

Minutes

Heritage and Planning Advisory Committee



Date	16 October 2025
Time	6:00pm-8:00pm
Location	Richmond Town Hall, Councillors' Office
Chair	Cr Kenneth Gomez
Minute taker	Kate Yuncken, Kathryn Pound
Content Manager Reference	D25/424156

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	Cr Kenneth Gomez – Chair
Committee members	Allie Wu, Cameron White, Clint Ebeyer, Danny Bearzato, Glen McCallum, Hayden Brown, Ian Wight, Jenny Rizzo, Kristianna Scheffel, Sally Vivian
Council Officers	Kate Yuncken (Manager City Strategy), Kathryn Pound (Acting Manager Compliance & Parking Services), Patrick O’Gorman (Senior Governance Coordinator), Ramsay Jurdi (Principal Planner- Business Lead)
Guests	-
Apologies	Cr Edward Crossland, Kristianna Scheffel

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes/Actions
1.	Acknowledgement of Country, Welcome & Introductions	The Chair welcomed the Committee members. All members and Yarra Staff introduced themselves.
2.	Declarations of conflict of interests of interest	No conflicts were declared.
3.	Purpose of the Committee- Terms of reference (attached); Role; Governance Responsibilities, Conflict of Interest	Senior Governance Coordinator provided an overview of the committee and the TOR. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee is strategic and not operational. • Reminders about confidentiality & Privacy, importance of attending meetings. • Terms of references (attached to meeting agenda) contain essential information. <p>Actions: None</p>
4.	Heritage and Planning in Yarra - A Snapshot	Acting Manager Compliance & Parking Services and Manager City Strategy provided an overview on the heritage and planning in Yarra. Key points included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role and focus of the Strategic and Statutory Planning in Yarra

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common type of planning applications and related planning themes • The Planning System- Planning Scheme, Planning permit process • Planning Scheme Amendments • Heritage overlay • Who does what? <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers share the presentation with members.
5.	Continuous improvement initiative: Proposed Business permit stream	<p>Principal Planner- Business Lead provided an overview on the proposed improvement to Business permit stream and outlined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume and type of applications • What we have achieved so far • The need for supporting applicants (e.g. preapplications and business concierge programme) in lodging their applications. • Preliminary survey results from business permit customers • Paying an additional fee for an expedited planning permit service. • Benefits of the pre-application advice as it might take pressure off smaller permits. <p>General points of discussion raised by committee members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would paying an additional fee benefit larger developers at the expense for smaller businesses. • What should Council subsidise? • Can AI assist applicants with their planning applications? • State Government moving to codified planning. • Council could create case studies and use social media to demonstrate these; opportunity to use social media to promote the service and outcomes. <p>Action: None</p>
6.	State Government reforms	<p>Acting Manager Compliance & Parking Services and Manager City Strategy provided an overview on the latest State Government reforms & what they mean for Yarra. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key reforms, State housing targets for Yarra • There will be more conversations around State government reforms at the Advisory Committee as they are proposed by the state. • Importance of providing diversity of housing types <p>General points of discussion by the committee included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has work been done on Statewide approach to population growth? • Is there a possibility of Yarra introducing Notice & Review exemptions for residential development. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers forward the Council submission on Plan for Victoria.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members to review the Cremorne UDF and Planning Scheme Amendment on Your Say Yarra Website when it goes on Exhibition in November 2025.
7.	Work Plan	<p>Manager City Strategy shared the draft workplan.</p> <p>General points of discussion by the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Heritage design guide: a member suggested including dos and don'ts; The recent NOM on Melbourne Water's flood mapping; what work, and information Melbourne Water has produced/ published. Approach of doing less to do more for heritage properties– could save money. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers forward a copy of the draft workplan to the committee members.
8.	Future meeting: Preferred days and times	<p>There was a preference for the meetings on Thursday 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council confirms the date of the next meeting on a Thursday in February.
9.	Close	<p>The chair thanked the members and closed the meeting noting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council will distribute minutes & documents as recorded above. Heritage Advisory Committee minutes will be published and will be available online via Council website