

# Media Release

**The Hon Shaun Leane MLC**  
Minister for Local Government  
Minister for Suburban Development  
Minister for Veterans



Tuesday, 14 December 2021

## **YARRA CITY COUNCIL MUNICIPAL MONITOR ANNOUNCED**

The municipal monitor appointed to Yarra City Council has been announced and will improve governance, guide the recruitment of a new Chief Executive Officer and forge a strong future for the municipality and its residents.

Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane today announced the appointment of Yehudi Blacher, who brings considerable senior experience in state and local government and was the monitor at Whittlesea Council and interim administrator to Greater Geelong City Council.

During his 6-month term as municipal monitor, Mr Blacher will support Yarra City Council's transition back to good governance and guide it through the recruitment of a new Chief Executive Officer.

The council last month elected a new Mayor after three unsuccessful attempts at previous meetings. The Local Government Act 2020 requires a Mayor to be appointed with a majority vote to ensure they have the support to perform their role.

Council officers raised broader concerns with the Department about the council's governance and its ability to make decisions in the interests of the local community, which has also been subject to widespread media coverage.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to supporting and improving council culture in Victoria.

PwC is leading the Local Government Culture Project which will support and improve council culture across the state, providing a platform for the sector to identify and take ownership of a positive and inclusive culture that will improve governance and build public trust.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane**

*"Yehudi Blacher brings experience, skills and knowledge that will be valuable in guiding Yarra City Council to return to good governance and refocus on its community."*

*"Local councils play a vital role in communities across the state – and municipal monitors have a great track record in guiding them to deliver the very best for Victorians."*