

About the People's Panel and Terms of Reference

What is a People's Panel?

A People's Panel (the panel) is a group of community representatives coming together to learn about and discuss issues in detail.

This is a unique approach that provides a way for 'everyday citizens' to work through complex matters, including difficult trade-offs that are involved in policymaking.

The Liveable Yarra People's Panel will be assembled to debate big planning issues in Yarra and to produce a set of recommendations to present to Council.

The panel will comprise approximately 60 participants that are a mix of randomly selected and self-nominated but all with a common interest or connection to the Yarra community.

Why is the City of Yarra forming a People's Panel?

The Liveable Yarra project is investigating ways to achieve better future planning outcomes for the City of Yarra. Council wants to collaborate with the local community to consider how we can improve the liveability of Yarra.

One of the ways Council is doing this is through a series of in-depth 'deliberative' forums with community members. These forums will explore key considerations in planning and growth in Yarra, to produce a set of informed community recommendations for Council. It is an opportunity to be involved in shaping the future of the city.

How will the People's Panel be selected?

Recruitment and selection of participants will be facilitated by an independent consultant, based on a set of criteria determined by Council.

Selection will aim to closely resemble the Yarra community profile (ABS Census 2011), as well as the breadth of community interests in Yarra including; sustainability, heritage, social justice, economic development, etc.

What will the People's Panel involve?

Council wants to provide an opportunity for community members to talk in detail about the future of the city, to learn about how the city works, and other interesting things! To do this a series of workshops has been planned.

Each member of the panel will be required to attend the four workshops.

These half-day workshops will be held in Yarra and will be staggered over a series of Saturdays on 8 & 22 August and 5 & 26 September 2015.

It is expected that each Saturday session will run from 9am-1pm with light catering provided.

The workshop content and information is designed to evolve and build understanding of key topics over the four sessions, to result in a set of recommendations from the community to be presented to Council for its consideration.

What will be discussed during this process?

The purpose of the workshops is to help inform future updates to the Yarra Planning Scheme.

The Yarra Planning Scheme is a technical document that guides planning decisions about how land in Yarra is used and developed.

The content discussed during the meetings will therefore focus on land use and transport issues, however the specific topics will unfold throughout the process. Key issues for discussion include:

- People and housing
- Business and employment
- The built environment, and
- Access and movement.

Do I need to have any expert knowledge to participate?

No. The 'expertise' we are looking for is that you care about, and are interested in the future of Yarra, including but not limited to the neighbourhood you live, work or invest in.

These workshops are an opportunity to learn more about how the city works, as well as providing your informed feedback.

What will I be expected to do?

Throughout these workshops you will work together with Council staff and experts in an in-depth and dynamic process to explore key planning issues in Yarra.

From time to time Councillors, other community members, or other experts may be invited to attend these workshop as observers.

You will be asked to:

- listen to information from expert presenters
- discuss and listen to the perspectives and views of other participants
- share and explore your own perspectives on planning in Yarra, and
- contribute to a set of recommendations established by the group.

These workshops will be guided by an independent facilitator to ensure an effective and meaningful process.

How will I be expected to conduct myself?

In agreeing to be a part of this process you will be required to attend, and participate in all four sessions

You will also be expected to arrive on time, and remain for the duration of each session, or if you are unavoidably delayed to communicate with the Liveable Yarra contact person.

Throughout the process you will be expected to take advantage of the information provided to learn as much as you can, to treat all people in a respectful and courteous manner, and allow others to express their views.

You will be expected to help create a comfortable environment for these conversations – by having an open mind and being prepared to consider alternative views.

Will I get paid?

This is a voluntary role, however Yarra City Council acknowledges and appreciates the commitment made by participants. To this end, remuneration will be provided at the end of the process (\$250 in total).

What influence will my participation have on the Liveable Yarra project?

The panel recommendations and supporting reports will be presented to Council, and will include your name as a member of the People's Panel.

Your collective recommendations from these workshops will be considered and responded to by Council.

The recommendations are then likely to become an important reference document for Council to consider in developing improved planning outcomes for the City of Yarra.

Can I talk about what happens in these workshops?

Generally, yes. Talking to your family and friends about this project is encouraged, and you will be able to share and consider new information with them, to help them to understand dilemmas being faced in relation to planning.

Over the course of the forums there may be issues which are raised that should remain confidential. If this is the case we will inform you at the time.

Please remember, these groups operate as advisory only to Yarra City Council, and no member of the group is authorised to speak to external third parties on behalf of Yarra City Council.

If you are contacted by an external third party, such as the news or media, it is expected you will refer these contacts on to the group facilitator, or to a contact person at Yarra City Council.

Privacy Policy

The information requested through the nomination process is being collected by the Yarra City Council or Capire Consulting Group on behalf of the Yarra City Council so that we can verify your eligibility to be part of the Panel.

Please note that Yarra City Council may share this information with our partners in order to establish and facilitate the People's Panel. Your application will not be able to be processed if you do not provide this information.

Your personal information is managed in accordance with Council's Privacy Policy. This sets out how you may seek access to and correction of your personal information and how to make complaints. A copy is available at:

yarracity.vic.gov.au/Your-Council/Governance/Privacy-Policy

Yarra City Council may only disclose the information provided by you if required or authorised by law, or in accordance with our Privacy Policy.

Where can I find out more information?

Further information is currently available online via the project website:

yarraconversation.com.au/liveableyarra

Or by calling Andrew Howard, Project Manager at Capire Consulting Group.

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