

Minutes

Maribyrnong Community Recovery Committee

Meeting details	
Date/Time:	Wednesday 18 December 2024 6.30pm to 8.00pm
Location:	Maribyrnong Community Centre
Attendees	
Andy Chan	A/ Coordinator Emergency Management, Maribyrnong City Council (MCC)
Georgia Esplin	Flood Recovery Manager, MCC
Martina Holland	Independent Chair
Mary Cameron	Community Representative
Melissa Eastwood	Manager Inclusive Communities, MCC
Mike Caridi	Community Representative
Mike McIntosh	Director Planning and Environment, MCC
Cr Susan Yengi	Councillor Representative
Wennie Van Riet	GenWest Representative
Apologies	
Andrew Monteiro	Community Representative
Debora North	cohealth Representative
Nazim Bayrak	Community Representative
Paul Larsen	Community Representative
Susan Saunders	Community Representative
Shweta Kawatra Dakin	GenWest Proxy

Item	Subject
1	<p>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country The Chair opened the meeting and acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the land.</p> <hr/> <p>Introduction of Cr Yengi The Chair introduced Cr Yengi, the newly appointed Councillor Representative on the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Yengi introduced herself and shared that she has lived in the Maribyrnong municipality for about nine years across several suburbs. • She has extensive experience in community development, not-for-profit organisations, and state and federal government. • Cr Yengi expressed her interest in community engagement and fostering community connection.
2	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike McIntosh noted that Cr Yengi had undertaken door-knocking in the suburb ahead of the election and asked about the community sentiment during this exercise. • Cr Yengi observed mixed feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some residents felt there was insufficient support and warnings received. ○ Others felt well-supported. ○ She emphasised empathy from residents not directly affected by the floods and highlighted the indirect impacts. ○ Many expressed a desire for clear expectations and knowing how to be prepared for future events. <hr/> <p>Conflict of interest declaration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martina Holland (CRC Chair) declared that she connected the Flood Recovery Manager with Samloysound, an audio producer who may submit a quote for the community storytelling project.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martina clarified that she: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Previously engaged Samloysound for another project. ○ Has no financial interest in Samloysound and would not benefit from Maribyrnong City Council engaging him. ○ Would recuse herself from the audio project if Samloysound became involved. <hr/> <p>Endorsement of previous minutes</p>
4	<p>Members endorsed the previous meeting minutes. The Chair advised that the minutes would be made available on the Council website, as agreed at the November 2024 meeting.</p> <hr/> <p>Recovery Projects The Chair invited members to provide updates on each of the project streams.</p>
5	<p>Social Recovery and Young People Project Stream Community Art-Based Storytelling Project Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Cameron (Social Recovery CRC Representative) recently met with the Council's Coordinator for Arts and Culture, the Flood Recovery Manager, and other participants from the Community Strengths and Opportunities Workshop to discuss next steps for art-based storytelling projects. • The top three project ideas identified by community participants at the meeting were: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sandblasting artwork along the river with words and imagery. 2. Vinyl wrapping public toilets with words and imagery.

-
3. Storytelling through audio/video collection linked to physical public artwork and an online presence.
- Council's Coordinator for Arts and Culture will scope these ideas and report back on feasibility.

Children's Book Project update:

- The Flood Recovery Manager is scoping the children's book storytelling project from the Strengths and Opportunities Workshop. The project will turn the stories of young people into a book.
- The team are exploring ways to involve support services to enable a safe and empowering environment for young people to participate.
- The Flood Recovery Manager sought feedback from the group on three options for developing a children's book:
 - Option 1: 1 initial session, 4 follow-up sessions, and an edited compilation of audio storyscapes in addition to the storybook.
 - Option 2: 1 initial session, 3 follow-up sessions, and a small edited compilation of audio storyscapes in addition to the storybook.
 - Option 3: 1 initial session, 2 follow-up sessions, and a storybook only.

Discussion:

- Members suggested that the audio soundscapes might duplicate the public artwork project unless integrated.
- They also noted that Options 2 or 3 could offer better value, depending on the price difference.

Mary Cameron left the meeting following the social recovery project update.

Built and Economic Recovery Project Stream

Wennie Van Riet (GenWest) provided the Built and Economic Recovery Project Stream update in Andrew Montiero's absence:

Maribyrnong Insurance Project:

- Conducted 21 community conversations and completed a desktop analysis of existing information.
- A bi-cultural worker conducted conversations in Vietnamese and translated them into English, creating a culturally safe and accessible environment for participants.
- Conversations led to increased sense of community connection and referrals to services such as legal and material aid.
- Needs assessment highlighted community interest in an insurance guidebook and expert panel discussion. Organisations involved in the development of the insurance resource include Consumer Action Law Centre, West Justice, Disaster Legal Help Victoria, Financial Counselling Victoria, Cohealth and the Red Cross.

Next Steps:

- GenWest are coordinating the development of the guidebook.
- Launch event planned at the Maribyrnong Community Centre featuring an expert panel.
- Wennie sought group feedback on whether a Saturday or Sunday evening would be preferred for the launch given limited availability of the venue.
- Melissa Eastwood offered to investigate availability for the venue.

Preparedness Health and Safety Project Stream

Maribyrnong Neighbourhood Flood Network:

- Council has launched an expression of interest for the Maribyrnong Neighbourhood Flood Network. The aim is to have community leaders equipped with information to help their connections and neighbours understand their flood risk and how to be prepared.
- The network will expand the reach of the existing warning system as opposed to replacing it.
- Four local businesses and five community members have expressed interest in joining the network.
- Recovery team is working with VICSES to implement a preparedness campaign alongside the network launch.

Property Flood Risk Charts:

- VICSES and Council have met with Melbourne Water about the proposal to reinstate property flood risk charts. Confirmation of Melbourne Water's support is still pending.

6 **Action item review**

See action item updates on page six.

Social Recovery Sub-Committee update

Melissa Eastwood, Manager Inclusive Communities and Chair of the Social Recovery Sub-Committee (SRC), and Georgia Esplin, Flood Recovery Manager, provided an overview of the SRC meeting on 11 December 2024:

- Reflection on committee progress highlighted positive collaboration and joint initiatives in 2024.
 - Updates from key agencies:
 - Department of Families, Fairness, and Housing: Appointed a new Emergency Management Manager.
 - Cohealth: Supporting approximately 50 clients. A common theme is that clients often re-enter the program as they begin to recognise their own fatigue and financial stress.
 - Disaster Legal Help Victoria: Supporting the Maribyrnong Insurance Project with other legal and financial organisations.
- 7
- SRC members also reflected on the status of their action plan items and expressed that the committee is on a positive trajectory. It was noted the action plan items align with the CRC's three project streams.

Discussion:

- Cr Yengi suggested exploring partnerships with other municipalities including regional communities to share recovery learnings.
- Andy Chan (A/Coordinator Emergency Management) described the North West Metro Collaboration, a partnership for emergency management representatives in the region.
- The Flood Recovery Manager advised that the Recovery team have offered Moonee Valley City Council to partner in the delivery of social connection opportunities in 2025 and are awaiting their confirmation.

Action: Council to seek advice from Emergency Recovery Victoria to establish mentorship opportunities with regional communities.

Review of 2024 and reflection

2025 project timeline:

The Flood Recovery Manager presented a projected six month timeline of recovery events and initiatives. This timeline was established based on the projects raised at the Maribyrnong Community Strengths and Opportunities Workshop and ordered by level of priority at the November CRC meeting.

8

Reflection:

The Chair invited members to reflect using the following prompts

- Reflection on the year – think of a word that sums up your year
 - Board of successes and challenges this year
-

-
- Setting an intention for 2025

Members shared their reflections, wins, challenges and ambitions with one another.

Key messages

Members identified the following key messages to share with community:

- Six-month recovery event and activity program for 2025
 - Meeting minutes will now be available online from the Council website
 - 9 • Welcome to Cr Yengi who has been appointed to the CRC as the Councillor representative
 - 21 interviews have been conducted with community as part of the Maribyrnong Insurance Project. Organisations involved in the development of the insurance resource include Consumer Action Law Centre, West Justice, Disaster Legal Help Victoria, Financial Counselling Victoria, Cohealth and the Red Cross
 - Reminder to look out for one another over the Christmas period
-

Close meeting

- 10 The Chair closed the meeting and thanked members for their participation and commitment in 2024.
The next meeting is scheduled for 22 January at 6.30pm.
-

Action Table				
Date	Action item	Responsible	Status	Notes
29/05/24	Chair to invite Dr Rob Gordon to a future CRC meeting due to his specialty with working with children and young people	Chair	Open	Update November 2024: invite extended, however Dr Rob Gordon is unavailable until 2025
24/07/24	Council to draft an article in the Maribyrnong Messenger for the second anniversary about the ongoing impacts of the flood on community	Council	Open	Update December 2024: item ongoing – the pitch was not selected for the Autumn edition – will try again for the Winter edition
24/07/24	Council to seek data to support the insurance program	Council	Closed	Update December 2024: item complete – data has been collected as part of the insurance literacy program
16/09/24	Council to arrange a presentation on the network mapping tool at a future CRC meeting	Council	Open	Update November 2024: item ongoing – members advised they are still interested in this presentation if there is no cost associated
30/10/24	Susan to share a list of documents required to access the Planning and Building Assistance Rebate Scheme	Susan Saunders	Open	December 2024: pending update
20/11/24	Mike Caridi to establish walking group WhatsApp	Mike Caridi	Closed	Update December 2024: item closed – Mike has actioned this
20/11/24	Mike Caridi to share a Facebook post to encourage members to should-out their good experiences with hygienists post-flood	Mike Caridi	Closed	Update December 2024: item closed – Mike has actioned this
20/11/24	Council to seek data on the road use at Anglers Way near Anglers Tavern	Council	Closed	Update December 2024: Council's Infrastructure team do not collect data on traffic at Anglers Way
20/11/24	Council to confirm if CRC resilience projects meet the criteria for the GIVIT funding	Council	Open	Update December 2024: meeting scheduled with the team at GIVIT for early January to discuss eligibility
18/12/24	Council to seek advice from Emergency Recovery Victoria contacts to establish connection/mentor opportunities with regional communities	Council	Open	