

### Meeting details

<b>Date of meeting</b>	Wednesday, 4 February 2026
<b>Time</b>	5:30pm – 7:30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Barrbunin Beek
<b>Chair/Facilitator</b>	Maddi Miller
<b>Minutes</b>	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

<b>Attendee name</b>	<b>Affiliation/Organisation</b>
Maddi Miller	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee
Uncle Charles Pakana	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee
Uncle Owen Butler	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee
Shelley Ware	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee
Cath Bradley	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee
Kyralee Murray	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee
Sue Harris	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee
Cr Peter Castaldo	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee
Kate Noble	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee
Zali Mifsud	Banyule City Council
Georgie Meyer	Banyule City Council
Joseph Tabacco	Banyule City Council
Kristen Munro	Banyule City Council
Karina Wells	Guest

## Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Mary O'Kane	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee
Virigina Isaac	Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee

# Items

## 1. Introduction 5:30pm – 5:35pm

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

## 2. Confirmation of Minutes and Actions from previous meeting 5:35pm – 5:55pm

- 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 scheduled
Action item 2: Council officers to follow up about concerns about tree placement in Greensborough	Update: Request put to internal Council Unit, awaiting response
Action Item 3: Banyule Officer to send community engagement reports from other local governments who have completed a Stolen Generations Marker.	Update: Will complete in the new year
Action Item 4: Council Officer to establish a sub-working group to commence planning for the Stolen Generations Marker.	Update: Will complete in the new year
Action Item 5: Council Officers to work with governance to update Terms of Reference and Committee protocols.	Update: Complete
Action Item 6: Council Officer to send details of working group members to the Community Engagement Team.	Update: Complete
Action Item 7: Council Officers to send the 15 First Nations language names list to the Committee.	Update: Complete
Action Item 8: Council officer to share draft partnership agreement with Committee.	Update: Complete
Action Item 9: Council officer to promote Victorian Aboriginal News information and podcast in an upcoming Banyule Banner.	Update: Will be complete

### Discussion

Confirmation of Minutes: Uncle Charles

Seconder: Uncle Owen

## 3. Wurundjeri On-Country Plan 5:55pm – 6:15pm

- Council staff, Zali to present to Committee
- Discussion

### Discussion

A description was provided of a Traditional Owner On-Country Plan, including its purpose and how it is used by Traditional Owners to guide the protection, management and expression of cultural values on Country.

An overview of the Wurundjeri On Country Plan was presented by a Council Officer.

It was noted that Banyule City Council is undertaking a municipality-wide Cultural Values Assessment. Potential opportunities for engagement with the Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee (BFNAC) were identified.

It was identified that Council is working through how this plan gets integrated with our strategic pieces of work for Banyule.

There is hope that the Wurundjeri Plan is visible in future Council Plans.

### Actions

Council Officer to send through the link for Wurundjeri On-Country plan.

## 4. Statement of Commitment Review 6:15pm – 6:40pm

- Council Officer, Zali to present and ask for feedback
- Discussion

### Discussion

The Committee discussed the process for updating the Council's Statement of Commitment.

It was noted that the proposed process is as follows:

1. Recommendations developed by the Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee (BFNAC).
2. Submission to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation for endorsement.
3. Submission to Council for formal endorsement.

The current Statement of Commitment was developed in 2009. It was acknowledged that no current Committee members were involved in its development. The Statement was written at a time when such commitments were less common and framed in more abstract terms.

The Committee agreed that while the underlying premise of the Statement remains relevant, the language requires revision to reflect contemporary understanding, strength-based approaches, and action-oriented commitments.

It was proposed that a workshop be held to review and update the Statement, with a focus on shifting language to be strength-based, grounded in action, and aligned with current policy and community expectations.

### Key Themes and Feedback

The following themes emerged during discussion:

#### Structure and Framing

- While the existing statement-by-statement format is visually clear, a more holistic and integrated approach may be preferable.
- Language should be action-oriented, using terms such as "actively listening," "creating space," and "working in partnership."
- The current wording contains paternalistic and deficit-based language and should be revised to reflect power-sharing, partnership, and recognition of First Nations peoples as experts.
- Consider alignment with Marrageil and relevant state and national frameworks (including Voice, Treaty and Truth processes).

#### Language and Terminology

- Consensus was reached to replace the term "Indigenous" with "First Nations."

- Consider shifting from “apology” toward stronger truth-telling language, with acknowledgement of grief and ongoing impacts.
- The word “reconciliation” remains relevant; however, it may be perceived as divisive. The use of “collaboration” was suggested as an alternative or complementary framing.
- “Rights” remain important but may be embedded in ways that are constructive and not perceived as adversarial.
- “Equity and empowerment” are important but should be expressed using strength-based language.
- “Advocacy” should reflect working together and advocating for successes and achievements.

### **Truth, Recognition and Education**

- Recognition of truth-telling and its relationship to Wurundjeri should be strengthened.
- Education was identified as a gap, with support expressed for targeted workshops and learning opportunities.
- Council’s positive work in recognition activities was acknowledged.
- The importance of listening to and being led by Wurundjeri was emphasised.

### **Community and Cultural Diversity**

- Acknowledgement of the diversity of the Aboriginal and First Nations community is important, including recognising that participation in culture and community varies in a contemporary context.
- Commitment should reflect support for all First Nations peoples living in the municipality, alongside the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung as Traditional Owners.
- Language should acknowledge multiple Nations coming together on Country.

### **Action and Implementation**

- The revised Statement should clearly evidence actions taken to date and articulate ongoing commitments.
- Ongoing investment by Council in the wellbeing of Aboriginal and First Nations peoples was identified as important.
- Access and equity remain key priorities, including support for families.
- Opportunities for partnership with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) should be strengthened, including collaborative initiatives (e.g. exploring options to support Aboriginal housing outcomes).
- Emphasis should move from “fixing” to creating space for ongoing support, partnership and shared leadership.
- Consider how to embed principles of power-sharing and recognise First Nations peoples as leaders and knowledge holders.

### **Action**

Council Officer to coordinate a workshop with sub-committee to review and revise the Statement of Commitment prior to engagement with Wurundjeri Corporation.

## **5. Barrbunin Beek Update 6:40pm – 6:55pm**

- Council Officer, Uncle Owen to share on topic
- Discussion

### **Discussion**

The Barrbunin Beek Programs and Projects Coordinator provided an update on the organisation’s Annual Report.

The update highlighted key achievements over the past 12 months, including:

- Growth in program delivery
- Increased and diversified funding
- Expanded community engagement
- Completion of recent renovations to the facility

It was noted that Barrbunin Beek has appointed a Self-Determination Lead to progress the self-incorporation process. This work has included establishing key partnerships to support the transition toward an independent governance model.

Council advised that formal engagement with the Co-Chairs will occur in the coming months to discuss the future relationship between the Gathering Place and Council, including arrangements beyond the current auspice agreement.

#### Action

None

## 6. General Business 6:55pm – 7:15pm

- Call for any general business items
- Any interest in a Committee collaboration event

### Discussion

#### Inter-Committee Engagement

The Committee was asked whether members would be interested in participating in a social engagement opportunity with other Council advisory committees.

Members indicated interest in exploring opportunities for cross-committee engagement to strengthen relationships and shared understanding.

#### January 26 Communications

Concerns were raised regarding Council's January 26 communications, with feedback that the messaging did not align with community expectations. In particular, reference was made to the use of the term "Australia" and the overall tone of the posts.

It was noted that Council's commitment to truth-telling should be consistently reflected across all communications, including Invasion Day.

Members emphasised the importance of commencing discussions earlier in the year, acknowledging that the planning and communications process is lengthy and requires sufficient lead time.

A Councillor noted that discussions on this matter do occur; however, members expressed a desire for earlier and more meaningful engagement in the process.

#### NAIDOC

It was noted that a range of NAIDOC grants are currently available.

#### Action

Council Officer to table at next Committee meeting to discuss January 26 acknowledgement.

## 7. Close and date of next meeting 7:15pm – 7:20pm

- Confirm Actions arising
- Close meeting