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| **Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum****Minutes – Meeting No. 40 – Wednesday 29 January 2025**1pm-2.35pm online via Microsoft Teams |
| **Attendees:** **Chair:** Cr Rhonda Garad (City of Greater Dandenong (CGD))**VIC**:Mayor Cr Thuy Dang (Brimbank), Charlie McFadden (Kingston), Mayor Cr Mike Bodsworth (Surf Coast), Deputy Mayor Cr Brian Little (Monash), Tracey Egan (Monash), Cr Kenneth Gomez (Yarra), Mayor Cr Stefan Koomen (Casey), Cathy Miles (Hobson Bay), John Drennan (Ballarat), Kelisha Nikitas (Wyndham), Shabaz Fattah (Darebin), Cristina Del Frate (Yarra), Mayor Cr Dominic Bonanno (Macedon Ranges), Mayor Cr Helen Davidson (Merri-bek), Emma Sampson (Merri-bek), Nelum Buddhadasa (Merri-bek), Elyse Rider (Brimbank), Narda Shanley (Hume), Mayor Cr Pradeep Tiwari (Maribyrnong), Cr Jennie Barrera (Wyndham), Mayor Cr Kristine Olaris OAM (Darebin), Yusuke Akai (Darebin), Kate Wijeyesinghe (Monash), Amelia Basset (Darebin), Uzma Akhlaq (Whittlesea), Ann Ly (CGD), Peter Johnstone (CGD), Thiviya Nagenthiram (CGD). **SA:** Alicja Clisby (Port Adelaide Enfield), Mayor Cr Claire Boan (Port Adelaide Enfield); **NSW**: Mayor Cr Kevin Mack (Albury), Michael Maxwell (Blacktown), Mayor Cr Tony Mileto (Orange), Anni Gallagher (Orange)**Guest:** Rebecca Langton (Refugee Council of Australia).**Apologies:****VIC:** Cr Ranka Rasic (Brimbank), Lynley Dumble (Brimbank), Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik (Cardinia), Pradeep Peteti (Casey), Michele Burton (Darebin), Cr Gaetano Greco (Darebin), Ann Ly (CGD), Mayor Cr Daria Kellander (Hobsons Bay), Ben Pollard (Hobsons Bay), Cr Naim Kurt (Hume), Mayor Cr Georgina Oxley (Kingston), Cr Hadi Saab (Kingston), Catherine Dwyer (Maribyrnong), Brooke Hobson (Maribyrnong), Kelsey Laffy (Maribyrnong), Mayor Cr Paul Klisaris (Monash), Jennifer Anderson (Macedon Ranges), Lord Mayor Cr Nicholas Reece (Melbourne), Kara Barnett (Melbourne), Adam Pulford (Merri-bek), Petr Svoboda (Merri-bek), Mayor Cr John Dumaresq (Nillumbik), Cr Liz Pattison (Surf Coast), Mayor Cr Aidan McLindon (Whittlesea), Dalal Sleiman (Whittlesea), Mayor Cr Mia Shaw (Wyndham), , Cr Edward Crossland (Yarra), Amani Nyikang (Yarra), Mayor Cr Di Rule (Queenscliffe Borough), Mayor Cr Stretch Kontelj OAM (Geelong), Cr Trent Sullivan (Geelong), Sally Beck (Geelong), Mayor Cr Ava Adams (Moonee Valley), Jason Triolo (Moonee Valley), Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf (Bendigo), Cr Andrea Metcalf (Bendigo), Nikki Williams (Bendigo), Pinar Maher (Bendigo), Mayor Cr Kylie Spears (Maroondah), Chris Riseley (Maroondah), Paul MacDonald (Maroondah), Mayor Cr Anthony Marsh (Mornington Peninsula), Chris Munro (Mornington Peninsula), Mayor Cr Louise Crawford (Port Phillip),Cr Heather Cunsolo (Port Phillip), Ewa Zysk (Port Phillip), Mayor Cr Scott Rossetti (Wellington), Mayor Cr Andrew Davenport (Whitehorse), Zoe Quinn (Whitehorse), Mayor Cr Aidan McLindon (Whittlesea), Mayor Cr Stephen Jolly (Yarra), Mayor Cr Jarrod Bell (Hume), Mayor Cr Tracey Hargreaves (Ballarat), Cr Virginia Tachos (Brimbank), Deputy Mayor Cr Sarah McKenzie (Yarra), Cr Nicky Luo (Monash), Tracey Egan (Monash), Celia Chang (Hume), Deputy Mayor Cr Daniela Zinni (Whittlesea), Jess Smith (Kingston), Mayor Cr Jo Armstrong (Ararat), Jenna House (Wyndham), Cr Bob Sanders (Ararat), Mayor Cr Elizabeth Nealy (Banyule), Lisa King (Banyule), Cr Des Hudson (Ballarat), Suzannah Burton (Ballarat)**SA:** Tracy Hart (Port Adelaide Enfield); **NSW:** Cr David Mallard (Orange), Claire Simmonds (Blacktown), Cr Elizabeth Adamczyk (Newcastle), Garry Starr (Canterbury Bankstown) Catherine Davis (Orange); Mayor Cr Dylan Parker (Randwick), Cr Philipa Veitch (Randwick); Mayor Cr Ross Kerridge (Newcastle), Melanie Hill (Newcastle), Petria Jukes (Newcastle); Mayor Cr Mark Greenhill OAM (Blue Mountains), Deputy Mayor Cr Romola Hollywood (Blue Mountains); Cr Brent Hoare (Blue Mountains), Tracy Burgess (Blue Mountains); Mayor Cr Brad Bunting (Blacktown), Kerry Robinson (Blacktown); Mayor Cr Dallas Tout (Wagga Wagga), Deputy Mayor Cr Georgie Davies (Wagga Wagga), Cassandra Webster (Wagga Wagga); Mayor Cr Darcy Byrne (Inner West), Cr Liz Atkins (Inner West), Sue Pym (Inner West); Deputy Mayor Cr Jessica Kellahan (Albury), Cr Kylie King (Albury), Frank Zaknich (Albury); Mayor Cr Bilal El-Hayek (Canterbury Bankstown), Graeme Beattie (Canterbury Bankstown); **TAS:** Lord Mayor Cr Anna Reynolds (Hobart), Alison Hines (Hobart); Mayor Matthew Garwood (Launceston). |

| **Item** | **Action by** |
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| 1. **Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country**
	* Chair welcomed New Executive Member (City of Casey).
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| 1. **Endorsement of Minutes of Previous Meeting**
* Previous minutes endorsed by Mayor Mike Bodsworth (Surf Coast Shire) and Mayor Pradeep Tiwari (Maribyrnong).
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| 1. **Outstanding Action Items**
	* Member Council contact updates to be provided for Taskforce mailing list.
	* Back Your Neighbour social media pledges – thank you Mayor Cr Helen Davidson (Merri-bek), Mayor Cr Pradeep Tiwari (Maribyrnong), Mayor Cr Jim Memeti (CGD).
	* New BYN e-newsletter draft presented. Newsletter will be sent to all members and supporter organisations to keep people informed of the campaign activities and calls to action. Anyone can subscribe via the BYN website.
 | Content for BYN e-newsletter can be sent to Secretariat – all members. |
| 1. **Back Your Neighbour (BYN) Campaign January – June 2025**
	* Timeline of key dates shared.
	* BYN campaign asks and implications of amendments to Migration Bill 2024 were discussed. Refugee Council of Australia shared further information about the Bill from their website.
	* Mention of Medivac refugees, ongoing Bridging Visa instability and potential deportation.
	* Taskforce mapping of Federal Election Candidates and Key Seats shared. This will be the Taskforce’s key advocacy activity in the lead up to the Federal election.
		+ Members are encouraged to support engagements with local MPs and send meeting invitations. Members are also encouraged to help send invitations to Councils to join the Taskforce.
		+ Tailored templates to Councils/MPs/candidates have been drafted by Secretariat and can be provided to members upon request.
 | Secretariat to distribute campaign flyer and Taskforce’s submission to the Migration Bill 2024 inquiry.Secretariat/Chair are available to meet with Members wishing to learn more about BYN priorities. Spreadsheet of Federal Election Candidates and Key Seats to be distributed by Secretariat for Members to identify which Councils/MPs they are connected with – All members. |
| 1. **Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly 24-27 June**
	* Secretariat presented a summary of outcomes from the ALGA exhibition booth and morning tea in 2024. Positive feedback from Cr Jennie Barrera (Wyndham) who participated in the event last year: “There was a lot of interest and I’d be in favour of having the morning tea and have members on the booth and talk to people, as well as have those meetings with MPs.”
	* Consensus by attendees to hold exhibition booth, morning tea and delegation as per in 2024. Members will be invited to represent at the booth and morning tea and attend MP meetings at Parliament House.
	* ALGA Acceptance of Motions closes 31 March 2025. Draft motion presented on screen to attendees.
 | Draft motion will be circulated by Secretariat for members to seek endorsement with their respective Councils as joint movers. |
| 1. **Name change for consideration - Local Government Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum**
	* Name change proposed to members as an opportunity to broaden the Taskforce to include non-Mayor Councillors of Member Councils to participate in BYN advocacy. This was based on member feedback from last year, recognizing that other member councillors may be supportive and have networks which the Taskforce could utilise to amplify the campaign:
		+ Members were open to the idea; support expressed by members to ‘open up’ the Taskforce, as “Mayors are not always available” to attend meetings and advocacy activities, others see it as an opportunity “to spread the message and add more voices to strengthen the campaign efforts”.
		+ Suggestion made to have two representatives – both the Mayor and another Councillor who is passionate about the topic. The Chair advised that the Taskforce offers four flexible tiers of memberships, and that Member Councils may have other non-Mayor councillors opting to receive Taskforce meeting invites.
 | Name options and decision-making process to be circulated to members by Secretariat prior to the next meeting. |
| 1. **Next Meeting**
* Wednesday 26 February 1pm-3pm online. Chair: Cr Nicky Luo (Monash)
* Wednesday 26 March 1pm-3pm; online. Chair: Mayor Cr Helen Davidson (Merri-bek)
* Wednesday 30 April 1pm-3pm, In person. Chair Mayor Cr Jim Memeti (Greater Dandenong)
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| 1. **Meeting closed 2.35pm**
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