

Minutes

Multicultural Advisory Committee



Date	Wednesday, 6 May 2026
Time	6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Location	Richmond Town Hall: 333 Bridge Rd, Richmond VIC 3121 Meeting Room 2
Chair	Councillor Mecca Ho; Councillor Kenneth Gomez
Minute taker	Amani Godwin
Content Manager Ref	

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 Mecca Ho; Councillor Kenneth Gomez
Committee members	Nuraini Mahamud, Steven Chu, Sarita Narayan, Xiao Yue Wang, Thai Thai Nyugen
Council Officers	Amani Godwin; Cristina Del Frate
Guests	Anja Edwards, Brodie Butler-Robey
Apologies	

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country	<p>The meeting was opened by the Chair.</p> <p>An acknowledgment of Country was provided.</p> <p>Committee members introduced themselves and outlined their roles and backgrounds.</p>
2.	Declarations of conflict of interests of interest	No conflicts of interest were declared.
3.	Draft Budget 2026/27	<p>An overview of the Draft Budget 2026/27 was presented by Anja Edwards from the Finance team at Yarra City Council. Key points included...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year’s draft Budget is focused on seeking community feedback and encouraging public participation. • A range of consultation opportunities will be available for community members, including both face-to-face and online sessions. • Translated materials in various languages will be provided to support community members with limited English proficiency. • An online submission form is available for community members to submit questions and feedback, with submissions closing on 17 May. <p>Matters raised by the Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xiao Yue Wang raised concerns regarding the need for additional chairs and ongoing roof leaking issues at the

		<p>Florence Peel Centre in Fitzroy.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An email was sent to Anja on 8 May requesting that Xiao's feedback be included in the draft Budget submission for Councillors' consideration. The feedback has since been incorporated into the submitted draft Budget.
4.	Draft Economic Development Strategy	<p>An overview of the Draft Economic Development Strategy was presented by Brodie Butler-Robey from the Economic Development team at Yarra City Council. Key points included...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The team supports businesses of all sizes, from home-based businesses to large enterprises. They focus on strengthening local shopping strips and precincts. The strategy aims to build stronger partnerships between local enterprises and the broader community. The draft strategy was developed following the expiry of the previous Economic Development Strategy. Consultation has taken place with Council and local government stakeholders, and the next stage involves engaging with the community to gather feedback before presenting the findings back to Council. The team has been meeting with various community groups as part of the consultation process. A community pop-up session will be held on 12 May at Victoria Street (The Learning Bank) from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm, where community members can learn more about the strategy. Council has prepared a draft Economic Development Strategy to guide how Yarra's local economy can continue to grow and thrive. Community members are welcome to speak directly with the Economic Development team if they would like further information or to provide feedback. <p>Matters raised by the committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members agreed on the importance of ensuring their perspectives are considered in Council decision-making processes. They acknowledged the important role the YMAC plays in shaping how Council engages with the community and ensuring community consultation takes place before decisions are made. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members who are available are encouraged to attend the community pop-up session to be held on 12 May at Victoria Street (The Learning Bank) from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm.
5	Annual Yarra Community Grants Program	<p>An overview of the Annual Yarra Community Grants Program was presented by Cristina Del Frate from the Development team at Yarra City Council. Key points included...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Yarra Community Grants Program supports community-driven projects that improve access to, and the quality of, social, economic, and cultural life across the neighbourhoods, shared spaces, and communities within the City of Yarra. Applications for the grants program will open on 25 June.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program will remain open for six weeks. During this period, community training sessions will be delivered with interpreters available to support diverse communities. • Amani will contact community representatives to confirm whether they, or members of their community, will attend the sessions. • A community information session will be held on 22 June at 10:00 am at RTH, with interpreters available for community members. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amani to contact community representatives to confirm whether they, or members of their community, will attend the community information session to be held on 22 June at 10:00 am at RTH, with interpreters available for community members.
6.	Yarra Updates	<p>Amani Godwin provided an update on the following...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community markets, Collingwood, Fitzroy and Richmond • Yarra Refugee Week events • BANH Refugee week event • Yarra City Council's Volunteer Morning Tea <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All flyers had previously been shared with committee members.
7	Other Business	<p>The following matters were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee members discussed changing future meetings from evening sessions to daytime meetings, with a with hybrid attendance options available for those unable to attend in person via a Teams link. Meetings will take place in the Councillors' Meeting Room at Richmond Town Hall as per Cr Gomez request. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact other members to get their say in the change on time.
8	Meeting closed	The meeting closed at 7:03 pm.
	Next scheduled meeting	Wednesday, 5 August at RTH during the day, with hybrid attendance options available.