



3 March 2016

The Hon Tim Pallas MP  
Treasurer  
Department of Treasury and Finance  
1 Treasury Place  
East Melbourne VIC 3002  
[tim.pallas@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:tim.pallas@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Ask for: Bill Millard  
Phone: 9932 1096  
Our Ref: A2312636

Dear Minister,

**2016-17 Victorian State Government Budget**

While there is no formal process to contribute to the Victoria State Government Budget, Hobsons Bay City Council welcomes the opportunity to provide input.

Through Council's Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-17 and Advocacy Strategy 2014-18 Council acknowledges that working in partnerships is fundamental in achieving the best possible health and wellbeing outcomes for our community now and into the future.

Attached is Council's submission to the 2016-17 Victorian State Government Budget as well as Council's Advocacy Strategy 2014-18 and an overview of the Kororoit Creek Regional Trail project. We look forward to seeing the outcomes and continuing to work with the state government to create change.

If you have any questions regarding this submission please contact Bill Millard, Director Strategic Development on 9932 1096 or email [bmillard@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:bmillard@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Eddy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Eddy  
Chief Executive Officer



## **Hobsons Bay City Council: Submission for the 2016-17 Victorian State Government Budget**

Hobsons Bay is situated on Port Phillip Bay, approximately seven to 20 kilometres south west of Melbourne's Central Business District (CBD). The current population is estimated to be around 90,000 people. While Hobsons Bay has many strengths, including access to open space, the foreshore and, in parts, a village feel, some areas of Hobsons Bay face many disadvantages with the municipality being the ninth most disadvantaged municipality in Metropolitan Melbourne with a SEIFA of 997.8. Inequalities also exist within population groups especially women and girls, newly arrived communities, people with a disability, older people, young people, and children.

Through consultation with the community and stakeholders a number of key priorities have been identified for action over the next four years. As the closest arm of government to the community, councils are best placed to understand local community needs, however councils do not have the legislative ability or the resources to be able to address these priorities alone. To help support the implementation of these priorities Council has established the Hobsons Bay Community Wellbeing Leadership Coalition. This coalition brings together stakeholders, including the state government, to understand local issues and support long term changes in areas that sit outside of Councils direct jurisdiction.

Key priority areas that Council would like the 2016-17 Victorian State Government Budget to consider include:

### **Investment in Affordable Housing both assets and policy development**

In 2015 Hobsons Bay had 34,932 households, of these 9.4 per cent were in housing stress. The lack of affordable housing in Hobsons Bay has meant that those on low incomes have, at best, very limited choice. Housing they can afford may be substandard, insecure in tenure, and isolated from services and infrastructures. Council is currently updating its Affordable Housing Policy Statement, to strengthen local governments ability to support the sustainability and growth within the housing stock, however key changes need to occur at the state level. This includes; leadership and innovation, changes to the State Planning Policy Framework to provide more explicit support for affordable housing in planning, and ensuring all surplus Victorian Government land in Hobsons Bay that is to be developed for residential or mixed use purposes carry a requirement for the delivery of affordable housing as a part of its redevelopment.

### **Further investment in Mental Health and Wellbeing**

More young people in Hobsons Bay experience psychological distress and psychiatric hospitalisations than anywhere in the Western Metropolitan Region (WMR) and Victoria. In 2009-10, the rate of psychiatric hospitalisations for 10 to 17 year olds in



Hobsons Bay (11.2 per 1,000) was almost double the rate for the WMR (6.2 per 1,000) and Victoria (6.7 per 1,000). This placed Hobsons Bay sixth in a ranking of local government areas across Victoria<sup>1</sup> for psychiatric hospitalisations (DEECD, 2010).

There is a lack of mental health services in Hobsons Bay, especially for young people. Council is currently the only provider in the municipality delivering free youth counselling. Due to the demand on this service it is being stretched to accommodate complex cases which require additional coordination and management, decreasing resources to support early intervention services.

While Council acknowledges the work that the state government is doing in this space, including the Mental Health Reform and Victoria's 10 year Mental Health Plan, additional services are desperately needed within Hobsons Bay. These services need to be targeted towards supporting early years and young people to ensure they are able to access appropriate services, enabling individuals to realise their potential, cope with normal stresses of life, work productively, and be able to make a contribution to their community.

### **Connecting Communities by investing in regional trails**

Council have some shovel ready community infrastructure projects such as the Kororoit Creek Trail that would help close the gap and fill the links in the cycling infrastructure in the west.

The project will construct the final seven kilometres of the 40 kilometre Kororoit Creek shared trail. This is a critical section from the Princes Freeway, Brooklyn to Port Phillip Bay in Altona and completes the missing link in the network of off road trails connecting communities in the western Melbourne metropolitan region with the employment precincts and Port Phillip bayside recreational amenities.

The existing trail follows Kororoit Creek through the municipalities of Melton, Brimbank and Wyndham. On completion the project will connect over 390,000 people from the growth areas of western Melbourne with Hobsons Bay. The natural beauty of the creek and its connection with the bay will make Kororoit Creek a sought out destination. Cycling and pedestrian use of separated trails for both recreation and active transport are growing at around eight per cent to 15 per cent per annum, with approximately 19 per cent of people in the region cycling at least once a week and 42 per cent at least once a year.

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<sup>1</sup> This was a ranking out of 68 local government areas in Victoria. Those with less than five hospital separations during 2009-10 were not assigned a rank.



### **Future proofing our Coastline**

Port Phillip Bay is a key regional avenue for recreation, economic opportunities, and transportation for both residents and visitors including interstate and international tourists. Hobsons Bay has 23 kilometres of coast and significant coastal assets and urban areas. With climate change resulting in greater concern over coastal hazards, a number of coastal sensitivity assessment methods have been developed or proposed.

With funding opportunities being scarce and Councils having to operate in a rate capping environment it will be challenging to maintain and protect our current foreshore assets. In order to future proof our coastline for generations to come Council and the state government will need to invest between \$12 and \$15 million over the next 10 years to ensure our foreshore can handle the impacts from climate change or damage caused by storms and extreme weather.

In addition, a partnership approach with State Government and other bayside municipalities is required to undertake a third pass or 'site-specific' assessment of the bay. It would identify and evaluate critical local variations in shoreline sensitivity and exposure. This can then be used as the strategic basis for final design and assist Councils in strategically selecting appropriate responses to the identified hazards.

Council is looking for both funding and partnership approaches to future proofing our foreshore and have prepared a detailed report that can be provided.