

Minutes

Yana Ngargna Advisory Committee



Date	16 February 2026
Time	1:00pm-3:00pm
Location	Wurundjeri room, Collingwood Town Hall
Chair	Councillor Sharon Harrison and Aunty Annette Xiberras
Minute taker	Laura Gathoni
Content Manager Reference	D26/132155

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
Committee members	Andrew Gardiner, Sofii Belling Harding, Mark Jones
Council Officers	Worrin Williams, Ariel Blum
Guests	
Apologies	Councillor Sophie Wade, Robert Thorpe, Tiana Koehrer, Jaynaya Williams, Illana Atkinson

These minutes provide a high-level summary of discussions and key directions. They are not intended to capture all knowledge shared or attribute views to individual members.

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country	Aunty Annette Xiberras gave a Welcome to Country.
2.	A decade on, Treaty in Victoria: reflections on Yarra City Council's 2017 resolution on January 26	<p>The Committee reflected on Council's 2017 resolution regarding 26 January and the approach to local reflection and acknowledgement.</p> <p>Discussion focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ongoing impacts of colonisation and the importance of truth-telling the role of Council in supporting respectful, culturally informed local reflection recent local activity, including a small, respectful reflection held in advance of 26 January at Collingwood Town Hall Reserve, featuring a Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony and a Mayoral address <p>The Committee discussed the importance of continuing to evolve Council's position and messaging in partnership with First Peoples communities.</p> <p>A range of perspectives were shared regarding how Australia recognises and marks its history and identity through an official day of</p>

		<p>commemoration, typically observed as a public holiday, including consideration of alternative dates.</p> <p>The importance of Advisory Committee input in shaping Council's approach was emphasised.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate the Mayor's message delivered for the January event
3.	Smith St Dreaming	<p>The Committee discussed future directions for Smith Street Dreaming, with a focus on strengthening the event's cultural integrity, sustainability and long-term viability.</p> <p>Discussion highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of First Peoples leadership and ongoing community input in shaping the event • the need to ensure the event model is sustainable and appropriately resourced over time • opportunities to refine delivery approaches to support cultural, community and operational outcomes <p>The Committee supported further exploration of delivery models to inform planning for future events.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a comparison of potential delivery models, including street-based and venue-based approaches, with associated costs and implications • Establish a small working group to support development of the 2026 event approach, including consideration of timing and format
4.	Yana Ngargna Policy	<p>An updated draft of the Yana Ngargna Policy has been shared with members for consideration.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the next phase of the policy, with a focus on ensuring the approach reflects the priorities, aspirations and lived experience of First Peoples communities in Yarra.</p> <p>Discussion highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of a meaningful and culturally appropriate engagement process • the need for the policy to be grounded in self-determination and genuine partnership • the role of the Advisory Committee in providing ongoing guidance as the policy is refined <p>The policy will progress to a broader consultation phase, informed by an impact-focused engagement approach.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate the draft policy to relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and organisations for feedback as part of the consultation process

5.	Other Business	<p>The Committee discussed the importance of maintaining visibility, continuity and accountability in relation to Council’s anti-racism and equity work.</p> <p>Members expressed a desire to revisit previous work and discussions in this area, including initiatives connected to Black Lives Matter, and requested further advice on current status and next steps.</p>
Meeting closed		The meeting closed at 2:58pm
Next scheduled meeting		Monday 18 th of May from 1pm-3pm