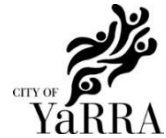


# Yarra Environment Advisory Committee

**DRAFT MINUTES** – Thur 29 July 2021, 6:00-8:00pm



## **Online Meeting**

**Attendees:** Andrew Vance, Paul O’Shea, Chris Williams, Miranda Sharp, Jenny Backholer, Michael Oke, Kieran Dickson, Craig Lupton, Lisa Coffa, Tim Shue, Brona Keenan, Siu Chan, Katya Johanson

**Apologies:** Cr Amanda Stone, Chris Currie, Geoffrey Golden, Adeline Stuart-Watt, Gary Shadforth, Katherine Morgan

**Chair:** Cr Gabrielle di Vietri (Mayor)

### **1. Acknowledgement of Country**

*Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Owners of this country, pays tribute to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Yarra and gives respect to Elders past and present*

### **2. Review of previous minutes and actions, and review of this agenda – confirm if any ‘Other Business Items to add?’**

Previous minutes adopted

### **3. Consultation on Arts and Culture Strategy (Brona Keenan, Siu Chan, Katya Johanson)**

Council is updating the Arts and Culture Strategy. There are four priorities:

**Priority 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture**

**Priority 2: Creative places and spaces**

**Priority 3: A creative and diverse community**

**Priority 4: Art for a sustainable future**

- Support the unique platform artists and creative organisations have to raise awareness and inspire change to contribute to a sustainable future.
- Support artistic endeavours that contribute to a sustainable future, including those that respond to the climate emergency.
- Support creatives to develop sustainable practices.

The Arts and Culture Team will lead the consultation. Full details on the Arts and Culture Strategy consultation can be found at <https://yoursayyarra.com.au/lovearts>

Vision for the strategy will remain the same. Whilst Priority 4 may be most aligned to YEAC, Council is seeking feedback from this group on all the Priorities as art is for all.

YEAC provided positive and constructive feedback including:

- Secondary students will be very pleased and keen to be engaged in this.
- Good to foster more organisations like ClimeArt. Good idea to initially focus on organisations with climate/environment and Art as their purpose
- Be clear what is meant by Sustainability.
- Outcome should be strong and tangible eg strongly contributing to the meeting of our target of zero by 2030
- Perhaps every grant (not just env related ones) should ask “how does this contribute to our new zero by 2030 target?”.

- Opportunity to have creative works in parks
- Art is as strong tool in how we get messages across – eg. Melbourne’s urban forest work.
- Need to ensure space for art to set its own direction and experiment and challenge – not have boundaries set around it.
- Opportunity for Yarra to have Art/climate Residencies
- Arts should be central to what we do in the climate space– not an add on or afterthought.

**ACTION:** Reminder that this is just the start of the process. If you are interested and have more ideas, please get onto Your Say Yarra <https://yoursayyarra.com.au/lovearts> to provide your individual feedback and stay in touch.

#### 4. Yarra Energy Foundation (YEF) update (Tim Shue – YEF - Manager, Communications and Marketing, Moke).

YEF will provide an update on YEF and some exciting announcements:

**Metropolitan Community Power Hub:** <https://www.yef.org.au/our-stories-and-events/yef-to-lead-victorias-first-metropolitan-community-power-hub/>

YEF has been funded by SV to be the first Metro Power Hub in Australia.

Being inner city the way that the Metro Power Hub will roll out will probably be different to the regions which have had a more technology focus.

Pulling together existing community action across the metropolitan area. Hoping to improve solar penetration, energy literacy, community batteries.

Giving the community groups as much support as possible to get projects shovel ready.

A huge focus on relationship building and new partnerships to form.

**Community Batteries:** <https://www.yef.org.au/our-stories-and-events/seeking-victorias-first-solar-sponge-community-battery-network/>

Aim is to design a community battery project to rollout in Yarra on the CitiPower network.

Community batteries solve:

1. *Getting rid of Solar waste* (any energy that doesn’t get used or put somewhere gets wasted). Charge up during periods of excess (during the day)
2. *Energy Equity* – not everyone can install solar panels or buy Green power. Plus many other barriers. YEF trying to design the model for all. All homes in the network area could participate.
3. *Export limiting* – many households are currently not able to export, and the battery will solve this.
4. *Energy Affordability* – downward pressure on energy prices
5. *Household batteries not really affordable* – shared resource makes more affordable and accessible

Q – distribution – Could this allow large sites that are solar limited to upgrade their systems without paying for network upgrades? A- probably.... Pass contacts to YEF to follow up

Q from YEF - *what would you need to know if one was to be installed in your street or neighbourhood?:*

- What would it mean existing feed in tariff?
- How does it fit with things like VPP’s?
- How does it interact with electric vehicles?

- How big are they?
- Health risks – fire, radiation etc?
- Life expectancy?
- How many households do they service and how many would be needed
- How does it work?
- What is the best practice mass role out early adopter example of this?

**5. How we best coordinate local community initiatives with Council initiatives.** (Paul O’Shea)

Group conversation about how best to Coordinate between Council and Community. For example there are Council projects to reduce plastic in local businesses and similar initiatives from a Street Group to encourage a large retailer to recycle and to improve it's packaging.

How do we get more of an open dialogue on what is coming up for community priorities, council priorities, and how we can collaborate more? Last 18 months have been incredibly challenging. Its a two way street. In general the support from council has been fantastic.

**ACTION:** Add agenda item – *Are there any emerging issues of concern or opportunities from the group that Council should be aware of?*

**6. Active Consultations: (see: *Your Say Yarra* <https://www.yoursayyarra.com.au/>)**

- A New Park for Otter St (due 18 Aug) - <https://yoursayyarra.com.au/otter-street-park>
- Council Climate Grants - (Due 15 Aug) - <https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/services/take-climate-action/climate-action-grants-stream>
- *NOTE:* The Yarra Community Vision has recently been adopted. Next step Council Plan

**7. Other Business – time permitting?**

**8. Future Agenda Items to add?**

- **Add** new standing item *Are there any emerging issues of concern or opportunities from the group that Council should be aware of?*
- update on progress of Yarra Rehabilitators at next meeting (*hold off to September*)
- Update on collaboration between Melbourne Girls and ACF (*hold off to September*)

**Close**