

Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee |

Minutes



Meeting details

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 5 August 2026
Time	5:30pm – 7:30pm
Venue	Barrbunin Beek
Chair/Facilitator	Cr Peter Castaldo
Minutes	Kristen Munro

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

"Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as traditional custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region's history."

Inclusive Banyule Statement

"Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community."

Attendee

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr. Peter Castaldo	Banyule City Council
Maddison Miller	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee
Uncle Owen Butler	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee
Shelley Ware	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee
Sue Harris	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee
Cath Bradley	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee
Kate Noble	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee
Joseph Tabacco	Banyule City Council
Georgie Meyer	Banyule City Council
Zali Mifsud	Banyule City Council
Kristen Munro	Banyule City Council
Christine Bishay	Banyule City Council
Daniel Fantin	Banyule City Council

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr. Mary O'Kane	Banyule City Council

Items

1. Introduction 5:30pm – 5:35pm

- Acknowledgement of traditional custodians
- Inclusive Banyule Statement
- Welcome to members
- Apologies
- Housekeeping
- Conflict of Interest

Discussion

The committee noted several recent resignations and acknowledged the significant contributions departing members had made to the committee's work and direction. Emails of thanks have been issued on behalf of Council.

An Expression of Interest will soon be released to fill the vacant positions. Members were encouraged to promote the opportunity through their family, community and professional networks, with particular consideration given to increasing participation by young people.

The committee was also advised of a recent Councillor resignation. The process of appointing a replacement is underway, with nominations expected to close in the coming weeks.

Action

Council Officer to circulate the Expression of Interest for vacant committee positions and encourage applications, particularly from young people.

2. Confirmation of Minutes and Actions from previous meeting 5:35pm – 5:40pm

- Council Officer, Zali Mifsud to report back on actions
- Discussion

Action	Update
Action item 1: Discuss reciprocity, Council's commitment to this committee at next meeting.	Update: Will be presented at August meeting
Action Item 2: Council Officer to coordinate a workshop with sub-committee to review and revise the Statement of Commitment prior to engagement with Wurundjeri Corporation.	Update: Presented BFNAC comments to Cultural Consultations Unit for review. Still awaiting feedback.
Action Item 3: Council Officer to work with Council Communications Team regarding wording for Jan 26 social media post.	Update: Will be presented for the August Meeting
Action Item 4: Council Officer to draft guidance for engaging First Nations communities in community engagement and bring back to further meeting.	Update: Community Engagement team on August agenda.

Action Item 5: Council Officer to send the Marrageil Strategy, Year 2 Achievement reports to Committee for Review.	Update: Presented at August meeting
Action Item 6: Council Officer to collate Marrageil Strategy areas of interest to bring back to the Committee at the August next meeting.	Update: Complete on tonight's agenda
Action Item 7: Council Officer to send invitation to Wurundjeri Aboriginal Corporation representatives to attend Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee.	Update: Wurundjeri have been invited and will be present at next meeting
Action Item 8: Council Officer to register Banyule City Council representative to attend next Aboriginal Remembrance event.	Update: Will be registered for next remembrance event.

3. Community Engagement – First Nations Guidance Document 5:40pm – 5:50pm

- Noting guidance document that sub-committee worked on
- Sub-committee to reflect on work
- Discussion / Questions

Discussion

An update was provided on the Community Engagement First Nations Guidance document, which has been developed collaboratively through a working group and informed by committee feedback.

The document focuses on listening to community, building genuine relationships, understanding local needs and ensuring mutual respect. It is intended to be a flexible, practical resource that can continue to evolve, rather than a fixed policy.

A key issue identified during development was the difference between Council timelines and culturally appropriate engagement timelines. The guidance also aims to strengthen staff capability and reduce reliance on Aboriginal community members to repeatedly carry the cultural and educational burden during consultation.

The document is progressing toward internal Council endorsement. Opportunities to encourage its use by other local organisations, businesses and community groups will also be explored.

4. Naming Policy - Strategic Properties Team 5:50pm – 6:05pm

- Council Officer, Zali to present and ask for feedback

Discussion

The committee received a presentation on proposed updates to Council's Naming Policy. The revised policy seeks to increase the use of First Nations language and improve recognition of significant women in the naming and renaming of Council assets and places.

The proposed target is for at least 75% of Council-led naming and renaming projects to reflect either First Nations language or significant women, with an even balance between the two themes where possible. Developers will also be encouraged to follow these principles when naming streets and places within new subdivisions.

Consultation has included internal stakeholders, the wider community and the Wurundjeri Cultural Consultations Unit. Feedback supported the proposed direction and highlighted the importance of an intersectional approach, including greater recognition of Aboriginal women.

The committee discussed establishing a public naming portal or name bank where community members could suggest names and learn about their meaning and history. It was noted that names should be connected to the local place and assessed for cultural appropriateness, particularly for major developments.

The importance of change management was also discussed. Residents affected by naming changes should receive clear information, practical transition support, and education about the pronunciation, meaning and cultural significance of Traditional Owner names.

Action

Council Officer to circulate the Naming Policy presentation to interested committee members.

Council Officers to consider room naming opportunities to have dual language.

5. BFNAC Marriageil Strategy Priorities / Year 2 Achievements Report 6:05pm – 6:20pm

- Council Officer, Zali to present and request feedback
- Committee to provide feedback on Year 2 Achievements Report

Discussion

The committee reviewed the draft Year 2 Achievements Report. It was noted that the strategy is moving from delivering a large number of individual actions toward more complex, long-term and system-level changes.

Members were invited to provide feedback on the report and identify priorities for future implementation.

Discussion focused on balancing positive cultural connection activities with education about racism, discrimination and unconscious bias. Suggested initiatives included truth-telling sessions, cultural awareness training, community education and family-oriented cultural events.

Further opportunities to engage schools and young people were also discussed. Suggestions included cultural excursions, tree planting, environmental education and partnerships between schools and Council.

Traditional Owner involvement was identified as essential when developing educational material, cultural mapping and storytelling activities. Cultural knowledge and resources should only be shared with appropriate Traditional Owner guidance and support.

Action

Council Officer to gather committee feedback on preferred topics, facilitators and providers for community education and truth-telling initiatives.

6. Jan 26 Comms Update 6:20pm – 6:40pm

- Council Officer, Georgie to present and request feedback
- Committee to provide feedback

Discussion

The committee discussed Council's approach to communications relating to January 26. It was agreed that the communications plan would return to the agenda in December, allowing input from the incoming Councillor and Mayor.

The distinction between operational and formal decision-making was clarified. Council staff may make operational changes to communications, while any formal committee recommendation would need to be considered through Council's decision-making process.

Keeping the matter on the committee agenda will ensure continued visibility and allow the committee's views to be reflected in relevant Council papers and minutes.

It was also proposed that Councillors be invited to hear directly from Aboriginal community members about the impact of January 26 communications. This would provide an opportunity for lived experience and truth-telling to inform future decisions.

Action

Council Officer to return January 26 communications planning to the committee agenda in December.

7. Discussion on reciprocity 6:40pm – 7:00pm

- BFNAC Committee, Maddi to present and request feedback
- Committee to provide feedback on Year 2 Achievements Report

Discussion

The committee discussed introducing a formal statement of reciprocity and respect within its terms of reference. The purpose would be to recognise the contribution of community members, establish expectations for respectful engagement and provide a clearer process for responding to disrespectful behaviour.

There was support for co-designing the statement with committee members and considering whether it could be applied across all Council advisory committees as part of the upcoming committee review.

Possible implementation options included incorporating the commitment into Councillor induction or nomination processes and making it publicly available. Members noted that the statement should be meaningful and practical without creating unnecessary administrative requirements.

Action

Council Officers to develop a draft reciprocity and respect statement in consultation with committee members.

Council Officers to consider applying the reciprocity and respect statement across all Council committees as part of the upcoming review.

8. General Business 7:00pm – 7:20pm

- Call for any general business items
- Promotion for new members

Discussion

Council confirmed its support for the Yarra Strategic Plan, including a three-year funding contribution toward a Traditional Owner-led coordination role.

The role will support implementation of the plan and strengthen collaboration between Wurundjeri, Council and neighbouring municipalities.

An update was also provided on recent cultural engagement along the Yarra, including discussion of a potential major cultural walk. Council will continue supporting Traditional Owner-led cultural initiatives and regional collaboration.

Council is preparing new seasonal user guidelines for sporting facilities. The guidelines are intended to encourage clubs to improve participation, inclusion and equity, with possible consequences where requirements are not met.

Committee members will be advised when the guidelines are released for public consultation and encouraged to provide feedback, particularly where they have connections with local sporting clubs.

The leisure centre has reopened and is experiencing increased visitation.

The library is expected to reopen by October. Council also plans to recruit a dedicated community engagement and marketing officer to improve awareness, access and participation across the local community.

Action

Council Officers to notify committee members when the sporting facility guidelines are released for consultation.

9. Close and date of next meeting 7:20pm – 7:25pm

- Confirm Actions arising
- Close meeting
- Next Meeting : 7 October (Zali Away)