

Minutes

Heritage and Planning Advisory Committee



Date	21 May 2026
Time	6:00pm-7:45pm
Location	Richmond Town Hall, Meeting Rm1
Chair	Cr Kenneth Gomez
Minute taker	Richa Swarup, Kate Yuncken, Nerelle Jennings
Content Manager Reference	D26/225805

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	Cr Kenneth Gomez – Chair
Committee members	Allie Wu, Cameron White, Clint Ebeyer, Danny Bearzato, Glen McCallum, Hayden Brown, Ian Wight, Jenny Rizzo,
Council Officers	Kate Yuncken (Manager City Strategy), Narelle Jennings (Acting Manager Statutory Planning), Richa Swarup, (Principal Adviser City Heritage - City Strategy)
Guests	-
Apologies	Cr Edward Crossland, Joerg Langeloh (Sr Coordinator Strategic Planning), Kristianna Scheffel, Sally Vivian

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes/Actions
1.	Acknowledgement of Country, Welcome & Introductions	The Chair welcomed the Committee members.
2.	Declarations of conflict of interests of interest	No conflicts were declared.
3.	Action from previous meeting	An update to the actions from the previous meeting was provided to the Committee along with the Agenda. Discussion: The committee noted the update. Action: None
4.	Work Plan – Strategic Planning Update	Manager City strategy provided the following update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That C271 Fitzroy-Collingwood Advisory Committee Hearing has concluded. There was a difference in advice from heritage expert and urban design expert on some heritage sites. Final outcome is still unknown.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An C291 Bridge Rd/Victoria Street and C273 Heidelberg Road DDO to BFO translations overview was presented in the Council Mtg on 12 May 2026. • State Government-led online engagement in May to achieve Housing Target <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building height impact on heritage sites • Upper-Level setbacks behind street wall. Some members considered that 6 M setback could be sufficient. Whether it is 6 m or 8 m setback it does not make much difference. Building height, bulk and how the new development relates to its adjoining buildings and streetscapes is important. • Heights along Alexander Parade - Increase to 9/10 levels is a concern. <p>Actions: That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning provide some scenarios/options to the HPAC that are likely to be considered by the SAC on the built form overlays (BFOs) for Scheme Amendment C271 Fitzroy–Collingwood. • Committee members provide their feedback to officers so that it can be considered and a more comprehensive approach is adopted by Council.
5.	State Planning reforms	<p>Acting Manager Statutory Planning informed the committee about the VC300 Introducing the Mid-Rise Code which includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New planning controls for four to six storey apartments. • Deemed to comply pathway- The code already contains a number of standards that if meet, there will be no third party right of appeal process for planning applications <p>Discussion: The committee considered that the ‘Deemed to Comply’ pathway with no right of appeal is restrictive.</p> <p>Action: None</p>
6.	Update on heritage projects	<p>Principal Adviser, City Heritage (City Strategy) presented an update on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Design Guide – final draft likely to be completed in July/August which takes into consideration the feedback provided by the committee in the February meeting. • A guide for working with Council heritage assets in the public realm- a project is in progress and draft report will be presented to the Committee later in 2026. • Heritage Training- A training on condition reporting of heritage buildings is scheduled in June for Council’s building projects and Building Maintenance teams. • Community event on ‘Sustainability upgrades in heritage buildings’- The event was organised on 11 May 2026. • Implementing LGBTIQ+ Study- Officers would present a draft Planning Scheme Amendment to Council in coming months, to provide planning protection to the sites identified through the

		<p>study.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee would be happy to provide feedback on the draft design guidelines when the final draft is prepared. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That committee be provided with the draft guidelines when a draft has been completed.
7.	Any Other Matter	<p>No specific items were raised</p> <p>Action: None</p>
8.	Future meeting:	<p>Thursday 20 August 2026 (6pm-8pm Richmond Town Hall- Councillors Chamber)</p> <p>It was noted during the meeting that due to the bouncing of the sound, the Hearing Loop system did not work well at the RTH Rm 1.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the HPAC meeting agenda should be sent more than a week in advance and any reference material should be sent earlier, if possible. • The next meeting should be held in Councillors' Office at the RTH.
9.	Close	<p>The chair thanked the members and closed the meeting.</p>