

Minutes

Maribyrnong Community Recovery Committee

Meeting details	
Date/Time:	Wednesday 20 November 2024 6.30pm to 8.00pm
Location:	Maribyrnong Community Centre
Attendees	
Andrew Monteiro	Community Representative
Andy Chan	A/ Coordinator Emergency Management, Maribyrnong City Council (MCC)
Debora North	cohealth Representative
Georgia Esplin	Flood Recovery Manager, MCC
Martina Holland	Independent Chair
Mary Cameron	Community Representative
Mike Caridi	Community Representative
Mike McIntosh	Director Planning and Environment, MCC
Paul Larsen	Community Representative
Shweta Kawatra Dakin	GenWest Representative
Apologies	
Melissa Eastwood	Manager Inclusive Communities, MCC
Nazim Bayrak	Community Representative
Susan Saunders	Community Representative
Wennie Van Riet	GenWest Proxy

Item	Subject
1	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country The Chair opened the meeting and acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the land. The Chair congratulated CRC member Paul Larsen on his anticipated move home, over two years post-flood.
2	Conflict of interest declaration No new conflicts declared.
3	Publishing meeting minutes The chair raised the suggestion to publish CRC meeting minutes on the Council website. Members agreed.
4	Action item review See action item updates on page six.

Recovery Projects

Members reviewed the list of projects raised at the Maribyrnong Strengths and Opportunities workshop. They used a traffic light system to prioritise the projects:

- Green – top priority
- Orange – lower priority
- Red – not a priority

Priority level	Project
5 Green	Music events (inviting local artists to play)
	Art-based storytelling project
	Children's book to tell the story of the flood
	Regular Blackbird river cruises
	Insurance guide/Maribyrnong Insurance Project
	Dog park/other community use of vacant Melbourne Water land on Chifley Drive
	Advocacy: report into the financial impacts of the flood for advocacy purposes
	Property Flood Risk Charts developed in partnership with VICSES and Melbourne Water
	River Watch page on the Council website
	Floral arrangement workshops
	Tai chi program extension
Orange	Walking groups
	Equine assisted therapy
	Movie screenings
	Mentoring from other communities
Red	Community garden
	Advocacy: incentives for resilient rebuilds and GST refund on rebuilds
	Equine assisted therapy held at the Flemington Race Course/involving the Victorian Racing Club (VRC)

Note: some projects will require involvement from other stakeholders. Stakeholder involvement has not been confirmed yet.

Discussion:

- Members highlighted the need for family friendly events and school holiday programs.
- It was noted that the traffic at Anglers Tavern is impacting road safety.
- Mentoring project could involve a guest speaker at a community event, for example Jemima Richards, bushfire survivor from King Lake and guest speaker at the Community Strengths and Opportunities Workshop.
- Members engaged with their networks and agreed that if equine assisted therapy goes ahead, it should not involve the VRC. Views differed on whether this should be a priority item, however members agreed to categorise this as orange. If this project goes ahead, it could involve bus trips to alternative locations as opposed to utilising VRC facilities.
- Members noted that so many households in Maribyrnong have their own gardens to tend to, therefore a community garden may not be well-utilised. Members suggested gardening events, programs and activities that provide benefit for residents' own gardens.
- Members stated that the new Maribyrnong Neighbourhood Flood Network cannot rely on the former system involving flood wardens. It was noted that the aim of the network is to maximise the reach of the existing warning system and improve community awareness of flood risk by utilising existing community networks, as opposed to appointing wardens.
- Members discussed the suggestion for establishing a walking group, which was popular on social media. Members agreed to select a time and create a WhatsApp group to establish the walking group. From there, community members can decide how often they meet. The walking group should be promoted on Facebook, the Community Recovery Newsletter and Council website.

Action: Mike Caridi to establish walking group WhatsApp

Action: Council to seek data on the road use at Anglers Tavern

Community Resilience Projects

The Flood Recovery Manager advised that GIVIT have funding available for community resilience projects. Members discussed the following projects:

- Wellbeing initiatives such as support circles with mental health practitioners, healing spaces and art therapy
- Infrastructure to create community gathering places, e.g. dog park fence
- Report into the economic impacts of the flood to be used for advocacy purposes
- Historical storytelling projects, including the creation of a Maribyrnong Historical Society

Action: Council to confirm if community resilience projects meet the criteria for the GIVIT funding

Next steps

- Project-specific meetings will continue on an as-needed basis and will include invitations to community workshop attendees who expressed interest in being involved.

Maribyrnong Insurance Project

Shweta Kawatra Dakin presented an update on the Maribyrnong Insurance Project:

- 6 GenWest have completed 17 community conversations, with the initial 14 community conversations transcribed to date and included in this summary. This included:
- 94% home-owners directly affected by the 2022 flood and 6% renters
 - 76% who identify as female
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- 24% who identify as male
 - 18% who are between 60-80yrs of age
 - 41% who identify as Vietnamese
 - 30% who identify as having another migrant background
 - 29% who identify as Anglo-Saxon Australian

All initial 14 community members mentioned they appreciated the opportunity to share their story and feel heard. Three of the community members they held conversations with are still experiencing hardship and require support. GenWest have supported them to connect to relevant services.

In response to the Community Conversations held in the needs assessment phase, the delivery of the following items is proposed as part of the program:

- FAQ webpage available in English and Vietnamese
- Physical booklet with FAQ questions and answers, coupled with community experiences, available in English and Vietnamese
- Short videos of explaining the FAQ webpage in spoken English and spoken Vietnamese
- Resource launch event, including Q&A opportunity for community members with insurance experts

Discussion:

- Members noted that the resource being developed should explore how intersectionality and intersecting identity may pose a challenge navigating the insurance system, e.g. First Nations people, ageing population, and other disadvantaged groups.
- Shweta noted GenWest are engaging with mental health experts as well as insurance experts in the delivery of this program.

Feedback/ideas

The Chair opened the floor for discussion on projects, feedback and general business:

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- Andrew Montiero highlighted how during the flood clean-up, there was no awareness of standards to measure the quality of hygienist reports and cleaning services. He noted there was discrepancies in quotes received across the community and no awareness of how to measure standards.
 - Members suggested a Facebook post to encourage community to shout-out a good hygienist to encourage transparency

Action: Mike Caridi to share a Facebook post to encourage members to should-out their good experiences with hygienists post-flood.

Social Recovery Sub-Committee update

The Flood Recovery Manager provided an update from the Social Recovery Sub-Committee Meeting on 13 November 2024.

Update:

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- Cohealth have 48 active clients in Maribyrnong.
 - Disaster Legal Help Victoria are holding a Webinar on 21 November for recovery service providers to assist community navigating building disputes. There will be speakers from Justice Connect as well as tips and tricks for engaging with builders, how to escalate disputes, concerns about quality and more.
 - Disaster Legal Help Victoria are engaging with Consumer Action Law Centre, GenWest and Council about the development of an insurance resource as part of the Maribyrnong Insurance Project.
 - GIVIT currently have 19 active requests for donations in Maribyrnong.
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Discussion:

- Members agreed to make the Social Recovery Sub-Committee update a standing agenda item.
- Members enquired about the uptake of the MAC membership extension. The Flood Recovery Manager noted that the extension has been automatically applied to all existing recovery memberships and only one enquiry has been received about a new membership.

Key messages

Members identified the following key messages to share with community:

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- The continuation of much-loved programs like the recovery MAC memberships, tai chi program, and floral arrangement workshops
 - Promote the donation services available through GIVIT and the Western Emergency Relief Network (residents interested in accessing donation support can visit the flood recovery team on Thursdays at the Maribyrnong Community Centre or email floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)
 - Community workshop projects have been reviewed and ordered by level of priority – a full program of events for January to June 2025 will be shared shortly

Close meeting

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- The Chair closed the meeting and encouraged members to attend the next meeting in Christmas-themed attire. The next meeting is scheduled for 18 December at 6.30pm.
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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 November 2024: item ongoing – discussions are taking place about potential for an article for the Autumn edition
24/07/24	Council to seek data to support the insurance program	Council	Open	Update September 2024: item ongoing - This will be achieved 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
30/10/24	Council to share the former property floor level data set with Melbourne Water	Council	Closed	Complete November 2024
30/10/24	The Chair to discuss eligibility of the vacant land project with Emergency Recovery Victoria	Chair	Closed	Complete November 2024
30/10/24	Susan to share a list of documents required to access the Planning and Building Assistance Rebate Scheme	Susan Saunders	Ongoing	
30/10/24	Members to test the idea of equine assisted therapy and potential locations with community and bring feedback back to the next meeting	Community representatives	Closed	Complete November 2024
30/10/24	Council to explore community insurance workshops as a form of advocacy	Council	Closed	To be completed as part of the Maribyrnong Insurance Project
30/10/24	Members to share a Facebook group to determine interest in a walking group	Community representatives	Closed	Complete November 2024
30/10/24	Council to add a customer request to mow near the 'welcome to Maribyrnong' sign	Council	Closed	Request lodged November 2024
20/11/24	Mike Caridi to establish walking group WhatsApp	Mike Caridi		
20/11/24	Mike Caridi to share a Facebook post to encourage members to shout-out their good experiences with hygienists post-flood	Mike Caridi		
20/11/24	Council to seek data on the road use at Anglers Tavern	Council		
20/11/24	Council to confirm if CRC resilience projects meet the criteria for the GIVIT funding	Council		