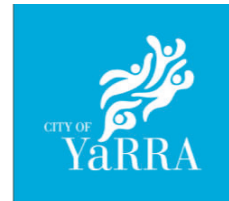


Minutes

Yarra Environment Advisory Committee



Date	13 Aug 2026
Time	6-8pm
Location	Richmond Town Hall, Councillors Room
Chair	Cr Evangeline Aston
Minute taker	Indy Lingam
Content Manager Reference	D26/0337008

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 Evangeline Aston
Committee members	Theresa Johnson-Ellul, Carlos Aguella, Marcus Neve, Catherine Ryan, Michael Goddard, Maeve Dowty.
Council Officers	Indy Lingam (Sustainable Energy Coordinator), Katy Daily (Energy Innovation Lead), Gabrielle Lethlean (Sustainable Energy Officer)
Guests	N/A
Apologies	Fernanda Farias, Sarah Bekessy, Cr Kenneth Gomez, Michael Oke, James Henderson, Son Thai

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country	Acknowledgement of Country was provided by the Chair.
2.	Declarations of conflict of interests of interest	No conflicts of interest were declared.
3.	Update on general council matters relevant to this Committee (10min – 6.10)	An overview of the item was provided by the Councillor which outlined the following matters: • Merri Creek MC recurring funding has been approved in the budget • Plane tree options report is progressing internally • Recommended NoMs submitted to MAV to advocate: a) Build to rent developments to make financial contributions to Council open space fund, as they are currently exempt b) establishing local government infrastructure fund through climate 'polluter' tax Matters raised by the committee: • No specific matters raised from the committee. Actions (if any): • No actions came from this discussion point.
4.	Waste and	A discussion was held around key themes of the Waste and Recycling

	Recycling Strategy 40min – (6.50)	Strategy. Matters raised by the committee: Funding Models / ideas to reduce waste: • Repair workshops could reduce what goes into bins • Charging more for bigger bins is a good incentive • Supported shared bins idea • Supportive of two-weekly waste bin collection • Discussion on ways to support and reward behaviour change. FOGO questions • Supportive of FOGO. Seen as very important with many benefits; especially reduction in methane emissions • Discussed ways for council to incentivise uptake • It would be good if residents could access output for their gardens Resource Recovery and Recyclables • Discussed soft plastics and textiles as the most important new services to be explored. • Noted separation at the Depot could be expanded, i.e. sporting goods. • Discussion re: how Council can support re-homing of goods • Support for Waste to Energy for waste unable to be recovered or recycled Expanding our reach • Discussion re: Shared bins – benefits risks • Discussion re: Business Sustainability (waste) Actions (if any): • None
5.	Directions for Sustainable Business programs	overview of the item was provided by Sustainable Energy Officer Matters raised by the committee: Q1 How best can business sustainability wins/actions/status be shared with the wider community? • Positive feedback on Greening our Business • Promote good business practice through social media • Council role to avoid green washing • Add as a category to Sustainability awards? Q2 What sustainability actions does the local community expect/want to see from business and does this impact consumer decisions? • Keen to know details or what business is doing: i.e. reducing waste, local manufacturing, renewable energy, biodiversity, electrification • Wouldn't support business just for sustainability if product is not great. Q3 Where do you go to find information to support environmental and sustainability action? • Noted quite hard to find reliable information on sustainable business. Often through socials. • Noted the value of Council being a trusted source of who are 'sustainable businesses'.

		Actions (if any) None
5.	Directions for Electrify everything	overview of the item was provided by Energy Innovation Lead, with discussion centred around three questions: <i>1. What would convince you to take action to electrify? What messages best resonate?</i> <i>2. What are the best channels, messages or messengers to reach your community or any of the above focus segments? Have you seen anything work well elsewhere we could consider?</i> <i>3. Do any of the proposed focus segments strongly resonate? Are there any other prominent segments of Yarra that we might consider designing a campaign around?</i> Matters raised by the committee: - Cost, health, and comfort are key drivers - Indoor and also outdoor health is important: i.e. induction cookstove and wood heaters. - Role to demonstrate cooking can still be great on induction - Younger people may be easier to shift - Good info on Council website but not well known - Can council support to electrify Gleadell St Market? - Easy for people who own their own homes - rental very difficult. - Be careful not to demonise people not getting off gas - Sustainability awards for builders could be great. Actions (if any) - None
8.	Active Consultations for discussion	a) No Current consultations of broad relevance to the committee <i>*Please note that via Your Say Yarra (Council's community consultation website), committee members may have their say on consultations as individuals, not as someone representing the committee.</i>
9.	General Business / other matters raised by the committee 20 min (7.50)	Reminded committee of key activities requesting input (committee has been emailed); - Seeking nominations for the Community Contributions to Sustainability Award - Nominations close on Sunday 24 August. - RSVP to attend the Yarra Climate Summit 2026 (Saturday 5 September 2026) - Nominations for Youth Climate Action Fund grants - request YEAC promote to young people in their community - Apartment electrification information session Next Tuesday FTH 6pm – Yarra electrify everything website - High Life expo Oct 3.
Meeting closed		The meeting closed at 8pm
Next scheduled meeting		Thursday 5 Nov, 6pm