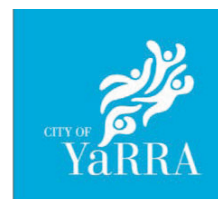


Minutes

Rainbow Advisory Committee



Date	04 August 2026
Time	6 – 7.30pm
Location	Collingwood Town hall, Wurundjeri Room/ ONLINE
Chair	Councillor Edward Crossland
Minute taker	Anastasia Le
Content Manager Reference	D26/0328266

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 and Councillor Edward Crossland
Committee members	Zainab Hikmet, Melissa Williams, BJ, Fenn Aldred, James Seow, Bhanuka Bodaragama (BB)
Council Officers	Cristina De Frate, Elly Murrell, Anastasia Le
Guests	
Apologies	Apologies: Caleb Hawk, David Hood

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country	Cr Crossland gave an Acknowledgement of Country
2.	Minutes accepted	Minutes from previous meeting adopted.
2.	Declarations of conflict of interests of interest	No conflict of interest recorded.
	Business Arising	Mayor Jolly informed the Advisory Group that Tom Feeley has resigned from the Committee. Action: Officers to investigate finding a replacement.
3.	Yarra City Community Awards 2026	An overview of the item was provided by Council officer, outlining the following: • The Yarra Community Awards 2026 program is currently open and seeking nominations. • Link to awards nominations below: yarracity.vic.gov.au/awards Matters raised: • Discussion regarding the scope for nominations, examples from previous nominations and awards recipients. The flyer and brochure was shared. Action: Officers are to remind members of Community Awards

		promotion
4.	Acknowledgement and reflection on Berlin Pride Attack	- Members discussed maintaining a constructive outlook, strengthening visibility and queer joy, promoting unity by addressing anti-trans rhetoric within Rainbow Communities, remaining alert but not alarmed, and concerns regarding the potential for increased hostile or discriminatory behaviour. Matters raised: - Officer discussed involvement on VicPol committee, and potential to raise matters there. Actions: - RAC members are to send through ideas for presentation to Vic Pol in regards to safety planning. - Officers are to bring issues to Vicpol for preventive measures and solution.
5.	LGBTIQA+ Memorial Project	- An update was provided on the progress of the LGBTIQA+ Memorial Project, which has been delayed due to manufacturer delays. Matters raised: - This discussion included safety planning and vandalism prevention measures following installation and launch. Officers confirmed relevant council graffiti management policies which respond within 24 hours to discriminatory / hate speech graffiti. - The launch event will also involve supports available on site. Action: - Officers to keep RAC members up to date with project progression and launch date.
5.	Economic Development	- Officers presented information about the Community Grants Program which is currently open and accepting applications until 28 August. Of particular interest is the "Local Economy" stream aimed at supporting economic precincts in Yarra. Matters raised: - Discussion on potential investigation of pathways to supporting queer businesses. - Concerns raised around social media censorship that affects queer business' online accounts. - Concerns of high rental cost that affect retention of residents and businesses in Yarra. - Officers updated the Committee regarding discussion with Procurement team – supporting local queer-owned catering business; including a discussion with the economic development team on capacity building for businesses in the area. Actions: - Officers to follow up query on levels of intervention available to local government in supporting queer businesses. - Officers to follow up regarding membership with GLOBE

		Victoria.
6.	Yarra's Planning Scheme	• Officer updated members on providing feedback via Your Say Yarra on Yarra's Planning Scheme Amendment.
7.	Other Business	• Discussion on recruiting more diversity for the RAC when replacing members who are no longer attending. • Discussion on promotion of queer businesses through the Rainbow Yarra website and word of mouth. • Discussion regarding safety concerns around public transport after 6pm, and around queer entertainment precincts. • Mayor Jolly informed members of discussions with Minister on safety concerns around licenced venues. • Mayor Jolly confirmed maintenance on cleaning plans for the Rainbow Crosswalk. Actions: • Officers to circulate Business Handbook to RAC members. • Officers to follow up with Infrastructure and Asset teams on cleaning and maintenance of the Rainbow Cross walk. • Mayor Jolly is to follow up with the Minister regarding security and safeguarding measures. • Officers to liaise with governance team on recruitment of new RAC members.
Meeting closed		The meeting closed at 7.24pm
Next scheduled meeting		24 November 1pm-2.30pm Richmond Town Hall/ Online