



# Minutes RAP Advisory Committee

10 April 2024

## Meeting details

<b>Date of meeting</b>	Wednesday, 10 April 2024
<b>Time</b>	5:30pm – 7:00pm
<b>Venue</b>	Barrbunin Beek
<b>Chair/Facilitator</b>	Maddi Miller
<b>Minutes</b>	Blair Colwell

## 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>
Uncle Charles Pakana	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Shelley Ware	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Catherine Bradley	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Sue Harris	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Maddi Miller	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Jo Willson	Banyule Council
Zali Mifsud	Banyule Council
Georgie Meyer	Banyule Council
Blair Colwell	Banyule Council
Cr Peter Castaldo	Banyule Council
Nicole Maslin	Banyule Council
Mel Ramsey	Banyule Council
Tom Conley	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Uncle Owen Butler	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member

## Apologies

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation/Organisation</b>
Jo Southwell	Banyule Community Health
Cr Elizabeth Nealy	Banyule Council

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# Items

## 1. Introduction 5:30pm – 5:35pm

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

## 2. Confirmation of Minutes and Actions from previous meeting 5:35pm – 5:45pm

- Confirmation of minutes
- Action arising
- Mover Uncle Charles
- Seconder Shelley Ware
- Adopted

### Discussion

That the previous minutes be adopted.

Mover: Uncle Charles

Seconder: Shelley

### Action

Previous minutes are adopted.

Action	Outcome or Update	Status
Action 1: Sub-working group including Uncle Owen, Tom and Shelley to meet with the Repat hospital and then report back to RAP committee on discussions on how to progress the plaque.		Ongoing
Action 2: Council Officer to arrange a sub-working group consistent of Uncle Charles and Shelley to discuss Uluru Statement from the Heart Communications Plan	So have had a yarn with Rec Vic, and that communications plan will be drafted and reported back There is an event on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> May at ILCH with Uncle Charles and Professor Gunstan	Ongoing
Action 3: Council Officer to investigate a formal relationship with Reconciliation Victoria	We had a presentation to Reconciliation Victoria on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> of March and the discussion was around establishing a formal relationship as they establish their leadership.	Ongoing
Action 4: Zali to facilitate a meeting of representatives from Banyule and Reconciliation Victoria	Combing with action 3, possibly organising quarterly meeting.	Ongoing
Action 6 Council officer to organise meeting with Paty to organise further consultation. Uncle Charles to post to Barrbunin Beek to the committee for consultation opportunities.	Uncle Charles and Maddi meet with patty, and the discussion was around key elements of what is country and what is caring for country. A vision statement which we will visit in business arising later in this meeting.	Ongoing
Action 7 Council Officers work with RAP Committee Members in establishing a working group which and continue to work with the consultants on the development of the Master Plan.	Thank you for those individuals who have volunteered to be involved in that work.	Ongoing

### 3. Sport & Recreation Plan Consultation – 5:45pm to 6:00pm

- Council Officer, Melinda Ramsay to present the Sport & Recreation Plan

#### Discussion

Nicole Maslin and Mel Ramsay presented the following on the development of the Sport and Recreation Plan:

The existing plan was in place from 2017 to 2021. This new plan will take us through to 2028.

We are in the consultation phase with 600 respondents to our Banyule consultation.

It is about actively promoting participation in physical activity and recreation and involving the community in both formal and informal recreation. We want to increase people's activity.

We want to see shared use and multiple uses of our sport and recreation infrastructure to maximise its use.

We do have a community which values sport and recreation—a strong network of aquatic centres.

What we have heard so far:

Relationships with Barrbunin Beek are valued.

New opportunities to review sites to maximise participation. Applying an equitable lens to the allocation of sporting infrastructure.

What we are hearing;

Relationships with organisations.

Free clinics for the community (Olympic parks)

Barriers to School Usage

Great partnership opportunities VAHS and VACCA

In Australia, 78% of First Nations people participate in sport or recreation once a week 8% lower than the general population. Aus Play Data.

What are the barriers to participation? What support does the Council give to the community to support participation?

Uncle Owen: Cost

Nicole: Cost and time is seen as a barrier.

Uncle Charles: Families will be far more likely to get involved in sports activities that have mob involved.

We are going through a new age of racism, but there needs to be a degree of cultural safety.

Nicole: Building the capacity of clubs to be culturally safe, and how does council support Aboriginal Leadership to get in to clubs?

Shelley: We need to help clubs with policies around inclusive practice and racism. Are you looking at the Tribunal and how they are culturally safe? We need to look at our sphere of influence. When young people go to the tribunal they go with family.

Nicole: We can strengthen our relationship with the Northern Football League and how they respond.

Uncle Charles: Do we have powers to influence or enforce?

Nicole: There are discounts for clubs that perform well in terms of adopting codes of conduct. Clubs which aren't role models are at risk of losing their allocation.

Uncle Charles: Could what we are advocating for find its way into the strategy?

Nicole: Yes.

Cr Castaldo: Is this going to clubs or leagues?

Nicole and Jo: Yes, however forcing institutions into this won't have the desired outcome and we need to work cooperatively with clubs and leagues.

Shelley: Raised concern where there may be inconsistency of application of the strategy across other local government areas highlighting that some leagues cover multiple local government areas.

Zali: Truth-telling understanding the experience of young people who are experiencing racism on the field and how that feels. Let's consider how we involve this in the strategy.

Shelley: Sir Doug Nicholls Round and how to support clubs to celebrate First Nations round possibly with jumper and artist. Possibly a list of artists and a user guide of how to work respectfully in celebrating these rounds.

Cath: Getting case studies around experiences of racism.

Shelley: 100% Experience.

Nicole: The consultation report will go back to Council with some key themes. Then from that we will write a draft report. Both documents will come back to this group.

Uncle Charles: It is not appropriate to take a gentle approach to racism and would like to see all levels of Government including Council addressing this.

Nicole: Sport is a good vehicle for creating social change and in no way is racism being watered down.

Maddie: We have run out of time however it is important not to miss the wellbeing aspects of sport and recreation.

## Action

No actions

## 4. Climate Response Community Survey 5:55pm – 6:10pm

- Council Officer, Rowena Cairns to present the Climate Response

### Discussion

Video: Banyule Council is committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2028.

Plan 1 Carbon Neutrality

Plan 2 Climate Change Adaptation.

We need to adapt despite our commitment to being carbon neutral.

What is it: It is the process of adapting to the effects of climate change.

Climate change is happening in Banyule with changes to heat, drought and extreme weather events.

Heat Vulnerability isn't just the heat, it's the ability to cool, housing, trees and the environment—lots of variables.

What can we do to adapt? Questions?

I am writing Council's first Adaptions framework.

Maddi: is the framework for people, for houses, for animals?

It's going to impact all those areas food, people, ecosystems and biodiversity, It will touch on many policies

mental health, there is a lot of anxiety about climate change, touches on sport.

Uncle Owen: Engaged with the West about changing their behaviour? Acknowledging the West is the food bowl for the country.

Yes, we work with other local governments through alliances however we don't work directly with the Western councils. We do work on a regional level. MAV does work in those regional areas.

Uncle Owen: Councils don't seem to work together in coordination at times.

It is a national problem.

Maddie: With the carbon neutral goals how is that communicated and is all infrastructure like sports clubs, Barrbunin Beek, and other areas included? How are we supporting broader carbon neutrality in the community?

Possibly get Abdool to come in and answer to that as he is responsible for that area.

Cr Castaldo: No offsets mean that Banyule Council is authentic in being carbon neutral.

Helping all our facilities to become carbon neutral. Solar panels on roofs of infrastructure.

Corporate Emissions Reduction Policy

Then start to work on how we encourage the broader community to become carbon neutral.

Understand some of the barriers that we face.

Uncle Charles: What is Council doing to limit high and medium density living, which contributes to carbon emissions?

This is very much influenced by the State Government overlay.

There is some public consultation around housing density which is going on.

There will be more density of housing to address the urban sprawl with access to good infrastructure.

Tree retention is important in addressing the heat sink effect.

Uncle Charles: Would like to look at respite areas, pocket parks, and water bubblers.

Could you please feedback to Zali on any things that people haven't been able to say?

Maddie: Could Rowena forward an email to Zali to forward to the RAP Advisory Committee?

## Action

Council Officer Rowena to forward an email to the Committee with discussion points.

## 5. Vision, Objectives & Focus Areas 6:10pm – 6:45pm

- Council Officer, Zali Mifsud to present Strategy elements

### Discussion

The RAP Advisory Committee has been forwarded 'Strategy on a Page' and Zali explained about this page, where it has come from and how we got here.

This is the strategy and there is an action plan which isn't the strategy they are tangible actions.

The Strategy will be for the next 7 years.

The Vision was drafted by the Self Determination Working Group which is made up of senior staff in Banyule Council.

The language we have used is Indigenous, what language do we want to use? Is there consensus on words?

Shelley: Don't like Indigenous, I like Aboriginal, I don't mind First Nations.

Uncle Charles: I like First Nations as it implies sovereignty.

Maddie: Made good points about using language.

Shelley: Likes celebrating Aboriginal culture and land and is happy to proceed with First Nations.  
Broadly supported by everyone.

Uncle Charles: Values and Principles which will lift the lives of the First Nations people and the broader community.

Cr Castaldo: There are no Aboriginal people on Council, let's double back to that.

Self-determination focus areas: the priority areas stay the same.

How do we ensure the strategy sits alongside the Council Plan?

Maddi: It aligns with what we were saying in the dreaming.

Objectives: These should be universal and should fall across our key outcomes

Cr Castaldo: Share Power? Is it aligned properly? How we respect appropriately First Nations people by way of sharing of power.

Zali: We did discuss whether is power the correct language. We decided to start there and then start thinking about what "power" is. Let's have a conversation with Councillors about what this looks like.

Jo: Maybe swap the power-sharing to the end.

Cr Castaldo. Highlighted the importance and dilemma of agitating.

Maddi: Outlined how sharing of power isn't new there are lots of examples of how this is achieved.

Shelley: Should we take out the lines so those statements align with all key outcomes?

Can we look at the structure?

How do we feel about the language?

Uncle Charles: Would like to see truth put into the third one even though it is implicit.

Maddi: Last column, let's move beyond engagement and say explicitly self-determination.

Uncle Charles: Are there areas that may cause issues with Councillors or EMT?

Jo: Very positive more around formatting and encouraging that there may be some areas where it is stronger from EMT.

Goes back to a briefing on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024.



20<sup>th</sup> of May the strategy will go back to Council with a draft for community consultation.

Zali: The June meeting will focus on this.

Cr Castaldo: Just that box in the middle and the decision making and it needs to bring the Councillors on the Journey.

This will be brought up at a Councillor Briefing.

Uncle Charles: Please let us know when it goes to Council.

Director: We are very aware of the potential impact on Councillors and indeed some community members.

Uncle Owen: It might be naive of us that Council wants to share power.

Uncle Charles: We need to be consistent with the verbiage which has been put forward by Treaty. Decisions which are impacting on Aboriginal people and the Aboriginal community are made by us.

Zali: Highlighted that sharing power is nuanced.

Cr Castaldo: Put two case studies which illustrate models of sharing power.

Maddie: Brought up a potential case study and experience from her work.

Shelley: Is this document a bit scary without that mature conversation? Are there other ways of saying it in another way which doesn't elicit those concerns? Can we soften the language and achieve the same outcomes?

Uncle Charles: Is educating our Councillors what we mean and that might make it through?

Zali: Proposed leaving it in and having a conversation with Councillors then see what their feelings and they can come back to us.

Sue: Expressed concern around watering down or starching out the language and the potential of the strategy being overturned. We are in dangerous times.

Maddi: We need to be clear and strong.

Shelley: Yes, clear and strong but smart and wise.

At our next dreaming session, we will have feedback from EMT and Councillors where we can revisit the language. Once we have the action plan it will be circulated with the RAP committee.

## Action

Council Officer to send RAP Committee draft Strategy and Action Plan.

## 6. General Business 6:45pm – 6:55pm

- Call for any general business items:
- National Reconciliation Week Events: Zali

## Discussion

Maddi:

Vision Statement from public realm strategy would everyone like to discuss or happy for Maddi to tinker with it.

RAP Advisory Committee

Broad agreement from the committee for Maddie to do it.

Reconciliation Week:

Callender of Events of what we are doing. This will be sent out to the committee. We will also put an invitation for all events within the Banyule Council to the Committee.

The Banner, unfortunately with the sequence it is not in the Banner and we are unable to highlight the events.

RAP Dinner with Councillor 13<sup>th</sup> of May. 6 pm to 7 pm, have asked for RAP to come from 7:00 to 7:30 to raise any issues or questions with Councillors. Would a committee member be able to work with Zali so we are prepared for how we want to use that 30 minutes?

Uncle Charles would like to work with Zali about sharing the power, Tom is happy to work on this. Maddie would be happy to work with Zali on case studies.

Cr Castaldo. If there is a concern with the wording, do we have time to change it?

Zali: Yes time is built in to address this.

Jo: Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Let Zali know about dietary requirements.

Acknowledged that the dinner and question time is one more time pressure placed on the committee.

Maddie: The time commitment from this committee is proportionate to the efforts and work Zali has put into this.

Volunteers Dinner: Put in calendars and please let us know the numbers ASAP so we can confirm numbers and book. 22<sup>nd</sup> of May.

Tom: As chair of Volunteering Victoria, I have requested them to do a public forum and Tom would like to encourage people from this committee to be involved. I have asked them to do a yarnning circle, If anyone is interested in helping with that it will be an afternoon tea. Encourage members to consider that and feedback.

## Action

Council Officer to send invitations to the RAP Dinner and Volunteer Dinner.

## 7. Close and date of next meeting 6:55 pm – 7:00 pm

- Confirm Actions arising
- Close meeting
- Next meeting: 12 June