

**2020 Election Period**

**Candidate Information Request Register**

Objective Ref: A3405833

| **No.** | **Date Received** | **Candidate** | **Requested Information** | **Response Date** | **Responding Officer** | **Response** | **Objective Reference** |
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| 001 | 24/09/2020 | Tony Briffa | Can you please clarify Council’s position regarding paying for fences along Hobsons Bay parks? Is it true that Council no longer pays their half of the costs for replacing fences residents share with local parks? | 24/09/2020 | Director Corporate Services | The ***Fences Act* 1968** was amended in 2014and exempts Council land from having to share fencing costs.  However, our practice since this time has been that Council considers each application on a case-by-case basis and also applies discretion in the case of hardship.  Applications for fencing assistance should be referred to Council via [customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au).  As requested here is a link to the Fences Act for your review.[*The Fences Act* 1968](https://vault.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au:8443/id:A3410921) | A3411411 |
| 002 | 28/09/2020 | All candidates |  | 28/09/2020 | Chief Executive Officer | The following information was emailed to all candidates. 2 candidates have not provided the VEC with an email addresses so the links to the attachments provided are available here for all access. Hard copies will be sent to the postal addresses of the 2 candidates that did not supply email addresses.  [Hobsons Bay Election Period Policy](https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Council/Policies-Strategies-Plans/Election)  The [Safe Campaigning Guidelines](https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0034/487438/Metropolitan-Melbourne-Safe-Campaiging-Guidelines-SEPT-20.pdf) on the Local Government Victoria website.  [Political Advertising – Election Signage](https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Council/About-Council/Council-elections-voting/Council-elections) |  |
| 003 | 28/09/2020 | David Dawson | Is a poster in my front window of my home that can be seen from outside considered a sign? | 29/09/2020 | Julie Brne | A poster in the front window of your home is considered to be a sign and clause 52.05-10 of the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme allows for only one sign to be displayed per house. |  |
| 004 | 29/09/2020 | Strand Ward Candidates | Investigation into the placement of more than one election sign on the private land located on the corner of Ferguson Street and Melbourne Road Williamstown | 29/09/2020 | Arthur Vatsakis | Section 15.1 of the Council’s Election Period Policy states that in accordance with the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme 52.05-10 only one sign can be displayed on private land to a maximum size of 5 sqm.  Any additional signs will need to be removed within 48 hours – or will be removed by Council. |  |
| 005 | 01/10/2020 | Daniel McKinnon | A copy of the Election Period Policy and Political Advertising – Election Signage and Council’s Election Period Policy | 01/10/2020 | Julie Brne | Copies of these documents were sent to Daniel for his information. The email also contained [a link to these documents on Council’s website](https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Council/About-Council/Council-elections-voting/Council-elections?BestBetMatch=elections|d13b95b2-5146-4b00-9e3e-a80c73739a64|4f05f368-ecaa-4a93-b749-7ad6c4867c1f|en-AU) |  |
| 006 | 02/10/2020 | Jonathon Marsden | Update on the completion date for the fast charger in Williamstown | 02/10/2020 | Matthew Irving | Works will recommence at this location the week commencing 5 October 2020 and the installation of the fast charger in Williamstown is scheduled to be completed by mid to late October 2020. |  |
| 007 | 02/10/2020 | Jonathon Marsden | Update on the status/planned works of the public toilet on Stevedore Street Williamstown | 02/10/2020 | Matthew Irving | Design is currently underway for the proposed renewal of this toilet block. It is anticipated that construction will commence in March 2021. |  |
| 008 | 02/10/2020 | Tony Briffa | To get an understanding of the situation related to the Steve Irwin (vessel) and Seaworks, and to request information about funding provided by Council to Seaworks. | 02/10/2020 | Janet Dawes | Response provided, that the Steve Irwin (vessel) is operated by Ship4Good following a transfer of its ownership from Sea Shepherd.  There are several issues raised by Seaworks Foundation about the suitability and resourcing of the operation and its viability and the impact of the vessel on the pier infrastructure at Seaworks in Williamstown.   Council doesn’t provide organisational or ongoing funding to Seaworks.  Seaworks has in the past made budget bids to Council through public submission processes to assist with feasibility, business and other plans, with applications successful in 2013-14 ($25,000) and 2017-18 ($25,000).  Council operates the Creative Tech Hub at Seaworks as part of its Hobsons Bay Libraries offer. Seaworks can respond to specific enquiries or a summary can be provided. |  |
| 009 | 05/10/2020 | Stephen Currie | Am I able to install an election sign at the top of a private land owner’s fence? | 06/10/2020 | Julie Brne | Both the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme and Council’s Community Local Law are silent on this type of installation.  However, Council would consider the fitting of a sign above the fence line as ’high risk’.  The height of the sign poses a real threat to community safety in the event that high winds were to blow the sign down.  Given Council’s liability in such an incident, Council would not be prepared to allow for this sign to be installed above the top of the fence. | A3417867 |
| 010 | 07/10/2020 | Matt Tyler | Is Council considering developing housing at the Council owned site located at 7-45 Epsom St, Laverton? | 07/10/2020 | Melanie O’Neil | Yes, Council purchased the site in 2014 with the purpose of creating open space and conducting feasibility assessments for housing also to be located on the site. The open space component of the site is now complete and is known as Curlew Community Park. Council is currently considering the feasibility of developing housing (a mix of private and social housing) on the site. | A3419996 |
| 011 | 07/10/2020 | Matt Tyler | Will the park area be impacted by the development? | 07/10/2020 | Melanie O’Neil | The area allocated to the park will not reduce as a result of the potential housing development. The area allocated for housing is located in the areas on the northern and southern boundaries of the site. This [link](https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/documents/council/current-projects/parks-and-foreshore-projects/epsom-street/epsom-street-concept-plan.pdf) shows a high level concept plan for the site which gives a guide of where the housing is being considered. | A3419996 |
| 012 | 07/10/2020 | Matt Tyler | When will construction likely occur on the site? | 07/10/2020 | Melanie O’Neil | Construction is not likely to commence for at least 12-18 months. The community will be engaged prior to this commencing and have the opportunity to provide feedback. | A3419996 |
| 013 | 07/10/2020 | Councillors Briffa, Hemphill and Marsden  (Email sent to all Councillors) | Resident complaint sent to all councillors regarding unattended/unabated sounding alarm siren at a property in Hall Street Spotswood on the 6th, 13th and 20th September 2020. | 07/10/2020 | Arthur Vatsakis | Response to resident sent to all councillors (Reply All to email).  Response by Arthur Vatsakis confirmed the following:   * Inspection carried out by Council’s Environmental Health Officer. * Property owner spoken to about noise complaint. Property owner arranged for the alarm to be serviced. * Environment Health Officer met with property owner who confirmed problem has been resolved. | A3420001 |
| 014 | 07/10/2020 | Stephen Currie | Request to detail which section of the *Road Management Act* 2004 was being referred to by Council officers. | 07/10/2020 | Esmail Sheik | Referenced section 5.0 of [the Political Advertising - Election Signage](https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Council/About-Council/Council-elections-voting/Council-elections?BestBetMatch=elections%202020|d13b95b2-5146-4b00-9e3e-a80c73739a64|4f05f368-ecaa-4a93-b749-7ad6c4867c1f|en-AU) in regards to signage with Council’s road reserve. Extract below:  *Any signage found to be situation on Council property will be removed and any political advertising signage on Council’s road reserves will be removed in accordance with the Road Management Act 2004 (Section 66).*  *Please note that under Section 66 (1)(b) the Road Management Act 2004 the penalty is 10 penalty units ($1,554.00)* |  |
| 015 | 11/10/2020 | Dominque Dybala | Would I need to convert the support I receive from volunteers for my election campaign into dollars and record this in my Election Campaign Donations Return form? | 11/10/2020 | Julie Brne | Legal advice obtained on this matter was that the services provided by campaign volunteers are required to be disclosed as a gift under regulation 46(e)(iv) of the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020* if the value of the services exceeds the gift disclosure threshold of $500 for each volunteer.  In calculating the value, you (as the candidate) must determine the number of hours dedicated by each volunteer and the hourly rate that will stand up to scrutiny. | A3421843 |
| 016 | 16/10/2020 | All Candidates | All candidates were emailed a list of proposed Councillor Induction Training dates and other important diary dates to enable them to plan for the weeks following the Declaration of the Poll by the VEC on 13 November 2020. | 16/10/2020 | Julie Brne | 16 November 2020 – 18 November 2020 (Day 1 Workshop)  Tuesday, 17 November 2020 (Day 2 Workshop)  Wednesday, 18 November 2020 (Day 3 Workshop)  Tuesday, 24 November 2020 at 7pm – Election of the Mayor Council Meeting  Tuesday, 1 December 2020 at 6.30pm – Councillor Briefing Session  Friday, 4 December 2020 (Day 1 - Council Development Workshop)  Saturday, 5 December 2020 (Day 2 – Council Development Workshop)  Tuesday, 8 December 2020 at 7pm – Council Meeting  Friday, 5 February 2020 (Day 1 – Council Planning Workshop)  Saturday, 6 February 2021 (Day 2 - Council Planning Workshop)  Saturday, 13 March 2020 - Capital Works Planning Day |  |
| 017 | 06/10/2020 | Diana Grima | Request for an update on Council’s position regarding the Laverton Community Pool | 16/10/2020 | Fiona McKinnon | Fiona McKinnon provided information on Council’s endorsed position regarding the future of the Laverton Community Pool.  Following an extensive community consultation process, Council endorsed the current [Hobsons Bay Aquatics Strategy](https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Council/Current-Projects/Parks-Foreshore-Projects/Foreshore-Protection-Works/Aquatic-Strategy?BestBetMatch=acquatics%20strategy|d13b95b2-5146-4b00-9e3e-a80c73739a64|4f05f368-ecaa-4a93-b749-7ad6c4867c1f|en-AU) at its Ordinary Council Meeting on 9 July 2019. The agenda and minutes from this meeting are available on Council’s website.  Council also endorsed the [Bruce Comben Master Plan](https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Council/Policies-Strategies-Plans?dlv_OC%20CL%20Public%20DocLib%20Relative=(pageindex=5)) at its Ordinary Council Meeting on 8 September, 2020. The agenda and minutes from this meeting are available on Council’s website. (Bruce Comben Master Plan is available under ‘Sport and Recreation’ category  Council endorsed the key recommendations in the Aquatics Strategy, which include the development of a regional aquatics facility at Bruce Comben Reserve, Altona Meadows and the redevelopment of the existing Laverton Community Pool site, including the development of a youth facility and a splash park at McCormack Reserve.  If you have any further queries in relation to the strategic direction endorsed by Council for the development of aquatic facilities in the Hobsons Bay municipality and the future development of McCormack Park,  you are very welcome to speak with Jake Trevaskis, Manager of Active Communities and Assets. |  |
| 018 | 19/10/2020 | Tony Briffa | Resident has expressed concerns to him about not just the possible health impacts of 5G towers, but also the way the community is consulted about 5G towers, and the approval process for them. | 19/10/2020 | Pene Winslade | Response provided to Tony Briffa and the resident as follows:  Under the federal Telecommunications Act, phone towers (including 5G) are generally exempt from requiring a planning permit unless they exceed height or size standards specified in the Act.  Where a tower exceeds those specs then it does need a planning permit – and our team will consult with local residents etc as part of reviewing the planning permit application. However this scenario is much less common than installations which fall within the exemption standards in the Act. |  |
| 019 | 12/10/2020 | Ian Quinlan | Seeking feedback from Council regarding the Notice of Planning Application for Permit No. PA2047206 (HD Graham Reserve) – in particular the appropriateness of commencing the planning permit during the Election Period and why the project has been broken into sub-projects? | 20/10/2020 | Andrew McLeod | Extract of response given:  Council endorsed the HD Graham Master Plan on 9 July 2019.  Implementation of the endorsed masterplan was then included into the Capital Works Program and budget for 2020-21 and 2021-22.  Section 6.2 of the Council’s Election Policy allows for *‘Council to implement a previous decision made by Council through a Council resolution, prior to the commencement of the Election Period.’*  Delivery of the sportsground turf is seasonal and must be carried out during the spring period in order for it to establish ready for use by the community for the winter season 2021.  I do not believe that the delivery of the project should be set back by twelve months because of the Election Period, given that Council can continue on with the delivery of projects where a previous decision by Council has been made and it believes that the project should not be deferred.  In terms of your reference that the implementation of the project was broken into many smaller sub-projects to avoid necessary planning approvals.  The decision to break the delivery of the HD Graham Reserve project into two sub-projects was done on the grounds that the Sportsground, Floodlight and pavilion were project ready for construction now.  The Wetlands Centre design will commence early 2021 with the intention to commence construction late 2021 and this project will be subject to a separate planning application.    Council has the allocated budget in its 2020-21 budget and works scheduled into its Capital Works Program 2020-21.  The decision to proceed with the project at this time was made with the best interest of the community in mind. |  |
| 020 | 21/10/2020 | Councillors Briffa, Hemphill and Marsden  (Email sent to all Councillors) |  | 22/10/2020 | Pene Winslade | Email sent to all Councillors providing an update on defamatory content posted on the *Save our Substation* website:   * The content is defamatory and without basis / unsubstantiated. * The defamatory comments relate to a staff member and also refer generally to all Councillors. * The author of the comments was asked to immediately take the post down on the grounds that the content posted is defamatory and without basis or substantiation. * Council understands that IBAC, the Local Government Inspectorate and the VEC are all seeking to have the false statements removed and / or the post taken down. |  |
| 021 | 21/10/2020 | Councillors Briffa, Hemphill and Marsden  (Email sent to all Councillors) |  | 22/10/2020 | Sanjay Manivasagasivam | All Councillors were advised via email of the Hobsons Bay Business has Heart Outdoors Program has started construction/delivery of extended outdoor training at the following sites:   * Harrington Sq * Eames Ave Brooklyn * Challis St Newport * Hall St, Newport * Hudson Rd Spotswood * Aberdeen Street   These sites are just the initial rollout with all businesses having being provided the opportunity to seek extended outdoor trading areas, and many more sites to be delivered over the next two weeks. Images below provide an overview of what is being implemented. More information is available via the link: <https://www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/Do-Business/Hobsons-Bay-Business-has-Heart/Register-for-outdoor-trading>  The program complements the broader Hobsons Bay Business has Heart program which includes grants and other business support such as marketing, graphic and web design services.  More information available via the link: <https://www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/Do-Business/Hobsons-Bay-Business-has-Heart> |  |