

Minutes

Public and Community Housing Advisory Committee



Date	29 September 2025
Time	6pm to 8pm
Location	Wurundjeri Room, Collingwood Town Hall, 140 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford
Chair	Mayor, Cr Stephen Jolly; Deputy Mayor, Cr Sarah McKenzie
Minute taker	Senior Policy Advisory, Amber Perry
Content Manager Reference	D25/412725

Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri 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 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 and to their Elders past, present and future.

Attendees

Councillor/s	Mayor, Cr Stephen Jolly; Deputy Mayor, Cr Sarah McKenzie, Cr Mecca Ho, Cr Sophie Wade
Committee members	David Fidel, Claire Harrison, Melly Shute, Elena Soares, Huong Trieu
Council Officers	Acting General Manager, Community Strengthening, Malcolm McCall; Acting Manager, Ageing, Equity and Community Development, Sarah Ernst; and Senior Policy Advisor, Amber Perry
Guests	Acting Manager, Governance & Integrity, Patrick O’Gorman
Apologies	Brian Joss, Samira Mohamed

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country	The Mayor welcomed the Committee Members and Acknowledged Country. Councillors and committee members introduced themselves.
2.	Declarations of conflict of interests of interest	None declared.
3.	Introducing the purpose of the Committee	The Mayor noted three key reasons for the Committee: 1 – to assist residents with their housing needs 2 – to highlight the importance of public Housing in the City of Yarra 3 – to oppose Public Tower demolition as per previous Council position
4.	Update on Governance	An overview of the item was provided by Acting Manager, Governance & Integrity which outlined the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of the Committee’s Terms of Reference including attendance, conflict of interest, public access to minutes, standards of conduct and public statements by members. ACTION: Terms of Reference to be recirculated with the minutes to Committee Members
5.	Update from committee members	Matters raised by the committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General points of discussion raised by committee members

Parking on the Estates

- The committee members noted the difficulties of car parking on the Estates regarding supply of car parks, safety/lighting, fines and maintenance of the space
- The Mayor noted Council's parking strategy would soon be reviewed
- The Deputy Mayor shared improvements at the North Richmond Estate car park regarding lighting and art to assist with safety
- **ACTION:** the Mayor to write to Minister for Housing and DFFH regarding the issues raised
- **ACTION:** Council Officers to engage with public housing residents/residents' groups as part of the parking strategy consultation

Dogs

- Committee members shared their concerns around safety and dogs on the Fitzroy Estate
- Cr Wade shared that this was also an issue in the Collingwood Estate
- The expense of desexing dogs/cats and the need for a payment plan or subsidised services for public housing residents was discussed
- **ACTION:** Council's Compliance team to attend the next meeting to discuss dogs and safety and Council's role on DFFH land
- **ACTION:** Council's Compliance team to investigate feasibility of Information Stands at the three estates about responsible pet ownership
- **ACTION:** Council's Compliance team to investigate communication and budget options for FY2026/27 regarding responsible pet ownership for low-income residents
- **ACTION:** Secretariat to request Homes Vic requirements for pets on DFFH Estates

Embedded networks for electricity

- Committee members raised that embedded networks were being used as part of new public housing builds and were concerned this would be unaffordable for residents long-term
- **ACTION:** Secretariat to seek further information from DFFH to share at the next meeting

Lighting on the Fitzroy Estate

- Safety regarding lighting of outside spaces around the Fitzroy Estate was raised
- **ACTION:** Committee members to take photos share with their local Councillor

Safety and mental health

- Committee members shared there had been some issues regarding safety and felt increased awareness of mental health services would be valuable
- **ACTION:** Mayor to raise safety issues with Victoria Police
- **ACTION:** Secretariat to follow up with St Vincents STAY program and investigate options to raise awareness

		<p>Importance of Public Housing in Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion around having a festival to celebrate public housing on Saturday 13 December to align with a football game on the Fitzroy Estate - ACTION: Mayor to raise the possibility of a festival with the General Manager Community Strengthening and investigate feasibility
Other Business		<p>The following matters of general business were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee members thanked the contributions of a committee member to the Inner Melbourne Community Legal work they are involved with - ACTION: Secretariat to follow up with committee members prior to the next meeting regarding attendance.
Meeting closed		<p>The Mayor closed the meeting at 7:28pm.</p>
Next scheduled meeting		<p>TBC the Mayor to discuss meeting cadence with the General Manager Community Strengthening</p> <p>Mondays from 5:30pm was agreed as the future day/time</p>