Appendix 7

Service Report – Infrastructure and City Services
Council’s Infrastructure and City Services Directorate has had an active June to July period laying the foundations for future seasons and generations.

# 1 From the harbour …

**Boat ramp permits now issued**

Council has now issued the annual boat ramp permit renewal notices that provide access to The Warmies and Altona Boat Ramps. The start and end dates for council’s annual season permits for 2016-17 are 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017. Fees help to cover the costs associated with the annual dredging and spoil disposal program (see below); biennial hydrographic surveys and monitoring programs; repairs and renewing infrastructure like ramps, pontoons, rock walls, roads, car parks, lighting, signage, surveillance, toilets, wash down tables, line marking, fencing, cleaning, waste collection, electricity and water in addition to the administrative costs.

**Harbour dredging: maintaining safe access to the harbour**

To ensure an adequate depth is maintained at Altona Safe Harbour for the safe passage of boats coming and going, a survey is undertaken twice per year in addition to Council's annual dredging program. Preparations are currently under way for the dredging which is scheduled to commence during August to September 2016. It's expected that up to 5,000 cubic metres of spoil will be dredged from Altona Safe Harbour in the entrance channel, inside the harbour and along the rock walls, see diagram overleaf.

The spoil from the harbour is disposed of in the inter-tidal zone at PA Burns Reserve, approximately 400 metres from the harbour. A bund is constructed for the containment and settlement of the spoil while it drains and transitions from a black liquid appearance back to its sandy colour and its strong odour dissipates. The spoil (now sand), is then redistributed on the Altona Dog Beach to renourish the beach area for community enjoyment, see diagram overleaf.
Above: 2016 Dredging area: Altona Safe Harbour

Above: 2016 Altona Safe Harbour indicative dredging disposal location in the inter-tidal zone at PA Burns Reserve, Seaholme Foreshore.
Seaweed removal programs: keeping Altona Foreshore clean, safe and accessible year-round

The Altona Foreshore is a popular destination for various types of recreational activities including kite surfing, fishing, swimming, walking, jogging and simply relaxing. To provide the best possible access to the beach for members of the public throughout the year, Council’s City Amenity team collects seaweed deposits on a weekly basis. The works are carried out along the Altona beachfront between the Sarros Street intersection and the Apex Park entry.

The trend is for greater amounts of seaweed to be washed in when southerly winds prevail - peaking between October and April. In 2015-16, an average of 300-400 tonnes of seaweed was collected per month during this peak period. The seaweed quantity drops off in winter as attested by the 62 tonnes of seaweed that was recently collected from the start of June to mid July 2016. However it’s important for this collection to continue during winter months, to prevent the compounding problems associated with seaweed build-up. Issues range from wildlife entanglement, diminished beach area, loss of visual amenity, trapping rubbish and sharp objects, not to mention the pungent odour produced.

Above Council’s seaweed collection program in operation

Tonnes of raw seaweed collected by Council
- 89 tonnes June-July 2015
- 2,841 tonnes Oct 2015- April 2016
Seaweed recycling program trial update

During late 2015, Council’s City Services and Strategy and Advocacy teams began working with a commercial operator and the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG) to explore whether all the seaweed collected by Council could be recycled through the company’s recycling facility. This facility is where Hobsons Bay and another 10 councils currently recycle garden waste from households through a regional contract. The results of a subsequent seaweed recycling trial have now been received and are currently being reviewed to assess the outcomes and associated costs and benefits of seaweed recycling going forward.

As part of the trial, two samples of seaweed were taken for chemical testing in November 2015 and April 2016 and two loads of seaweed totalling 70 tonnes was delivered to the organics recycling facility in December 2015 and April 2016. The trial explored the:

- composition of the seaweed inclusive of moisture, sand and salt content
- physical characteristics of the seaweed
- physical contamination of the seaweed involving litter and syringes
- quantity of seaweed expected
- impacts on the operation of the organics processing equipment.

Recycling seaweed and garden waste has the benefit of reducing the amount of seaweed that is disposed of to landfill and decreases greenhouse gas emissions.

Council has an arrangement with a local company that recycles a small proportion of the seaweed collected by Council and produces a fertiliser. In 2013-14 and 2014-15, this amounted to 188 tonnes and 62 tonnes respectively - of seaweed collected by Council – being recycled in this way. This arrangement is on a limited basis and not intended to recycle all of Council’s seaweed.

# 3 …to Sportsgrounds...

Sportground redevelopment program

Council’s Public Spaces team works well in advance to ensure the municipality’s playing surfaces are aligned with the requirements of recreational users. Case in point is the comprehensive sportground redevelopment program that’s planned. Works will include:

1. Fearon Reserve, Williamstown Oval 1 (AFL and cricket grounds) and Oval 2 (lacrosse and cricket grounds)
2. Paisley Park, Altona North pitch 3 (soccer).

The staged works which are now at tender, involve preparing the soil, new drainage and irrigation installation, back filling, top dressing, levelling and laying new turf.
Greening Hobsons Bay’s public spaces

With winter being an optimal time to establish trees and plants, the Trees and Conservation team has spent another month collaborating with various friends groups to make the most of this prime time in the planting season. Some of the recent planting events held during the 21 June – 18 July period include:

10 July: Friends of Newport Lakes.

16 July: Friends of Laverton Creek joined up with the local Karen Community, the Laverton Community Hub, Melbourne Water, and a HBCC Conservation Ranger, to plant 350 indigenous tube stock along the banks of Laverton Creek between Bladin Street and the RAAF base.

17 July: Friends of Greenwich Bay and a Conservation Ranger undertook planting at Sandy Point at the bottom of North Road in Newport.

# 4 …to building works …

A variety of building renewal projects were completed in June-July around Hobsons Bay to ensure our Hobsons Bay City Council’s assets are fit for purpose for the safe enjoyment of the community for years to come.

For example: the Altona Lacrosse pavilion received drainage improvements, carpark resurfacing and new - paving, air conditioning and ceiling treatment; the Hobsons Bay Visitor Information Centre in Williamstown has reopened after benefitting from a range of works comprising recladding, new carpet and lighting.

Council has also recently completed the design and installation of innovative privacy screens at a number of early childhood amenities in the municipality to ensure that children’s privacy is protected from adjacent public spaces. Example sites include: The Range Children’s Centre and Robina Scott Kindergarten in Williamstown, and Corraminta Children’s Centre in Laverton South. This project involved collaboration between Council, staff and the children to design a functional and aesthetic solution.
# 5 …to improving safety on Hobsons Bay’s roads…

Four traffic treatment projects have been completed in July with the aim of making Hobsons Bay a safer municipality for school communities, pedestrians, cyclists, drivers and residents. Council’s Traffic and Amenity team considers a vast range of scenarios to arrive at the most effective solution for each site as illustrated below.

An existing school crossing on Mason Street, Altona North near St Leo the Great Primary School was relocated and replaced with a new concrete crossing, approximately 15 metres east, in order to provide a level and safer pedestrian crossing surface. The previous crossing had become a trip hazard due to the lifting of pavers on the central median where pedestrians cross.
New splitter islands have been constructed on three approaches to the **Edwards Avenue, Altona Meadows** T-intersection. This treatment helps to reduce the size of the intersection, and in turn serves to discourage irresponsible driving behaviour – making the location safer and more enjoyable for residents and pedestrians.

A new modified T-intersection incorporating two splitter islands now replaces a roundabout at **Power Street and Freyer Street in Williamstown**. This traffic treatment reverses the priority at the intersection, discouraging rat running behaviour along Power Street.
Two significant Hobsons Bay buildings have been the subject of extensive restoration and refurbishment work over recent years and have reached major milestones in June-July as outlined below.

**The Williamstown Town Hall Restoration and Refurbishment Project** stage 4 works have reached the practical completion stage. Extensive works have encompassed the supper room floor, grand ball room floor, grand hall balconette, mechanical air conditioning system, basement plant room, rear service yard, western side courtyard and service yard, female cloak room, glass balustrade to the internal steps in the western entry foyer, heritage stairs upgrade to provide compliant fire escape, CCTV, entry air lock and automatic glass sliding doors tactile Indicators, FIP and VESDA testing.

**Above** Williamstown Town Hall glass entry door works

**Above** Williamstown Town Hall grand hall stage vents
**Sneak peak: Newport Community Hub project**
Extensive progress has been made at the newly named Newport Community Hub which is on track for completion by the end of August 2016 for a September opening. Interested neighbouring residents and businesses were invited to attend a special site visit on Wednesday 13 July 2016.

**Brooklyn Reserve drop-in session**
Enthusiastic community members attended a drop-in session on 11 July on-site at Brooklyn Reserve. Around 35 groups of people - ranging from families with young children, couples and individuals, were engaged in meaningful discussions. Collectively they provided valuable input on what they enjoy about the reserve, what they’d like to see improved or added, the kickabout space and the play space. In order to capture the most representative view of what the community wants, information was presented in a variety of ways at different stations and tailored to different audiences and information styles.

These stations included a table pitched at adults, a children’s corner, a section of themed panels with visual cues and a survey collection area offering both print and online data collection options. The various methods served to prompt people to respond and express their thoughts in their preferred way. Some 400 surveys were also mailed out in the immediate neighbourhood. The consultation is open until 29 July, with information available online at [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/brooklynreserve](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/brooklynreserve)
Elizabeth Street drop-in session
A drop-in session was held at Newport Lakes Primary School on 23 June to gain feedback from community members following a one-way traffic rule trial which was implemented in Elizabeth Street Newport to address traffic congestion issues. The Community Engagement and Traffic and Amenity teams met with stakeholders who were generally supportive of the proposal. Council is currently reviewing this additional round of feedback and will report back to the community in the coming weeks.

Hobsons Bay’s play spaces showcased
Approximately 50 people from across the industry attended a Play Australia event hosted by Council’s City Design team on 20 June. Play Australia is a not for profit organisation that promotes the value of play and advocates healthy play opportunities for children and the community throughout Australia.

At the event, a variety of the innovative play spaces built by Hobsons Bay’s Design team over the past four years were showcased in presentations and at site visits. Sites visited included Edwards Reserve, South Kingsville; McCormack Park, Laverton; Jack Madigan Reserve, Newport and A.B.Shaw Reserve, Altona Meadows. The Executive Director of Play Australia congratulated Hobsons Bay “for hosting such an outstanding event.”
Western Distributor Advocacy Update

Council has prepared an interim position in response to the State Government’s Western Distributor Project to advocate for an outcome that will be of most benefit to the Hobsons Bay community. This interim position was adopted by Council on 14 June and may be viewed or downloaded at the Hobsons Bay City Council website www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/westerndistributor

Council’s interim position consists of a set of recommendations and a supporting document called Hobsons Bay Project Requirements - Principles, Objectives and Performance Measures for the Western Distributor Project. Council’s recommendations together with the Project Requirements provide a framework against which the success of the Western Distributor Project can be assessed.

A variety of channels have been established by Council to enable community members to share their views on this interim position between 1 - 29 July. These include the above website address, telephone 9932 1000, a dedicated email westerndistributor@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au and local libraries.

Western Distributor consultation
Consultation on Council’s interim position on the Western Distributor commenced on 1 July 2016 and has comprised the following activities to date:

- Flyers mailed to 3,000 directly affected households within 500 metres of the Western Distributor corridor – Brooklyn, Altona North, Spotswood and South Kingsville
• Information published in an e-newsletter with a reach of 5,000 plus businesses throughout Hobsons Bay
• Feedback stations located at all Hobsons Bay libraries and at the Laverton Community Hub
• Flyers distributed to 26 schools and kindergartens across Hobsons Bay
• Email to sports clubs and business contacts
• Posts on social media and Council’s website
• Advertisements scheduled for placement in the local paper

Transurban will commence consultation on the Western Distributor Reference Design on 18 July at the Footscray VicRoads Office. Over a four week period there will be ten consultation locations, two of which will be within Hobsons Bay; Altona Gate Shopping Centre Wednesday 17 August to Thursday 18 August and Donald McLean Reserve Tuesday 23 August to Saturday 27 August. Further details on these consultation forums may be viewed or downloaded from westerndistributorproject.vic.gov.au
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<th>Phase</th>
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| **1. Planning, Consultation and/or design**                         | • Dennis Reserve, Williamstown – master plan  
• Second Avenue, Altona North - streetscape improvements  
• Brooklyn Reserve, Brooklyn – improvements, play space upgrade and landscaping  
• Everingham Road, Altona Meadows – traffic conditions  
• Point Cook Road, Seaholme – linking shared path  
• HD Graham Reserve, Altona Meadows – master plan, collection of current data, site diagnosis and production of local context plan for next steps assessment  
• Digman Reserve, Newport – master plan, collection of current data, site diagnosis and production of local context plan for next steps assessment  
• Kororoit Creek Shared Trail – construction of stages 2 and 3 of the new trail, alignment review completed  
• Altona Beach Precinct – a framework master plan currently being finalised  
• Williamstown Mechanics Institute, Electra Street, Williamstown – stakeholder consultation stage, building underpinning works  
• Altona Badminton Centre, Paisley Park, Altona North – concrete pad installation under evaporative cooling systems  
• Merton Street, Altona Meadows – gantry installation, height restriction indicator  
• The Altona Safe Harbour – annual dredging project  
• Williamstown Beach Tennis Club – design structural works  
• Williamstown Lacrosse Club, Fearon Reserve, Williamstown – new air conditioning unit  
• Williamstown Croquet Club, Williamstown  
• J.T. Gray Reserve, Williamstown – new pavilion design  
• Laverton Swimming and Fitness Centre – structural remediation, HVAC (heat, ventilation, air conditioning upgrade), compliance upgrades |
| **2. At tender stage**                                              | • Digman Reserve, Newport – installation of new cricket nets in a new location  
• Sportsground Redevelopment Program: Fearon Reserve (oval 1 and 2), Williamstown and Paisley Park, Altona North (pitch 3) – sportsground redevelopment  
• J.K. Grant Pavilion – extension  
• Merton Street/Petre Avenue, Altona Meadows – roundabout investigations and design |
| **3. Works soon to start / just commenced**                         | • Cole Street and Twyford Street, Williamstown – traffic treatment works to address irresponsible driving behaviour  
• Watts Street, Laverton – landscape replacement works  
• Epsom Street, Laverton (former Laverton Primary School site) – interim works include landscape clearing, construction of two gravel pathways, line-marking for ball play and installation of basketball/netball hoops |
| 4. Works well underway | • Chambers Road: Glade Avenue to Paringa Road, Altona North – drainage installation project  
• Laverton Creek Trail – formalising the trail between Merton Street bridge, Altona Meadows/Laverton to the baseball stadium, Laverton  
• Paisley Park, Altona North – two new linking pathways/shared paths  
• Brooklyn Reserve, Brooklyn – new circuit path  
• Waites Court and Primula Avenue, Brooklyn – drainage works  
• Newport Community Hub, Newport – refurbishment works to main building, Mechanics Hall and exterior  
• A.W. Langshaws Reserve, Altona North – cricket net installation  
• A.B. Shaw Reserve, Altona Meadows – new public toilet installation  
• Bayside College Reserve – flood lighting installation  
• Spotswood: Simcock Avenue, Booker Street, Hall Street and Bridge Street – drainage upgrade  
• Cresser Reserve, Seaholme – construction of revetment wall, pram crossings, pedestrian refuge  
• The Esplanade, Altona (corner Millers Road to Queen Street) – foreshore works, safety handrail installation  
• Andrew Park Drive, Altona Meadows and Newport Lakes, Newport – installation of automated boom gates and lights  
• BayFit Leisure Centre, Altona North – refurbishment works including the installation of a Changing Places fully accessible toilet  
• Various locations: reserve fence upgrades  
• Maltese Bocce Club, Altona North – upgrade of emergency exit lighting and fire services  
• Williamstown Town Hall, Williamstown – roof and ceiling repairs  
• Laverton North Kindergarten/Cooraminta Children’s Centre – building renewal  
• Newport Recreation Centre (South Pacific) – building renewal works including fascia, roof, external painting and paving  
• Shelly’s Beach Pavilion, Williamstown – installation of louvres  
• Truganina Homestead, Altona – selected upgrade works including: removal of cement tiles and replacement with new slate heritage roof, repairs to fascia and bargeboards, removal of a lean-to, timber and brick repairs  
• Laverton Community Hub, Laverton – installation of new standalone PAC air conditioning system  
• Grieve Parade/Wren Street intersection, Altona – construction of a pedestrian refuge crossing |
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| 5. Works recently completed | • Brooklyn Reserve, Brooklyn – carpark upgrade  
• Williamstown Town Hall, Williamstown – restoration and refurbishment project stage 4 works  
• HD Graham Reserve, Altona Meadows – junior skate park construction  
• Hobsons Bay Visitor Information Centre, Williamstown – refurbishment works including recladding of building, new carpet and lighting  
• Victoria Street, Altona North – asphalt works  
• Pearl Street, Brooklyn – asphalt works |
• Mason Street in Altona North - the relocation of an existing school crossing and construction of a new concrete crossing
• Maddox Road, Newport - construction of a new pedestrian refuge island crossing incorporating a speed hump
• Edwards Avenue, Altona Meadows - new splitter islands on three approaches to the Edwards Avenue T-intersection
• Altona Lacrosse Pavilion – building renewal works comprising drainage, new paving, carpark resurfacing, new air conditioning and new ceiling
• Brooklyn Community Hall, Brooklyn – air conditioning project repair
• Bruce Comben Pavilion, Altona Meadows – new air conditioning project
• Various Kindergartens – installation of privacy screens
• Power Street and Freyer Street, Williamstown – a new modified T-intersection incorporating two splitter islands
• Altona Library, Altona – renewal works including toilet and staff facility upgrades
• Altona Library, Altona – natural ventilation and lighting upgrade
• Altona Library, Altona – solar panel installation
• Cecil Street, Williamstown – new drainage installation
• Maddox Road, Newport – asphalt works
• Yarra Street, Newport - asphalt works
• Grieve Parade, Altona - asphalt works