

## Minutes

### Yana Ngargna Advisory Committee



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| <b>Date</b>                      | 17 Aug 2026                                       |
| <b>Time</b>                      | 1:00 pm- 2:30 pm                                  |
| <b>Location</b>                  | Wurundjeri Room, Collingwood Town Hall            |
| <b>Chair</b>                     | Councillor Sophie Wade and Aunty Annette Xiberras |
| <b>Minute taker</b>              | Laura Gathoni                                     |
| <b>Content Manager Reference</b> | D26/332199                                        |

### 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

|                          |                                                                        |
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| <b>Councillor/s</b>      | Councillor Sophie Wade                                                 |
| <b>Committee members</b> | Co- Chair Aunty Annette Xiberras, Mark Jones and Uncle Andrew Gardiner |
| <b>Council Officers</b>  | Julia Bennett-Mitrovski, Monique Bateman, Elly Murrell                 |
| <b>Guests</b>            | Joel Wright                                                            |
| <b>Apologies</b>         | Sofii Belling Harding, Illana Atkinson, Tiana Koehrer                  |

| Item number | Item title or subject                        | Minute notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| 1.          | Welcome to Country and introducing new staff | <p>Uncle Andrew provided the Welcome to Country.</p> <p>An update from Council, including introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Brooke Colbert – General Manager, Community Strengthening (succeeding Kerry McGrath)</li><li>Julia Bennett-Mitrovski – Senior Coordinator, Policy and Partnerships</li></ul> <p>An officer provided details on the recruitment of two new roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>First Peoples Lead – Policy and Partnerships<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The role will sit within the Ageing, Equity and Community Development Branch.</li></ul></li><li>First Peoples Employment Pathways Advisor<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This new role is being developed within People and Culture.</li></ul></li><li>Both roles aim to strengthen Council's engagement with First Peoples and employment pathways.</li><li>Uncle Joel Wright (Mob Jobs) will support the recruitment process to help ensure cultural safety.</li></ul> |
| 2.          | Yana Ngargna Policy update                   | <p>An officer provided an update on the Yana Ngargna Policy and engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Yana Ngargna Policy is nearing completion after extensive consultation. Thank you for all the feedback to date.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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|    |                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council is targeting formal adoption in October/November</li> <li>• A one-month impact consultation phase will commence shortly and run until mid-September to gather final input from identified Aboriginal Controlled Organisations.</li> <li>• Committee members were invited to identify any gaps or areas requiring clarification</li> </ul> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project officer to send the slides featuring stakeholder engagement for impact consultation to Yana Ngargna Advisory Committee members (completed)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3. | Yarra Council's Cultural Safety Audit | <p>An overview of the item was provided by Council officers, outlining the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A cultural safety audit is currently underway as part of Council's six cultural capability actions.</li> <li>• This is Yarra's first level Reconciliation Action Plan (Foundation), which is currently at the reflect stage and was endorsed in April 2026</li> <li>• The audit aims to ensure RAP commitments are embedded in Council's everyday operations.</li> <li>• Over 100 staff at Yarra, including the senior leadership team, undertook the cultural safety training run by Mob Jobs.</li> </ul> <p>Matters raised by the Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether a Yana Ngargna Advisory Committee member could participate in the interview panel for the Lead – First Peoples Partnerships position; the matter was taken on notice.</li> </ul> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officers to circulate a copy of the RAP to Yana Ngargna Advisory Committee members.</li> <li>• Officers to follow up on matters raised regarding recruitment for the Lead – First Peoples Partnerships position and report back to the Committee.</li> </ul> |
| 4. | Jan 26 at Yarra Council               | <p>An overview of the item was provided by the GM and Council officer, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council is seeking formal community advice to inform its approach for 2027.</li> </ul> <p>Matters raised by the Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee discussed the possibility of supporting community-led events or recognising an alternative date</li> <li>• Suggestions included considering the third Monday of January as an alternative date to mark Australia Day.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 5. | Wurundjeri Week (3-15 August)         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council sought members' suggestions on how to better celebrate Wurundjeri Week in future years, following previous low-key</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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|    |                        | <p>celebrations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee members suggested hosting a family day featuring rides and a picnic.</li> <li>• Proposals for including a citizenship ceremony at CoY during this week</li> </ul> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee members to share ideas on how CoY can celebrate Wurundjeri Week and GM to add item to next Wurundjeri/ CoY quarterly meeting.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 6. | Yarra Community Awards | <p>An overview of the upcoming Community Awards was provided by a Council officer, outlining the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nominations are open for one more week, and there are seven categories.</li> <li>• Awards are to recognise local individuals and groups</li> </ul> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officer to circulate details of the awards to YNAC members</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 7. | Other Business         | <p>Matters raised by the Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion turned to Council's advocacy roadmap, which outlines general advocacy priorities.</li> <li>• Council is hosting public sessions where residents can ask questions of state election candidates.</li> <li>• A committee member requested that Council revisit its previous work and policy relating to Black Lives Matter Report.</li> <li>• A Committee member suggested inviting Uncle Colin Hunter Jr to a future Committee meeting as a guest speaker in connection with Council's earlier work relating to Black Lives Matter.</li> </ul> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officer to circulate the Yarra Decides website link to committee members (completed)</li> <li>• Officers to look into previous Council work relating to Black Lives Matter and associated guest speaker arrangements and report back to the Committee.</li> </ul> |
|    | <b>Next Meeting</b>    | <b>16 November 2026</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |