



Minutes

Council Meeting

6.30pm, Tuesday 14 February 2023

Richmond Town Hall

1. Statement of recognition of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung 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 acknowledge their creator spirit Bunjil, their ancestors and their Elders.

We acknowledge the strength and resilience of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, who have never ceded sovereignty and retain their strong connections to family, clan and country despite the impacts of European invasion.

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 here today—and to their Elders past, present and future.”

2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence

Attendance

Councillors

- Cr Claudia Nguyen Mayor
- Cr Edward Crossland Deputy Mayor
- Cr Michael Glynatsis Councillor
- Cr Stephen Jolly Councillor
- Cr Herschel Landes Councillor
- Cr Bridgid O’Brien Councillor
- Cr Amanda Stone Councillor
- Cr Sophie Wade Councillor

Council staff

Chief Executive Officer

- Sue Wilkinson Chief Executive Officer

General Managers

- Wei Chen Corporate Services and Transformation
- Brooke Colbert Governance, Communications and Customer Experience
- Chris Leivers Infrastructure and Environment
- Kerry McGrath Community Strengthening
- Mary Osman City Sustainability and Strategy

Governance

- Rhys Thomas Senior Governance Advisor
- Mel Nikou Governance Officer

Apologies

- Cr Anab Mohamud Councillor

3. Announcements

Councillor Michael Glynatsis

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Cr Michael Glynatsis to the Yarra Council. Cr Glynatsis was elected at a countback on 18 January, and joins us tonight for his first Council meeting. On behalf of the Council, congratulations Cr Glynatsis, and we look forward to your contribution to our team.

Gabrielle de Vietri

Of course, the casual vacancy was triggered by the resignation of former councillor Gabrielle de Vietri to the seat of Richmond in the Victorian Legislative Assembly. I congratulate her on that election, thank her for her service to the Yarra Council and wish her the very best in her representation of large parts of the Yarra community in her new role.

Vale Dale Smedley

We were saddened just before Christmas to learn the news of the passing of former Yarra Councillor, Dale Smedley. I would like to invite Cr Jolly to say a few words and then formally move a motion of condolence.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Jolly

Seconder: Councillor Stone

1. That:

- (a) Council record a motion of condolence on the passing of former Councillor, Dale Smedley;
- (b) Council acknowledge and record its appreciation for his important contribution to the City of Yarra; and
- (c) the Mayor write to his family to provide a copy of this resolution and extend Council's sympathies.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Declarations of conflict of interest (Councillors and staff)

Councillor Wade declared a conflict of interest on item 7.3

Councillor Nguyen also declared a conflict of interest on item 7.3

5. Confirmation of minutes

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Wade

Seconded: Councillor Landes

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6 December 2022 and the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Friday 9 December 2022 be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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13. Urgent business

Nil

6. Question time

This record is provided as a summary of the questions asked by members of the public during Question Time. A recording of the Council Meeting is available on Council's website for twelve months following the meeting. Where a question is taken on notice and unable to be answered at the meeting, the full response is also published on Council's website when it becomes available.

The following questions were asked:

1. **Lindy U'Ren** asked a question about the Community Event on 7 February and plan for community meetings. The Mayor provided a response.
2. **Nancy Molloy** asked a question about the Empower classes at the Leisure Centres. The General Manager Infrastructure and Environment provided a response.
3. **Gabrielle Keating** asked if Council could advocate on behalf of the Victoria Park residents with the issue of the reintroduction of the maintenance facility. The Mayor provided a response.
4. **Hayley Wilson** asked a question about the Construction Traffic Management Plan for the train maintenance facility. The Mayor provided a response.
5. **Shane Delphine, Yarra Climate Action Now** asked a question about the Nature Strategy and Council Reports. The Senior Governance Advisor provided a response.
6. **Fiona McGlade** asked a question about achieving the net zero carbon emissions target by 2030. The Acting General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy provided a response.

7.1 Burnley Golf Course Risk Mitigations Works

Reference D23/31901
Author James Pratt - Recreation and Leisure Services
Authoriser General Manager - Infrastructure and Environment

RECOMMENDATION Start time: 7.11pm

1. That Council:
 - (a) approve Officers to proceed with the project to redesign Burnley Golf Course, to address the ongoing risk of balls being hit beyond the course boundary, as per the design as shown in **Attachment One**;
 - (b) approve Officers to proceed to Tender for the Burnley Golf Course risk mitigation works, with the aim to complete these within 2023;
 - (c) support the proposed approach to engage and inform stakeholders in relation to the project; and
 - (d) approve the introduction of paid parking at the Burnley Golf Course site post risk mitigation works.

Public Submissions

The following people addressed Council on the matter:

Lyndy U'Ren;

Pauline Walker, Burnley Women's Golf Club Inc.;

Victoria Chipperfield;

Steven Vaughan, Let's Enhance Gleadell Street;

Shane Delphine, Yarra Climate Action Now; and

Kerry Grabau.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Landes

Seconded: Councillor Stone

1. That Council:
 - (a) approve Officers to proceed with the project to redesign Burnley Golf Course, to address the ongoing risk of balls being hit beyond the course boundary, as per the design as shown in **Attachment One**;
 - (b) approve Officers to proceed to Tender for the Burnley Golf Course risk mitigation works, with the aim to complete these within 2023;
 - (c) support the proposed approach to engage and inform stakeholders in relation to the project; and
 - (d) approve the introduction of \$1/hr paid parking at the Burnley Golf Course site post risk mitigation works.
2. That Council request officers to explore:
 - (a) upgrading the intersection of Loyola and Madden Grove with relevant Government departments to facilitate a controlled pedestrian crossing to permit safe access to and from the Golf Course and Yarra Trail area;

- (b) upgrading the intersection of Loyola and Madden Grove, and Loyola Grove and Twickenham Crescent with relevant Government departments to facilitate improved pedestrian and cycling safety, including controlled pedestrian crossings to permit safe access to and from the Golf Course, the Yarra Trail, and Burnley more broadly; and
 - (c) potential options to install electric car and bicycle charging bays.
3. That Council request officers to explore opportunities to increase biodiversity across Burnley Golf Course, including as a corridor for bees and birds, in parallel with the above changes.

CARRIED

CALL FOR A DIVISION

For: Councillors Crossland, Stone, Nguyen, Landes and Wade

Against: Councillors Jolly, Glynatsis and O'Brien

7.2 Appointment of Council delegates

Reference D23/4289
Author Rhys Thomas - Senior Governance Advisor
Authoriser General Manager Governance, Communications and Customer Experience

RECOMMENDATION

Start time: 8.03pm

1. That Council appoint the following Councillors to the Audit and Risk Committee for 2023:

Committee	Appointments for 2023
Audit and Risk Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____

2. That Council appoint the following Councillors to the Advisory Committees listed below for 2023:

Advisory Committee	Appointments for 2023
Active Ageing Advisory Committee	Cr _____
Active Transport Advisory Committee	Cr _____
Arts Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____
Business Advisory Group	Cr _____ ...
Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee	All Councillors
Community Awards Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____ Cr _____
Disability Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____
Environment Advisory Committee	Cr _____ ...
Heritage Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____ Cr _____
Multicultural Advisory Group	Cr _____
Rainbow Advisory Group	Cr _____ Cr _____
Yana Ngargna Advisory Group	Cr _____ Cr _____
Yarra Libraries Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____

3. That Council appoint the following Councillors to the external bodies listed below for 2023:

Organisation or body	Appointments for 2023
Australian Local Government Women's Association	Cr _____
Collingwood Children's Farm Management Committee	Cr _____

Friends of Baucau	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)
Merri Creek Management Committee	Cr _____
Metropolitan Transport Forum	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action	Cr _____
Victorian Local Governance Association	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Nguyen

Seconded: Councillor Wade

1. That Council appoint the following Councillors to the Audit and Risk Committee for 2023:

Committee	Appointments for 2023
Audit and Risk Committee	<u>Cr Landes</u> <u>Cr Nguyen</u>

2. That Council appoint the following Councillors to the Advisory Committees listed below for 2023:

Advisory Committee	Appointments for 2023
Active Ageing Advisory Committee	<u>Cr Stone</u>
Active Transport Advisory Committee	<u>Cr Landes</u> <u>Cr Wade</u>
Arts Advisory Committee	<u>Cr Crossland</u> <u>Cr Jolly</u>
Business Advisory Group	<u>Cr Glynatsis</u> <u>Cr Landes</u>
Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee	All Councillors
Community Awards Committee	<u>Cr Jolly</u> <u>Cr Nguyen</u> <u>Cr Wade</u>
Disability Advisory Committee	<u>Cr Glynatsis</u> <u>Cr Mohamud</u>
Environment Advisory Committee	<u>Cr Stone</u> <u>Cr Wade</u>
Heritage Advisory Committee	<u>Cr Crossland</u> <u>Cr Glynatsis</u> <u>Cr O'Brien</u>
Multicultural Advisory Group	<u>Cr Mohamud</u>
Rainbow Advisory Group	<u>Cr Crossland</u> <u>Cr O'Brien</u>
Yana Ngargna Advisory Group	<u>Cr O'Brien</u> <u>Cr Stone</u>

Yarra Libraries Advisory Committee	<u>Cr Nguyen</u> <u>Cr Wade</u>
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3. That Council appoint the following Councillors to the external bodies listed below for 2023:

Organisation or body	Appointments for 2023
Australian Local Government Women’s Association	<u>Cr Mohamud</u>
Collingwood Children’s Farm Management Committee	<u>Cr Stone</u>
Friends of Baucau	<u>Cr Stone</u>
Merri Creek Management Committee	<u>Cr O’Brien</u>
Metropolitan Transport Forum	<u>Cr Crossland</u> <u>Cr Wade (substitute)</u>
Municipal Association of Victoria	<u>Cr Nguyen</u> <u>Cr Stone (substitute)</u>
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action	<u>Cr Stone</u>
Victorian Local Governance Association	<u>Cr Wade</u> <u>Cr Stone (substitute)</u>

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.3 Governance Report - February 2023

Reference	D23/10169
Author	Melanie Van Dyk - Governance Officer
Authoriser	Senior Governance Advisor

RECOMMENDATION

Start time: 8.05pm

1. That Council note the reports regarding:
 - (a) filling of a casual vacancy on the Yarra City Council;
 - (b) setting of the rate cap for 2023/2024;
 - (c) appointment of a Councillor Conduct Officer;
 - (d) Minister's decision regarding the conduct of Citizenship; and
 - (e) extension of the Victorian Government e-scooter trial.
2. That Council:
 - (a) appoint David Ashmore as the Audit and Risk Committee Chair for 2023; and
 - (b) thank the Audit and Risk Committee for its contribution to good governance at the City of Yarra throughout 2022.
3. That in order to facilitate Yarra's representation at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in Canberra from 13 to 16 June 2023, Council:
 - (a) authorise the attendance of the following Councillor(s) in accordance with the Councillor Support Policy:
 - (i) Cr _____;
 - (ii) ...; and
 - (b) reschedule the Council meeting scheduled for 6.30pm on 13 June 2023 to 6.30pm on 20 June 2023 and provide notice to the community of the change via Council's social media channels and website.

REVISED RECOMMENDATION 1

1. That Council note the reports regarding:
 - (a) filling of a casual vacancy on the Yarra City Council;
 - (b) setting of the rate cap for 2023/2024;
 - (c) appointment of a Councillor Conduct Officer;
 - (d) Minister's decision regarding the conduct of Citizenship; and
2. That Council:
 - (a) appoint David Ashmore as the Audit and Risk Committee Chair for 2023; and
 - (b) thank the Audit and Risk Committee for its contribution to good governance at the City of Yarra throughout 2022.
3. That in order to facilitate Yarra's representation at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in Canberra from 13 to 16 June 2023, Council:
 - (a) authorise the attendance of the following Councillor(s) in accordance with the Councillor Support Policy:
 - (i) Cr _____;

- (ii) ...; and
- (b) reschedule the Council meeting scheduled for 6.30pm on 13 June 2023 to 6.30pm on 20 June 2023 and provide notice to the community of the change via Council's social media channels and website.

REVISED RECOMMENDATION 2

1. That Council note the reports regarding:
 - (a) extension of the Victorian Government e-scooter trial.

Public Submission

Steven Vaughan, Let's Enhance Gleadell Street addressed Council on the matter.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor Crossland

1. That Council note the reports regarding:
 - (a) filling of a casual vacancy on the Yarra City Council;
 - (b) setting of the rate cap for 2023/2024;
 - (c) appointment of a Councillor Conduct Officer;
 - (d) Minister's decision regarding the conduct of Citizenship; and
 - (e) extension of the Victorian Government e-scooter trial.
2. That Council:
 - (a) appoint David Ashmore as the Audit and Risk Committee Chair for 2023; and
 - (b) thank the Audit and Risk Committee for its contribution to good governance at the City of Yarra throughout 2022.
3. That in order to facilitate Yarra's representation at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in Canberra from 13 to 16 June 2023, Council:
 - (a) authorise the attendance of the following Councillor(s) in accordance with the Councillor Support Policy:
 - (i) Cr Claudia Nguyen; and
 - (ii) Cr Edward Crossland; and
 - (b) reschedule the Council meeting scheduled for 6.30pm on 13 June 2023 to 6.30pm on 20 June 2023 and provide notice to the community of the change via Council's social media channels and website.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*Both Councillor Nguyen and Wade left the chamber at 8.17pm due to a conflict of interest.
Councillor Crossland assumed the Chair.*

RECOMMENDATION 2

Moved: Councillor Landes

Seconded: Councillor Stone

1. That Council note the reports regarding:
 - (a) extension of the Victorian Government e-scooter trial.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.4 C1625 Tender Report for Fitzroy Town Hall - Main Hall HVAC and Services Upgrades

Reference D23/12281
Author Moez Ageeb - Project Manager Buildings
Authoriser General Manager - Infrastructure and Environment

Both Councillor Nguyen and Wade returned to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION Start time: 8.22pm

1. That Council:
 - (a) approves the award of Contract C1625 to _____ for the Fitzroy Town Hall Main Hall HVAC and services upgrades for the lump sum price of \$_____ (ex-GST);
 - (b) approves allocation of a contingency sum of 18% of the lump sum being \$_____ (ex-GST) to cover any minor variations or scope changes;
 - (c) notes the financial implications of the project as outlined in the confidential **Attachment One**; and
 - (d) authorises the General Manager Infrastructure and Environment to sign on behalf of Council, all necessary documentation relating to contract number C1625.

Public Submission

Shane Delphine, Yarra Climate Action Now addressed Council on the matter.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Landes

Seconded: Councillor O'Brien

1. That Council:
 - (a) defers the proposed work to upgrade the Fitzroy Town Hall Main Hall HVAC and services upgrades.

CARRIED

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8.38pm

The meeting resumed at 8.47pm

8. Notices of motion

Nil

9. Petitions and joint letters

9.1 Petition - Jamieson Street, Fitzroy North Parking Restriction Proposal

Reference: D23/49376

A petition from Yarra residents containing 30 signatures are requesting that Council reconsider the proposal to introduce 4P 7am - 7pm (7 days) parking restrictions in Jamieson Street, Fitzroy North.

Some of the reasons residents oppose the proposal:

- While the townhouses in the street have one car parking space at the rear of their properties, residents often need street parking to accommodate visitors.
- Elderly people and families with children often need parking for carers.
- Will ultimately result in moving cars that normally park on Jamieson Street to Queens Parade, McKean St and surrounding streets. It is a restriction that adds no real benefit to the residents / properties in Jamieson Street but has a real potential to create issues for the residents in Jamieson and surrounding streets.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Wade

Seconded: Councillor O'Brien

That the petition be received and referred to the appropriate officer for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Questions without notice

10.1 Councillor Landes - Pedestrian Crossings in Cremorne Street, Cremorne

Question:

The road works have now been completed along Cremorne Street. Can officers please advise when the scheduled pedestrian crossings can be completed?

Response:

The Acting General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy provided a response.

10.2 Councillor Landes - Temporary bus interchange at Burnley Station

Question:

There has been significant disruption due to the works by Metro, with Burnley Station transforming into a bus interchange station. What communications and information been provided to Yarra and residents to assist mitigating these disruptions with these works taking place?

Response:

The General Manager Infrastructure and Environment provided a response.

10.3 Councillor Wade - Update on DDO's

Question:

In regard to the Planning Amendments, the Caseby one came up earlier in terms of amendments, which are on the ministers desk, which haven't been made. There is also the C269 policy rewrite, open space and a number of other DDO's etc.

Can officers please provide an update on the status of the amendments etc that are with the minister?

Response:

The Acting General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy provided a response.

11. Delegates' reports

11.1 Councillor Stone - ICLEI Ocean Regional Executive

Start time: 8.55pm

Committee	ICLEI Ocean Regional Executive
Date of Council Meeting	Tuesday 14 February 2023
Date of Report	Monday 13 February 2023
Report Author	Cr Amanda Stone

DELEGATES REPORT

In December 2022, signatories to the United Nation Convention on Biological Diversity met in Montreal to agree on a new 10 plan to protect biodiversity and restore ecosystems in the context of a biodiversity crisis with accelerating rates of extinction.

Parties to this Convention were to meet in Kunming, China mid-2022, however the escalation of COVID there meant a rapid change of venue to Montreal, with co-host China. The Biodiversity COP15, which took place in Montréal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022, was a historic moment, following four years of intensive consultations and delays in the negotiation process due to the COVID pandemic.

I attended this conference in my role as global advisor on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Restoration to [ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability](#), but also representing Yarra in a presentation as part of the **Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities**, held as an official parallel event to COP 15.

Background

The stakes for this COP were high.

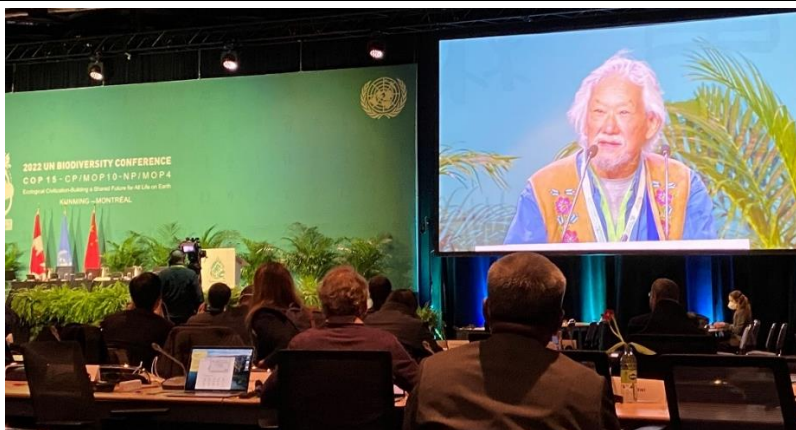
The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) 7th [Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#), released in 2019, warned about unprecedented extinction rates and described increasing threats to biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, from climate change, increasing urbanization, unchecked unsustainable production and consumption patterns, unsustainable agricultural practices to deforestation, which exacerbate biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) [2022 Global Risks Report](#), identified biodiversity loss as the 3rd highest most severe risk on the global scale over the next 10 years (up from 5th place in the [2021 Global Risks Report](#)).

The global scorecard on achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs), adopted at COP10 in Nagoya in 2010, was dismal: the [5th Global Biodiversity Outlook](#) (GBO-5), released in September 2020, demonstrated that none of the ABT's had been met, and the world was not on track for the 2050 Biodiversity Vision of 'living in harmony with nature'.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought the consequences of nature's decline into stark reality, and reminded us of the interconnectedness between nature and people. Urban communities, and particularly the vulnerable and marginalized communities within cities, were most impacted by the consequences of the disconnect between nature and people.

In his [2020 "The State of the Planet" address](#) delivered at Columbia University, Antonio Guterres, United Nations (UN) Secretary General warned that *"Humanity is waging war on nature. This is suicidal. Nature always strikes back – and it is already doing so with growing force and fury. Biodiversity is collapsing. One million species are at risk of extinction. Ecosystems are disappearing before our eyes ... Human activities are at the root of our descent toward chaos. But that means human action can help to solve it."* He added that 'making peace with nature' should be the defining task of the 21st Century.



Role of subnational and local governments at COP15

The 7th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities, held as an official parallel event to COP15 on 11 and 12 December in the main negotiation room, and the first ever associated Pavilion from 7 to 17 December, represented a historic game changer. There were more than 200 subnational and local government leaders representing 300+ cities and regions from 70+ countries around the world.

The parties adopted ***Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework***, a new 10 year agreement on the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems which includes

- A stronger and more ambition decision and Plan of Action on engaging subnational and local governments in its implementation
- Recognising the role of subnational and local governments within the Framework including for the first time a target specifically directed at local governments
- References to subnational and local governments in several other COP 15 decisions.

This is the only UN Framework to identify a specific role for local governments in its implementation.

The key Decision regarding subnational and local governments is that on **Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its Plan of Action for 2022-2030.**

As part of this, the Agreement provides “a comprehensive Plan of Action with the following clear objectives, to support Parties, and their subnational and local governments and their partners in implementing the GBF:

- To increase the engagement of subnational and local governments in supporting the successful implementation of, and reporting on, national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), the GBF and the programs of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);”

It is expected that local governments will contribute to the reporting on their national agreement. The agreed reporting platform will be the **ICLEI Cities with Nature** and **Regions with Nature** platforms.

Yarra Council joined Cities with Nature 4 years ago and has been joined by many more globally since.

Several of the Framework’s 23 action-oriented global targets are relevant to both subnational and local governments

With direct reference to urban and densely populated areas, **Target 12** urges

increasing the area, quality and connectivity, and improving access to and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban areas.

Target 12 featured in a panel discussion on **Health and well-being in cities: acting for access to green and blue spaces**, where I presented Yarra as a case study in actively planning for new green spaces in a highly urbanised environment.

The dynamic exchange across the conference and during the summit on actions being taken by local governments everywhere to prevent extinction, enhance biodiversity and restore ecosystems was both inspiring and informative.

Yarra's Nature Strategy is seen as a good model for an inner urban municipality and delegates were keen to know more.

The adoption of the new 10 year agreement in the ***Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework*** represents a last chance for many species, including many in Australia, as well as an opportunity to stop the war on nature that has been waged now for some centuries.

The recognition that biodiversity and nature are key to our own future and that urgent action is needed, is increasing in the Yarra community who want to see Yarra take strong action on this as well as on climate change.

It is always an honour to represent Yarra at such events and to know that our practices and ambitions are strong and provide leadership where it's needed.



COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor O'Brien

1. That Council note this Delegates Report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. General Business

12.1 Councillor Jolly - Palmer Street, Fitzroy

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Jolly

Seconded: Councillor Glynatsis

1. That in response to a proposal by Blur Architecture proposing streetscape works in Palmer Street Fitzroy, Council officers prepare a report:
 - (a) describing the process used by Council for determining the location of such works;
 - (b) setting out the criteria for assessing proposed projects; and
 - (c) providing a preliminary assessment of the merits of the proposal.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12.2 Councillor Stone - Implementation of Yarra's Nature Strategy

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor O'Brien

1. That Council recognise that we are in a biodiversity crisis and that Yarra's Nature Strategy provides a strong foundation for helping to address that.
2. That an update report on the implementation of Yarra's Nature Strategy be provided to the May council meeting and that thereafter updates be provided via the Annual Plan reporting.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The Biodiversity COP15, which took place in Montréal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022, was a historic moment, following four years of intensive consultations and delays in the negotiation process due to the COVID pandemic.

I attended this conference in my role as global advisor on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Restoration to [ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability](#), but also representing Yarra in a presentation as part of the **Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities**, held as an official parallel event to COP 15.

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) 7th [Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#), released in 2019, warned about unprecedented extinction rates and described increasing threats to biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, from climate change, increasing urbanization, unchecked unsustainable production and consumption patterns, unsustainable agricultural practices to deforestation, which exacerbate biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) [2022 Global Risks Report](#), identified biodiversity loss as the 3rd highest most severe risk on the global scale over the next 10 years (up from 5th place in the [2021 Global Risks Report](#)).

The global scorecard on achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs),

adopted at COP10 in Nagoya in 2010, was dismal: the [5th Global Biodiversity Outlook](#) (GBO-5), released in September 2020, demonstrated that none of the ABT's had been met, and the world was not on track for the 2050 Biodiversity Vision of 'living in harmony with nature'.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought the consequences of nature's decline into stark reality, and reminded us of the interconnectedness between nature and people. Urban communities, and particularly the vulnerable and marginalized communities within cities, were most impacted by the consequences of the disconnect between nature and people.

In his [2020 "The State of the Planet" address](#) delivered at Columbia University, Antonio Guterres, United Nations (UN) Secretary General warned that *"Humanity is waging war on nature. This is suicidal. Nature always strikes back – and it is already doing so with growing force and fury. Biodiversity is collapsing. One million species are at risk of extinction. Ecosystems are disappearing before our eyes ... Human activities are at the root of our descent toward chaos. But that means human action can help to solve it."* He added that 'making peace with nature' should be the defining task of the 21st Century.

12.3 Councillor Stone - Street Gardening Guidelines

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor Crossland

1. That:

- (a) officers bring forward a report to the May cycle of council on the process for developing Street Garden Guidelines for Community members who wish to contribute to gardening with non-edible plants in public places.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BACKGROUND

There is a growing interest in the community in helping to maintain and plant out public spaces such as tree surrounds, nature strips and street gardens. Like the urban agriculture movement of a decade ago, guerrilla gardens have sprung up across Yarra, generally with passion and commitment by residents to contribute to streetscape attractiveness and enhance urban green spaces.

Yarra Council commits significant resources each year to maintaining our streetscapes, ensuring they are safe, that appropriate plants are used, that they are biodiverse, provide habitat, shade and protection. And that they will survive the rigours of a harsh city environment and a changing climate.

There are benefits to residents helping to maintain streetscapes and many councils have developed guidelines for community members who wish to garden in these public areas.

Just as the Urban Agriculture Guidelines were developed to guide the practice of growing food in public places, it would be useful to develop **Street Garden Guidelines** to guide those gardeners who wish to improve and help maintain plantings in our streetscapes. These guidelines would help educate the community about the specific requirements of plants in streetscapes, protect plants and members of the public, encourage and provide opportunities for community members to contribute to beautifying our streetscapes, enhance urban spaces and the liveability of local areas.

12.4 Councillor O'Brien - Light pollution impacts on wildlife and people

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor O'Brien

Seconded: Councillor Glynatsis

1. That:

- (a) officers bring forward a report on Council's compliance with the Australian Standard 4282: Control of the Obtrusive effects of Outdoor Lighting, guidelines for the community to limit the effects of light pollution, particularly in wildlife sensitive areas, near green corridors, open spaces, and parks including any gaps in existing policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BACKGROUND

Light pollution is increasing globally and encroaching on biodiversity hot spots. At the same time, the spectral composition of outdoor lighting is rapidly changing, with broad-spectrum light-emitting diodes (LEDs) increasingly being favoured because of their higher energy efficiency. Many studies suggest that narrower-spectrum lighting (e.g., sodium lamps, which emit mostly yellow light) may be less harmful to biological processes.

The increasing threat that light pollution poses to humans, native animals and insects has been well documented, including circadian disruption to people's sleep cycles. A study published in [Nature's Scientific Reports](#) found that, sleep loss impairs cognitive performance and alters the song output in Australian magpies. The study suggests after a poor night's sleep, the common black and white Magpie songbird shifts their normal singing from twilight to midday, have a reduced song bandwidth and struggle with cognitive tasks.

Further, much has been written by voluntary organisations and community groups on the impact that light pollution has on the planet, for example The Astronomy Society of Victoria and the International Dark Sky Association Victoria.

Some interventions to limit light pollution include:

- Installation of timer or sensor lights to ensure lights are only activated when needed.
- Ensure lights are turned off when not required for safety or security reasons or when enhancing a night-time scene.
- When buying external lights consider using warm white, lower lumen, light-emitting diode (LED) light globes that are less likely to impact neighbouring properties.
- Wherever possible, direct light downwards, not upwards, to illuminate the target area. If there is no alternative to up-lighting, using shields will help keep spill light to a minimum.
- Locate lights as far as possible from neighbours and away from sensitive areas such as: bedroom windows and living areas, wildlife corridors, open space and parks.
- Ensure that the main beam angle of all lights directed towards any sensitive place is kept below 70 degrees. Use light shields to help minimise glare and the impact on neighbouring properties.
- Avoid placing the light near a light reflective surface.

- Use specifically designed lighting equipment that, once installed, minimises the spread of light near to, or above the horizontal.
- Don't over-light. Less is more for your neighbours and your electricity bill. (Source City of Whitehorse Victoria).

Councillor Jolly left the meeting at 9.16pm, not returning.

12.5 Councillor Wade - Continuation of Pride

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Wade

Seconded: Councillor Crossland

1. That Council:
 - (a) notes the success of the Victoria's Pride event held in the City of Yarra on 12 February 2023, being the second such event to be held on Smith and Gertrude Streets at the conclusion of the Midsumma festival (previously called Melbourne Pride);
 - (b) expresses its support to the state government and Midsumma, and all performers and traders who contributed to an important day on the LGBTIQA+ calendar for 2023;
 - (c) note the Council's appreciation of the confirmation on 12 February 2023 that the event would be run in Yarra again in 2024, and previous announcements confirming four years of funding (including for 2023);
 - (d) reconfirms the Council's support for the continuation of Victoria's Pride as an ongoing, annual event held in the City of Yarra each year; and
 - (e) directs the Mayor to write to the Minister for Equality with respect to the above, and for the Mayor and officers to further engage with the Victorian Government and relevant stakeholders to secure a commitment for this to occur.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BACKGROUND

Melbourne Pride was a landmark event initiated by the Victorian Government to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Victoria, with the first event taking place in the City of Yarra on 13 February 2022. It was a spectacular one-day festival that transformed our iconic Gertrude and Smith Streets with live music and arts performances to celebrate Victoria's LGBTIQA+ community and culture, which saw 38,000 people celebrating on the streets of Yarra.

A second, even bigger, event took place on 12 February 2023, renamed as "Victoria's Pride".

The event received an overwhelmingly positive response from local residents, businesses and visitors, and in particular the LGBTIQA+ community. There is a high level of interest in this initiative continuing on a permanent, annual basis.

This motion seeks to recognise the importance of this event and for Council to formally support its continuation as an ongoing, annual event held in the City of Yarra.

14. Confidential business reports

Confidential business reports

The following items were deemed by the Chief Executive Officer to be suitable for consideration in closed session in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020. In accordance with that Act, Council may resolve to consider these issues in open or closed session.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION (PROCEDURAL)

Moved: Councillor Landes

Seconded: Councillor Crossland

1. That the meeting be closed to members of the public, in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020, to allow consideration of confidential information

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item

14.1 **PLN17/0703.03 - 640 Heidelberg Road, Alphington - Section 72 Amendment to Planning Permit**

This item is to be considered in closed session to allow consideration of private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets or if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

These grounds are applicable because the report contains information that has been submitted on a commercial in confidence basis as part of a tender process.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION (PROCEDURAL)

Moved: Councillor Crossland

Seconded: Councillor Landes

That the meeting be resumed in open session.

CARRIED

Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 9.39pm.

Confirmed Tuesday 14 March 2023

Mayor