



Agenda

Extraordinary Council Meeting

6:30 PM, Monday 3 June 2024

Richmond Town Hall
Wurundjeri Country

Council Meetings

Council Meetings are public forums where Councillors come together to meet as a Council and make decisions about important, strategic and other matters. The Mayor presides over all Council Meetings, and they are conducted in accordance with the City of Yarra Governance Rules.

Council meetings are decision-making forums and only Councillors have a formal role. However, Council is committed to transparent governance and to ensuring that any person whose rights will be directly affected by a decision of Council is entitled to communicate their views and have their interests considered before the decision is made.

Addressing the Council

An opportunity exists to make your views known about a matter that is listed on the agenda for this meeting by addressing the Council directly before a decision is made.

Registration

To ask address Council, you will need to register by 6.30pm on the day before the meeting. Late registrations cannot be accepted, and you will be unable to address the meeting without registration.

Addressing the Council

Before each item is considered by the Council, the Mayor will invite everyone who has registered in relation to that item to address the Council. When your turn comes, come forward to the microphone and:

- state your name;
- direct your statement to the Mayor;
- confine your submission to the subject being considered;
- avoid repeating previous submitters;
- don't ask questions or seek comments from Councillors or others; and
- if speaking on behalf of a group, explain the nature of the group and how you are able to speak on their behalf.

You will be provided a maximum of three minutes to speak, but do not need to use all of this time.

Comments not allowed

When you are addressing the meeting, don't make any comments which:

- relate to something other than the matter being considered by the Council;
- are defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable;
- are aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or a member of Council staff;
- include or relate to confidential information; or
- relate to something that is subject to legal proceedings.

Arrangements to ensure our meetings are accessible to the public

Council meetings are held on the first floor at Richmond Town Hall. Access to the building is available either by the stairs, or via a ramp and lift. Seating is provided to watch the meeting, and the room is wheelchair accessible. Accessible toilet facilities are available. Speakers at the meeting are invited to stand at a lectern to address the Council, and all participants are amplified via an audio system. Meetings are conducted in English.

If you are unable to participate in this environment, we can make arrangements to accommodate you if sufficient notice is given. Some examples of adjustments are:

- a translator in your language
- the presence of an Auslan interpreter
- loan of a portable hearing loop
- reconfiguring the room to facilitate access
- modification of meeting rules to allow you to participate more easily

Recording and Publication of Meetings

A recording is made of all public Council Meetings and then published on Council's website. By participating in proceedings (including during Question Time or in making a submission regarding an item before Council), you agree to this publication. You should be aware that any private information volunteered by you during your participation in a meeting is subject to recording and publication

Order of business

1. **Acknowledgement of Country**
2. **Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence**
3. **Announcements**
4. **Declarations of conflict of interest**
5. **Council business reports**

1. Acknowledgment of Country

“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 Edward Crossland Mayor
- Cr Anab Mohamud Deputy Mayor
- Cr Michael Glynatsis Councillor
- Cr Stephen Jolly Councillor
- Cr Herschel Landes Councillor
- Cr Claudia Nguyen 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

- Brooke Colbert Governance, Communications and Customer Experience
- Sam Hewett Infrastructure and Environment
- Kerry McGrath Community Strengthening
- Mary Osman City Sustainability and Strategy
- Jenny Scicluna Corporate Services and Transformation

Governance

- Phil De Losa Manager Governance and Integrity
- Mel Nikou Governance Officer

3. Announcements

An opportunity is provided for the Mayor to make any necessary announcements.

4. Declarations of conflict of interest

Any Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at this meeting is required to disclose that interest either by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present or advising that they have disclosed the nature of the interest in writing to the Chief Executive Officer before the meeting commenced.

5. Council business reports

Item		Page	Rec. Page	Report Presenter
5.1	Hearing of Community Feedback in Relation to the Draft 2024/25 Budget and Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2033/34	7	9	Wei Chen – Chief Financial Officer

5.1 Hearing of Community Feedback in Relation to the Draft 2024/25 Budget and Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2033/34

Reference	D24/190345
Author	Shane Looney - Corporate Planner
Authoriser	Chief Financial Officer
Disclosure	The authoriser, having made enquiries with members of staff involved in the preparation of this report, asserts that they are not aware of any general or material conflicts of interest in relation to the matters presented.

Purpose

1. To hear any person who wishes to speak in support of written feedback to the draft 2024/25 Budget and draft Long Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2033/34.

Critical analysis

History and background

2. Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 provides that Council must prepare and adopt a Budget for each financial year and the subsequent 3 financial years.
3. Section 96 of the Local Government Act 2020 provides that Council must develop the budget in accordance with its community engagement policy.
4. Section 91 of the Local Government Act 2020 provides that Council must develop, adopt and keep in force a Long-Term Financial Plan for period of at least the next 10 financial years in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.
5. At its meeting on 9 April 2024, Council resolved to adopt for the purpose of seeking feedback:
 - (a) The Draft Budget 2024/25; and
 - (b) The Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2033/2034.
6. The draft Budget and associated plans were developed over six months through a rigorous process of review by Council and Council Officers.
7. The draft Budget aligns with Yarra's Council Plan 2021-25 and the Community Vision.
8. Community engagement for the draft budget commenced on Friday 12 April and closed at 5pm Friday 10 May 2024.

Discussion

9. Like all other councils across Victoria, Yarra is facing financial challenges with rising cost pressures, rate capping and cost shifting, coupled with unprecedented growth and increasing pressure and demand on its services.
10. The draft 2024/25 budget seeks to strike a balance between addressing financial challenges, prioritising existing services and infrastructure and delivering a range of projects that will help achieve our community's vision for Yarra.
11. Council has received feedback from 260 people in relation to the draft Budget and draft Long Term Financial Plan.
12. A summary of the community's feedback is provided in Attachment 1 which lists the feedback themes and issues.

13. In response to the draft budget, 174 members of the community provided feedback in relation to Neighbourhood House funding. As part of the final budget adoption, Officers will recommend that funding for Neighbourhood Houses be restored to current FY24 funding and also include an additional 2% increase to the current FY24 funding levels. This has also been conveyed to all neighbourhood houses on 8 May 2024.
14. A further 15 members of the community acknowledged the budget commitment to undertake traffic calming works in Miller Street North Fitzroy. Council has confirmed its commitment to delivering these works in the 2024/25 Budget.

Options

15. There are no options to be considered in this report.

Community and stakeholder engagement

16. The consultation opened on Council's website on Friday 12 April 2024 and was live until 5pm on Friday 10 May 2024. Community members were able to register their feedback via Council's website during this period. Promotion activity included:
 - (a) Social media channels including social media advertisements reaching over 16,000 people;
 - (b) Council email newsletters including Yarra Life, Your Say Yarra email newsletter, Yarra Business News, Yarra Leisure news and Yarra Libraries email newsletter;
 - (c) One-page spread in the April/May edition of Yarra News distributed to every household in Yarra;
 - (d) News Item that was featured on the home page of the corporate website;
 - (e) Postcards and other printed collateral available at events alongside postcards which were distributed to 18 Council venues. These include town halls, neighbourhood houses, seniors' centres, libraries and leisure centres;
 - (f) Two in-person, pop up information sessions at Otter Street Pocket Park and Gleadell Street Market. The session was also promoted as part of our "Talking Yarra" councillor engagement sessions;
 - (g) Radio advertisement through 3ZZZ in 5 languages: Vietnamese, Chinese, Italian, Greek, and Arabic; and
 - (h) Promoted the consultation in the Richmond Housing Estate newsletter (Yarra Estates).

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

17. Council adopted its first Community Vision on 20 July 2021, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020. The Vision – Yarra 2036 - identifies the long-term aspirations and priorities of the community and provide a future lens to guide planning and decision making.
18. The Council Plan 2021-25, formally adopted on 19 October 2021 in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, addresses Yarra 2036 Community Vision and outlines six Strategic Objectives, representing Council's direction for the next four years.
19. The draft Budget and draft Long Term Financial Plan incorporate the financial resources necessary to implement the Council Plan objectives and strategies over the next 4 years and to work towards achieving the Community Vision over the next 10 years.

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

20. There are no climate emergency and sustainability implications considered in the report.

Community and social implications

21. There are no community and social implications considered in this report.

Economic development implications

22. There are no economic development implications considered in this report.

Human rights and gender equality implications

23. There are no human rights and gender equality implications considered in this report.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

24. The Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan have major financial implications for Council's current and future operations and financial direction into the future.

Legal Implications

25. The draft 2024/25 Budget and draft Long Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2033/34 have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Conclusion

26. Council has received feedback on the draft 2024/25 Budget and draft Long Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2033/34 and is providing an opportunity for contributors to present their feedback in person prior to the Council meeting to adopt the 2024/25 Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2033/34 on 18 June 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) receives and notes the written and verbal feedback received in relation to the draft 2024/25 Budget and draft Long Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2033/34; and
 - (a) thanks the community members for their attendance in support of their written feedback.

Attachments

- 1 [↓](#) Attachment 1 2024-25 Draft Budget Community Engagement Report 20 May

2024/25 Draft Budget Community Engagement Report



This report details the specifics of the 2024/25 Draft Budget community engagement and evaluates the participation. The consultation opened on Friday 12 April 2024 and was live until 5pm on Friday 10 May 2024.

Why we ran this consultation?

Every year Council develops a Budget that outlines funding for the next financial year and how it will benefit Yarra's community.

The Budget includes funding for waste and recycling, roads, parks and infrastructure upgrades, local wildlife and biodiversity, the running of our libraries and leisure centres, and support for local businesses and community.

As part of this process, we must exhibit the draft document for community to get feedback on the projects proposed for funding within the next financial year. These comments are collated and provided to decision-makers before the Budget is finalised in June 2024.

Objectives of this engagement

1. Provide an opportunity for the community to comment on the draft Budget 2024/25 and identify any potential items that Council may need to consider for funding.
2. Highlight items proposed within the draft Budget that have a direct and visible impact to the community to demonstrate Council's importance and value.
3. Ensure groups at risk of underrepresentation are provided with opportunities to contribute. This includes young people, older residents and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

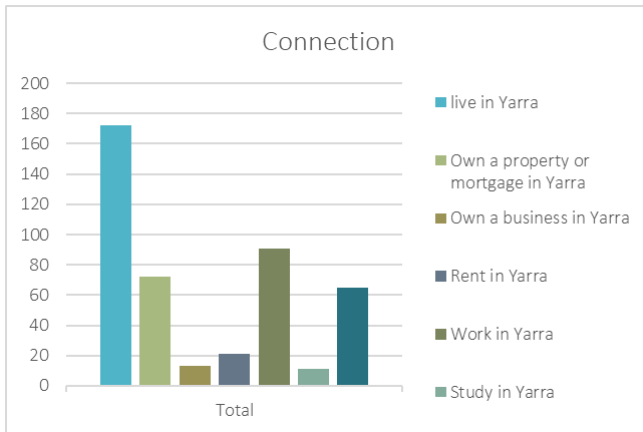
The consultation was promoted through the following channels

- Social media channels including social media advertisements reaching over 16,000 people.
- Council email newsletters including Yarra Life, Your Say Yarra email newsletter, Yarra Business News, Yarra Leisure news and Yarra Libraries email newsletter.
- One-page spread in the April/May edition of Yarra News distributed to every household in Yarra.
- News Item that was featured on the home page of the corporate website.
- Postcards and other printed collateral available at events and postcards were distributed to 18 Council venues. These include town halls, neighbourhood houses, seniors' centres, libraries and leisure centres.
- Two in-person pop up information sessions at Otter Street Pocket Park and Gleadell Street Market. The session was also promoted as part of our "Talking Yarra" councillor engagement sessions.
- Radio advertisement through 3ZZZ in 5 languages: Vietnamese, Chinese, Italian, Greek, and Arabic.
- Promoted the consultation in the Richmond Housing Estate newsletter (Yarra Estates).

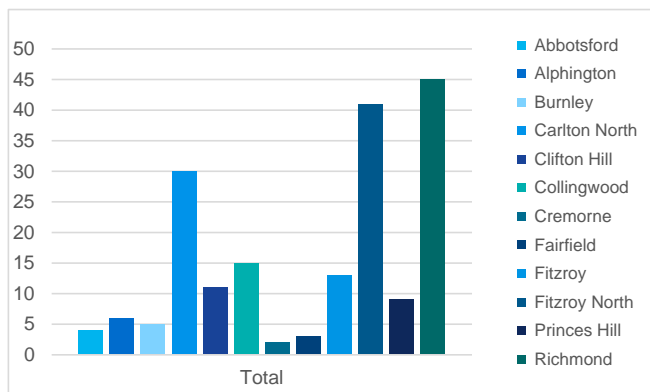
Who did we hear from?

260 community members provided feedback on the Draft Budget, as part of that feedback participants were asked to respond to questions on their connection to Yarra and other demographic data.

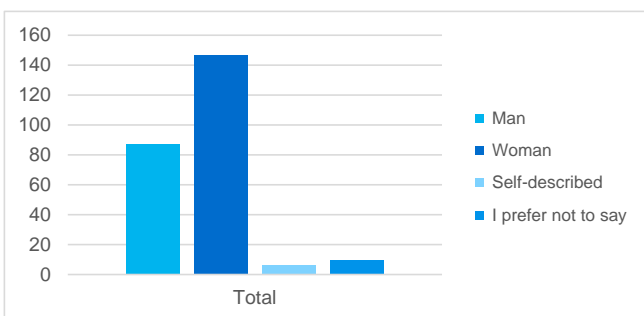
Connection with Yarra City Council



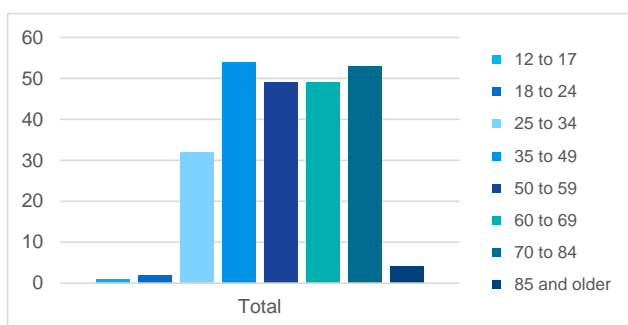
Place of residence



Identify as



Age profile



What did we hear?

260 community members provided feedback on the Draft Budget; a summary of the issues raised by the community can be found in the table below. Notable trends include the following:

- 174 community members opposed the reduction (2.5%) in funding for Neighbourhood Houses.
- 21 community members expressed support for active transport initiatives, many requesting more bike lanes.
- 15 community members provided feedback in support of the funding for traffic calming and active transport measures for Miller Street, North Fitzroy.
- 16 community members calling for Council to reduce Council costs.
- The remaining 94 issues consist of low levels of community support or trend numbers and include 30 single issues.
- Table 1 provides a summary of the 54 different issues raised from the feedback and the level of support each issue received.

Council's Commitment

Neighbourhood Houses funding: In response to the draft FY25 budget community consultation, we have received a great deal of feedback (i.e. 174 submissions) regarding impact of this budget oversight to the vital work of Neighbourhood Houses in supporting our community. Officers are recommending adjustments to the draft FY25 Annual Budget, to restore funding for Neighbourhood Houses to current FY24 funding levels, and include an additional 2% increase to the current FY24 funding levels. The information has also conveyed to all neighbourhood houses on 8 May 2024.

Miller Street traffic calming works: Council has confirmed its commitment to delivering these works in the 2024/25 Budget.

Summary of issues raised by community.

Table 1

Themes and Issues	Count of Issue
Climate change	5
Support climate change initiatives	4
Oppose climate change initiatives	1
Community amenity	3
Improve street cleaning	2
Improve street and path lighting	1
Community events	4
Support for the arts	3
Support music festivals	1
Community facilities	196
Fitzroy pool entrance shade structure	1
Improve facility maintenance	2
Improve leisure centre facilities	3
Improve public toilet facilities	1
Installation of scoreboard Ramsden St Oval	1
Support social equity and inclusion programs	1
Ramsden Oval exclusive use request	1
Oppose reduction in Neighbourhood Houses funding	174
Oppose reduction in Social Inclusion programs	1
Reduce Community facility cost	4
Advocate for community services	2
Improve child care	1
Oppose social inclusion programs	2
Improve utilisation	1
Alphington Bowls Club lighting	1
Economic development	2
Improve Victoria Street precinct	1
Reduce permit fees	1
Financial management	23
Reduce Council costs	16
Council integrity	1
Reduce waste service costs	3
Support for Draft Budget	2
Change rating system	1
Health and wellbeing	2
Install sun shades Fitzroy pool	1
Increase Golf membership fees	1
Open space	15
More green spaces	9
Open space sports equipment	1
Oppose pocket parks	4
More spaces for adolescents	1
Safe injecting facility	3

Themes and Issues	Count of Issue
Relocate Richmond safe injecting room	2
State Government to fund community needle cleanup	1
Social equity	4
Oppose social inclusion programs	2
Support social equity and inclusion programs	1
Reduce family services costs	1
Transport	55
Improve public transport	1
Increase traffic management measures	6
More electric vehicle charging facilities	2
Reduce bike lane spending	1
Reduce on street parking	1
Reduce traffic on residential streets	1
Support active transport investment	21
Support Miller Street traffic treatments	15
Increase parking fees	6
Reduce spending on active transport investment	1
Waste service	4
Oppose food organics service	2
Reduce waste service costs	1
Waste charge services cost breakdown	1
Public safety	1
Richmond Housing Estate safety	1
Policy and transparency	3
Council policy consolidation	3
Grand Total	320