other information will be great?

Response:

The General Manager Infrastructure and Environment provided a response.

The Chief Executive Officer also provided a response.

10.6 Councillor Nguyen - Cremorne Urban Design Framework

Question:

Melba Ward Councillors were at an engagement last night and the question of the Cremorne UDF timeline was raised. Can a timeline of the Cremorne Urban Design Framework be provided?

Response:

The General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy provided a response.

10.7 Councillor Crossland - Cremorne Urban Design Framework

Question:

In regards to the Cremorne implementation plan, will the update that will be provided to Council include an update on the actions that Council is responsible for?

Response:

The General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy provided a response.

The meeting adjourned at 8.34pm

The meeting resumed at 8.46pm

11. Delegates' reports

11.1 Councillor Stone - Yarra Energy Foundation

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Committee | Yarra Energy Foundation |
| Appointed Councillors | Cr Amanda Stone, Cr Edward Crossland |
| Date of Council Meeting | Tuesday 16 May 2023 |
| Date of Report | Friday 12 May 2023 |
| Report Author | Cr Amanda Stone |

DELEGATES REPORT

Yarra Energy Foundation (YEF) was established in 2010 with the following purpose:

The objects of the Company are to promote, preserve, protect and enhance the natural environment by acting to radically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and seek to achieve sustainable carbon neutrality in the Territory. (Yarra Energy Foundation Constitution 2017).

YEF is a company limited by guarantee and Yarra Council appoints 2 councillor representatives to its governing board each year.

The board provides strategic direction and governance oversight to the operations of YEF. It meets bi-monthly, with additional meetings for sub-committees and separate strategic planning sessions.

YEF has seen a period of growth in the past 3 years with an expansion of programs and services offered, and an increase in the number of staff delivering these. It is an increasingly complex and dynamic organisation which is capable of responding to emerging trends in community energy and identifying community and council needs in a rapidly evolving sector.

YEF's main focus is now on the integrated areas of:

- Solar Programs
- All electric efficient homes
- Neighbourhood battery storage

- Net zero neighbourhoods
- Microgrids/smartgrids
- Energy resilience

YEF is an acknowledged leader and expert in community batteries in the state.

YEF has continued to deliver strong value for the Yarra community through its ongoing programs and activities supporting the Yarra community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions towards the council's community goal of net zero by 2030. In the past 6 months, it has:

In Yarra

- Concluded a 6-month external review of YEF's organisational strategy, vision and mission. Final recommendations and next steps are under review by the board, with a decision on future direction by end of financial year.
- Started design work for a decorated tram which will be running on the Yarra Trams network (through Yarra) from October 2023 for 16 weeks. Campaign focus is: "making energy local", and will use the artwork from the Fitzroy North battery.
- Submitted the phase 1 report for the *Fast-tracking neighbourhood batteries* project, which City of Yarra is involved alongside City of Melbourne and City of Port Phillip. The project is helping all councils find pathways to 'fast-track' the deployment of neighbourhood batteries.
- Submitted a Final Report to AusNet, titled: "Shine a light: understanding vulnerability at the intersection of disability and electricity services" to better understand how the electricity network can better support vulnerable customers. Insights are yet to be made public, however there will be learnings which can be applied to Yarra's context.
- Progressed the *Neighbourhood Battery Initiative* round 2 implementation project in collaboration with Yarra City Council. The proposal is for another community battery plus two EV charge points. The site will likely be finalised shortly.
- The *Better energy, better business* project led by YEF in collaboration with Yarra City Council has entered the reporting phase, and has engaged extensively with large businesses in Yarra, such as Jetstar and the Royal Flying Doctors Service. Key findings will be reported by end of financial year.
- Engaged '*Who Gives A Crap*', a local business in Yarra, to explore opportunities for a solar rollout program for businesses across their supply chain.
- Engaged in a DEECA-funded building vulnerability assessment helping councils to prepare for resilience to heatwaves. Yarra has included three neighbourhood houses nominated by Council and the assessments have recently been completed

More widely, YEF has:

- Partnered with Jemena (Distribution Network Service Provider), Mornington Shire Peninsula Council, Noosa Shire Council and Yarra City Council on 7 separate grant applications (\$500k each) for implementation of community batteries.

- Submitted a grant application for \$200k to the Victorian Government's *Neighbourhood Battery Initiative* round 3 to develop business cases for neighbourhood batteries for 22 separate local government areas, including Yarra. YEF has established a new partnership with the Western, Northern, and Eastern Greenhouse Alliances on this project.
- Submitted another \$200k NBI round 3 grant application in partnership with Yarra Trams seeking new opportunities to establish batteries on underutilised parcels of land across their transport network.
- Through the *Hume Solar Rollout*, a solar program run by YEF for Hume City Council, reached a milestone of 1,000 kilowatts of installed solar over the life of the program.
- YEF has won another contract with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to conduct building assessments across 20 sites for north local councils. The aim is to assess the vulnerability of buildings to heatwave events and how resilience can be improved.
- YEF is entering the second half of the *Better Energy Banyule* energy appliance upgrades program which has received over 200 registrations for the install or replacement of energy efficient products, such as hot water heat pumps.
- YEF has secured a new contract with Bayside City Council to run a similar energy appliance upgrades program.

These programs in other municipalities generate income to enable YEF to continue and expand its services in Yarra and move towards financial independence.

In addition, YEF has continued to provide ongoing services to businesses and homes in Yarra through webinars, information sessions, and support for community action and networking.

YEF occupies a unique place in both Yarra and the state in the fast moving and changing local energy environment. Its flexibility and expertise has ensured it can respond and adapt to local needs, attracting funding and support for many of these projects.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor Crossland

1. That Council note this Delegates Report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.2 Councillor O'Brien - Heritage Advisory Committee

Start time: 8.52pm

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Committee | Heritage Advisory Committee |
| Appointed Councillors | Bridgid O'Brien, Michael Glynatsis and Edward Crossland |
| Date of Council Meeting | Tuesday 16 May 2023 |
| Date of Report | Friday 12 May 2023 |
| Report Author | Bridgid O'Brien |

DELEGATES REPORT

The Committee met on 26 April 2023. Councillors O'Brien and Glynatsis were in attendance and provide this report to Council.

The agenda items for this meeting included:

1. Discussion of Indigenous Heritage Officer position, now seeking consultant to do this work.

The committee agreed that if this position is not filled within one month the position should be broadened out to a more general Heritage Officer position to progress the Heritage Strategy.

2. Presentation on a Cultural Heritage Interpretation Masterplan.

One of the HAC members presented an excellent proposal for a Heritage Interpretation Masterplan that incorporates Yarra's heritage impact statements, heritage themes and heritage walks with an overarching identifiable brand to enhance sense of place.

This information should be presented in an innovative way, using technology, QR codes as well as plaques.

Intentional, informative and engaging.

Website potential to present heritage in a dynamic, adaptive and explorative way.

This would enhance visitor experience, strengthen connections between people and place and the community, foster understandings of local histories and environments and encourage tourism.

Currently we have piecemeal heritage impact statements for things such as the World Heritage Environs, The Convent and the Yarra River but these could be enhanced to highlight HERITAGE AS AN ASSET and the useability of thematic histories to promote businesses in Yarra, general perceptions of safety from community connectedness, health and wellbeing outcomes and much more.

3. Updates:

- (a) LGBTIQA+ Heritage Study;
- (b) World Heritage Management Plan and WHEA Strategy Plan Update;
- (c) Gas Lamp Pole part re-installation/reinstatement Scotchmer/Nicholson Street;
- (d) Heritage and tram stop upgrades;
- (e) Linear Park Masterplan; and

- (f) Yarra's participation in the Australian Heritage Festival.

4. Heritage Strategy: Budget

5. Other Business

- (a) World Heritage Site.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor O'Brien

Seconded: Councillor Glynatsis

1. That Council:

- (a) note this Delegate's Report; and
- (b) thank Committee members for their time and expertise.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. General Business

12.1 Councillor O'Brien - Statement of Commitment and Solidarity

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor O'Brien

Seconded: Councillor Crossland

1. That Council:

- (a) reaffirms its strong support for the inclusion of people of all gender identities, including those who identify as transgender, gender diverse and non-binary, in all events, programs, services and places in the municipality;
- (b) values the longstanding contributions of Yarra's LGBTIQA+ community to life in Yarra;
- (c) notes the municipality has always been a place of diversity and inclusivity;
- (d) stands in opposition to any form of discrimination or prejudice of any kind, including toward gender identity or expression;
- (e) notes existing Council initiatives that offer a safe and welcoming place for all people;
- (f) continues to support local programs and events that celebrate and promote an understanding of diversity, including for those that identify as transgender, gender diverse or non-binary;
- (g) condemns hate speech and notes that we live in a pluralistic society that affords many avenues of expression for free speech that promote tolerance and do not incite violence;
- (h) does not condone any speech that incites violence or harm against any individual or group, regardless of their gender identity, ethnicity, class, age or ability;
- (i) commits to upholding the values of inclusivity and respect for all that make Yarra a safe and welcoming place; and
- (j) request the Mayor to write to the Victorian Government and members of Parliament to take immediate action to extend state vilification laws and protect individuals from discriminatory treatment on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12.2 Councillor Stone - Local Government Planning Powers

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor O'Brien

1. That Yarra Council note recent media reports of an IBAC recommendation, following operation Sandon, to remove planning powers from councillors.
2. That the Mayor write to the Minister for Planning expressing Yarra Council's concern about these reports that the state may consider removing planning powers from local governments.
3. That the Mayor communicate to the Minister for Planning that:
 - (a) Local governments know their local areas and local communities best and are best placed to make planning decisions in the interests of present and future occupiers;
 - (b) Local governments are subject to a high level of scrutiny from their citizens. Corruption is therefore less likely to be undetected than at other levels of government;
 - (c) Local governments have approved over 85% of planning applications in the current financial year (State Government Planning Permit Activity Report). Housing affordability is not demonstrably being influenced by the planning decision-making of local government;
 - (d) To date in this financial year, 35,337 planning determinations have been made by councils across the state. 33,338 applications were received, 29,041 permits have been issued (new applications and amended), 4,119 notices of decision have been made, 1,073 refusals issued and 4,510 applications were withdrawn.¹ **Refusals comprise about 3 % of total applications;** and
 - (e) Removing planning powers from local councils will disenfranchise local communities and arguably decrease their confidence in the state government.
4. That the Mayor urge the Minister to meet with the local government sector to discuss any proposed changes to planning powers for local government before proceeding with such changes.
5. That the Mayor urge the Minister to ensure planning powers for local planning decisions remain in the hands of local governments to ensure the best planning decisions for their communities, present and future.
6. That the Mayor seek a meeting with the Minister for Planning to discuss the matters raised in this motion.
7. That a copy of this motion be sent to the Member for Richmond and members for the Northern Metropolitan Region.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

¹ [Planning Permit Activity Report | Tableau Public](#)

Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 9.11pm.

Confirmed Tuesday 20 June 2023

Mayor