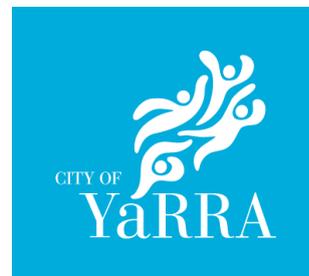


Yarra City Council
Business Advisory Group
Meeting minutes



Meeting number 2 of 4 – 2023

Date: Thursday 8 June 2023

Time: 8am to 10am

Location: Local Brewing Co., 3 Hilton St, Clifton Hill

Attendance:

First Name	Initial	Business Name
Present		
Cr Herschel Landes	HL	Yarra Councillor (Chair)
Cr Michael Glynatsis	MG	Yarra Council
Nick Campbell	NC	Local Brewing Co.
Guido Melo	GM	Melko
Helen Haines	HH	Dollars and Sense Consulting
Jeremy Ellis	JE	LaunchPad
Kevin Cahya Tjangdjaja	KC	Makmur Enterprises
Paula Glynn	PG	PixelStorm
Sam Rush	SR	HANDSOM
Freya Berwick	FB	Sense of Self
Shane Hryhorec	SH	Push Mobility
Apologies		
Xue Zhou	XZ	Addict food and coffee
Sebastian Pasinetti	SP	Oko Restaurant
James Richardson	JR	Optimising
Matthew Kovacs	MK	Photographer
Will Anderson	WA	Yarra Council
Guest		
Shelley Woolcock	SW	Yarra Council
Simon Osborne	SO	Yarra Council
Absent		
Maz Azorakos	MA	Sogo Hair

	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>Apologies</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. Welcome by Nick from Local Brewing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nick advised that the business has been here for a couple of months after planning business for 12 months Started business 4 years ago Provide meals via second bite – provide over 220,000 meals via sale of beer Food recovery – one of the major foods that is wasted is bread, 20% taken to landfill as it spoils quickly. Sustainable sour – 12 tonnes of mango from NT. Taken to a plant in Nth QLD, mango juice made into beer. Left over produce used to create beer and then profits given back to 2nd bite 	
<p>4. Megan Vassarotti - Office of Suburban Development - DJSIR</p> <p>Megan provided a brief snapshot on the different things Suburban Development are doing at a state level.</p> <p>MV - Suburban revitalization project – designed for community based organisations who had missed funding opportunities due to recent environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greening Gertrude - <p>Connecting community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighborhood batteries and how they will work within community. How will they work in public space considering the amenity as well as functionality Addressing food security and building social cohesion. People accessing these services for the 1st time due to cost of living. Services not well aligned so improvement to be more strategic in delivery to prevent duplication and streamline for improved delivery. <p>Inner City is very strong in particular the Night Time Economy, however day is struggling still.</p> <p>People returning to major events. NTE is outstripping the 9-5pm economy, further data can be provided when quarterly data is available.</p> <p>SH - has it been exploded batteries for apartment buildings?</p> <p>Megan- this project relates to public land not private space. Happy to come back to you that</p> <p>SH - carparks in apartment buildings could be used (leased) to store the batteries. Would be good to discuss with developers to benefit community.</p> <p>Megan - Electric cars and how they are charged is being explored in Northern region, happy to share with BAG</p> <p>NC - Hybrid work situation has changed how people interact with businesses. It would be interesting to understand this more. How far people travel and spend.</p> <p>Cr Landes – Asked about post covid return to offices, what is happening with office vacancy rates and value?</p> <p>Megan – Activity centers is mixed result. Main Street Australia have stated that the activity centres that are not thriving are tired in their offerings</p>	<p>Megan to provide Simon with more information/data from her office around the NTE and Inner Metro recovery.</p> <p>SO - To invite Circular Economy officers from Council to next meeting.</p>

	Action/Update
<p>Return to work and return to office, govt is working on a housing strategy. Occupancy rates are hard to assess but there have been discussions about repurposing of offices. Maybe this is going to be considering in preventing urban sprawl</p> <p>SO – requested Megan to provide more information/data to Yarra team around. Informed the group that Economic Development would be carrying out a piece of work looking specifically at the Night Time Economy.</p> <p>SO discussed the transition back to the office what does that mean, 3 or 4 day week, 3rd place.</p> <p>My team are focussing on being evidence based, vacancy audit, NTE, accessibility of our businesses (40-50% of businesses not deemed to be accessibility) more detailed audit to be conducted of our businesses from an accessibility perspective and encouraging improvements in toilets, menu design, entrances etc</p> <p>SH- Thanks for doing the work. Access is not a destination but a journey, It starts with getting the data and then improvements can be made. The idea will be to go back to businesses with a tool kit of what improvements they can carry out.</p> <p>FB - Audit is good, community engagement we did ourselves, it would be great to have that info available to businesses, training and financial help would also be great</p> <p>SH - Data, grants, we have identified issues we want funding to make a change that is measurable, talk about access journey for others to learn from.</p> <p>NC - food security businesses want to do more. How can they get involved and connect to do more?</p> <p>SO - will invite Circular Economy officers from Council to next meeting.</p>	
<p>5. FAQs Parking and Vacant Commercial Properties</p> <p>SO went through the common questions regarding parking</p> <p>SH - Scooters are blocking people being able to access businesses</p> <p>PG - Accessible parking is very difficult in Yarra. Parklets are great but it does impact parking, a ratio of parking spots need to be accessible even if there are construction works occurring</p> <p>FB - can a business apply for an accessible car spot?</p> <p>SH yes, and he can help with this</p> <p>Cr Landes- provided data on the number of parking bays available/capacity is saturated.</p> <p>Accessible parking, tree planting, bike lanes etc needs to be balanced with parking</p> <p>Cr Landes - Out of the budget discussions that are just occurring is to make it more transparent to the community data on costing of parking, where and when</p> <p>NC - how is parking decided?</p> <p>Cr Landes - based on occupancy rates. Priced on demand</p> <p>NC - are there caps on the pricing?</p> <p>Cr Landes - yes budget stipulates maximum price</p> <p>NC - Will parklets will be part of that review?</p> <p>SO - Yes. Reviewed annually, using the policy.</p> <p>PG & SH - Discussions on the importance of the car space as well as ramp, curb cut etc</p> <p>SH - there is a disability parking sub group to discuss improvements</p> <p>GM - revenue associated with parking</p> <p>Cr Landes- shared data on parking revenue for last 2 years. Impact of covid. Data relates to 7 activity centres.</p> <p>Cr Glynatsis-commented that there is confusion with Yarra parking signage</p> <p>SO-discussed criteria around business parking application</p> <p>Vacant properties and derelict can be investigated under Local Law</p> <p>SO advocating for compliance to take more action as it has an impact on the local amenity of the shopping strips</p> <p>NC - in NY they cleaned up areas and found that if we improve the amenity there are reductions in crime, litter and improved care for the area</p> <p>KC - every 3 months we were cleaning our roller doors and you give up. Footage provided to police but no action</p>	

	Action/Update
<p>Cr Glynatsis - tags need to be painted over very quickly to prevent further tagging</p> <p>Guido – Suggested that Council should consider the cultural leaders and their role on Vic Street, before engaging with them. Secondly, have a financial incentive to remove graffiti</p> <p>SO – Currently go through the traders association (eg Ha in Victoria St), and supports the idea of a working bee. Improve to a base level then encourage traders to maintain.</p> <p>Cr Glynatsis - graffiti removal high is very difficult as neighbours won't let ladder be installed</p> <p>SO-high costs associated with removal of graffiti. Grants for greening as its good for graffiti reduction as well as temperature moderation</p> <p>SR -spoke about Greening Gertrude Street and financial contribution that could occur from businesses</p> <p>JE-we paint over graffiti within 24 hours. Other traders in the street don't care about graffiti. Is there a way we can encourage those traders to take action?</p> <p>SO - Education about how it does impact the amity. May also consider street art on roller door</p>	
<p>6. General Business</p> <p>SO - CEO has asked for BAG members, Crs, Executive team and business leaders to attend a networking event. P</p> <p>lease think about your precinct, industry, challenges you are experiencing, what council can do particularly in regard to advocacy. 8th August is date – this date has now been deferred to Oct/Nov. Nick suggested using Local Brewing as the venue</p> <p>Nick suggested he could introduce us to 2nd bite for attending at next meeting. 24th August</p>	
<p>6. Closing</p> <p>Meeting closed.</p>	