

Minutes

Disability Advisory Committee



Date	24 March 2026
Time	3.00pm-5pm
Location	Richmond Town Hall, Councillors Room
Chair	Councillor Sharon Harrison
Minute taker	Laura Gathoni
Content Manager Reference	D2026/0133911

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	Councillor Sharon Harrison, Councillor Edward Crossland
Committee members	Stephanie Gotlib, Katarina Radonic, Diep Nguyen, Keren Stephens, Madeleine Ruskin, Grant Guppy, Anne Holloway, Lisa Brumtis and Concetta Tahir.
Council Officers	Brooke Colbert- General Manager Community Strengthening, Malcolm McCall – Manager Ageing, Equity & Community Development, Lauren Krnjacki – Coordinator Access and Ageing Well, Laurice Young – Community Access & Inclusion Officer
Guests	Kathryn Pound – Manager Parking & Compliance, John Antonio Sanchez - Coordinator Parking Services, Phil Mallis - Principal Strategic Transport Planner, Tomas Lightbody - Strategic Transport Planner, Jennifer McIntyre- Coordinator Strategic Projects, Parks and Delivery, Amy Pilven – Open Space Planner, Timothy Clark– Open Space Planner.
Apologies	Jess Barry – Lead Ageing, Disability, Inclusion & Wellbeing, Collette O’Neill, Stephanie Gotlib, Diep Nguyen and Anne Holloway.

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country	Acknowledgment of country given by Cr. Harrison Introductions given
2.	Declarations of conflict of interests of interest	None declared
3.	Governance of the DAC	The following matters were discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Universal Design Disability Inclusion Policy is progressing and will be presented at an upcoming Councillor workshop. • Feedback on the Quarries Park Plan and Community Engagement Policy has been collected, with consultation now closed.
4.	Local Law Review	An overview of the item was provided by Manager Parking & Compliance which outlined the following matters. Local Law Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the Local Law Review was provided, including updated timelines and the incorporation of Footpath Trading

		<p>and Parklet Policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New guiding principles were introduced, with a strong focus on accessible places and universal design. • The importance of aligning universal design with human rights principles was emphasised, supported by accessibility consultants. • A short remaining consultation period (approximately 1–2 weeks) was noted. <p>Accessibility Standards and Principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion acknowledged varying interpretations of universal design and relevant international guidelines. • The Human Rights Charter was identified as a key framework underpinning accessibility principles. • External universal design experts are supporting the review process. <p>Footpath Trading and Parklet Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing footpath clearance requirements were reinforced. • Parklet policy updates include greater discretion in permit approvals while maintaining accessibility standards. • Key concerns raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Potential conflicts with accessible parking bays – Accessibility challenges due to site conditions (e.g. gradients, drainage) <p>Enforcement and Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns were raised regarding outdoor dining obstructing footpaths. • The need for stronger enforcement and improved education for businesses was highlighted. • Cr Crossland asked the potential use of visual clearance markers (e.g. painted lines for outdoor seating) was discussed. • Kathryn had investigated and can present findings on costings. Proposing 1.5 meters. • Clarification of responsibilities for maintaining accessible public spaces was noted. <p>Actions (if any)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Disability Inclusion and Ageing Well to email DAC with a link to YSY and requesting feedback on the local law review within 1-2 weeks</i> • <i>Manager Parking & Compliance to prepare a summary of previous investigations into footpath clearance markers, including costs, benefits, and considerations</i> • <i>Incorporate feedback from this meeting into the Local Law Review package ahead of the April briefing and June/July adoption.</i>
5.	“New Deal for Walking” – addressing accessibility issues around Yarra.	<p>An overview of the item was provided by Principal Strategic Transport Planner and the Strategic Transport Planner</p> <p>Walking and Wheeling Infrastructure Audit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An audit is underway assessing footpaths, kerb ramps, and tactile indicators. • Key focus areas include accessibility, comfort, permeability, and overall amenity.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges associated with narrow streets were acknowledged, requiring balanced design solutions.
6.	Open Spaces – Roads to Parks projects	<p>An overview of the items was provided by Coordinator Strategic Projects, Parks and Delivery as well as Open Spaces Officers regarding the proposed open space upgrades in Collingwood.</p> <p>Road to Parks Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program aims to increase open space in areas with limited provision. Two projects are currently in progress: Mater Street and Budd Street. Draft designs include accessible and inclusive features such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sculptural seating Accessible drinking fountains Varied seating options Projects are being developed with external consultants and stakeholder input. Consultation open until 9am 13 April on ‘Your Say Yarra’ website <p>Outdoor Exercise Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for more practical and inclusive gym equipment in Yarra parks. Preference for functional equipment over sculptural elements, noting space constraints. <p>Gender-Inclusive Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of designing parks to attract diverse users, including girls and underrepresented groups. <p>Shared Path Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about cyclist speeds on shared paths, particularly Wellington Street. Need to balance cyclist access with pedestrian safety through design and infrastructure improvements. Proposed park on Easey Street design aims to retain existing trees and shade while improving layout and accessibility. <p>Matters raised by the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cr Harrison queried how shared access would be managed, noting potential conflict between cyclists and pedestrians and questioning the safety of cyclist movement through the proposed park [Mater Street]. A committee member suggested that, rather than allocating significant funds to sculptural elements, consideration be given to installing outdoor gym equipment. <p>Actions (if any)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion to send YSY link to DAC to provide their feedback online.</i> <i>Ensure community feedback emails on outdoor exercise equipment are captured and included in budget considerations by the CFO emailed to info@cityofyarra.com.au</i>

Other Business		<p>The following matters of general business were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CoM City Access Permit Model- (Parking permit) – discussion postponed committee member who raised it is able to attend meeting • VCAT e-scooter case - discussion postponed committee member who raised it is able to attend meeting • Visibility of people with disability in Yarra’s publications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased visibility of people with disabilities in council communications (notably double page in most recent Yarralife February/March) noted as a positive outcome. ○ A committee member encouraged to share positive stories and inclusion outcomes for publication. <p>Employment of people with disability in Yarra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A committee member shared a positive personal story of employment and disability <p>Yarra Autism Acceptances Week event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Low-sensory celebration at North Fitzroy Library 28 March with Wayfarers performance</i> • <i>Events aim to promote awareness, inclusion, and community participation.</i> <p>Actions (if any)</p>
Meeting closed		<i>The meeting closed at 5pm</i>
Next scheduled meeting		Tuesday, 26 May 3-5pm Richmond town Hall