

Minutes

Rainbow Advisory Committee



Date	3 February 2026
Time	6-7.30pm
Location	Collingwood Town Hall, Wurundjeri Room
Chair	Mayor Stephen Jolly or Councillor Edward Crossland
Minute taker	Cristina Del Frate
Content Manager Reference	D26/148496

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 Stephen Jolly
Committee members	David Hood, BB, Zainab, Melissa, Caleb Hawke, BJ, Tom McFeeley, Fenn Aldred
Council Officers	Cristina Del Frate – Senior Coordinator Community Development Martin Macumber – Community Development Officer
Guests	
Apologies	Apologies: James Seow and Councillor Edward Crossland

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country apologies	
2.	Minutes accepted	No objections raised and minutes from previous meeting adopted.
2.	Declarations of conflict of interests of interest	No conflict of interest recorded.
	Business Arising	Action – Senior Coordinator Community Development reported on achievements from the previous Strategy
3.	Rainbow Yarra Policy	An overview of the matter was provided by Council officers, noting that the new policy was endorsed on 11 November (slides attached). It was noted that a key issue addressed in the policy is the rise in discrimination and violence against the community.
4.	New Business – Community Safety concerns	An overview of the matter was provided. Discussion was held on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising reports of incidents in Yarra; members encouraged to report issues. • Proposal to expand visibility campaign with “Queer lives/works/plays here” decals. • Suggestions to broaden messaging to wider audiences

		<p>including sporting/public figures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to involve ally businesses, not only queer-owned businesses. • Concerns raised about online hate and global rise in hostility; need for stronger Council moderation.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion to disable comments where appropriate. • Safety concerns raised about increased verbal abuse at pubs; request for improved Peel St lighting. • Recommended resources: “The Unsaid Says a Lot.” • Suggestion to work with other advisory groups; concern about vandalism of the memorial. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor to raise issues with Council/CEO and investigate Peel St lighting & memorial protections (incl. CCTV). • Community Development Officer to follow up committee member’s suggestion, extend campaign into broader communities
	The Rainbow Connection	<p>An overview of the matter was provided.</p> <p>Discussion was held on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal for a podcast documenting the history of the 78ers; project currently on hold. • Councillors interested in fundraising to bring 78ers for Mardi Gras 50th; exploring multi-council support. • Noted Yarra has historic AIDS/HIV response recordings accessible to the project.
6.	Open Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final year of Vic Pride Party funding; community support for renewal. • Mayor advised informal indications of future funding but nothing confirmed. • Report of homophobic graffiti; concern about Triple Zero delays and escalation pathways. • Ongoing discussions with VicPol regarding hate-crime escalation processes. • Police station limitations noted: two with restricted hours, one 24-hour; approx. 25 officer shortage. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor to seek written confirmation re Vic Pride Party funding. • Continue engagement with VicPol re escalation pathways. • Police to hold public meeting at RTH—invite RAC members.

Other Business		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarra stall located near Coles next to Eagle Leather. • Members encouraged to provide flyers/resources for distribution and to attend on the day.
Meeting closed		The meeting closed at 7.05pm
Next scheduled		26 May 1pm-2.30pm RTH 4 August 6pm-7.30pm CTH
meeting		24 November 1pm-2.30pm RTH