

## Minutes

### Yarra Environment Advisory Committee



<b>Date</b>	28 October 2025
<b>Time</b>	12:30pm-2pm
<b>Location</b>	Richmond Town Hall, Meeting Room 3
<b>Chair</b>	Cr Evangeline Aston
<b>Minute taker</b>	Samantha Green
<b>Content Manager Reference</b>	

### 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

<b>Councillor/s</b>	Cr Evangeline Aston and Cr Kenneth Gomez
<b>Committee members</b>	Theresa Johnson-Ellul, James Henderson, Carlos Aguella, Marcus Neve, Fernanda Farias, Catherine Ryan, Maeve Dowty, Son Thai
<b>Council Officers</b>	Michael Oke (Sustainability Unit Manager), Samantha Green (Climate Emergency Coordinator), Lisa Coffa (Senior Advisor Waste Minimisation), Phillip Mallis (Principal Strategic Transport Planner), Patrick O’Gorman (Senior Governance Coordinator)
<b>Guests</b>	N/A
<b>Apologies</b>	Michael Goddard, Sarah Bekessy

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country	Acknowledgement of Country was provided by the Chair.
2.	Outline of Committee expectations	An overview of the item was provided by Senior Governance Coordinator which outlined the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The role and expectations of Committee members in line with the Yarra Environment Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.</li> <li>The roles of Councillors and Council Officers, specifically the Secretariat.</li> </ul>
3.	Declarations of conflict of interests of interest	No conflicts of interest were declared.
4.	Councillor update on the vision and core principles for the Committee over the next four years	An overview of the item was provided by the Chair which outlined the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Council is focused on making positive on-ground, tangible, and visible changes to Yarra over the next 3 years (remainder of current Councillor term).</li> <li>Committee members will play an important role in considering, articulating and advocating for the environment in all matters brought before the Committee.</li> <li>Examples of matters to be brought to the Committee in the future include the Waste and Recycling Strategy, the Parking and Kerbside Strategy.</li> </ul>

		<p>Matters raised by the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee members agreed to the role outlined above and expressed interest in topics such as: improving biodiversity corridors and planting of native/indigenous vegetation; improved waterway health and access; drainage and flood mitigation activities such as raingardens; improving community environmental literacy; improving waste outcomes including waste minimisation and resident experience; parking and kerbside space – managing this contested space to improve biodiversity and other outcomes; improving access to open space and building community stewardship of natural spaces.</li> </ul> <p>Actions (if any):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No actions came from this discussion point.</li> </ul>
5.	Waste and Recycling Strategy consultation	<p>An overview of the item was provided by Senior Advisor Waste Minimisation which outlined the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council is reviewing its waste services and developing a new Waste and Recycling Strategy.</li> <li>• This review and strategy development is in response to increased waste management costs and changes in the waste industry and must meet the needs of residents.</li> <li>• Please see attached presentation.</li> <li>• Have your say at <a href="https://yoursayyarra.com.au/waste-and-recycling-strategy">https://yoursayyarra.com.au/waste-and-recycling-strategy</a> or at one of the 9 pop-up events happening over the next 6 weeks <a href="https://yoursayyarra.com.au/waste-and-recycling-strategy#jl_magic_tabs_have_your_say_and_in_person_opportunities_gix5">https://yoursayyarra.com.au/waste-and-recycling-strategy#jl_magic_tabs_have_your_say_and_in_person_opportunities_gix5</a></li> </ul> <p>Matters raised by the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A committee member asked, ‘Are waste processors being included in the consultation?’</li> <li>• Senior Advisor Waste Minimisation advised that the waste team is in constant conversations with Council’s waste processors and the processors observations and feedback will be considered in the development of the strategy.</li> </ul> <p>Actions (if any):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee members to have their say on the Waste and Recycling Strategy and encourage others to do the same.</li> <li>• Senior Advisor Waste Minimisation asked the committee to let her know if there are any community events that could be used as consultation opportunities.</li> </ul>
6.	Wellington Street consultation	<p>An overview of the item was provided by Principal Strategic Transport Planner which outlined the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed road and cycling upgrades to Wellington Street (both north and south).</li> <li>• The proposals are in response to the amount of traffic on Wellington Street being nearly double what was planned for this street, with a large proportion of traffic not being local, but rather using Wellington Street as an arterial road to outer suburbs. Data has shown a need to improve safety on Wellington Street.</li> <li>• Please see attached presentation.</li> <li>• Please note that consultation on these proposed changes has now closed but committee members can follow this project at <a href="https://yoursayyarra.com.au/building-safer-wellington-street">https://yoursayyarra.com.au/building-safer-wellington-street</a></li> </ul> <p>Matters raised by the committee:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The committee discussed their views on the proposals, but no specific matters were raised by the committee.</li> </ul> <p>Actions (if any)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principal Strategic Transport Planner to return to the committee to provide an update once community consultation data has been analysed and Council has firmer ideas as to which proposal is to be adopted.</li> </ul>
Other Business		<p>The following matters of general business were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Current consultations</a> which may be of interest to committee members include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road Safety Studies: Council is committed to improving road safety. Share your experiences using Rowena Parade (Richmond), Rose Street (Fitzroy) or Little Turner Street (Abbotsford) <a href="https://yoursayyarra.com.au/road-safety-studies">https://yoursayyarra.com.au/road-safety-studies</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>Please note that via <a href="#">Your Say Yarra</a> (Council's community consultation website), committee members may have their say on consultations as individuals, not as someone representing the committee.</li> </ul>
Meeting closed		The meeting closed at 7.55pm.
Next scheduled meeting		To be advised.