

Minutes

Public and Community Housing Advisory Committee



Date	23 February 2026
Time	5.30pm to 7.30pm
Location	Wurundjeri Room, Collingwood Town Hall, 140 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford
Chair	Mayor, Cr Stephen Jolly
Minute taker	Merle Zierke
Content Manager Reference	D26/130547

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; Cr Meca Ho.
Committee members	Elena Soares, David Fidel, Melly Shute, Brian Joss, Claire Harrison, Rosalie Dow, and Huong Trieu
Council Officers	Malcolm McCall, Merle Zierke
Guests	N/A
Apologies	Cr Sarah McKenzie, Intisar Ahmed, Aziza Mahmoud and Samira Mohamed

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country	Mayor welcomed the committee members and acknowledged Country
2.	Update on tower redevelopment and associated community campaign	Mayor provided an overview of the item: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The State Government has announced there will be no additional announcements regarding the refurbishment or redevelopment of any estates within Yarra under at least 2028.Tower specific community campaign paused until after the 2026 State Government election. Matters raised by the committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Noted the need for a case-by-case approach regarding refurbishment vs redevelopment of towers. Actions: N/A
3.	cohealth campaign	Council officer provided an overview of the item: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Council adopted the community health advocacy roadmap in late 2025 to campaign to State Government for ongoing community health services, noting bridging funding provided by Federal Government. Matters raised by the committee N/A

		<p>Actions (if any) N/A</p>
3.	Issues arising	<p>Matters raised by the committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General points of discussion raised by committee members <p>Atherton Gardens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atherton Gardens Housing Association is rebuilding and mobilising on behalf of residents. Has submitted a grant application for multicultural community capacity building. - Lack of maintenance and no tenant inspections beyond initial 6 month check in. - Concern that it is difficult to monitor who is entering the towers and issues of illegal tenants and squatters. - Desire to resume recycling on the estate, including option to collect cans and bottles for container deposit scheme. Suggestion that residents start a petition to showcase demand/support for the proposal. - Issues with carpark including lack of maintenance, poor lighting, poor monitoring of access / cars parked illegally, safety concerns due to cars blocking entry/exit ramps. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mayor to write to the Minister for Housing and DFFH regarding maintenance and car parking concerns. - Residents to consider starting a petition to showcase residents support for resuming the recycling program. <p>Rubbish in BBQ area on Richmond Estate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing issue with rubbish at the BBQ area in the estate. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council to follow up with DFFH to confirm issue is addressed. <p>Rent rises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Query regarding how rents are calculated / capped. Will they be higher following redevelopment of towers? - Council officer advised that income ranges for affordable housing are set by the State Government under the Planning and Environment Act 1987, and that rent settings differ across public housing, community housing and affordable housing model <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council officers to provide committee members with information on how rents are calculated across public housing, community housing and affordable housing, including the State Government Order in Council specifying income ranges for affordable housing, as well as information on utility arrangements and embedded energy networks in social and community housing settings. <p>Support for navigating paperwork and processes for tenants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a need for assistance navigating paperwork and processes for public housing tenancies where a person has a disability or otherwise requires support. - Discussion of establishing a monthly drop in at the estate with volunteers to provide admin support. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents to consider establishing regular drop-in session,

		<p>hiring a room on the estate and coordinating volunteers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council to share information about Fitzroy Neighbourhood House community support service. <p>Issues with maintenance contractors and timely action on issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issues with contractors not showing up, poor communication between contractors, residents and DDF, DFFH maintenance status not in alignment with the reality on the ground makes progressing issues difficult. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mayor to write to DFFH regarding the issues raised <p>Relationship with Victoria Police</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mistrust of police and how police communicate issues with tenants was raised, with a question of whether there was interest in convening a group to address this issue. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No agreed action.
Other Business		<p>The following matters of general business were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of parcel lockers on the estates as a result of the initiative of a committee member was noted for both the initiative shown and the positive outcome for residents.
Meeting closed		The meeting closed at 6.58pm.
Next scheduled meeting		Monday 4 May