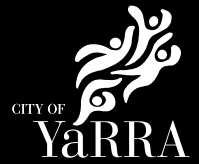


Yarra's new Community Local Law

Information for residents and property owners



Council has adopted the new Community Local Law which replaces the General Local Law when it comes into effect on 1 September 2026.

This helps Council manage local issues that state and federal laws don't cover to improve community safety, protect our environment and ensure Yarra continues to be a peaceful and safe place to live and work.

Key changes include:

- Removed legal jargon (where possible) and simplified language.
- Inclusive of new guiding principles for the application of the Local Law.
- Removed red tape with less permits required and the introduction of automatic permitting.
- New and updated clauses, in line with community expectations.
- Reorganised information which enhances clarity, accessibility and usability for both Council Officers and the community.



Domestic waste bins:

- Residents continue to have 24 hours to put their bins out, and now have to bring them back in by midnight on collection day.



Penalty units:

- Penalty units have changed in line with state legislation.



Hard rubbish:

- Anyone can now remove hard waste if the item/s are removed for the purpose of reuse and repurposing, provided they leave the remaining hard waste neat and undisturbed.



Significant trees:

- Significant trees are protected trees with a trunk diameter of 40cm or more measured 1.4m above ground level. This has been reduced from 1.5m.
- A permit is required before undertaking any pruning, lopping, removal or other works on a significant tree.



Unsightly properties:

- Property owners must not allow their property to become dilapidated, neglected or unsightly. This includes the land and any buildings or structures on it.
- Unoccupied and unfit-for-occupation buildings that are graffitied or otherwise defaced can also be considered unsightly.



The keeping of animals:

- The maximum number of pets that may be kept has changed, with increased limits applying in some cases. The new maximums are as follows:
- To keep more animals than listed below, you will need an excess animal permit.

Type of Animal	Flat or Unit (Maximum Allowed)	Land Other Than Flat or Unit (Maximum Allowed)
Dogs (Over 3 months old)	2	2
Cats (Over 3 months old)	2	2
Chickens	0	5
Domestic Birds (Caged & non-poultry)	2	5
Ferrets	2	5
Reptiles	2	5
Rabbits	2	5
Guinea Pigs	2	5
Rats or Mice (Combined)	2	5
Poultry (Other than chickens)	0	0
Roosters	0	0
Farm Animals	0	0

More information:

Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/communitylocallaw to view the new Community Local Law.

By 1 September, this will be updated to also include the following:

- Local Laws you should know – including Local Laws that have changed or tackle common local issues.
- A comprehensive list of all permits under the Local Law.
- What happens if you break the Local Law.
- A plain English guide to the Community Local Law.