

## Yarra Environment Advisory Committee (YEAC)

Monday 18 September 2022, 6.00-8.00pm

Wurundjeri Room, Collingwood Town Hall

### Agenda

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**Attendees:** Chris Williams, Chris Currie, Ai Tam Do (Tam), Shane Delphine, Sally Mangan, Michalis Hadjidakau, Jack Clancy, Cr Sophie Wade, Michael Oke, John Williams, Sam Green.

**Apologies:** Lin Oke, Fiona Bowie, Miranda Sharp, Candice Worsteling, Rachel McConville, Gabrielle Murphy, Cr Amanda Stone.

**Chair:** Cr Wade

**Minutes:** Sam Green

#### 1. Acknowledgement of Country (Cr Wade/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 Wade/Cr Stone) – 6.05pm

- Review of actions still pending from previous meeting:
  - YEAC seeks an update on work to support sustainability retrofits in town houses and apartments in Yarra (*action outstanding - this will be scheduled for a future meeting*)
  - YEAC members to use name tags so that all members know who is in the room (*action complete – all members asked to bring own name tag to meeting*)
  - YEAC members are keen that meetings include a hybrid option (*action pending – hybrid options being explored for future meetings/venues*)
- Seek approval of previous minutes. *Previous meeting minutes approved.*
- Confirm with members – are there any conflicts of interest with any of tonight's topics. *No conflict of interests recorded.*

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

#### 4. Yarra's tree canopy (John Williams, Landscape Architect) - 6.15pm

- Providing an update on Yarra's tree canopy coverage as part of the 5-year review of the urban forest strategy.

*See attached presentation.*

*Discussion:*

- *There was broad support for Council's work to increase, measure and map canopy cover in Yarra.*
- *There was interest in understanding what 'best practice' looks like or what is possible in relation to increasing canopy cover in similarly inner-urban, high-density municipalities.*
- *It was noted that in the public realm, planting along roads 'do the heavy lifting' of tree planting – approximately 1000 trees planted, 250 removed each year, so 750 more trees per year.*
- *It was noted that there is a correlation between social-economic status and tree canopy – that is, lower socio-economic areas have lower tree canopy.*

#### 5. Council's offsets (Michael Oke, Sustainability Unit Manager) – 6.45pm

- A discussion around Council's purchasing of carbon offsets including the type and quantity of offsets, and the rationale for purchase.  
*See attached presentation.*

**6. Plant-based treaty (Shane Delphine/Sam Green, Climate Emergency Coordinator) - 7.05pm**

- A discussion of the connections between meat and dairy production and consumption and climate change and biodiversity loss; Council's work to date to encourage plant-based eating and how we gain greater support for this work; and the Plant-Based Treaty as one possible mechanism.  
*See attached presentation.*
- Discussion: *There was a high level of support for inclusion of Council (organisational) and community actions related to reduced meat and dairy consumption/increased adoption of plant-based diets in the new Climate Emergency Plan.*

**7. Active Consultations (Your Say Yarra <https://www.yoursayyarra.com.au/>) - 7.35pm**

- Transport Action Plan: <https://yoursayyarra.com.au/transport-action-plan>
- Four locations identified for the installation of "reverse vending machines" under the Victorian Government's Container Deposit Scheme: <https://yoursayyarra.com.au/container-deposit-scheme>

**8. 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) – 7.45pm**

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

Suggestions from the previous meetings include:

- Update on work to deliver municipal wide green waste collection (*to be scheduled for a meeting after the Victorian Government has released its draft service standards – as they relate to FOGO services - as these will help determine what a FOGO service in Yarra might look like. Likely to be presented at either November 2023 or early 2024 meeting*).
- Update on work to support sustainability retrofits in town houses and apartments in Yarra (to be scheduled for a future meeting).

**10. Close – no later than 8.00pm**

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**Final YEAC meeting date for 2023 is Monday 27 November**

A meeting invitation for this date has been sent to all committee members.