

Minutes

Maribyrnong Community Recovery Committee

Meeting details	
Date/Time	Wednesday 29 October 2025 6.30pm to 8.00pm
Location	Maribyrnong Community Centre
Attendees	
Andrew Monteiro	Community Representative
Georgia Esplin	Flood Recovery Manager, MCC
Jason Collins	Coordinator Emergency Management, MCC
Martina Holland	Independent Chair
Mary Cameron	Community Representative
Melissa Eastwood	Manager Inclusive Communities, MCC
Mike McIntosh	Director Planning and Environment, MCC
Paul Larsen	Community Representative
Cr Susan Yengi	Councillor Representative
Apologies	
Mike Caridi	Community Representative
Shweta Kawatra Dakin	GenWest Representative
Guests	
Elle Schreiber	Coordinator CEO Office, MCC
Laura Shaw	Communications Advisor, MCC

Item	Subject
1	<p>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>The Chair began the meeting by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation.</p> <p>The Chair introduced Jason Collins, who has recently joined Council as Coordinator Emergency Management. Jason's experience includes Director Community Preparedness at the New South Wales Reconstruction Authority, Chief Officer Northern Territory Emergency Services, as well as positions in local government and the Australian Red Cross. Members welcomed Jason.</p>
2	<p>Conflict of interest declaration</p> <p>No conflicts were declared.</p>
3	<p>Endorsement of previous minutes</p> <p>Members endorsed the previous minutes. They requested the Melbourne Water fact sheet be included as an attachment and shared amongst community as it contains additional information from the Melbourne Water presentation.</p>
	<p>Energy check-in</p> <p>The Chair asked members about their energy levels. Members noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every day feels different, and it has been a long journey for CRC members. • Some members still have concerns about the future and safety. • People are at varying stages of recovery. • The third anniversary event was positive and well received. CRC members felt proud that the community appreciated the work invested in the program.
4	<p>Program overview and gaps</p> <p>The Chair provided an overview of the program delivered by the CRC and asked whether there are still gaps to address. Members noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was beneficial to have Melbourne Water and VicSES representatives attend the last meeting, but more engagement and information sharing are needed. • The Maribyrnong Neighbourhood Flood Network will take on an information-sharing role. • There remains a need to rebuild trust. • Advocating for an independent review of agencies' responses after the flood would help measure improvements. • A proactive list of supports and a guide to navigating next steps after a flood should be developed and launched through the Neighbourhood Flood Network to assist community members in the future. • Council should showcase operational changes made post-flood based on lessons learned. • Cr Yengi noted that developing a guide outlining the responsibilities of each agency involved in emergency management would be helpful. This was one of the recommendations from the Maribyrnong Community Planning Day workshop in May 2025.

Flood Recovery and Prevention Advocacy

Discussion led by Elle Schreiber, Coordinator CEO Office:

- Elle advised members that the Advocacy Plan 2025–28 has been endorsed. An update on progress will be presented to Councillors in six months.
- The plan incorporates advocacy asks from the Strategic Advocacy Plan Flood Recovery, identified through the CRC and the needs assessment from the Maribyrnong Insurance Project.
- The CEO's Office is seeking community feedback on the plan, noting that the asks can be amended where required.

Members suggested the following:

- Build partnerships with other communities, both within Victoria and interstate, to progress advocacy asks — including convening an Insurance Round Table.
- Review findings from the Parliament of Victoria's Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria.
- Help the community understand what the Plan means for them.
- Develop a strong case with both economic and human justification for why change is necessary.
- Invite Federal and State Members of Parliament, Daniel Mulino MP and Katie Hall MP to an upcoming meeting.
- Create a concrete action plan for advocacy asks.

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Insurance Round Table discussion:

- Members noted there are significant challenges with insurance – an Insurance Round Table was suggested with key stakeholders to hear about community challenges and discuss opportunities for action.
- Members advised that many residents accepted early cash settlements but later regretted it, as the amounts were insufficient to cover actual costs.
- Inconsistencies across policies were highlighted, particularly regarding accommodation allowances. Members stressed the need to advocate for more than one year of accommodation to be included in all policies.
- Case studies and personal quotes were identified as critical tools to apply pressure on stakeholders and the federal government for action.

Actions – Council to:

- Draft an advocacy brochure to be shared with key stakeholders
- Confirm if the Inquiry into Insurers Response to 2022 Major Flood Claims contained recommendations on accommodation
- Scope feasibility for an Insurance Round Table

Recovery Plan

- 6 The Chair invited feedback from members on the Municipal Flood Recovery Plan, which was revised following feedback from members at the June 2025 meeting.
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	Members endorsed the plan and suggested getting input from Maribyrnong Catchment Resilience Association (MCRA) prior to publishing.
	Key messages Members identified the following key messages for members to share with community
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy Plan has been endorsed and contains asks for the Federal and State Governments in flood recovery and mitigation • Opportunities to meet your local representatives on the Maribyrnong Neighbourhood Flood Network will be launching soon • Thanks to the community who attended the third anniversary commemoration event
	Cr Yengi congratulated the CRC for the delivery of the third anniversary commemoration event.
8	Close meeting The Chair closed the meeting and thanked attendees for their participation.

Date	Action item	Notes
19/02/25	Council to liaise with Paul Larsen to develop a tool library project plan	Update June 2025: This item is parked as logistics are considered.
19/03/25	Council to investigate puppy play therapy for a future event and Mary to suggest options for puppy therapy providers	Update June 2025: This will be considered for future events e.g. anniversary
30/04/25	Melbourne Water to advise on the outcome of the CRC request to be represented on the Project Control Group for the Flood Mitigation Study	Update July 2025: Melbourne Water are finalising the governance structure and are looking to include an option for members to bring along a community representative
28/05/25	Council to initiate history group meetings and invite Mary Cameron	Update July 2025: In progress. Council has contacted Working Heritage as requested by Mary
06/08/25	Council to liaise with members to prepare a learning-sharing presentation	Update August 2025: The preparation of a presentation is in progress. Mike Caridi advised he would be happy to support the presentation.
20/08/25	Council to re-send Municipal Recovery Plan and Flood Recovery Transition Plan for feedback	Complete
20/08/25	Council to invite Melbourne Water to the next meeting to pose questions about what has changed post-flood	Complete
20/08/25	Martina to review the Q&A document drafted by the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee responding to questions raised at the Maribyrnong Community Planning Day Workshop for accessibility	In progress

8/10/25	Council to invite Advocacy team to attend next CRC meeting	Complete
29/10/25	Council to draft an advocacy brochure to be shared with key stakeholders	
29/10/25	Council to confirm if the Inquiry into Insurers Response to 2022 Major Flood Claims contained recommendations on accommodation	
29/10/25	Council to scope feasibility for an Insurance Round Table	